

# THE JOHNSONIAN



## Winthrop receives \$920,000 from the SC INBRE grant

*The South Carolina IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (SC INBRE) was created to support biomedical research in South Carolina*

Bryn Smyth  
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Winthrop University has received a grant of \$920,000 from the South Carolina IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence, funded by the National Institutes of Health.

The goal of the SC INBRE is to support biomedical research in South Carolina by aiding institutions in providing students the opportunity to perform on-campus research and experiments that will better prepare students to move into careers in STEM-related fields. Winthrop has been included in the program for fifteen years.

“Basically, the federal government, several years ago, looked across the country to see where there are areas where biomedical research and understanding of health and human service is limited,” professor of chemistry and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Takita Sumter said, adding that, “South Carolina, at the time, had not had a rich history of receiving a large amount of federal funding... so that’s why South Carolina qualifies for this.”

“At bigger institutions, it can often take until you’re in a graduate program before you get the real hands on opportunities in the science labs that funding like this helps us provide. So why does it take funding like this? It takes funding like this because it provides stipends for faculty to do one-on-one research with students in the labs at the undergraduate level. It also provides the resources we need to support students in undertaking research opportunities,” Adrienne McCormick, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said.

Without the SC INBRE grant, Winthrop would not be as well-equipped to give its students the opportunity to perform hands-on research that increases their chances of landing in their preferred job fields whilst simultaneously making a difference in health and human services.

“Biology, human nutrition, math, and chemistry, physics and geology are who will be supported by INBRE and who will be training students in their research. So, we’re in the process of identifying those faculty right now for this year of the grant,” Dr. Robin Lammi, professor of chemistry, department chair of chemistry, physics and geology, and lead investigator in the implementation of the grant, said. “We’ve proposed that we’d like to have at least 16 faculty and at least 32 students receiving research training annually, so that’s really the heart of what the program is about. It’s geared to help those



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

students be more prepared, more competitive to go into the workforce, to build the scientific workforce in South Carolina and the region, but also to go on to graduate school, professional school, med school, dental school, pharmacy school, PT school, etc.”

Students and faculty will be working together on a variety of projects.

“INBRE will support students and faculty in biology, chemistry & biochemistry, human nutrition and math.

Investigators will pursue a wide range of projects including development of the visual system, characterization of DNA-repair genes, understanding roles of essential metal-responsive proteins, the design and evaluation of enzyme inhibitors for targeted cancer therapy, mathematical modeling of infectious disease treatment strategies and interactions between nutrition, stress and gastrointestinal health,” Lammi said.

Winthrop students and faculty typically perform this NIH-funded research during the summer when most classes are not in session.

“Most students who take advantage of this are foregoing other work in the summer, like a paid job, in order to be on campus, so in providing them funding and paying them while they’re doing their research, we can make sure they continue to eat and cover the other types of essentials that enabled them to do that research,” McCormick said.

The SC INBRE grant funded by the NIH has enabled Winthrop to give students the flexibility to forgo summer jobs and work on campus fulltime in a professional setting so that students and faculty may work together to further biomedical research and give students hands-on experience that will prove valuable in future career endeavors.

### SCINBRE

South Carolina IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence



Maggie Claytor/The Johnsonian

## Police Blotter

Sarah Hassler  
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On Sept. 24, a victim called the police due to a supposed vehicle break-in. The reporting officer was dispatched to the Winthrop Coliseum where the victim stated that while she was at practice, someone had entered her car and moved things around. The victim stated that she had cards in her car that did not contain money, but had definitely been moved from their original position.

The victim claimed that while nothing had been stolen from the car, it was still odd that her possessions had been moved around. She also noted that she had debit cards in her car that the offender may have taken photos of. The reporting officer told the victim that if she found any suspicious activity on her bank account she should freeze her cards and notify the police immediately.

On Sept. 28, a student and her teacher met with the reporting officer about repeated assaults by Subject #1. According to the victim, the subject had come up from behind and grabbed the victim in a bear hug on two separate occasions.

The victim had been walking in front of Byrnes Auditorium towards Scholars Walk when the subject came up from behind her and wrapped his arms around her body. The victim then told the subject to stay away at which point he hit her on her right cheek. The victim stated that she had told the subject to, “Stop. stop.” The subject then got angry at the victim. The reporting officer had spoken to another individual who was present at the time and provided further details.

On Sept. 29, the victim was inside Thomson when she noticed that Subject #1 had been following her. The victim then went outside followed by the subject. The subject then put his hands on the victim and she told him to stop or she would call the reporting person, which she then did. While attempting to leave the area, the subject tried to grab the victim’s bookbag from her person. At this point, another individual took notice of the scene and stepped in to help the victim and told the subject to go away.

After talking with the victim and the reporting person, it was decided that the best course of action was to refer Subject #1 to the Dean of Students Office for violations of the student conduct code.

A driving under the influence report was filled out on Sept. 29 when the reporting officer was dispatched to a traffic incident which occurred at the intersection between

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### Sports

Spirit Squad “put on pause”

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### A&C

The paranormal specters of Little Chapel

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### Opinion

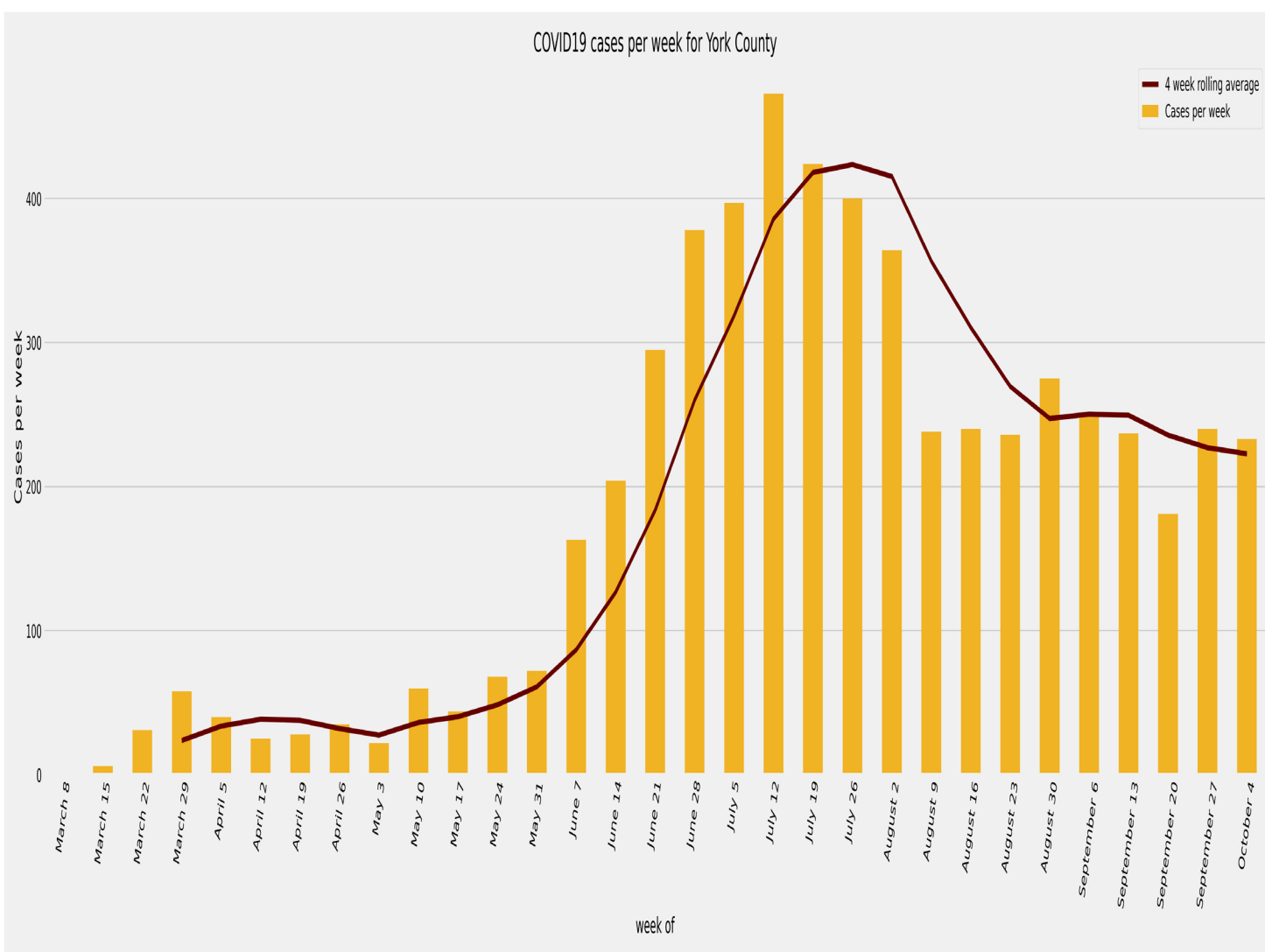
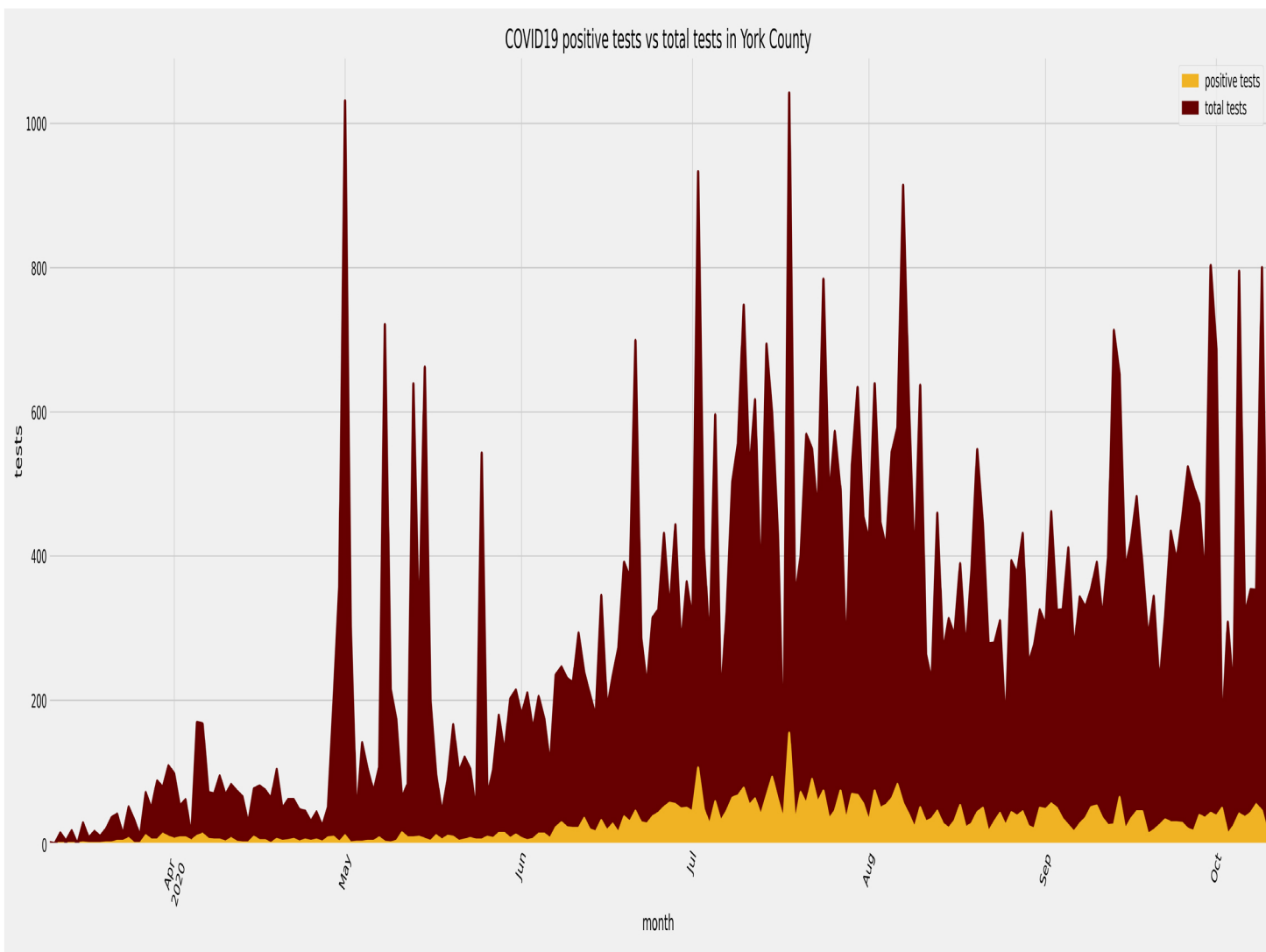
S.C. Senate race is neck and neck

•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.



## ◀ Police from front

Ebenezer Avenue and Winthrop Alumni Drive. When the officer got to the scene he found the suspect lying on the ground beside his moped. The officer noticed the scent of alcohol coming from the suspect and also spotted a non-empty can of Busch Light next to the suspect's moped, and the suspect was unable to stand on his own.

The officer observed that the suspect was bleeding from his mouth and forehead, so he called Emergency Medical Services. The officer then made contact with the witness who stated that he had been passing by when he noticed the suspect lying unconscious next to his moped. The witness had not been present at the time of the accident but arrived after it had occurred.

The suspect was unable to stand on his own and could not perform the Standard Field Sobriety tests. The suspect was then transferred to Piedmont Medical Center where he was read his Miranda rights and asked for a blood sample. The suspect did not consent to having his blood taken so the responding officer went back to the station to obtain a search warrant. The suspect was charged for driving under the influence 1st.

On Oct. 2 a reporting officer was dispatched to the DiGiorgio Campus Center from a complaint who stated that he observed an individual a few days ago who looked to be passing drugs to another individual and wanted to have him searched. The officer made contact with the suspect who was asleep and woke him to ask what he was doing at the campus center. The suspect, who had no Winthrop affiliation, responded saying that he goes there to sleep and to charge his phone. The officer asked if the suspect had drugs on him to which the suspect responded, "no."

The suspect consented to a search in which the officer discovered two containers of pills. The suspect stated the pills were oxycodone for a gum infection he had, but he was unable to provide a prescription bottle or a written prescription, and he claimed that he had lost it. The suspect was told that he would be arrested if he trespassed on the Winthrop campus again. The suspect was also informed that he was being arrested for possession of a controlled substance and was transported to Rock Hill City jail.

After obtaining a search warrant, the Winthrop Police Department discovered that there were 111 pills, weighing 13 grams. Due to the number of pills the suspect had been carrying, he was charged with possession with intent to distribute and proximity to the school.

## About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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

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## Harris and Pence deliver slick debate performances

### The Vice Presidential picks defend their future administrations

**Elijah Lyons**  
copy editor

Despite riding the coattails of President Trump’s COVID-19 diagnosis and the coronavirus’ permeation of the West Wing, the 2020 Vice Presidential debate harbored tropes familiar to debates of years past: evaded questions, measured responses and somewhat contentious debate of abstract ideals based in current political jargon rather than substantial policy. Except, with plexiglass fortifications and twelve feet between the candidates, it didn’t look much like the debates of yesteryear.

And neither did the candidates. Vice Presidential nominee Kamala Harris, just the fourth woman ever nominated to a major party ticket as well as the first Black person and first Asian American ever to be nominated as vice president, sought to prosecute the Trump administration’s record and response to COVID-19.

“The idea of Kamala Harris being the first woman of color in office is so exciting and for me, a woman, I feel like we are finally getting the representation we deserve,” junior

theater education major Lauren Pilling said. In Vice President Mike Pence of Indiana, Trumpism was given a new lease on life, as Pence faithfully defended Trump and managed to speak to the Republican base in a restrained manner not so often employed by

informed that it’s lethal... that it will affect young people, and that it would be contracted, because it is airborne. And they knew what was happening and they didn’t tell you.” Pence, for his part, didn’t appear fazed, and indicated that he, the coronavirus task force he led

over the economy, Harris sought to draw a fundamental distinction between Vice President Biden and the incumbent.

“Joe Biden believes you measure the health and the strength of America’s economy based on the health and the strength of the American worker and the American family,” she said. “On the other hand, you have Donald Trump, who measures the strength of the economy based on how rich people are doing.”

Pence attempted to repaint the Biden strategy and defend the current economy, sewing in several false claims, particularly regarding fracking, later contested by Harris.

“More taxes, more regulation, banning fracking, abolishing fossil fuel, crushing American energy and economic surrender to China is a prescription for economic decline. President Trump and I will keep America growing,” Pence said.

Pushed further, Pence again claimed that Biden would raise taxes on day one.

“Joe Biden has been very clear: he will not raise taxes on anybody who makes less than \$400,000 a year,” Harris rebutted.

▶ see [Debate](#) pg. 4



the president himself.

Harris began the night strong by addressing the camera and immediately setting the record straight on the timeline of the COVID-19 pandemic and the administration’s failure to inform the public of the threat therein.

“On January 28, the vice president and the president were informed about the nature of this pandemic,” Harris said. “They were

and the president really had been on top of the crisis, all the while roping in a decades-past speech-writing dig on Vice President Biden.

“The reality is when you look at the Biden plan it reads an awful lot like what President Trump and I and our task force have been doing every step of the way. ... it looks a little bit like plagiarism,” he said.

When the candidates clashed

## Intersectionality, raising awareness about minorities within minorities

### DSU hosts “The Struggle is Real: a discussion on the intersectionality of the LGBTQIA+ community”

**Mari Pressley**  
staff writer

The term “intersectionality” has not made it into typical everyday language quite yet. Older generations tend to be unaware of the term and its meaning, while younger generations are familiar with the term most typically through their college courses.

Kimberlé Crenshaw, a civil rights activist who first coined the term, defined intersectionality as “the idea that when it comes to thinking about how inequalities persist, categories like gender, race, and class are best understood as overlapping and mutually constitutive rather than isolated and distinct.”

On Oct. 9, the DiGiorgio Student Union hosted an event called, “The Struggle is Real: a discussion on the intersectionality of the LGBTQIA+ community.” The event was held in person at Dina’s Place and broadcasted via Zoom.

The event covered a multitude of topics such as pride vs. protests, privilege in the LGBTQIA+ community, the meaning the LGBTQIA+ acronym, coming out, homosexuality in church and toxic stereotypes, all through an intersectional lens.

Introducing the topic of the night’s event, Dr. Ranallo-Benavidez said, “Intersectionality is the idea that there are multiple identities that you have at the same time, so like race, gender, sexuality, gender identity... so LGBTQ+ is the central part of what we are talking about but also how that intersects with race or class and those other types of things [which are] central to the understanding of the struggle.”

The event began with a screening of a film called the “State of Pride” to inform participants of how intersectional ideas have progressed and how they still have a ways to go.

“[The video] is going to be about how we can make sure that our brothers and sisters and other siblings in the movement can have whole liberation in the world as we move forward and have a whole host of intersectional identities,” Ranallo-Benavidez said.

Junior computer science major with a minor in African American studies, Malik

Smith, said, “To me, the most interesting part of the documentary was the inclusion of many different people with many different stories. It was cool to see the support system that some had. It was also a bit sad to see ‘friends’ and ‘family members’ mistreat participants of the documentary because of them embracing their identity.”

The panelists discussed pride in relation to protests. “It’s time to come together and celebrate how far we’ve come and the progress we’ve made ... It’s kind of like an 18th birthday party, [Until one turns] 21, you still have some work to do,” student body president, Brandon Jackson, said.

During the event, the panelists discussed the treatment of trans\* black women and privilege in the LGBTQIA+ community. While intersectionality was the central topic of the event, participants were informed of its true meaning to avoid misconceptions.

“Intersectional pride is not bad, it’s actually the goal, things like Black Trans\* Lives Matter ... Incorporating an intersectional perspective on racial and LGBTQ+ justice is a totally different thing. It’s reorienting a conversation around pride that is expansive or maybe even more marginal ways of thinking about empowerment in this,” Ranallo-Benavidez said.

“There are multiple categorizations that could apply to an individual such as race, class, gender, etc,” Smith said.

“I explain intersectionality as the study of minorities within minorities, meaning that there are multiple forms of discrimination that people can experience. I think that by becoming more aware of intersectionality, I can better acknowledge the differences among others and recognize that the struggle is real.”

Intersectionality is an incredibly important concept for one to be aware of so one can understand that many people fight more than one battle on account of multiple different aspects of their person. As a result of DSU hosting “The Struggle is Real: a discussion on the intersectionality of the LGBTQIA+ community,” more people have been made aware of how prevalent understanding intersectionality is in today’s world.

## Virtual Family Week

**Sarah Hassler**  
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Winthrop University held its first Virtual Family Week, from Oct. 5-10, hosted by the Office of New Student and Family Programs and the Family Day committee. The tradition of Family Day began in 1936 by President Shelton J. Phelps. It is usually held on a single day, and families of students can visit the campus. Because of the pandemic, things had to be done a bit differently.

“This year, Family Week [was] a week-long virtual experience, as opposed to the typical, one-day, in-person event we hold on the first Saturday in October. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to host 1000+ students and family members that we usually have come to campus, so we [offered] many different virtual live and pre-recorded events. Also, Family Day usually has a cost for attending, while this year, Virtual Family Week [was] completely free of charge,” said Renea Norcia, a graduate associate of New Student and Family Programs.

Since families were not able to come to campus this year, Winthrop held a variety of activities that could be accessed

virtually. “Families [had] the opportunity to learn about Winthrop history, campus updates from Winthrop Leadership, international alumni experiences, campus sustainability efforts, how to begin researching their family history, highlights from each of the academic colleges, and so much more,” Norcia said. “Students [were] welcome to participate in events with or without their families.”

On Oct. 1-5, there was a Mac-N-Cheese recipe competition held by Winthrop Dining Services. Students and their families submitted their favorite recipe by Oct. 1. Three of the best recipes that were submitted were chosen by Winthrop’s Chef Jackson and the winners’ recipes were featured in Thomson from Oct. 6-8.

Students and faculty were able to taste and vote for their favorite mac-n-cheese recipe.

On Oct. 9, the winning recipe was announced through @WinthropDining1 on Instagram. The winning family received a prize and will get to have their mac-n-cheese served in Thomson three more times throughout the semester.

▶ see [Family](#) pg. 4

◀ **Debate** from pg. 3

One of the hot-button issues in the run-up to the election is the Trump administration's push to nominate conservative justice Amy Coney Barrett, and what that decision might mean for both abortion rights and the future of the Affordable Care Act.

On abortion, Harris expressed her belief in a woman's right to choose and her dismay that Pence and the President may find it in their power to confiscate it. Pence deflected the question, opting instead to provide an endorsement for Barrett.

"I think he knew people would not like his answer so he chose not to answer it," Pilling said.

In a striking and direct address to the camera, Harris also laid out the threat to healthcare by a future Trump presidency.

"If you have a pre-existing condition — heart disease, diabetes, breast cancer — they're coming

for you," Harris said. "If you love someone who has a pre-existing condition, they're coming for you. If you are under the age of 26 on your parents' coverage, they're coming for you."

"I think Harris framed that threat well," Pilling said. "She made sure everyone knew what was at stake, which is affordable healthcare for people of all ages, gender, race and sexuality."

When Pence tried to corner Harris into taking a stance on court-packing should Barrett be confirmed, she evaded the question, opting instead to highlight Trump's own discriminatory efforts to pack the appeals courts.

"Do you know that of the 50 people who President Trump nominated to the courts for lifetime appointments, not one is Black?" Harris said. "You want to talk about packing the courts, let's have that discussion."

“”

"More taxes, more regulation, banning fracking, abolishing fossil fuel, crushing American energy and economic surrender to China is a prescription for economic decline. President Trump and I will keep America growing."

**Vice Pres. Mike Pence**

“”

"Joe Biden believes you measure the health and the strength of America's economy based on the health and the strength of the American worker and the American family. On the other hand, you have Donald Trump, who measures the strength of the economy based on how rich people are doing."

**Sen. Kamala Harris**



Photo Courtesy to the White House



Photo Courtesy to the Senate

◀ **Family** from pg. 3

Gwen Manten/The Johnsonian

The Winthrop Bookstore held a spirit week that students could participate in, with each day throughout the week having a theme. Oct. 5 was Blackout Monday. On Tuesday, Oct. 6 students wore their Winthrop Sports apparel. Oct. 7 was Comfy Wednesday, where students wore their most comfortable Winthrop clothes. Oct. 8 was Throwback Thursday, where students were encouraged to wear their Winthrop College attire. Oct. 9 was Garnet and Gold Friday, and students wore their school colors to show their Winthrop pride.

Each day, the bookstore held a giveaway and anyone who wanted to participate could post a photo on Instagram of them following the theme of the day with the hashtag #WUBookstoreFam2020.

During the week, families could also submit their family photos to the WU Family Programs Facebook page. Whichever family's photo had the most likes by Friday would be mailed a prize.

There were several other events held during the week as well. Families could learn about the history of Winthrop through the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections which offered several virtual exhibits giving information

about Winthrop history and memorabilia. The Archives also held a Family History 101 via Zoom where families could learn about the basics of genealogy with the director of the Archives, Gina Price White.

Some other events held during the week were a family Jeopardy game held over Zoom. The winning family received a prize. There were also several yoga classes held throughout the week on @WU\_Rec Instagram Live. Anyone who attended these sessions could learn some simple yoga poses and various breathing techniques.

"Virtual Family Week [was] a great way to interact with other families, students, faculty, and staff members, as well as engage in fun activities such as the Family Photo competition, Jeopardy with the Fam, participating in the bookstore's Spirit Week dress-up days, and getting a discount on Winthrop gear from the bookstore," Norcia said.

Even though families could not visit the campus in person, Virtual Family Week still allowed families to engage with the Winthrop community and learn more about the campus, as well as provided the opportunity to participate in fun activities.

## Winthrop College Republicans: where are they?

*Winthrop College Democrats have been active this semester, but where have the Republicans gone?*

**Sean Miller**  
staff writer

Winthrop has three political student organizations. The College Democrats, the Socialist Student Union and the College Republicans. However, the College Republican club is no longer active and some are left wondering when they will return.

Winthrop's student political organizations page lists the College Republicans as an active group. But in an email to Winthrop student organizations, they said the group is no longer an active organization on campus.

"I think it was really surprising for me coming to college, finding out that there wasn't a College Republicans [group]...part of being a Democrat is wanting to work with the other side too. We have a common goal, just different ways of accomplishing that," Winthrop junior and South Carolina College Democrats President Erin Emiroglu said.

Members of the Winthrop College Democrats recall that a president of the Winthrop College Republicans was elected, but no further contact from the elected president was made and the group

became inactive as a result. With most of the former members of the College Republicans having graduated as well, there was no one left to run the group. It would seem that the College Republicans disbanded because of a lack of leadership when their president graduated.

All student organizations have changes in leadership when students inevitably graduate or move on to other things. However, the College Republicans were unable to secure a new leader. Instead of finding more conservatives on campus, they dissipated all together.

Could this be because there are not as many conservatives on campus anymore? With Winthrop being a liberal arts college, the majority of the student body is left-leaning and there are few right-leaning students equipped to orchestrate and participate in the Winthrop College Republicans organization.

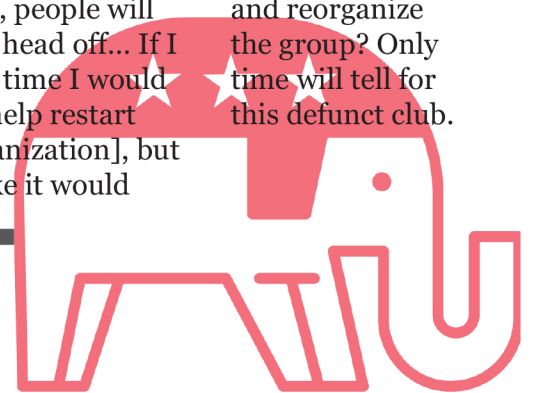
"I get the feeling that every time I voice a conservative opinion, people will bite my head off... If I had the time I would [try to help restart the organization], but I feel like it would

be social suicide. You are branded and given labels as a conservative. If I were to identify as a Republican, I would be very unpopular," Daniel French, a junior business major and conservative student, said.

In order to promote a student body that is understanding of all sides and opinions, it is important to have every type of student represented in the on-campus political realm, but with the disbanding of the Winthrop College Republicans, there are many conservative students who feel a lack of representation.

"People don't want to hear different opinions these days. I believe progress can't be made until both sides can come together," French said. Despite their ideological differences, both Emiroglu and French would agree that an exchange of ideas is beneficial for Winthrop's political atmosphere.

So, what is next for the College Republicans? Will outspoken conservative students step up to the plate and reorganize the group? Only time will tell for this defunct club.



## Survival of the fittest: toad

*\*This article originally appeared on The Johnsonian's website.\**

*Cane toads have evolved into an invasive species, but how will competitive breeding impact the species itself?*

Autumn Hawkins  
staff writer

Cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) were brought to Australia from the Americas in the 1930s. Their introduction to the Australian ecosystem was a shock to the local flora and fauna.

The poison of cane toads has ensured that there are few predators in Australia that are willing to take them on. Because of this, the cane toad population in Australia has grown to more than 200 million, according to National Geographic.

As cane toads continue to breed unchecked, they fight within their species for resources. Darwin's theory of evolution states that the strongest, biggest, smartest members of a population are the ones that continue to survive and breed. This is especially true with the case of *Rhinella marina*, as their sizes have increased in the tropic region of Australia.

The more toxic the cane toad's poison, the less likely it is to get eaten. Following that same Darwinism logic, the Australian cane toad population has grown more toxic over the generations. Because of this, humans and other Australian animals are hurt or killed by their increased toxicity.

Due to the cane toads' nature as an invasive species, local plant biodiversity has decreased. The food chain has been disrupted, so now plants that were previously uneaten are being consumed by *Rhinella marina*. This limits the number of natural resources



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

available to make habitats for other animals, further decreasing biodiversity.

With each new cane toad generation, they become more toxic and higher up on the food chain. However, each new generation of these toads also becomes more and more infertile. A 2017 study in New South Wales found that female cane toads become more infertile with each generation — regardless of food availability. Male cane toads have also been found to have lower sperm counts, further inhibiting fertility.

This experiment has demonstrated a complicated part of competitive evolution. That is, sometimes surviving is

not the best thing for a species. While cane toads have become harder for predators to hunt, they are breeding themselves infertile. This could lead to future cane toads having unbalanced endocrine levels, birth defects and premature death.

The study, conducted by the University of Sydney, the University of Wollongong and Macquarie University also concluded that the cane toads' overall quality of health was declining every generation. It was reported that young male cane toads were less healthy than their elders, even if they lived in the same habitat. The toads used in the study were also reported as more lethargic than toads that

were even just a year older.

While cane toads are an invasive species, their time in Australia seems limited. The Australian government encourages residents to eliminate these toads, as they are impacting the local ecosystem (and consequently, farmlands). Contests are held to see who can design the best cane toad trap in certain parts of Australia.

Combining Australia's permitting the elimination of cane toads with the fact that each new cane toad generation is significantly less healthy, it would appear that Australia might not have to worry about these toads for much longer.



## TECH TIP OF THE WEEK

Follow @WinthropChem on Twitter for updates and information regarding the Winthrop chemistry department.



WE ARE  
HIRING!



Science and Tech  
Editor

For more information contact Savannah Scott.

scottsemytjnow.com

October 14, 2020

## Miracle Park update

Matthew Shealy  
shealym@mytjnow.com

Construction is underway on Eden Terrace for Rock Hill's Miracle Park, an inclusive community space that will include an inclusive playground and two inclusive baseball fields or "miracle fields."

"The curb has been poured [and] the footing for the two main buildings are being worked on as we speak," Executive Director Kylie Carroll said. She said the two main buildings include a concession building with an office and a restroom building.

Carroll said these buildings are a part of the first of three phases for the park. Due to COVID-19, the park has been forced to temporarily cut two additional restrooms that were also supposed to be in the first phase.

"There was going to be a restroom building right beside the playground and another restroom building right beside Miracle Field 1, but we have had to cut those for now and just focus on the two main buildings," Carroll said. "They are still in the plans. They will come as soon as we have funding to do so, but they did get dropped from Phase 1.

"A lot of the grants that we had planned to apply for this year have been converted into [COVID-19] relief grants, so we're no longer eligible because we're non-essential," Carroll said. "We totally understand that, but it has delayed some things and it's been difficult for us to find funding."

Carroll said in the past, third party fundraisers had been very successful for the park. She said the park has raised about \$4.2M to date, which is a little over halfway to its \$8M goal.

The majority of the funds (\$6.5M) will go toward Phase 1. Carroll also said the park was working with South State Bank on a financing plan.

Another change the park has had to make is the decision to not open the playground until the spring of 2021. Originally the plan was to have the equipment installed by this past summer.

"With the playground, if it went up and there's still construction going just 100 yards away, we felt that it's not entirely safe," Carroll said. "We just can't take that kind of a risk."

Carroll said the playground is only an eight to 12-week build, depending on weather. She

said Cunningham Recreation is in charge of installation and would be providing one year of maintenance and cleaning on the equipment.

Carroll explained that once the park is open, it will operate under rule of the City of Rock Hill Parks and Recreation, so any coronavirus protocols will be set by the city.

Along with a playground and two miracle fields, she said the park will eventually include two multi-purpose fields, a golf area, and a fishing pond. The park will be for people of all ages and will also provide opportunities for typically-developing children to assist and be "buddies" to children with disabilities.

Carroll said the park is excited to have Winthrop as a partner and looks forward to serving as a lab and partner with art, sport management, special education and athletics programs.

Those interested in donating to Miracle Park can visit <https://www.miracleparkrockhill.com/donations/> or send checks by mail:

The York Disabilities Foundation PO Box 37021 Rock Hill, SC 29732



Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian

"Of course, we did consult Coach Bunzey as well to let her know kind of the direction we were headed and how we were affected on this," Maple said.

Unlike the Spirit Squad, the Screamin' Eagle Pep Band has not been given a ruling on its participation at basketball games this season. Maple said the pep band does not report to anyone in the athletic department, so the university would make the final call as to whether the pep band would play at games this season or not.

Maple noted that this decision is not a permanent elimination of the Spirit Squad and that the team hopes to hold tryouts again in 2021-22.

"I've been coming to basketball games as long as just about anybody – dating back to my time as a student – so I've always known what our Spirit Squad did for our gameday environment," Maple said. "Hopefully we're back to full speed in 21-22."

"It's my hope that we can have the majority of the team back and then continue to get some talented students on the squad that can represent us really well, and I think we can do that," he said.

The Spirit Squad was expected to have two seniors this year; Megan Smith (who had been on the team for two years) and Nicolette Outtrim (who had been on the team for three years).



## Spirit Squad "put on pause"

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The Winthrop Spirit Squad has been put on pause for the 2020-21 athletics year. A post made to the team's Instagram account in July stated that the decision was made out of respect for the safety of students and due to "concerns related to gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Shea Maple, Interim Associate Athletic Director for External Operations, said that while safety concerns were one reason to not have Spirit Squad this year, finances also came into play.

"There have been some resources in the past that have gone to the Spirit Squad that we just weren't in a position to provide this year amongst a lot of things happening [and] budgets being addressed," Maple said. Those resources typically include money for new uniforms and, most importantly, a coach to train and lead the team.

Maple said the athletic department could not justify putting resources toward the Spirit Squad while not knowing how many fans would be allowed into the Coliseum for basketball games for them to engage with. He said this "unknown factor" was a big reason why the decision was made so far in advance.

"It was important to us to not leave our Spirit Squad and

our students that make up that team hanging in the balance," Maple said. "It was important to kind of address the situation with that group as early as we could."

Maple said one other reason for this decision was to help limit the number of students training in the Coliseum that would need to be overseen to make sure they were exercising safely.

"Not saying that it couldn't be done, but certainly with the activity that the Spirit Squad does, there is some risk involved," he said.

Maple said the decision was made by the senior leadership team, which includes Athletic Director Ken Halpin, Deputy Athletic Director Hank Harrawood, Senior Associate Athletic Director Kelley Kish and himself.

  
**WINTHROP**  
SPIRIT SQUAD



Photo courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

# Eagle of the Week: Alexis Brindley

Lily Fremed  
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Swinging into her senior year at Winthrop University is Alexis Brindley of the women's golf team. From Marietta, Georgia, Brindley graduated in just three years this past May with a degree in Corporate Finance. She is currently pursuing her MBA, focusing on International Business.

"I fell in love with [Winthrop] the first visit and I've loved every single second of it since I've been here," Brindley said.

During her time at Winthrop, Brindley has maintained a steady, successful athletic and academic record.

"I've worked super hard the past three years that I've been here, both academically and athletically, always setting really high standards for myself," she said.

Her hard work in academics is paying off as Brindley was named in June to the All-American Scholars Team by the Women's Golf Coaches Association for the third year in a row.

To qualify, female student athletes must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50. Winthrop had five players selected for 2019-20, which was the highest number of all Big South members.

During her junior year in 2019, Brindley was one of three Eagles to participate in all six events of the season, recording a season-low 76 during the opening round of the JU Amelia Island Collegiate on Feb. 17 and 18.

Before a tournament Brindley is always sure to have a new music playlist that mixes different artists and genres. In order to calm her

nerves, she said she never listens to the exact same playlist twice.

"I'll be able to hear those songs later, even months later, and I'll be able to associate that with that tournament so it's kind of cool to be able to jump back into that mindset just by listening to music," Brindley said.

When Brindley was five, and before the thought of becoming a collegiate athlete had even entered her mind, her uncles gifted her and her sister (teammate Makenna Brindley) their first set of golf clubs.

"That's when my dad started taking me and my sister out to the golf course just to hit some balls at the driving range," Brindley said. "I didn't actually like it that much until 13 or 14 [when I started] playing in tournaments."

With her younger sister attending the same college and playing on the same golf team, Brindley has nothing but support for her sibling. The two played on the same team throughout high school, so college was the perfect opportunity for them to continue their athletic journey.

"I always want her to do her best," Brindley said, "It's always funny running into her like, 'Hey, I haven't seen you in a while.' We usually just see each other at practice, but it's always nice to know that she's there if I ever need anything."

Despite playing golf for the majority of her life, becoming a professional golfer was never Brindley's dream.

"I think it's very challenging, especially as a female professional athlete, to make a living out of that, which I've always known, so my goal really was just to make it to the collegiate level and enjoy my time here," Brindley said.

Now in her fourth year at Winthrop, Brindley is looking forward to creating new memories with her close-knit team.

"I love traveling with my teammates. I love all the clothes that we get — we get some pretty cute outfits every year — and just the memories that I know will last a lifetime," Brindley said.

During her freshman year, Brindley was able to travel to St. George, Utah for a tournament, along with a stop in Las Vegas, Nevada before returning to campus.

Although traveling tournaments are cancelled this semester due to the pandemic, Brindley is staying optimistic.

"I just want to soak in all this last year of experience that I can and just enjoy playing golf and enjoy being with my teammates because pretty soon I'll be moving on and that won't be my life anymore," Brindley said.

Since the Eagles are in their in-season practice, they are allowed to work on a mix of weights and skills for twenty hours a week,

though Brindley said Coach Kasay Gambrell is being "pretty lenient."

"She's been great with just keeping the atmosphere fun. We've been doing intersquad matches so we play against each other every week and it's been super fun. This is probably the most fun I've had playing golf here," Brindley said.

Since the team normally has seven tournaments divided up over the course of the entire school year, they are focused on preparing for a super busy spring season that will consist of all seven matches.

Once her 2020-21 season is complete, Brindley plans to graduate in December 2021 and find a career in the financial or sales world in Charlotte.

"It's such a big banking hub, and given my finance background I think there's going to be a lot of opportunities for me there," Brindley said.

"I feel like I was such a baby when I got here and now I feel like I'm actually ready to take on the world because of all the experiences and opportunities that Winthrop has given me."



Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian

## WINTHROP ESPORTS



Photo Courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

### Rocket League

Oct. 8:

Lost

Hofstra 3 - Winthrop 1

Oct. 12:

Win

Winthrop 3 - Purdue 0

Next match:

Oct. 15 (Doubleheader)

Live stream: twitch.tv/win-

thropesports



# 'Walktober' is back

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As we enter into the "spooky season" it is once again time for Walktober on Winthrop University's campus. Composed of nine sessions, Walktober takes students and faculty on foot through the areas around Winthrop's main campus.

The first session was Thursday, Oct. 1 with participants completing a one and a half mile journey. Increasing the distance a half mile each week, the final session will be a three and a half mile route around Fountain Park on Thursday, Oct. 29.

This is the fourth year of Walktober, but only the second year that students have been allowed to participate.

"We really increased our numbers adding students to be a part of it, which has been really nice," Laura Davis, Coordinator of Recreational Services and the West Center, said.

Fewer people on campus due to COVID-19 has not led to fewer participants. The second session on Oct. 6 welcomed approximately 23 walkers. More students have joined in the exercise this year than last, but on average it is still 50-50 in regard to the number of faculty and student participants.

"I think maybe word has spread. It's been really nice to see some familiar faces of students from last year who have brought friends to do it this year," Davis said.



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

Furry friends are welcome as well, as West Center retiree members Bob and Carolina Hasselle joined in on the fun with their pup Elvis.

Each semester the West Center is required to host at least one incentive program. Each fall the department hosts Walktober, and then an event in the spring changes yearly. The 2020 spring event was scheduled for April, so it was cancelled when the campus shut down, but the Winthrop community has the chance to participate once again in the spring of 2021.

"We're still going to repeat the one we did last year. It will include some walking in it, but spring is always kind of iffy with the weather and rain," Davis said. "Hopefully the weather is good."

When the weather threatens the

outdoor walking events, everyone usually moves into the West Center track. However, due to COVID-19 regulations the track cannot hold that many people at a single time.

With Walktober generating a decent-sized crowd each year, there is potential for a walking club at Winthrop, but as of now there is only the newly charted running club.

The remaining walks are:

Oct. 15 - Glencairn Garden Route, 2.5 miles

Oct. 20 & Oct. 22 - Winthrop Lake Route, 3 miles

Oct. 27 & Oct. 29 - Fountain Park Route, 3.5 miles

Those interested in joining can register and sign the short waiver on the WU Rec App or go to @wu\_rec on Instagram for more information.

# Winthrop bands take to the outdoors

*Winthrop ensembles have begun to take their rehearsals outside for the safety of its members, providing students a rare opportunity to hear music live*

Chase Duncan  
staff writer

For the average student passing between classes and dining, the sounds of music usually are confined to the plastic prisons of headphones and AirPods. But for those lucky enough to pass by Byrnes or the amphitheater on a clear sunny day, the rare reverberations of live musical rehearsals may be heard and seen, produced by Winthrop University's very own Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony.

"Due to the pandemic situation, aerosols that come from the woodwind and brass instruments dissipate much quicker outside than inside," said Alexander Dudek, who is the band graduate assistant for both the Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band. "There's no way on any of the stages on campus that we could rehearse six feet apart with all of our band members. So being out here helps to mitigate the risk of any faculty or students being exposed to the virus."

Ever since Byrnes Auditorium was placed construction, the bands have been rehearsing in Tillman Auditorium. When weather does not allow for outside rehearsals this semester, the bands are still meeting on that stage.

The rehearsals, whether outside or inside, typically consist of eight to 12 students at a time, roughly a fourth of what the normal class size would be, according to Dudek. Ensemble members are seated six feet apart at minimum, and groups are rotated out every thirty minutes. Ensemble equipment is cleaned and sanitized in preparation for the subsequent group's arrival.

The live rehearsals help serve as a protective measure for members of the ensemble and allows the group to hear how they sound in a more open location.

"Another benefit to rehearsing and performing in smaller groups

is that the students are challenged to become more independent because they are the only person playing that part," said Dr. Lorrie Crochet, Winthrop professor of music and director of the Wind Symphony. "Additionally, we have been able to expose students to a whole new genre of music called chamber music that they typically have very little opportunity to rehearse and perform."

"Playing outside allows a lot more room for the sound to bounce around," said Marcel Burgess, Wind Symphony ensemble member and junior music performance major. "Out here, we can hear some good echoes depending on the group and its instruments."

Both of the ensembles will officially perform on Nov. 19 in Tillman Auditorium, but due to COVID-19 safety precautions, live audiences are not permitted this semester. The performance will instead be recorded and posted the next day. For most students, the outside rehearsals will be the only opportunity to hear these ensembles live this semester.

"Overall, I think we are doing quite well," Crochet said. "Most importantly we are still making music, and our students are still learning music. Making music in these times is different because we are meeting in smaller ensembles rather than groups of 40-80 students, and we're six-10 feet apart and wearing masks."

"The Winthrop music program is determined to offer our students the best education and experience possible, so we will continue to adjust as needed to make that happen."

The Wind Symphony meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m., and the Symphonic Band on Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., rehearsing outside with weather permitting.



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian

## A little Paris in Rock Hill

*Meet the owners of Rock Hill's newest location, MADO Paris French Bakery & Cafe*

David Botzer  
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Rock Hill is not a small town by any means. Yet, sometimes it can seem like there are only a handful of places where students can go to study outside of Winthrop University's campus or even for any Rock Hill resident to sit down and relax, especially during these times. That's where MADO Paris comes in.

MADO Paris is a new French bakery and cafe in Rock Hill owned by French couple Serge and Odette Agonglo. According to Serge, the name of the bakery is an interesting story. He said, "As we are from France, there is a prestigious and famous church where the monarch used to get married in the center of Paris. And this church of Paris [is] called the Madeleine. We had the honor to get married there. So, that name, as being imprinted in our hearts, has a particular symbolic [meaning to us]." Serge

went on to say that they decided to shorten Madeleine to MADO for the name of the bakery and cafe.

The couple chose Rock Hill for their business venture because of the many opportunities they had to visit the town to see family. "We really fell in love with the American culture and we noticed that a French touch was missing out here," Serge Agonglo said.

He continued and said, "Regarding the process, everything with paperwork. The most important [part] is to make sure the place we chose is functional, present, tidy, and secure...our objective is to make our customers happy."

MADO Paris' expertise is in bread and pastry making. Odette said, "I'm [a] pastry chef. I started baking in our home kitchen and selling my creation [to] the local farmers market in France. Later on, I decided to reach a professional level by going to [a] renowned pastry school in France."

► see Paris pg. 9

## The paranormal specters of Little Chapel

*Winthrop's Little Chapel building may be haunted by the ghost of its one-armed founder and his wife, many say*

Chase Duncan  
staff writer

The ever-so-frightful holiday of Halloween is fast approaching, that fateful night upon which disguises are garnished and delightful treats are gifted to all. Though the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily halted thrill-seeking students from touring Winthrop University's haunted hallways, ghosts and ghouls still most certainly abound the campus's hallowed grounds. Professors and students alike whisper in hushed tones of a one-armed specter that roams behind the closed doors of the Little Chapel building.

"Our first president, David Bancroft Johnson, is actually buried underneath the Little Chapel," said Ada Carpenter, vice president of the Ambassadors program and junior childhood education major.

"It was his dying wish to be buried under the building. If you actually go inside there and pull off the rug, you can see that under it is his and his wife's tombstone."

"He actually only has one arm; no one knows what happened to his missing one. Some think he lost it to cancer, others say he fell off a horse. Some even say he got hit by a train. There are people who say they've seen DBJ and his wife walking around Little Chapel, as well as ghosts of former students."

The history of Little Chapel is inseparably intertwined with Winthrop University. Long before Winthrop came to Rock Hill or was even founded, the Little Chapel building was built as a seminary owned by the Presbyterian church and situated in Columbia, South Carolina, according to Winthrop's Digital Commons website. In 1886,



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

Johnson borrowed the building to house the first twenty-one students of the Winthrop Training School for Teachers, which served as the humble genesis of the Winthrop academic institution.

The Winthrop Training School migrated to its current location in 1895, leaving its home behind in Columbia after more than thirty years there. In 1936, Winthrop alumnae and many other WU leaders successfully petitioned to have the Little Chapel building dismantled brick by brick and transported to the Rock Hill campus, where it was rebuilt and installed as a one-house school room, according to Carpenter.

Presently, the Little Chapel is reserved only for special events

such as weddings, the Ambassador induction ceremony and other secretive organization meetings. Last year, the university campus police provided an unofficial ghost tour of the building, a position that normally would be fulfilled by the Alumni Association sponsored ghost tour. According to Carpenter, the campus police reportedly claimed to have captured paranormal footage on the security cameras in multiple buildings, including Little Chapel.

The Little Chapel building may never again be open to the students of Winthrop, but one thing seems certain — some part of Winthrop's past will forever lurk within its time-weathered walls.



◀ Paris from pg. 8

Like his wife, Serge also cooks at MADO Paris.

He said, "I'm the baker and I have a diploma for a renowned breadmaker school in France. We wanted to share our expertise on the American market and make people test our creation."

When asked about what makes MADO Paris stand out from other coffee shops and bakeries in the area, Serge said, "We are very attached in perpetuating the tradition of French bakery. At MADO, we put quality ahead on quantity. All [of] our ingredients are carefully selected. Our flour is essentially imported from France. Also, our coffee is from an amazing local producer. It is important to us that our customers can develop trust in our products and production process."

The couple is very receptive of having Winthrop students come to the bakery, even if it is to just study.

"It is always a pleasure for us to welcome Winthrop University students in our bakery and cafe," Serge Agonglo said. "They are really fond of the vault. This is a room where you can sit and study peacefully."

As MADO Paris moves into the future, the owners said their ultimate goal is to let their customers "experience the taste of MADO." Currently, they are focused on making MADO a symbol that patrons can recognize.

"We will be launching our brand new menu soon," Serge Agonglo said. "We selected the best of French traditional bread and pastries and we expect to support the local community by hiring new staff later."

The couple also plan to begin involving themselves in some associations in the area.

MADO Paris Bakery and Cafe is located in Rock Hill, SC at 1108 Cherry Road. Their hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the weekends. They've recently opened a new Facebook page, MADO Paris, which interested patrons can follow for their latest activity and to see when their new menu will be available.



Kaily Paddle/The Johnsonian

Allison Reynolds  
staff writer

When someone falls in love with a book series, it is very common that they will also fall in love with the author that wrote them. How would it feel if someone found out their favorite author was against them? J.K. Rowling, known for writing the Harry Potter book series, has recently received some backlash for making comments against transgender and non-binary individuals.

Her comments have upset many, even those who are not necessarily fans of Harry Potter. Even the actors and actresses who play the characters that Rowling created in their movie adaptations, such as Daniel Radcliffe who played the titular character, have turned against the author.

The author is also receiving backlash because of her new book that was released in September. This book is a part of a series that Rowling wrote under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith and features a character that identifies as a cisgender male. The character dresses up as a woman to kill women, which is being interpreted as a jab at transgen-

# Past triumphs and present-day struggles

## Celebrating the 41st anniversary of the First March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights

Emily Curry  
staff writer

For a country that was founded on the idea of freedom and equality for all, America's history has been littered with civil rights movements for many marginalized groups. Although great strides have been made in the last several centuries towards ensuring true equality for all, there are many who still have to struggle just to gain the same basic rights as their neighbors. And during this month of LGBTQ+ history, who better to commemorate than members of the LGBTQ+ community, who have been working to secure their rights for nearly half a century.

In fact, Oct. 14 marks the 41st anniversary of the 1979 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, which drew between 75,000 and 125,000 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer people and straight allies to the national capital. This event had been long in the making, having been initially proposed in 1973. Speakers included Harry Britt, Allen Ginsberg, Audre Lorde, first PFLAG President Adele Starr and Congressman Ted Weiss.

According to an article written the day after the event for the New York Times, the demonstrators at this movement called for "legislation to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect homosexuals against discrimination. They also have urged that President Jimmy Carter sign an executive order banning discrimination in the military, civil service and among Government contractors."

Other demands, which were



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

drafted by Joe Smenyak, included repealing all anti-lesbian/gay laws, protecting lesbian and gay youth from any laws that could be used to discriminate against, oppress or harass them and passing a comprehensive lesbian/gay rights bill in Congress.

However, this demonstration was met with much backlash from conservative groups. According to the same article, during the demonstration, "a coalition of ministers met on Capitol Hill to organize a National Day of Prayer on Homosexuality to ask God 'to deliver them from their lives of perversion.'"

On Oct. 5, two Supreme Court justices attacked the case *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which legitimized national marriage equality in 2015. According to an article written for LGBTQ Nation, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote that the case was "unconstitutional because it 'bypassed' the 'democratic process' and cause people 'with sincerely held religious beliefs concerning marriage' to 'find it increasingly difficult to participate in society.'"

Justice Thomas was joined in his opinion by Justice Samuel Alito. With the loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and President Trump's conservative

nominee, the Supreme Court may find itself upholding these far-right ideals.

But, in the words of Betty Santoro, a keynote speaker at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, the LGBTQ+ community refuses "to allow this kind of suffering to continue. Our message is they need not be alone, not ever again." And they are making progress.

In today's culture, more and more LGBTQ+ representation is appearing in the media. Delaney Church, a freshman biology major at Winthrop who identifies as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, explained that such representation is so important for younger generations because "They deserve to grow up in a world where everyone is accepted so they don't have to go through the things the people did in the 1970s."

She also said that only by taking action can we solve the issues that the LGBTQ+ community faces — that "If you don't fight with us, then you're as bad as the oppressors."

Lorde, another speaker at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, said in her speech, "What kind of a world do we want to be a part of?"

# J.K. Rowling: beloved author and... transphobe?

der individuals.

What kind of effects do these comments and actions have on members of the LGBTQ+ community, especially transgender and non-binary members?

A writing professor at Winthrop, Eliza Wilcox said "As someone who grew up really loving the ideas in Harry Potter that championed doing the right thing and uprooting prejudice, it's been hurtful and disappointing to read transphobic comments from Rowling."

"I think that her choice to depict a cisgender male character as one who uses feminine clothing to purport murder will have damaging consequences to the LGBTQ+ community, and Rowling will have to live with those consequences," she said.

"I would hope that someone like Rowling, who originally set out to write a book series geared towards uprooting prejudice, will see how her opinions could harm her LGBTQ+ readers, especially when she's made efforts in the past to attempt LGBTQ+ representation, albeit not very explicit representation, in her characters," Wilcox said.

Alex Wright, a freshman chemistry major who identifies as transgender, said, "It's just gross that someone with such a great plat-

form would spread misinformation and hate."

"I think everyone should be accepting of the LGBTQ+ community, no matter what their role is but people with large platforms should be openly accepting of minorities," Wright said.

Orin Constantino, a freshman graphic design major, said that Rowling's words, overall, made them uncomfortable.

"While I was reading through articles of her comments I felt incensed and demoralized," Constantino said. "Especially when she got into the 'bathroom wars.' I just want to use the bathroom in peace, and trust me I am already uncomfortable as someone with no definable gender using public restrooms. This idea that we are predatory is harmful to my community, we just want to be comfortable in our skin wherever we are."

Constantino feels similarly about Rowling's latest book.

"I did not know that she did this, but this plays off the fear that trans women are predators looking to take advantage of other women," they said. "It's detrimental to the progression of the rights and respect of trans people, especially trans women. It is for this reason that I wholeheartedly believe she

meant it to be harmful and wrote it from her own personal opinions."

"I would love some representation that isn't stereotypical or depicts us as something that is bad/diseased/broken," Constantino said. "It's not a bad idea for LGBTQ+ characters to be normalized within literature. Who knows, it might end up helping younger generations realize their identity is okay, and that they are worth being loved."

Recently, the UK and Irish Publishing Company wrote a letter that their company supports transgender and non-binary individuals. This letter has since been signed by over 1,500 authors, poets and other celebrities. People who have signed include Juno Dawson, author of "This Book is Gay"; "broadway actress Carrie" Hope Fletcher; Connie Glynn, author of "The Rosewood Chronicles"; drag queen Cheryl Hole; and Sophie Willams, author of "Anti-Racist Ally".

J.K. Rowling wrote a series about different people from different backgrounds coming together to fight for the same thing. Yet, it appears that she might not share the same inclusive thoughts of some of her most beloved characters.

October 14, 2020

## S.C. Senate Race is Neck and Neck

*Recent polls show the South Carolina Senate race between Jaime Harrison and Lindsey Graham could be close*

**Jeb Bartlett**  
staff writer

As the presidential race continues to heat up across the country, voters in South Carolina are also keeping an eye on the ongoing Senate race between incumbent Sen. Lindsey Graham and his challenger, former South Carolina Democratic Party chairman Jaime Harrison. With many recent polls reflecting near tied numbers, the race is sure to be a close one.

"I see ads for [Harrison] a lot," said Savannah Hynes, a freshman integrated marketing communications major. "I feel like I see Jaime Harrison ads more than ads for Lindsey Graham."

As anyone in South Carolina with a TV or access to YouTube has seen, Harrison has been running a myriad of unavoidable ads since April, and there's a reason people are seeing more ads for Harrison than Graham. So far, Harrison has set an unprecedented record in the state by outraging Graham in every quarter and spending over \$60.3 million in ads. Meanwhile, Graham has currently spent or reserved only \$20.6 million in ads.

"I think marketing is very important, especially now since a lot of things are virtual, and people can't really go anywhere, so I think having a presence online is a really big deal," said Hynes. "Especially for younger people, if they're on the fence of who to vote for, they can look them up or learn more online about who to vote for."

If elected, Harrison will be the first democrat senator for the state since 1998, and according to recent FiveThirtyEight poll numbers the two competitors have been nearly tied for months. Many political analysts, such as Jessica Taylor from the Cook Political Report, have labeled the race

a "toss up," while others, like FiveThirtyEight, are still expecting a victory for Graham in an historically red state.

A recent Quinnipiac University poll surveyed expected voters in South Carolina. The poll found that 49% of likely voters would like to see a Republican controlled Senate, while 44% favored a democratic one. The results also showed that, when it comes to honesty, 40 – 50% of voters don't think Graham is honest.

"A lot of stuff I've seen on social media is saying that he is a liar, that he's not telling the truth, and that he just wants people to vote for him," said Hynes. "I feel like it's kind of a typical thing for a lot of candidates to just lie to get what they want. So, it would make a lot of sense to me if he wasn't honest."

In a similar vein, it was found that 50% of voters believe that Graham does not care about average people, while 59% think that Harrison does. "I think [Graham] may care about a certain marginalized group, because he does care about 'people,' but he doesn't care about the mass majority. So, I'm in between on that," said Morgan Ivey, a freshman international business major.

As Senate Judiciary hearings, led by Graham, for President Trump's Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barret begin this week, analysts like Taylor believe that Graham could pull ahead in the polls as he will be front and center as chairman of the committee. Harrison has continued his attacks on Graham, both in ads and on the debate stage, for "flip-flopping" on his stance to confirm a justice so close to a presidential election. In 2018 Graham was adamant about not voting to confirm a Trump Supreme Court nomination until after the election, saying, "If an opening comes in the

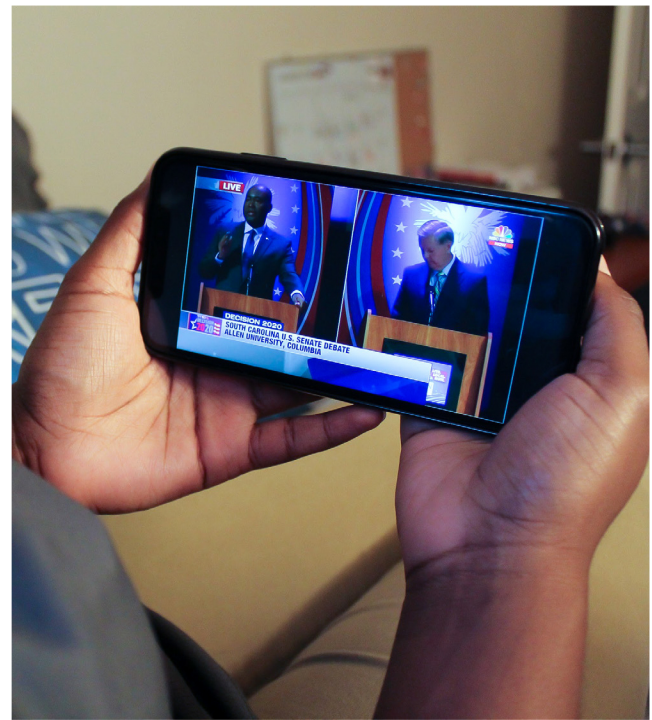
last year of President Trump's term, and the primary process has started, we'll wait [un]til the next election."

Harrison's attacks on Graham are fair ones, and are representative of a larger issue exemplified in both Graham and almost any other modern politician. It's clear to anyone who's paid attention to politics now, or anytime in the last hundred years, that a politician's words are near meaningless when party affiliation comes into play. Lindsey Graham flip-flopping on this issue is just one of the most recent examples in a long line of inconsistencies in the words of politicians. This kind of move isn't surprising anymore and is honestly just one sad brush stroke in the painting of our continually failing political system.

"I will be voting, hopefully everyone will. I feel like everyone has their bias for a certain party, and they automatically know who they're voting for. I think everything depends on if Harrison can win over the people who are still in the middle," said Hynes. According to the Quinnipiac University poll, 95% of likely South Carolina voters say that they have already made up their mind about their pick for Senate.

The race has been a close one for sure, and definitely will be interesting to watch in the coming weeks. But, as more young people who are tired of the lack of change or care from politicians continue to become eligible to vote, it becomes clearer that change is imminent.

In South Carolina the deadline to request an absentee ballot is Oct. 24, and in-person voting opens on Nov. 3. If you are able and registered to vote, please do so.



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

## Facebook addresses concerns over the 2020 Election, but will it help?

*Facebook announces their support of the 2020 election in an attempt to avoid repeating the 2016 election interference*

**Connor Brandenburg**  
staff writer

Recently Facebook has been working to put strategies in place to avoid the possibility of further interference in America's elections.

Facebook has announced their plan to refuse political advertising before the election, according to a Reuters report. To stem the spread of misinformation and election interference exemplified in the 2016 election, Facebook must properly enforce their new regulations.

The majority of Facebook users are older individuals with the ability to vote, making them prime targets for manipulative political advertisements and conspiracy theories. Russia was one of the major powers to manipulate this platform for their own gain, utilizing accounts like the Russian owned Internet Research Agency to flood the site with divisive content close to the 2016 election.

Due to the expansive circulation of advertising on Facebook, as well as other social media services, misinformation can be easily confused as factual. During the 2016 election, this misinformation caused great dysfunction among both Democratic and Republican parties and lead people to believe that the election was manipulated because of these circumstances.

Before and after the 2016 election, conspiracy theories have flourished due to Facebook's popularity-based algorithms. A recent conflict among Facebook users has been over the validity of mail-in voting. President Donald Trump has sparked doubts among Republican voters with claims that the mail-in voting system is geared against him and his voters. No matter how valid Trump's statement might be, the idea has already inspired a revolt against the system.

Creator of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg plans to regulate misinformation about voting from both its users and advertisers. By enforcing maintenance over their site, Facebook can maintain the legitimacy of this year's election.

The damage after the election has been recognized as well. Consistent monitoring of the content posted after the results of the election is important to help prevent violence among their users. After the 2016 election, conspiracy theories and misinformation were able to flood Facebook because of the immense activity on the site.

## Degrees and Dollars

**Autumn Hawkins**  
staff writer

Despite recent progress toward gender equity, women are still being underpaid compared to their male coworkers - even if they have the same job.

Census data from the past eighty years shows that the percentage of women finishing four or more years of college has increased by 31.5 percent. Male graduation rates have also increased, but the majority of college graduates in recent years have been female. Even after Title VII was passed to end pay discrimination, women are still being treated as inferior.

The American Association of

University Women, a gender equity organization, released an official statement regarding the wage gap in the fall of 2019. Their research concluded that while women in general are underpaid, women of color suffer from even more financial discrimination. For every dollar a white male makes, a woman of color will make - on average - sixty four cents.

As women age, this discrimination follows them throughout their career. Women aged 55-65 face the widest gap between their paychecks and those of their male coworkers. As a result of a system that is desensitized to discrimination in pay, it accumulates until retirement.

The census data also revealed that discrepancy in pay di-



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

rectly impacts how retirement is funded. Women are paid less throughout their careers, so they cannot put as much money in Social Security as males. This leads to women being awarded 20 percent less in Social Security benefits than males after age 65.

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▶ see [Facebook](#) pg. 11

# Graduate school: career growth or just deeper debt?

◀ Facebook from pg. 10

The elections had finished, but the site, somewhat by design, gave unreliable sources a platform to spread their content. However, due to Facebook's preparation for the aftermath of the 2020 election, the ways in which election results affect the site will be mitigated.

Whether Facebook can be trusted at face value is uncertain because of their malpractices during the 2016 election. However, their recognition of the threat of misinformation and conspiracy theories does show that Facebook understands the dangers of misinformation, especially during an election year.

From a global standpoint, a major source of election interference is countries like Russia or China. Instead of hacking the 2016 election, the landscape of Facebook allows for malicious manipulation of voters to function just like conspiracy theories. The constant flow of information allows bot accounts specifically made for uploading misinformation and advertisements to rise above truth.

Facebook has recently taken down bot accounts from China which included content about the 2020 election. While the accounts were not successful in attracting an American audience, Facebook's proactive approach to over 180 Chinese bots does give their plans to regulate their site more credibility.

Evidenced by the new procedures established by Facebook, the scandals and manipulation on the site have shown them the importance of consistent maintenance and regulation, especially on a social media platform. The practicality of Facebook's statements is not yet clear, but their concepts show genuine attempts to protect both the election and their users. Because of the site's past, as well as the short-term nature of ad cancellation, Facebook should not be superficially trusted, and their users should hold them responsible.

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Pursuing a Master's degree or a Ph.D is what some may consider a waste of time and money, due to the astronomical cost of tuition and fees as well as the commitment that graduate-level courses demand.

For those who aim to become college professors, they must pursue their master's and then even Doctorate, but what about those who want to start companies, create products and services, pursue writing outside of the classroom or operate other career fields?

"This is a good question, and the answer varies widely depending on the discipline," said Siobhan-Brownson, a Professor of English at Winthrop and the Director of the Master of Liberal Arts Program.

The question of whether or not graduate school is worth it ultimately goes back to the kind of master's degree or discipline one seeks. The discipline earning the highest average salary for graduates with master's degrees in 2020 was computer science, starting at \$79,793, according to Statistica.

But don't dismiss other areas of discipline. Though STEM fields show higher averages in salary, employers still value liberal arts. Fifty-one percent of employers find the concept of a liberal education to be "very important," according to Hart Research Associates, which is available on Winthrop's College of Arts and Sciences page.

By the year 2029, post baccalaureate enrollment is projected to increase by three percent, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Given this projection, there are some concerns that it could become more difficult to obtain higher paying jobs for those

who only have a bachelor's degree.

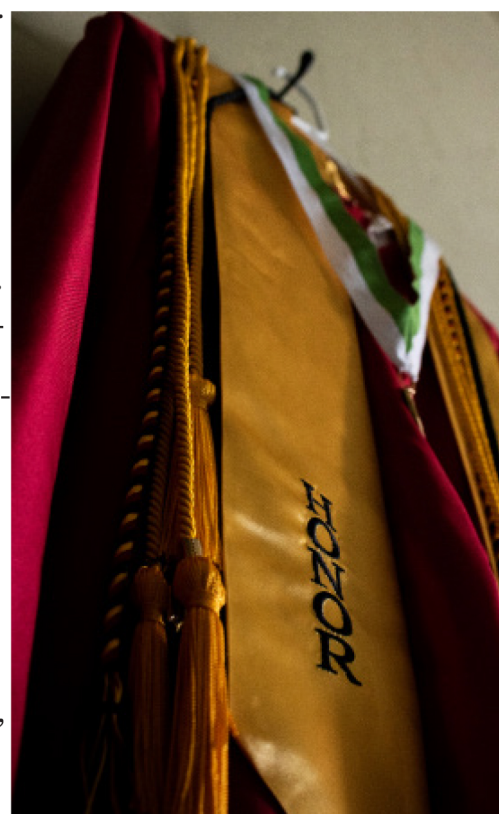
"I very much support graduate education, and I encourage anybody who wants to stand out to pursue graduate education in the form of degrees and certificates," Brownson continued, "But I do not think a master's degree will be required for people to compete for the jobs they want, since most employers want the critical thinking, critical writing, and oral communication skills that are developed at Winthrop and other institutions."

Still, for many people already in the midst of their professional careers, earning a master's degree could open up the possibility of an increase in their salary.

Before enrolling in graduate school, search on sites like Indeed, LinkedIn, Glassdoor or Google for the kind of jobs you want, and take note of their requirements. If you see a common theme that the position requires a master's degree or a doctorate, that is a realistic sign that one would be unlikely to be hired or obtain an interview for those positions without the post baccalaureate degree. It is also important to do local research for the desired jobs, as states and countries vary when it comes to their specific qualifications and credentials.

Identifying places you may like to live in the future could be helpful, as some states may have more competition in which a graduate degree could provide an advantage.

Overall, whether established professionally or about to graduate with a bachelor's, pursuing a post baccalaureate degree is a big decision to make. While a master's or doctoral degree may not be necessary for every career, the knowledge gained and discipline executed to achieve it are invaluable and should be admired.



Olivia Esselman/ The Johnsonian

Thankfully, that debate turned out to be much more organized and "civil" in contrast to the Presidential debate. Trump continuously interrupted Biden essentially every time Moderator Chris Wallace asked Biden a question.

This issue of interrupting the other opponent is serious because it denies viewers the right to hear each candidate's stance on important topics pertaining to the country, which is absolutely necessary in order to make an informed decision on election day. After the debate, many reports noted the possibility of muting the other opponent's microphone when their time is up to avoid this problem.

On Thursday, Oct. 1, news spread about Trump's positive Coronavirus diagnosis. Not only has the president said multiple times that the virus would "go away," but he recently claimed his diagnosis was "a blessing from God," according to a report by Reuters.

Since The Commission on Presidential Debates announced their decision to change the format of the next debate set for Oct. 15 into a virtual debate, so far Trump has opted out of the idea, telling Fox Business, "I'm not going to waste my time in a virtual debate." Trump went on to reveal the real reason why he isn't going to do a virtual debate, claiming, "they cut you off whenever they want."

It is highly unlikely that the moderators would cut the candidates off without reason, but this change might've been able to provide more structure and avoid rambling outside the time slots provided.

Most would say having a debate virtually instead of face-to-face due to health precautions is not a "waste of time," but rather an extremely important way to hold onto a connection with voters. On top of that, virtual debates and in-person debates would appear quite similar to voters watching it on tv. Trump may be desperately trying to avoid the restrictions that come with virtual communication.

We all know the feeling when we feel the need to interject or ask a question while another person is speaking during a Zoom call. Unlike being face to face, there is a bit of a delay when another person starts talking, and before you know it, the whole conversation is choppy, awkward and jumbled up. President Trump would be much more restricted in a virtual setting, allowing Biden to speak more and convey his message to voters.

◀ Degrees from pg. 10

Sadly, today's wage gap began with deep rooted sexism. Jobs that are traditionally seen as "male-oriented" pay more than jobs that are traditionally associated with females. The AAUW's research also indicated that when male-dominated fields receive multiple female hires, the overall wage in that profession decreases.

Women are also penalized for having families. The 2019 census data showed that mothers who are employed full-time earn 31 percent less than fathers who are employed the same amount. Maternity leave is virtually nonexistent, causing new mothers to use unpaid time off - which potentially puts financial strain on their families during a vulnerable time - just to recuperate after giving birth.

The census also confirmed that men outnumber women in degrees represented within the workforce, except for workers under thirty. Since the graduation rate of females has been increasing over the years, women aged 22-30 are the largest group of women in the workforce with at least a bachelor's degree.

As employed males over the age of 60 begin to retire, this opens up more opportunities for advancement. Educated women are beginning to rise through the ranks, making today's workforce a more inclusive environment and creating role models for students. Businesses with women in positions of power allow more female college graduates to begin their

careers.

The latest population census data revealed that the largest group of workers in today's workforce is men without college degrees. This further proves that women have to jump through more hoops than males, just to have a career - only to be rewarded with less pay. The wage gap, while smaller than it used to be, still haunts America's workforce.

Women in America have faced centuries of sexism and disrespect. While it should not be the case, this reality is reflected in how women are paid. The wage gap in the United States is discriminatory, insulting and insinuates that males should be given a higher wage just because of their gender identity.



Photo Courtesy to the White House

## Why President Trump refuses to participate in virtual debate

*Exploring how the President's case of COVID-19 could impact the election process and why a virtual debate could be significant*

Mary Hicks  
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Whether Democrat or Republican, most Americans agree that the first Presidential debate of 2020 was a train wreck.

Given the President's recent diagnosis of COVID-19, it is unforeseen exactly how the next presidential debates will proceed, and if they will be under control.

In the first Vice Presidential debate between current sitting Vice President Mike Pence and Biden running mate Kamala Harris, Moderator Susan Page began the night by setting a straight-forward standard for both candidates. "We want a debate that is lively but Americans also deserve a discussion that is civil," Page said.

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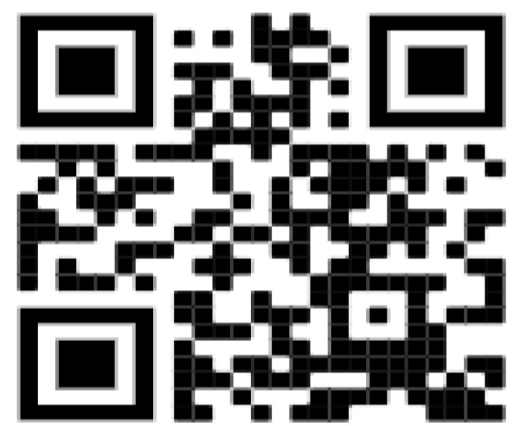
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