

THE JOHNSONIAN



Campus police officer charged with sexual battery

Chase Duncan
staff writer

Former Winthrop police officer, Charles Eugene Price, has been fired and arrested on over fifty charges including sexual battery against minors, incest, and kidnapping, according to information released by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

According to arrest warrants, Price was taken into custody on Oct. 16 and was initially charged with two first-degree counts of sexual misconduct with a minor under 11 years of age and a 14-year-old.

On Oct. 26, SLED agents charged Price with an additional 49 criminal charges including nine counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor under 11 years old in the first-degree, 13 counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor between 11 and 14 years old in the second degree, 8 counts of criminal sexual conduct third-degree, 18 counts of incest, and one count of kidnapping, according to a news release by SLED on Oct. 27. The arrest warrants served against Price date back from as early as 2004 to as recently as October of 2019.

The warrants state that in a case dating back to 2007, Price handcuffed, gagged and committed sexual battery against a 14-year old minor. The warrant states that when the victim attempted to cry out for help, Price hit the victim and told them to shut up.

Another warrant alleges that in 2015, Price kidnapped and confined a 14-year old minor in his bedroom by handcuffing the victim and locking the door in order to commit sexual battery against them.

The Winthrop University Police Department was made aware of the open criminal investigation into Officer Price by SLED in late September, upon which action was immediately taken to relieve Price of his badge, credentials, and weapons. The former officer was then placed on suspension without pay and escorted off campus property.

Price was immediately terminated from the WUPD upon Winthrop's notification of his arrest and criminal charges and was issued a Trespass Warning Notice indefinitely banning him from university grounds. Moving forward, the WUPD stated that they will be taking actions to have the former officer's law enforcement certification suspended and revoked by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council, according to a statement by Assistant Chief of Police Charles Yearta.

"During the course of SLED's criminal investigation, a WUPD Internal Affairs investigation was also conducted," Assistant Chief Yearta said in his official statement. "At this time, neither WUPD's Internal Affairs Investigation nor SLED's criminal investigation has uncovered any evidence that these criminal incidents occurred on Winthrop University property or as part of the former police officer's



Price

official duty as a law enforcement officer. Since being placed on suspension, the former police officer has not been allowed on the campus or any property owned by Winthrop University."

According to Communications Coordinator Nicole Chisari, Price was originally hired by WUPD in 2004 as a police officer and was promoted to sergeant in 2011. The former law enforcement officer initially resigned from his position in 2014 and went to work for several other law enforcement agencies before being rehired as a sergeant in 2018. He remained in this position until his termination on Oct. 16.

"Each time he was hired, an extensive national, state, and local background investigation was conducted," Yearta said. "This process is completed for each employee who works for WUPD and at no time was anything negative discovered. During his employment, the former police officer did not have any employment-related complaints, public complaints, or disciplinary actions associated with him."

"I want to stress to our campus community that none of these criminal incidents occurred on Winthrop property or as part of the former police officer's official duty as a law enforcement officer," Yearta said, "There is no active threat or danger to the campus. I understand that this incident tarnishes our reputation and trust with the campus community, but I assure you that this incident does not change the mission of WUPD or its members, who work tirelessly to serve and protect our community with integrity, professionalism, customer service, passion, drive, selflessness, and honor," said Yearta.

Price was booked at the York County Detention Center, and his case will be prosecuted by the Sixteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office. As stated in an article published by the Herald, he is currently being held in the Lancaster County jail without bail.

40

Cumulative
Positive Cases

March 16 – Oct. 25, 2020

Non-mandated COVID-19 testing

Bryn Smyth
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Free COVID-19 testing is available on select days at the Winthrop Coliseum and testing is available in Health and Counseling Services, but COVID-19 testing is not mandatory for those who are working, living or attending class on campus.

Because COVID-19 testing is not mandatory, some question whether the data shown on the COVID-19 Dashboard is accurate.

Dwight Dimaculangan, chairman of the biology department and professor of geology, is appreciative that Winthrop is making their known positive cases public information, but said, "I am concerned that they're basing [the data] on limited knowledge and so my fear is that [the dashboard creates] a false sense of security, about there being hardly any cases on campus, because I'm not sure that that's the case, because how they're doing determined cases."

The dashboard numbers are determined by how many students, faculty and staff report that they tested positive. Some receive testing either on campus or at the coliseum and those are automatically reported to the university if they are positive, but others who receive testing at other various locations adhere to an honor code in reporting their results.

In an email sent to faculty on Oct. 15, Winthrop President George Hynd wrote, "I hope you have seen our COVID Dashboard and the low numbers of cases we have seen. Vice President for Human Resources Lisa Cowart noted that, while the number of faculty and staff who have been infected continues to be low, through our on-campus contact tracing, we have learned that none of those who have been infected appear to have contracted the virus at work."

Hynd is optimistic about the number of positive cases on campus but being that most young people who have COVID-19 are asymptomatic, it is likely that there are more positive cases on campus than the dashboard is able to surmise.

On Oct. 22, Winthrop hosted a cultural event called "The Role of Epidemiology in a Pandemic and Public Health Safety," where Linda Bell, South Carolina State Epidemiologist, spoke about what she knows regarding COVID-19 and how to minimize its spread.

"Testing too much is not a bad thing, it's how we find cases... if we don't test people, especially if such a high proportion of people are asymptomatic, we won't know where [the cases] are," Bell said.

If Winthrop University were to mandate COVID-19 testing for all on-campus faculty, staff and students, it is likely that more positive cases will surface.

Danielle Owen, a junior dance major, said she would prefer for Winthrop to mandate COVID-19 testing because "it's important for everyone to be more aware and better prepared."

With the positivity rate in South Carolina being over 5%, according to the CDC, many South Carolina universities are mandating

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Life in Wofford quarantine

Chase Duncan & Philip Nelson
staff writers

In an effort to contain the potential growth of the COVID-19 pandemic amidst a university population of over 5,000 total graduate and undergraduate students, Winthrop University officials decided to set aside the Wofford Hall dormitory to house students who have contracted or are considered at high risk of contracting the virus and aren't able to return home to isolate.

Earlier this month, The Johnsonian staff writer and senior computer science major, Philip Nelson, was placed under quarantine in Wofford Hall after his roommate tested positive for

COVID-19, and was able to provide some inside information on what life is like under Winthrop's quarantine program.

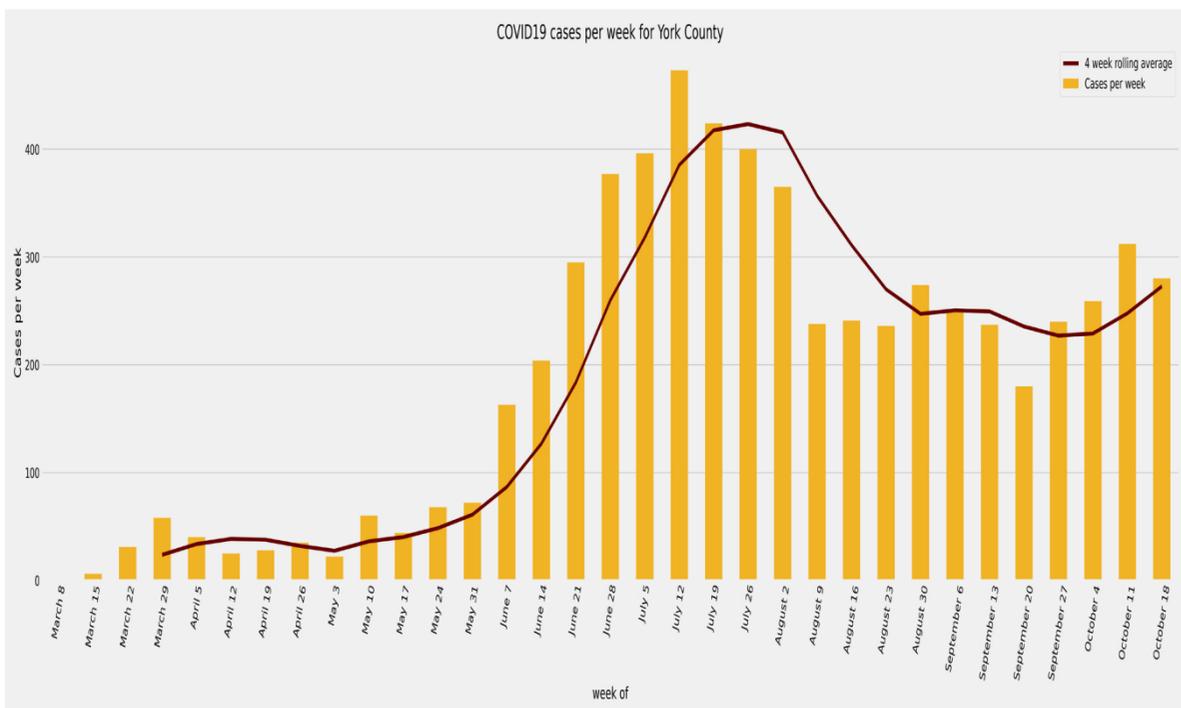
"Generally I wake up whenever I feel like waking up like normal, and I do class work like normal," Nelson said eight days into quarantine. "I don't leave the room at all typically, unless I'm going across the hall use the bathroom or taking a shower. I don't really have anything I can do other than school work and I can't leave the building, so what I'll usually do is find things to occupy my time like reading and watching Youtube videos."

Nelson's quarantine journey began on Oct. 11 when he and his suitemates found out that his roommate tested positive for COVID-19. Shortly after, Nelson and one of his suitemates were



COVID-19 data

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



Philip Nelson/The Johnsonian

◀ COVID from front

COVID-19 testing on their campuses. For example, College of Charleston is mandating COVID-19 testing for all on-campus residents.

“COVID-19 is now one of the leading causes of death in South Carolina,” Bell said. “[According to] the New York Times [on Oct. 22], South Carolina is ranked seventh among the 10 states with the most cases reported on college campuses.”

According to the chart Bell was referring to from The New York Times, South Carolina has alarmingly similar data to Pennsylvania which is a much larger state with far more colleges. South Carolina has 8,843 positive cases at 28 schools and Pennsylvania has 9,196 at 98 schools.

South Carolina’s COVID-19 statistics are cause for concern for many students, faculty and staff at Winthrop and many are wondering why Winthrop is not mandating COVID-19 testing while others are privy to the fact that undertaking mandatory testing requires a lot of manpower that Winthrop may not have.

“It would have to be repeated on a weekly basis to be effective. [That is] unrealistic in my opinion,” Lindsey Sturgis, a Winthrop alumna, said.

“We do not have plans at this time to test all students, staff and faculty at Winthrop. We do not have the financial resources nor the staff to conduct such comprehensive testing. However, we have worked to ensure that testing is available on campus at the Coliseum through DHEC,” Hynd said.

◀ Wofford from front

determined to be exposure risks and were told they had to move into the Wofford dormitory later that day.

“I woke up around 10 a.m. on Sunday, and by around 3 p.m., I was told I needed to be moved into Wofford as soon as possible. I was told I needed to bring two weeks worth of clothes since I wouldn’t be allowed to do laundry, alongside my bedding, everything I needed for school, and personal stuff. I don’t have a car, so I had to bring everything I needed on foot from Roddey to Wofford, which is a good long haul. I didn’t even see an actual person from Winthrop that day; all of my interactions were through phone calls. They were trying to limit exposure, but there was no help getting over here or moving stuff in,” Nelson said.

Wofford is kept locked by campus police at all times, and quarantined students are only permitted to leave the building to receive medical care and testing for COVID-19. Trash bags are to be left in the hallways and are collected every Sunday and Wednesday. Students are brought food from Thompson Dining Hall between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. for lunch and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. for dinner, but are not given a menu to browse.

“Until I complained about it and told them they needed to bring better food, the food I got was so bad I almost didn’t eat for the first two days,” said Nelson. “On the second day, I told them to just bring me pizza or hamburgers since they were pretty much just bringing me whatever I feel like. The food has gotten better since I complained, but they’ve brought me pizza for the past five meals. They could definitely vary it a little, because I know they have better stuff in Thompson.”

“My suite mate had to pay for the food being brought because he didn’t have a meal plan, and the school told him he had to quarantine no matter what. He had no choice but to pay because he has to be here, and he can’t leave the building. It’s \$14 a day for lunch and dinner from Thompson Cafeteria, which isn’t bad, but it’s not quality food.” said Nelson.

“I understand why I’m having to quarantine, but it’s not a fun experience and I think Winthrop could do a better job for its students. As of right now, it feels like prison but with the internet. Honestly, if I had been told that it was going to be this bad, I might have just not told the university that I was exposed,” Nelson said. “This is very mentally taxing, and if someone isn’t the right headspace this could really mess someone up. Not being able to leave the building for anything but medical care is really hard. I would just like to leave the building for like thirty minutes each day, but I can’t. So I end up staring at these same four walls constantly, and it’s terrible.”

Adjusting to semi-remote academic instruction amidst a pandemic

already weighs heavily on the minds of college students across the country. The strenuous conditions of being socially isolated with limited dietary options and restricted mobility could have adverse effects on the mental health of international and out-of-state students who lack the ability to return home, according to Clinical Coordinator for Counselor Services, Gretchin Baldwin.

“Quarantine has been tough for humanity because humans are social creatures,” Baldwin said in an email. “In order to be healthy both physically and mentally, we need movement, light, and connection. When we are isolated in a closed space, we can miss out on those opportunities—unless we are thoughtful and intentional. Quarantine brings the potential for too much stillness, not enough light, and isolation. These are ripe conditions for a flare up of symptoms of anxiety and depression among other things.”

Public information regarding details of what quarantining on campus entails remains scarcely available to students. The Return to Learn website, an online guide Winthrop designed to inform students about updates and changes relating to COVID-19, makes no mention of Wofford Hall or provides any details on the quarantining process for students unable to return to home other than stating that the process for them exists. According to Interim Director for Residence Life, Howard Seidler, this decision was born out of lack of necessity.

“I don’t know if we’ve publicized that information necessarily. If a student needs to be quarantined or isolated, they need to leave campus. If they don’t have a place to go or if they live far away and can’t get home, that’s when we house students for quarantine and isolation. I don’t know that it was publicized or put on the website, it wasn’t really necessary to do that,” Seidler said.

Seidler went on to state that the Wofford dormitory has only housed 2-3 quarantined students at a time during this semester. According to Winthrop Registrar Gina Jones, the university currently houses 816 undergraduate and graduate students, 85 of which have come from other countries. As of Oct. 25, Winthrop’s COVID-19 Dashboard has recorded 40 cumulative positive cases since March 16.

Photo courtesy to Winthrop University



Wofford Hall

About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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“I take full responsibility. It’s not my fault.”

Trump and Biden take the debate stage one last time before election day

Elijah Lyons
copy editor

Aided in part by new rules muting the candidates’ microphones set forth by the Commission on Presidential Debates, Thursday’s final debate between former Vice President Joe Biden and President Donald Trump dropped the chaotic bravado that characterized the first in exchange for substantive policy disagreements and a renewed focus on the pure ideological chasm between the two nominees.

NBC’s Kristen Welker moderated the debate and opened with firm and direct instructions to either candidate to remain civil and avoid interruptions in order to allow American voters the opportunity to hear clear articulation of policy ideals on some of the biggest questions facing the nation. She began with Trump, and the coronavirus, questioning the president on his strategy moving forward.

President Trump returned to minimizing the severity of the impact of the virus, again citing early estimates that put the death toll in an uncontrolled spread of the virus at above two million, before rehashing his assertion that a vaccine would be coming “within a matter of weeks.”

“220,000 Americans dead. If you hear nothing else I say tonight, hear this ... anyone who is responsible for that many deaths should not remain as President of the United States of America,” Biden said in response, before claiming that President Trump refused to take responsibility.

Trump said for the first time, before an abrupt change in direction. “It’s not my fault that it came here. It’s China’s fault.”

Biden pointed to revelations regarding the discovery of the President’s secret Chinese bank account, underlining the fact that Trump had paid exponentially more in taxes to the Chinese Communist Party than he had to his own government in recent years.

“I have many bank accounts and they’re all listed and they’re all over the place,” Trump said.

On healthcare, Biden spoke about his plans to expand Obamacare and a prospective public option and again spoke out against the Trump administration’s efforts to squash Obamacare in the Supreme Court without plans for its replacement.

“There’s no way he [Trump] can protect pre-existing conditions. None, zero,” Biden said.

The president attempted to paint Biden’s plan as a push for socialized medicine and claimed that his policy was being driven by “AOC plus three,” a nod to progressive Democrat Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and “the squad,” a group of fellow freshman female progressives.

“He’s a very confused guy. He thinks he’s running against somebody else,” Biden said. “He’s running against Joe Biden. I beat all those other people because I disagreed with them.”

Biden also voiced his support for raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, allowing for Trump to draw a distinction between the candidates’ fiscal philosophy.

“He said we have to help our small businesses. By raising the

minimum wage? That’s not helping,” Trump

said. “I think it should be a state option.”

In response to recent reports that lawyers cannot find the parents of 545 immigrant children separated at the border, President Trump was questioned on his child separation policy at the U.S.-Mexico border.

“Children are brought here by coyotes and lots of bad people, cartels, and they’re brought here and they used to use them to get into our country,” Trump said. “We now have as strong a border as we’ve ever had.”

“Coyotes didn’t bring them over. Their parents were with them,” Biden responded. “They got separated from their parents. And it makes us a laughingstock and violates every notion of who we are as a nation.”

On race in America, President Trump once again voiced the claim that he had done more for Black people in America than any president, with the possible exception of Abraham Lincoln.

“I can’t even see the audience because it’s so dark, but I don’t care who’s in the audience, I’m the least racist person in this room,” he said. Biden pushed back on this assertion.

“Abraham Lincoln here is one of the most racist presidents we’ve

had in modern history. He pours fuel on



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

every single racist fire,” Biden said. “This guy has a dog whistle about as big as a foghorn.”

The president also tried to pin Biden with a ban on fracking, despite the fact that the Biden campaign has repeatedly stated they have no intention to place such a ban. In more explicit terms than previously employed, Biden spoke about his intention to transition to a focus on renewable energy.

“I would transition from the oil industry, yes ... because the oil industry pollutes, significantly,” Biden said.

In closing, each candidate was asked how they plan to unify the country, and what message they might deliver in their inaugural address to the constituents that didn’t vote in their favor.

“Success is going to bring us together,” Trump said. “We are on the road to success.”

“I will say, ‘I’m an American President. I represent all of you, whether you voted for me or against me. And I’m going to make sure that you’re represented,’” Biden said.

Virtual Fresh Check day

The Virtual Fresh Check helps students to learn about tips and resources to help with mental health concerns

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The topic of mental health is extremely important to talk about for college students. With many classes being remote and students dealing with all of the stress that comes with online classes, it is more important than ever to discuss and make sure that students know where they can get help with any mental health concerns. And it should be the job of colleges to make sure that that information is available to their students.

From Oct. 21-22, Winthrop University held a two-part Virtual Mental Health Check over Zoom. The check-in went over topics such as suicide prevention, tips to stay mentally healthy and how to help someone who may be dealing with depression, anxiety or any other mental health concerns.

“For many mental health disorders, the average onset is during the traditional college-age of 18 to 24 years old, and one in four college students have a diagnosable mental illness. Yet, most col-

lege students lack awareness about the mental health resources available to them on campus and in our community. And about half become so anxious that they struggle in school,” said Shayna Foxworth, the Student & Young Alumni Program Coordinator in the Office of Alumni Relations.

Since so many college-age students are unaware of how they can get help, the check-in sought to inform them about what resources are available to them on campus if they themselves, or someone that they know, are struggling with a mental disorder.

“We want to reduce stigma and misconceptions around mental health and suicide that often deter individuals from seeking help,” Foxworth said. “In cultures, sometimes mental health issues can be stigmatized, so we want to make sure that we are here to erase those and set a great foundation for all students.”

Students who attended the virtual event learned about the warning signs of suicide and how to help someone if they think that they are at risk.

“Whether you are someone who is struggling or

has struggled with suicidal thoughts or know somebody who is, everybody plays a role in preventing suicide. Noticing things like a drastic change in someone’s behavior or giving away prized possessions, those are signs, those are things you need to address,” said Julianne Schrader, the Assistant Director of Residence Life for Staff Development.

“Asking direct questions is important as well,” Schrader said. “It is a myth that if you ask someone directly if they’re considering hurting themselves or considering suicide that you will put that idea in their head. That is not the case. Direct questions are very important even though it’s very uncomfortable and may be kinda scary.”

Due to COVID-19, many students have been struggling a lot more with feelings of isolation that can greatly impact their mental health. In addition, many students may be afraid or uncomfortable talking about their feelings of anxiety or depression.

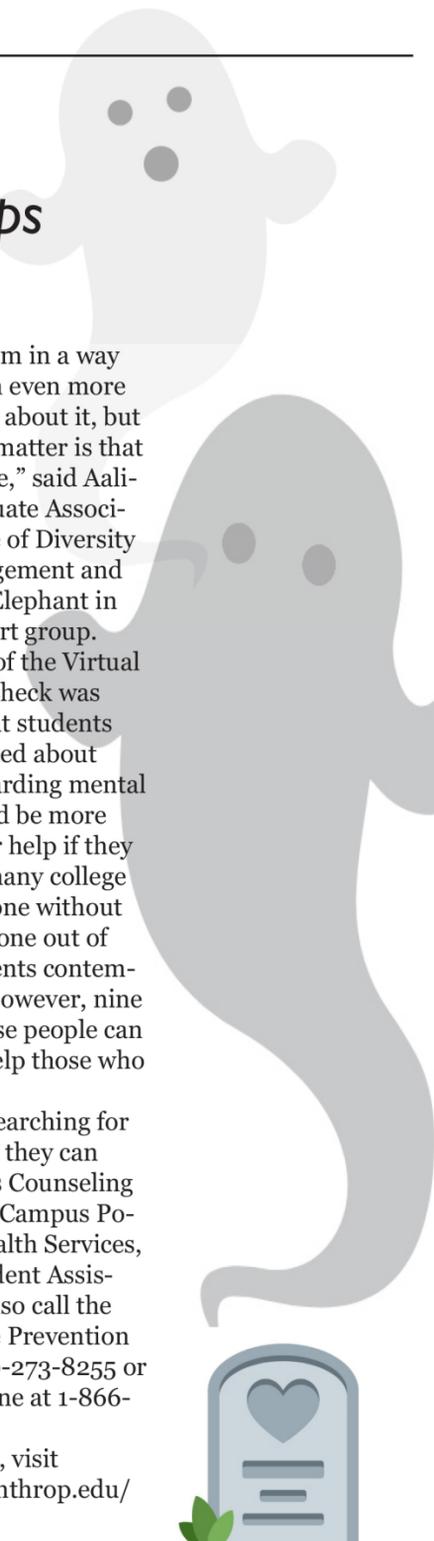
“People are less likely to share things that are going on with them because they think that they might be judged or people might shame them

or talk about them in a way that makes them even more unwilling to talk about it, but the point of the matter is that you are not alone,” said Aaliyah Bond, Graduate Associate for the Office of Diversity & Student Engagement and founder of The Elephant in the Room support group.

The purpose of the Virtual Mental Health Check was to make sure that students would be informed about these topics regarding mental health and would be more willing to ask for help if they needed it. Too many college students have gone without help, and about one out of ten college students contemplates suicide. However, nine out of ten of those people can be the ones to help those who are struggling.

If anyone is searching for help on campus, they can visit the Campus Counseling Center, visit the Campus Police, Student Health Services, or talk to a Resident Assistant. They can also call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386.

coming Week, visit <https://www.winthrop.edu/homecoming/>.



Model UN provides leadership opportunities amidst COVID-19

Winthrop's Model United Nations program has endured many changes as a result of COVID-19

Mari Pressley
staff writer

The Winthrop University Model United Nations program continues to give students the opportunity to hone their communication, problem-solving, collaboration and leadership skills, all while faring with COVID-19.

Model UN is a program that provides students with opportunities to learn about international affairs with an emphasis on public speaking and debating.

The WUMUN program was the first in the country to involve high school students.

“The idea is that first, the college students debate in front of the high school students and show them what is done, what can be done, and now the college students become advisors for the high school students when they are debating. So they become mentors and teachers and leaders,” said Dr. Christopher Van Aller, faculty advisor of the program. “There is a lot of leadership peer teaching kind of stuff going on. So we’ve found it to be a very successful way to do Model UN.”

Winthrop’s Model UN program will participate in an event called the Southern Regional Model United Nations Atlanta and will host the annual WUMUN Conference in a hybrid virtual format this year.

“We just have a little one hour course to prepare them for the fall experiences which is called 362 and so we don’t have a whole lot of time to prepare compared to a big giant university,” Van Aller said. “This year we’re just going to do the best we can because it is all online and

it’s definitely a weirder experience being all online.”

Winthrop’s Model UN program won the Distinguished Delegation Award at SRMUN last year.

“I think Model UN is about learning some really good skills but also in a fun way,” Van Aller said. “The first skill, of course, is public speaking and public speaking is really scary for a lot of people—because you’re kind of pretending to be someone else, it’s a little easier than a formal speech.”

“Another thing is, it is a fun way to learn about the world,” Van Aller said. “People may not know this but, South Carolina has more international companies based in other countries than any other state in America.”

“And then the third thing is, particularly in our conferences, we have leadership and team-building skills with the college delegates working with high school delegates and helping them and also kind of being an example,” Van Aller said.

Lauren Hill, a Winthrop graduate student pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching, is a second year Secretary General of WUMUN.

“I joined the program as a sophomore to fulfill degree requirements, but I gained much more from the experience than a few credits,” Hill said. “I am going into teaching and I firmly believe that my experience in the program has given me the confidence and public-speaking skills necessary to be effective in front of the classroom. I wouldn’t trade my time in MUN for the world.”

While the program has a multitude of benefits for students individually, it also has growth opportunities.

“[Students] go through kind of like the ladder of Model UN,” Van

Aller said. “They start out with the spring-time class and do our Model UN as delegates. Then, most students if they are really interested in Model UN, they continue with 362, which is the fall traveling conference class which is just one hour.

“Then also in the following spring, they can take 261 which teaches them, here again in a one hour class, how to run committees and how to run a conference, in particular, our conference. And once they’ve done, usually all of those three things, then they can apply to be a paid administrator of our program.”

Kennedy Mayers, a business administration major and 2021 internal audit, served as a coordinator general for WUMUN.

“Over four years, I’ve had every possible role in the program,” Mayers said. “I’ve been a delegate during the Winthrop University Model UN conference in the spring and mentored high school delegates in the first MUN class: PLSC260. I’ve also been a delegate at intercollegiate conferences in the fall when we travel to conferences in Charlotte and Atlanta during PLSC 362. I acted as a committee chair during our WUMUN conference as well, leading the debates and guiding delegates from both colleges and high schools in PLSC261.”

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on WUMUN.

“Our conference that we host at Winthrop takes place in late March, so we had to flat out cancel it last year in the wake of COVID coming to the US,” Mayers said. “And since COVID



Anna Sharpe/The Johnsonian

obviously hasn’t gone anywhere, the conferences that we usually travel to in the fall (including the one we’re participating in this coming weekend!) have switched to an online modality. So we’re participating in those online, which comes with its own challenges, but is still great preparation for the workforce with the prevalence of remote work nowadays.”

“Unfortunately, we had to cancel our conference that was scheduled in Spring 2020,” Hill said. “We have had to make adjustments in the way that we recruit for our conference in Spring 2021 and are currently exploring alternatives to in-person debate until we can be sure that there is a viable vaccine for COVID-19.”

After having to cancel last year’s annual conference, the WUMUN program plans to hold this year’s annual conference differently.

“In the spring, I’m thinking at this point, it’s going to be a blended conference so Winthrop students will still get to debate in person, face to face,” Van Aller said. “We could have the traditional Model UN Debate in Tillman, but what it may be more difficult to do is bring high school teams in from all over the state, sometimes two states, sometimes even three states ... It’s going to be a blended conference at this point in time, that’s what we’re thinking that we’re going to do.”

Police blotter *A round-up of crime reports on campus, 10/9-10/21*

Sarah Hassler
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On Oct. 9, a reporting officer was dispatched to the Olde Stone House to meet with two subjects who informed the RO that a row of disc golf banners had been taken down from in front of Winthrop Coliseum. Three of the banners were missing and assumed stolen. The subjects told the RO that the banners cost \$100.00 each, meaning that they were missing \$300.00 for all three missing banners. The subjects stated that a steak knife was found near the area where the banners were taken down. The RO was unsuccessful at locating the evidence at the scene, and could not get security footage of the crime scene either, so the incident was closed due to lack of leads.

On Oct. 16, a reporting officer responded to a call from a Resident Assistant regarding the smell of marijuana coming from a dorm in Richardson Hall. When the officer got to the room, he could smell the marijuana coming from under the door. He asked the occupant if she had any, to which she responded that she had smoked some a couple of hours ago, and she consented to a search of her room. The RA who had reported the incident then informed the officer that they had observed a female on video surveillance coming out of the occupant’s room carrying two backpacks down the staircase and out the door. The female on the video was identified, and the officer knocked on her door.

The officer explained why he was there and asked if the subject had any drugs in the backpacks she had carried out of

the room. The subject admitted that the occupant had asked her to take the backpacks out of the room and that she knew there was marijuana in them. She took the officer to her car, where she had put the backpacks. In them were 2.8 grams of marijuana, two marijuana pipes and a knife, all of which were taken in for evidence, and the officer informed the students that they would be getting a call from the Dean of Students.

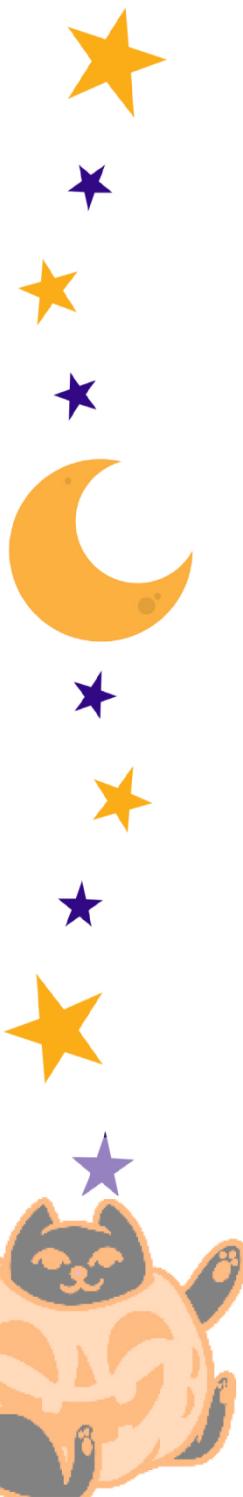
On Oct. 18, two victims claimed that they were harassed several times by another student. The reporting officer was informed by Victim #2 that her friend, Victim #3, was talking on the phone when she was approached by the suspect and felt that he had invaded her personal space. Victim #2 stated that this was not the first time this had happened to Victim #3. Victim #1 claimed that she and Victim #2 were eating at a table in the DiGiorgio Campus Center when the suspect found where they were sitting and approached their table and stood over them. Victim #2 asked the suspect to leave them alone when he stated that all he wanted to do was protect Victim #1, who said that the suspect had approached her several times and made her feel uncomfortable.

The reporting officer informed the victims that the suspect was a Think College Student and that he probably meant well. The victims then stated that they had informed their Resident Assistant several times, but nothing had been done. The officer then informed the victims that he would fill out an incident report and refer the incident to the Dean of Students.



Maggie Claytor/The Johnsonian

On Oct. 21, at the intersection of Eden Terrace and Charlotte Avenue, a black Jeep, which was waiting at a red light in both the right and left hand turning lanes, proceeded into the intersection after changing lanes unlawfully. The reporting officer approached the vehicle and made contact with the two suspects in the car, neither of whom had any Winthrop affiliation. The officer then detected the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle, so the RO asked the suspects to exit the car. The officer did a quick pat-down for weapons when he noticed that Suspect #2 had stuffed a bag of marijuana into his pants. The officer placed the suspect in handcuffs and searched the car, where he found a grinder to grind up the marijuana, a package containing marijuana flower and a package of cigarillos. The suspect was issued citations for possession of marijuana first offense, minor in possession of tobacco and changing lanes unlawfully.



S&T

the Johnsonian

October 28, 2020

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Winthrop student-athletes march for black lives Winthrop Athletics organizes march, coincides with NAACP mural reveal



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

Sean Miller
staff writer

Winthrop Athletics' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group organized a march from Eden Terrace parking lot to campus green to support a mural unveiling event by the student-led NAACP on Oct. 20.

Student athletes, coaches and activists marched in solidarity at Winthrop to support a fellow student organization (the NAACP) and to bring attention to problems facing the African-American community such as police

brutality and societal exclusion.

"We just wanted to do a sign of unity for our student-athletes leading up to an event that was going on on campus that speaks to our student-athlete population, our staff, and really aligns with the statement that we put out this summer" said Senior Associate Director of Athletics for Business & Finance, Kelley Kish.

A solid black line snaked down Scholars Walk as marchers made their way to the campus green - some wearing shirts that read "Black Lives Matter".

An array of student athletes, ranging from volleyball to

basketball, proudly marched with posters to demonstrate their support for fellow athletes and to bring attention to issues facing Black Americans. A lack of opportunity for minority communities and police brutality against African Americans were prevalent topics in the minds of many marching.

"The reason I'm out here is not just for unity, but because multiple communities have been depressed, [minority] communities have been locked down and scrutinized by a system that does not appreciate them nor show their work. And it's about

time that we actually as a school, as a community, as a whole state, a whole nation, show that this we cannot stand on any longer" said Dell Woodard, a junior and mass communication major.

"No matter where you look, no matter what team you're on, there's a black person, there's a person of color" Woodard said.

A message of diversity and inclusion in athletics and at Winthrop was mirrored by Head Volleyball Coach Chuck Ray.

"We have such a diverse population, not just here with our student athletes, but Winthrop as a whole. I think Winthrop really started as diverse in a lot of ways - we were a women's college at first. It's expanding and growing in such great ways and in diverse ways too.

"What we do for the African American population, and how we will graduate our students and African American students at Winthrop are synonymous. We need to continue to support each other... It's about a university and it's a very special university" Ray said.

A mural created by Autumn Jackson, dedicated to the lives lost due to police brutality, was ceremoniously unveiled at the NAACP event. The mural depicts blue hands covering the mouths of two people of color.

"The blue hands across the mouth are to represent the police, who are silencing us and trying to erase us. The reason I have everyone on here morphing away is because they are trying to erase us" said Jackson.

Shortly after the mural was unveiled, a candlelight service was performed and many prominent names of lives lost to police brutality were read in memoriam. Speakers encouraged students of any race to stand with them in the face of injustice and encouraged everyone to vote.

Wounds from injustice against black Americans are raw. A diverse crowd from the Winthrop community came together to acknowledge the ongoing fight for equal justice and opportunity. Students are hopeful that their actions will speak truth to power and result in change.

In-person intramurals

Rec Services hosting basketball skills challenge and cornhole tournament in November

Matt Shealy
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With COVID-19 protocols in place, Winthrop Recreational Services is finding ways to still bring sports competitions to campus.

Students have until Nov. 5 to register for a basketball skills challenge, and until Nov. 11 to sign up for a cornhole tournament. According to Assistant Director of Sports Programs Cameron Edwards, the basketball skills challenge will include a three-point contest, a hot shot contest, and a skills challenge, "similar to what is typically seen during the NBA's All-Star weekend."

The basketball skills challenge will take place on Nov. 10 while the cornhole tournament will be Nov. 17, and both will be held on the courts in the West Center. Students can register in teams of two or individually as free agents, but must attend a virtual meeting to discuss rules and procedures beforehand to be included in the contests. There is no deposit fee for these competitions.

Recreational Services had planned to host a flag football skills challenge earlier in the semester with kicking, punting, and passing contests, and there was going to be a volleyball skills

challenge to test serve accuracy as well. However, the competitions received too little interest to be held.

"We did not have any teams sign up for the [football and volleyball] competitions," Edwards said. "While there are many possibilities as to the lack of interest, all would be guesses at this point. Some combination of concerns for COVID-19 transmission, protocols in place at the events, uncertainty of the amount of interest from others and, in general, much of our core participant base still taking classes from home would all be feasible possibilities."

One other way Recreational Services is engaging the Winthrop community is through weekly college football and NFL "pick 'ems" contests. Participants select the outcomes of ten college football games and ten NFL games, and the person to get the most picks right wins a prize each week. Prizes have included t-shirts, water bottles, and other Rec Services items.

"We are currently averaging 29 responses per week in the college contest and 31 responses per week in the NFL contest for a total of 60 responses per week," Edwards said. "According to feedback provided by participants in their individual responses, most partic-



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian
Participants find out about the contest via the promotional messages sent out via IMLeagues or via our Recreational Services social media pages.

Students can receive IMLeagues messages through the WU Rec Services app and look for updates on Instagram @wu_rec.

Edwards acknowledged that there has also been consideration of holding tournaments in games such as NBA2K or Madden.

"While physical, in-person recreation competitions will always be our preferred type of event, we are aware of esports and the possibilities that exist there," Edwards said. "We are looking at adding some of these competitions in the spring semester, once the transition to the new generation of consoles - Xbox Series X and PS5 - has taken place in the United States."

Recreational Services is continuing to host in-person and virtual fitness classes, and this month has held nine guided walks around campus and the Rock Hill area for its annual "Walktober" series.

Eagle of the Week: Tony Chau

Lily Fremed
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Think of it like basketball. Each player has their individual skill set, and then all five players come together as one to defeat the opponent.

“It comes down to how well you synergize and basic execution,” Chau said.

Tony Chau, a graduate student studying business administration, is one of the *League of Legends* players on Winthrop’s Esports team. Known as “Saskio” in the gaming world, Chau actually created that nickname for himself while playing *RuneScape* at nine years old, and it has stuck with him ever since.

“At the time I was watching an anime called *Narzo*. I was a huge fan of a character on the show called Sasuke. I reworded his name and put in some variations and different letters, and that’s how I came up with Saskio,” Chau said.

For years Chau only played “casual games,” but then he entered high school where a group of friends introduced him to *League of Legends*.

“I started playing and I really enjoyed the game, so here we are,” Chau said.

Chau considered playing professionally, and he ended up taking a gap year out of high school because he did not know that playing at the collegiate level even existed.

“Someone reached out to me from Maryville University and he said, ‘Hey, I’m looking to start up a program in a year, are you down to come out and go to school and play League for free?’” Chau agreed to attend Maryville and began his collegiate esports career.

In 2019, Chau and Maryville came in second place in the International College Cup, which was an improvement on the team’s previous ranking of third place back in 2017. He was also a College *League of Legends* champion with Maryville in both 2017 and 2019.

On April 25, 2020 Chau had a very memorable afternoon as Winthrop won 2-0 against Maryville.

“There was a lot of drama for that match, but ultimately we beat them and I kind of silenced a bunch of people who were saying how I was the one being carried on that team, but I ended up demolishing them in that match,” Chau said.

While at Maryville for his undergraduate years, a teammate’s mom bought Chau’s entire Esports team Smurfs socks. Although Chau said he is not really superstitious, he does wear that same pair of blue socks for every big tournament.

“Even though I’m not a part of Maryville anymore, I still wear those socks before important matches. I don’t really think of them so much, but it’s just something I do,” Chau said.

Unlike typical sports teams that have had to limit their practice time due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Esports program is still continuing their six to eight hour long practices, but Chau said the team never gets tired of training.

“They just love the game itself, like they don’t even consider it practice, it’s just them playing the game,” Chau said.

Although not all of his teammates are on campus, Chau said it has not been a problem considering all the players would not be able to practice in one room at the same time anyway.

“For this semester I think a lot of people are more prepared because they had all summer to think about how they are going to approach it. The one thing that I am a fan of is it’s Esports, it’s collegiate, it’s on the computer, you can still run it,” Chau said.

Aside from competitively playing for Winthrop, Chau also coaches online and recently started writing scripts and recording videos to create his own YouTube and Twitch channels.

“Right now, it’s very stale - the content that is being created [for League of Legends] - and there’s no originality,” Chau said. “I can probably make something here that is completely different, that people haven’t seen in a while, so hopefully it should be able to pop off.”

Chau is already well known in the League of Legends community after he mastered the ability to play the game with his feet.

“I was able to control two champions in a game by myself, which is unheard of. So essentially, I’m like one of four people in the entire world to ever try this



Chau

Photo Courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

strategy and find the most success at it,” Chau said.

Once he graduates from Winthrop, Chau plans to either return home to Vancouver, British Columbia to focus on his gaming channels, or move to Los Angeles (a city he has had the privilege of visiting twice for collegiate championships) to work for an Esports company.

“Winthrop Esports is definitely a really good program and they have a really good direction -- they’re top in the country. I’m really happy that I’m part of this program, and I look forward to seeing what they continue doing even once I’m gone,” Chau said.

SPORTS SUPERSTITIONS



“I ALWAYS TIE MY RIGHT SHOE BEFORE MY LEFT ONE.”
- ASHLYNN HARRIS, WOMEN'S SOCCER GOALIE



“I DIDN'T WASH THE COSTUME UNLESS WE LOST THE GAME. I EAT OATMEAL CREAM PIES IF WE WIN.”
- BIG STUFF, MASCOT

“WHEN YOU GO FISHING IN A BASS TOURNAMENT, YOU NEVER BRING A BANANA ON THE BOAT.”
- COLLINS JANUS, BASS FISHING CLUB PRESIDENT



“I ALWAYS EAT A SNICKERS BEFORE EVERY GAME.”
- ALEX STRICKLIN, BASEBALL STUDENT MANAGER



A&C the Johnsonian

October 28, 2020

The roots of Halloween

How did Halloween become the holiday adored by so many?

David Botzer
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Midnight strikes Oct. 1 and once again everything everywhere is decked out in orange and black with all sorts of scary decorations to boot as Halloween season rolls in. There aren't many people who can't find a way to get in the spirit of the spookiest time of the year. But how much about the origins of our favorite Halloween traditions do we know?

According to History.com, the holiday itself dates back 2,000 years to an ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain, which tied into the day their new year began, Nov. 1. This day "marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death." It was popular belief that the night before this shift to the new year was a time when the boundary between the dead and alive was the weakest.

The Celts would host a ceremony where they sacrificed crops and animals into a bonfire as a way of deterring the spirits. During this ceremony, they would wear costumes, consisting of animal skins and heads.

Eventually, in the 9th century, the spread of Christianity into Celtic lands would see Samhain evolve into All Saints' Day with similar ceremonies, including bonfires, costumes, and parades. It was also called All-hallows, a name that eventually became All-Hallows Eve, then Halloween.

Halloween eventually came to America in the 19th century, when Americans would gather to hold autumn festivities that involve sharing ghost stories and mischief-making, but still the holiday

as we know it today was not yet in full swing across the country. It wasn't until later that century when immigrants began rushing into the country that the celebration of Halloween became a more widespread occurrence. As a result, Americans began dressing up in costumes and going door to door to ask for money or food, leading eventually to the modern trick-or-treating as we know it.

Other traditional symbols of the spooky season have interesting beginnings too besides the holiday itself. For instance, the symbol of black cats stems from a Middle Ages belief that witches could turn themselves into these dark felines to go about unnoticed.

It is likely if you have attended a Halloween party, there has been bobbing for apples involved. According to Almanac.com, this tradition likely comes from a Roman festival dedicated to the goddess of fruit, Pomona, which was celebrated around Nov. 1. It was a popular belief among the Romans that whoever could "catch a bobbing apple with his or her teeth would be the first to marry in the new year."

One of everyone's favorite Halloween traditions is pumpkin carving. However, before there were jack-o'-lanterns, there were turnip lanterns. The Celts would hollow out large turnips and carve a demon's face on them and place a candle inside to scare away any evil spirits and invite deceased loved ones to visit. Irish immigrants switched the turnips for pumpkins in early 1800s America for convenience.

Halloween is a holiday that outdates the United States, but is always one of its biggest holidays with some interesting roots to its traditions.



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian



Margaret Nance: A dorm for students past and present

Winthrop's oldest dormitory may house more than just the living

Chase Duncan
staff writer

The advent of the hallowest holiday of the year draws ever closer with each passing night, and the spirits that roam Winthrop's ghostly grounds grow more and more restless waiting to greet students and faculty who still roam the mortal plane. Student residents of the Margaret Nance dormitory trade stories of encounters with a feminine, strangely garmented figure that appears before unsuspecting students to ask them where their lost trunk of belongings is, only to disappear before their very eyes.

"There was once a young lady who was a student at Winthrop while Margaret Nance was used to house injured soldiers during a war," said Micheal Reid, a law enforcement officer for the campus police department and Winthrop ghost aficionado. "The all-female student body and the soldiers weren't supposed to fraternize with each other, but the young lady and one of the soldiers ended up starting a relationship together, and she ended up getting pregnant by him."

"Eventually the soldier got shipped out to war, and the girl was expelled without being allowed to take her belongings. She kept trying to contact her beloved fighting in the war, but got no response. When she finally got a letter from him, it said that he had been killed in battle. After hearing this devastating revelation, it's said that she was so distraught that she threw herself in front of an incoming train with her unborn child" Reid said.

The chilling fate of the unfortunate female student that haunts Margaret Nance, sometimes referred to as Shelly or left unidentified, varies depending on the retelling. Some versions state that she returned to the building and hanged herself in the third floor stairwell, whereas others say that she threw herself off the front of the building, according to Reid. All retellings end with her inevitable return to the Margaret Nance dormitory, where her spirit aimlessly roams and approaches students in search of her unclaimed property.

"A student once told me a story of how she was about to leave her room when a strange lady appeared in her doorway and told her that she was looking for something," said Reid. "She noticed how the woman was dressed in old-timey clothing. The student tried to tell her that what she was looking for definitely wasn't in her room, but the mysterious lady was adamant that what she was looking for was in there. Eventually the student definitively told the lady that her item wasn't in her

room and turned around to grab something. When she returned her gaze to the doorway, the lady was nowhere to be found."

Much like the ghastly figure said to prowl its hallways, Margret Nance has gone by many identities in the past century since its establishment. The dormitory was constructed in 1896, not long after Tillman Hall, to house the all-female student body, and was known simply as the Dormitory, according to information listed in the digital commons website for the building. Not long after, the building was renamed to the North Dormitory after the construction of McLaurin Hall to the south of the original dorm. In 1925, the first dorm was finally renamed to Margaret Nance Hall in honor of Winthrop's founding president's mother.

Experiences with the strange and unexplainable are a common occurrence for many of the Resident Assistants and office workers who manage the dormitory's phones and cameras late into the night, and each have their own eclectic stories to tell.

"Sometimes while working super late at night I've heard footsteps nearby while no one is around or on the cameras," said Kiera McCall, a senior biology major and front desk manager for Margaret Nance. "I've also heard the bathroom door slam while no one was in or leaving the bathroom. Of course, I usually tell myself that it's just my imagination, but there's always that possibility that it could be something else."

Jack Hardie, a Resident Assistant for the Margaret Nance dorm and sophomore business major, has also experienced some bizarre incidents while performing his nocturnal duties.

"I think a lot of us who've stayed up in the dorm late at night have seen or heard some strange stuff," said Hardie. "Back during the beginning of August, when the RAs were the only people on campus, some of the doors on my hall were opening on their own when they were supposed to be locked. One of the first nights I was sleeping on the third floor, which is the most haunted one, I heard the distinct sound of a key going into a lock right above my head, where the attic is supposed to be. I later found on one of my on-duty walks during a shift an unlocked entrance to the attic. None of the RAs had keys to the attic at that time."

The hauntings and paranormal experiences that have plagued the ancient dormitory's residents for years may one day find plausible explanations in the realm of scientific fact and logic. Until that fateful day arrives, the possibility remains that the Margaret Nance building may house students both living and dead.

Artist Spotlight: From self-taping to singing with the stars

Winthrop student Katie Marcelino continues her craft through the pandemic

Aerial Laymon
staff writer

In live theatre, musical performances are often equipped with a team of directors, designers and a whole cast of performers working together in one place, but the COVID-19 pandemic has flipped all of that on its head. Katie Marcelino, a junior musical theatre major at Winthrop University, now finds herself filling many of these roles herself, recording one self-tape after another in her own bedroom, determined to continue to grow with this new digital world of theatre.

Marcelino said she has been singing since the age of 5. She said she then discovered musical theatre in high school and has been working to continue to grow and learn as an artist ever since. "Art is very important to me," she said, "in any type of facet."

As the pandemic has continued to affect the performing arts, Marcelino said she has been challenged as an artist. "[The pandemic] has definitely made me think of theatre in a different way," she said. "Anything is art... and you

can make art wherever you are." And that is just what Marcelino has continued to do. Most recently, she was a member of the ensemble of the new musical *Sticks & Stones* that had its livestream premiere on Oct. 16.

According to the show's official Instagram account, *Sticks & Stones* is "a new musical that uses the story of David and Goliath to address teen bullying." Marcelino said that the creative team put a "modern spin" on this biblical story of David by making him a high school student, outcast by the popular kids at school as he is in the original story. Due to the pandemic, the process of creating this show had to be put on a digital platform, bringing rehearsals to Zoom and performances to bedrooms internationally. While this process can be restrictive in several ways for those involved in creating a show, Marcelino said it is also "making theatre more accessible." Audiences were able to view this show online all over the world, and many students and creatives were able to participate in the creation of the production when they may not have had the resources or ability to

▶ see Artist pg. 9

◀ Artist from pg. 8

do it otherwise.

Marcelino said, in casting the show, the creative team “wanted the youth... people who are trying to continue their art through the pandemic.” In total, the cast was made up of Broadway stars, a featured cast of students, including fellow Winthrop student Gabriella Gonzalez, and the ensemble of 135 students, which Marcelino was a member of. These students represented talent from 34 U.S. states, as well as 13 countries worldwide, according to an article about the show by Andrew Gans for Playbill.com.

Marcelino said that once she and her castmates had done their part of rehearsing and recording their portions of the show, the creative team had 16 days to put over 400 videos together. Unlike conventional live theatre, where the cast actively performs the show for an active audience, Marcelino and the cast didn't see the show all put together until the rest of the world was watching as well.

Marcelino described this moment, and furthermore the whole process, as surreal. She said the vastness of this show held such an important message of how, “In a group of all these people, how important your voice is and how much of an impact you can have on the world.” Just like any ensemble, Marcelino said, “Each and every single person is important in sharing the message of choosing to be kind and to care about the world you're living in right now.”

This show was produced during Bullying Prevention Month to spread this message to audiences. The streamed performance was free to watch, but donations were encouraged to help support Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation.

BC/EFA is a prominent organization in the Broadway theatre community that works to help people across the country receive access to lifesaving resources, according to their website. The Born This Way Foundation was founded by Lady Gaga and her mother with the mission to support “the mental and emotional wellness of young people and... create a kinder, braver world,” according to the Broadway World TV article posted on Oct. 14 highlighting this new musical.

While the show is no longer available to audiences, Marcelino urged people to follow the show on social media, @sticksandstonesmusical, to donate to these organizations, if you are able, and to help to share this message of kindness with the world we live in now.



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

New Medusa statue stokes the feminist fire

A new statue of Medusa in New York City is being called a symbol of feminism

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The importance of representation

How whitewashing continues to be an ongoing issue in Hollywood and other media

Jeb Bartlett
staff writer

The rise of movements such as #OscarsSoWhite and Black Lives Matter over the past decade have shed light on just how far America still has to go before its minority populations receive the same representation and protection as white Americans. And while many will agree that these are positive movements that can help guide us to a better future, some will argue that they've only made things more complicated.

Take the recent casting of Gal Gadot as the ancient Egyptian Queen Cleopatra for instance. Gadot, well-known for her role as Wonder Woman in DC Films, has received backlash from many for taking the role of an Egyptian while she is Israeli.

Egypt is an African country, so some argue it may make sense for its legendary queen to be portrayed by an African actress. According to an article from BBC, Morgan Jerkins, a New York Times bestselling author, tweeted, “Cleopatra should be played by someone ‘darker than a brown paper bag, as that would be more ‘historically accurate.’”

However, geographical location is not the only factor to consider when it comes to Cleopatra's ethnicity. While she was an Egyptian royal, she was not of Egyptian

descent. According to the same article, “Cleopatra was descended from an Ancient Greek family of rulers- the Ptolemy dynasty.” This dynasty was installed by Alexander the Great, a Greek conqueror who took control of Egypt almost three centuries before Cleopatra's birth. Another six hundred years later, Egypt would be invaded by Persians, and then Muslims.

In fact, there was so much conquering occurring during ancient times that the lines between races may have been blurred consider-

and catering to the white gaze. A study done by the University of California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism revealed that out of the top 100 movies from each year between 2007 and 2017, 70.7% of the characters were white.

Skyler Allen, a freshman elementary education major, explained how it's important to include minority representation in Hollywood and other media because “The media usually reflects reality, and when you don't see

yourself on screen, it's like ‘how do I fit into society, how do I fit into reality, why is my existence not as valuable to people?’” As a young African American woman, she has wondered if her experiences are not “as valid or as important” as those of white Americans because of the lack of representation of people like her in the media.

There are

many talented actors of color who are often overlooked for a more well-known actor, even if it means sacrificing accuracy. While no one can deny Gal Gadot's talent, it is simply a question of if she is truly the best choice. Movies that bring the stories of historical figures of color to light, such as Cleopatra, should be just as focused on portraying those characters as accurately as possible, if only out of respect for them and those who have been inspired by them.

ably. Seth Frantzman, a journalist for the Jerusalem Post, wrote that, “It makes no sense to exclude Jews from playing roles from the Middle East, when Jews are primarily a people from the Middle East.”

But it's also important to take into consideration what it would mean to many people of African and Greek descent to see a person who looks like them in a prominent movie role. It's an unfortunate fact that Hollywood has a history of whitewashing

Many people know the story of the Medusa from Greek mythology, who was cursed into a monster that turns people who look at her into stone by Athena for being raped by Poseidon in one of the goddess' temples before being later killed by Perseus. Typically, Medusa has been depicted as an evil being that Perseus had to kill as a hero. However, artist Luciano Garbati decided to flip the script of this myth with a statue that was unveiled on Oct. 14 in New York City.

The statue, “Medusa With the Head of Perseus” stands at around seven feet tall and depicts a nude, model-esque Medusa carrying a sword and holding the head of Perseus. Garbati purposefully designed it to be a reversal of a classic Italian bronze statue created by Benvenuto Cellini. In Cellini's statue, “Perseus With the Head of Medusa,” it is the Greek hero that carries Medusa's head.

Despite Garbati starting his work on the Medusa statue in 2008, upon its recent reveal, many individuals were quick to link it to the recent #MeToo movement and feminism. These links were started not only because of the scene depicted in the statue, but also because of where it has been placed. It was installed in the center of Collect Pond Park, across from the building where several men have stood trial for sexual assault as a result of the #MeToo movement, the most notable of which being Harvey



Photo Courtesy to The New York Times

Weinstein.

However, Garbati has stated that the statue was not created purposely with feminism or the movement in mind. Instead, he wanted to make something that turned the myth of Medusa on its head, which, according to him on an application he wrote to have the statue installed in the park, had “communicated to women for millennia that if they are raped, it is their fault.”

At this point, according to the New York Times, the artist has said in an interview that he feels like the sculpture has become an entity that is independent from himself due to outside interpretation. He said, “I am honored by the fact that the sculpture has been chosen as a symbol.”

While this statue might be located in New York, the image of it has spread throughout the country, including to Winthrop

University.

Sophomore theatre performance major, A'Vian Williams said, “the statute is cool. I like a lot of things having to do with Greek mythology.” When asked about what they think it stands for, he said, “It could be connected to feminism and the movement, but really only the artist can say why they made it and their reasons for it.”

A'Vian's appreciation of the statue was shared by sophomore theatre tech and design major, Eden Cook. “I really do enjoy this interpretation of the classic story of Medusa. I know when I was younger, I never really understood why Perseus was told to do this,” she said. “The act of reversing the roles is a powerful move, especially since Medusa was assaulted in the temple of Athena.”

Amanda Beard, a sophomore visual communications illustration major, felt that the statue was “very empowering. Not just through the fact that Medusa is holding the head of Perseus, but also through her stance...It's both relaxed and strong, she seems like she is firmly planted and wouldn't be easy to knock over.” Beard continued, having said, “It certainly seems to stand for woman empowerment and despite the fact that Medusa herself was turned into a monster, she still looks very beautiful, showing the duality of women. They can fight back when needed and still be beautiful.”

October 28, 2020

Costumes or COVID-19

Attending Halloween parties during a pandemic is unsafe

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

Since January, America has been implementing social distancing and alternative methods of communication due to COVID-19.

With the slow release of businesses reopening over the year, people have been going into public more and more often. Masks, increased cleaning procedures and social distancing are crucial to being in public places during a pandemic. However, it has also desensitized us to the danger of infection.

Some patrons of businesses refuse to wear masks, and social distancing is more of a suggestion than a mandate. Because of this, are we beginning to forget the importance of quarantine? This is especially important during the upcoming holiday season.

Halloween is a popular time for parties and social gatherings to be held. Costume contests, trick or treating groups and even dinner parties are commonplace during late October. Is this a feasible way to celebrate during a pandemic?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages skipping the large social gatherings this year in exchange for staying home and keeping potential contaminants at bay. This is especially

important for people with pre-existing autoimmune conditions, families with elderly relatives and families with young children.

Going to parties — especially ones held indoors — is a potential danger to everyone involved. It's virtually impossible to know who has been in contact with the coronavirus, as there's no telling where people have been or who they have been in contact with before attending a party.

The New York Times reported a single-day record of over 85,000 new cases of COVID-19 in the United States on Friday, Oct. 23. Coming into contact with anyone who has been near an infected individual can mean the loss of income, a loved one or even one's own life.

If hosting or attending a holiday gathering is required, or you simply wish to celebrate with loved ones, the CDC offers a list of tips for both party hosts and guests. Gatherings should be held outside as much as possible to facilitate air circulation. The number of guests should be as limited as possible in order to avoid potential exposure to communicable disease.

Providing party guests with any COVID-19 related news can help quell any fear, as knowledge can only improve someone's understanding of a dire situation. The CDC also

encourages party hosts to provide guests with access to hand sanitizer, extra masks and any other equipment that could potentially stop the spread of disease.

The CDC recommends pandemic-friendly Halloween activities such as carving pumpkins at home, hosting a virtual Halloween party or even walking around a nearby neighborhood to enjoy seeing the decorations.

Just because COVID-19 is still a prevalent part of 2020 doesn't mean that Halloween should stop being fun.

If dressing in costume, it is advised to remember to wear a mask in order to stop the potential spread of contaminants. However, costume masks and face masks should not be layered on top of one another, as this can limit breathing ability.

The CDC recommends that costume masks should not replace a face mask unless it is made of at least two layers of breathable fabric. As always, masks should cover the nose and mouth without leaving gaps around the face.

Halloween is a time for celebration, and 2020's new social guidelines should not impact the joy of the season. However, attending a social event during quarantine is a personal choice. If that cannot be done, then there are countless ways to still have fun — even without being in crowds.



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

The evolution of smoking: cigarettes to vapes

Transitioning from one drug epidemic to another

Allison Reynolds
staff writer

It's no secret that things evolve over time. Technology, jobs, even people.

One thing that people may not think of when they think of things that have evolved over the years is smoking. Specifically, how smoking started to decrease in popularity while vaping had an increase in popularity.

Smoking has been around for a long time, longer than what people would think. Brazilians invented the cigarette in 100 AD by rolling tobacco leaves in paper. In 1588, an Iranian physician invented the hookah pipe. John Rolfe, one of the early English settlers of North America, sold the first tobacco cash crop in 1612.

The pure form of nicotine wasn't discovered until 1828. In 1850, cigarette making machines were invented to produce more cigarettes at a faster pace. Boris Aivaz, a Hungarian inventor, invented the cigarette filter made of crepe paper in 1925.

Despite this long history of smoking and the cigarette, U.S. scientists didn't discover that smoking causes cancer until the 1950s. Tobacco advertising, except in sport, was banned in the U.K. in 1965 and in the U.S. in 1970. In 1966, health warnings on cigarette packs began popping up.

Airplanes didn't get split into smoking and non-smoking sections until 1973. In 1995, California became the first state to ban smoking in the workplace. Delaware became the first state to comprehensively ban smoking in restaurants, bars and the workplace in 2002.

The electronic cigarette, e-cig, was born in 2006. Vaping only got more popular as time went on.

The more that vaping is growing in today's society, the more it is frowned upon.

Some adults started vaping because they heard it helped them quit smoking. In a study published by The New England Journal of Medicine, it was found that "smokers who switched to e-cigarettes were much more likely to quit than those turning to nicotine patches, gum, or similar products."

Those who vape have even said that vaping helps them feel relaxed. However, one thing that vapers may not know, is that vaping is a gateway to smoking.

"But now I think the question is whether or not we are masking another

▶ see [Smoking](#) pg.11

Why many students are feeling exhausted this semester

Reflecting on the difficulty of remote learning, in addition to the absence of fall break

Mary Hicks
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Without a doubt, every semester has its challenges, but when it comes to Fall 2020, most students agree that the stress is on another level.

Dealing with the technological responsibilities required for remote learning, such as downloading Respondus LockDown Browser for exams, tuning in to Blackboard Collaborate for synchronous classes, keeping track of each assignment's due date and locating what might actually be more information on Blackboard is easier said than done.

Although it's understandable as to why it was the best decision for in-person classes to meet straight through until Thanksgiving, it seems like an unnecessarily intense workload to not have a break. After all, the reasoning behind no fall break is that it is unsafe for students to come back to campus after going home to their friends and families due to the possibility of spreading COVID-19. This reasoning does not apply to online classes, as there is no in-person contact involved.

Not only does the absence of

fall break affect students' grades from their feeling mentally drained, but many students claim they are having difficulty in online classes because they must teach themselves. Some online classes meet via Blackboard Collaborate, but many others do not, which can create a disconnect between students and the course material.

"While classes are online and we can do it from home, I feel that it has made life so much more stressful," said Makayla Bolton, a junior forensic chemistry major.

Bolton is the vice president of an organization at Winthrop called Active Minds, which focuses on mental health awareness.

"With fall break being gone and classes online, many people are getting burnt out, stressed out and not focusing on their own well-being," Bolton said.

She also noted the factor that many students are working a part-time or even a full-time job.

"We have weekends, but even most people are having to do school work and hold up a job



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian as well during that time," Bolton said.

However, it has not been easy for professors either.

"We lost Spring Break last March, and I taught all summer, so I haven't personally had a break or seen any of my family since last Christmas," said Dr. Jo Koster, a professor of English.

"I was already certified as an online instructor, but many faculty members spent all summer getting prepared to teach online, so they haven't had breaks either," Koster said.

Koster revealed that she has a sense of empathy for her students during this time.

"I am trying to be as flexible as I can in granting extensions,

▶ see [Students](#) pg. 11

◀ **Students** from pg. 10

and I've also told all my students that if they need to tap out for a week, they can—they just have to let me know so that I know they haven't disappeared," Koster said. "Students seem to be using the extensions appropriately and I'm glad I can help."

In addition to flexibility, Koster also offers virtual office hours on Blackboard Collaborate to help her students stay engaged and ask any questions. But not every professor is as empathetic or proactive as she is.

Some online courses do not have any synchronous class dates, do not clearly display or offer virtual office hours, have minimal announcement postings and do not show much flexibility in the way of assignment deadlines.

Another component that may cause student disengagement is that many video lectures also have been uploaded years prior, rather than incorporating new and updated information that might help establish more of a connection during this extremely different kind of year that 2020 has been for all of us.

Even just a short announcement post on Blackboard or an email that a professor sends to simply "check-in" with their students can make a difference by encouraging, connecting and helping students stay on track.



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian

◀ **Smoking** from pg. 10

potentially addictive product under the label of a quote-unquote 'healthy' cessation tool," said Dr. Yvonne Chen, a professor of mass communications at the University of Kansas, in an article published by The Christian Science Monitor.

Another thing that those who vape may not realize is that the health risks of vaping have not been studied as much as the health risks of smoking cigarettes.

Even though e-cigs do not have the harmful chemicals that cigarettes have — urea (a major component of urine), benzene (a petrol additive), formaldehyde (embalming fuel), ammonia (toilet cleaner), carbon monoxide (car exhaust fumes), arsenic (rat poison), hydrogen cyanide (poison gas chamber) — e-cigs still contain nicotine. Nicotine is an addictive chemical that can cause a plethora of health problems.

Some even believe that vaping is becoming a hobby. Not only are people modifying their vapes to be exactly how they like them, but some people are even having vape parties. At vape parties, people get together to try different vaping flavors.

Even though people have realized the harmful effects of smoking cigarettes, not as many have realized how harmful vaping can be. It is not as bad to start vaping to help quit the cigarette habit, but there are those who just started vaping for no reason other than they saw their friends do it or they wanted to seem cool.

Dog-whistle pandering

Candace Owens criticized Joe Biden's interview with Cardi B as pandering to Black Americans. What does pandering look like in American politics?

Jeb Bartlett
staff writer

Candace Owens is a conservative author and political commentator who recently made the claim that the Democratic Party has been pandering to Black voters. Owens initially made the accusation in September on Ben Shapiro's "Sunday Special," saying that Joe Biden's interview with rapper Cardi B was pandering to Black Americans.

Owens' claim — despite being hypocritical, as Owens often appears on Fox News overtly pandering to a base that is Christian, conservative and white — is not completely unfounded as it brings up an important issue in politics: pandering.

According to Pew Research polls, in 2016, 91 percent of Black voters supported Hillary Clinton, while 54 percent of white voters supported Trump. Pandering to their respective voting demographics is not something uncommon or even revolutionary for the Democratic or Republican parties in America.

Often pandering is seen in many different forms, from small scale celebrity endorsements like Willie Robertson of "Duck Dynasty" fame speaking at many Trump rallies, to long-lasting political strategies that have shaped our modern landscape and, in turn, have had devastating effects — the most infamous example being the Republican Party's "Southern strategy."

The "Southern strategy" was a successful attempt by the Republican Party to play on white southerners' racial fears in the wake of the Civil Rights movement, in hopes of flipping a historically Democrat South into a new Republican stronghold. The strategy would enable both the rise of Richard Nixon with his "benign neglect" of civil rights enforcement and Ronald Reagan with his "war on drugs."

Many Nixon, Reagan and Clinton era ideologies and sentiments have continued to this day through the use of "dog-whistle" or coded phrasing, terms that allow politicians to pander to their bases without saying the underlying meaning of the term, allowing for deniability. Terms such as "law and order," "states' rights" and "super predator" are covertly racist terms that have been used by a myriad of politicians from both parties over the years.

In 1981, Lee Atwater, a former RNC chairman and advisor to Reagan, explained the Republican Party's use of dog-whistling. Atwater said that politicians could no longer use blatantly racist terminology, "so you say stuff like, 'forced busing,' 'states' rights,' and all that stuff, and you're getting so abstract. Now, you're talking about cutting taxes, and all these things you're talking about are totally economic things and a by-product of them is, blacks get hurt



Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian
worse than whites ..."

In recent years dog-whistle pandering has continued to morph, and during the Trump administration has become far less subtle. Trump has moved past the veiled racism of past dog-whistlers to instead scream the underlying messages, calling Mexicans "rapists" and "drug dealers," and white supremacists "very fine people."

Because of this, we have now reached a time where Trump's rhetoric has turned dog-whistling upside down as his supporters see him as a person who "tells it like it is" and take his words literally.

Trump's new form of dog-whistle pandering has instead created something more terrifying — a group of people who, by taking him at his word, are missing the historically underlying messages in favor of endorsing the racism at the forefront.

This sort of pandering is far more worrisome and harmful to society than Biden doing an interview with a rapper to try to gain support from younger voters.

Why "nones" are becoming numerous

An exploration into the religiously unaffiliated and why their numbers are increasing in the U.S.

Connor Brandenburg
staff writer

The rise of religious "nones" signifies the decline of religious affiliates in the United States and sparks interest in what is at the heart of this change.

Religious affiliation continues to decline in the U.S. as the number of religious "nones" increases.

Religious "nones" are individuals with no religious affiliation, and their numbers in the United States have been increasing since 2009, according to a 2019 survey from the Pew Research Center. The percentage of religious "nones" in the United States rose from 17 percent in 2009 to 26 percent in 2019. The global percentage of religious "nones" stands at 16 percent, but that number is expected to fall to 13 percent in 2060 due to the expansion of other religious groups.

The upbringing of people and their interactions with certain religions is certainly a factor in this reasoning. Statistically, three-quarters of the religious "nones" population has been raised in Christian households. Because Christianity is the majority of the religious population, the restrictive impressions of certain people often turn them away from religion entirely when they are older.

However, the religious "nones" are also among the most knowledgeable of other world religions

like Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. A Pew Research Center study shows that once a majority of these people became religiously unaffiliated, they familiarized themselves with other religions and cultures to fully explore spirituality.

In the time of the internet, with so much information easily accessible to anyone with a smartphone or a computer, being raised with certain ideals can easily be altered. As people begin to either explore their own religion or doubt their own beliefs, the internet allows them to be far more educated on the topic. Depending on whether research further strengthens their beliefs or shows them ideals they do not believe in, the internet certainly assists both resolutions.

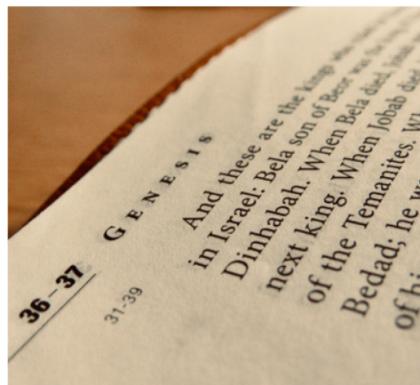
The denial of certain people because of who they are remains an integral factor of the conversation between religious "nones" and religious affiliates.

Pew Research conducted a study where religious and non-religious people were asked whether or not homosexuals should be accepted in modern society. There was a 22% difference between the non-affiliated and the affiliated, which exemplifies a major connotation of religion.

No matter if there are religious groups that don't agree with the rejection of certain people, homophobia still exists. Because of the presence of homophobia, religious organizations will always carry that connotation in today's culture.

If more churches and religious organizations were to contest homophobic or transphobic ideas, then this could lead to increases in the religiously affiliated demographic.

While the denial of the LGBTQ+ community is not an ideal shared among all religious affiliates, it



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

is still present in subsections of religions.

Depending on how people practice their religion, religion can be a major factor in choosing a political party as well. With concerns over abortion or the separation of church and state, personal religious beliefs can affect a person's political alignment.

There is nuance to the political spectrum, as people, no matter their religious background, will choose a political party that most aligns with what they want for the country.

However, statistics show that religious "nones" are more likely to lean left on political stances. With topics like abortion or the relationship between church and state, some Democratic beliefs fall outside the beliefs of certain religions. This results in most of those religiously unaffiliated aligning with the Democratic Party, and Republican beliefs more often than not align with religious affiliates.

Politics may not be the focal reason for a person's religious decision, but the dynamic between politics and religion continues to exist.

The presence of religious "nones" is not new, nor does it inherently disprove the value of spirituality, but their growth does represent a major societal change in the United States.



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