

THE JOHNSONIAN

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Shannon Barber, a social justice warrior



Photos courtesy to Jennifer Disney, Daniel Mahony and John Holder

Winthrop community members' reflect on the life and impact of Shannon Barber

Connor Brandenburg
staff writer

Social activist and 2020 Winthrop University alumna, Shannon Dainiele Barber, passed away on June 16. She began attending Winthrop University in 2016 and majored in political science and minored in women's and gender studies.

"Shannon was the typical Winthrop student in that she was anything but typical," Dan Mahony, the former Winthrop University president, said.

The day after her passing, Mahony created a Facebook post indicating his respect and admiration for Barber.

"Many of us go into higher education to inspire students, but quickly learn that they more often inspire us," he wrote.

John Holder, a political science professor, shared his appreciation for how interactive Barber was in each of his classes.

"When she discussed things with people, she was there to educate them, not attack them," Holder said.

Holder had six classes with Barber, which allowed them to become

closer throughout her time in the political science program. They both participated in political activism on and off campus through actions such as canvassing for democratic candidates and supporting voter registration.

"We used to joke about how many boxes she checked off on a diversity checklist. Race, sex, religion, orientation, disability and so on, but every one of those boxes seriously represented a fight that Shannon had to fight every day of her life. And watching her fight those fights has taught me things I would never have learned from my own position in life," Holder said at Barber's funeral.

Barber's ideals and passions touched the life of Jennifer Disney, a political science and gender studies professor, as well.

Similarly to Holder, Disney not only viewed her as an excellent student, but also as a compassionate friend.

"She fought tirelessly for people who felt marginalized or left out on a variety of levels, whether it be race, class, gender or sexuality. She was a fierce fighter for justice," Disney said.

Throughout her college experience, Barber's active involvement in

her classes birthed friendships with other students like Ian Baird.

Baird and Barber engaged in active discussions over politics and their beliefs, never out of malice, but rather to further understand one another.

"Having Shannon in my life felt like having a family member who was always willing to lend a hand, talk through difficult situations with, someone to laugh with and someone to cry with," Baird said.

Another student Barber became closer to during her time at Winthrop was Nathan Crunkilton, a Winthrop alumnus.

Through their friendship, Barber and Crunkilton became partners in activism, participating in events such as the Jaden Smith for Governor campaign.

"Shannon wanted to make the world a more equal and just place," Crunkilton said.

Over the course of her college career, Barber became the president of the College of Democrats at Winthrop University. She also became the vice president and the membership director for the College of Democrats for South Carolina. She helped coordinate presidential

candidate visits, including Kamala Harris and Cory Booker, as well as introduced Pete Buttigieg on stage during his visit.

The passing of Barber leaves an everlasting impact on Winthrop and everyone who knew her. Her achievements in political activism are praised by not only the political science department, but the whole university as well.

"She fought passionately for what she believed in, and she was a profoundly good person," Holder said.

As long as the Winthrop community and those who remember her continue to strive for an equal and just world, Barber's legacy will live on.

If you would like to donate to the "Help Fund Shannon Barber's Medical Expenses," GoFundMe, you can scan the QR code below.



Provost issues apology to retired dean

Legislators called on Provost Adrienne McCormick to apologize to retired Library Dean Mark Herring at a board meeting on Aug. 25

Anna Sharpe
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Provost Adrienne McCormick publicly apologized to retired Library Dean Mark Herring Friday afternoon. McCormick sent a letter to faculty and staff, apologizing for an email sent to the campus community that condemned Herring's remarks in a column titled, "The Wuhan Wildings," and for authorizing the column's removal from the Digital Commons.

"While I did not name Dr. Herring in my email, I did point out that certain language in the column could be perceived by some as offensive. I realize that sending the email across campus was inappropriate. I apologize to Dr. Herring for sending the email and



McCormick

for any embarrassment it caused him personally or professionally," McCormick wrote.

"I take full responsibility for my actions and any unintended consequences that have ensued. Via this email, I extend my sincere apology to Dr. Mark Herring."

The apology follows a board of trustees meeting on Aug. 26. Speakers at this meeting included Congressman Ralph Norman and Senator Wes Climer who defended Herring's remarks and called on McCormick to issue a public apology.

Norman said the removal of Herring's column was wrong and a "violation of our First Amendment right."

"The actions taken by the Provost against a fellow colleague is not only a violation of our First Amendment right given to us in our constitution but it goes against the mission statement of Winthrop University which encourages diversity and free exchange of ideas and thought for all students," Norman said. "...For Dr. McCormick not to have apologized

publicly to the faculty is totally unacceptable."

The column in question referred to COVID-19 as the "Wuhan virus" and "Kung Flu." It was these terms that were considered "ethnically offensive," as McCormick said on May 14 in an email to the Winthrop community.

"Recent remarks by a member of our academic community—in a now-deleted online column and on Twitter—included comments that may be viewed as ethnically offensive relating to the COVID-19 virus. These remarks do not reflect the spirit of Winthrop's mission and do not represent the views of Winthrop University," McCormick wrote.

The issue of academic freedom and free speech was also discussed at the board meeting.

Larry Byrd of The Fort Mill Oak Initiative said that conservative and liberal professors should be treated equally and "different ideas need to be taught."

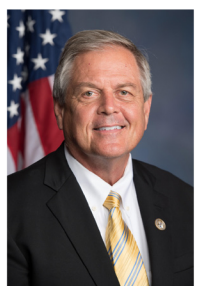
"I am a veteran and a South Carolina taxpayer, and I expect all

students to be given the opportunity to learn in an environment of academic freedom," Byrd said.

On Aug. 25, the board passed a resolution "affirming free speech at Winthrop University."

"[T]he ideas of different members of a campus community will often and quite naturally conflict, but it is not the proper role of an institution to shield or attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive," the resolution states.

"Therefore be it resolved, the Board has a solemn responsibility not only to promote a lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation, but also to protect that freedom when others attempt to restrict it."



Norman

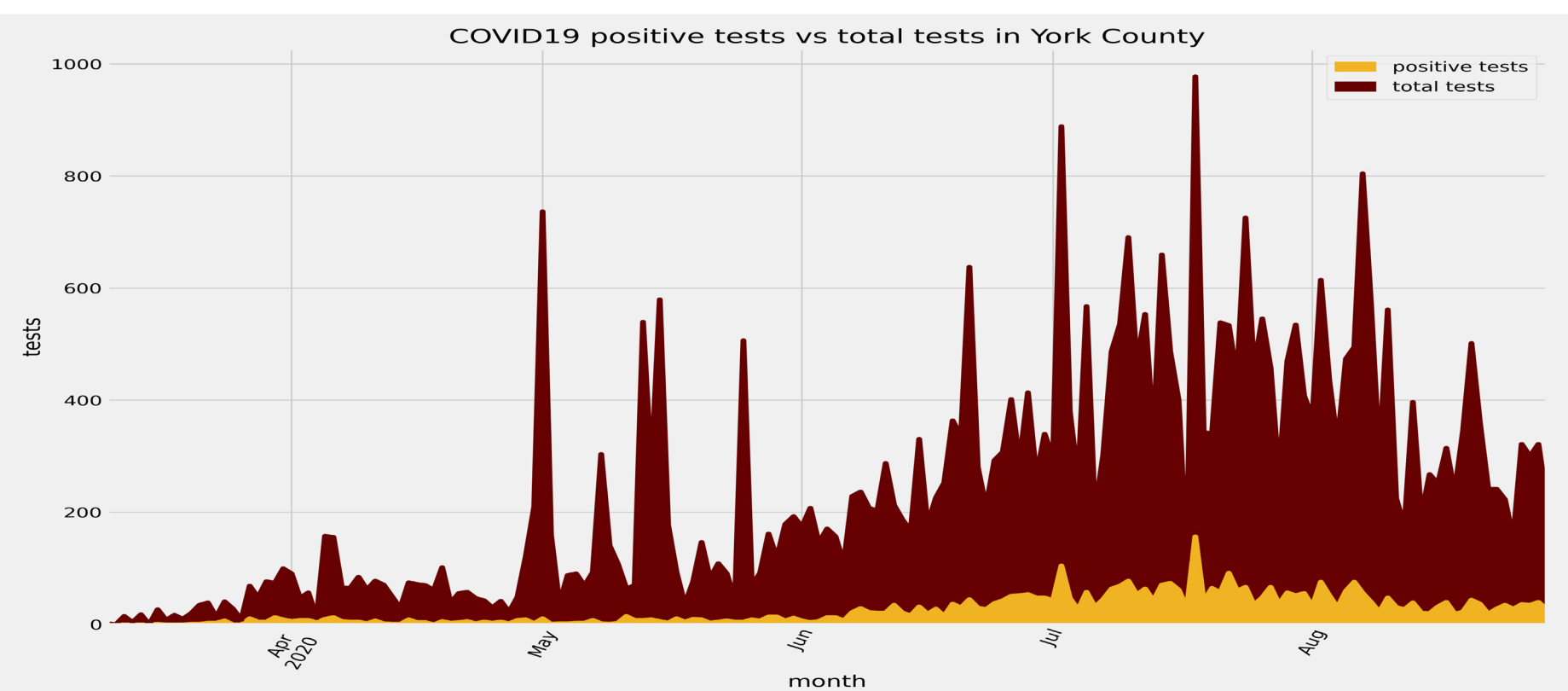
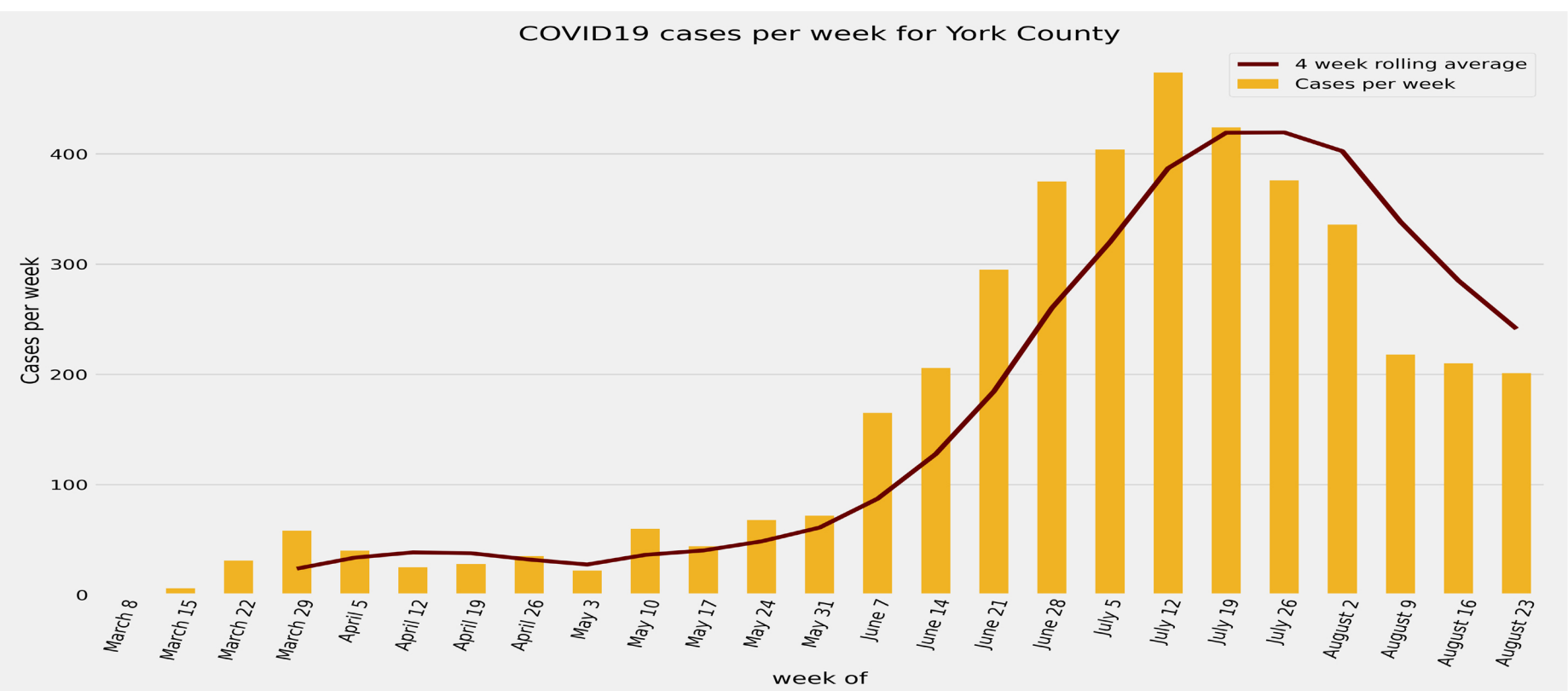
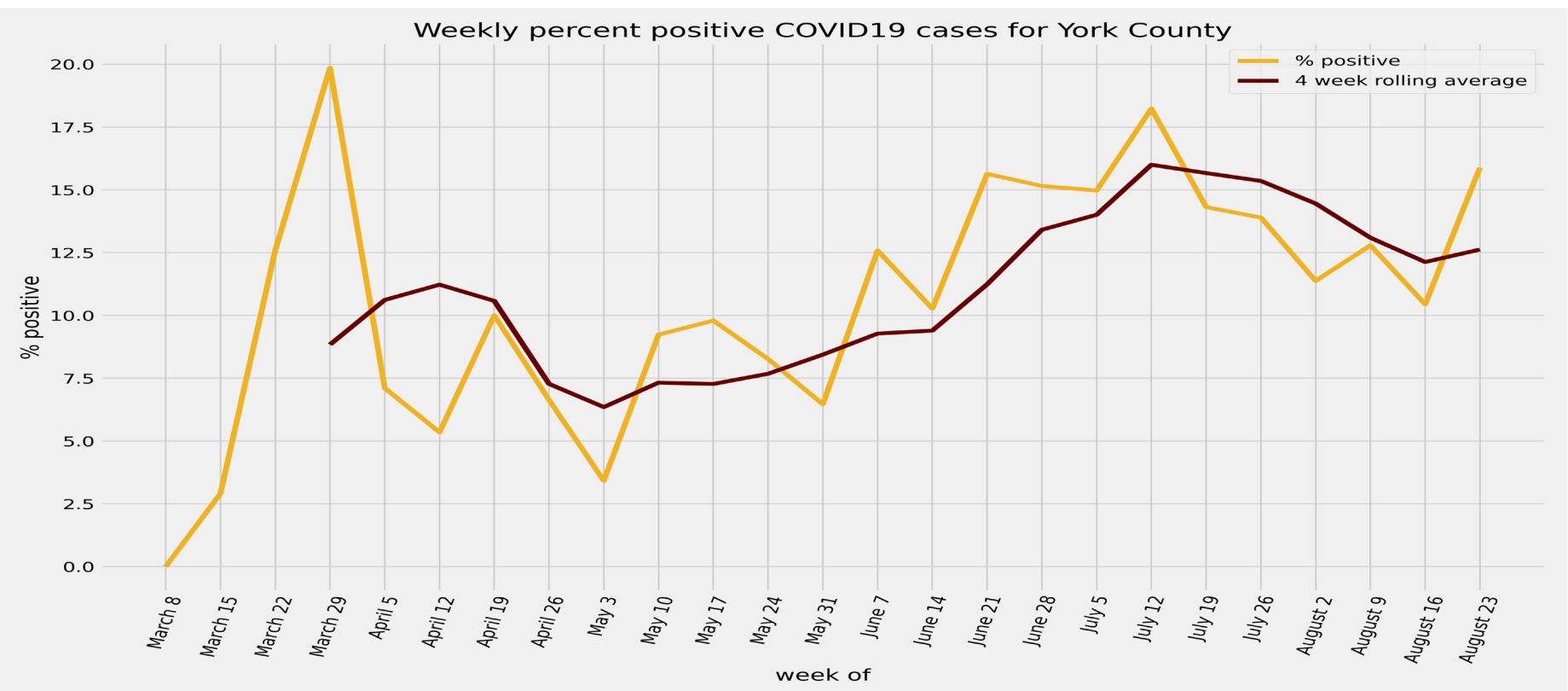
Photos Courtesy to Winthrop University and Ralph Norman





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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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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NEWS the Johnsonian

Winthrop community stands with BLACK LIVES MATTER

A professor and students talk about the plans they have for supporting Winthrop's Black students and faculty this year

Bryn Smyth
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In the past year, many Black and African American individuals have suffered and died at the hands of racism and prejudice in the United States. These tragic events shine further light on the trials and tribulations Black and African American communities have faced since before the beginning of this nation.

Over 29 percent of Winthrop University's student population is Black or African American, according to the Office of Diversity and Student Engagement. Following the events surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement, many students, as well as faculty and staff, are using their talents and voices to speak up and stand beside Winthrop's diverse population.

Aaliyah Bond, a graduate student pursuing a Master's in Counseling and Development, has founded an on-campus student counseling group: The Elephant in the Room. "The elephant itself is mental health, right? Because in the black community, mental health is not something that's often talked about," Bond said. After learning about the life and death of people like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, Bond decided to use her talents in the mental health field to create a place for Winthrop's Black and African American students to find support.

"I knew that these tragedies were impacting people and their mental health. Even going running or just driving up the street to go to the store, there's a fear in the back of

their heads," Bond said. "With this group, I'm really hoping to not only break the stigma of mental health, but to also help people understand that Black Lives Matter, and you as a person matter, and you deserve to live a life that is empowered and powerful, and that is uplifting and successful."

While students such as Bond are putting their passions forth to make a difference in the lives of Black and African American students on campus, a professor in the Department of History went off campus to do the same for communities in surrounding areas.

On June 4, O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight, a professor in Winthrop's Department of History, was invited to speak on a virtual panel at Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte. The discussion was about "the issue of civil rights and where [does one] go from here, in terms of creating a society that has more equality, that's more racially [and] culturally competent, and all of these issues that have emerged around the death of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, the issue that happened with Christian Cooper in the park in New York City, and then a host of folks that have died at the hands of law enforcement in the last decade alone," Dixon-McKnight said.

"I [also] did a talk with the radio show, Charlotte Talks, and that was basically to draw a line or the parallels between the traditional Civil Rights Movement and the Black Lives Matter Movement and the conversation was sort of geared around [the question], 'Are these two separate movements? Or is Black Lives Matter a continuation of civil rights?'

I am a believer, as a scholar, in the idea of a Long Civil Rights Movement, coined by Dr. Jacquelyn Hall. The notion that the Civil Rights Movement can't be boxed into a decade, it can't be boxed into a time period and you most certainly can't box it into an individual. The Black Lives Matter, it's not necessarily a new thing," Dixon-McKnight said.

Her expertise is valued in the Charlotte community, as well as on Winthrop's campus. In reference to the change seen on campus, she said, "I definitely see, not just a buzz on campus, but I see a movement, which I think is really incredible. I see people having conversations, but I also see members of leadership, putting into action, their ideas and their thoughts," Dixon-McKnight said.

Student Body President, Brandon Jackson, says that much of the movement for Black Lives Matter felt on campus is due to the actions of those at the student and faculty level. During the summer, he says, "we had the diversity talk and that actually brought out a lot of people, like 500 participants. I think that was a good step, but I want to see more from upper administration. I think the work we're seeing most prominently is from the Division of Student Affairs."

"[To the Board of Trustees], I said, whatever decision y'all decide to talk about, make sure you keep students at the forefront of your decision, because we're the people who get impacted the most. For anybody out here who will be reading this, know that we have your best

interests at heart. I'm really fighting for you. This is just the beginning, and know that the fight is not over. If there's anything I can do for you, you feel that CSL can do better, please feel free to reach out via email or connect with us on social media. I just want people to know that united, we stand. There's unity and community and we have the power to make the change," Jackson said.

Stephanie Martin, a senior English major, is representative of many Winthrop students who are not part of the Black and African American communities, yet stand alongside them and advocate for their best interests.

Similar to Jackson, Martin wants to see more action from the upper administration at Winthrop. "A lot of people that don't necessarily want to take a strong stand on either side of the fence and I feel like that became especially prevalent when [April Mustian] was hired. I felt like Winthrop was unwilling to take a definitive stance in her favor. I don't feel like she said anything out of the way. The stance of the students and the professors should have taken priority over people-pleasing to the Rock Hill community."

During a tumultuous year, full of innocent Black lives being lost at the hands of racism, students, faculty and staff at Winthrop, are readying themselves to make a difference on campus through counseling, teaching, and student leadership.

Winthrop faculty and staff furloughed

The furlough program was approved at the board of trustees meeting on Aug. 25.

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A mandatory furlough program for Winthrop faculty and staff was approved by the board of trustees and the Department of State Human Resources on Aug. 25.

The furlough plan resulted in a \$3 million budget cut to help with the financial impact COVID-19 has had on the school.

"The reaction I had was 'better the furlough, than someone losing their job,'" Program Coordinator for Integrated Marketing Communications, Padmini Patwardhan, said. "Everybody is suffering... [but] we are in a far better position than a lot of people that are unemployed. This is a small price to pay to make sure everybody has something [and] that we continue to give that kind of education we want."

Winthrop previously implemented a furlough plan in response to the economic crisis in 2008 and 2009.

"From my understanding they gave everybody on campus salary or position nine days," Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs, Justin Oates, said. "The state had different rules during that time and they have relaxed the rules this year so we could be a little more creative in our furlough plan."

Winthrop's furlough plan was approved a day after Clemson University announced their program. Winthrop's plan is approved from Sept. 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

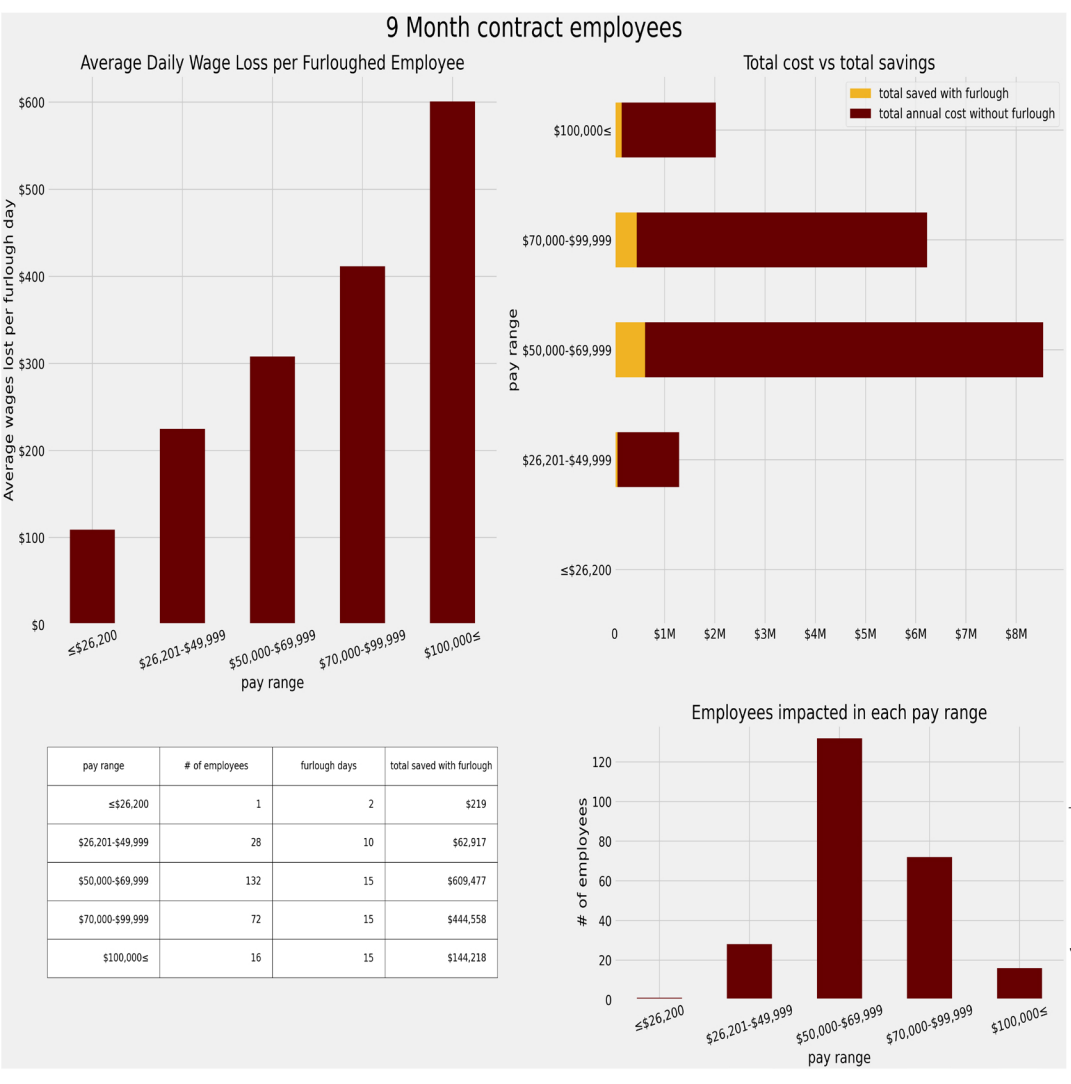
"You have to be careful in doing those comparisons because

you have to look at Clemson's plan very closely and realize they've only gone to December with their furlough plan," Oates said. "So, there is a very good chance they may come back in January and add additional days to those scenarios they provided. Our plan is for the full year. We don't plan to [re]visit our plan. In my opinion, [Clemson's plan] gives less time to take those days. We are giving people the full year and being transparent about the full year."

"The reason we chose the whole year is because... just in the fall term alone we could be down \$6/\$7 million dollars. So, if this continues in the spring it is only going to get worse. We felt like it was important to cover a decent \$3 million gap," Oates said, adding that if the financial situation gets worse, "that's a point we potentially would look at reduc[ing our workforce] ... either through not hiring agencies or potentially laying off people. We don't want to go that route. The only way we would go that route is [if there is] a dire need."

However, health and counseling services and police will not be affected by the furlough.

"Furloughing police just means that other police are going to have to work overtime to keep the cover-



This is a visual breakdown showing how the furlough plan will affect nine month contract employees.

age we need on our campus. Health and counseling... we wanted to [not furlough due to the] pandemic. They can be really busy once we get students back on campus next week," Oates said. "We just want to have them be able to support our students the best they can and have all their resources at their fingertips. We felt it was important not to put stress on them by requiring them to take days [off] during this time."

Employees who are salaried in a non-instructional position will take a 3.5% reduction. Hourly rate

employees will have to reduce their number of hours by 3.5%.

"Winthrop leadership didn't take this lightly. We understand that this affects our employees," Oates said. "But at the same time, we want our employees to have jobs for years to come."

For a visual breakdown of how all contract types are being affected, visit mytjnow.com for more information.

Class of 2024 welcomed virtually

Incoming freshman and new transfer students were introduced virtually this year through an online orientation

Jeb Bartlett
staff writer

Due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19, Winthrop University's Summer 2020 freshman and transfer student orientation was hosted online.

"When COVID struck we moved everything to Blackboard Collaborate in our classroom," Anna Rhyne, a junior elementary education major and returning orientation leader, said. "All of a sudden we realized coming back to campus in June wasn't really going to be an option."

In adapting orientation for the new virtual landscape, it was decided the process would be split into two sections: First Flight and Eagles Landing.

According to the website for the New Student and Family Program, the freshmen began First Flight in June and the transfers in May with a series of Blackboard modules focused on helping the students learn more about Winthrop as well as their academic program and college finances.

"It was pretty informative," Josiah Johnson, a freshman music education major, said about First Flight. "I think my biggest takeaway was that it solidified Winthrop as a home for the next couple years. It finally clicked. This is where I'm going to be."

During First Flight, students were placed into their orientation groups on Blackboard with their peers, orientation leaders, and orientation faculty mentors.

"We had to be available 20 hours a week online, which was an adjustment, but it was worth it for sure," Rhyne said. "We got to interact with all the students and it was a curveball because none of us had spent a ton of time doing online learning."

Upon completion of First Flight, students were contacted via email by their academic advisor to begin class registration.

"It was confusing at first, but as I went on, the person guiding explained it and it was pretty easy," said Sydney Largent, a freshman musical theatre major.

In between First Flight and Eagles Landing, orientation leaders, transfer orientation leaders, and mentors held different engagement activities with incoming students in hopes of forming connections between them.

"We scheduled a couple of different events with our students like a Netflix Party or a Zoom. Something simple. And we put it on the discussion boards, so they had the option. We didn't really pressure them to come," transfer orientation leader and mentor, Chyna Wallace, said.

Initially, Eagles Landing was



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

Incoming freshman and transfer students have been introduced to Winthrop through an online format.

intended to be a day long, in-person orientation, but as COVID-19 cases increased, the likelihood of an in-person orientation lessened.

"We were set to come back to campus on July 28 or 29 for Eagles Landing and we were still convinced at that point that Eagles Landing was going to be this one-day, in-person session," Rhyne said. "We were so ready. We were so excited and then, the day before we moved on campus, we got the Zoom call."

With plans for Summer orientation having shifted for students, Eagles Landing became a one-day virtual event consisting of Flock Talks with orientation leaders and orientation faculty mentors, along with different panels from the Dean of Students Office, Winthrop police, Residence Life, Dining Services, and Health and Counseling Services.

Speaking about Eagles Landing, orientation faculty mentor, Joanna Jackson said, "Sure, it wasn't ideal for the incoming students, but I thought it was ideal

given the situation. It ran fairly smoothly. There were meetings and conferences I had over the Summer that didn't run as smoothly as this did."

One of the main goals of orientation is to connect students with one another in order to form friendships that would carry into the semester.

"Not being able to make those connections with students [such as] finding out who they are [was difficult] because it's online, and it's even shorter than usual," Jackson said.

"I feel like I've missed out on making connections with my students this year, just because of the circumstances, and I hate that," Rhyne said. "I think some things will stay the same for next year. Some things that worked well virtually, will stay virtual, and some things that did not work well will be back to normal. If COVID is still around, I think we will be making tweaks to make that whole virtual experience easier for everybody."



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Connecting new students

Winthrop's Division of Student Affairs held a virtual town hall to discuss plans to engage students this semester

Mari Pressley
staff writer

In response to the unusual circumstances surrounding the new semester, the Winthrop Division of Student Affairs found a virtual method to engage new students.

On Aug. 25, the Division of Student Affairs held a virtual town hall to discuss how students can be involved this year amidst social distancing and online learning. The meeting covered the goings-on of welcome week, the DSU Fall lineup, the Office of Student Activities, recreational services, residence hall programming, dining, health and counseling services and the Council of Student Leaders.

Vice President of Student Affairs, Sheila Burkhalter, shared her hopes for the outcome of the meeting before the town hall. "A great deal of effort has gone into making sure that we provide a robust Winthrop student experience no matter the circumstances—virtual or in-person—and we want to make sure that students know about them," Burkhalter said.

Winthrop students are facing new challenges this year, especially new students who are faced with the challenge of engaging and interacting with classmates amidst social distancing and, for some, online learning. Assistant Dean of Students, Miranda Knight, said, "I would advise students to get to

know their classmates either in person or virtually, get out and meet friends if they are on campus, check out the virtual involvement fair and join an organization, even if their meetings are virtual, and to remain safe."

While this year's welcome week was held virtually, there were still plenty of events held, such as a trivia night, a Netflix party, an open mic night via Instagram Live and a cultural event, called World of Dance, featuring The Ballet Inc.

"Throughout the course of the year, we [will] host about 60 to 70 events that range from fun stuff like trivia night, fun stuff like World of Dance, to serious lectures on mental health, to sexuality, to just finding out who you are. So, we try to give you a variety of different things to engage on campus. Although this year is going to look different, we are still doing our job right. So we're still making sure that you are connected to Winthrop, and you feel like you are a part of what is going on, and you are engaged because that's really important here and that's really the Winthrop way, the Winthrop experience," Director of Campus Programming, Angelo Geter said.

A first year student and digital information design major, Sydni Dingle, expressed her feelings about how she'll have to interact with her peers this semester. "Honestly, it



Gwen Maren/The Johnsonian

Many student engagement activities will take place online this semester.

is not the first-year experience I was imagining. However, I feel like everyone is doing the best they can to ensure that students will still be able to engage in a meaningful way, even if that way is virtual."

During the town hall, Burkhalter said, "I do believe that this group has done their work and that the people of the institution as a whole have done really great work being thoughtful about how they present this experience to you and so we are extending the invitation tonight. We have extended the invitation

as a part of your orientation. We'll continually extend new opportunities to be involved so we just need you to say an emphatic yes and jump in feet first, head first, whatever your preference, and really take advantage of the opportunities."

Although this year is not what new students had in mind, Winthrop is taking all of the necessary steps to ensure that new students get the full Winthrop experience.

Voyager 2 spacecraft repaired: a grand tour of the cosmos

The first spacecraft to visit Uranus was restored after a two month hiatus

Joseph Duncan
staff writer

The Voyager 2 NASA space probe was restored to its normal operations earlier this year after a two month period of partial dormancy caused by malfunctions in the probe's power consumption.

As of March 3, 2020, the spacecraft's five operating science instruments have been reactivated to their full ability and will continue to collect and return scientific data to Earth from their journey through interstellar space.

The anomaly revealed itself on Jan. 25, after Voyager 2 failed to perform an instructed maneuver in which the spacecraft rotates 360 degrees to help calibrate the probe's magnetic-detecting instruments. The inexplicable malfunction left two of the spacecraft's most power-sapping systems active simultaneously, which soon after triggered Voyager 2's innate fault protection program to automatically shut down all active scientific instruments to conserve energy, according to NASA media relations contact Calla Cofield.

NASA engineers reacted as swiftly as possible, and managed to disable the two power-draining systems on January 28th. Voyager 2's distance from its home planet, approximately 11.5 billion miles in total, slowed the mission team's repairs to the spacecraft considerably. Communicated instructions from NASA travelling at the speed of light take roughly 17 hours to reach Voyager 2

in interstellar space, followed by another 17 hour wait for the probe's response to return to Earth, according to NASA science writer Amanda Barnett. This means that the probe's engineers must wait 34 hours in total to examine if an instruction was delivered and carried out properly. Over the next several weeks after the incident, mission operators would continue the slow process of restoring the spacecraft to its regular operations. The spacecraft was declared stabilized and resumed recording scientific data on February 5th, and operations were declared fully restored by NASA officials on March 3.

Voyager 2, alongside its twin Voyager 1, were both launched into space by NASA in mid-1977 to record never-before-seen data on the outer realms of our solar system. Voyager 2 holds the distinction of being the first and so far only spacecraft to collect close range data from all four of the gas giant planets. It performed its first flyby mission in July of 1979 when it entered the range of the gargantuan Jupiter. During its tenure in the Jovian system, Voyager 2 collected never-before-seen pictures of the Red Giant and its moons, as well as discovering a 14th moon within Jupiter's orbit, later named Adrastea, wrote Space.com writer Elizabeth Howell. Voyager 2 continued its journey through the solar system by moving on to Saturn in 1981, where it recorded more detailed images of the planet's rings and moons originally photographed by Voyager 1, writes Barnett.

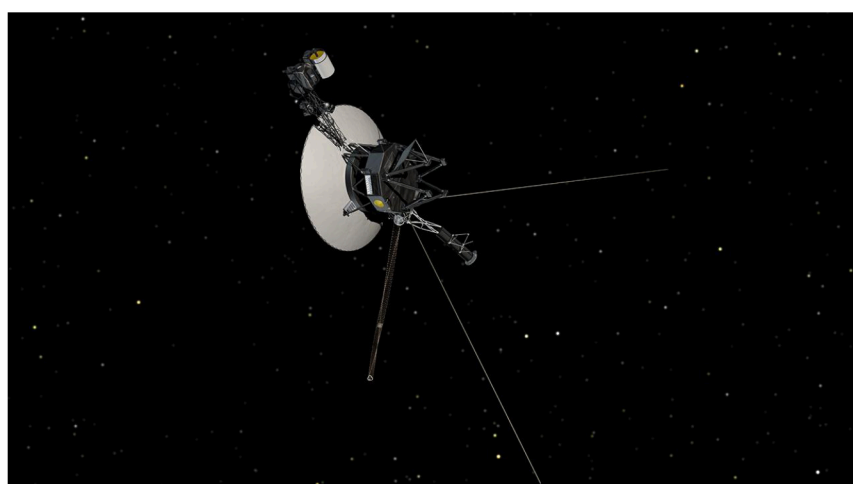


Photo courtesy to NASA

Perhaps the most famous of Voyager 2's expeditions through the cosmos was its encounters with the two outermost gas giants, Uranus and Neptune. Whereas Voyager 1 continued on its trajectory to escape the Solar System, Voyager 2 continued on to Uranus, becoming the first spacecraft to visit the planet. During its monumental approach and flyby of the planet the probe discovered 10 new moons, two new rings, and a bizarrely tilted magnetic field, Barnett wrote. Voyager 2 also discovered an ocean of boiling water roughly 500 miles below the topmost cloud's surface.

The spacecraft utilized Uranus's gravitational pull to slingshot itself towards its final planetary destination in 1986. Voyager 2 would arrive at the final gas giant three years later, making it the first and only man-made object to approach and flyby Neptune, wrote Barnett. In its final planetary encounter, the

wayfaring space probe detected six new moons and four new rings. It was during its flyby of Neptune that Voyager 2 performed its closest planetary approach of the entire expedition, entering within 3100 miles of the blue planet's cloud top surface, according to Barnett.

Voyager 2's flyby of Neptune concluded the spacecraft's planetary encounters after 12 years exploring the outermost regions of the solar system. The space probe continued its journey into the cosmos, eventually joining its sister probe as the second man-made object to enter into interstellar space on Dec. 10, 2018. Currently, five of the original ten science instruments aboard Voyager 2 still function, with engineers expecting to begin turning off fields and instruments to conserve power sometime this year, according to Cofield. Voyager 2 is expected to continue operating at least one scientific instrument until around 2025.



TECH TIP OF THE WEEK

Do your part to limit the spread of COVID-19! Applications are available for smart devices to track your exposure to the virus and let you know if you are near a confirmed case. You can download apps for your iPhone and Android, as well as third party apps, for free.

The curious case of immortal jellyfish

Shyanne Hamrick
staff writer

A plethora of myths feature the idealized conception of a cure for human immortality, but the immortal jellyfish just might be the Benjamin Button of the sea. With the rare ability of reverting to a previous developmental stage as a response to aging, environmental stress, injury or illness, immortal jellyfish are often referred to as biologically immortal.

Immortal jellyfish were initially discovered in the Mediterranean Sea in 1883, but the regenerative nature of these organisms was unknown until recent studies on jellyfish.

In 1988, the capabilities of immortal jellyfish were unintentionally discovered by a German marine biology student, Christian Sommer. After forgetting to put the jellyfish in the refrigerator on a Friday, Sommer returned the following Monday to find the bowl with not a jellyfish, but a polyp.

"There hadn't been enough

time for the medusa in the bowl of seawater to spawn, grow into a larva, and end up a polyp over the weekend. Those transformations take weeks," Juli Berwald explained in an article for Discover Magazine.

The process in which immortal jellyfish undergo for regeneration is referred to as the biological process of transdifferentiation. This means that non-stem cells are naturally transformed into a different type of cell.

"Clearly, some cells in this jellyfish can revert to a stem-cell state," Julian Smith, a biology professor and director of Winthrop's Microscopy Facility, said. "Stem cells are cells that are capable of repeated cell division and are able to differentiate into various other types of cells. The simplest example in humans are embryonic stem cells – they can divide, and they're capable of becoming any type of cell in the body."

After a human has developed, most of the genes in the nuclei of cells are turned off. Through the process of transdifferentiation, immortal jellyfish demonstrate

potential for stem cell research, more specifically the regeneration of cells that the human body can no longer regenerate on its own.

"By undergoing transdifferentiation, an adult cell, one that is specialized for a particular tissue, can become an entirely different type of specialized cell. It's an efficient way of cell recycling and an important area of study in stem cell research that could help scientists replace cells that have been damaged by disease," according to an article from The American Museum of Natural History.

Despite potential benefits for medicine or science, the application of an immortal organism in stem cell research might pose a controversial question: could this be the cure for human mortality?

"Not directly," Smith said. "A deeper understanding of the



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

processes involved could certainly aid us in helping humans to regenerate damaged tissues. At present, about the only things that you regenerate are cell populations that are normally shed."

Researchers and medical professionals remain hopeful of the potential benefits that immortal jellyfish could offer stem cell research. However, the secret of immortality remains with the jellyfish.

September 2, 2020

PESH online

*Winthrop PESH classes are prepared for new COVID-19 restrictions***Allison Reynolds**
staff writer

With the arrival of COVID-19 came multiple changes to how people live their lives. One of the many things that has changed because of the pandemic is how schools are operating this year.

As Winthrop students return to campus, a large amount of their classes will still be hybrid or completely online, but what about Physical Education, Sport, and Human Performance classes?

Some PESH courses, such as yoga and weight training, have many sections that are scheduled to be solely online this fall. Others, like fitness walking and beginning swimming, will operate as hybrid classes so that only half of the students in a class will meet in-person at a time.

According to Geoff Morrow, director of the Outdoor Education Center and the Basic Instruction Program, “in the past five months, a tremendous amount of time and consideration has been focused on making preparations for course delivery this fall.” He said that all decisions were made to comply with state and CDC guidelines.

Morrow also said he has concerns since this is a new experience for him, and he believes that it will take students time to get used to the multiple learning environments. However, he said he knows Winthrop students and teachers are up for the challenge.



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

“If there is one thing that I am sure of heading into this new term, it is the strength and resilience of the Winthrop community,” Morrow said.

Sarah Rowe, a junior human nutrition major, is still excited about her PESH class but is not looking forward to wearing a mask while doing a high intensity workout.

“We won’t be able to get the quality of education we would normally get [in a non-] COVID-19 restricted environment,” Rowe said.

Rowe, who is taking PESH 108 Cardio Dance and Tone, also said she is worried about not getting as much instruction because her class is only scheduled to meet once a

week and has to adhere to West Center cleaning guidelines when doing so.

Joni Boyd, associate professor of exercise science, said that while being in a pandemic and not having that physical interaction is undesirable, exercise science classes began moving online years ago.

“A lot of universities were moving one credit physical education classes online,” she said. “We didn’t want Clemson and [University of South Carolina] students to have things that [Winthrop students] couldn’t.”

According to Boyd, PESH classes are safer to do online because respiration rate can triple while working out which elevates the risk of

COVID-19 transmission. Boyd said that the professors in the PESH department have taken online training to help better prepare them to teach online classes.

Boyd also acknowledged that being online has its setbacks. She said she believes that for the exercise science students, since they must teach, the teaching will be difficult for them online. She also said that for her as a professor it will be challenging to train virtually.

Boyd said that without competent faculty this semester would not be possible. She said that while this situation is not ideal, the PESH faculty is prepared.

This is sports
(and event) center*Rock Hill Sports and Event Center poses new opportunities for Winthrop and Rock Hill***Matthew Shealy***shealym@mytjnow.com*

Local high school football talent, Winthrop Athletics and the soon-to-be-built Carolina Panthers practice facility are all solid reasons to consider Rock Hill a small sports town. Another reason, one that may have slipped under some people’s radars, is the Rock Hill Sports and Event Center.

Sports and Event Center Superintendent Brian Jones said construction for the Rock Hill Sports and Event Center began in late 2017, and the building first opened in December 2019.

“We were [going to have] our grand opening March 19, and about two weeks before that we had to cancel,” Jones said.

Jones said the center closed in early March due to the pandemic and aside from hosting one event in May, it did not reopen until July. Now back and running, he said there are COVID-19 protocols in place similar to those of restaurants and other businesses.

“You have to wear a mask at all times unless you’re competing, you have your temperature checked every day when you arrive, and then you have to sign a waiver of liability for the facility as well as for the event right holder,” Jones said.

Since reopening, Jones said the center has mostly hosted basketball tournaments, but in August it was home to the 2020 American Cornhole League World Championships.

“I met Stacey Moore [the president of the American Cornhole League] probably two years ago and we started a conversation [and]



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

built a friendship,” Jones said. “His idea is to make Rock Hill the home for cornhole.”

Jones said Moore is moving his headquarters to Rock Hill and the Rock Hill Sports and Event Center hopes to host his national championship every year.

The tournament received national attention this year when it aired on ESPN. Jones said the Sports and Event Center was built with live-streaming and ESPN capabilities in mind for its championship court.

“Right outside our door we’ve got a box where ESPN trucks can just come and plug in... and not have to run chords everywhere,” Jones said. “That feeds back to a central location where they can run their cameras and their feeds and their Wi-Fi and all that kind of connectivity.”

Jones said the Sports and Event Center was projected to have a financial impact of \$10 million on

the city of Rock Hill this fiscal year, and he said he believes that goal will still be reached despite the pandemic.

“I think in a healthy year it’ll probably be more like 12 to 15 million,” he said.

As for the center’s impact on Winthrop, Jones said there are lots of new opportunities for the university.

“It will really benefit the basketball teams and the volleyball team because [coaches] don’t have to necessarily travel to Atlanta or Phoenix or New York to recruit,” Jones said. “We have some very large, what I call ‘recruitable events,’ right here in their backyard.”

Jones also said the teams could use the facility for practices, which he said the men’s basketball team did last spring in preparation for the Big South Tournament.

For other students, Jones said

there is always a free walking track as well as pickup basketball games for \$5 a day or \$120 a year.

“We also have leagues, so Winthrop students can put a team into our adult basketball or our adult volleyball [leagues] and see how they do against the local community,” he said.

Jones said the center is also available for exercise science classes to utilize, and it is a good place for sport management majors to seek internships. He also said students could be hired for evening and weekend jobs.

“We’d love to hire Winthrop students to get them involved,” Jones said. “It’s kind of a win-win. They’re getting experience for their resume, they’re getting paid and we’re getting a good workforce.”

Committed to action

Winthrop Athletics seeks to create real change in the fight for racial equality

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With calls for action being heard throughout the U.S., Winthrop Athletics issued a statement regarding racism and an action plan on June 8. Winthrop Athletic Director Ken Halpin said the statement came after an “incredibly emotional” conversation with around 150 staff and student-athletes.

“It became really clear that our students and a lot of our staff were really wanting as an athletic department for us to come together and say something,” Halpin said.

“The theme that really resonated wasn’t just the statement. I think everyone acknowledged that a statement is empty without some type of follow through or some type of action, so that’s where the action plan idea came from.”

Two goals of the action plan are to “educate” and “communicate.” Steps toward both of these goals include monthly gatherings and learning opportunities for staff and student-athletes to hold conversations focused on race.

Winthrop Athletics held its first open town hall, “Knowing Our Place In History,” for all Winthrop students, faculty and staff to examine Rock Hill’s role in the Civil Rights Movement on Wednesday, Aug. 28. The virtual event had 172 attendees and featured a discussion with Frederick Taylor, director of the Friendship 9 documentary entitled Counter Histories: Rock



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

Hill.

Halpin, who is a member of the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group which helped organize the event, said the group chose to discuss Taylor’s documentary because it wanted to “start locally with issues of race” and explore the community’s history in the fight for racial equality.

Another step in the Winthrop Athletics action plan was to identify and designate a Diversity and Inclusion Representative by June 18. According to Halpin, that role has been filled by Senior Associate Athletic Director Kelley Kish.

“She’s been unbelievable,” Halpin said. “She’s so passionate about diversity and inclusion in our department and she’s brought people together and brought a lot of this work together.”

Kish is also a member of the

Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Working Group and is the department’s Senior Woman Administrator.

The Winthrop Athletics action plan also states that each year moving forward, an exhibition men’s basketball game will be held to raise money and awareness towards fighting racism and promoting justice. It was announced on June 17 that for the 2020-21 season Winthrop would host Liberty University in this match on Oct. 24.

This announcement was met with criticism from some Winthrop students and fans who questioned if Liberty was an appropriate opponent to play in a game geared toward fighting racism. Halpin said that while these concerns are valid, the grander perspectives of the universities were not considered when scheduling the match —

which still has many uncertainties due to COVID-19.

“Our head men’s basketball coach Pat Kelsey and Liberty’s head men’s basketball coach Ritchie McKay... are both responsible for raising young men – black and white and (from) all across the globe,” Halpin said. “They have a platform to help provide a message and they’re passionate about providing a message to fight systemic racism together.”

As for peaceful demonstrations like those seen in the NBA, the MLB, NASCAR and other pro sports leagues, Halpin said he isn’t sure yet what kind of action Winthrop athletes may take.

“At the end of the day, we support our student-athletes and our student-athletes’ voices matter to us,” he said. “We’re working proactively to listen to our student-athletes and hear what their desires are and their thoughts are, how they want to engage with what they are experiencing and their social responsibilities, and how we can best guide them to do so appropriately and support them in doing that.”

“We just have a responsibility from an education standpoint to make sure that we’re encouraging it in a way that’s proactive [and] positive, that it’s empathetic for all human beings [and] empathetic of all people’s positions, but that it’s also anti-violence, it’s anti-harm to others, and it’s anti-systemic racism,” Halpin said.

Learn how to win

Meet Winthrop’s interim head coach of women’s basketball

Lily Fremed
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Walking, reading and watching plenty of Netflix and Hulu is how Semeka Randall Lay began her quarantine while recovering from surgery. She had something to look forward to though when she was named Interim Head Coach of the Winthrop University women’s basketball team in April.

Randall Lay arrived at Winthrop to be the assistant coach for the women’s basketball team for the 2019-2020 season.

“It was a timing thing,” she said. “Coach Woodard had an opening on her staff. Basketball is my passion. Giving back to student athletes has always been something I wanted to do so this opportunity presented itself, and now I’m back in the head coaching [position] again.”

Randall Lay said she is ready to “take the program back to where it once was.”

Bored playing house and dolls with the neighborhood girls, Randall Lay’s basketball days began at the age of six when she picked up a ball to play “Around the Horn” with the neighborhood boys.

“We called it ‘Booty,’” she said. “You had to make the shot in all these spots. The loser happened to be me a lot of the time. You had to go put your hands on the pole and stick your butt out.”

“Each person in the backyard had five opportunities to hit you with the basketball. Sometimes they hit you in the head, the neck, in the butt. They were supposed to hit you in the butt, which is why the game is called ‘Booty.’ I had to learn how to have thick skin, take it, and then just learn how to win,” Randall Lay said.

Graduating from the University of Tennessee in 2001 with a B.A. in Speech Communication, Randall Lay never predicted those early childhood afternoons

playing on a court with no backboard would lead her to the WNBA.

“Back in my day, my rookie contract was like \$38,000,” Randall Lay said. “But if you think about it, you’re playing four months, it’s the first startup of the league, you’re just grateful to be there.”

She said that with only about 200 available spots in the WNBA at that time, it “felt great” to have the opportunity to play after being picked from millions of other women.

During her time in the WNBA from 2001 to 2004, Randall Lay started 30 of 32 games as a rookie, averaging a career best of 9.4 points per game. Over three years she played for Seattle, Utah and San Antonio. In total, she played 123 games, starting in 55 of them and averaging 5.8 points per game. Randall Lay’s time in professional basketball provided experiences beyond the United States. Shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, she traveled to Tel Aviv, Israel to participate in the Israeli Professional Basketball League.

“[It] might have been better than college sometimes because we were just so focused,” Randall Lay said. She started all 16 games at point guard, averaging 19 points per game. Her teammates were women from the U.S., Russia, Lithuania, Israel and Turkey, which she said presented “language barriers,” but there was always an interpreter or sometimes her teammates would interpret.

Randall Lay said over time she “picked up words” and “learned how to fit in.” She said the biggest things she learned while traveling around the world were about “life” and “how to survive.”

“You grow up fast because you are by yourself and trying to fit in with their culture and understand what they like,” Randall Lay said. “You learn to value that moment in that time and stop trying to rush things along.”

Beyond Israel, Randall Lay trav-

eled to play in Taiwan, China and Slovakia. She also visited Greece while playing in the Greek Professional Basketball League, where she started all 16 games as well. She was even able to do three Goodwill tours for American troops in Iraq.

In 2008, Randall Lay was inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame, and she was inducted into the University of Tennessee Hall of Fame in 2011.

Randall Lay has been coaching for approximately 15 years, beginning as the assistant coach and travel coordinator for Cleveland State. Throughout her career she has moved between eight different universities across the country, and this is her third time coaching an NCAA Division I team.

“It is a lot,” she said. “But that’s what this profession is. Sometimes you can sit and stay at a place for a very long time and sometimes there are opportunities that you cannot pass up on, so you say, ‘hey, I’m going to trust that vision and I’m going to dive right into it.’”

Lay said she met her husband, who is a professional golfer, while she was coaching in Ohio.

“One of the perks of moving around,” she said.

The couple’s careers keep them living in different states, but Randall Lay said they constantly support each other — and their dog, Shadow — despite seeing each other only a couple times a month.

“At some point I would like to be in a place where I am not moving around a lot,” Randall Lay said. “I hope that this is the place here at Winthrop, because I see a lot of potential [in] what this program could offer a lot of potential student-athletes.”

Just as COVID-19 has shifted many people’s lives, Randall Lay



Photo courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

was left scrambling to find new student-athletes in two months to fill her roster and she said she was successful.

“We have four freshmen, a grad transfer, and a junior college player,” she said. “It will be an emotional rollercoaster and we hope to keep everyone healthy.”

The Lady Eagles finished 11-19 in the 2019-2020 season. After four months off, Randall Lay and her team have their work cut out for them as everyone tries to get back in shape, both physically and mentally.

“It’s about changing culture and changing mentality,” she said. “For so long we’ve been taking a step back, and we need to keep building a program where we are all working together - where we all have one goal in mind, which is to get better each day.”

Randall Lay said she hopes there will be a basketball season that allows fans to come out and watch the team grow. While there is still a lot of uncertainty about the season, she said she has great faith in her team.

“That’s one of the great things about sports,” Randall Lay said. “Things are thrown at you and it causes you to be uncomfortable and you have to learn how to be comfortable in those situations. Just hang in there. Keep practicing. You want to be prepared for that moment - not allow everything around you to bog you down.”

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September 2, 2020

Keeping music fun and safe

Winthrop's Department of Music takes on new protocols for the upcoming semester

Aeriel Laymon
staff writer

Winthrop's Department of Music has a new website, *Coping with COVID*, which lays out for students the protocols and plans that the department has in place for the fall semester. With these guidelines, the music department has made sure that everyone will be able to continue the program while also being safe.

The site includes information about how they will practice social distancing to stay safe. Many ensembles will have to "meet outdoors" and others will meet in larger rooms like the "Barnes Recital Hall and the choral rehearsal room," according to the website. Because of social distancing guidelines, typically large ensembles will still meet but will have to do so "in smaller subgroups of 8-12 students at a time."

For music classes that are still meeting inside, cleaning supplies will be available throughout the classrooms and students will have to clean their workspaces before

entering and leaving class. The music department is also offering students options to do some classes virtually.

One big change to the music department's course offerings is the removal of the jazz ensemble this semester, which the website says was done to "reduce overlap in student participation." The department also had to make changes to plans that had already been made for the fall. Many recitals and performances were already set, but when COVID-19 cases continued to rise, those plans had to be changed. According to the *Coping with COVID* website, "no live performances for audiences will be offered on campus" this fall. Many of the performances and recitals will instead be recorded or live-streamed for the public to see.

Events that had been planned ahead of time for the music program had to be rescheduled. Elisa Koehler, Chair of the Music Department, said that the "Winthrop Wind Symphony tour originally scheduled for the fall semester has been postponed until next year." Some events even had to be can-



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian

celed.

"The Invitational Band Clinic that usually takes place on campus in November has been canceled for this year," Koehler said. Another thing that is changing about the program is the way students can use practice rooms. Normally a group of people can get a practice room together, but this will not be the case this year. Instead, practice rooms will be "restricted to one student per room," according to the website. The music department is actively

working on an online room reservation system and the practice rooms will have the same cleaning protocols as group classrooms.

To help out their students the music department also added a list of recommended equipment to prepare for classes. To see this full list, as well as more information about the protocols Winthrop's Department of Music is taking this semester, you can visit their *Coping with COVID* website at <https://www.winthrop.edu/cvpa/MUSIC/coping-with-covid.aspx>.

"Lights Up" on Winthrop's Department of Theatre and Dance

One group hopes to reform the college they called home

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Among the other events in the world this year, the Black Lives Matter movement has been one of the most prominent. Riots, protests, murders, outcries and more have stemmed from this banner as the people of the world, particularly in the United States, try to get justice for those killed by the police and end the divide between people of color and their white counterparts.

In the midst of this, Winthrop University has had its own outcry rise up in the form of the "Lights Up" Initiative.

This movement is the brainchild of Winthrop alumni co-founders Erica Truesdale, Rodrick Freitas, Riley Ketcham, Jasmine Gunter and Kevin Aoussou, and it has already garnered support from over 200 current students and alumni. The Initiative formed in early July and has been pressing Winthrop ever since for reform in their Department of Theatre and Dance.

The group's website states that one of their main goals is to expose "anti-blackness and racism in Winthrop University's Department of Theatre & Dance."

According to Gunter, a former theatre performance major, "Winthrop only produces black plays at a six percent rate. Which means that every white student who performs...on the Winthrop stage is going to be able to accurately represent themselves, but not every person of color is going to be able to represent themselves on stage and that doesn't seem fair or equitable."

The "Lights Up" Initiative believes that this lack of representation of Black, Indigenous and people of color should be amended.

"It's really to bring about awareness for the BIPOC people and the experiences that they've gone through and to demand change within the department," Freitas, a former theatre education major, said.

The movement officially formed following the outcries over the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, but the seeds were planted long before that. Accord-

ing to Freitas, for years following their graduation, the group had looked back and talked about the issues in the department and how "messed up" some of the things that happened were.

There were many sparks that lit the flame of the movement, but the earliest occurred while the founders were still Winthrop students. Gunter said that in 2015, she, Truesdale and Ketcham "walked into the chair's office and we asked, 'Why don't we do more black plays or plays written by black playwrights?' And we were told, 'Now is not the right time.'"

After the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement earlier this year and a subsequent Facebook post on June 4 by Winthrop's Department of Theatre and Dance page that simply said "BLACK LIVES MATTER", Truesdale and Ketcham reached out to Freitas, Gunter and Aoussou to create the core team behind the "Lights Up" Initiative.

Truesdale, a former theatre performance major, said the post "was the straw that broke the camel's back." She contacted the other founders the next day with the intention of holding the department "accountable to take action" against the bias present in their infrastructure through the launch of the Lights Up Initiative.

For Freitas, the apathy of this post is what made him realize something needed to change.

"It's that apathy of 'We're a liberal arts college. We have the title of liberal in our name. There's nothing that can touch us,'" Freitas said. "And it's that sense of apathy that they have, that's what I think made us really say, 'Ok, what you're doing is not enough to prove the statement that you're making.'"

Aoussou, a former theatre performance and mass communication double major, expanded on this thought and said, "To me, if you're not actively going to take part, especially as an institution, then just don't speak. Unless you're going to actively take steps to anti-racism, I don't need your performative action because that's what it was." To him, the post "felt very disingenuous" due to the lack of concern they had shown in the past.



Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian

The "Lights Up" Initiative has created a Facebook group and opened their ears to other former and current students in order to hear their testimonies.

"It really broke my heart to hear some of these experiences because it was just so sad," Freitas said. "This university is putting on the guise of 'this is a safe place for people of color to come and express themselves', and yet this isn't a safe place. They've been wronged and it really hurt."

Gunter shared his sentiments and said, "Some of these stories are just, they're harrowing and heartbreaking to even think about someone who had a love or passion for theater, and that passion has been snuffed out because of the racial inequality that happens in the department and how it deters people from their dreams."

Seeing and reading these testimonies made the group realize that there needed to be real change in the theatre and dance department. A pattern was forming in front of their eyes from the stories of current students and alumni before them, all of whom had faced the same discrimination in the department.

With the motivation to stop this seemingly endless cycle, the group launched their website, <https://lightsupwu.wixsite.com/lightsup>, and Instagram page, @lightsup_wu, to spread awareness of their cause in early July. They also opened a petition, which has reached over 1,300 signatures. The amount of support that they quickly received helped secure them a meeting with the Dean of the College of Visual and Perform-

ing Arts, Jeff Bellantoni on July 13.

Truesdale said that the meeting was "extremely productive." The group was able to express their concerns and allowed the Dean and Assistant Dean to read several testimonies made by students to show them the issues in the department. Afterwards, the HR department extended an opportunity for students to file formal complaints to allow the university to open investigations based on the claims of discrimination.

Currently, the group is waiting to see any concrete changes made by this meeting, such as plans to diversify the faculty of the department and introduce an Alumni Oversight Committee to provide more direct support for students.

As the university moves forward, the "Lights Up" Initiative plans to relentlessly continue pushing for change in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

"My biggest hope for this initiative and for the future of [the department] is that every POC student gets an opportunity to play and represent themselves on stage before they graduate," Gunter said.

Truesdale shared this sentiment. "I hope that the department will truly hear us and see us and...that they will consistently create better opportunities for both professors and students of color to debut their work on the Johnson main-stage and eventually the world," Truesdale said. "Our activism plays a vital role in the grand scheme of things and our work as artists has only just begun."

Professor plans and student pains

Students and faculty members reflect on how they feel returning to campus

Allison Reynolds
staff writer

Last spring, Winthrop University made the decision on March 13 to initiate two weeks of online remote learning at the end of spring break because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was originally thought that after three weeks, students would be able to come back to campus.

Instead, Winthrop was forced to tell their students that they had to move off campus until the fall semester. Now that it is August and school is starting up, faculty members and students have several opinions and concerns about returning to campus.

Incoming freshman psychology major Penelope Williams said that her biggest concern this semester is that she is worried about not having the normal instruction.

"I am more nervous about this semester than I originally was because I have never had to do anything like this before," Williams said. "My first semester of college and it's online."

Dr. Douglas Presley, associate director of bands at Winthrop, said there were multiple things that he had to change about the way that he teaches. Because of social distancing guidelines, he has had to break up his symphonic band class into four small bands. Presley also said that he had to buy new music that was better suited for the four small bands he has created.

Presley normally meets with the symphonic band on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. But now with these four small bands, he will meet with two of the bands on Tuesday and the other two bands on Thursday, with each band meeting for twenty minutes.

In addition to teaching sym-



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

phonic band, Presley also teaches basic conducting classes. He said that while he was doing this preparation, he had to make sure the content of his classes was the same no matter what. "I'm trying to make sure the content isn't different. Face to face or online, the content has to be the same."

Presley said that he spent extra time over the summer making sure his classes could work in case Winthrop decided to go 100% online. However, he said that he and Dr. Lorrie Crochet, director of bands at Winthrop, ultimately came to the decision that if classes were to be put 100% online, there would be no band.

"At the end of the day, face to face instruction and interaction with people is the most important element," Presley said. "I'll do

whatever I have to do and make the students do whatever they have to do for us to meet face to face. I feel it's important we (faculty) connect with the kids and they actually see a real face and not a digital face."

Dr. Dustin Hoffman, associate professor of English, spoke of the things he is doing differently this semester due to COVID-19 restrictions. He said he "and most of my colleagues are doing twice the work that we usually do...if we're doing face to face, we're probably also planning online." He noted that he has never before had to make two versions of one class.

Hoffman also said that he has made preparations in case Winthrop has to move to completely online instruction by taking online training over the summer with

his other colleagues. Despite this preparation, he does have some concerns about this semester. Hoffman said that virtual office hours and not being able to fully see faces and "read the room" will be challenging aspects when teaching his courses this semester.

Senior mass communication major Morgan Alexander said that he is not worried about his classes this semester because teachers are more prepared than they were in March when Winthrop had to quickly switch to remote learning. One thing Alexander is worried about, however, is whether everyone on campus will follow the guidelines.

"It only takes one person to mess up and then we are back at home," Alexander said.

Nobody cares if you wear white after Labor Day

What is the history of this outdated fashion rule?

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The saying goes, "You can't wear white after Labor Day," but have you ever stopped to ask yourself where such a rule that nobody follows even came from? There are a couple theories, some juicier than others, but they all may have less of a cultural impact than you think.

There are two sides to the origin story of this out-dated idea. Charlie Scheips, author of *American Fashion*, said in an article

for Marie Claire that white outfits were a "look of leisure" — a way to separate the wealthy late 19th century elite from those who may not have been able to afford such a wardrobe.

Fashion editors dictated many of the trends of the times, and thus, when white wardrobes began to appear in women's magazines, those who were determined to prove their place at the cool kids' table followed right along, pocket-book in hand.

"For those who had money and could leave the city during the warmer months, white was considered vacation attire," Chelsea

Peng, a fashion editor, wrote in a Marie Claire article.

As they left their day job and city life behind, vacationers opted for a lighter, breezier look for their travels. This change of theme in one's wardrobe would indicate not only their wealth, but their ability to stay with the trends as the weather became warmer.

Labor Day, which is on Monday, Sept. 7 this year, became an official national holiday in 1894. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, this "first Monday in September ... is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American work-

ers" and "constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country."

Less officially, however, this holiday typically marks the end of warm summer weather.

This change in weather also brings about a change in wardrobe. After Labor Day "you're back in the city, back at school, back doing whatever you're doing in the fall—and so you have a new wardrobe," Valerie Steele, director of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, said in an article for Marie Claire.

This offers another possible explanation to the situations that brought about this famous saying. It may be less about trying to fit in with the cool kids and more about simply dressing for work and weather.

But so when are you allowed to wear white again?

Kate Brierley wrote in an article for Distractify that "we're meant to wait eight (long, dark) months to break out our whites once again" on Memorial Day in May. But what does any of this matter in 2020?

Brierley said in her article that "breaking the fashion rule is a power move."

According to Time Magazine, Coco Chanel never followed the "no white after Labor Day" rule in the 1920s, so why should we a century later?



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

September 2, 2020

2020 Presidential Election: what you need to know about voting

Tips in preparation for Super Tuesday

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Each day, we inch closer and closer to casting our ballots and exercising our right to vote, an essential human right for which countless warriors have fought and lost their lives to guarantee.

In the hope of making America a better nation by voicing our values and beliefs, it is imperative that action be taken to truly consider how a candidate will impact the country, as well as the world.

The following piece contains some of the most important details to be familiar with in order to make an informed decision when it comes time to vote in November.

The voter registration deadline for South Carolina is approaching swiftly: Oct. 2 for in person and Oct. 5 for online registration, according to [scvotes.gov](https://www.scvotes.gov). In order to vote by mail, an application must be submitted by Oct. 30.

"Voters should apply at least one week prior to election day to allow adequate mail time," according to the [scvotes.gov](https://www.scvotes.gov).

With this in mind, be sure to register as soon as possible, and, if voting by mail, submit the application also available on [scvotes.gov](https://www.scvotes.gov).

Martin Jackson, a junior political

science and history double-major, makes sure to stay informed on political matters and involved in the community. He is a voting ambassador, the Political Action Chair for the Winthrop University NAACP, Community Outreach Chair for the Student Alumni Council, a representative on the Council of Student Leaders, a College Democrat and a Close Scholar.

Jackson said he will be voting by mail, "just because of everything happening, it's better to be safe than sorry."

Although voting by mail during a pandemic might seem like an obvious choice, some voters, numerous baby boomers in particular, suddenly do not trust this system, despite many of them utilizing this avenue of voting in previous elections. In fact, individuals aged sixty-five and above make up the highest percentage of mail-in-voters, according to the electionupdates.caltech.edu website.

In consideration of the common fear many baby boomers hold about mail-in voting, Jackson said that voting in person is "probably more secure," adding that, "a lot of [baby boomers] are most likely going to show up to polls with less fear of COVID-19 because they think they've lived through everything, almost like they are invincible, but the virus doesn't care how



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

Looking into local issues is just as important when it comes to voting.

"They are likely to affect you far more than a presidential election will, so vote, vote, vote," he said.

Additional tips that Jackson gave include memorizing one's social security number and carrying a South Carolina driver's license or valid ID. These may seem like simple things to do, but every election countless people are restricted from casting their vote.

"And just remember, if your vote didn't matter, why are people trying to suppress it?," he said.

old you are."

It is crucial to research candidates in order to make an informed decision.

"Don't just go with who your parents or friends are voting for. Make your own informed decision, and be confident enough in your own skin to do so," Jackson said. "Sometimes, when you feel like the party that you are more aligned with is failing you, don't feel like you're betraying your party by voting for a candidate of another party."

The practice of researching candidates and issues shouldn't be reserved for the general election.

Jill Biden: from grading papers to delivering national speeches

Exploring the possibility of Jill Biden being a full-time English professor while being the First Lady of the United States

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

Jill Biden, the wife of Democratic presidential candidate, Joe Biden, has announced that she will remain employed full-time as an English professor if her husband wins the election.

As an English professor at Northern Virginia Community College, Biden's lectures cover everything from reading analysis to essay composition. Professor Biden is a lifelong advocate for education and literacy, even before her time at Northern Virginia began.

In 2007, she helped found Book Buddies, a nonprofit dedicated to providing books to lower income families. She has also written three books: an autobiography, a children's book about the United States military, and a children's book about her husband's childhood. Biden's passion for learning and teaching will continue to flourish, even if she becomes the First Lady.

Remaining a professor while she's the First Lady would make Professor Biden the second First Lady to hold a career in education; Abigail Fillmore, who began teaching in 1814, was the first educator to become First Lady of the United States. Jill Biden's determination to continue her teaching if her husband becomes President provides women across the nation an example of determination and passion for one's work. However, not everyone would agree with her decision.

In an interview with the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network, former First Lady Laura Bush stated that

First Ladies should not be paid a salary while their spouse is in office, but that the male spouse of a President could earn a salary. "I think that's really the question we should ask. Should she have a career during those years that her husband is President?" Bush said.

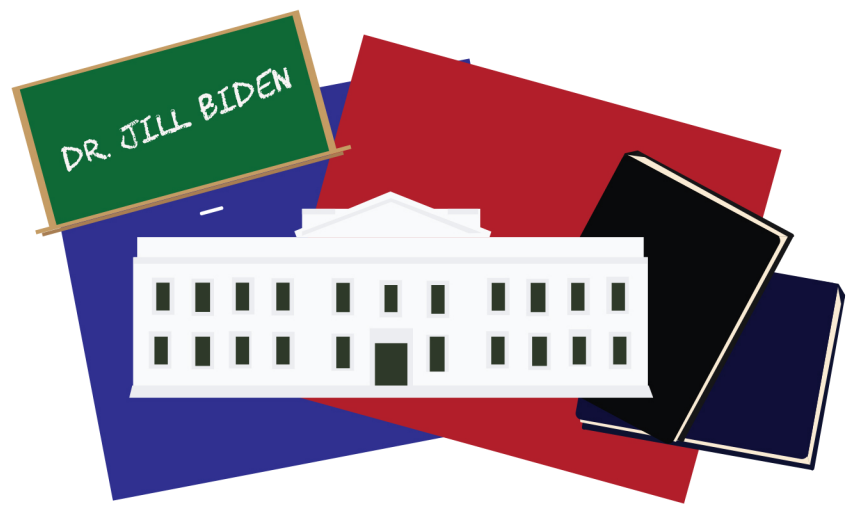
Regardless of Bush's objection to First Ladies earning a salary, students in particular find Biden's commitment to her career inspiring. Stephanie Martin, a senior secondary education major, believes that Biden's dedication and passion for teaching would be a stepping stone for modern feminists.

"I do think it would be inspiring," Martin said. "It would be a feminist action that demonstrates to women of all ages that their lives don't have to be centered around their partners' career choices."

When asked specifically if Professor Biden should resign if her husband is inaugurated, Martin vehemently opposed said, "I don't think she needs to quit. I think it's more unreasonable to expect her to quit her career because of her husband's political career."

Professor Biden's role in the classroom would undoubtedly shift from strictly an educator to a political role model. Her stance as a literacy advocate could encourage other political parties to promote equity in education, resulting in proper resources and funding for low-income schools.

Jordan Foster, a junior psychology major and strong advocate for women's rights, also supports Biden's decision to continue her career. "I think that she is going to continue her teaching at the same time as she tackles being a First Lady is an inspiration to young girls everywhere.



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

Biden's potential election might impact his wife's career, Hammond said that Professor Biden's career as an educator and her role as a supportive wife do not have to be mutually exclusive.

"I applaud her for not letting her husband's dream take away from her own career, despite the struggles she would surely endure taking on both positions. I think having someone in the White House who values education would be a great change for America," Hammond said.

Whether or not Biden would continue teaching at Northern Virginia has not been made public, but one thing is certain: Jill Biden is passionate about her work, and doesn't see an end to it in the near future. Even as First Lady, it is guaranteed that Biden would find a way to advocate for literacy and education from her new platform.

Her love for inspiring and educating the next generation can best be summarized with a statement she shared last week on social media: "Teaching is not what I do. It is who I am."

Just because her husband has a great job doesn't necessarily mean she has to end hers to support his endeavors."

"I think that we have to teach our young women that they can do anything and that they don't have to pick and choose based on other people's positions," Foster said.

Encouraging Professor Biden to end her career in order to support her husband would put feminism back by fifty years. While it is a respectable choice for women to put their families before their career, it is no longer expected or required. Professor Biden's decision to have both a career and a family encourages young women to put their own needs before society's expectations. Lydia Hammond, a junior education major, concurred with the other interviewees.

"I think it's great that she plans to continue teaching! The best teachers are the ones who love to teach. The fact that she would still want to do so while being the First Lady shows that she's a passionate teacher," Hammond said.

When asked about how Senator

Bring back Old Main

An update on the Board of Trustees' request to rename Tillman Hall

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

Since the Winthrop University Board of Trustees requested to restore Tillman Hall's original name in June, not much has changed. In order to restore the name, the Heritage Act of 2000 would need to be amended. The Heritage Act was put in place to preserve the history of South Carolina, even the unsavory parts. Under the Heritage Act, Winthrop cannot rename Tillman Hall or restore its original name, an act perceived to be an erasure of part of the state's history.

Tillman Hall was referred to as

"the Main Building" by generations of Winthrop staff and students, until 1962, when the Tillman Science Building was razed by the university. After the science wing's destruction, Winthrop gave the name to the Main Building, where it still remains.

During this era of Winthrop's life, the campus was still racially segregated. It became fully desegregated in 1964 when Cynthia Roddey, Winthrop's first African-American student, was welcomed to Winthrop inside a building that had been named after one of South Carolina's most outspoken racists just a year and a half before her admittance. A step toward inclusivity was undermined with a painful reminder that history was not on the side of Winthrop students.

Benjamin Tillman, Tillman Hall's namesake, was a South Carolina governor, United States senator and renowned racist. His advocacy in favor of segregation laws and his participation in racially-motivated massacres define Tillman's legacy, but his name has marred Winthrop's own legacy. Tillman was a keynote speaker at the dedication of the Main Building in 1894 and aided Winthrop in gaining support from the state.

For these reasons, he was awarded a legacy on Winthrop's campus map. Students across Winthrop's campus are advocating for the restoration of Tillman's identity as the Main Building. Winthrop students have even created online petitions and gathered over 300,000 signatures in support of removing

Tillman's name from the building. Other students have written letters to the Board of Trustees to expedite the process. Renaming Tillman Hall has become an online debate, as students and staff alike are sharing their views.

John Holder, a political science professor, shared a post on social media, begging for Tillman to be renamed, that quickly gained the attention of thousands. Following his open letter regarding Tillman, more students have posted their online statements in a show of support

Holder's standpoint.

In his letter, Holder states the reasons why Tillman is an unfit namesake for a historic part of campus: "Put simply, a vicious, racist murderer is unworthy of our honor. It is even more compelling given that Winthrop's contemporary student body is now populated by large numbers of the very people Tillman sought often violently to exclude from education and from basic human rights," he said.

With the recent calls for racial equity, the controversy over Tillman's name is more politically relevant than ever. In response to the recent murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, it is imperative that the United States rally together to put an end to race-based killings. A small step toward beginning this initiative would be to stop honoring a man who was famous for massacring countless people of color. Wren Brooke, a junior theatre tech major, enthusiastically supports the name change.

"I believe that the name should be changed out of respect for the student body of Winthrop, as well as the countless lives Tillman oppressed," Brooke said.

"Murderers shouldn't be memorialized. This isn't about erasing history, we know Tillman existed. This is about honoring those who were harmed by his beliefs. This is about knowing which names in history deserve to be respected, and Tillman is not one of those names," Brooke said.

As of this week, the Board of Trustees has yet to release another statement regarding the renaming process.



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

for

Michelle Obama: a former first lady like no other

Mary Hicks
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Whether Democrat, Republican, or Independent, one thing most can agree on is that Former First Lady Michelle Obama marches to the beat of her own drum.

In her speech presented at the DNC, Obama boldly dove straight into her thoughts as she passionately and explicitly told the American people why she believes President Trump is unfit to lead this nation for four more years. She made it plain that she does not see this president as a leader to begin with: "Because whenever we look to this White House for some leadership or consolation or any semblance of steadiness, what we get instead is chaos, division, and a total and utter lack of empathy," she said.

She spoke about the devastation caused by COVID-19, which could have been prevented if President Trump had not suggested early on that it would simply disappear. She spoke of the lives lost, jobs lost, and for many, the respect lost for the President because of his apparent inability to empathize, among other characteristics and choices that have negatively impacted the country.

Obama expressed her own empathy, as she acknowledged George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, "and a never-ending list of innocent people of color" who are continuously murdered, while the mere statement of Black Lives Matter is "still met with derision from the nation's highest office," she said.

On the surface, this may seem like a first in U.S. history. It is true that most first ladies in the past years have not been so straight-forward and intentioned in their aim to discourage voters away from their

husband's successor. However, when it comes to President Trump himself, he has spoken publicly against his predecessor before, as well as during his time in office. President Trump aimed remarks at President Obama even amidst the pandemic. In an interview with CNBC, he said, "No, I don't take responsibility at all," going on to say, "Because we were given a — a set of circumstances, and we were given rules, regulations and specifications from a different time. It wasn't meant for this kind of — an event with the kind of numbers that we're talking about."

The President has made these excuses and attacked the work set in place before his term in an attempt to divert the attention from his own mistakes.

When First Lady Melania Trump gave her speech at the RNC, she did not completely ignore what the Former First Lady had to say.

"I do not want to use this precious time attacking the other side because as we saw last week, that kind of talk only serves to divide the country further," she said. So the question is this: is the former first lady still following her own "When they go low, we go high" mantra?

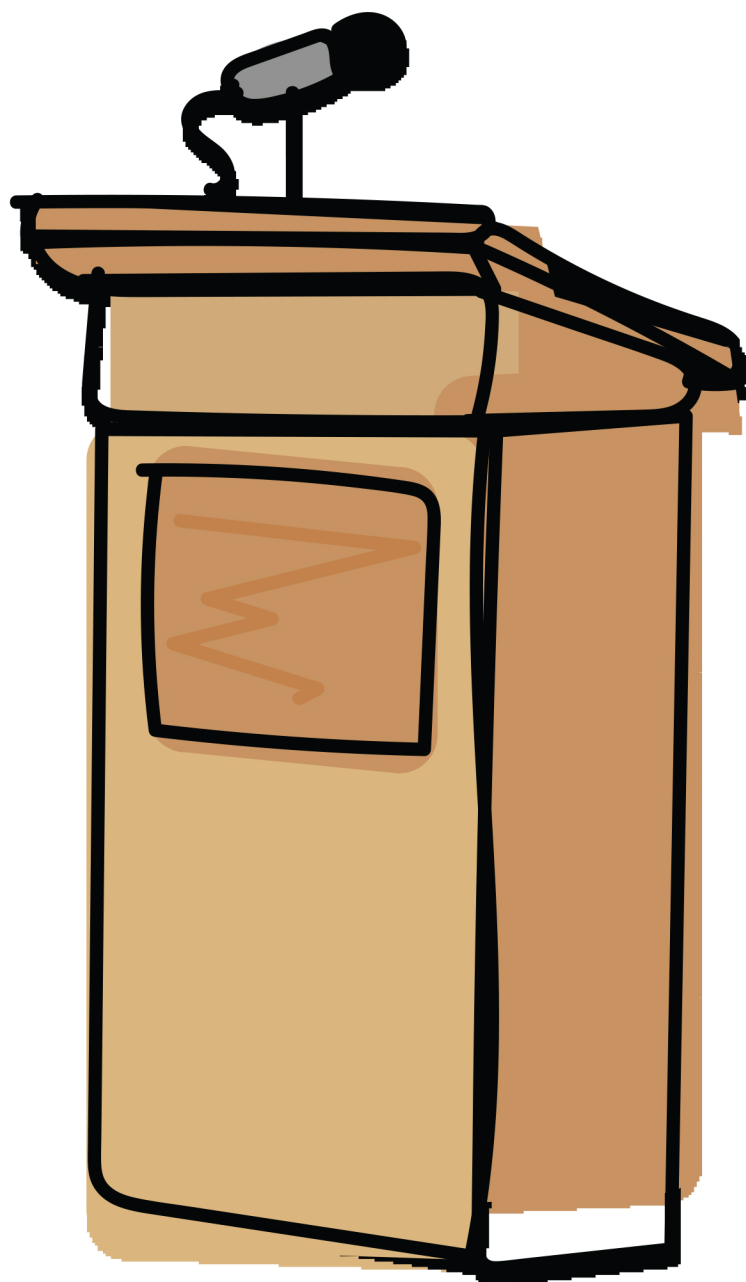
Obama acknowledged this question in her speech and elaborated on what it truly means to "go high," saying, "Going high means standing fierce against hatred while remembering that we are one nation under God, and if we want to survive, we've got to find a way to live together and work together across our differences."

While Obama clearly criticized the current administration, she did not suggest anything on the scale of what some speakers at the RNC claimed Democrats will do if elected. In contrast, Rep. Matt Gaetz claimed that Democrats "want to disarm you, empty the prisons, lock

you in your homes, and invite MS-13 to live next door." None of which, there has been any evidence of Biden's campaign or the Democratic party saying or taking any action toward doing.

This issue of falsehood is another element that the former first lady brought up with great urgency. "And going high means unlocking the shackles of lies and mistrust with the only thing that can truly set us free: the cold hard truth," Obama said. This idea of "the cold hard truth" may seem incredibly elusive in this present time where misinformation spreads faster than the coronavirus. Therefore, it is all the more vital to be critical thinkers. The tools and skills being taught in CRTW

grow more and more valuable as the journey of navigating through this chaotic and confusing world continues, especially when it comes to understanding politics.



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian



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