

THE JOHNSONIAN



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Rex Institute honored by Rock Hill School District



Emma Couch/The Johnsonian

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Only a few minutes away from Winthrop's campus is Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School. Winthrop's Rex Institute within the College of Education has been partnering with the elementary school since 2014 and were recently honored by the Rock Hill School District for their work with EAES.

Due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the district was unable to honor the Rex Institute in person.

"Typically, during the last week in July, we have a luncheon to celebrate all of our school partners, community partners, business partners, and organizations such as PTA and school improvement councils. Because of COVID, we were not able to do that this year," said Principal John Kirell of EAES. "This year, they did that via Zoom, so we [wrote] up what we're thankful for, and why we appreciate them and the impact that the partnership has made on our students, our staff, and school community as a whole and they were awarded a plaque."

Because of Winthrop's close proximity to the elementary school, the Rex Institute has been able to help EAES in a number of ways.

"We're just very fortunate to be right down the street from Winthrop...we're able to take our students there to do a couple of different things, because we're within walking distance," Kirell said. "We've gone to the art galleries. We've gone to some theatrical performances and some musical performances and I just appreciate how much Winthrop continues to give back not only to our school community but the community of Rock Hill as a whole. So, we are just very appreciative for what Winthrop does for our school district, our families and our kids."

According to Kirell, EAES used to be one of the smallest schools in the Rock Hill School District, but because the elementary school has added both a Montessori program and an inquiry program, EAES has become one of the largest schools in the district. So much so that

their building has not been able to accommodate events such as the fifth grade graduation.

"Ebenezer is a very small school. They wanted to honor their fifth graders, but they didn't have a large enough space to be able to invite families, so we were able to use our space at Winthrop," Lisa Johnson, senior associate to the dean and former director of the Rex Institute, said. "So, it was a very professional thing for fifth graders to be able to go to campus and walk across the stage in our auditorium and have the lights and the music and things of that nature."

Not only are students from EAES welcome on Winthrop's campus, but EAES has open-doors to Winthrop's students in the College of Education in order to give future teachers hands-on experience in the classroom as well.

"That's why that partnership is so important because we work with schools and have that benefit of being in a school," Johnson said. "Ebenezer gives us a place where we can practice what we're learning and learn from them...as a faculty member, I can go to Ebenezer and see what they're doing and integrate it with what I'm teaching teacher candidates."

"This semester, [Winthrop's teacher candidates] will be working on co-teaching with their mentors and they're really just getting prepared for their Spring internship, which is their internship right before they graduate," said Lauren Williams, a fifth grade teacher at EAES, and liaison between the Rex Institute and EAES. "We're just really thankful that we have this partnership. It always gives us a chance to get exposed to new resources for our teachers and it gets beginner teachers in the classroom earlier, which is awesome, because they get a chance to follow their passion."

Winthrop's Rex Institute was honored to be recognized for their partnership with Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School by the Rock Hill School District and are looking forward to continuing their partnership in order to help future teachers gain valuable teaching experience and in order to provide EAES students with exciting experiences on a college campus.



Develop your business with the SBDC

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Small businesses in the area can seek assistance in the form of counseling and help grow their business through the Small Business Development Center, located on the first floor of Winthrop University's Thurmond Building.

The Small Business Development Center's mission is to "advance South Carolina's Economic Development by helping entrepreneurs grow successful businesses," according to an Aug. 19 presentation by the SBDC.

The SBDC offers various services for both existing and new businesses at little-to-no cost. These services include assisting in developing business plans, counseling, workshops and financial planning.

"Whether just starting out or looking for advice on expansion possibilities, we invite you to participate in the business workshops we offer to benefit start-ups, business owners, CEOs and the companies they run," reads a message on the SBDC website.

"We do a lot of training and workshops, we work with both startup businesses and existing businesses. It's primarily free and in exchange, what we ask our clients is that we are allowed to report back to the state the economic development of what we do for them," Todd Phillips, the manager for the Rock Hill Area Center and business consultant, said.

Phillips said this includes "jobs created, business started, retained jobs...sales growth, we report loans. Any loan help that we give to people. For instance, year to date I think we've helped people achieve over \$7 million in loans across the state just for the Winthrop region."

Although it is located and operated in partnership with Winthrop University, the SBDC is actually a government agency and is part of the Small Business Administration. There are centers throughout both the state and the nation. Each SBDC serves a multi-county region. The Rock Hill Area Center, which covers Union County, Cherokee County, Chester County, Lancaster County and York County, has been operating for more than 25 years.

The SBDC also partners with professors in the College of Business for workshops and presentations.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Phillips said that the small business development center is much more involved in disaster relief and helping small businesses navigate operating through a global health crisis.

Phillips said a lot of the businesses that utilize the development center are food service related.

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Sports

Recuperating: A look into Winthrop Lacrosse

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A&C

The virtuality of it all

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Opinion

We are failing male survivors of sexual abuse

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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.

◀ SBDC from front

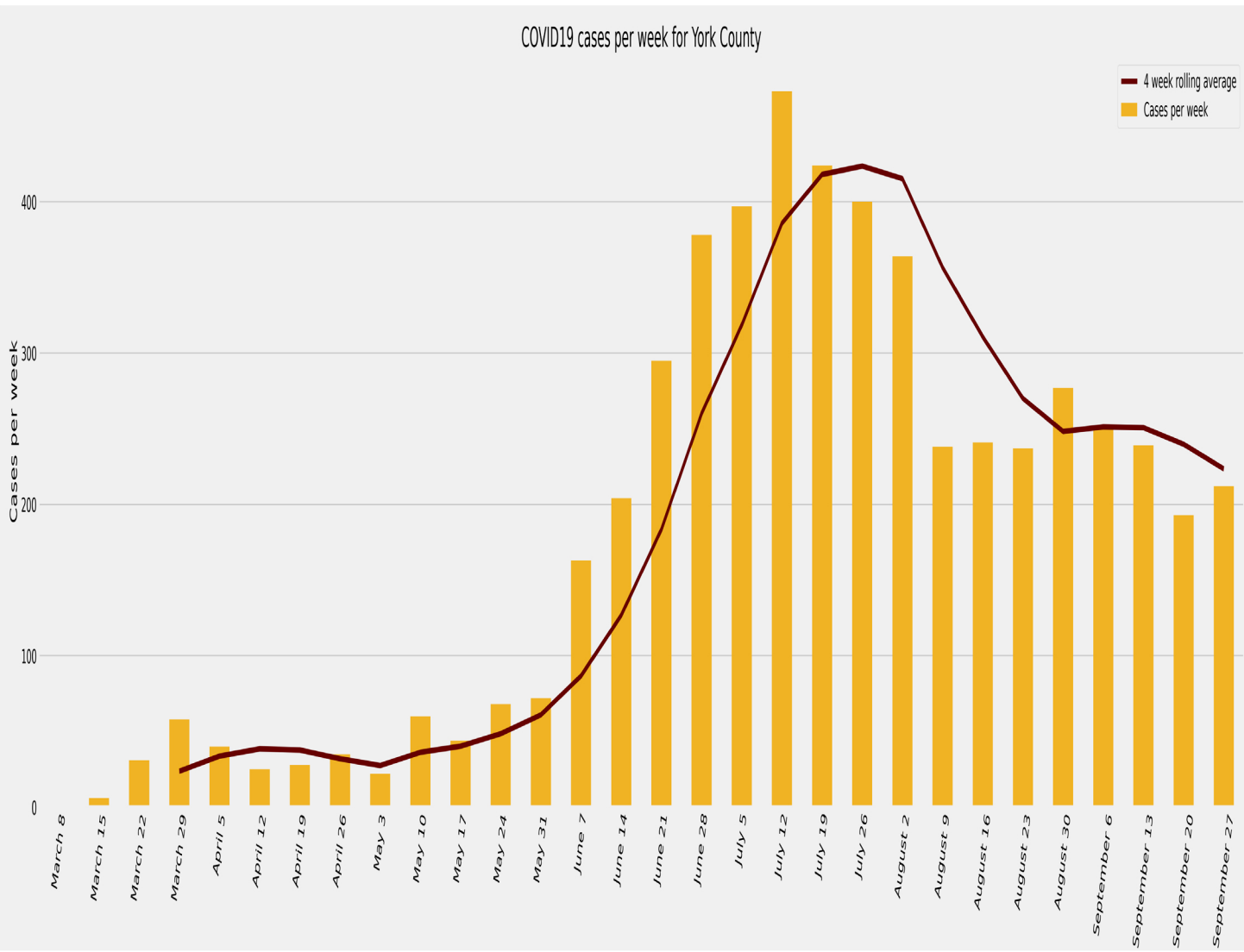
“Probably the biggest percentage of what we see are either service related or food service, like restaurants. That’s probably the biggest areas that we deal with,” Phillips said. “I think it’s well over 60 percent of what we work with.”

The SBDC is not designed to be a single-use contact for small businesses. Phillips said that the center should be seen as a resource to come back to throughout the growth of one’s business.

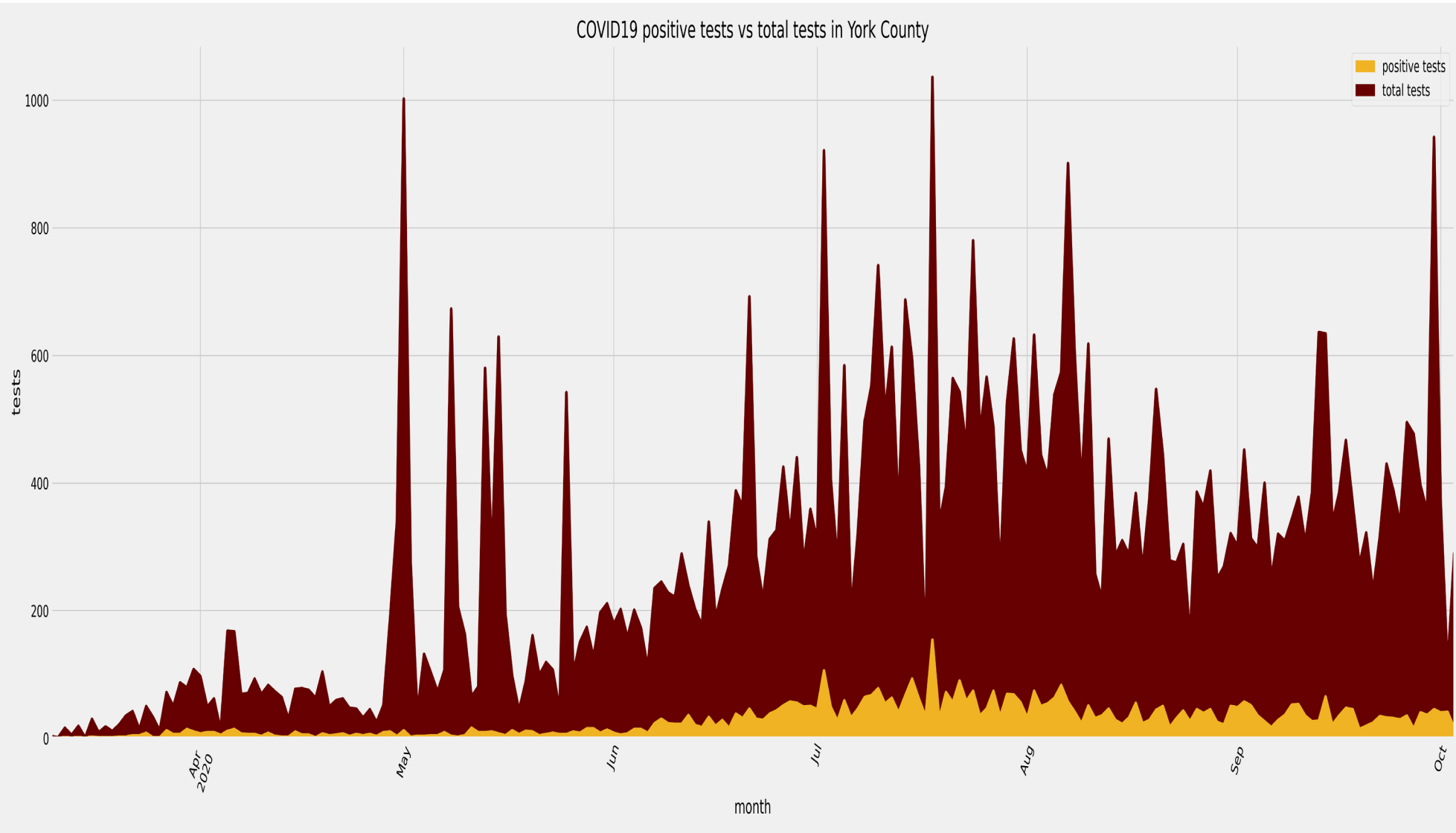
“We meet with people ongoing for as much as they want, five years or more. We desire to be with people through the life cycle of their business. It’s not show up one time, we give you some advice and off you go. Our goal is to build long term working relationships with small businesses,” Phillips said.

For more information about the Small Business Development Center, or to set up a consultation, visit their website at <https://www.winthropregionalsbdc.org> or contact via telephone at 803 323-2283.

To see more data visit our website by scanning the QR code provided



Philip Nelson/The Johnsonian



About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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

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

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Can Jaime Harrison deliver an October surprise?

Contentious debate and opposing ideology ensure a close senate race in South Carolina

Elijah Lyons
copy editor

In searing juxtaposition to the chaotic dumpster-fire that was the first presidential debate of 2020, Saturday's debate between Republican South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham and South Carolina's former democratic chairman Jaime Harrison proved that contentious debate and opposing ideology can still be paired with decorum and respect.

Live Oct. 3 from Columbia and the campus of Allen University, a prominent South Carolina HBCU, both senate candidates made use of their opening statements to ground the stakes of the upcoming election. Harrison began by warning viewers that Graham likely intends to scare voters into re-election.

"I hope, tonight, to inspire you to support me," he said.

Graham initially pushed back on Harrison's categorization of his debate strategy, but quickly managed to paint the partisan circumstances with a broad brush.

"This is a big choice election between me and Mr. Harrison: Capitalism versus Socialism. Conservative Judges versus Liberal Judges. Law and Order versus chaos," he said. "You know where I stand."

In response to a question aimed at underlining the politicization of Covid-19 and the effect that politicization has had on our ability to respond efficiently and effectively, Graham asserted that the problem "came out of China and not out of Trump Tower."

"The virus is serious but we have to move on as a nation," he added, before using the remainder of his time to air a personal grievance.

"Nobody asked me, 'How are you doing Senator Graham?' when 200 people showed up at my house and broke my window. My liberal democratic friends never mention the virus when people are roaming around the streets rioting and burning down cop cars and breaking windows."

Harrison touched on his late Grandpa Gladys, who, like many others, passed away alone in her nursing home this July. He noted that over 100,000 have been infected with Covid-19 in South Carolina and 3,000 have died.

"No, we shouldn't blame the president, we shouldn't blame anybody for the inception of this disease," he said. "Where blame should come is how we handle this disease, whether or not we take it seriously."

In response to a question regarding concerns raised by educators, parents and students about the lack of PPE and widespread testing in schools, Graham argued that "shutting the country down has an effect of its own," before posing his "worst-case scenario."

"If they [Democrats] keep the house, take over the senate and Biden is president, God help us all," he said.

Harrison acknowledged the difficulty inherent to teaching students from home, providing anecdotes about his own experiences with his children. He condemned the Senate, the White House, and the governors for their failure to act, before arguing in favor of expanded testing and a mask mandate.

"Senator Graham said 'over our dead bodies' will we allow federal extension of unemployment benefits," Harrison pointed out. "Folks need that

money, small businesses need that money."

Graham argued that he initially was in favor of the unemployment benefits, but that it became evident to him that the expansion might incentivize lower-wage workers to refuse to return to work.

"I'm for making you whole, not giving you a pay raise in unemployment," he said.

In light of the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the supreme court, the moderator asked each candidate whether a woman has a right to control her body, even on the subject of abortion.

"I believe she does. Men have rights to control their bodies and women should have equal rights to control their bodies as well," Harrison said, before pivoting to women's healthcare. He noted that South Carolina has some of the highest infant mortality rates in the nation and that two years ago 14 of our 46 counties lacked a single OBGYN.

Graham on the other hand spoke fervently against abortions taking place after five weeks, claiming that the United States is one of few developed nations that allowed such procedures to take place.

"Amy Barrett will be a buffer to liberalism," he promised.

The Trump administration has made efforts to cut payroll taxes for the remainder of 2020, and even proposed to maintain this cut permanently. Payroll taxes, imposed on both employers and employees in every paycheck, are essential to help fund social security and medicare services, and cuts such as these may heavily reduce benefits available now and in the future.

Graham claimed he'd do "whatever it takes" to save social security, even if that meant taking in less taxes and subsequently reducing the size of social security and medicare benefits.

"He [Graham] said that social security and medicare were promises that we can't keep. Senator, I'm sorry, but these are not promises. People have paid into these systems and they deserve to get the money back that they put into it," Harrison said.

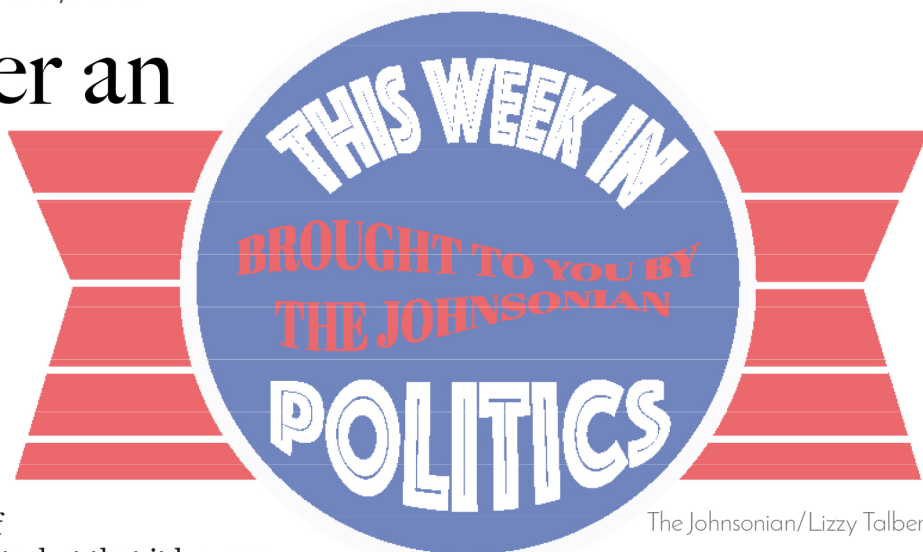
Strapped for time, the final question from the moderator about ensuring equity in education gave Harrison the opportunity to highlight the student debt crisis. He referenced the reality that both he and his wife remain saddled with student debt, and asserted that he would fight to lower tuition costs for students.

Rather than provide insight on his plans to offset the failures of the education system, Graham opted instead to rattle off a round of personal attacks on his opponent.

"Mr. Harrison, pay off your student loans so somebody else can go to school. You're a multimillionaire," Graham challenged, adding that Harrison, "cashed in on politics."

"You are worried about everybody else's paycheck but your own." Harrison shot back. He asserted that, while Graham opposed extending unemployment benefits to those affected by COVID-19, he'd personally sought to increase his own salary three times throughout his time in office.

"I appreciate the thoughtfulness, that you are so concerned about my student loans, but senator, let me tell you, I pay them on time." Harrison said.



The Johnsonian/Lizzy Talbert



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"This is a big choice election between me and Mr. Harrison: Capitalism versus Socialism. Conservative Judges versus Liberal Judges. Law and Order versus chaos...You know where I stand."

Lindsey Graham



“”

"I appreciate the thoughtfulness, that you are so concerned about my student loans, but senator, let me tell you, I pay them on time."

Jaime Harrison

Campus Safety Week

Sarah Hassler
staff writer

Various offices and departments at Winthrop University hosted a campus safety week from Sept. 21-26 in order to raise awareness and provide training on how the Winthrop community can be proactive in its safety and security measures for all students.

"The purpose of Campus Safety

Week is to highlight the importance of taking care of ourselves and those around us. Campus Safety Week informs individuals that it is our responsibility to make our campus as safe as possible," Student Body President Brandon Jackson said.

Due to the pandemic having a big impact on Winthrop's campus this year, safety week was mainly focused on protecting the student body from spreading germs and

staying healthy, whereas past years have been dedicated to various other types of safety measures.

"This year, Campus Safety Week focused on personal safety," Jackson said. "Students learned the importance of protecting themselves and others in the midst of a pandemic by washing their hands, remaining socially distant, and masking up. Students also gained further insight on the

university's COVID-19 protocol and how that will impact the student experience."

The itinerary for Campus Safety Week looked a little different this year, as it was hosted remotely rather than on campus.

On Sept. 21, a Q&A about COVID-19 was hosted on Instagram and Facebook, sponsored by the Council of Student Leaders and the Dean of Students Office. Students

▶ see [Safety](#) pg. 4

were encouraged to ask questions regarding their safety concerns.

On Sept. 22, health kits were distributed in the Digs lobby that were sponsored by the Critical Incident Management Team. The kits contained a free mask for anyone who dropped by to pick one up.

A "Mask-Up" student leader video was put out on Sept. 23 on Instagram and Facebook to encourage students to wear their masks on campus to keep themselves and others safe.

On Sept. 24, there was a panel-style lecture entitled "Harsh Reality" which talked about the racial and social justice issues that are currently prevalent in America. Topics that were covered at this lecture were police brutality, discrimination and racial injustice. Students who wanted to learn more about these topics could either attend in person or online.

Throughout the week students were encouraged to post their most original and creative masks on social media and vote for their favorites. The winners would receive a prize. If a student was caught wearing a mask during the week the student would be given a pamphlet with a QR code they could scan to enter a giveaway for the chance to win a prize.

On Sept. 25 and 26, the school offered free drive-thru COVID-19 testing at the Winthrop Coliseum from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Testing for COVID-19 is an important part of keeping the campus community safe and making sure people who are sick are not coming to school and spreading the virus.

"I would just like to say a big thank you to all Eagles doing their part to make our campus environment as safe as possible," Jackson said. "These are unusual and difficult times, but together we can make the best of the pandemic. I'm overjoyed to serve you all this year as student body president and look forward to making this a great year at Winthrop University."

RBG and the centennial of women's suffrage

Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian

Brandon-Ranallo Benavidez hosted a cultural event about the centennial of women's suffrage and the impact the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg had on women's fight for equity

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In light of the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Sept. 18, Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez, an assistant professor in Winthrop University's department of political science, hosted a cultural event on Oct. 1 about the centennial of women's suffrage and Ginsburg's life-long advocacy for gender equity.

"[Ginsburg] was the second woman ever to serve the United States Supreme Court and this presentation is given in her memory today," Ranallo-Benavidez said at the start of his presentation. "She was a strong advocate for gender equity and by that, I mean, have you ever had your own bank account? Especially if you're someone who is not a man? Have you ever been able to get a line of credit? Do you want to have a mortgage and your own name someday? Do you have autonomy to control your body the way that you would like without the government being in your bedroom or doctor's office? Thank Ruth Bader Ginsburg."

The presentation made it clear that Ginsburg had her hand in much of the fight for

equality and equity not only for women but for people of color as well as many other facets of people who are not white, straight men, who experience racism, sexism and a myriad of other kinds of unjust treatment.

"I love this quote from [Ginsburg] helping us think about gender equity. She famously said, 'When I'm asked, when will there be enough women on the Supreme Court, and I say when there are nine. People are shocked, but there have been nine men, and no one's ever raised the question about that,'" Ranallo-Benavidez said.

During the presentation, videos that presented two other famous advocates for gender equity that are following in the steps of Ginsburg were shown.

First was a video of Delegate Danica Roem from the Virginia House of Delegates, who is the first openly transgender state legislator, expressing her opinion that it was important for Virginia to be the 38th state to take the step of voting for passage of the Civil Rights Amendment.

"I know what it's like to be singled out. I know what it's like to be stigmatized because of who I am, and I

know what it's like, for so many more people, especially trans women of color in this country who have it so much worse. We talk about the pay gap, we talk about pay equity...we're often told 'you're just lucky to have a job,'" Roem said in the video.

The second video that was shown was of the speech Oprah Winfrey gave at the 2018 Golden Globes about the Me Too Movement.

"I want all the girls watching here and now to know that a new day is on the horizon. And when that new day finally dawns, it will be because of a lot of magnificent women, many of whom are right here in this room tonight, and some pretty phenomenal men fighting hard to make sure that they become the leaders who take us to the time when nobody ever has to say 'me too' again," Winfrey said in the video.

Each part of the presentation given by Ranallo-Benavidez was moving and served as a reminder of the legacy Ginsburg leaves behind.

"It was interesting to me, that the one providing the lecture was a man, however, I will say that he handled it very, very well and I did appreciate the fact that there

was a cis white male, using his privilege and using his voice to empower and lift up women, minorities, people of color, and the LGBTQ community. I definitely feel like he handled it with elegance and with grace," Paige Martinez, a junior theater performance major, said.

"RBG was such a powerful woman, like such a powerful woman, so inspiring. And literally, her entire life was dedicated for not even just women's rights, but human rights overall," Susana Atuncar, a junior international business and Spanish major, said. "Seeing the cultural event today, it was very eye-opening...I got chills for both of the videos that he presented."

In order to keep celebrating Ginsburg's memory and the centennial of women's suffrage, more cultural events will be held such as Black Women and the Suffrage Movement with Jennifer-Dixon McKnight on Oct. 8 at 11 a.m. via Zoom, Hard Won, Not Done: Suffrage History in the U.S. with Karen Kedrowski on Oct. 27 at 11 a.m. via Zoom and "The Divine Order" Film & Discussion with Jennifer Disney on Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. at Dina's Place.

Winthrop College Democrats

An election year, the Winthrop College Democrats are especially active this semester

Chase Duncan
staff writer

The 2020 United States presidential election is only weeks away, and once again our country's citizens are being placed in the position of deciding which candidate they should elect as the leader of the United States for the next four years. In preparation for this monumental date, the Winthrop University College Democrats are doing their part to encourage Winthrop students to vote and spread awareness about the Democratic party.

"Voting is how you express your views in a way that's legally binding," John Holder, the organization's faculty advisor, said. "It makes you part of your community and part of the decision-making process. Younger voters are less likely to vote than members of any other age group, so the issues that concern your generation aren't going to get addressed unless people like Winthrop students show up and get involved."

This semester the Winthrop College Democrats are meeting every other Friday through the Zoom application at 11 a.m., with the meeting password available to the public through the group's Instagram account.

Members of the organization and first-time attendees discuss potential ideas to spread voting and political awareness, as well as develop social media strategies and giveaways to encourage voter participation.

"This year we've had a slow start because of the COVID pandemic," Nyssa Hemingway, president of the Winthrop College Democrats and junior political science major, said. "However, we're still doing our best to stay active on campus. Right now we're planning debate watch parties for these next three debates. We're also working to potentially partner with voting ambassadors to talk to students about the importance of voting and how to do mail-in ballots, since that's such an important

option for this election."

The group also provides students with opportunities to volunteer in aiding local Democratic candidate campaign efforts and internships. The internship program, which is directed by Holder, gives aspiring political science majors and passionate Democratic party members the chance to gain experience in the political work environment, as well as opportunities to receive additional academic credit.

"Students who work for a campaign or a party or a government agency or a law firm can get one hour of academic credit for each 50 hours of work, up to three hours of credit for 150 hours of work," Holder said. "You also write me a weekly journal and reflection paper at the end of the grading period. I help place people with internship employers, or you can make your own arrangements."

"Volunteering on



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

campaigns really opened my eyes to the adversity that people face," Erin Emiroglu, the president of College Democrats for South Carolina and junior political science major, said. "I knew that these problems exist and that's why I chose to align with the Democratic party, because their values are about helping these groups, but when you talk directly with the constituents, it gives you a whole new perspective and understanding of the challenges that communities face. This pushes me even more to work hard to get Democrats up and down the ballot."

Students who are interested in reaching out to the Winthrop College Democrats can contact them through their email at collegedemocrats@mailbox.winthrop.edu or through their Instagram account @ [wu_democrats](https://www.instagram.com/wu_democrats).

Bugs, bugs and more bugs

Paula Mitchell, a retired Winthrop professor, won an award from the South Carolina Entomological Society

Chase Duncan
staff writer

Every three years, awards committee members from the South Carolina Entomological Society select an esteemed entomologist to receive the coveted Cochran Award for Excellence. Former Winthrop zoology professor and passionate entomologist Paula Mitchell was selected as this year's recipient of the decoration for her decades-long contributions and research towards the study of insects.

"I was delighted, it was such a tremendous honor. But, truly, it only happened because of my students," Mitchell said. "We published a lot in the society's journal. Whenever my students had enough data to publish, that's where we'd put it. Over the years, we have had four papers published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Urban Entomology*, published by the society. I attribute a lot of my achievements to the work I have done with my students."

Mitchell became a member of the Winthrop faculty in 1993 and primarily taught zoology courses, alongside general education courses in science and other biology-related classes. She joined the S.C. Entomological Society soon after joining Winthrop's faculty and served on the organization's executive board for many years. She served as the society's first female president in 2001, proudly describing the experience as the "only glass ceiling I've ever broken."

Mitchell retired from her position as a professor in 2018 and currently serves as the part-time biology museum collections manager for the university, as well as an adjunct faculty member for Clemson University's Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences. During her tenure, some of her favorite courses to teach included BIOL 304 (Insect Field Studies) and what is now BIOL 314 (Animal-Plant Interactions), which was previously BIOL 404.

"I actually started off as a herpetologist, which is someone who studies lizards, turtles, snakes, etc," Mitchell said. "I wanted to know why lizards eat what they do; why they choose certain insects to eat over others. When people studied lizards back then, the way to do lizard ecology was to go out with a gun and shoot the lizard to cut it open and see what its gut contents were. It just wasn't right for me."

Noticing her uncertainty, an older colleague of Mitchell's advised her to decide what interested her more in her studies: the animal she was researching or the scientific question she was trying to answer. One night, the pensive researcher found herself wandering the field station when she happened upon a feeding, unsuspecting stink bug.

"I figured I needed something easier to research and capture than a lizard, as well as something that I could tell what it was eating without killing it. Since then, I've been researching stink bugs and other insects ever since," Mitchell said.

Mitchell considers her most important scientific contribution to entomology to be her utilization and further development of the electrical penetration graph, an entomological method that uses low-level substrate voltage to detect the conductivity of substances within leaves and other plant material. The system enables computers and graphs to pinpoint which substances are being digested by smaller insects that feed through an elongated tube called a proboscis, which doesn't leave the same definable traces of consumption that the jaws of a caterpillar might.

Mitchell's research, alongside that of her students, focused on expanding the method's capabilities to enable analysis of larger insects that feed through a proboscis, such as stink bugs and other snout-mouthed critters. By



Photo Courtesy to Winthrop University

identifying which particular substances a given species of insect digests, scientists and farmers are better able to apply pesticides to specific attributes of the plant to minimize damage to other organisms in the environment.

Despite her significant scientific contributions to entomology, Mitchell considers her greatest achievement in the field to be the positive influence she's been able to have on students through her instruction.

"It's being able to convince generations of Winthrop biology majors that there is more to animals than vertebrates; being able to get students interested in insects and worms," Mitchell said. "If students have any bugs they need to have identified, I'm still here working as the university's part-time biology museum collections manager."



TECH TIP OF THE WEEK

The newest iOS 14.0.1 iPhone update has features that make navigating your phone easier. The new update includes pinning conversations and an App Library.



WE ARE HIRING!



Science and Tech Editor

For more information contact Savannah Scott.

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October 7, 2020

Recuperating

Lily Fremed
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When students went home on March 13 for spring break, nobody expected to spend the rest of their semester off campus, especially not athletes, who still had numerous games scheduled. The lacrosse team was one of several spring season teams that had more than half its games cancelled.

Team Captains Sara McGuire and Bianca Tedesco were “devastated” upon hearing the news that the remainder of their spring 2020 season was cancelled. Both players suffered injuries the season prior and having only played seven games, they felt there was “a lot of unfinished business.”

“I put the situation into perspective and knew that there were a lot worse things going on in our country than our lacrosse season being cut short and needed to be grateful for my health, team and family,” McGuire, a Sport Management major minoring in Coaching and Legal Studies, said.

Both McGuire and Tedesco said they spent their time at home working out and exploring new hobbies like baking and reading. Back home in south Florida, Tedesco thoroughly enjoyed keeping herself busy while living next to the beach.

“I was able to spend a lot of time with my brothers and my parents that I wouldn’t have normally gotten if I was at school,” Tedesco, a Human Nutrition major Coaching minor, said.

Although heartbreaking, the unexpected ending to the lacrosse season allowed the team (which had no seniors) to recuperate and better prepare for the 2021 season.

“We had a very tough start in 2020 and were very low in number and injury stricken and struggled to merely field a healthy team,” Head Coach Julika Blankenship said. “We were a very young team playing primarily freshmen and sophomores.”

In 2016, Blankenship was introduced as the second head lacrosse coach in Winthrop history. Beginning her journey as a DI assistant coach, Blankenship has since “climbed the ladder,” serving as a DIII assistant, DIII head coach, DII head coach, and finally her current position as DI head coach.

“Winthrop had a solid reputation as a successful new program and since then many more new programs have been added in the South which we compete with constantly. I love the new growth of lacrosse in the Carolinas,” Blankenship said.

This season’s roster of 38 players remains a very young team as it includes 17 freshmen.

“During the recruiting process, we look for players with a specific skill set [and] players that have a large growth

curve and visibly have far from reached their best level of play. We also look for players that we know will excel under my coaching style,” Blankenship said.

Emmie Foxall, a freshman exercise science major from Wilmington, NC, is one of the new midfielders and defenders for the Eagles.

“I chose to play at Winthrop because I loved the campus and its size, and I also loved the family atmosphere from the team and the coaches are amazing,” Foxall said.

Like Foxall, freshman Katie Witmer is a midfielder from Wilmington. As an undeclared student, Witmer is taking a variety of classes to find the perfect major, and in the meantime is “looking forward to competing at the highest level of lacrosse.”

Interior design major Grayson McKenzie is a freshman from Queenstown, a tiny town located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

“One of the main factors regarding my decision to play lacrosse at Winthrop was Coach Blankenship. I love her coaching mentality as well as the personal connections she makes with each of her players. Winthrop felt like home.” McKenzie said.

Having a huge roster will prove to be beneficial for this upcoming season as it will allow the team to continuously practice full-field concepts.

“We also are not forcing players to play every rep at practice which will save their bodies and prevent further injury,” Blankenship said.

Being one of seventeen incoming freshmen can be intimidating, as players are not only introduced to new friends, but also to new competition.

“I believe this will make not only myself a harder worker but the team as a whole as well,” McKenzie said.

“We compete against each other at practice but at the end of the day we are all best friends,” Foxall said.

The returning players like McGuire and Tedesco are excited to have so many freshmen on the team.

“The freshman class has been awesome thus far,” McGuire said. “They all have brought a lot of excitement and love for the game which has been great, and having so many young and healthy bodies has helped a lot in practice.”

As of now, the team is only allowed to train eight hours a week, opposed to the typical twenty hours. Of those eight hours, the team can only practice lacrosse specific skills for four hours per week.

“They know that sacrifices must be made in order to have a season and to play, which is what we all want to do. I can not say this has been easy on them or on me, but we are doing our very best,” Blankenship said.

The Eagles are preparing as if their 2021 season is not a question and keeping

themselves motivated to play in the Conference Championship.

“We know we are able to get better each day and if we settle for anything less... we are doing our program a disservice,” Blankenship said.

“My goal this season is to play every game and practice like it’s my last because I won’t get many more opportunities. I want to win and have fun doing it one last time,” Tedesco said.



Photo Courtesy to Tim Cowie

Ready to Run

Club Running becomes Winthrop’s eleventh club sport

Lily Fremed
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Winthrop is home to successful men’s and women’s cross country and track and field teams that compete at the Division I level. The programs have approximately eighty members in total and some students compete in events for both teams since each program has a separate season.

But what about the students who enjoy running in a motivating environment, but do not want the rigorous routine of a collegiate athlete? That’s where newly-chartered running club officers Ada Carpenter, Eden Crain, and Sarah Kelly Rowe come in.

“When I started at Winthrop, I was shocked that there wasn’t a running club, especially since I saw so many people running around campus. This was the inspiration for starting the club,” Ada Carpenter, a junior Early Childhood Education major, said.

Carpenter joined her high school’s cross country team in ninth grade, but not because she was excited to try running.

“My dad was the coach and he told me that I could either run or have to sit in the car and wait until practice was over since he was my ride home. I wasn’t too thrilled with the idea of running, but thought it could be a great way to get into shape for soccer, a sport I have played since kindergarten,” Carpenter said.

Although she was not instantly a fan of the sport, interacting with her teammates helped her develop a love for running. She even became team captain during her junior and senior years of high school.

Winthrop boasts over 150 clubs, including various sporting activities like skydiving and horseback riding, but until these three friends got together, there was nothing as simple as a running club.



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

“I see people running all the time,” Sarah Kelly Rowe said. “I think especially now with [COVID-19] where there’s a lot of things that are limited and inside activities are very hard to do. I think running outside is something that’s easy to do right now.”

“I think that forming a running community will really help people get more motivated and excited to run,” Eden Crain said.

Rowe and Crain, both junior Human Nutrition majors, began running around the age of 13.

“My older sister encouraged me to start running with her,” Crain said. “Before that I thought I hated running, but the more I kept doing it and saw improvements, the more I wanted to do it.”

“I took a PE and nutrition class at my homeschool co-op,” Rowe said. “It actually got me interested in running because my teacher was a marathon runner, and the nutrition course got me interested in my nutrition major.”

Rowe has now completed a half marathon herself, the longest race she has ever run.

Since this new club is strictly recreational, there will not be any required races or competitions.

“We just want to get runners together and get people interested in running and out there to destress, have fun, and enjoy running around Winthrop and Rock Hill,” Rowe said.

Despite the club being noncompetitive, the officers’ goal is to prepare all club members to run a local 5K. “It’s not required, but it is a benefit of the club during a normal semester,” Rowe said.

Additionally, the recreational theme of this club means anyone is welcome to join.

“We’re going to tailor to the members of the club. Obviously, if we have a lot of members who have not run alot before, then we will do easier workouts,” Rowe said, “whereas, if we have cross country alumni, it will be more like ‘here’s how you can improve your pace,’ different things like that.”

Since the club will be school-year-round, dues of \$20 will only be paid once a year. Those dues will pay for a t-shirt and race entry to a local race for each member, but the race remains optional. However, fees will not be due this semester, as club activities are limited because of COVID-19.

“We’re planning on doing runs together twice a week in the evening,” Rowe said.

► see Ready pg. 7

◀ Ready from pg. 6

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“We’re planning on doing runs together twice a week in the evening,” Rowe said.

Since the pandemic also restricts clubs from engaging in activities off campus, the practice course will consist of areas around the main campus, the Coliseum or Winthrop Lake once meetings begin.

“Future semesters we hope to include runs that go from Winthrop around the Rock Hill area. We may also go to different locations or trails to run as a club, but that depends on what club sports allows us to do once things open back up,” Rowe said.

The officers are hoping to gain at least fifteen members this semester. They are already speaking with some interested students, but hope to continue growing in numbers as things make their way back to normal.

As of now there are no official meeting dates, but interested students should keep an eye out for future announcements from Recreational Services or the club’s Instagram account @winthroprunningclub.

“We just want to promote physical well being as well as mental health on campus,” Rowe said.

For more information, or if you have any questions, contact Sarah Kelly Rowe at rowe3@winthrop.edu.

Eagle of the week: Laurin Uptegrove



Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian



Photos Courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

Matthew Shealy
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If you knew Laurin Uptegrove before high school, you probably knew her as a basketball player. Growing up in Springboro, OH, Uptegrove’s middle school didn’t have a soccer team, so she played for club teams instead.

“When I got to high school, nobody really knew that I could play soccer. Everyone kind of coined me as a basketball player,” she said.

Uptegrove said that making the varsity soccer team her freshman year helped her decide she wanted to focus on soccer.

Soccer isn’t all she’s talented at though. Uptegrove said she took an Advanced Placement art class both her junior and senior years of high school.

“I really wanted to be an architect, but obviously Winthrop does not have architecture, so I was kind of thinking that might be more of a grad school route,” she said. “But anyway I can do art still, I will do it.”

Uptegrove recently displayed her art skills by drawing a collage of Winthrop and Rock Hill related sites for the 2020 women’s soccer graduates. Her teammates were so impressed by her work that they encouraged her to sell prints and stickers of the drawing. She said she advertised her work on Facebook and received so many requests to buy her art that she had to create an Etsy account to keep track of the orders.

How did Uptegrove find Winthrop in the first place? Ohio is a long way away from Rock Hill, but because Uptegrove has family from Charleston, she said she wanted to come down south for college. Despite touring the campus on Christmas Eve when no one was around, she said

Winthrop immediately felt like the right fit for her.

Now entering her junior year, Uptegrove is looking for ways to contribute more to her team. While she can’t serve as a captain until her senior year, she still wants to help lead.

“I don’t want to overstep my boundary, but I love to lead by example and still be vocal,” she said. “I love to encourage other people and make the freshmen and everyone feel comfortable.”

Uptegrove became a captain as a junior for her high school team - a team that won its conference championship each of the four years she played. Now, Uptegrove is ready for Winthrop to win a conference championship of its own.

“I really think that we have the potential to be really, really good next [spring] and I think if we have some kind of Big South Tournament then we should be a one or two seed out of the regular season.”

Uptegrove said the Big South plans to begin a conference-only season on February 7. While she said

this will make for a busy year (two seasons taking place 2021), not playing this fall may be good for her.

“I had ankle surgery in February,” Uptegrove said. “I tore a ligament last season that I

kind of just kept playing through. I don’t personally think I would have been all that ready for this season.”

With extra time to make a full recovery, Uptegrove wants to make her last two seasons as great as possible.

“My soccer career is going to be done in one year, but it’s one year full of work,” she said.



Photo Courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

Winthrop Esports



Photo Courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

IVCI x UCEA Valorant Tournament Oct. 2-3

Winthrop was one of 16 teams to compete in the IVCI x UCEA Valorant Tournament. The Eagles played well enough on Friday to earn a spot in the “Top 8” bracket on Saturday. Their Saturday results were as follows.

Loss

Iowa State 13 - Winthrop 7

Win

Winthrop 2 - Titan Gaming Club 0

Loss

UT Dallas 2 - Winthrop 1

October 7, 2020

A Preview of the Women's Suffrage

Cultural Event *Professor Dr. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight gives a preview on the upcoming cultural event*

Aerial Laymon
staff writer

On Oct. 8 at 11 a.m., the third event of the Centennial of Women's Suffrage Series will take place on Zoom. This event focuses on Black women and the Suffrage Movement and will be presented by Winthrop University history professor Jennifer Dixon-McKnight.

"Part of the purpose of the event is to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of women getting the right to vote and to talk about Black women's suffrage," McKnight said. She wants to "shed light" on the "very distinct" experiences of "Black women and the suffrage movement."

During the event, McKnight plans to have a PowerPoint presentation that people will be able to view while she is presenting. The presentation "will portray some of the preliminary histories of Black women's ability to vote and their political engagement even though they did have the right to vote before the nineteenth amendment."

The event will help inform those who want to learn more about the history of black women and the suffrage movement. The hope is that this event will continue to enlighten people about information they may have not known.

Dixon-McKnight will also talk about Black women's work in regards to the suffrage movement. She plans to touch on how different the experience of the members of the "Black women's suffrage movement was from the white women's suffrage movement and that it was often that white women suffrage organizations barred black women from being a part of them." She will also explain "their experience with getting the right to vote and the struggle for the right to vote and how they were both fighting against the issue with gender and the issue associated with their race."

The presentation will include information about the aftermath of the nineteenth amendment and "the way Black women continue

to struggle even though the nineteenth amendment had been realized it did not play out for Black women as easily as they hoped it would."

McKnight said that she will talk about how "their political engagement was not accepted and how they struggled to find a placed politically even after the nineteenth amendment"

This cultural event is only one of the events Dixon-McKnight has done.

"I teach on the African American experience, that is my specialty-talking about the African American experience, particularly in the twentieth century, and there will be other events."

The event will be held via Zoom

and the number of people that can attend online will be three hundred people maximum, according to McKnight. To attend the event, students must register for the Zoom event in advance. According to Winthrop's website, students can receive credit for a cultural event and are required to "join the video session on time and enable their web cameras during the event." Any student can attend this event to learn more information about Black women and the suffrage movement. Be sure to register before the event fills up if you're interested!



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

things might fall off shelves when no one's there...we'll all look at each other and laugh and say "it was probably Caroline."

So, Caroline is a welcomed guest in Johnson Hall.

"It's a mutual respect. This was her space before it was our space and she's still watching over it, making sure we're all okay," O'Reilly said.

Not only is she welcomed, but she's celebrated. Every year, Alpha Psi Omega, the department's theatre honor society, hosts an event called the Caroline Awards. O'Reilly, who is also the current vice president of the organization, said "The Caroline Awards...are like our department's Tony Awards...making sure that all of the talent that is present in our department gets recognized." Edge said that this night was originally started as a fundraiser for cancer research, memorializing the beloved professor and her fight against the disease.

While Caroline is a famous name in Johnson Hall, she might

not be the only ghost paying the department a visit. Edge said that he has heard stories of another ghost that appears to be "a man in a suit or a top hat... from much earlier on in Johnson history."

Edge says that many of his students come to him saying that they saw this mysterious man with a top hat on the spiral staircase that is backstage in the Johnson mainstage. He said that this "is only interesting because that [staircase]...wasn't part of the original building." Edge said the staircase was built in 1994, the very same year that Caroline Crawford died of cancer.

So who is it that haunts Johnson Hall? While Caroline is the notorious name that accompanies strange happenings around the building, she may have a friend that very few people know about. Or it could all just be one big ghost story.

Winthrop ghost stories: Johnson Hall

There's a permanent audience member in Johnson Hall. Maybe two

Chloe Wright
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There's a ghost in Johnson Hall! But don't worry, she's friendly. Her name is Caroline, named after Caroline Crawford, who was a beloved professor in Winthrop's theatre and dance department.

Crawford was involved in countless productions and taught many classes in her time at Winthrop University. However, according to Winthrop assistant professor of theatre and dance Robert "Biff" Edge, she either left the department or passed away from cancer in 1994.

While many people in the department today never got the chance to meet Crawford, her legacy lives on and her ghost often likes to make its presence known.

Hannah Baird, a senior theatre performance major at Winthrop, said her first time seeing Caroline's

ghostly shenanigans came after a rehearsal for "Dog Sees God" in 2018. She was lingering backstage with the stage manager of the show when all of the stage lights suddenly turned on. Naturally, Baird said she was startled at her first encounter, but is now very familiar with the ghost and helps to share the story of Caroline with the new class of freshmen every year. Shane O'Reilly, a senior theatre education major at Winthrop, also recalled a time when Caroline appeared during a rehearsal for Winthrop's production of "In the Red and Brown Water" in 2019. O'Reilly said he and two other students were sitting in the audience of the mainstage theater when they heard what sounded like "people dropping screws on the floor" of the catwalk above their heads. Even adjunct professor of theatre and dance Cher Lambeth said, "there will be times where we're working in the shop and perhaps



Kaily Paddle/The Johnsonian

The virtuality of it all

Emily Curry
staff writer

The outbreak of COVID-19 has changed almost every aspect of our lives. From our work to our school, to how we shop and where we eat, but few industries have been impacted as hard as the world of theatre. In a matter of days, shows all around the world were forced to close, and hundreds of actors, technicians and managers found themselves out of work. But now, as we try to return to a somewhat normal way of living, theaters are finding new ways to put on shows, and Winthrop University's drama department is no exception.

This season, directors have turned to virtual rehearsals and virtual shows in order to continue presenting theatrical art. "The Women of Lockerbie" was a virtual process from start to finish. According to its director Wren Brooke, a junior theatre major, this was out of concern for both the audience and cast members.

"I took it upon myself to make my production entirely virtual... there was absolutely no expectation to do any work together in person," they said. This meant having virtual auditions, virtual rehearsals, and ultimately, filming the play.

However, this by no means made this production a movie rather than a play. Brooke said "we're calling it pre-recorded virtual theater," and that throughout the entire process, the cast was dedicated to "retaining that creative process."

"The Women of Lockerbie" cast member Ally Baumgartner, a junior theatre performance major, explained how the virtuality of it all didn't necessarily hinder the process, and, in some cases, even made it a better experience. She said, "I preferred the virtual auditions...it kind of took away a little bit from the nerves...you didn't have to think about who was going before you or who is going after."

Additionally, she spoke about

her hope for the future of theater in the situation created by COVID-19, "it's kind of like a new frontier of what theater can be, will be. If this is the new normal I'm not upset."

The upcoming production of Rossum's *Universal Robots* has been somewhat less virtual, with more rehearsals in the theater. Cody Bloomer, a senior theatre education major and one of the cast members, explained that during their rehearsals, "we're onstage but we're all separated in our different pods in front of computer screens, so we're all socially distanced but in the same space."

The director of this production, professor Christopher Brown, also spoke of how some members of the cast were comfortable with interacting more physically because "Several of the actors in the cast live together or are already in social groups where they see each other, so they're already kind of exposed to each other." The cast of this show intends to live-stream their performances in order to give audiences, in the words of Brown, "as close to a theatrical experience as we could."

However, while technology has proven to be their biggest ally, it may also be their downfall. According to everyone interviewed, the unpredictability of technology has been a great complication. WiFi can be spotty, especially on a college campus with thousands of students trying to access it all at once.

Baumgartner explained that "acting is reacting...so when you're waiting for somebody to say their line, and if a mic cuts out or if it's just taking a second for the other person to hear the line, there's just that small second of dead space that really it's a make or break situation sometimes."

But overcoming these issues can contribute to the sense of community that theater can build. Bloomer said, "It's always been a very supportive environment because as weird and as frustrating as online things can be sometimes, we're all struggling together

and we're all working through it together."

Winthrop's College of Visual and Performing Arts is proud to present Rossum's "Universal Robots" this week, with shows on Oct. 8-10 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets are now available at www.Tix4U.com/event-details/40371.



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

October isn't just for Halloween

How LGBTQ+ History Month came to be and how to celebrate it



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

Allison Reynolds
staff writer

When people think of the month October, they almost always think first of Halloween. However, there is more to the spooky month than just tricks and treats.

October is also LGBTQ+ History Month! LGBTQ+ History Month was founded in October 1994 by Rodney Wilson. Wilson was a high school teacher in Missouri and the first openly gay public school teacher in his state. He chose October because the first and second LGBT Marches on Washington occurred in October of 1979 and 1987 respectively.

One very important day in LGBTQ+ month is National Coming Out Day, which is celebrated on Oct. 11. On this day in recent years, many individuals have taken to posting on Twitter and other social media platforms to announce their sexuality to the world. Others choose to privately "come out of the closet" to those closest to them.

One way people can celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month is by researching some famous/historical members of the LGBTQ+ community. Some suspected historical LGBTQ+ community members were Alexander The Great (bisexual), Leonardo Da Vinci (gay), Marsha P. Johnson (transgender), Frida Kahlo (bisexual), Michelangelo (gay), Harvey Milk (gay), Florence Nightingale (lesbian), Eleanor Roosevelt (bisexual), and Oscar Wilde (bisexual).

There's also some amazing LGBTQ+ musicians to research, such as Josephine Baker (bisexual), classical composer Leonard Bernstein (gay), David Bowie (bisexual), Tracy Chapman (lesbian), Lady Gaga (bisexual), Mick Jagger (bisexual), Elton John (gay) and Freddie Mercury (bisexual).

There are also actors and actresses that are a part of the

LGBTQ+ community, such as Laverne Cox (transgender), Ian McKellen (gay), and famous drag queen RuPaul (gay). People could even do research on former presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg, who is gay, or designer Gianni Versace, who is also gay.

Sophomore sociology major Kiri Ashley said, "LGBTQ+ History Month was never really something I thought about because it was never talked about at my high school." Ashley also said, "it was comforting to know that LGBTQ+ History Month was an actual thing and people cared."

Senior sociology major Alex Fleming said, "LGBTQ+ History Month is an opportunity to learn about the people who protested and fought for our rights and did everything leading up to today so that we could be where we are now." When asked about incorporating the month into schools, Fleming said, "I think that would be very important especially in middle school and high school because that's when a lot of people are coming into who they are. If they are questioning their sexuality, having that information available to them would really help that process along because they would know about it and know that it's okay." Fleming said that she celebrates LGBTQ+ History Month by watching documentaries and reading articles to educate herself.

While Halloween overshadows LGBTQ+ history during the month of October, many people believe LGBTQ+ history should still be discussed and celebrated. To celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month this year, try researching Marsha P. Johnson, a prominent figure in the Stonewall uprising of 1969, or Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in the history of California.



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

October 7, 2020

Liberty and justice: but not for all

Winthrop students' reactions to the indictment of one of the officers who murdered Breonna Taylor



Photo Courtesy of Breonna Taylor's Family

Allison Reynolds
staff writer

Imagine having a violent crime occur to a family member and not receiving justice.

That's exactly what happened to the family of 26-year-old Breonna Taylor. On the morning of March 13, in Louisville, Kentucky, three cops went to the home where Taylor and her boyfriend Kenneth Walker were sleeping. Walker believed that there was an intruder in the house, so he fired a warning shot.

The three officers by the names of Brett Hankison, John Mattingly and Myles Cosgrove, fired 32 shots into the home. Six of the shots struck Taylor, killing her instantly. Normally when a murder is committed and the murderer is known, they are arrested. Not in this case.

Hankison was fired on June 23 for firing blindly into the home, but not for committing murder. On Sept. 23, Hankison was indicted for three counts of endangerment concerning the neighbors, yet no action was taken against Hankison for the killing of Taylor. The other two officers, Mattingly and Cosgrove, have not received any type of punishment in relation to the murder.

Because Taylor was murdered in March of this year and has yet to receive justice, protests have been sparked across the nation. Cities such as Houston (TX), Florence (SC), Hollywood (CA), Louisville (KY), and Columbia (SC) have been home to such protests.

Two Winthrop freshmen, psychology major Penelope Williams and biology major Stefani Cabusora, attended a protest on Saturday, Sept. 26.

"I support the Black Lives Matter movement and I want justice for Breonna Taylor," Cabusora said. "It's in the Constitution, we as Americans have the right to protest."

Everyone has a reason for why they protest and support the Black Lives Matter movement. Some reasons are more personal than others, however.

"I felt like I needed to go out and do something," Williams said. "We're supposed to be treated equally and obviously we're not, so somebody has to stand up."

Many people that are protesting believe that it is not fair that Hankison is getting off scot-free. These people also believe that he is only getting off scot-free because of him being a police officer.

"[Hankinson] did a very awful crime that anyone else would have been sentenced many, many years for. It doesn't make sense that he got off easy," Williams said.

The murder of Breonna Taylor resurfaced the BLM movement and is something unlike anything America has ever seen.

"The Breonna Taylor case is very eye-opening. You don't see how bad it is in your everyday life," Williams said.

"I feel angry about it because [Hankison] deserves to go to jail for what he did," Cabusora said. "The BLM movement is important to me because there are still a lot of injustices going and everyone deserves equality."

Breonna Taylor was murdered by three cops in March of this year. Six months later, still, we have yet to see any justice. She, as an American, was promised liberty and justice, and she has yet to receive it.



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian

Services, said.

Baldwin also discussed the risk of having an ESA around roommates and others.

"What if the animal is disruptive? What if it were to bite someone? That could be traumatic and cause more stress," Baldwin said.

Just like any pet, having an emotional support animal at college is a huge responsibility, and not for everyone. But those who are a good match and have the proper documentation to submit a request for an ESA are likely to benefit from the comfort and joy that animals often bring to us as humans.

The importance of Emotional Support Animals

How much of a difference ESAs make for students suffering from anxiety disorders

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Prior to the pandemic, the rate of emotional support animals needed for students struggling with anxiety and depression was already increasing, but now they are more important than ever.

Between managing remote classes, staying on top of assignment deadlines and trying to avoid catching COVID-19, life as a college student right now is extremely stressful, not to mention past traumas, disorders and disabilities that so many already face every day.

Animals seem to have a sixth sense about them that drives them to comfort their owner during times in need, which brings comfort and peace. For students who are diagnosed with anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and other disorders or disabilities, Emotional Support Animals play a vital role in their academic journey.

Beverly D. Holbrook, clinical supervisor at Winthrop's Health and Counseling Services, shared her experience and knowledge on ESAs.

"Through the years, I have had many clients who have had ESAs. I would say that the vast majority of them have not only benefited from having an ESA but have thrived

because of them," Holbrook said.

Some students who do not need an ESA may think that special privileges are given, however, those who have them on campus have not only gone through the proper requirements but indeed have legitimate needs and recommendations from therapists.

On the Winthrop website, clear policy and guidelines are set for ESAs.

"The university recognizes the importance of emotional support animals to students with disabilities and has an established policy unique to this category of animals," the website reads.

An Emotional Support Animal Disability Verification Form must be completed by the student's licensed counselor, as well as their roommates agreeing to live with the ESA.

"ESAs often have a very positive impact on clients who experience anxiety and depression," Holbrook said. "That is why many people diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder benefit from an emotional support animal. The ESA often provides unconditional regard for a person who is hurting."

Only in recent years have universities been made aware of this need for ESAs, but many are now embracing the idea and adopting more ways of using them to help students. Many universities now

even have therapy dogs or other animals, such as Emory University and Oklahoma State University. While not everyone must have or are approved for an ESA living on campus, therapy animals make a very positive impact.

Some benefits the Animal Health Foundation lists when it comes to having a pet include, getting more physical activity, less stress (due to their calming effect) and even low blood sugar detection by dogs who have been trained to smell the change and alert their owners.

In general, animals can help brighten the day, regardless of whether or not their owners must depend on an ESA or not. For students who are commuters and are able to have a pet, it may not be a bad idea, especially while so much of our social lives have been put on hold when it comes to parties and events due to COVID-19.

However, having a pet requires a lot of attention and responsibility. In particular, there are many risks involved in having an ESA at college.

"I love animals just as much as other people but I also realize not everybody needs an animal because sometimes it's a danger to the animal if they are neglected due to the person being unable to properly care for them," Dr. Gretchen Baldwin, a licensed psychologist and clinical coordinator for Winthrop's Counseling

We are failing male survivors

of sexual abuse

Examining some of the reasons why male survivors are not getting the support they need

***Content warning: This article deals with child sexual abuse and may be disturbing to some readers.**

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While it should go without saying, the sexual abuse of children is a major problem and has been for many years. This problem is one that society tends to handle poorly in general, and this is especially evident in how boys who have been sexually abused are treated.

To put it simply, society has completely failed boys and men who are survivors of sexual abuse.

Sexual abuse/assault of males is often used in media as an attempt at humor. The TV show “Shameless” portrayed the sexual assault of main character Frank Gallagher as something to be laughed at. Flippant remarks about prison rape punctuate TV shows like “Law & Order: SVU” and movies like “Deja Vu.”

Derisive comments about getting molested by an unnamed uncle are often lobbed at men who exhibit behavior that may appear outside of the norm. The replies and comments to news stories about female teachers who are arrested for allegedly raping their male students are often peppered with questions like “where was she when I was in school?”

1in6, an organization that provides resources and support to male survivors of sexual abuse, cites studies and research on their website which show that sexual abuse is shockingly common among boys.

“Researchers have found that at least 1 in 6 men have experienced sexual abuse or assault, whether in childhood or as adults. And this is probably a low estimate, since it doesn’t include non contact experiences, which can also have lasting negative effects,” according to 1in6’s website.

Living Well, an Australian organization that provides resources and support to male sexual abuse survivors, reported on their website that research has shown that “[o]ver 30 [percent] of confirmed reports of child sexual abuse involve male victims.”

A study published on the National Center for Biotechnology Information website cited data from the CDC that supports the 1 in 6 claim. According to the study, “[w]hile estimates vary widely, it is likely that around 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 6 boys are victimized prior to age 18.”

The aforementioned widely varying estimates are most likely due to low and/or inconsistent rates of disclosure. Defend Innocence cited a study on their website which shows “only 25 [percent] of boys who were sexually abused disclosed when they were still a child. Even further, male survivors of sexual abuse waited an average of 21 years after the abuse occurred to tell anyone and waited an average of 28 years to have an ‘in-depth discussion.’”

According to Living Well’s website, there is evidence which indicates that “[b]oys are less likely than girls to disclose at the time the sexual abuse occurs” and that “[b]etween 70-90 [percent] of males who have been sexually abused report not telling anyone at the time.”

The potential effects of sexual abuse and assault are well-documented as well as being troubling

and long-lasting. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network website, sexual abuse survivors — when compared with those who were not abused — are about four times more likely to abuse drugs, about four times more likely to experience post-traumatic stress disorder as adults and about three times more likely to experience major depressive episodes in adulthood. 1in6 reported on their website that boys who were sexually abused are more likely to abuse drugs and/or alcohol, struggle with suicidal ideation/attempts, experience problems in intimate relationships and underachieve in school and work.

So what causes low disclosure rates? It is effectively impossible to say with absolute certainty, but the most likely explanation is the many harmful myths surrounding the sexual abuse of boys.

Living Well cited a study on their website which showed that about 20 percent of male survivors of sexual abuse were abused by a female. Despite the common reactions surrounding an older female abusing a boy, we should call it what it is: sexual assault. The age or perceived attractiveness of a perpetrator is irrelevant and does not diminish the damage caused by the abuse. It is troubling when those factors are callously employed to dismiss legitimate sexual abuse.

Western masculinity is closely tied to sexual conquest and this has somehow manifested into the myth that boys who were sexually abused by women are “lucky.” According to Living Well, “[t]he number of men identifying sexual abuse by a woman as a boy or young man has increased over the past few years. Ideas that men should always want sex with women and that as a young man you should feel lucky if you have sex with an older woman also make it difficult for a man to publicly name sexual assault by a woman.”

Another pervasive myth is that boys who were sexually abused will, in adulthood, go on to sexually abuse children, but the available data does not bear that out.

Living Well addressed this on their website: “There is research suggesting that boys who have been subject to sexual abuse are at higher ‘risk’ of offending later in life than boys who have not. It is important to understand what is meant by ‘higher risk.’ To say that being sexually abused is a ‘risk factor’ for later offending does not mean it ‘causes’ later offending...12 [percent] of men who were sexually abused in childhood went on to commit sexual offences. This is a significantly higher rate of sexual abuse perpetrated than by the general population of men, and is a serious concern that needs careful investigation. This is what we mean by risk factor — but it certainly doesn’t mean that men automatically go on to commit abuse. This is demonstrated by the 88 [percent] who didn’t.”

Support for survivors of sexual abuse/assault is crucial. It is imperative that the first major step towards supporting male survivors on a societal level is dispensing with the harmful and absurd myths surrounding them.

The connection between grammar and discrimination

A call for linguistic diversity and eradication of language discrimination

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

Most of us have been told or at least presented with the idea at some point in our lives that in order to be taken seriously, we must speak the right way. But who is determining what is actually considered correct?

In 1927, when anthropologist and author Zora Neale Hurston tracked down Cudjo Lewis, the only survivor living at the time who was brought to America on the last slave ship, she interviewed him with the goal of publishing a book about his experiences. Unfortunately, she was unable to publish the book because publishers wanted her to write what he said in what they deemed as the right way of speaking.

Hurston aimed to preserve his dialect by writing out the interview exactly how he spoke. If she had not done this, there would be no record of his dialect, much less an interview with him at all. It wasn’t until May of 2018 that the interviews were finally published in the book “Barracoon: The Story of the Last ‘Black Cargo,’” edited by Deborah G. Plant.

Recently this semester in Dr. Kelly Richardson’s Grammar in Theory and Practice class (ENGL 530-001), students were given a Ted Talk to watch about the issue of correctness in grammar, with the assignment of providing their thoughts in a discussion board. In the Ted Talk, a linguistics professor at the University of Kansas, Phil Duncan, shared his research and understanding about the English language and arguments people often make as to why they believe certain things are simply right or wrong when it comes to grammar.

Duncan shared the most common arguments and assumptions, such as not being able to understand what a person is saying when using double negatives and sounding out letters in words that are supposed to be silent. For the first one, he brought up the point that there are countless songs which include double negatives, “ain’t no sunshine when she’s gone,” being one of the most popular lyrics.

If songs like this are commonly sung, there is obviously no con-

fusion in understanding a double-negative sentence. For the other argument, he reveals that although silent letters may exist today, for the word “ask,” the version “axe” is in actuality “the historical version that predates ‘ask.’”

It is important to realize that, just like with Lewis’ dialect, those who are the majority often use language as a way to superiorize themselves while discriminating against those who are outside of their own culture. Although this is all too often being done today, it comes from a colonialist mindset that views other dialects and usages of words as being incorrect. This is similar to the way islanders were forced to adopt a British-sounding accent due to being invaded by Europeans, as well as how many of our founding fathers, such as Thomas Jefferson, often referred to Native Americans as “savages.”

While language discrimination is distributed widely to all races, nationalities and backgrounds, people of color are intensely pressured by society to extinguish anything about their speech, writing or voice that may be viewed as “ghetto” or “urban.” People of color should not have to feel like they need to sound white during a job interview, shopping for a car or housing, or when making phone calls whether professional or personal.

Very rarely do white people ever question country music artists’ usage of words such as, “ain’t,” “nothin’,” “no more” or any other slang phrases that are considered improper. Yet, many are accustomed to criticizing black rappers and other artists for using those same exact words.

This idea of what is “proper” grammar or the “right” way of speaking is continuing to affect society in a negative and destructive way. We are now faced with the predicament of being stuck in what is considered standard based on generations of inequality while attempting to stop language discrimination and increase linguistic diversity when it seems society is going against it.

Until we push ourselves outside of our boxes and try to find the truths that have been buried under years of biases, stereotypes and imperialism, the issue of inequality and need for equity goes on further.



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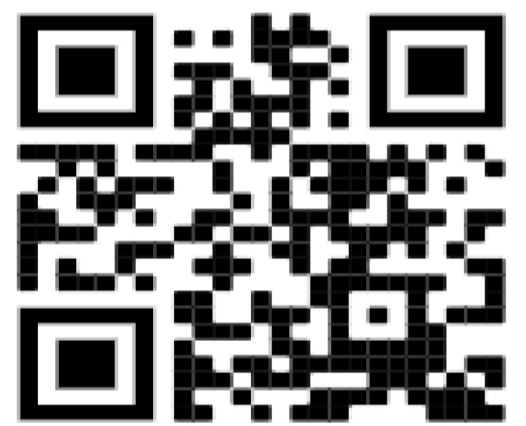
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