

THE JOHNSONIAN



Questioning COVID-19 Dashboard numbers

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Many students and faculty believed Winthrop University would have moved to total remote instruction by now due to COVID-19, yet students remain on campus and in class, with Winthrop's COVID-19 Dashboard reading, as of Oct. 16, six positive cases amongst students since Oct. 5, zero positive cases amongst employees since Oct. 5, and 37 cumulative positive cases since March 16.

"Our adjustment to the new normal for living and learning has gone well, and I applaud you for your efforts to keep your colleagues and friends safe and healthy... I think our best course of action is to continue in Phase 2 at least through the end of the fall semester," according to an email sent by Winthrop President George Hynd to students on Oct. 13.

Some people applaud Winthrop's diligence in upholding safety regulations and their transparency in revealing COVID-19 data, while others question whether the data shown on the dashboard is even reliable.

Alexis Stenger, a senior exercise science major who got tested for COVID-19 at the DHEC-sanctioned testing at the coliseum said, "When I got tested, no one asked if I was affiliated with Winthrop and there was nothing I signed saying I was affiliated with Winthrop either."

Marsha Bollinger, chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies and professor of geology, said that she also received testing at the coliseum and was not asked during any point of the process where she worked.

Both Stenger and Bollinger tested negative for COVID-19, so there was no obligation to report their results to the university, although for students who test positive, the protocol may be different. Either those who test positive are expected to adhere to an honor code in reporting their results to the university, or DHEC reports the results. If COVID-positive people are responsible for reporting their results, the COVID-19 Dashboard numbers might be off if those who test positive are not honest.

"I'm hoping that people are doing the right thing, because we have so much at stake... So my sense is [students] are being very careful about it," Bollinger said.

Jackie Concodora, director of Winthrop's Health and Counseling Services, said, "DHEC does not ask people who come to their pop-up sites about affiliations. The testing site at the coliseum is open to the York County community. If a test comes back positive, the epidemiology nurse will ask about employment, school, etc. during the contact tracing process. If a positive person shares that they are affiliated with Winthrop then the epidemiology team will notify the relevant department."

Therefore, for Winthrop faculty, staff and students who receive COVID-19 testing at the coliseum, only when they test positive are they asked if they are a part of Winthrop, however, not everyone opts to get tested at DHEC pop-up locations.

Seth Shull, a senior art major who tested positive for COVID-19, said, "I got tested at a hospital in Rock Hill...once I tested positive, I sent Winthrop an email saying, 'Hey, I'm positive. What do I do now?'"

While Shull immediately reported his positive result to the university, there are currently no

measures in place to ensure that all Winthrop faculty, staff and students will do the same should they receive testing at other various locations. This can result in some inaccurate data on Winthrop's COVID-19 Dashboard.

"I feel like Winthrop should mandate at least a test a week for everybody because I know they did that at other colleges and that's what got them to close those schools and I don't really want to close down the school, I just would rather have accurate results," Stenger said. "I'm a very realistic person, very rational person, so to only have [37] people get tested positive over months of being in school, I don't know if I really believe it, so I would prefer for everybody to get tested because it's free at the coliseum and it takes 30 seconds."

The University of South Carolina is mandating COVID-19 testing for students on their campuses.

"For the safety of all of our students, those moving into on-campus housing must show proof of COVID-19 testing and clearance from Student Health Services prior to move-in," according to SC.edu.

Clemson is also requiring testing for their students.

"As part of Clemson's plan to promote safe in-person instruction and on-campus activities, the University required all students on its main campus to receive a negative COVID-19 test result prior to returning to the classroom and campus," according to Clemson.edu.

Currently, Winthrop is not requiring faculty, staff and students to get tested.

Dwight Dimaculangan, chairman of the biology department and professor of biology, said, "I'm glad the school [has the COVID-19 Dashboard] because originally they weren't going to do that, so I am very happy they're trying to be as transparent as possible... but I am concerned that they're basing the data on limited knowledge and so my fear is that they have created a false sense of security about there being hardly any cases on campus, because I'm not sure that that's the case."

Due to the fact that Winthrop is not requiring faculty, staff and students to get tested, the numbers on the COVID-19 Dashboard are solely based on the results of those who receive testing upon their own accord. If Winthrop required faculty, staff and students to get tested, the dashboard data would be more reliable.

"The biggest problem is there is no general testing program that's going on at Winthrop... if you have control over the testing, you can determine how many people are tested overall, how many negative tests there are and how many positive tests there are and that gives you a positivity rate... For instance, in South Carolina, I just saw reported yesterday, there's over 1,000 new cases in South Carolina...the rate went from 9 percent back up to 12 percent and what the CDC says is you should be really cautious if it's over 5 percent... I don't see how [Winthrop] is going to know definitely what the positivity rate is unless they require testing in some form."

There are many unanswered questions regarding how Winthrop is handling the pandemic. How can one feel secure in the data displayed on the dashboard when Winthrop does not require COVID-19 testing for students, staff and faculty like other South Carolina public institutions do?

Perhaps these questions can be answered by Linda Bell, S.C. State Epidemiologist, during the cultural event, "The Role of Epidemiology in a Pandemic and Public Health Safety," on Oct. 22 from 7-8:30 p.m. via Zoom.

37
Cumulative
Positive Cases

March 16 – Oct. 11, 2020



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

CAS faculty concerns over board loyalties

Chase Duncan
staff writer

Winthrop University professors in the College of Arts and Sciences brought forth concerns in a recent faculty assembly regarding appearances and addresses by conservative political figures at a recent board meeting.

At the meeting, six conservative speakers, including U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman and S.C. state Sen. Wes Climer, were each allotted 10 minutes to present their opinions on subjects such as free speech and the elimination of tenure in defense of Winthrop's former Dean of Dacus Library Mark Herring and his controversial "The Wuhan Wilding" opinion piece. The column was published and shortly thereafter retracted by the *Against the Grain* library science journal due to strong disapproval by readers for its perceived racist and xenophobic remarks, including statements referring to COVID-19 as the "Kung-Flu" and the "Wuhan Virus."

The partisan group collectively criticized Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Adrienne McCormick for removing the piece from Winthrop's Digital Commons and publicly condemning Herring's statements through an email.

"For [McCormick] to take down the writings of the professor because she disagreed with it, that violates the First Amendment and the board needed to know that," Norman said to the board at the meeting. Norman went on to say that colleges should be held accountable for violating the Constitution and subsequently supported the elimination of tenure that would protect faculty that infringe upon others' rights to freedom of speech.

Climer addressed his concerns to the board following Norman's remarks. He claimed that McCormick had censored and censored, or officially criticized, Herring's work.

"This is how you treat children, not scholars," Climer said to the board of trustees. "This institution matters to me and it matters to this community. And when I see it falling into disrepair, as is clearly the case with the mistreatment of Dr. Herring, I feel an obligation to speak up, not to condemn, but to encourage you, as the governing body of this institution, to hold the highest values of the institution."

After listening to the six speakers' remarks, the board approved a resolution reaffirming Winthrop's "commitment to the First Amendment right of free speech and expression and to document our

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Sports

Sporting around the globe

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A&C

Rest in peace to a guitar legend

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Opinion

The power of early voting

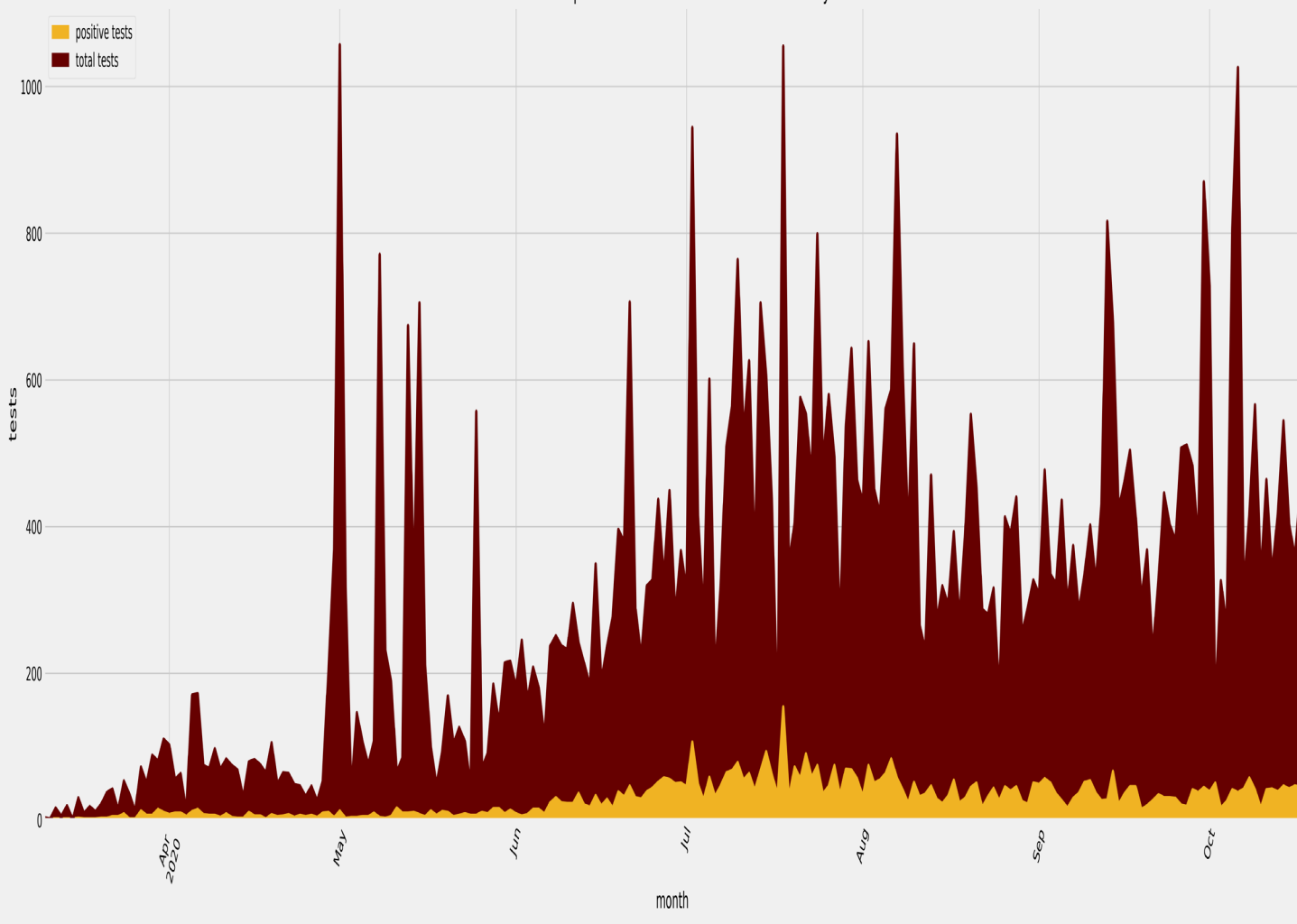
•pg.10



COVID-19 data

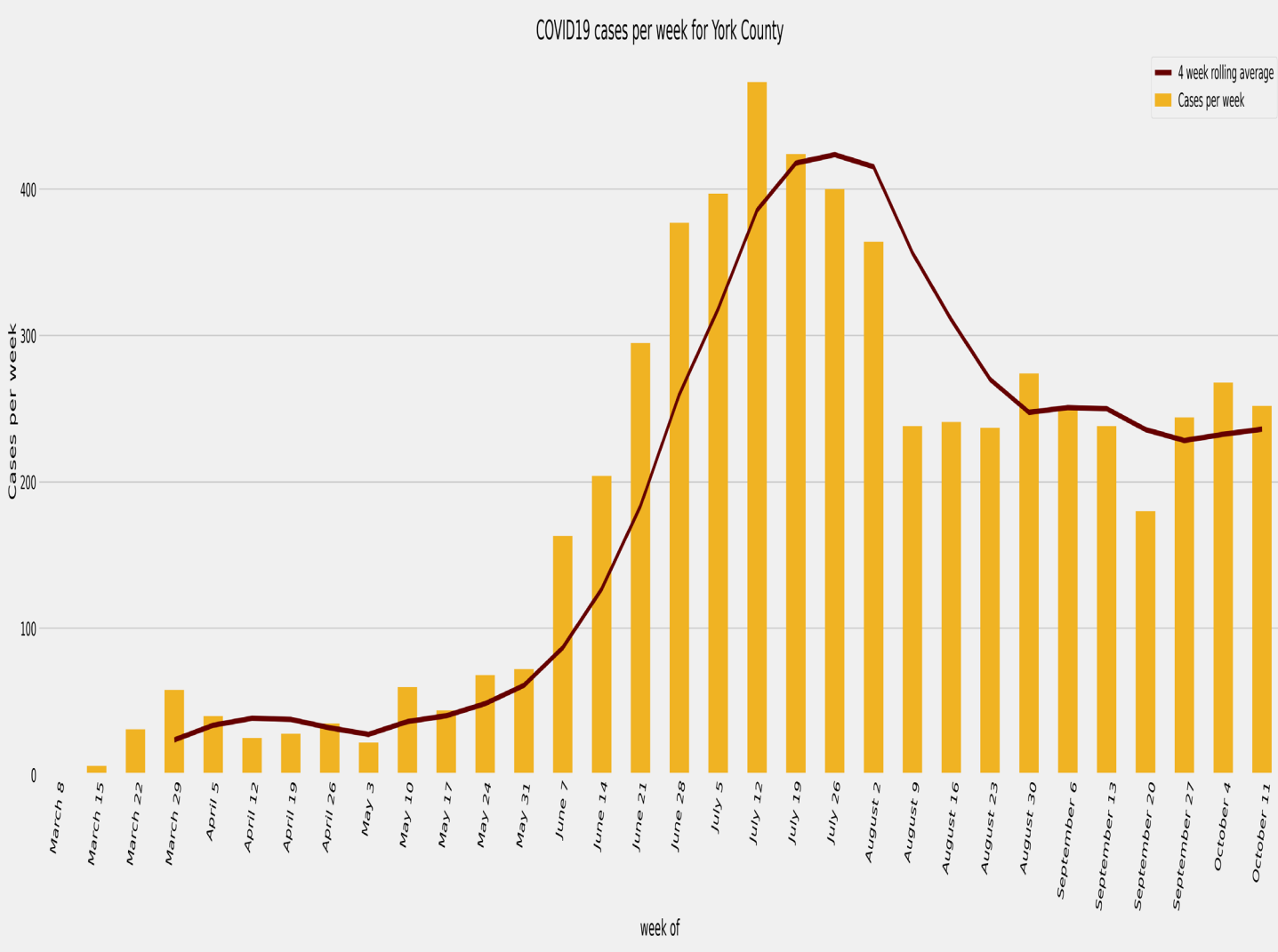
During the pandemic, The Johnsonian wants to keep you up to date with the number of positive cases in the York County area. Each week we will have weekly data charts informing you of what is new

COVID19 positive tests vs total tests in York County



Philip Nelson/The Johnsonian

COVID19 cases per week for York County



Philip Nelson/The Johnsonian

◀ Board from front

mission.” Some faculty feel that the board was not as transparent with the public as they should’ve been prior to the resolution’s approval.

“[The faculty] were sent notice by the secretary of the board notice that the board would be meeting and considering a resolution,” Scott Huffmon, a professor of political science, said in an interview. “More than 24 hours before the board meeting, I emailed the secretary and asked her if I could see a copy of the resolution so that we might have an idea of what was going to be talked about at this meeting. My email was ignored, and nobody found out about the resolution until after it was voted on. Only the following day did she send me a copy of the resolution. Since it was a Word document I was able to look at the day it was created, and it was created the day I asked for a copy.”

“I don’t think there’s any reason the resolution could not have been sent out prior to the meeting,” Huffmon said. “Clearly there were people and politicians notified about what was going to be discussed at the meeting, and the rest of the public was kind of in the dark.”

At a later board meeting, Huffmon was given the opportunity to respond to the accusations levied against Winthrop and McCormick by the Republican group.

“Every speaker at the previous meeting was told they could have 10 minutes to address the board,” Huffmon said. “I was only given three minutes to address them. You can draw your own conclusion about whose opinion is more valued.”

The small faculty group’s collected grievances were anonymously presented by a CAS representative at a CAS assembly meeting. Members of the CAS faculty group drew similarities between the conservative speeches given by the politicians and recent controversies surrounding the influence of politics on the University of South Carolina’s Board of Trustees, which has earned the school’s governing board heavy criticism by publications like The Chronicle of Higher Education.

“I think the board is probably amenable to the idea that faculty adore this institution, and we would like to have input on its governance since we have tied our entire lives to this university, the same way students have. Students will always be Winthrop Eagles no matter what, but members of the board will come and go. I think greater transparency would send a message to faculty members and students that they are valued,” Huffmon said.

About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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Dueling town halls fuel a ratings war

Donald Trump and Joe Biden held town halls on the same night, airing at the same time on different stations

Elijah Lyons
copy editor

After shifting rules and a scheduling fiasco, Vice President Biden appeared on ABC for a town hall style event in Pennsylvania on Oct. 15 in which he answered questions from voters and solidified his policy platform. Meanwhile, in Miami, Trump appeared at a similar Town Hall event with NBC, setting up a ratings war between the two candidates.

TODAY's Savannah Guthrie moderated NBC's event and wasted little time in pressing the president on the circumstances of his COVID-19 diagnosis, attempting to pin down the date of the president's last negative test to provide a clearer picture of the president's testing regimen.

The president managed to dodge these questions, first implying that he tests almost everyday, then claiming he doesn't test daily, before claiming his doctors would have the exact answer on whether or not he took a test the day of the Presidential debate. Guthrie pressed the President on whether his views on mask-wearing had changed since his diagnosis.

"As far as the mask is concerned, I'm good with masks, I'm okay with masks, I tell other people to wear a mask," he said, "but just the other day they came out with a statement that 85% of the people who wear masks catch it."

Guthrie would contest this figure when the President repeated it later in the event. Vice president Biden advocated for a mask mandate, but acknowledged the difficulties that would come in enforcing such a policy. Still, he said, the word of the President matters.

"You can go to every governor and get them all in a room, all 50 as president and say, 'ask people to wear the mask' ... and if they don't... I go to every mayor, I go to every councilman, I go to every local official and say, 'mandate the

mask,'" he said.

The President again blamed China but praised his administration's effort to tamp down on the virus, citing estimates Guthrie asserted were based on early projections of an entirely uncontrolled spread.

"We're at 210,000 people. One person is too much, it should've

cently released and reported on by the New York Times. He attempted to minimize the significance of the debt, while for the first time seemingly confirming its existence, despite denying the allegations previously.

"I have a very very small percentage of debt compared - in

"We have to change the system... from punishment to rehabilitation," he said.

The president again denounced white supremacy, before shifting the focus to threats from the left.

"I denounce white supremacy, and frankly, you want to know something, I denounce ANTIFA and I denounce these people on the left who are burning down these cities run by Democrats who don't know what they're doing," he said.

The mother of a transgender young woman cited the President's anti-trans* policies, including the ban on trans* individuals in the military, and asked Biden how his administration would protect the rights of transgender and LGBTQ individuals.

"I will flat out just change the law. Eliminate those executive orders, number 1." He said. "There should be zero discrimination."

At the core of the Vice President's candidacy is a call for unity in the "fight for the soul of this nation," as he frames it. He expressed his view of the United States as a vast and diverse nation.

"We are a country that is a country of slaves who came here 400 years ago, indigenous people, and everyone else is an immigrant," he said.

The ABC moderator, George Stephanopolous, asked the Vice President what it would say about the state of our democracy, and indeed the soul of our nation, were he to lose to President Trump.

"It could say that I'm a lousy candidate, that I didn't do a good enough job," the vice president said. "I hope that it doesn't say that we are as racially, ethnically, and religiously at odds with each other as it appears the president wants us to be."

Vice President Biden's ABC town hall event garnered 14.1 million viewers, while the President's town hall reached 13.5 million viewers across NBC, MSNBC and CNBC.



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

never happened because of China. It happened because of China. We were expected to lose... 2,200,000 people," Trump said.

Biden laid out his plans to restructure the American economy around renewable energy, a move he says will create an influx of jobs and help revive the economy.

"We're going to invest a great deal of the money into infrastructure and into a green infrastructure. We're going to put 500,000 charging stations on new highways we're building and old highways we're building. We're going to own the electric market," he said. "I will create 18.6 million new jobs - good paying jobs, number one - number two, the GDP will grow by a trillion dollars more than it would under Trump, and create seven million more jobs than under Trump."

The president was given the opportunity by one of his supporters to explain his thinking behind his many corporate tax cuts.

"Our corporate taxes were the highest in the world and now they're among the lower taxes... and what that means is jobs," Trump said.

Guthrie pushed Trump on the question of his own tax records, re-

fact some of it I did as favors to institutions that wanted to loan me money - \$400 million compared to the assets that I have... It's a tiny percentage of my net worth."

When a young man asked Biden how he would work on behalf of the Black community, and in particular, young and disillusioned Black voters, he underscored the power of the vote in marginalized communities.

"As my buddy John Lewis said, it's a sacred opportunity, the right to vote, it can make a difference. If young Black men and women vote you can determine the outcome of this election. Not a joke, you can do that."

While he maintained his stance against defunding the police, Biden spoke extensively about reforms his administration would seek in policing, including an influx of psychologists and social workers in police departments, moving the prosecution of offending officers to outside their communities, the decriminalization of marijuana, and the establishment of a national study bringing Black and Brown voices together, along with cops and social workers, to come up with methods of police reform.

Alumni Association holds panel about U.S. Census Bureau

Winthrop's Alumni Association held a Facebook live to answer some questions about the U.S. Census Bureau

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The U.S. Census is important for all citizens of the United States to participate in. By responding to the census, people can help produce accurate and reliable statistics on characteristics of their community such as education, employment, infrastructure and economic opportunities. This information is helpful for local officials, policy makers, companies and organizations to understand and assess the resources and needs of people, places and businesses in communities across the entire country.

On Oct. 14 the Winthrop Alumni association held a panel on Facebook Live to answer some questions about the United States Census. The census is a survey conducted every ten years to accurately count all of the people in the state. Response to the census has a critical positive impact on the community. The panel helped to shed some light on what employees

of the census bureau do to get as accurate a count as possible. The best way to help out with the census is to do a self-response, which is for a person to complete the survey on their own by sending it in via mail or online. This year South Carolina had a self response rate of 60.9 percent. Rock Hill alone had a self response rate of 65.9 percent.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the census is the backbone of all statistics in the U.S. and serves as a benchmark for many other surveys. It is important for all citizens to respond to the census to achieve accurate results. There are three ways that citizens can complete the survey. They can either mail in a response to the questionnaire, respond online, or by phone. This is the first census where there have been three ways to respond.

The Census Bureau hoped to ensure that as many people as possible knew about the census and would respond on their own, so that the bureau staff would not have to make as many house calls.

"There was a push of media interviews to make sure that we were reaching folks from all across the country," said Ashlei Stevens, a member of the 2020 Census Media Relations. "Organizations called 'Complete Count Committees' helped spread the word through advertisements to make sure everyone was counted."

In the last U.S. census there was an undercount of children under age five by nearly one million. Missing out on this information has a huge impact on funding, particularly for schools. "To help us count children and avoid some of the undercount we experienced in 2010, we ask questions at the beginning of the interview related to the number of people in the household, and then near the end of the interview we ask one last time if there are any children or infants living in the house," said Dominic Beamer, a branch chief of the U.S. Census Bureau. "We also have quality control components that help us if there are any discrepancies in the count."

South Carolina had an overall



Photo Courtesy to Winthrop University

response rate of 99.9 percent which is a phenomenal feat. Though the deadline to respond to the census has passed, anyone who would like to learn more about it can visit 2020census.gov to find out more information. The staff of the census bureau had a particularly hard year due the pandemic, so getting people to respond on their own was extremely important.

"[T]aking five minutes of your time to respond today, will positively impact your community for the next ten years," Stevens said.

HOMECOMING goes virtual

Virtual Homecoming allows Winthrop alumni to participate in the festivities

Mari Pressley
staff writer

Homecoming week this year will be held virtually as COVID-19 protocols are administered throughout the university — a change that may allow for alumni from all over to participate in homecoming activities.

This year's virtual homecoming week activities are a multitude of events that range from speed networking and yoga/meditation to a socially-distanced luncheon and a cocktail social.

"Homecoming week encompasses alumni, students, faculty, staff, friends and the community, but mostly alumni. For the alumni association, alumni and reunion weekend is our signature event where we invite alumni to come home to Winthrop for the weekend, where we celebrate class reunions from the 5th to the 75th reunion and we welcome alumni back to campus where affinity groups can gather. We host a myriad of events throughout the week," Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Reunion Giving Lori Tuttle said.

The Alumni Association Staff plans to implement homecoming week virtually this year.

"Starting on Nov. 9 through Nov. 14, we'll be offering a myriad of events that alumni can participate in, whether that's a live event via one of our social media platforms or prerecorded from our end that we're pushing out to alumni to participate in," Tuttle said.

This year's planning process for the Alumni Association staff differed from years past. "Typically for in-person homecoming, it's the same challenges every year, it's the same logistics, but we can anticipate a lot of the planning that we sit down and do together face to face. It's a lot of meetings with campus facilities, with campus catering. This year we are all meeting virtually. We have taken a lot of ideas from other schools. We have an alumni network in the Big South [conference]...so we've leaned on our friends to ask what they're doing for their virtual homecomings," she said. "Through the planning process, we have been very mindful to offer events that speak to all of our alumni. So, not just young alumni, not just our more seasoned alumni, but alumni of every generation that have every kind of affinity from Winthrop."

While homecoming week looks different this year, it is now accessible to alumni from all over.

"We do have some more events to come that will be more affinity based for our alumni so it's been very different because we want to offer something everyday and keep Winthrop on the tip of our Alumni's tongues the entire week of virtual homecoming. And with alumni not

coming back to campus, that's been a different challenge for us of 'what can we offer alumni that will speak to them?'" Tuttle said. "Our goal in the schedule that we're putting together is to offer something for everyone and not box in any events to one specific time and one kind of event."

Winthrop class of 2013 alumnae Shelby Banks, who earned a Bachelor of history and a concentration in print journalism, said "I don't live in the area anymore so I haven't been able to come to homecoming in a long time. This way, I feel like it's a way that I can even participate without having to physically be there."

The Alumni Association is also able to raise awareness of homecoming week with the help of their very own alumni volunteers.

"We're also working with alumni to be social media ambassadors and influencers, so we've put together a tool kit for those alumni that can really share our story and our events and what we have planned for the week...we lean on our alumni volunteers to help us with everything you see in the alumni association. We'll lean on alumni association ambassadors to help us get the word out," Tuttle said.

The Alumni Association staff has had to adjust how events are implemented for homecoming week this year but plan on applying some of the same strategies to homecoming events in the future.

"I think some of what we're doing this year may sit going forward which is exciting to us. We're definitely looking at this very unique time as a glass that's half-full and it's given us a chance to do some new virtual events that we just really hadn't had the capacity to do in the past," Tuttle said.

Alumni Engagement Coordinator Brittany Neely explained the effect that the alumni association staff would like to have on Winthrop alumni this year.

"They remember that we're here even when they can't come in person and celebrate homecoming reunion weekend or really anything on campus, that we're still here virtually and we're offering so many different things to participate in so they can still do a lot of things that aren't available to them in person...there's a lot of other things that we're offering them and we're still here for them however we can help."

"I was really excited to see them kind of take that initiative because I feel like for the most part, the university has been taking the virus seriously, so I'm glad that they are still finding a way to have homecoming and get everybody together but still keeping everybody safe," Banks said.

Winthrop's virtual homecoming week will be held Nov. 9-14. To view the full schedule and get more information on 2020 Virtual Homecoming Week, visit <https://www.winthrop.edu/homecoming/>.



Graphic Courtesy to Winthrop University



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

CAS updates tech policy

Due to the advancement of technology, the College of Arts and Sciences has changed its policy regarding the appropriate use of technology in class

Mari Pressley
staff writer

The once-named Policy for Appropriate Use of Hand-held and Wireless Technology in Winthrop University's College of Arts and Sciences has recently been revised, giving it a new title: Policy for Appropriate Use of Digital Technology in the College of Arts and Sciences. This comes as a result of not only the technological advancements made in the past two years but also the technological shift Winthrop has seen within the past year.

Associate Dean for the College of Arts & Sciences Gregory Oakes drafted the revision and oversaw the editing processes with the chairs of all CAS departments who meet bi-weekly throughout the semester as well as CAS faculty at the Sept. 4 and Oct. 9 faculty assembly meetings.

The Policy for Appropriate use of Digital Technology was adopted in April 2014, revised in April 2016, and was revised again in October 2020,

"Technology continues to evolve so we just update the policy periodically to match the technologies that have emerged, and also technologies are being used much more extensively here since spring since we've moved so many things online with the COVID virus pandemic." Oakes said. "When we first wrote the policy it was directed towards the use of hand-held recorders or cell-phones, but many more people now are using laptops or tablets. That was the case even five or six years ago and now that so many courses are fully online too, it isn't just bringing devices to class but many people are at home using their laptops or even desktops there. So we just expanded the policy to make sure that we were specifically addressing the technology as it's being used today."

Publication of classroom proceedings or materials that "denigrates and/or decontextualizes" the instructor was one of the revisions made to the policy. "We re-wrote that clause in order to protect students and faculty members from misuse of class proceedings. It doesn't happen very often but when it does happen, it can be very upsetting, disturbing and harmful to the educational process, to the institution, to the given individuals. Primarily what I'm talking about is structuring part of the discussion and then throwing it up on social media out of context where it sounds as though people are saying or talking about things that may be incendiary if taken out of context...we just want to make sure that students are participating in those discussions in class as well as their faculty members who will appropriately protect them," Oakes

said.

Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Conduct Anthony Davis shared his thoughts on why the policy is being revised now.

"I think just with where we are in society, now is more of a time than ever that we have to look at these types of things to try to ensure that academic integrity is maintained," Davis said. "Obviously, we're delivering instruction in unconventional ways. We're online, we're hybrid, so now, if any, is a time to revisit some of our policies to make sure that they are applicable to where we are right now in how we're offering learning to students."

In the revised policy, the section titled, "Sanctions", discusses how professors may enforce this policy in their classroom.

"Sanctions for violation of this policy will be determined by the instructor and may include dismissal from the class, attendance penalties or loss of class participation points, zero grades on quizzes or examinations, failure in the class, or other penalties that the instructor determines to be appropriate. These sanctions should be explicitly stated on the instructor's syllabus," according to page three of the Policy for Appropriate Use of Digital Technology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Professor of Fine Arts Karen Stock explained how she makes her students aware of this policy.

"I review to them, basically just behavior, just how to behave in class whether it is remotely or not. But especially in the classroom, I would not allow them to have [phones] out at all, less because of dishonesty and more because it's simply rude...I just try and make them aware that it is a device that can be used for certain things sometimes, but it's also good to just practice putting it away." Stock said. "I would ask the student to either give me the phone and I can hold it for them for the remainder of the course or they're free to leave and take an absence."

Oakes explained the effect that the College of Arts and Sciences hopes to have through the revisions of this policy.

"We want to make sure that faculty and students alike feel comfortable in their classrooms discussing academic issues. We want to make sure that the really important freedom of exchange, examination of information, of ideas is preserved at Winthrop University," Oakes said. "These are policies that many institutions around the country have to protect those freedoms and the educational process. What we're hoping to accomplish with the update of the policy is just to keep up with protection of the rights and freedoms of the academy as they are practiced here at Winthrop."

Looking ahead: treatments for COVID-19

A look into potential future treatments for COVID-19

Shyanne Hamrick
staff writer

As one of the greatest challenges of the year, researchers and scientists persist in the race to develop a treatment for the COVID-19 pandemic. Although controversy has risen from recent widespread discussions of approaches to vaccinations and medicine, some potential treatments show great promise.

According to the FDA, more than 550 drug development programs are in initial stages, over 350 trials have been reviewed, and five treatments are authorized for emergency use as of September 30.

One of these treatments for emergency use, Veklury, or Remdesivir, is an antiviral drug. This means that it targets and inhibits further development of viruses. Although clinical trials do not indicate Remdesivir has any impact on mortality rates, it has demonstrated promise.

“In hospitalized patients with mild to moderate disease, the results for the odds of improvement at Day 15 and the time to recovery through Day 29 were consistent with the overall study results and numerically favored Veklury,” according to the FDA’s website.

Similarly, convalescent plasma is another treatment authorized by the FDA for emergency use. The process involves collecting plasma from the blood of recovered patients and provides

antibodies for those who are ill. So far, clinical trials have yielded contrasting results. Some researchers have provided data which illustrates the treatment’s effectiveness, while others demonstrate convalescent plasma as a treatment for the initial stages of the disease.

Monoclonal antibodies, another potential treatment, are synthetic antibodies which behave much like natural human antibodies within the immune system. The process involves infusion of antibodies, which would provide immunity and prevent the virus from developing. The production of monoclonal antibodies is complicated and would have a limited manufacturing capacity.

Regarding a vaccine, the CDC website states, “In the United States, there is currently no authorized or approved vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)...Many vaccines are being developed and tested, but some might be ready before others—CDC is planning for many possibilities.”

Aside from such tentative treatments, physicians are currently using prone positioning in addition to ventilation devices. Prone positioning requires patients to lie on their stomach to open airways and increase oxygen levels.



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

“COVID-19 patients who could position themselves in a facedown, prone position while awake and supplied with supplemental oxygen were less likely to need intubation and mechanical ventilation,” according to an article by Columbia University.

Therefore, the position is useful in reducing the occurrence of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). In patients with COVID-19, ARDS occurs as a result of fluid in the lungs. As a serious respiratory condition, ARDS typically results in multiple organ failure and is often fatal.

Despite current or conflicting treatments, corticosteroids are considered the most promising

potential treatment for COVID-19 in the medical field. Typically used for inflammation, such as allergies and asthma, corticosteroids have been used to treat serious respiratory conditions. Dexamethasone, in particular, has shown potential for reducing mortality rates in clinical trials. It has been proven as a beneficial treatment, but the NIH does not recommend using dexamethasone for patients who do not require supplemental oxygen.

Although scientists and researchers cannot offer a definitive treatment or vaccine now, they remain optimistic for a safe and healthy future.



TECH TIP OF THE WEEK

To crop your Mac screenshots, click command+shift+5 to manipulate it.



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SPORTS the Johnsonian

October 21, 2020

COVID-19 hits the NFL

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With protocols in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, NFL coaches, players and some fans made their way back into stadiums last month. Just as it looked like things were going great, the Tennessee Titans suspended in-person activities after reporting eight positive coronavirus tests among players and staff.

That total increased to more than 20 over the next two weeks as the team had to cancel its Week 4 matchup on Oct. 4 against the Pittsburgh Steelers, leaving many wondering if the National Football League had failed to take the steps necessary to safely complete a full season.

"I would say that with their protocols, they are doing as well as they can," said Dr. Lauren McCoy, Assistant Professor of Sport Management and Program Director of Sport and Fitness Administration at Winthrop.

"Unfortunately when you're talking about compliance with these things, it really depends on how well you get buy-in with them, and I think that's why the NFL has added some strict requirements to do that," she said.

McCoy, who specializes in sport law, noted that before the Titans' outbreak, players were being approved for game day based on their positive test the day before. Since then, players are being tested every day.

"I think it's beneficial that this is a growing and changing policy

- that they're kind of updating it based on what's going on - but in terms of compliance, it's the same problems that you see with college football and other sports that are trying to work right now that are not in that strongly controlled bubble environment," McCoy said. "Your buy-in only works as well as people are willing to make it work."

This past week, the Carolina Panthers entered the NFL's intensive protocol after learning that a player on the Atlanta Falcons' roster had tested positive for COVID-19 days after the two teams played each other. The Panthers were still able to hold in-person practice, but players were required to wear masks or face shields.

"One of the things that's really good about the NFL is every player, staff member, et cetera, they have a bracelet that they're all wearing that tracks their contact, so you can have somebody who is not necessarily in close contact with a lot of people test positive, and then you can use that bracelet to be able to track who's doing what," McCoy said.

McCoy noted that her favorite team, the Chiefs, had experienced no setback despite Stephon Gilmore of the New England Patriots testing positive a day after playing in Kansas City. Gilmore, who attended South Pointe High School in Rock Hill, was seen hugging Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes at the conclusion of their Monday night game on Oct. 5. Mahomes did not test positive following the close contact.

The Chiefs were also one of the first teams in the NFL to welcome fans back, allowing Arrowhead Stadium to reach 22% capacity. While most stadiums began the season with a no-fan policy, many teams have started allowing reduced amounts of people to fill their seats.

The Panthers played their first home game in an empty stadium, but were able to host a little over 5,000 fans for their second home game after North Carolina governor Roy Cooper announced that he would allow venues with a seating capacity of over 10,000 to reach 7% capacity.

McCoy said that since stadiums have put additional safety measures in place, fans would have a hard time holding anyone but themselves liable if they contract COVID-19.

"Particularly since they do have these protocols in place, and if people are just straight up ignoring them, they're assuming the risk of contracting the virus because of that," she said.

McCoy also said that there was no way to ensure people would keep their masks on at a football game, citing the college football game between Texas and Oklahoma two weekends ago that featured a non-socially distanced Texas student section.

"It's one of those things where I wouldn't necessarily say it's dangerous, especially because

we do have a lot of people who are recovering from the virus no problem, but right now we don't know the long term effects, we don't know really what this could do."

McCoy said it is important to remember all of the risks involved, which go further than just the stadium on game days.

"We need to consider not only protecting in terms of people being safe on the field, but say for example we have these players who are away from their families and then they bring this to their family. That is a concern that we have to have," she said.

"Caution is a great thing to have right now, even though it might feel like it's overly abundant," McCoy said. "From my perspective, it's better to be cautious and then not need those cautions than to be under cautious and you obviously needed all of those concerns."

While all teams have returned to play at this time, it remains to be seen how the NFL will go about rescheduling games should more teams have to cancel matches. The possibility of adding an additional week onto the end of the regular season and postponing the playoffs currently seems like the most likely scenario if the NFL is not able to maintain its schedule.



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

Sporting around the globe

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If you are on the West Coast, In-N-Out Burger is something you do not realize is special until you move to South Carolina and find it is nonexistent. That journey is merely going coast to coast. Imagine having to travel on a plane for almost 24 hours just to get home to your family.

Winthrop is home to approximately 110 international students, a fifth of which are student-athletes. From Australia to Switzerland to Brazil, Winthrop attracts young adults from all over the world who are eager to experience the abundance of opportunities in the United States.

"I was surprised [by] the attitude of the people here in America. Here almost all people say 'Hello. How are you?' even if you don't know the other person. And people are more open in general," said Val Haemmerle of the men's soccer team.

A sophomore sport management major from Lustenau, Austria, Haemmerle was drawn to Winthrop because of its close proximity to varying landscapes: the beach, the city, or nature. Although he admires the hot weather here, Haemmerle does miss the cooler weather

of his home country.

"I started skiing when I was two years old and it was normal for us that we go to the mountains and ski at the weekend," Haemmerle said.

Joining a soccer club at the age of six, Haemmerle recently joined the Eagles as a midfielder.

"It has always been part of my life and made me into the person I am now. I wanted to keep playing soccer, because it is just part of me and I want to experience how soccer is in the United States," Haemmerle said.

With only his parents living with him in the United States, Haemmerle looks forward to moving back to Austria for his siblings, but he is in no rush.

"I have to work hard every day to achieve my goals and prove what I can do. I want to represent Winthrop as good as possible and seize my chances," Haemmerle said.

Also on the men's soccer team is George Orfanidis, a senior computer science major who is minoring in mathematics. Orfanidis is from Thessaloniki, Greece, and was anxious while preparing to move overseas, but said he experienced a "positive shock" upon his arrival.

"I was amazed by the very warm welcome from everyone. I had never really been in close contact with Americans before but I was very

very happy to be joining a culture with similar values and ideals to mine," Orfanidis said.

Winthrop became a happy home away from home as Orfanidis quickly found a second family.

"I had unconditional support from the coaching staff, the athletic training staff, my professors, and most importantly my teammates," Orfanidis said. "The American system provided me with the opportunity to combine education and athletics at the highest level, something that is not possible back home. I will be forever grateful to my coaches that gave me this opportunity."

A defender for the Eagles, Orfanidis totaled over 100 minutes in three of the final four games of the 2019-20 season, despite battling an injury.

"For as long as I can remember, I have been kicking a ball around. I have loved the game from a very young age," Orfanidis said. His passion for the popular European sport even landed him on the Junior National Team at sixteen

years old.

"I wanted to continue this passion of mine for as long as I could and it became my ticket to an American university," Orfanidis said.

Even though living so far from his close family and friends can be difficult at times, Orfanidis does not regret his choice as he may not have had the same athletic and academic possibilities at home.

"I love the fact that the U.S. gives the opportunity to anyone who is willing to work hard, diligently, and persistently to succeed and fulfill his or her dreams," Orfanidis said.

As Orfanidis plans to attend graduate school in 2021 to earn his Ph.D in the area of machine learning, the 2020-21 season will be his last on Winthrop's soccer field.

"My goal for this season would simply be to close my Winthrop career in the most positive way possible, remaining healthy and injury-free. As a team, we definitely want to qualify for the Big South playoffs as we did the year

► see Sporting pg.7

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◀ Sporting from pg.6

“I love the student-athlete experience that Winthrop provides and the people that made this experience the best possible. I would characterize athletics here more like a family than a department,” Orfanidis said.

Camila Gomez from the volleyball team said she feels the same way.

“I love how accepting and nice everyone is at Winthrop. These are the people I consider my family away from home. I feel very comfortable around this diverse group of people and I love to get to know other cultures and people from all over the U.S. as well,” Gomez said.

Now a junior business administration major with a concentration in management, Gomez transferred to Winthrop after completing one year at Georgia Southern University, but her hometown is Santiago, Chile.

“I love how much the international people care about each other, we are like a small family that supports each other,” Gomez said.

One cultural difference Gomez immediately noticed upon moving to the United States was the difference in how people greet each other.

“I would say the Latino culture is generally much warmer. I was used to hugging and kissing everyone when saying hi to someone, while it was a big adaptation for me having to only wave at people,” Gomez said.

Nevertheless, making friends and bonding with her teammates was an easy feat, but adapting to the English language, especially in volleyball, proved to be a challenge for Gomez when she first moved.

“My first practices were very overwhelming because I basically had no idea what was going on, it was like playing a whole new game for me. I didn’t know how to call for sets, or what dig, dive, hustle or anything like that meant since they weren’t the typical words you would learn in an English class,” Gomez said.

Now in her second year with the Eagles, Gomez has gotten the hang of things and she is “dying to play” again.

“I was very disappointed when our season got postponed, but it was the best and healthiest option for everyone in the long run. I am really hoping to win the Big South Championship again, but this time as a team we would love to advance at least to the second round of the NCAA tournament,” Gomez said.

Similarly to Orfanidis, Gomez participated in the Junior National League at the age of 15, gaining more volleyball experience and the opportunity to play internationally; however, Gomez still did not believe she was good enough to ever become a collegiate volleyball player.

“It wasn’t until I posted a picture with my high school diploma that one of the players I have played against internationally contacted me, telling me she would love for me to come play in the U.S. with her...I am glad it worked out,” Gomez said.

Gomez is fluent in three languages: German, Spanish and English. She also has dual citizenship in Austria and Chile. With dual citizenship and endless possibilities, Gomez is thinking about moving to Europe for her master’s degree or playing professionally for a few years.

Now comfortable with the American lifestyle, remaining in the U.S. is something Gomez is

also considering, especially since there are Chipotle restaurants here.

“I absolutely love Chipotle since I got here. Chileans are not very big on fast food chains so that would definitely be a good one,” Gomez said.

As much as she adores the Mexican grill chain, Gomez still craves the comforts of home.

“I miss those good home-cooked meals and Chilean/German traditions my grandma makes. As long as I try cooking, it will never be like hers,” Gomez said.

Discovering new fast food chains seems to be a popular activity upon moving to the United States.

Ellie Marks, a sophomore business administration major with a concentration in healthcare management, has come to love In-N-Out Burger, an establishment that cannot be found outside of the United States.

Marks, originally from Sydney, Australia, is a member of Winthrop’s softball team. After moving to a country almost 9,500 miles from home, she immediately noticed the geographical differences between the American states and her home country.

“When you go from South Carolina, to Florida, New York and California, each state offers such a different culture, landscape and environment that is unique to its state. In Australia, we only have 8 states, and they are all very similar. It is nice to be able to travel to so many different and amazing parts of America,” Marks said.

Still, Marks said the beaches in Australia are “like nowhere else in the world,” so she misses that laid back, enjoyable environment.

Despite being thousands of miles from home, her childhood relationships are stronger than ever, but she has also created her own “American family” here at Winthrop.

“When I met my team and started practicing, I felt right at home and super comfortable on campus with my new family,” Marks said.

Starting softball at the age of seven, Marks’ sister inspired her to follow her athletic passion all the way to college.

“My sister played college softball, and when I would come to the US to visit her, I saw what a great lifestyle it was, so I wanted to make that my dream too,” Marks said.

“This season I really want to focus on enjoying every little moment playing the game I love and being with my teammates, because now we know how quickly it can all be taken away from us,” Marks said.

All four student-athletes took the chance of stepping outside of their comfort zone to travel to a new country for schooling and sports. All are extremely grateful for their opportunity to explore a new world, and not one of them wishes they chose a different path.

“It’s a very big opportunity for me to be able to play soccer and study abroad,” Haemmerle said. “What I love most is when I can get on the fields with my friends and do what I love to do.”

“I am very happy with my decision to come to America to study and I wouldn’t change it for anything,” Orfanidis said.

“Winthrop is such a diverse school and I think it brings in a lot of talent and diversity to all of the sports and uplifts the overall culture of not only Winthrop softball, but all of Winthrop sports,” Marks said. “I am very blessed to be here.”

Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

New coach, new team

Randall Lay welcomes ten new players, invites students to try out for the women’s basketball team

Lily Fremed
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After seven Eagles chose not to return to the women’s basketball team for the 2020-21 season, and another three graduated, Coach Semeka Randall Lay has finally built her team back up. Now with a total of thirteen players on the roster, the team is one step closer to victory.

In terms of why such a large number of student-athletes departed, it is hard to pinpoint an exact reason, but Randall Lay could only assume they were “looking for something else.”

“Sometimes what they think they are going to get, isn’t what the college experience is all about. Sometimes it’s academically, sometimes they leave and think they want to be far away from home and they realize they miss their family,” Randall Lay said.

The six returning players are joined by freshmen Kensley Benjamin, Antoaneta Alexe, Shakyra Harley and J’Mani Ingram, senior transfer Alexis Sykes, junior transfer Jaelyn Royal and graduate transfer Madison Ervin.

With a mix of new and returning students, Randall Lay is working hard to help the team bond and train to become a successful team.

“We’re definitely in a growing place in terms of seeing what people are able to do on the floor, so it’s seeing that this particular kid can shoot the basketball really, really well or this kid likes to drive or she’s a really solid defender, so it’s a work in progress,” Randall Lay said.

The Eagles are working with about two and a half hours of practice time since COVID-19 regulations keep their schedule limited.

“We’re introducing a lot of new things so I’m treating it as if our returners are new to me. We’re trying to implement a whole new system right now,” Randall Lay said.

After being named Interim Head Coach in June, Randall Lay only had two months to fill her roster

before the semester began. Despite now having 13 players on the roster, Randall Lay wants other students to have the opportunity to try out for the Division I team.

“[Are] there kids or student-athletes out there that we possibly missed? And by getting the job late and having to fill a roster, there may be something out there that we are able to grab this season to hold us over... you never know, somebody might surprise us,” Randall Lay said.

Anyone with basketball skills and experience who is also doing well academically is welcome to attend walk-on tryouts.

“I am looking for the right fit. I’m not trying to simply recruit bodies but trying to find kids that can bring something different to our team,” Randall Lay said.

Before attending tryouts, Randall Lay wants potential players to remember that joining a Division I team means sacrificing a lot of time, but being part of a high-paced environment can be extremely rewarding.

“I think when you’re trying out for a team you shouldn’t expect anything but come into this situation where you’re grateful for the opportunity. It’s a lot to be a Division I athlete in terms of time management, the commitment, being sore, the travel,” Randall Lay said.

Although trying out may seem intimidating, Randall Lay wants students thinking of trying out to know that she truly loves connecting with her players as they “keep [her] relatable,” and she looks forward to anyone willing to take that chance in joining the program.

Since finishing the 2019-20 season in seventh place in the Big South, the Eagles and Randall Lay hope this new team dynamic leads to a triumphant season.

Students interested in showing off their skills to Randall Lay and trying out for the women’s basketball team should contact longa@winthrop.edu for more information and follow @winthropwbb on Instagram and Twitter for updates.



Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian

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A&C the Johnsonian

October 21, 2020

Tillman Hall's four floors of horror *Spirits of Winthrop Eagles past still lurk within the Tillman buildings*

Chase Duncan
staff writer

Winthrop's campus is no stranger to the paranormal, and nowhere is that clearer than within the eerie walls of Tillman Hall. Since 2005, the Romanesque-style building has served as the main hub for the Winthrop Alumni Association's organized ghost tours, a sort of mecca for the hoard of forlorn spirits that dwell upon university grounds. Generations of Winthrop faculty and students can attest to the bizarre world of unexplained and paranormal events that one enters when crossing through Tillman's grandiose doors.

Formerly known as the Main Building, Tillman was the first building constructed on the university's Rock Hill campus in 1894, with each red-brick of the three story building and basement painstakingly placed using convict labor, according to information listed on the Winthrop website's virtual tour of the building. Prisoner stocks previously used to punish disobedient workers still remain within the building's basement; a testament to the structure's sinister past.

"The first time I met Officer Reed, he offered to take me and some of my friends on a ghost tour of Tillman, since he was about to lock the place up," said Brianna Carlton, a senior psychology major and Resident Assistant for Richardson. "We entered through the main door and he locked that at the start of the tour, so everyone who would have been in the building other than us would have already left. He wanted to show us the stockades in the basement, so we went down there and he began to tell us the story of why they are there. While we were downstairs, we started hearing loud footsteps running around upstairs going thump thump thump

thump, even though no one was there. It was the weirdest thing!" One common tale spread amongst Winthrop community members warns that the portraits placed on the walls of Tillman have watchful eyes that follow students and faculty as they pass through the halls.

"When Officer Reed told us that the portrait eyes follow you, I didn't believe him at all. But when he told me to walk down the hall and I did, I couldn't unsee it. To this day, the eyes still seem to follow me. I don't know if it's just in my head or I never noticed it, but it's definitely very eerie," Carlton said.

Another Tillman ghost story features the appearance of a one-armed specter sometimes spotted by rare visitors to the Little Chapel. These students report seeing flickering candles and lamps through the window of the abandoned fourth story classroom that faces Margaret Nance from the sidewalk.

"One account notes that a student walking toward Roddey Hall apartments about midnight after a late night of studying for an exam with classmates, noticed a light moving from window to window," began an eclectic tale collected by Gina Jones, the Director of Winthrop's Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections. "The student stopped and looked up intently toward the top windows. In one of the windows was the face of a gentleman dimly lighted by the flame from a candle in his right hand. The figure's left arm appeared to be missing, as was D. B. Johnson's. He looked at her, seemed to nod, and disappeared."

Paranormal encounters stemming from Tillman's mysterious top floor are not uncommon at all and what lies behind the locked doors of the fourth floor serves as the highlight of the yearly ghost tours. Though officially closed due

to lack of air conditioning and handicap accessibility, the fourth floor's heavily graffitied walls bearing the signatures of hundreds of Winthrop students and faculty testify to the floor's deep connection with university attendees of the past and present. Horror films such as *Carrie 2* (1999) and *Asylum* (2008) have utilized the ghostly atmosphere of Tillman's uppermost floor as the backdrop for their own frightening stories.

Despite the Tillman building's plethora of spooky tales, Student and Young Alumni Program Coordinator Shayna Foxworth firmly believes that many of the ghosts that haunt the building are benign in nature.

"Contextually, Tillman is the first and one of the most historical buildings on campus. I think a lot of the girls who used to go to school and class there come back to the building when they pass on because it was where they've had some of their best memories. I think the sense of affinity for Winthrop is what keeps so many spirits here. People like D. B. Johnson worked so hard to make sure Winthrop was successful, and in the process they made so many loving memories here. I think a lot of these spirits just want to be able to see the new students and faculty we have joining the campus as Winthrop family members," Foxworth said.

Though the traditional Ghost Tours will not be held this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students will still get the opportunity to experience some of Winthrop's spookiest scares through the Alumni Associations Halloween Hauntings Week, hosted virtually on Oct. 26-31. Students who are interested can contact the Alumni Association through their Instagram @winthropalumni or through their email alumni@winthrop.edu.



Gwen Manten/The Johnsonian

Lights, cameras...action? *How movie studios have responded to COVID-19*

Emily Curry
staff writer

There are few better forms of escapism than going to the movie theaters. Movies are a way for us to escape normal life through the lives of brave and noble heroes, despicable but charismatic villains, emotional scenes that have us reaching for a tissue box or action scenes that keep us at the edge of our seats.

In 2019, there seemed to be a blockbuster movie every other month, from Marvel's *Captain Marvel* to Warner Brothers' *Joker*. In fact, nine movies crossed the billion-dollar milestone when it came to box-office success, according to Box Office Mojo. And while there was little 2020 could do to compete with the epic finale that was *Avengers: Endgame* or the terrifying sequel *It Chapter Two*, there were still some very exciting movies to look forward to.

But movie companies were thrown for a loop by the sudden COVID-19 pandemic. Most movie theaters shut their doors in early March in order to comply with the lockdowns that many states had mandated. For good reason too, as a packed theater would certainly have become a hotspot for the spread of the virus.

While shutdowns protect the health of movie-goers, closed theaters leave the release of films like *Black Widow* and *Wonder Woman 1984* hanging in the balance. More importantly, it leaves no way for movie studios to make the money they depend upon to make more movies.

One way that studios are trying to remedy this is by taking advantage of the multitude of streaming platforms that consumers can subscribe to. According to an editorial written for Rotten Tomatoes, a website famous for its collection of movie reviews, over fifteen movies that were supposed to receive theatrical releases have gone straight to various streaming platforms or are available for digital rent or purchase.

A notable example of this phenomenon was the release of Disney Studios' live-action remake of the 1998 classic animated film *Mulan*. The movie was already off to a rocky start after producers announced that they would be cutting many of the aspects that viewers

▶ see *Lights* pg. 9

Student actors at Mr. Putty's Fun Park

Many Winthrop students are actors in Mr. Putty's Fun Park Nightmare event

Aerial Laymon
staff writer

This year, Mr. Putty's Fun Park began their Halloween event the first weekend of October. The event consists of mostly Winthrop students working as the actors, including junior theatre major Erica Meece.

"There are 15 current students that are actors for this house," Meece said. "Our last ticket to be sold will be at 9:45 pm and no later than that. FRIGHTMARE is a spooky collection of rooms that hint at some well known horror media characters as well as inclusive of some people's phobias, like [for] myself, a doll. Not one room is the same and you can never know what to expect from every corner."

Meece went on to talk about her experience as an actor during this event and how much she enjoys it. "My favorite part of the entire experience is not only working with my friends but I love getting a reaction from our customers as well," Meece said. Being one of the actors, Meece enjoys the sheer volume of reactions from those who

attend the event. She went on to explain what she does as an actor in the event.

"I personally gauge the reactions from our customers from the rooms they come in before mine. I am in a room by myself and I play a doll character and I use some different childlike voices and the fog in my room to scare the customers," she said. "I tend to come out of non-visible corners slowly or eat some children before facing them. My face is generally what frightens them most."

Meece was asked about how she obtained her part as an actor in the event.

"Our ringleader (manager) of the whole production is currently a graduate student here at Winthrop and has worked with me on multiple occasions as a shop worker and an actor," she said. "She liked my voices and reached out to me."

The event is open to everyone and is located in Tega Cay, SC. According to Mr. Putty's official website, their event is "York County's only haunted house." The fun park has haunted activities like the "Open Air Scare Zones, haunted miniature golf, and zombie axe throwing." The park charges a



Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian

general admission fee of \$15 that includes admission to the haunted house. Mr. Putty's Fun Park also has other activities for everyone of all ages to enjoy. In order to host this exciting event Mr. Putty's Fun Park ensures the safety of its guests with "sanitizing stations throughout the facility" and "hourly disinfecting all common areas."

According to Meece, "Mr. Putty's Fun Park FRIGHTMARE Event happens every Friday and Saturday of the month of October (as well as that Thursday of Halloween weekend) starting once the sun sets until 10 pm."

◀ Lights from pg. 8

loved from the original, such as the comedic sidekick Mushu and the rousing musical numbers. More controversies also arose over cast members' political views and the filming location.

When Disney announced that they would be releasing *Mulan* (2020) on their streaming platform Disney+, even the most diehard Disney fans were taken aback by the additional \$29.99 fee they would have to pay in order to watch the movie. Nevertheless, according to an article written for *The Atlantic*, nine million Disney+ subscribers watched the film within the first twelve days of its release, and opinions on its quality have continued to vary.

Some movie theaters are attempting to reopen with heavy health and safety protocols in place, allowing some movies such as *Tenet* and *Bill & Ted Face the Music* to receive theatrical releases. Haven Washington, a freshman early-education major, described her own recent experience in a movie theater, saying that she felt safe because "there was nobody in there anyway."

There are some concerns that theater companies may go out of business as a result of their closure. According to an article written for CNN, the company AMC has publicly admitted that they're unsure if they can stay afloat during these times. Catherine Windham, a freshman psychology major, explained that, because of streaming services, "movie theaters are becoming more and more obsolete, and this is sort of speeding that up." Only time will tell what the future of movies holds.



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

Rest in peace to a guitar legend

A look at Eddie Van Halen's impact on the music community

Allison Reynolds
staff writer

Eddie Van Halen, guitarist of 80's hair band Van Halen, passed away on Oct. 6. Van Halen has been viewed and praised as one of the greatest guitar players of all time. He left behind a huge legacy and is greatly missed by many.

Van Halen was born in the Netherlands in 1955 with the birth name Edward Lodewijk Van Halen. Van Halen admitted in an interview that he never learned how to read sheet music. He learned how to play guitar by watching and listening. Originally, when Van Halen started playing music, he played the drums and his brother Alex played guitar. Van Halen then heard how good his brother was on the drums and gave his brother his drum set. Van Halen also once told ABC News that he suffered from stage

Dating During a Pandemic

As the spread COVID-19 continues, people are having to move more of their relationships online

Jeb Bartlett
staff writer

It's no secret that people have become increasingly lonely during COVID-19 as safety measures such as quarantining, social distancing and mask-wearing are specifically intended to decrease human interaction. So, in the face of a global pandemic transmitted by human contact, how are people handling dating and ongoing relationships?

For freshman musical theatre major Je'Taime Goldwire, forming new connections during a pandemic has proved difficult. "It's hard to be able to mingle with people because you hear, 'don't hang out with this amount of people,' or, 'don't do this, don't do that.' Plus there's masks, so you can't always read who you're hanging out with," he said. "So, it's hard to get to know different people."

While singles continue to balance staying safe and dating, are those already in relationships faring any better?

"I feel like [the COVID-19 virus] just put more pressure, not necessarily on the relationship, but on ourselves, because of school. Now I've got a relationship to keep up, and corona, and school. COVID just makes everything 10 times harder than it needs to be," said Sam Stoever, a freshman graphic design major at Winthrop.

For Stoever, who's been in his current relationship since before the start of COVID-19, the unprecedented changes brought about by the pandemic have limited his interactions with his partner and have made him adapt to the new social



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

landscape.

"I feel like I've learned how to have a long-distance relationship during Corona," said Stoever. "Communication is obviously the number one thing whenever you're long-distance, and it's had its ups and downs. We FaceTime every day, so it's not like going out of the way or anything."

For those like Winthrop freshman musical theatre major Sydney Largent, a key part of making a relationship work virtually is good internet.

"It's been a little harder to communicate because of [Wi-Fi] connection. We've had a lot more arguments about certain communication... and a lot has gotten lost in translation," Largent said.

Largent said she often encounters issues with her internet connection while on the phone with her partner. "When he would skip and I couldn't hear him he would get very aggravated or agitated, because it would be very aggravating to try and communicate with some-

one and... have to keep asking [him] to repeat," said Largent.

When preparing for in-person dates, couples now have to also take into consideration whether or not they may be infecting their partner. This worry is something both Largent and Stoever have struggled with over the past few months.

"I feel like I clean a lot more than I usually do. I just feel the need to be clean now," Stoever said. "As simple as it is, I always wear a mask, no matter who I'm around or what I'm doing. I do DoorDash, and even if I'm just dropping something off at their front door, I have a mask on."

Largent said, "I make sure that I stay away from large groups of people on campus, which I already do anyway, but I also wash and sanitize my hands a little bit more before I see [my partner]."

Despite the ever-present threat of COVID-19, it's nice to see that the internet is able to bring people together in a time filled with so much isolation.



Photo Courtesy to Wikimedia

fright when he originally started playing gigs. He attributed the cure of his stage fright to cigarettes and alcohol.

The band Van Halen was formed in 1972, composed of the two brothers alongside vocalist David Lee Roth and bassist Michael Anthony.

Van Halen is considered to be one of the best guitarists of all time and known for his use of a unique playing technique known as tapping. The tapping technique involves both hands on the neck of the guitar, almost playing it like a piano. Though Van Halen did not invent the technique, he got the idea from Led Zeppelin guitarist, Jimmy Page.

Van Halen is also known for originally playing with his back facing the audience. Van Halen did this while they were playing small gigs, before the band was signed

to any record label. He did this because he did not want anyone to "steal" his tapping technique.

Another thing that Van Halen was known for was modifying guitars. If Van Halen couldn't achieve the sound he wanted out of a certain guitar, he would essentially remodel the instrument using sandpaper and a saw. Van Halen even made his most famous guitar, a red "Frankenstrat" with black and white stripes.

Gene Simmons, bassist of rock band KISS, told *People* magazine that he saw Van Halen not long after Van Halen's cancer diagnosis, back in 2014. When Simmons saw him, Van Halen had a positive attitude, even though it had not been long since he had been diagnosed with and beat tongue cancer.

"He wasn't looking for sympathy; he really seemed to enjoy life," Simmons said.

Both vocalists of the Van Halen band, Roth and Sammy Hagar, have reflected on how much they loved Van Halen and would miss him.

One song that people will immediately recognize from the work of Eddie Van Halen is "Beat It" by Michael Jackson. The guitar part in "Beat It" was rewritten and played by Van Halen. Jackson had asked Van Halen to play the part, and even though Van Halen was wondering how a rock guitarist could help on a pop song, he did it for free.

Even though today's generation do not know Van Halen as well as they know Post Malone or Billie Eilish, Van Halen had a huge impact on the hair band and rock community. Van Halen will always be remembered as one of the best guitarists of all time.

Abortion, Christians and the Republican Party

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Republican voters in 2020 are likely to admit they disagree with how the president behaves, yet they have still determined to vote for him because everything comes down to one issue: abortion.

Seventy-eight percent of white evangelical protestants are leaning towards voting for incumbent President Donald Trump, according to a recent Pew Research survey. When it comes to the latest statistics, abortion has surprisingly fallen to the bottom of the list of most important issues in the 2020 election. The economy, healthcare, Supreme Court appointments and the COVID-19 outbreak — among other issues — show a higher percentage rate of voters who think the issues are ‘very important’ according to Pew Research study.

However, this issue still seems to hold a certain power among Christian pro-lifers that have created a strict loyalty to the Republican party, regardless of the kind of candidate. According to a 2020 Gallup poll, 77 percent of conservatives identified as “pro-life.” It is fitting for Christians

to be pro-life because of the Biblical message of love, compassion and, in particular, the scriptures that speak about the significance of life: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,’” Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) and “all things God works for the good of those who love him,” Romans 8:28 (NIV). Even for non-believers, many people tend to at least believe that everything happens for a reason.

Yet, the Bible does not speak about life, love, compassion and God’s plans for only one political issue, but instead to be applied to everything.

Foreign policy, poverty, taxes, race relations — you name it, Jesus talked about it. Jesus talked about these issues knowing we would still be dealing with them today so that we could look to his words as an example for the Church to follow and model for the world.

In John 4:9, Jesus asked a Samaritan woman for a drink at a well, where she replied to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman,” because Jews did not associate with

Samaritans. If Jesus cared about a woman who was outside of his social class and ethnic group enough to go against the culture of his time by reaching out to her, wouldn’t that mean he cares about black lives, immigrant lives, LGBTQ lives, too?

Another issue the Bible speaks clearly about is how to treat those who are foreign to your country. Donald Trump has said, “Why are we having all these people from [s***hole] countries come here?” and called Mexican immigrants criminals and “rapists,” whereas the Bible says, “And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt,” Deuteronomy 10:19 (NIV). Weren’t we all foreigners once? The only ones who can say they are truly from this land are Native Americans because they were here first.

Many things can be gathered from these scriptures, but when it is applied to the issues Americans face today, it is evident that Jesus is concerned about lives outside of the womb just as much as inside.

Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian



The power of early voting



Gwen Marten/The Johnsonian

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Oct. 5 was the first day of absentee in-person voting for South Carolina, and by the looks of the turnout, people showed that they appreciate the opportunity to vote early as a way to try to avoid larger crowds on Election Day.

According to The South Carolina Election Commission’s report, around 270,000 votes had been cast by the evening of Oct. 13.

Until the pandemic, traditionally when filling out an absentee ballot application, the voter is required to give an excuse as to why they cannot vote in person, as well as have a witness. This rule has caused many who might have needed to vote absentee due to tight schedules with work, family responsibilities, lack of transportation and other factors, but could not afford to spend the time and resources to satisfy the requirements.

Early voting in person provides individuals the opportunity to cast their vote at the best time that works with their hectic schedules. Not everyone has Election Day off work. In this particular time of living during a pandemic, many essential workers are now working more hours than before, while also filling in the gaps by doing double duty because of layoffs and budget cuts.

Many of the essential workers have families to take care of, so it is not always easy to get a babysitter.

Although many would not think of voter suppression in terms of restrictions on absentee voting, prior to the pandemic, this was a contributing factor because of the fact that many of the presently recognized essential workers have always been essential and have been working difficult jobs with crazy schedules.

For many voters it has always been a struggle to be able to get out to vote. Although polls on Election Day have long hours, not everyone who gets off work at their job is able to rush over to the polls before they close. Many have to go pick up their children, cook, take care of other family members and so forth.

Often when people think of voter suppression, what comes to mind are literacy tests that were carried out all over the country up until the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These literacy tests at the polls required only for people of color was an act used to drown out nonwhite voices. Though literacy tests are not present

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Defunding the police

Allison Reynolds
staff writer

The ‘Defund the Police’ movement began during the riots that started after the murder of George Floyd on May 25.

Many people do not support defunding the police because they believe it means to get rid of or abolish the police. This is not the case at all.

This movement centered around defunding the police was started as a result of police officers failing to protect citizens. Because of the deaths of those such as Floyd and Breonna Taylor, it is obvious that they are not being protected. Police have been killing innocent black people for no reason and that has to come to an end.

Some jurisdictions have tried reform training and body cameras to try and ‘fix’ their officers. None of this has worked. According to the U.S. Census, the U.S. spends about \$115 billion on police each year. Defunding the police simply means to take some of the money that is spent on law enforcement and put it towards other services.

According to The Guardian, “government budgets should prioritize housing, employment, community health, and education instead of police officers.” These are just a few of the examples of some areas that could have more funding if the police were defunded.

One of the most common examples of explaining the good behind the defunding of police

is people with mental health issues. If, for example, someone with schizophrenia was having a psychotic break, it would be more beneficial to have a mental health professional respond to that than a police officer, who has no mental health training.

Another common example are rape victims. It would be more beneficial for a victim’s counselor to come and help than a police officer. Police officers do not go through any type of mental health training for their job.

Stefani Cabusora, a freshman biology major, said “we don’t need all that money going to people who only train for six months.”

Cabusora also said “that money could go to improve ‘bad’ neighborhoods that the police patrol all the time. The money should go to help communities instead.” In regards to where defunding the police should start, Cabusora said “it should start at a national level so people will take it seriously and then it can go in depth in the communities.”

Not only do everyday people support defunding the police, but celebrities do as



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

well. Celebrities such as Lizzo, John Legend, Natalie Portman and Jane Fonda have signed a letter saying that they support defunding the police.

Some cities, such as New York City and Los Angeles have already begun cutting funds from their departments and putting it towards other things. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said in June that he would cut \$150 million from the city’s police budget and put it towards black communities and communities of color, according to the LA Times. The NYC Council voted in July to cut \$1 billion from the city’s police budget and put it towards youth and community development programs.

The defund the police movement has nothing to do with getting rid of the police department. The movement is simply about taking some funding from the department and putting it towards other things to make our communities better and safer, which is exactly what this country needs.

Rewriting history: how Columbus Day is being replaced by Indigenous Peoples Day

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Oct. 12 has historically been celebrated as Columbus Day, a day when Americans celebrate Christopher Columbus's journey to the Americas in 1492.

However, the truth behind Columbus's exploration is much darker than its present holiday. Children as young as eight years old were sold into slavery, while today's students take the day off of school to celebrate. The crew Columbus brought with him to the Americas spread disease that the indigenous populations had not built an immunity against, causing millions of deaths. Columbus mapped parts of the Americas, but one cannot discover land if families already live there.

Indigenous Peoples' Day began as an official holiday in 1992. Over the past 30 years, multiple states around the United States have begun recognizing this as a holiday. The point of Indigenous Peoples' Day is to celebrate the diversity of the indigenous American cultures — in direct contrast to celebrating the man who helped assimilate them into early colony life.

It has taken this long for the United States to celebrate the cultural diversity of the indigenous population because quite frankly, these groups were not respected until recently. Between the assimilation schools of the 1700s and 1800s to the sterilization of indigenous women in the 20th century, indigenous Americans have been oppressed and cast off by the majority of the population. Only recently has the United States begun to honor and respect the history and culture of these groups.

Why celebrate the indigenous populations? These communities

have been one of the most oppressed in American history. Tribes were pushed from their lands by the government in the 1800s, but they were the subject of propaganda and racism before the United States even became a nation. Columbus himself wrote that some of the indigenous communities in modern Central America were "savages" and "would make fine servants."

The accounts of Columbus's time in the Americas reports the rape of indigenous women, enslaving villages and murdering the indigenous populations for fun. Bartolome de las Casas wrote in his account of their journey that his fellow crewmates "placed bets as to who could split a man in two or cut off his head with one strike of the sword." De las Casas admitted that these men would also steal indigenous infants, only to murder them in front of their mothers.

Countless indigenous lives were lost to Columbus's cruelty, as well as multiple other European colonizers. To celebrate their legacy by idolizing their murderers would be insulting. We do not celebrate the work Hitler accomplished during the Holocaust. Whether Jewish or indigenous blood was spilt - it is still a crime against humanity.

A solution to this under-representation of indigenous culture would be to celebrate their cultures and communities for the entire month of October. Hispanic Heritage Month ends on Oct. 16, so beginning an Indigenous Heritage Month after the sixteenth would not undermine a different culture's celebration.

Having an Indigenous Heritage Month would also allow schools to open up accurate discussions about indigenous populations. In schools, students are taught that the indigenous Americans were "savage," and that the English colonists tried



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

to help by teaching them about English culture. In reality, tribes were forcefully assimilated into colony culture, given blankets that the colonists knew were infested with disease as acts of "wellbeing," among many other acts of cruelty. This is proven in William Trent's 1763 diary, as he explicitly recounts taking blankets from the local smallpox hospital and giving it to local indigenous tribes as a means of "reducing the population".

If indigenous cultures and history were accurately taught and celebrated, then their descendants would have more opportunities to understand the sacrifices and struggles that their ancestors went through. Indigenous history in the United States is white-washed, or swept under the rug completely.

Replacing Columbus's celebration of rape and murder with one of the families of his victims would also send a message about abuse. Instead of praising the abuser, a message of solidarity would be implemented. Modern abuse is not tolerated, so why should there be a holiday dedicated to abuse that happened over 500 years ago?

Columbus came to the Americas in hope of finding a quicker passage to the spice trade. He died a monster in the eyes of the indigenous populations, but a hero in the eyes of Europeans. There is nothing to celebrate about him, quite frankly. You cannot discover a place if a group of people are already inhabiting it.

Indigenous Peoples Day, or Indigenous Heritage Month, is a great celebration to finally honor those who Columbus and other colonizers fought to destroy. This celebration is a legacy to be proud of. It allows their history to be taught, so that the Americas overall can have a more compassionate future.



Gwen Manten/The Johnsonian

◀ Voting from pg. 10

today, there are still roadblocks standing in the way of many voters.

In 2020, voter suppression is seen in the lives of those who were once convicted of felonies, even nonviolent crimes such as possession of marijuana. Although states vary, for the most part, for a period after being incarcerated the right to vote is lost and depends on paying high costs and fees to get that right back.

Voter suppression is also seen in the lives of those a part of the Navajo Nation. Due to their homes being so far from civilization in the midwestern desert landscape of places like Arizona and Utah, they often do not have physical addresses, which is one of the voter registration requirements.

Although these issues of present-day voter suppression are still lingering and in need of urgent attention, one positive aspect is that, despite the tragic and deadly turmoil that COVID-19 has caused, at least it has pushed lawmakers to rethink all of the requirements that make early voting so difficult.

While a witness signature is still required for mail-in voting, to vote in person there are only three steps to follow:

First, visit your County Registration Office or Satellite Office. Second, complete the application. Third, cast your ballot.

To find your absentee in-person voting locations, head to york-county.gov/vote#AbsenteeInPerson.

Saturday Night Live & late night television

Sean Miller
staff writer

"Saturday Night Live" is one of America's longest running network television shows due to its political satire and comedy sketches; however, like many late-night television programs, it has become increasingly partisan and does not significantly affect political discourse.

Political satire is one of the main staples of late-night television and is a reflection of the political climate. "SNL" has long been renowned for its bare-knuckle lambasting of political figures.

However, as American political ideology has become increasingly polarized, the media monopolies that own television programming have followed suit.

"The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" and "The Late Late Show with James Corden" are broadcast by CBS while "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon" and "Late Night with Seth Meyers" are both broadcast by NBC. "SNL" is not an exception, it is broadcast by NBC and follows their political narrative.

According to an analysis by the Washington Examiner, employees from NBC, ABC and CBS collectively contributed over a million dollars to the Democratic Party in 2008, with "SNL" producer Jeffrey Ross among the contributors.

NBC News has also been given a "Lean-Left" media bias rating on the AllSides website based upon research from Pew Research Center and blind surveys. "SNL" skits are an example of the partisan bickering and personality-based politics in America.

Recent "SNL" skits such as the ones depicting President Donald Trump have been criticized by Trump and conservatives as defamation and unfair coverage. The show's skit of an imagined world if Trump never

became president depicts a better America, characterizing the Trump administration as racist and sexist. It also mocks that Trump is responsible for repressing the ambitions of his family and White House officials.

This is not defamation, but the humor suggests that there is a clear preference by the writers. The reactions and laughter of the audience also suggest that the audience enjoys a good punching at conservatives.

According to a nationally representative Hollywood Report poll "About 48 percent [of those polled] said the series is "more liberal" politically, while only 5 percent describe the show as "more conservative," and 10 percent said "SNL" has "no political lean." However, like many late-night television shows, "SNL" does not significantly impact the opinions of voters.

Late night TV shows appeal to a particular audience. These audiences are aware of the political leanings of the hosts and tune in because of them. Ever since Trump was elected, late night television has been fixated on the president and has routinely mocked and

Photo Courtesy to NBC Bay Area



criticized him. Viewers of late night T.V. enjoy seeing the president shamed publicly.

"SNL" is one of many late night shows that creates an atmosphere of indifference to conservatives but carries no real weight in shaping the opinions of voters. In a politically polarized environment with media monopolies, media bias is inevitable. "SNL" may not be politically relevant, but it is very entertaining.

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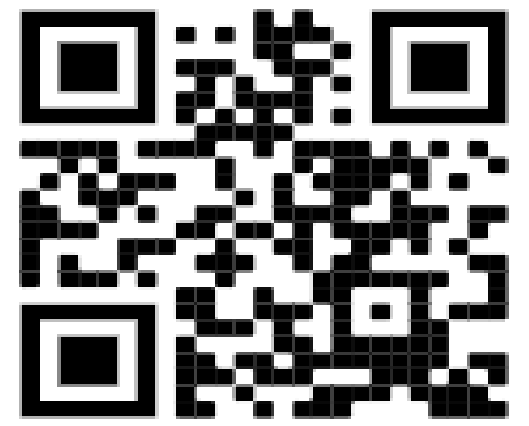
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