

# THE JOHNSONIAN



## There is potential for surveillance testing in Spring

After an expected increase in COVID-19 cases across the country during the winter months, Winthrop might partner with DHEC to perform surveillance testing on campus during the Spring 2021



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

Winthrop has partnered with DHEC to offer free COVID-19 testing at the Winthrop Coliseum on selective dates.

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According to Winthrop University's COVID-19 Dashboard displayed at winthrop.edu, as of Nov. 14, there have been four positive cases amongst students since Nov. 2, one positive case amongst employees since Nov. 2, and there have been 45 positive cumulative cases since March 16.

Due to an expected surge in COVID-19 spreading during the winter months, Winthrop is considering the decision to perform surveillance testing during the 2021 semesters.

Surveillance testing for COVID-19 would entail testing random samples of the Winthrop population at various times throughout the year in order to better monitor the spread of the virus on campus.

The decision has already been made to require COVID-19 testing for all on-campus residents next semester, but the decision to test any further has not been made.

"When they come back in the spring, we're asking the students [who live on campus] to provide proof that they have been tested and tested negative 72 hours before they arrived here on campus and we will be asking them on top of that, to kind of self-quarantine for a couple of days before they come to campus," said Winthrop's Interim President George Hynd at a board of trustees meeting on Nov. 6.

"Jackie Concodora, director of counseling services, has been working with DHEC so that as we move into the spring semester, we'll be able to do some surveillance testing which at this point in time, we have not been able to

do both because of the availability of resources financially, but also, just in terms of personnel, we think we'll be able to do that in the spring semester, so we can continue to monitor the health of faculty, staff and students on campus," Hynd said.

While some appreciate the extra security mandatory testing for on-campus residents and the potential for surveillance testing provides, others feel as though performing numerous tests could get out of hand.

"I, of course, would not be angry or upset in any way if Winthrop did decide to mandate regular testing but I, personally, think that mandating testing like that can get out of hand or can be unnecessary," said Carolina Sewell, a freshman integrated marketing communication major. "For example, I am from Texas and I have several friends that go to Baylor University in Waco, Texas and they do a lot of testing and one of my friends had to get tested three times in one week at one point and she tested negative every time. I know there are many pros to mandating testing, but I just think that since there has not been a lot of COVID at Winthrop as of now, that required testing is unnecessary."

After closely monitoring COVID-19 data across the country throughout the holiday season, Winthrop will decide whether surveillance testing is necessary.

"Testing feasibility varies greatly per institution. Winthrop is very fortunate to have a community testing site at the Coliseum five days per week through a DHEC contracted provider," Concodora said. "Administration has not made a decision about surveillance testing for spring."



## Police Blotter

A round-up of crime reports on campus, 10/31-11/11

**Sarah Hassler**  
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On Oct. 31, the reporting officer was conducting patrol at the intersection of Cherry Road and Constitution Boulevard. The officer ran a license plate on a silver Honda Accord, and it came back suspended for insurance cancellation. The officer made contact with the suspect, who stated that he had insurance but was unable to contact his insurance provider because they were closed on the weekends. The suspect was unable to provide any proof of his insurance and insurance provider. The officer then ran the suspect's driver's license, and it came back suspended as well. The suspect called a Veteran Cab to take himself and his children home. The officer cited the suspect for driving under suspension, first offense. The vehicle was towed by interstate towing, and a hold status was placed on the vehicle.

On Nov. 7, a reporting officer responded to the Courtyard at Winthrop and met with a subject in reference to damage that had been done to his passenger window. The subject explained that he arrived back at Courtyard after a game at Clemson University and had parked his car overnight. In the morning, when he went back to retrieve his vehicle, he found that the passenger side window was damaged, as if someone had attempted to break in and steal the car. The reporting officer saw where the window was pried on, but the suspect never actually made entry into the vehicle. The officer told the subject that he would document the incident with a report and check the surveillance cameras to see if they may have picked up anyone around the vehicle. Due to the cameras not showing anything, the officer determined that the incident did not happen in the Courtyard at Winthrop parking lot.

On Nov. 11, a reporting officer was conducting patrol around the lake area when he observed a grey Honda Civic that was parked on the wrong side of the road. The officer made contact with the subjects who were sitting in the vehicle. The officer told the subjects that they were parked on the wrong side of the lake area. While talking with the suspects, the officer also detected the odor of marijuana coming from the car. The officer detained both of the suspects, double locking both sets of handcuffs. Suspect #1 explained to the officer that both he and suspect #2 had been smoking marijuana before the officer arrived. The officer searched suspect #1 but did not uncover any contraband. The officer then asked suspect #2 if she would prefer to have a female officer search her, to which she responded that the officer could do it as long as he was careful. After asking her several times what she meant by "careful," the officer decided it would be best to let the suspect be searched by a female officer.

A female officer from the Rock Hill Police Department arrived and searched suspect #2. The reporting officer then searched the vehicle and discovered a smoking pipe and a grinder in the center console, as well as two small baggies of marijuana in a black jar, another grinder, pre-rolled smoking tips and a lighter in a wooden box in the back seat of the vehicle. The officer was also advised by dispatch that the vehicle decal was expired. The officer informed both suspects that they would be referred to the Dean of Students, and the officer issued suspect #1 a citation for failing to register his vehicle.



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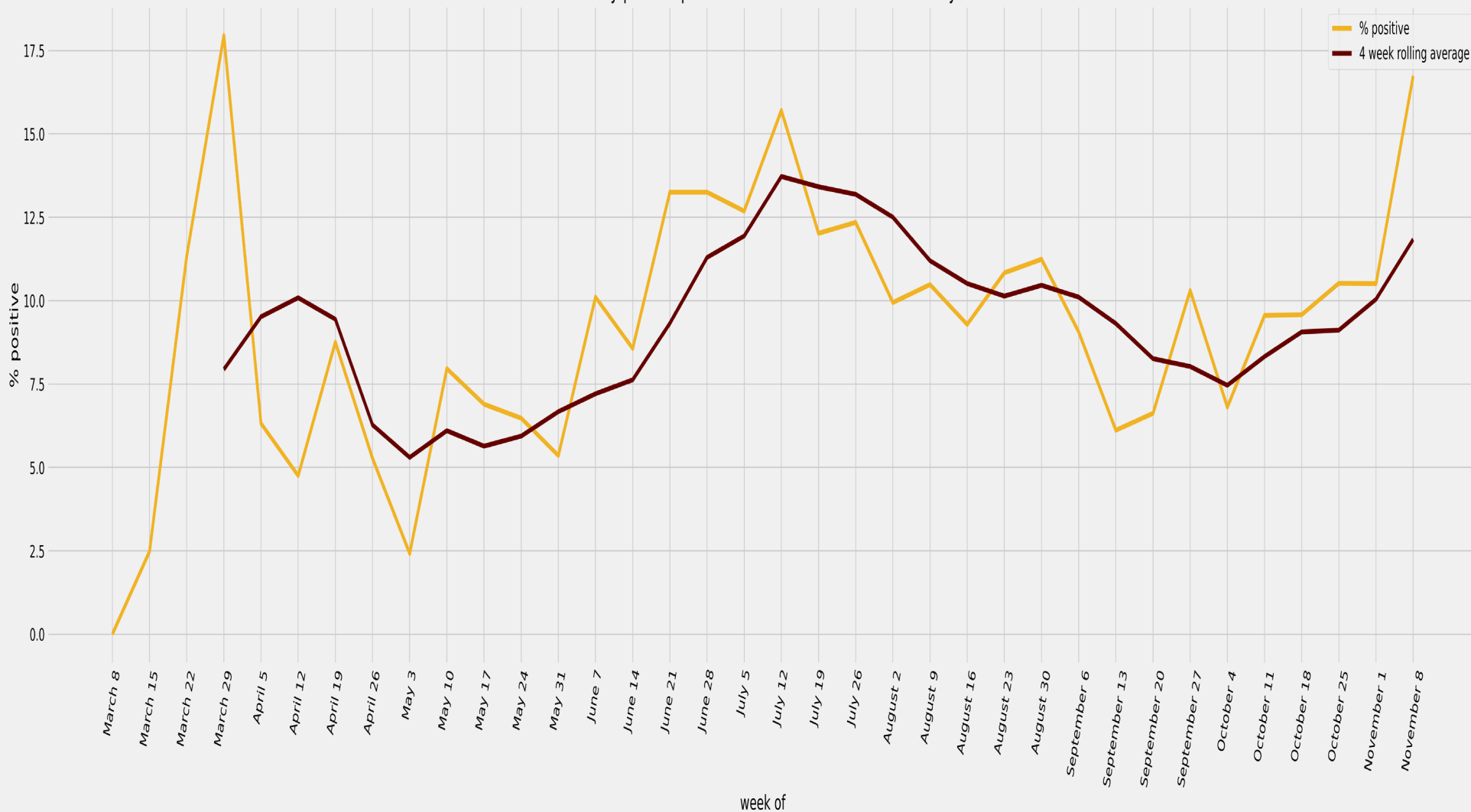
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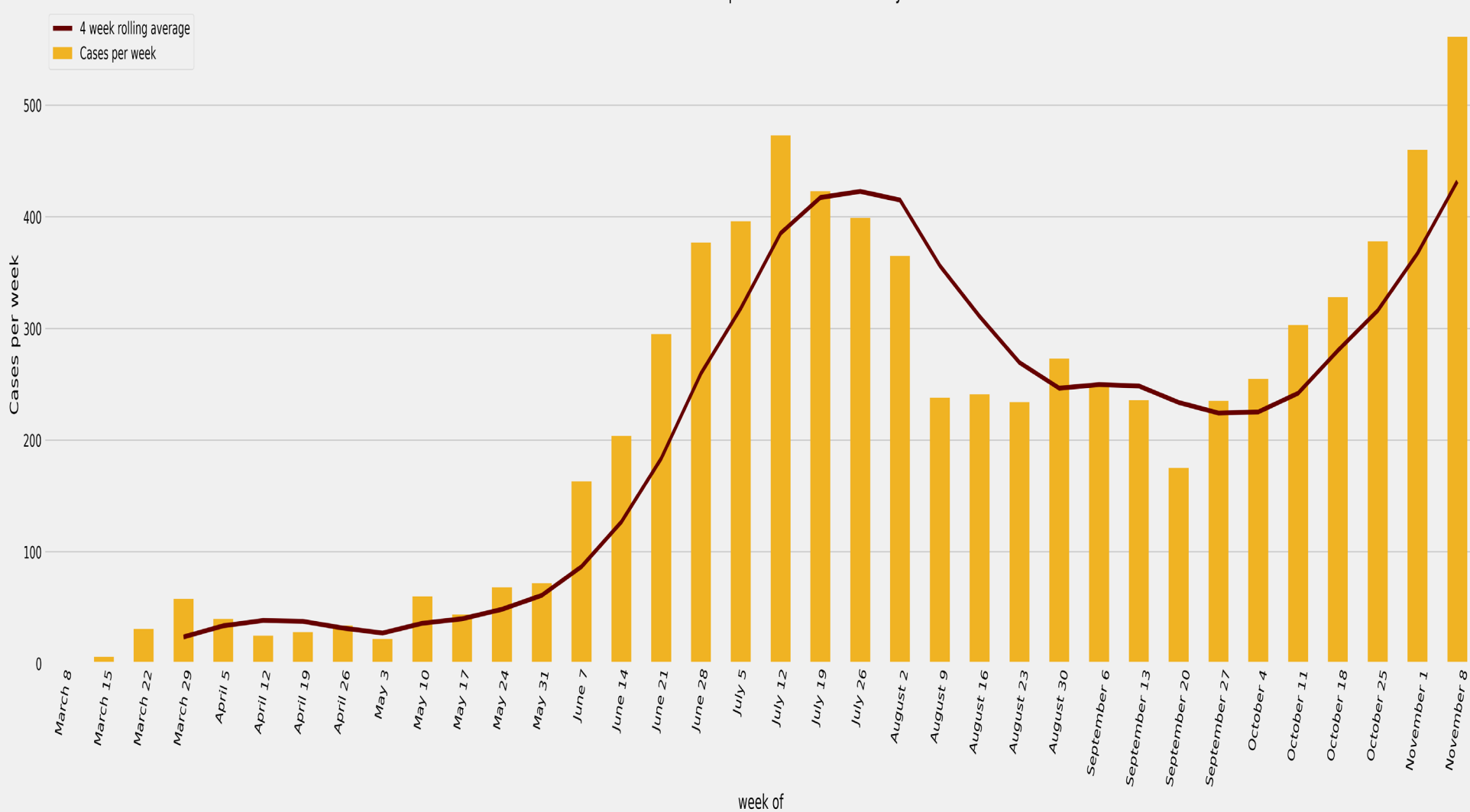
# COVID-19 data

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

Weekly percent positive COVID19 cases for York County



COVID19 cases per week for York County



Philip Nelson/The Johnsonian

## About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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November 18, 2020

# Honoring Dorothy Barber

*Dorothy "Dot" Barber has worked at Winthrop for fifty years and was one of Winthrop's first African American professional staff members*

**Chase Duncan**  
staff writer

Over the past 134 years since Winthrop University was established as an all-white female training school for teachers, the Columbia, South Carolina-born institution has evolved into a racially and academically diverse community of faculty, students and staff seeking to attain higher education.

One who helped Winthrop to attain such a transformation towards inclusion and student success is Dorothy "Dot" Barber, Dacus Library employee of 50 years and one of the college's first African American professional staff members, alongside fellow library employee, Ellen Owens.

Racial integration among the university's student body officially began in July of 1964 with the registration of African American student Cynthia Roddey. But it would take another six years for a black person to join the university's staff. Barber began the first day of her distinguished career alongside Owens on July 1, 1970.

"Being the only two African Americans working in the office, we were a great support for each other," Barber said. "I'm sure the staff was curious as to how we would fit in, even to the point of 'how does your hair stand up like that.' Everyone made an extra effort to try to make us feel comfortable. We were just thankful to have a job, not even realizing we were the first African American professional staff

members to be hired at Winthrop."

In an article published by SCNow covering a "Fulfilling the Promise" event in 2014, Owens spoke more cynically of her experience as one of Winthrop's first women of color to be on staff. According to the article, Owens recalled incidents in which white professors initially expressed discomfort with her checking out books for them, adding that this changed over time.

"There has been an improvement in diversity among students, faculty, staff and the administration and I am truly grateful for that," Barber said.

Across Barber's half-a-century-long career, she observed and adapted to several significant changes within her department and the Winthrop institution as a whole. The longtime library employee began her career as a clerk-typist using an electronic typewriter and, over the years, adapted to the flow of technological advancement. As fellow staff members left or retired, Barber took their place in various positions in accounting and technical services.

Barber officially retired from full-time employment with the university in 2008 but continues to work for the library part-time as an executive support specialist.

Earlier this month, Barber was commended by the Winthrop Board of Trustees for her decades-long dedication to the university and awarded a framed resolution for her "50 Years of Meritorious Service to the University."



Photo courtesy to Winthrop University

**Board chair Glenn McCall, from left, Interim President George Hynd, Dot Barber and Board member Tim Hopkins**

The resolution states, "Whereas, Winthrop University with grateful appreciation, does hereby acknowledge, commend and honor this distinguished lifetime of service to the University by Dorothy 'Dot' Barber ... Therefore let it be resolved that the Board of Trustees of Winthrop University does hereby gratefully acknowledge the tireless dedication, exemplary service, and vigorous commitment to the excellence that Dorothy 'Dot' Barber has demonstrated on behalf of Winthrop University."

Barber has stated that she has no intention of fully retiring, at least

within the next few months.

"Winthrop has been like a second home to me. I am thankful for having had the opportunity to work with, meet and communicate with so many wonderful Winthrop employees," Barber said. "I love and enjoy meeting and talking with the students who come from many different countries, backgrounds and cultures. Each year brings different and unique experiences. They have made a great impact on my life and I've learned so much from them. Winthrop is a place of education and knowledge even outside of the classroom."

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## THE JOHNSONIAN

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*many positions are available for the spring semester*

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# TJ TALKS

A weekly look at what's happening at Winthrop

The Johnsonian's new podcast gives a rundown of what is happening on and off campus. Scan the QR code provided to listen to new episodes and learn about what is happening in your community.

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Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

# New transfer student portal

*New transfer student portal will help transfer students know which credits will be usable from other institutions*

**Sarah Hassler**

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Many students who attend Winthrop University choose to begin their studies at another college or university and transfer to Winthrop to earn an undergraduate degree. However, in the past, Winthrop has been known for being somewhat difficult to transfer to. Some

““

...[B]ecause of COVID and having our transfer orientation and first flight online, I don't feel like I got the opportunities I would have if it was a normal semester, like meeting new people and learning about campus events, but overall it was an easy process.

**Taylor Sallenger, junior art major**

transfers have brought up how it could be a problem getting credits to transfer from other schools since Winthrop has very specific requirements for students.

After a student has filled out their application to transfer to Winthrop, they are sent a pamphlet with a checklist of everything they will have to do in order to officially become a part of the Winthrop community. The pamphlet goes over things such as setting up a Winthrop email, registering for orientation, sending in transcripts, submitting an enrollment deposit, confirming transfer credits, etc. There is a lot involved in the process of transferring, and it can be somewhat of an overwhelming task, especially for people transferring from community or technical colleges

where they may not have had to deal with the same type of policies as a university.

“The actual transfer application and process was fairly easy, just like I think it would be applying as a freshman. There wasn't really anything that stumped me too much as far as the application goes and I think it took me less than an hour to fill it out,” said Taylor Sallenger, a junior transfer student from

and technical colleges and want to know if their credits will be transferable.

“Students are choosing to only venture an hour to two hours away from home, searching for a university. We are hoping that maybe we will get a few students back who are closer in proximity geographically, and we talked about the fact that not just those students but students who are

Charleston Southern University. “I will say because of COVID and having our transfer orientation and first flight online, I don't feel like I got the opportunities I would have if it was a normal semester, like meeting new people and learning about campus events, but overall it was an easy process.”

The part of transferring that can be particularly bothersome for transfers is knowing which credits can be transferred to the new school. To help with this process, Winthrop will be implementing a new transfer portal that will help students to have easier access to information that will let them know which credits will or will not transfer from their previous school.

The portal will be helpful for students who are transferring from local colleges

transferring out of those universities, or with credits that they earned as high school credits—we had a conversation about articulation agreements, whether it's talking about a degree that's already offered at a technical college, part of what this transfer portal will do, and for us to be more transfer-friendly, is for us to accept students who have these associates degrees and to really partner with other institutions of learning,” said Julie Fowler, Winthrop Board of Trustees member.

Though there is not much information about the transfer portal just yet, it looks like it will be a helpful tool for anyone who may be looking to transfer to Winthrop in the near future.

# Faculty members take courses to better their online teaching methods

*Winthrop professors take online certification courses to help them improve their online teaching skills*

**Mari Pressley**  
staff writer

Winthrop professors participated in two online teaching certification courses to improve their online teaching methods — this comes as a result of the growing need for online classes this school year.

The courses were administered through Blackboard and led by four facilitators.

“I think at the top of the list, providing the training is going to make for the best possible experience for the faculty member as they are facilitating an online course,” said Kimarie Whetstone, Director of Online Learning and one of the course facilitators. “For some, they may be facilitating an online course for the first time. For others, they may have had experience teaching before, but the training is designed to make a better experience for the faculty member and to make a better learning experience for the students.”

With approximately 302 faculty members participating, WOTC 101 furthers professors' understanding of online course design and development basics and WOTC 102 provides knowledge about online course facilitation management.

“In spring of last year, we all got taken kind of by surprise,” said Allan Nail, an associate professor of English education. “I had to kind of scramble and make some decisions that worked for the limited amount of time we had left but really weren't great options for online instruction. Basically we just met on Zoom and had class like we normally would but that didn't work very well and partly because it was new to me.”

“I think this faculty recognizes that we never stop

learning because things never stop changing, and we need to stay up on our teaching practices as much as possible,” Nail said.

“I think I got some really good common sense examples of how to present information in a more organized way,” said.

Casey Cothran, an associate professor of English and Department Chair. “I use Blackboard and Turnitin frequently when I teach, but learning about ways to organize a week where you start with an overview of what will happen that week and a brief note about everything that's due that week and then to go down and make different modules, that was very helpful to me.”

Cothran, who is currently enrolled in WOTC 102, shares her opinion of how Winthrop has helped her throughout the transition from in-person to online.

“I think the fact that they had these classes was excellent, Cothran said. “I thought the teachers were wonderful. ... I am so grateful — they would allow you to call them on the phone and email them at all hours. I think faculty were really struggling to kind of get up to speed — some of us. ... They offered multiple sections of the courses, all over the spring, the summer, and the fall. Like the fact that I'm still in mine, that's okay and they're working with me. I'm very grateful for all of that.”

“The format or the mode of instruction is often as important as the content that if we aren't delivering it effectively, it won't make much of a difference whether students learn or not,” Nail said. “I've been surprised at how well I have been able to transfer the in-class version to the online version and I've been able to use technology to kind of assist with that.”

“We often provide ongoing support so our relationship with

the faculty doesn't end after WOTC ends,” Whetstone said. “We strive to continue that relationship to offer ongoing training, technical support, and even just ideas or strategies for online teaching and learning.”

The courses are not only meant to benefit professors' proficiency in online teaching methods but are also meant to enhance the online learning experience for students.

“I have noticed some improvements on online and hybrid classes,” said Gabby Boyd, a sophomore chemistry major and biochemistry concentration pre-med. “This semester they are more structured. Most of my professors have fairly strict due dates whereas online classes in the past didn't. Which helps me keep my assignments more in order.”

Senior English major and humanities minor Sam Hyatt shares her thoughts on how professors can improve their online classes this semester.

“I wish there was more communication from my professors to their students,” Hyatt said. “It feels very isolating and is hard to form important relationships that could be significant in the future.”

Whetstone explains the effect Winthrop hopes to have through these courses.

“What we do in online learning offerings at Winthrop, we want to be sure that we offer students the same experience that they have in the traditional format,” Whetstone said. “We want students to be able to expect the same high caliber of quality education, whether it's again in traditional format or online. ... Winthrop's faculty have embraced WOTC overall. ... They are committed to ensuring the best possible experience and quality education for our students no matter the delivery method.”

# New Alzheimer's drug

The FDA advisory committee recently voted on a new Alzheimer's drug

Allison Reynolds  
staff writer

Biogen Inc., a pharmaceutical company, recently developed a drug to combat Alzheimer's by the name of aducanumab. As of Nov. 6, the FDA advisory committee voted against aducanumab because of it being controversial.

The biologics license application filing for aducanumab included data from the ENGAGE and EMERGE studies of the drug. ENGAGE and EMERGE studies are randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group studies.

The Peripheral and Central Nervous System Drug Advisory committee voted 8 to 1 with 2 uncertain that the data from the EMERGE study does not provide strong enough evidence to support the efficacy for treating Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's is a fatal condition, mostly known for the memory decline that comes with it. The disease causes brain cells to deteriorate and is the most common cause of dementia. Eventually, a person with Alzheimer's may forget how to perform basic tasks, such as dressing and bathing themselves.

Alzheimer's also causes changes in personality and behavior. These changes can include depression, mood swings, apathy, irritability and aggressiveness, distrust in others and delusions. Eventually, complications from severe loss of brain function—such as dehydration,

malnutrition or infection—result in death.

In March 2019, Biogen Inc. announced the discontinuation of ENGAGE and EMERGE studies because they were unlikely to meet their primary endpoints. In October 2019, Biogen Inc. pursued regulatory approval of aducanumab based on positive results of a new analysis of a larger data set, which became available after the discontinuation of the ENGAGE and EMERGE studies.

In the new analysis, it was revealed that the EMERGE study met the primary endpoint, showing that patients treated with a high dose of aducanumab (10 mg/kg) experienced a statistically significant reduction in the clinical decline of Alzheimer's. The ENGAGE study did not meet the primary endpoint.

On Nov. 4, the FDA published briefing documents for the advisory committee meeting, which appeared to be a positive reflection of aducanumab. However, the committee vote contradicts these documents. In August, the FDA granted priority review to Biogen's BLA filing of aducanumab.

The FDA's final decision on aducanumab is expected

on March 7, 2021.

Members of the FDA advisory committee said that the trial they were asked to evaluate was not finished. Even though the data appeared positive, the advisers could not know for sure.

"There's a huge danger in approving something that is not effective," said committee member Joel Perlmutter, an adviser and neurology professor at Washington University School of Medicine, at a recent committee meeting.

Not much progress has been made in treating or curing Alzheimer's. The drugs that are

currently available just treat the symptoms of the disease. If aducanumab gets approved, it will be the first medicine to help in the treatment of the actual disease and not just the symptoms.

Aducanumab, if approved, will also be the first medicine to show that removing amyloid beta (plaque in the brain) results in better clinical outcomes in Alzheimer's patients. For now, all eyes will be on the FDA until their decision about aducanumab in March 2021.



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian



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# Science and Tech Editor

For more information contact Savannah Scott.

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# Former Winthrop tennis players intend to transfer

Chase Duncan  
staff writer

Former Winthrop University tennis athletes aligned with the “Save Winthrop Tennis” initiative were granted the opportunity to address the Board of Trustees regarding their frustration with the tennis program’s elimination five months ago. At the meeting, two international students announced their intent to transfer from the university to continue pursuing tennis elsewhere.

“Tennis is a part of who I am, which is why I will be transferring to another Division I school to continue my path,” Angela Georgieva, an international student from South Africa, informed the Board.

Georgieva’s decision to attend Winthrop was fueled by her love for the sport and a deep admiration for the institution’s tennis program, which had achieved prestigious successes in both the men’s and women’s divisions throughout the program’s career. The Board’s decision to eliminate the tennis team earlier this year shocked Georgieva and other athletes in the program.

“Playing tennis for Winthrop made me grow so much in so many aspects and I honestly felt like I was living my dream,” she told the Board. “Every day I woke up feeling so blessed and every day it really was another step towards my goals and dreams. Unfortunately, that path came to an end. A very sudden and unexpected end. And that feeling of heartbreak will follow me for the rest of my life.”

Georgieva’s sentiments were similarly echoed by Samantha Nanere, an international student from Indonesia.

“The day I was informed of the elimination of the tennis program, I felt like I had just lost a family member,” Nanere told the board. “The program being cut so close to the beginning of the semester and especially in the middle of a global pandemic made everything worse. I was anxious about my future and struggling mentally.”

“I’ve been playing tennis since I was seven, and tennis is part of who I am. I cannot imagine myself not playing tennis,” she added. That being said, I am transferring to another Division I school to pursue my dream. I will forever be grateful for the time I’ve had at Winthrop. I’ve learned and grown so much from here.”

Both Georgieva and Nanere criticized the athletic department’s decision to prevent students from using the tennis courts to practice during the semester due to COVID-19, a decision they stated would have a detrimental effect on former Winthrop tennis players, like themselves, seeking to train and pursue their athletic career elsewhere.

“At this moment, I feel very lost and abandoned because I can not even use the tennis courts to practice and be ready for my new team, even though it [was] said to us that they would be available for us to use,” Georgieva told the Board. “South Africa is on complete lockdown, so I decided to come back to the U.S. to at least be able to train, and now, even in phase three, there’s still a padlock on the gate.”

“I understand the concerns regarding the cracks, however there are a couple of courts where the cracks are in out-of-play areas and pose no threat to injury,” she added. “Furthermore, there’s more than enough distance between the players to accommodate social distancing.”

“When the tennis programs were cut, we were told that we could still use the facilities,” Nanere told the board. “But as it turns out, the tennis courts are still locked up to this point. I feel like it is enough to take our team away from us. Some of my teammates and I are going to transfer to another school, and we need to prepare and be physically ready in order to compete again next semester. We are aware of the cracks, and we understand the consequences. However, there are still some courts that are playable.”

Abhimanyu Vannemreddy, a former Winthrop tennis player from India, stressed to the board that the “Save Winthrop Tennis” initiative was not seeking to denigrate the university, but instead to preserve a program and lifestyle integral for many Winthrop community members.

“I think, firstly, it’s important for everyone to realize what tennis means to me and my colleagues. We have been playing this sport since we were five or six years old, and the fact that we’ve made so

“Seeing our four seniors graduate from Winthrop University is also at the top of the list.”

Starting their spring season at home, the women’s soccer team will be up against High Point first on Sunday, Feb. 2.

As a freshman on the team, defender Katy Feskorn did not have any specific team she was anxious to play, but her older teammates are most anticipating the High Point game.

“[Apparently] it’s always a really intense game and hard fought game. Also, it’s our season opener and probably the first game most of us will have played in awhile so it’ll be good to just get back on the field,” Feskorn said.

“I know every game is challenging. All our opponents are talented and well coached so we will need to be at our best to get the results we hope for,” Coach Spencer Smith said.

Known as a “floating mid-week game,” the date for the home game against Charleston Southern will be agreed upon by both teams, but is to be played no later than March 17.

“This season doesn’t allow us to compete out of conference so it will be vital for us to be ready from the opening match. We are invading new territory with a spring season so I can imagine the players and coaches will learn quite a bit once we get started,” Smith said.

“I’m just grateful for what we can get in this crazy time we’re living in. Obviously I wish we had more games to play but I’ll take what we can get,” Feskorn said.

Competitions against Presbyterian, USC Upstate, UNC Asheville, Longwood and Campbell will be the away games of the season. The Eagles will end on a home game against Radford on Thursday, April 8 before the Big South Championship begins.



Kaily Paddle/The Johnsonian

many sacrifices at such a young age has to be considered when making such a big decision,” Vannemreddy told the board. “I personally had to live away from my family and friends since the age of nine just for tennis. That’s how important it is. So it’s really sad to receive a Zoom call on a random Wednesday saying that whatever you worked for [for] 15 years is now gone.”

“On behalf of not just the tennis players, but the behalf of all students at Winthrop, I just request that you give us the right to choose, the right to grow as individuals, and the right to bring back this program,” Vannemreddy said.

Following his comments to the Board, Vannemreddy told The Johnsonian that he is uncertain of whether he will remain at Winthrop or transfer to another school, and that he has not committed to any university yet.

“We’ve been training really hard and I know I plan to continue to train ever harder over break so that I’ll be prepared for the season, so I believe that we will do pretty good during the season,” Feskorn said.

For the volleyball team, Coach Chuck Rey believes the most difficult opponent of the season will be COVID-19.

“We are extremely grateful to Winthrop University, as a whole, for its continued support of our program to play this spring and recognizing how valuable athletics is to the university,” Rey said.

Unlike Winthrop’s soccer teams, the volleyball team will endure back-to-back games throughout the spring 2021 season, beginning with home games on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 11-12, against USC Upstate.

“We are highly in favor of the new schedule structure because it is about safety first. We know this is the best for our student-athletes and playing one team twice over a weekend makes sense; again, to limit cross-contamination between schools,” Rey said.

Although competing in back-to-back matches is not a new situation for the Eagles, Rey said the challenge will be facing the same opponent in back-to-back matches, as well as entering conference without any preseason games.

“We are fortunate to have two incredibly intelligent and talented setters in Junior Captain, Jana Owens and Freshman, Isabel Schaeffbauer who, no doubt, will navigate the team through these uncharted waters,” Rey said.

Campbell, Gardner-Webb and Presbyterian will all be home matches for the volleyball team, and the Eagles will hit the road for Charleston Southern University, High Point, Radford and UNC Asheville. ▶ see Soccer pg.7

# Soccer and volleyball schedules announced

Lily Fremed  
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On Nov. 5 the Big South Conference released the schedules for men’s and women’s soccer and volleyball. All games are scheduled a week apart for flexibility in case any conflicts or interruptions develop, and travel times have been limited as universities strive to put safety first.

Opening with an away game at Campbell on Sunday, Feb. 21 is the men’s soccer team. The following away games will take place at UNC Asheville, Radford University and Presbyterian college.

“I am definitely looking forward to playing against Campbell the most. I think it will be a tough game and a true test of how we bond as a team,” freshman forward Grayson Woodard said.

According to Head Coach Daniel Ridenhour, Campbell is the team everyone is trying to “knock out” due to their defensive and attack success in the past. Ridenhour is ready to take on the challenger after beating them 1-0 at Campbell in 2018 and falling just short of another win in 2019.

“They were able to get the result in the game but we performed very

well against the best team in the league,” Ridenhour said.

The Eagles are looking forward to finally playing against other college athletes after months of training with the same teammates.

“I think all the boys are prepared for this year and we’re all working very hard on and off the field. It’ll be a tough conference schedule but I believe we will be successful and have a chance at the conference title,” Woodard said.

The Eagles’ first home game will be Sunday, March 7 against USC Upstate. High Point, Gardner-Webb and Longwood will be the remaining home games.

“Our focus as a group this fall in the brief time we have been able to train has been to be more aggressive with our pressing, more willing to build out of the back, and take more risk in the final third to goal,” Coach Ridenhour said.

There are some games on the schedule that may be subject to change, but with only four teams qualifying for spring conference tournament, the Eagles are staying positive and ready for the challenge.

“Playing games [and] having fun on the training field are the things I am looking forward to the most,” Ridenhour said.



Eagle of the Week, Boettcher

# Eagle of the Week: Rohan Boettcher

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After visiting the United States multiple times over the years for his golf tournaments, Rohan Boettcher knew he wanted to attend a university in America. Contemplating a move from Santa Cruz do Sul, Brazil, Winthrop's campus, small class sizes, and the community-focused atmosphere drew Boettcher to Rock Hill. "I knew that coming to the U.S. with English as my second language would be hard, so I wanted to attend a university where I would be able to connect with the professors, and I could not have chosen any better," Boettcher said.

Back in June, Boettcher was named a Srixon/Cleveland Golf All-America Scholar for his outstanding athletic and academic achievements.

"This award recognizes exactly what I strive for in my college career - getting good grades and shooting low scores. I hope to be able to repeat it my senior year," Boettcher said.

Prior to his collegiate career, Boettcher was ranked the number one junior golfer in Brazil. In 2014 he also won the Faldo Series World Final in the United States and finished second in the South-American Junior Championship. He said his interest in golf sparked when he was just six years old.

"My parents took me to a kids store to choose a Christmas gift. I chose a set of plastic golf clubs,

even though I had no idea what golf was and nobody in my family had ever played golf before," Boettcher said.

Even though his parents tried to convince him to pick out another gift, Boettcher's mind was made up. He practiced in his backyard until he could begin lessons at a country club near his childhood home.

Boettcher said becoming an avid athlete at such a young age has made him "more resilient and a hard worker."

"It taught me how to manage my time efficiently and that I need to work hard towards my goals. Most importantly, it taught me that we don't always win in life and that sometimes things don't go the way we want regardless of how hard we try. We need to get back up and try again," Boettcher said.

Though his school work and practice schedule take up most of his time, Boettcher enjoys playing soccer and facetimeing his dad to watch their favorite soccer team together. In his spare time he also likes to play tennis, hike and cook Brazilian food.

Boettcher's favorite way to celebrate after winning a tournament is to prepare recipes from his homeland, but he does not always have time to so, since tournaments are usually on Tuesday nights when he has plenty of assignments to keep him busy.

Like many golfers, Tiger Woods is a daily inspiration to Boettcher, but his favorite athlete outside of the golf world is Roger Federer.

"I grew up watching a lot of

tennis and Federer's will to win and attitude towards the sport was always something that inspired me to become the best golfer I could be, but to also remember to always stay humble," Boettcher said.

Now a senior, Boettcher's time at Winthrop has been full of unforgettable experiences, but the most memorable was his first collegiate golf tournament.

"I had dreamed [of] that moment for so long, so my very first tournament was very special for me. Traveling with the team for the first time in the team van and representing the school for the first time was the moment I realized that my childhood dream had come true," Boettcher said.

Playing golf professionally has never been Boettcher's goal, but he said he will "never stop playing golf competitively."

After graduation, Boettcher plans to use his business administration degree to find a position in the finance department of a multinational corporation.

"I have always worked hard to succeed both in golf and in academics, so my ideal future is to work in my field of study and keep playing golf as an amateur. I want to make a difference in my community through my work and keep golf as my number one hobby," Boettcher said.

"Attending Winthrop was the best decision I ever made, and everything I experienced here I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

## ◀ Soccer from pg.6

"Scouting will be extremely difficult as we will not likely play against the same starting line-up from the previous week (or even the previous night). We have one of the best Assistant Coaches in the country, Becca Acevedo, [who] is not only fantastic with gameplan preparation but amazing at handling opponents on the fly," Rey said.

Different from previous years, the Big South Volleyball Head Coaches voted against a Conference Championship "to be sure we played each conference team once within the allotted [nine] weeks to compete," Coach Rey said.

Instead, the Big South regular season champion will earn the NCAA Automatic Qualifier Bid to play in the NCAA Tournament, where only 48 teams will advance, opposed to the usual 64.

"The new strategy for spring is the oldest strategy and that is to have a great team. Chemistry and flexibility throughout each position and class are critical as the student-athletes will need to feel even more comfortable around each other," Rey said.

For more updates on these teams' upcoming seasons, follow @winthropsoccer, @winthropwsoccer or @winthropvolleyball on social media.

## The birth of Broman Academy Former Winthrop athletes look to make a difference through basketball

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Anders and Bjorn Broman are two of Winthrop's finest basketball alumni. From Duluth, Minnesota, the brothers arrived in Rock Hill in 2015 - Bjorn as a freshman and Anders as a junior transfer from South Dakota State.

Together the duo amassed 1,649 points for the Eagles (1,000 for Bjorn in four seasons and 649 for Anders in two) and helped lead the team to an NCAA tournament appearance during the 2016-17 season. Now, the brothers are using their knowledge of the game they love to help others through their own company, Broman Academy.

"Our mission is to help - whether it's a kid or a professional player, a college player, high school, whatever level player it is - our goal is to help them achieve the best of their abilities," Anders Broman said.

"That's through hard work. That's through practice. That's through training. No one is just born really good at something. It takes time, it takes effort, and we want to help those kids - whether it's a high schooler, whether it's a middle schooler, whether it's a professional player - we want to help those players achieve the most that they can physically achieve," he added. "Physically and mentally."

Though the Bromans only officially launched their company earlier this year, it's something they had talked about for a while.

"We had different ideas back in high school... but our mindset was always, 'We can start up in Minnesota. We can come back home and kind of spark basketball back in our hometown,' because when we played high school there was a big spark of basketball, because it's a hockey city," Bjorn Broman said.

"But then in college Anders got connected and did some internships with basketball training academies down here, and we kind of figured out that this is a hot spot," he added.

One company the brothers worked with was Venture Basketball, a training program that allowed them to work with players of all ages, including NBA players like Malik Monk, Seth Curry and Troy Daniels. While they described working with the pros as "thrilling," they said it can also be mentally exhausting because those workouts have to be so detailed.

"We love working with the pros, but we also love the challenge of working with younger kids. While we were growing up, we had older players that came back and helped us, that took us under their wing, so we want to be able to do that," Anders Broman said. "I've had more satisfaction in helping a kid make a ninth grade basketball team than working with an NBA player."



"Pros are fun, but the kids - there's just some connection you get with them. They look up to you. Everything you say, they soak it up and they try to learn," Bjorn Broman said. "There's just some connection that makes kids really special."

The Bromans said their experience under Pat Kelsey at Winthrop now helps them in their role as trainers and coaches.

"A good amount of what we teach and what we try to be is what he taught us," Bjorn Broman said. "How he connects with people - he's in the community, he's reaching out. His energy never stops, and we do that same thing in our workouts. We can't lack energy for one second."

"A lot of his sayings that he used with us or with our basketball team, we still use. 'Never delay gratitude.' Different things of that nature that are staples of the Winthrop basketball program," Anders Broman said. "His attention to detail [and] how he runs a program - that's how we want to run our business."

"There'll be times where we're talking to a group of kids, and it's just natural now," Bjorn Broman said. "We'll say one of his sayings, and afterwards we'll get in the car and be like, 'we just said exactly what Kels taught us when we were a freshman five or six years ago. We just gave that same talk.' So it's fun to see his impact on our company and what we do."

Along with Kelsey's influence, another impact the Bromans have seen on their company is their Christian faith. In college, both were involved in the Fellowship

of Christian Athletes and served for two years each on the FCA Leadership Team.

"Our biggest calling is our faith," Anders Broman said. "That's something we relate to sports. God's blessed us with these abilities. God's blessed us with these bodies, because you know what? There's a lot of people that would do anything - kids that are in wheelchairs, kids that have different disabilities - that wish that they could spend an hour out on the basketball court."

"We want to make the most of [these abilities] to honor and glorify Him then. Because He's the one that's given us these abilities - whether it's us, whether it's the kids, whether it's the professional players - whatever your ability is, God gave it to us, so let's use that to bring glory to Him."

Despite starting their company around the same time the COVID-19 pandemic reached the US, the Bromans said their business is doing really well. In December, Broman Academy is set to hold its own basketball league for third through sixth graders.

"We're going to have just under 100 kids in it," Anders Broman said. "We have a waiting list for some of the divisions because so many kids wanted to join."

The brothers also conduct individual training with clients daily, working with up to ten people per day. They said the biggest struggle now is finding gyms to host their events in, but they hope to soon get back to holding more group training events as well, all while following COVID-19 guidelines.

# Can you write a novel in a month?

With November comes National Novel Writing Month, a great challenge for novelists

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As the clock strikes midnight on Nov. 1 every year, many writers around the world take a deep breath as they prepare to attempt an interesting challenge: write a novel in one month. November was established as National Novel Writing Month in 1999 according to NaNoWriMo.org. It brought with it the challenge of writing 50,000 words — equivalent to the average novel — in thirty days.

In 2006, NaNoWriMo was established as a nonprofit organization “that believes in the transformational power of creativity. We provide the structure, community, and encouragement to help people find their voices, achieve creative goals, and build new worlds—on and off the page.” Since it’s founding, the organization has offered writers brave enough to attempt the challenge resources such as pep-talks from other authors, words of encouragement, and a place to interact with fellow authors working towards completing their writing goals year-round.

Dustin M. Hoffman, an associate English and writing professor at Winthrop University, was first properly introduced to NaNoWriMo upon his hiring at the university.

“When I came here, there was a little NaNoWriMo group going on. One of my colleagues, Professor Amanda Campbell, had been doing something with it before, and she asked me to get involved,” he said.

According to Hoffman, the main goal of NaNoWriMo is to push the writer to “set up a certain amount of words to write per day and [they] have these goals to achieve.” In the case of someone aiming to complete the challenge’s set 50,000 words, Hoffman estimated that they would have to write 1,600 words a day. “That’s a lot of words to write every single day for the month of November,” Hoffman said. “But that’s the goal, right? You give yourself an absurd deadline and you come out at the end of the month with a completed draft of a novel.”

While Hoffman said he thinks NaNoWriMo is good for getting writers to actually write, he added that he had mixed feelings about the event.

“I think writing is rewriting and this is all drafting,” Hoffman said. “That’s the whole point of NaNoWriMo. I think the great thing of NaNoWriMo is that you could come out and have a draft of a novel. But I think there’s also a misconception of what you were going to end up with at the end.” Hoffman worries that writers taking the challenge will expect to finish it with something more than just a, as author Anne Lamott put it, “s\*\*\*\*y first draft.” However, he does think if writers come to terms with that, then can “there’s real value in just getting the words out there.”

Hoffman also spoke about the issues with the timing of the event, especially for students, professors, and any other faculty member in academia. He said, “What’s the worst month of the

year for us? It’s November. Everything’s due,” he said.

“We have final exams. We have final projects. It’s really tough to find the time.”

Another thing that makes Hoffman skeptical about NaNoWriMo is that the goals set by the challenge may be largely sustainable. “Maybe you can do [1,600 words a day] for a month and maybe you’ll never want to do it again after that, which I think is also problematic, too. It creates this impossible goal to continue on,” he said.

While Hoffman is sure some authors can manage it, he fears that others will feel discouraged when they can’t reach this goal. He believes that these writers should try to instead aim first for smaller word counts. Hoffman said, “I found after doing NaNoWriMo, I would try and write for an hour a day or write a thousand words a day, like how unsustainable that is...I found I needed a smaller goal, so I gave myself this goal. I’d write one hundred words every day and I stuck with it for like two and a half years. I did it every single day.”

Hoffman still believes NaNoWriMo can be a great way for writers to develop a habit of writing, whether they work to write the full 50,000 words or set their own word count goal to work on that month.

“My advice to writers, even if you don’t do NaNoWriMo, consider a goal that could actually be achieved every single day,” Hoffman said. “I do think writing every day is so important and beneficial to a writer rather than just doing it in spurts.”



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

NaNoWriMo poses a challenge for novelists.

## Remembering Alex Trebek

Longtime “Jeopardy!” host, Alex Trebek has died at the age of 80

Jeb Bartlett  
staff writer

Over a year after announcing his diagnosis of stage four pancreatic cancer, and after nearly four decades as host of the beloved television show *Jeopardy!*, Alex Trebek has died at the age of 80. In a statement *Jeopardy!* said that Trebek’s passing was peaceful and that he was surrounded by friends and family at the time.

Trebek had been open with his fans about his diagnosis, revealing it in a video posted to the *Jeopardy!* YouTube in March 2019, saying, “I’m going to fight this.” Both then and now, Trebek and his family were met with outcries of support and love from fans.

“I was really sad when I saw he was diagnosed with cancer,” said Savannah Hynes, a freshman integrated marketing communications major at Winthrop University and “*Jeopardy!*” fan. “I remember thinking, ‘Oh, it’s Alex Trebek, he’ll get over it.’ And I think I remember hearing he was getting better. But I guess it got worse — which was really sad to hear.”

Born in Sudbury, Ontario, Trebek first began his career as a journalist for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation but would later move on to hosting such gameshows as *Reach for the Top* and *Jackpot*. However, Trebek wouldn’t gain notoriety until 1984, when he was chosen to host the revival of *Jeopardy!*, which earned him five Day-time Emmy Awards and a Guinness World Record for hosting the most episodes of a single game show.

▶ see Alex pg. 9

## The thin line between love and hate

A look into the relationship of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard

Emily Curry  
staff writer

It’s never easy to learn that someone you admire actually has another side to them that’s not so great. Unfortunately, this is the case for many celebrities, who often present one persona to the media while keeping their true selves private. When that true self is finally brought to light, fans can be in for a shock.

This was recently the case for Johnny Depp, an actor who has played many beloved characters such as Jack Sparrow and Willy Wonka. In 2016, his then-wife Amber Heard filed for divorce, accusing him of physical abuse. Although Depp has had a rocky past, the idea that he was abusive was shocking for many of his fans.

In fact, according to an article written for Insider, “Depp denied these accusations and through his representatives said Heard was ‘attempting to secure a premature financial resolution by alleging abuse.’” Four years later, in January of this year, phone recordings were released in which Heard admitted to hitting Depp.

According to the same article, during the trial in which Depp sued The Sun for libel, “Depp

alleged that Heard defecated in his bed and punched him, which Heard denies. Depp also accused Heard of having extra-marital affairs with James Franco and Elon Musk, which Heard also denies.”

It’s evidently been a rough and convoluted road to finding the truth about what truly happened between the couple, and the issue likely won’t be fully resolved for some time. On Nov. 2, the court ruled against Depp, saying that “The Sun was correct in reporting that Depp was violent towards his ex-wife.” Depp is planning to appeal this decision, but some damage was already done.

Depp announced on Nov. 6 that he had been asked by Warner Bros to step down from his role in the upcoming film in “The Fantastic Beasts” franchise. Depp played the dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald and received praise for his performance from many Harry Potter fans. However, Heard has not been asked to step down from her role as Mera in the “Aquaman” franchise, despite the films also falling under the Warner Bros umbrella; which has led to much protest from Depp’s fanbase.

One fan, Winthrop University senior Jacob Klingensmith, said

that “Johnny Depp is getting robbed of a fantastic opportunity, no pun intended” in facing pressure to step down from the role, and that “it’s absolutely a double-standard” that Heard did not receive the same repercussions her ex-husband did.

While there have been many cases of abuse in Hollywood, this is one of the few known cases that has involved abuse towards a man. Klingensmith said that one of the reasons this case is so important is because it shows that “This kind of thing can happen to guys too, not just girls.”

While women are more likely to be victims of physical and sexual abuse, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, “1 in 7 men experience intimate partner contact sexual violence” and “1 in 4 men have experience some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.”

It can be hard to come to terms with reality that a character you love may have been played by a bad person. But, in Klingensmith’s words, “You can still admire the work they’re doing but not really care for them as human beings.” Only time will tell what the future has in store for Johnny Depp and Amber Heard.



Johnny Depp and Amber Heard





Photo Courtesy to Wikimedia

**Alex Trebek attending the Peabody Awards in 2012**

◀ Alex from pg.8

For many like Hynes, Trebek and *Jeopardy!* were staples of nightly television with several generations growing up with the genial quiz show host.

“My dad watched *Jeopardy!* a lot, so sometimes I would watch it with him. It was fun to see if I could listen in and get answers right with him,” Hynes said. “I couldn’t see anyone else as the host. He was funny and adds his own little character to the show.”

Trebek is lesser known for his work in philanthropy. Over the course of his career, Trebek was involved in many philanthropic organizations such as the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, the Musk Ox Development Organization, and even his own foundation, The Trebek Family Foundation.

For four decades, Trebek had also been partnered with the organization World Vision, a, “Christian humanitarian organization conducting relief, development, and advocacy activities in its work with children, families, and their communities in nearly 100 countries to help them reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice,” according to the foundation’s website. During his time serving with World Vision, Trebek visited many impoverished countries, bringing attention to humanitarian crises through his fame and notoriety, as well as donating to the organization.

“We remember him dearly as someone full of humor, a keen wit, an open heart, and genuine love for those suffering and in need. He will be deeply missed,” World Vision said in a statement.

After his death, *Jeopardy!* revealed that Trebek’s last time taping was on Oct. 29, and that new episodes will continue to air through Dec. 25 of this year. The show said that they have no plans to announce a new host at this time.

Two months after announcing his diagnosis in 2019, Trebek told that he wanted to be remembered as, “Just as a good guy, a nice man. Somebody that you looked at on television on a daily basis and said, ‘Hey, you know what, I like him.’”

# Artist Spotlight: Hurricane has a hand in this art project

*Griffin Cordell welcomes any artistic challenge, even from a hurricane*

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On the morning of Oct. 29, Griffin Cordell, a junior sculpture major at Winthrop University, got a call that his 11 foot tall sculpture that he had been working on since the beginning of the semester had fallen over.

Cordell described this piece as “an exploration in object and sound association, but in a subconscious sense.” He said the sculpture started as a drawing and, as the sculpture began to grow and take shape, so did his concept and focus on the mind’s dream world.

“I feel like the world speaks to us in a different language when we’re dreaming,” Cordell said. “It’s a visual language, but I’m trying to understand that language and speak it to the people that want to hear it [through this sculpture].”

The sculpture itself is a collection of objects and devices that Cordell has broken away from their conventional uses, held together by a wire frame secured in a line of concrete bases. This is what Cordell said was the downfall of his first design. When the winds of Hurricane Zeta came through Rock Hill, South Carolina, this structure was not able to withstand the storm.

While this certainly was disheartening to Cordell when he heard the news, he said he is also thankful, in a way. “I think that artists can’t really be afraid to fail,” he said. “You always have to see it as a new opportunity for something.”

Cordell is not one to back down



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

**Artist Spotlight, Cordell** from a challenge. In fact, he not only welcomes them but often seeks them out.

“Whenever I make work, I try to design it to be something that I don’t think I can do...the reason I make art is to learn things about the world and about myself that I don’t already know,” Cordell said.

And he’s been doing just that since the age of three. When he was asked the dreaded question “What do you want to do when you grow up?” Cordell said he had a different answer every week.

He recalled playing make-believe, creating astronaut suits and any other outfit or accessory his dreams called for out of cardboard and duct tape. That’s when he said he realized that his way of processing the world and his thoughts about it was through making art. This led Cordell to pursue becoming an artist. “I wanted to make things, it was a way to be every-

thing I had wanted to be.”

Since then, he has continued his arts education. First, at the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities and now at Winthrop. He has experimented with many forms of sculpture and performance art, among other mediums.

“My artwork is like an extension of my life,” Cordell said. “I’m an experimental person, I’m an intuitive person, I think I thrive under change.” Whether it be a hurricane or global pandemic, Cordell has found a way to continue his craft.

“I think there’s a danger we’re dealing with right now...being afraid of change,” Cordell said. “I think artists in general have always responded to change. That’s our job, that’s what we do. We take what’s going on in the world and we put it back out in our own creative way.”

# Thanksgiving: family time or politics

*What happens when your family disagrees with you politically during the holiday season?*

**Allison Reynolds**  
staff writer

Thanksgiving is supposed to be a holiday that you spend with your family. Thanksgiving is also a holiday for recognizing everything you are thankful for, whether it be family, friends, coworkers or a significant other. However, when your family disagrees with you, it can create tension and even be upsetting.

Not every family is going to agree about everything, especially when it comes to politics and human rights issues. When the conversation topics at the dinner table turn political, it can make for some arguments and uncomfortable situations. College students are just trying to destress and eat some good home-cooked food, not hash out their political differences with their family over the Thanksgiving turkey. College students consider Thanksgiving and Christmas as times to destress, relax, and not have to worry about overdue assignments or waking up in time for class. It’s bad enough that college students get interrogated during the holidays about grades, their job or their significant other. Why should the time that they spend with family they barely see be filled with political arguments?

Some students at Winthrop University addressed this topic.

“My family and I don’t agree when it comes to politics and other

human rights issues,” said sophomore psychology major Franchesca Ross. “I’m omniseual and my family is homophobic. I’m pro-choice and my family is against abortions.”

Freshman biology major Stefani Cabusora said, “Since my parents are Catholic, they don’t like that I am bisexual.” She said, “After I came out to my parents, I try to steer away from topics that I know will start arguments, and they don’t bring it up...it makes me sad that I can’t open up with my parents.” During the holiday season, Cabusora said, “knowing that my family doesn’t approve of my sexuality, I try to get out of going to family gatherings.”

When your family makes comments that you do not agree with or that upset you, it can make you not want to attend family gatherings. This is not okay and should not happen. If you want to spend time with your family, political views and human rights issues should not stop you.

“Thankfully, my family and I



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

**Going home for the holidays can be tough for some students**

have a lot of the same views,” said freshman psychology major Ashanti Jones. “They do not care that I am queer, though I haven’t come out to all of them yet, but I know they would be accepting of me.” Jones added, “while I’m glad the majority of them are very accepting, they tend to talk about politics a lot, which makes me a little uncomfortable simply because the few viewpoints that we don’t share can come up.”

If you have to attend these family gatherings, try not to pay attention to what your family members say. It’s okay to have different opinions from your family members. If your family does not agree with your sexuality or gender identity, know that your family should love you no matter who you are.

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November 18, 2020

## Historical times call for historical unity

*An examination of reactions to the Biden-Harris victory*

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Kamala Harris made history as the first woman and woman of color to be elected Vice President. While many are inspired, some may feel threatened.

This victory, not only for Biden and Harris, but women and people of color, could — and very well should — open up many doors of opportunity, as Harris alluded to on the eve of Nov. 7.

“While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last,” Harris said in her victory speech. “Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities.”

But it is also possible that we may see some dangerous times coming as many are not in favor of equality for all.

For many Americans, when they hear the word “terrorism,” they automatically think of foreign terrorists and the attack on September 11, 2001. But, what few tend to recognize is the high percentage rate of domestic terrorism and that most acts are committed out of hatred toward racial or ethnic groups.

“Right-wing extremists perpetrated two-thirds of the attacks and plots in the United States in 2019 and over 90 percent between January 1 and May 8, 2020,” according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The CSIS report also found

that these kinds of attacks could likely increase toward the end of the year, given election tensity and results.

The day news broke about Biden gaining enough electoral votes to be confirmed the president-elect, a TikTok circulated of a Nigerian-American woman talking about being excited for Biden but also afraid.

“I don’t know if the Proud Boys are now activated,” the woman said in the video. “If they come on the streets saying, [making machine gun noises] ‘Y’all should’ve voted for Trump; this is what happens when you don’t vote for Trump.’”

While the video is comedic, it reveals the underlying feeling of anxiety and fear that many people of color are experiencing right now due to the hateful rhetoric spread by white supremacists who Trump has yet to clearly condemn during his presidency.

In fact, this scenario she describes is not far-fetched. Recently the Department of Justice reported, “A criminal complaint was unsealed earlier today in federal court in Brooklyn charging Brian Maiorana, a resident of Staten Island, with threatening to kill and ordering others to kill protestors, politicians and law enforcement in retaliation for the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election.”

According to the DOJ, in October, Maiorana made threats on

social media about killing protestors. On Nov. 8, the day after The Associated Press announced Biden as the next president-elect, he posted, “The Turner Diaries must come to life. We blow up the FBI building for real. . .the electoral process is finished.”

It is important to note that the “Turner Diaries” is a novel that romanticizes the idea of overthrowing the U.S. government and the killing of non-whites and has been a source of inspiration for numerous acts of domestic terrorism, the Oklahoma City Bombing being one of them.

Not only is America still facing rapidly rising cases of COVID-19, but the country is also dealing with anxiety caused by misinformation about the election process and unsupported claims of voter fraud brought up by President Trump.

However, in the midst of these uncertain times, stopping to reflect on what a crucial time in history this is, can provide strength to persevere.

Biden won the most votes in U.S. history. Despite the possible threat of white-supremacy and hatred, the majority of Americans have made the decision to move forward in unity, diversity and democracy.

Now is the time to stand together, be alert and look out for one another — regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.



Harris

Photo Courtesy to Wikimedia

## Numb to the numbers

*As cases of COVID-19 continue to occur, are we growing numb to how this impacts us?*

Wren Brooke  
staff writer

As the pandemic continues, society is growing numb to the impact it has had on 2020.

Since this past July, the White House’s actions have indicated that President Trump hoped to see “Americans growing numb to the escalating death toll.”

“They’re of the belief that people will get over it or if we stop highlighting it, the base will move on and the public will learn to accept 50,000 to 100,000 new cases a day,” a former White House official told The Washington Post.

Elke Weber, a psychology professor at Princeton, spoke up about this press statement. In an interview with the National Public Radio in July, Weber commented on how human psychology adapts to stimuli.

“With any kind of consistent danger, people get used to situations like that,” Weber told NPR. “Our neurons are wired to only respond to change. Any constant state gets washed out.”

As the pandemic has become the ‘new normal,’ it seems to matter less and less to the general population. While state and local restrictions have remained relatively the same, social distancing in public is not nearly as strongly enforced as it was during the beginning of the year.

There is also a growing population of people who choose not to wear a mask while in public, and many of those who wear them fail to do so correctly, often leaving the nose or entire face exposed.

Despite pleas from health officials, the COVID-19 response has been sluggish at best. The numbers of total confirmed cases and mortalities continue to climb. Less social distancing and not wearing masks has been confirmed as a cause of the spread of infection by the Centers for Disease Control.

A vicious cycle has emerged of people who have been lulled into a false sense of security starting to not flout health and safety guidelines followed by either them contracting COVID-19 or convincing others in turn that there is no danger.

► see Numb pg. 11

## LGBTQ+ representation in politics: why it matters

*First transgender state senator, first openly gay congressmen elected*

Autumn Hawkins  
staff writer

The 2020 election puts the United States one step closer inclusive politics as three newly elected government officials are setting records.

In Delaware, Democrat Sarah McBride was elected as the first transgender state senator. She beat Republican Steve Washington, a special education teacher, by winning 73% of her district’s votes. But, Senator McBride has been making LGBTQ+ history for years.

Senator McBride was the first transgender speaker at a major party event when she presented at the 2016 Democratic National Convention. While interning at the White House during the Obama administration, she was the first publicly transgender White House staff member.

Senator McBride’s work in Delaware’s legislature also includes advocating for the gender discrimination act that was passed in 2013. She also has publicly advocated for the reformation of the criminal justice system, as well as for expanding healthcare and increasing the minimum wage.

In New York, Democrats Ritchie Torres and Mondaire Jones were elected as the two newest members of Congress. Upon inaugu-

ration, they will be considered the first openly gay congressmen of color. Congressman Torres will be the first openly gay Latinx member of Congress, as well as the first gay multiracial member of Congress. Congressman Jones will be the first openly gay African-American member of Congress.

When Torres began his political career in 2013, he was the youngest New York City Council member of all time, as well as the first openly gay member. This success inspired Jones to run for office as a publicly gay African-American. Their combined successes have cemented in modern American politics that minority groups have a voice, and that representation is crucial to achieving true equity.

Why is it important to have diverse representation in government? When the elected officials become more diverse/inclusive, it helps more issues be addressed.

Both of New York’s newest congressmen, advocate for supporting impoverished communities and funding education. In neighborhoods that are historically impoverished, these resources would improve employment opportunities, provide access to food and healthcare, and reduce crime rates.

McBride’s advocacy for ending gender discrimination would

drastically change how women and gender-nonconforming people are treated. Healthcare would improve by taking women and members of the LGBTQ+ community seriously, as they are largely ignored or mistreated by medical professionals. McBride’s work in ending child abuse has helped create safer environments within both homes and schools - especially for queer children.

By electing government officials who are racially/culturally diverse, the United States becomes a more compassionate nation. Having minority representation in government positions allows the overall population to realize the struggles that the majority of the population may not experience. By calling attention to these inequalities, a solution can be found.

The results of the 2020 election have given the LGBTQ+ community a sense of hope. After the 2016 elections, there were rumors that the Obergefell v. Hodges ruling would be revoked. With more members of the LGBTQ+ community being elected into government positions, one less minority group will have their rights taken away. As more politicians of color run for office, the less room there is in the government for bigotry.

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# Progressive: A misunderstood label

*What is the real meaning of progressivism and how is it used in contemporary politics?*

Sean Miller  
staff writer

Progressivism, as a term used in contemporary politics, is often misunderstood and is given a negative connotation by conservatives who view the world through an ideological lens. Republican commentators such as Stephen Crowder and Rush Limbaugh fail to comprehend the true meaning of the word and subsequently mislead their audiences.

The true meaning of progressivism is: advancing society through social reform.

The word “progressive” leaves a bad taste in the mouths of many conservatives because of generalizations and bad associations. Many conservatives use the terms ‘woke culture’ or ‘socialist’ when discussing progressives in society.

In the last state of the union address, President Trump exalted Limbaugh for his work as a radio host, bestowing upon him the nation’s highest civilian honor, the medal of freedom. Limbaugh’s career has been to misinform the public by overgeneralizing and oversimplifying nuanced political topics.

“I maintain to you that this term ‘progressive’ is one of the biggest lies in all of politics, and the reason I don’t call ‘em ‘progressives’ is because they’re not. They are regressives,” Limbaugh said on his radio show in 2018. “They want to take us back to poorer economic times, larger and bigger government. They want to roll back freedom.

There is nothing progressive about these people and I’m not gonna call ‘em that. They’re socialist/Marxist.”

This statement is a rather nasty insinuation that anyone who thinks about advancing society through social reform is a lazy Marxist incapable of having a proper discussion. It is an overgeneralization that is ignorant of the proper use of the word progressive.

It is transparently clear that anyone who makes out that the best society can be the enemy of good people is afraid of change. It makes perfectly logical sense that the Republican Party is ideologically the party most attractive to those who are afraid of change.

Labeling things as socialist or Marxist is used pejoratively by conservatives and demonstrates a lack of understanding about that which they fear. The United States has never had a successful left-wing party to represent ideas outside the cultural norm. Therefore, any political opinion that expresses progressive intentions for society is deemed by ideologues as socialist.

This is not a defense of all supposed liberal democrats who are in reality, neo-conservative war hawks. It is a defense of real progressives who have made meaningful strides in the push for economic and racial equality.

The progressive era in U.S. history is characterized as the era in which worker compensation, improved child labor laws, minimum wage legislation, the graduated income tax and a woman’s right to vote was achieved. Without the



People at a protest against police brutality

advances made by progressives, Americans would still be disenfranchised, segregated and destitute from greed.

The most well known modern progressive is Senator Bernie Sanders from Vermont. As a registered independent and self-described “Democratic Socialist,” Sanders was attacked by conservatives in the Democrat and Republican parties. His ideas were treated as radical, yet his ideas were not more radical than the abolitionist movement, the progressive movement or the civil rights movement. All of those movements were progressive and are now seen as turning points in the American saga.

Recognizing that progressive thought has been the mechanism through which we have begun to realize the America we were promised is principal if we want to live up to the asserted that “all men are created equal.”

# Notebooks and nose swabs: the debate on education during COVID-19

*Since quarantine began, there has been debate about what is the correct way to educate children*

Autumn Hawkins  
staff writer

At the beginning of quarantine, parents of young students realized how much teachers go through during the school day. Many families were unable to help their children with their work, as Common Core standards have drastically changed the curriculum over the past few years. Other families were struggling to find quiet or relaxation time, as they suddenly had to make childcare arrangements during a time when it normally was provided.

As the pandemic rages on, school districts have fought with parents on whether or not to reopen schools fully. The students who are learning in person are experiencing a school culture that is dramatically different from even this time last year. Children are required to socially distance, wear masks, and frequently clean their workspaces.

While this allows students to interact socially with their peers, it is also putting their families at risk. If a student who has been exposed to COVID-19 comes to class, then the households of every other student in that room have come into contact with the virus. Many parents argue that this is a risk they cannot take, hence online learning.

But, many parents who were advocating for homeschooling children before the pandemic are defecting to the other side. Some families are claiming that it is too

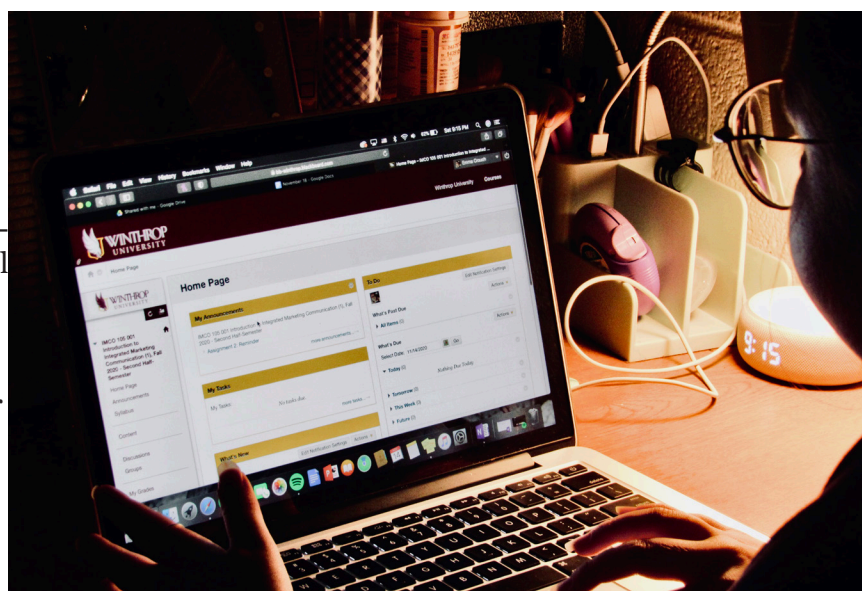
much mentally to home-school students while under quarantine. Others are

furious that they are doing the work of the teacher but not getting paid. Multiple school districts — including Fort Mill’s — have spoken out about how distance learning does not equate to leading a classroom, and therefore parents should not expect a salary.

School districts are also reminding parents that homeschooling is not the same as distance learning and that it was a conscious decision. Distance learning is when a student is enrolled in the public school system yet is attending classes via the internet to promote social distancing. Homeschooling is creating a school environment independently in the home, often with parents writing the curriculum without school interference.

Lindsay Powers, the author of several childcare books, is insisting that the school systems pay her the same amount as her daughter’s teachers.

“We are asking parents to uproot



their daily lives to educate their children,” Powers wrote in a social media post this past August.

Many parents are arguing the opposing side, claiming that helping a child with schoolwork is a part of parenting. The parents who insist that helping with schoolwork is a rite of passage for parents also insist that teachers should be paid more.

Shonda Rhimes, a film producer and mother, has jokingly advocated for teachers’ wages to increase after seeing what they go through.

“Been homeschooling a 6-year old and 8-year old for one hour and 11 minutes. Teachers deserve to make a billion dollars a year. Or a week,” Rhimes posted on Twitter in March.

Whether or not parents believe that distance learning is more beneficial than in-person education, it is an extremely personal decision to make. There is no right or wrong answer — only what is right or wrong for each family’s circumstances.



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

◀ Numb from pg. 10

With virus statistics continuing to accrue all year, more and more have begun to ignore the negativity of the numbers. As the numbers have passed into thousands and even millions, it has become more and more difficult to notice the small positive changes from individual efforts.

Even worse, it is easy at this point for COVID-19 surges to go unnoticed. This self-fulfilling prophecy has led many Americans, even some who were once vigilant, to become apathetic about pandemic.

So, what can be done to stop this cycle?

The CDC still strongly encourages social distancing and wearing masks while in public. Stopping the spread of COVID-19 will reduce the number of cases being diagnosed, which will eventually lead to fewer statistics being thrown at Americans — hopefully curing them of apathy.

Additionally, the science journal, Nature, compared COVID-19 cases with cell phone data records of people’s hourly locations, and concluded that “that there are about 10% of points-of-interest that account for over 80% of all infections, and these are places that are smaller, more crowded and people dwell there longer.”

According to the research, six types of locations being reopened in metro areas have resulted in the largest increase of infections: restaurants, gyms, hotels, cafes and religious organizations.

In his NPR interview, Professor Weber encourages Americans to consider the amount of COVID-19 related deaths the United States has seen.

As of Nov. 12, 248,585 Americans have died from COVID-19. While it is very easy to compare that number to the American population and feel at ease, it is vital to recognize the sheer loss our country has sustained beyond mere statistics.

To put the number of dead Americans into perspective, COVID-19 has completely eradicated the equivalent of the York, Chester, Cherokee, Union, Lancaster, Fairfield and McCormick counties’ populations put together. That is nearly a quarter of the counties in South Carolina.

Weber hopes that putting the totals into perspective for the public will allow them to see that this is not to be taken lightly.

As COVID-19 continues to spread, the United States population must take the pandemic seriously. American lives are literally depending on it.

Sean Miller/The Johnsonian

Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian



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