

THE JOHNSONIAN



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Required COVID-19 testing for on-campus residents

Prior to returning to campus for the Spring 2020 semester, Winthrop residents will be required to receive COVID-19 testing



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

Bryn Smyth
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According to Winthrop University's COVID-19 Dashboard displayed at Winthrop.edu, as of Nov. 8, there have been zero positive cases amongst both students and employees since Oct. 26 and there have been 40 positive cumulative cases since March 16.

With low temperature months fast approaching, COVID-19 cases across the nation are expected to rise and universities, such as Winthrop, are taking extra precautions to help ensure the safety of their students, faculty and staff during the Spring 2021 semester despite having a tight budget.

"When we started working with DHEC, they offered a few different services one of which we use which is to have them come look at our campus and make recommendations on how we had set up our campus classrooms and other spaces to make sure we were doing things in a COVID-friendly way. They also offered testing, but it was like 180,000 dollars and we did not necessarily think we could afford it going into the new year," said Justin Oates, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs at Winthrop.

"We constantly monitor the budget and we are weighing options on what the Spring semester would look like in terms of potential testing... this conversation is something we have been having since the beginning," said Oates.

After constant monitoring of Winthrop's budget and due to the desire to mitigate the spread of the virus, Winthrop officials have decided to require testing for a select group of students at the start of the Spring 2021 semester.

"Trustees were briefed today on Student Affairs' and senior leadership's recommendation for pre-entry COVID-19 testing for students who are taking in-person classes and/or living in the residence halls. Students will be required to present a negative test result for a test taken 72 hours in advance of their return date/first in-person class. (Online-only students will not be required to submit test results.) Students will need to

quarantine two days prior to their test and continue to quarantine until their scheduled return to campus date," said President George Hynd in an email to the student body on Nov. 6.

In an email sent on Oct. 22, Hynd had disclosed that he had no plans to enforce COVID-19 testing for students, faculty or staff due to a lack of sufficient funds and manpower, but with the anticipation for an increase in virus transmission during the coming months leading up to the Spring 2021 semester, the university has decided to require testing for on-campus residents.

Some students believe this decision will have a negative impact on the student body and Winthrop's enrollment numbers in the coming semesters.

"I think it would negatively affect enrollment on campus as people would feel it a bit unnecessary. Maybe every semester, but not constantly. It should be left up to the individual—self-determination. Plus, I think people who take it seriously follow COVID-19 safety guides strictly," said Jaquarius Norman, a freshman middle level education major.

Some students question why only on-campus residents will be required to get tested. Both the University of South Carolina and Clemson University require testing for everyone on campus, regardless of whether they are residents, faculty or staff, whereas College of Charleston is requiring testing only for on-campus residents and Winthrop has decided to follow suit in that decision.

"Why only students and not also faculty/staff? Arguably, faculty/staff, depending on the position, would spend more time on campus than some students," said Jake Stiling, a graduate student in the Department of English. "If it is for the purpose of preventing and/or slowing the spread of COVID, then how is one test at the beginning of semester supposed to do this?"

Winthrop officials are consistently monitoring COVID-19 cases in surrounding areas as well as their budget to assess whether it is necessary or possible for the university to enact extra precautions in addition to those already in practice.



Kaily Paddie/The Johnsonian

How the WUPD vets officer candidates

After the arrest of former Winthrop police officer Charles Eugene Price, many Winthrop students have expressed concern about the hiring process of officers on campus

Chase Duncan
staff writer

Last month, former Winthrop University Police Department officer Charles Price was terminated from his position and arrested for over 51 criminal charges including criminal sexual conduct against minors, kidnapping and incest. In light of these charges, some Winthrop students have expressed distrust in the WUPD's hiring process for new law enforcement officers.

"In my freshman year, we were put in a room with one of our officers, and the campus police educated us about what they do and handle," Lindsey Burrell, a senior mass communications major said. "The speaker, who was a WU police officer, gave us his phone number and talked about all the jurisdiction that they have. And yet this is who they're hiring? We haven't heard anything from the university; everything I've heard is from local news sources. There's a huge lack of trust and transparency there."

In response to these reactions and to provide clarification on how the university police department selects and hires officers, Assistant Chief of Police, Charles S. Yearta, elaborated in an interview on the WUPD hiring process.

"The Winthrop Police Department is a state law enforcement agency, not security guards or a related group," Yearta said. "They are fully certified law enforcement officers through the state of South Carolina. The requirements for employment as a certified law enforcement officer is the same as everyone else in the state, as imposed by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council. The minimum requirements they have set forth is that you have to have a high school diploma or GED, you have to pass a medical screening background, a background investigation has to be conducted on you and no crimes of what we call moral turpitudes or misconduct have been discovered. Certain crimes are an automatic disqualifier within a certain timeframe, such as a DUI or domestic violence, since you can't legally drive or own a handgun at that point."

According to Yearta, a background check is performed against all candidates on a local, state and national level.

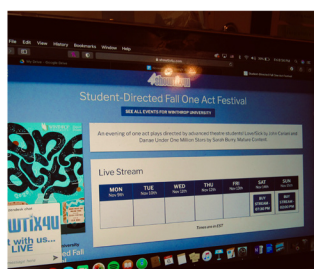
"For law enforcement officers, there are certain background aspects that are mandated due to the security clearance and access to various

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◀ WUPD from front

systems they have. In South Carolina, every law enforcement officer has to have their fingerprints taken, which are then submitted to the FBI. The FBI then returns with information on whatever crimes this person has ever been charged with, that the person's fingerprints are linked with an unsolved investigation, or that they have no record. On the state side, the fingerprints are funneled to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division in Columbia, where the criminal history of everyone in the state is housed. The state check is performed to see if a candidate has ever been convicted of any crimes at the state level," Yearta said.

"On the local level, depending on the circumstances, we also then do a variety of background checks to determine if a candidate has told us the full story, left details out or has shown to be in some way dishonest," Yearta said. "We then contact a person's educational institutions, whether it be a two-year or technical school, a four-year school, or, rarely, a person's high school for information on behavioral issues or anything that would get you referred to the dean of students here. On top of that, we do employment references, where we check to see if the employment history and information given to us is accurate. We then call the previous employers, no matter if it's law enforcement or working at Publix, to see if there's anything they've omitted or lied about. We then do character references, where we contact neighbors and friends and family members they may have listed. Usually, we'll contact the character references and ask them for more names and references, and then contact those people for some names, and so forth."

After a candidate has met these basic criteria, applicants are accordingly separated into an A, B, and C pool, according to Yearta. The A pool is made up of candidates who are already certified through the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, whereas applicants sorted into Pool B have law enforcement certification from outside of the state. Candidates who have received certification out of state have to submit their credentials to the SCCJA for review, where they determine whether the applicant can immediately receive state certification or must be put through partial or full state academy training.

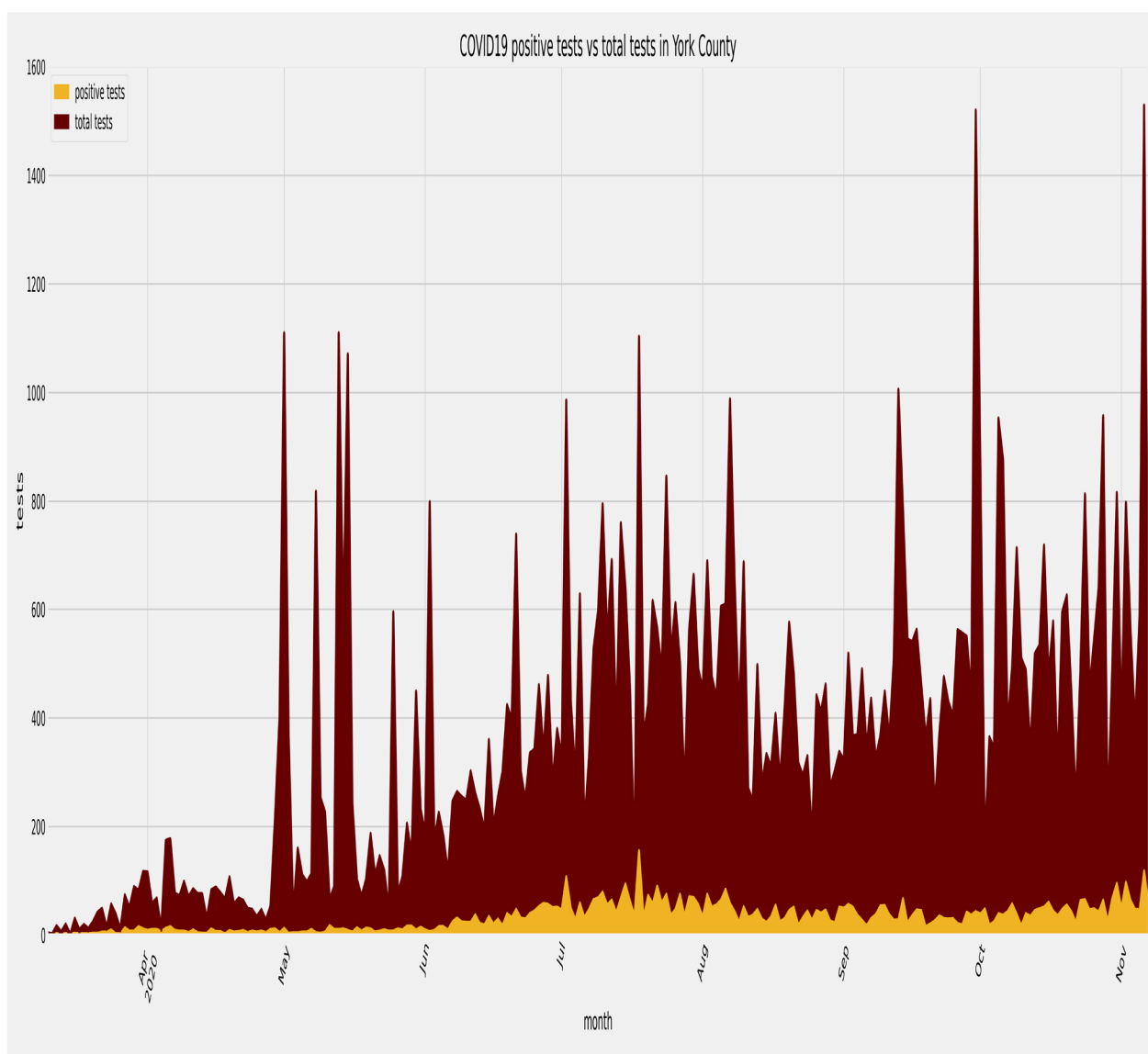
Finally, pool C candidates are applicants who have not yet received law enforcement certification in any state, but have a background in criminal justice like work in security and military or an educational background in related fields. If selected, a pool C candidate must complete SCCJA training for a minimum of five weeks and a maximum of 12 weeks, where they receive instruction on firearms, driving, legals, use of force, defensive tactics and other law enforcement techniques. When a selected recruit has completed their training and returns to begin work for the WUPD, they are assigned a field training officer who will accompany and grade their general performance, which can last from three months to a year depending on the officer.

"Part of when we look through all the pools, is looking for good fits for policing in higher education environments. Officers who work for the WUPD do their jobs just as efficiently as other police departments, but we kind of do our job differently in that we understand that this is a campus of higher learning and that for the students that are here, it's usually their first time away from home and that there's a maturing and growing aspect for them. We try to look for officers that understand and can meld that into their job as a law enforcement officer," Yearta said.

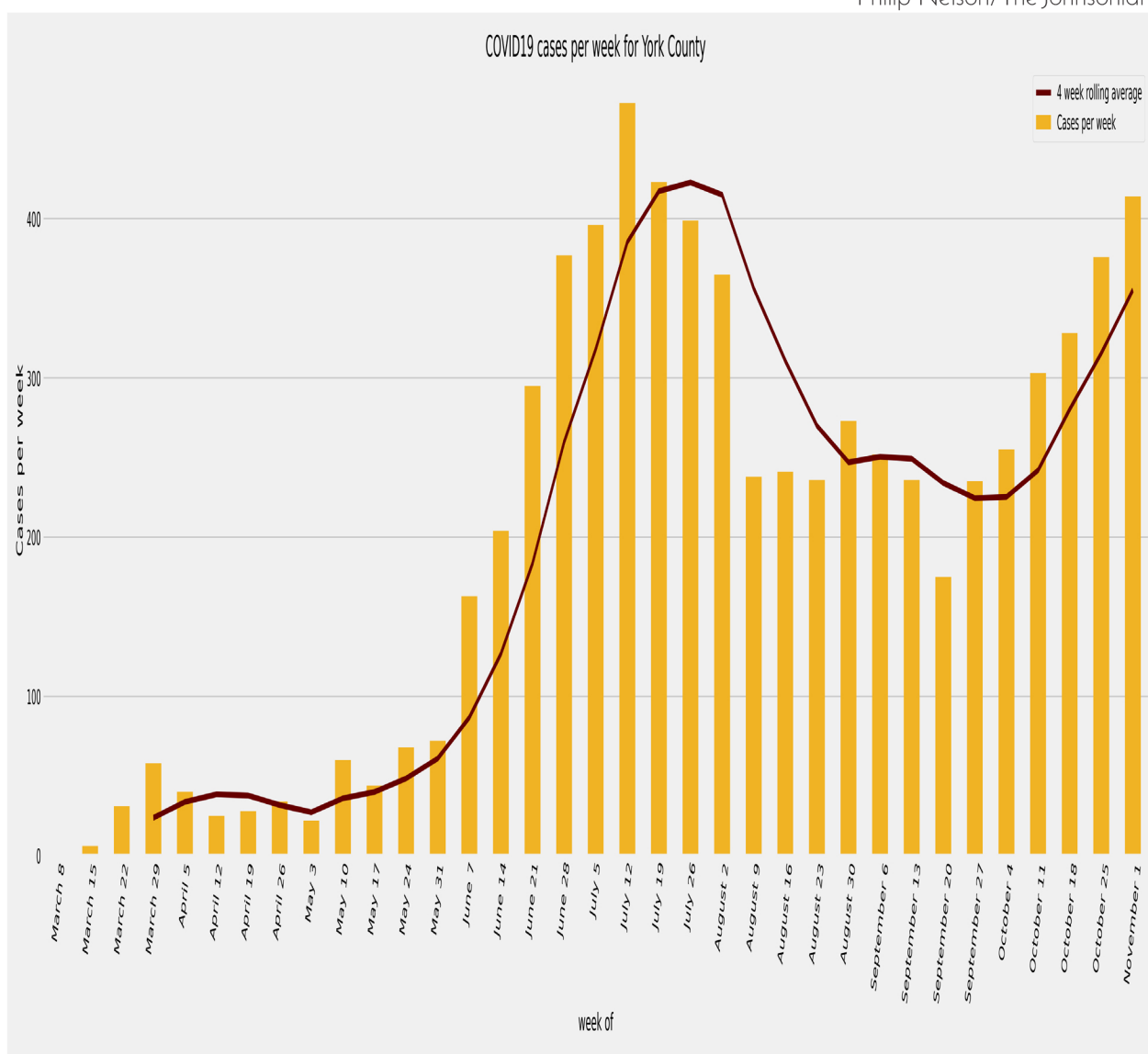
As of Nov. 3, the WUPD has hired two recruits from pool C, who will be transferred to the SCCJA in January of next year.

COVID-19 data

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



Philip Nelson/The Johnsonian



Philip Nelson/The Johnsonian

About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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Mental health and a life-altering election

The 2020 presidential election is causing stress for Winthrop's community and Health and Counseling services are there to help

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In the days prior to the 2020 presidential election, Winthrop University students, faculty and staff have experienced heightened levels of stress and anxiety.

"I haven't been sleeping well and have been going to bed anxious and waking up anxious as well. I have been having dreams regarding the election and it's honestly been stressful. I finally [got] tired of it and started going for a run," said Susana Atuncar, a junior international business and Spanish major.

It is no wonder this year's presidential election has had a negative impact on many people's mental health, being that it is a high-stakes election involving social justice, a deadly pandemic, economic endeavors, healthcare and environmental issues.

"If we ourselves aren't directly impacted, most of us know someone who is impacted by COVID, economic factors, social justice issues, and the like. It's as though we're in a constant state of low-grade trauma. This state can lead to physical (poor sleep, altered appetite, low energy), emotional (sadness, anxiety, anger) and cognitive (trouble focusing, distractible, low motivation) difficulties. We must tend to our overall wellness if we are to make it through this tough time," said Gretchen Baldwin,



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

While some are experiencing relief due to the outcome of the election, others may still be under significant mental distress.

clinical coordinator for Winthrop's counseling services.

The stress and anxiety caused by the election and events prior has taken a toll on both the emotional and physical health of the Winthrop population. Those who are experiencing this are encouraged to seek counseling.

In an email sent to the student body on Nov. 2, Katarina D. Moyon, director of the John C. West Forum on Politics and Policy, wrote, "If you are feeling highly stressed with these elections, please remember that resources are available at Counselling Services. You can go to

the patient portal (<https://patient-winthrop.medicatconnect.com/>) to schedule a same-day appointment, or if you are experiencing [an] acute crisis, you can call 803-323-2206 to speak with a counsellor."

While some stress and anxiety may have been alleviated because of the outcome of the election, it is likely that many in the Winthrop community are still battling with poor mental health regardless of whether they see the outcome of the election as a victory or not. This can have a lasting impact on one's personal life and academic performance.

"It is possible that the stress students are experiencing from the election will have an impact on their academic performance. It depends on individual students and how much the election intrudes into their lives," Moyon said. "People will likely have a harder time focusing on their work, especially if they are emotionally invested in the election. It may be a good idea to limit the amount of time you spend on newsfeeds and social media feeds if you are feeling particularly stressed.

In an effort to ease the political tension on campus, both Moyon and "ZaDonna Slay, social work instructor, are working on a post-election panel discussion for Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 6:30 p.m. They will be joined by Sarah Hopkins also of social work and Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez of the political science department. The event will cover what we know about the election results to date, how the results may be impacting various constituencies, and positive strategies for navigating the post-election climate," said Winthrop's Interim President George Hynd in an email to the student body on Nov. 4.

For those recovering from pre-election mental health issues as well as for those battling post-election mental health issues, the Office of Diversity and Student engagement is hosting virtual group discussions on an as-needed basis and Counseling Services will continue.

York County's CROP Hunger walk

York County's annual CROP Hunger walk was held virtually this year

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Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing the world today. According to Feedingamerica.org, there are about 600,440 people who are struggling with hunger in South Carolina. Of those 600,440, 178,710 of them are children. About one in every eight people deals with hunger and one in six children struggle with not having enough food. People who are facing hunger in South Carolina reportedly need \$291,600,000 more per year to meet their food needs.

This year was the 43rd anniversary of South Carolina's CROP Hunger Walk. The Hunger Walk is a community-based event held in cities and towns across the United States to help raise funds to support the global mission of Church World Service, which is a faith-based organization that helps communities around the world through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised are returned to the host communities to support local hunger fighting efforts. According to the CROP Hunger walk virtual kickoff video, "By walking in the CROP Hunger walk, you support the hunger fighting work of CWS in thirty countries around the world."

The event is usually held on Winthrop University's campus with a large group walk, however, due to the pandemic, it was instead held on Facebook Live on Nov. 1. Participants who wanted to do the walk were encouraged to walk alone or in small groups outdoors. One of the events was a Construction competition in which youth groups, college student groups and other groups who participated in the walk created

sculptures out of canned food items. Teams were encouraged to post a picture and vote for their favorite display on the York County CROP Walk Facebook Page. Winthrop's own Macfeat kindergarten was the winner of the Construction contest.

Though the event could not be held in person like it usually is, people still made sure to participate and donate. "With COVID-19 upending our lives, keeping us literally separated from our neighbors nearby, we are reimagining the walk and going virtual. As you step up to end hunger, alone and online, you walk in spirit with those who must walk to get clean water to wash their hands, or to find food for their families, or to find a safe place for their children. This year, more than ever, you show we can still lift each other up and comfort each other no matter the distance," according to the CROP Hunger walk virtual Kickoff.

"Whether you are walking and raising money, or you donate and support others in their walking, we are all together in spirit," said John Scogan, the national community engagement manager for Church World Service and CROP Hunger walks. "50,000 of us walking across the United States and raising millions of dollars to help the most vulnerable, near and far. That is a tremendous effort."

After the walk, all of the canned food items were donated to local food pantries. In 41 years, York County's CROP Hunger walk has raised over \$800,000, with more than \$200,000 remaining with local agencies. "Each year 25 percent of the money raised from the CROP Hunger walk goes to fight hunger locally. We partner with nearly 2,000 local hunger agencies in the United States," according to the CROP Hunger walk virtual Kickoff. The funds for this year's walk were donated to help support the local efforts of Pilgrims' Inn, Tender Hearts Ministries and the Clover Area Assistance Center.



Photo courtesy to Church World Service

“Whether you are walking and raising money, or you donate and support others in their walking, we are all together in spirit. 50,000 of us walking across the United States and raising millions of dollars to help the most vulnerable, near and far. That is a tremendous effort.

John Scogan, national community engagement manager for Church World Service and CROP Hunger walks



Winthrop engages first-generation students

The Celebration Week aims to help first-generation students feel better connected to the campus and community

Mari Pressley
staff writer

Winthrop University's Division of Student Affairs hosted the second annual First-Generation College Students Celebration Week which aimed to engage first-generation students with approximately one-third of Winthrop students identifying as first-generation students.

First-generation College Students Celebration Week came as a way for students to increase their sense of belonging and engage with other first-generation students at Winthrop as well as faculty, staff and administrators who are first-generation graduates.

Winthrop found that it was important to recognize the resilience first-generation students demonstrate and their initiative to pursue higher education despite the challenges they face.

Vice President for Student Affairs Sheila Burkhalter said, "Certainly most students in the collegiate environment are navigating transitions, learning how to study, developing career readiness skills, etc. However, first-generation college students do not have the benefit of having a parent/legal guardian who has navigated the environment, and thus is able to serve as a resource and guide as they learn how to 'do' college. Because first-gen students are 'first, only, different' in their families, those around them may not understand their journey or even support them pursuing a degree. This can leave students feeling untethered from home, but not completely connected to college as they pursue their dream of earning a degree."

Haley Beau, a freshman English major with a minor in secondary education, said, "So far, I've had a really good college experience here at Winthrop. However, I have noticed that it's a little more difficult trying to figure out some of the logistics of actually being in college. I know that a lot of my friends have had help from their parents with

knowing what classes to take, how to register, what loans to get, and even just applying to get here and I've had to figure most of that out on my own. It's a little stressful at times, but Winthrop is definitely doing a great job when it comes to support. I've been able to make a lot of connections, not only with classmates, but also with staff and that's proven to be very helpful."

According to Winthrop's 2020 TRiO achievers and the 2017 TRiO McNair proposals, 43 percent of the fall 2019 undergraduates and 48 percent of fall 2019 first-year students were first-generation college students.

Assistant Dean for Diversity Kinyta Adams Brown said, "We are intentional about some of our programming and things that we offer. First of all, we recognize and celebrate first-generation college students. And I think that's important because I find that a lot of students don't realize that they're first-generation college students. I have several students that say, 'oh, I didn't even realize that I was a first-generation college student.' So, when they are applying in high school, when they're applying for college, they're applying and they're not realizing, 'Oh, this is a thing,' And so I think that part of it is that we're very intentional about giving some awareness and I think we are intentional about celebrating and recognizing."

In spring of this year, Winthrop was designated as a First-Gen Forward Institution by The Center for First-generation Student Success, an initiative of NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education – and The Suder Foundation.

"Because we are part of this [First-gen] forward designation, we had to come up with some goals for the year for us as an institution—how we can better support first-gen students and so we created some goals and again, we are working towards how we can better support and strengthen our support for first-gen students." Brown said.

"Our students facing goals this



Kaily Paddie/The Johnsonian

The Celebration Week aims to help first-generation students feel better connected to the campus and community.

year include: Increased motivation, increased sense of belonging, enhanced financial literacy, greater familiarity with the college environment and its available support services." Burkhalter said. "In collaboration with our colleagues in University College, TRiO, and the McNair Scholars, Student Affairs is well on its way to achieving these goals."

Programs such as TRiO Student Support Service and the McNair Scholars are both examples of Winthrop's initiatives to specifically support first-generation students.

"[TRiO] has actually been here longer than most other offices and departments on campus, they have actually been working with first generation students for several years now. They work with certain populations of students but one of those populations is first-generation college students. That's a federally grant funded program ... but that program only has a certain amount of spots of students that can be part of TRiO," Brown said.

"Almost everything we do in the TRiO Achievers program is intentionally designed to speak to the needs of first-generation students. We serve approximately 180 students who are mostly first generation students (and meet income requirements)," said TRiO program director Rose Gray. "TRiO offers services such as individual academic counseling for each of our students, where a TRiO counselor meets with them regularly to monitor their academic performance, plan out their class schedule each semester and for their four year plan. TRiO also offers tutoring that is exclusive to our students, no appointment necessary. We offer financial literacy development through a range of workshops and financial literacy modules. We have also

worked to establish liaisons with offices on campus, such as the Office of Financial Aid and the Center for Career Development and Internships, to answer their questions if we don't know them. We have an established student-led leadership council that provides students the opportunity to learn hands-on leadership skills. To supplement leadership development, this year we created a LEAD course to take while holding executive positions on the Leadership Council. We offer free printing and free cultural events to productions in Charlotte. TRiO works steadily to serve and equip our students with passion and persistence to ensure they have the resources they need to succeed and graduate from college."

Adams Brown explains the overall effect that Winthrop hopes to have through First-Generation Students Celebration Week: "What I hope that students will get out of this is students that are one, who are a part of the first generation family that they feel a sense of pride, a sense of accomplishment—that 'Wow, I'm here.' Like sometimes, I think we relish in the moment, especially this year with so much going on. Right? Like, 'Wow, I'm here. I made it.' and just a sense of pride and appreciation and I know some folks may be nervous about being a first-gen student but just know that there are a community of other people on this campus, not only students but administrators... for the students to have some sense of pride and feel that and be okay with that and know that there are a community of other individuals around this campus that are supporting them and kind of their outer network that are here for them."

BOT approves resolution for new degrees

Three new degree programs will be added to Winthrop University's already vast selection of degree programs

Chase Duncan
staff writer

Winthrop University's board of trustees approved resolutions to establish three new academic degrees at a board meeting earlier this month. The resolutions will be submitted to the Commission of Higher Education for further approval over the next several months.

The three new degrees include a Bachelor of Science in cybersecurity, Master of Science in athletic training, and a Bachelor of Design with a concentration in experience design, graphic design, illustration and interior design.

The resolutions were presented by board member and Academic Quality Committee Chair, Janey Smalley, who began the presentation with a comment praising the university's recent efforts towards what she called "academic master planning."

"The departments have always done a good job of managing

budget, but they've never really looked at programmatic issues through a budget lens, and that's pretty much what this program is doing. They're using data, they're using the resources of EA, they're grinding data on their own and with the help of one another to really take a closer look at the right data at the right time. And right now is the right time," Smalley said.

Board discussion regarding the academic resolutions opened on the Bachelors of Science in cybersecurity. Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Adrienne McCormick, answered a question from board member, Glenn McCall, regarding the program's niche within the region and state.

"There are other programs currently in the state, but we are keeping pace with demand by joining those other institutions that have similar programs, not necessarily the same, without losing out on our regional

demand," McCormick said.

McCall suggested an increase in the marketing and advertising for the program to improve outreach, proposing a budget increase from \$2,000 to at least \$10,000. He also voiced his support for the possibility of creating a bridge program with York Technical College to provide higher academic opportunities for students with associate degrees in similar technological fields, as well as improving the university's aptitude for transferring academic credits from the technical college.

The introduction of both the Master of Science in athletic training and the Bachelor of Design would require some preexisting degrees to be cut or consolidated into the proposed programs.

"We're eliminating the Bachelors of Science in athletic training to make way for the Master of Science in athletic training," McCormick said.

"We've added a new track in our bachelor of science in exercise

science for the first three years that will then draw students into the two year MSAT. We have a real competitive edge there because we're providing that in a five-year experience, whereas looking at other institutions that will be adding the MSAT, it will be a six-year requirement in most instances. For the Bachelor of Design, we will be eliminating the Bachelor of Fine Arts in visual communication and interior design. It's two programs becoming one, rather than an overall elimination," McCormick said.

The cybersecurity and design programs are expected to be approved for the 2021-22 academic year, according to Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Timothy Drueke. The MS in athletic training degree is expected to be implemented in the summer 2023 semester as the current program prepares students for the transition from the bachelor's degree to the master's degree.

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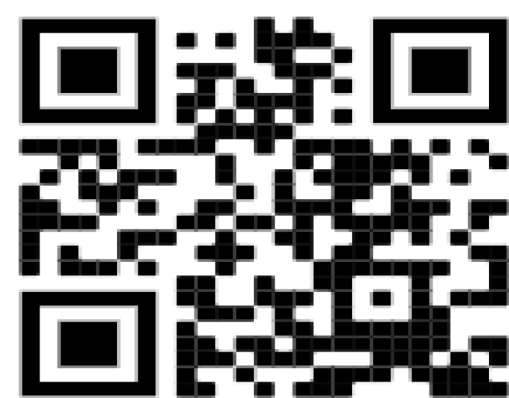
presents



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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Science and Tech

Editor

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SPORTS the Johnsonian

November 11, 2020

Pep band temporarily cut from funding

The Screamin' Eagles Pep Band will not perform at basketball games this season

Alex Romano
staff writer

One of the most enjoyable parts of attending any sporting event is the atmosphere that is present in the arena or stadium. For years, Winthrop's Screamin' Eagles Pep Band has helped to create and maintain that atmosphere for both the spectators and the players at men's and women's home basketball games. However, due to budget cuts caused by COVID-19, the pep band will not be performing during athletics events this year.

Because budget cuts have been present in many other departments of the school this semester due to the pandemic, the pep band being cut from the budget was not a complete surprise.

"I understood the business part of it, especially because of all the other cutbacks that have taken place," said pep band director Dr. Doug Presley. "I would have preferred that it be scaled down instead of completely eliminated. Obviously I would have preferred

if it didn't happen, but I understand why it happened."

With the pep band being temporarily cut from Winthrop's budget, there is no question that the game-day atmosphere will be affected by their absence.

"Since we don't do football, basketball is the big attendance venue," Presley said. "And with the team's success, that also brings more focus to our campus. I think the players and the way that they play will ultimately determine the atmosphere."

"If students are allowed into games, I would imagine there would be some limited seating, as well as some intentional steps that the athletics department will make that keeps the audience engaged."

While the pep band will not be present for regular-season games, Presley hopes there is a possibility that they could make a return if the men's basketball team returns to the NCAA tournament this spring.

"I would hope, but I don't know. If something like that were to happen, and if the NCAA makes allowances for the tournament, I suppose we could look into that."



Photo Courtesy to David Griffin

The pep band playing pre COVID-19 at a basketball game

Obviously I would not look away from an opportunity to support the team in any way we can," Presley said.

If the pep band were to return for the men's NCAA tournament, it may take them some time to return to form.

"That's the thing, even though the season doesn't start for a few more weeks, we usually start rehearsals in October," Presley said. "We have to run through some stuff, and there's always new freshmen that we need to teach the cheers to. After we've had our

October rehearsals, it usually takes us a few games to find our footing."

Although the pep band is disappointed by the budget cuts, there is a sense of optimism that the band will return for basketball games as soon as next season.

The announcement that there will be no pep band at basketball games this year follows the announcement that the Spirit Squad will not perform at basketball games either. There has been no official word on if fans will be allowed to attend games.

New look, new season

Men's basketball announces new uniforms, games for 2020-2021

Matthew Shealy
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Following a rough 2-2 record The Winthrop men's basketball team has a fresh new look for the 2020-2021 season. The team's social media accounts released pictures last week of sophomore Jamal King wearing a new white uniform, while redshirt junior Adonis Arms sported garnet (as opposed to the black uniform the team has worn the last few years).

"I love the jerseys. Tighter and fresher than last year," said sophomore guard Russell Jones Jr. "I'm a bigger fan of the white, personally."

The team also announced that it will begin the season in Louisville, Kentucky as one of nine schools participating in the Wade Hampton Tipoff Classic. The Eagles' first matchup will be against the Seton Hall Pirates on Nov. 25.

Winthrop will face a total of five opponents at the KFC Yum! Center, with games against UNC Greensboro (Nov. 27), Southern Illinois (Nov. 29), Duquesne (Dec. 1) and Little Rock (Dec. 4).

"[The] team I'm most excited to play at the [multiteam event] is Seton Hall because that's Power 5 and we get to showcase how good we are against them," Jones Jr. said. "I think we're going to match up well against the other teams. We're a great team and we're going to have to go up there and show that. It'll be really fun to play that competition."

The Big South Conference also released its league schedule last week. Winthrop will play 20 conference games (two against every opponent), and games will be played on consecutive days at the same location to reduce travel.

The Eagles will see their first conference action against USC Upstate, with games in Spartanburg on Dec. 12 and 13. Winthrop will then host its first conference opponent in Rock Hill on Dec. 30 and 31, with games against the Campbell Fighting Camels. Winthrop will also host Longwood, Hampton, Gardner-Webb and UNC Asheville for back-to-backs, with doubleheaders on the road against High Point, Presbyterian, Charleston Southern and Radford.

"I think it will make it harder because we have to make sure we're locked in for playing the same team back-to-back days," Jones Jr. said. "We're capable of doing that, but that is always a challenge for teams to stay positive and enthusiastic about playing the same team twice. Especially with some schools not having fans."

Winthrop played games on consecutive days only once last season, during the program's first-ever trip to the state of California. The Eagles lost on a buzzer-beater to Fresno State on Nov. 10 but bounced back the following night to defeat the St. Mary's Gaels, who were ranked No. 18 in the country at the time.

With 25 games on the schedule, Winthrop is currently in line to play six fewer regular-season games than last season. However, it's likely that more games could be announced before the season tips off.

"At this time we are still trying to finalize the schedule," Winthrop Athletic Director Ken Halpin told The Johnsonian in an email. "It has been incredibly difficult to finalize but we do hope to announce more games soon."

Before it became evident that this season would be different due to COVID-19, Winthrop was set to play games against Elon, Furman, Coastal Carolina, Hartford and LSU. Winthrop was not included on LSU's schedule announcement last week, but it remains to be seen if any of these other contests will still occur this season.



Russel Jones jr. attempts to dunk

Photo Courtesy tp Winthrop Athletics

Eagle of the Week: Spencer Yankle

Lily Fremed
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Friday night games under the lights are fifth-year baseball catcher Spencer Yankle's favorite part about being a collegiate athlete at Winthrop. After transferring from a community college in Tennessee, Yankle is now entering his third season on the baseball team after the pandemic cut his senior season short.

"I was devastated that we got our season taken away from us," Yankle said. "I wasn't sure if I was going to ever play again and that was a very uneasy yet memorable feeling that I carried with me this year. I am extremely excited to have another year to play here and get to compete for Winthrop."

Back in July, Yankle appeared in "Everstand at Home," a video series by Winthrop Athletics, where he answered some fun questions about himself. When Alyssa Sconzo asked him about being ranked 28th overall out of all catchers in Division I power ranking after his short 2020 season, his response was quite humble.

"To be honest, the ranking isn't my goal. That's a great after-product of the hard work I've put in and how the coaches have helped me," Yankle said.

Yankle started all fifteen games as catcher in the spring of 2020. He led the team with 14 RBIs and posted a batting average of .339.

Ending the short season with five doubles, Yankle also earned his first triple at Davidson on Feb. 26 and his first home run at George Mason on March 7. When chatting with Sconzo, Yankle also shared his excitement about the 2021 season.

▶ see Eagle pg.7

◀ Eagle from pg.6

“The fact that they granted us another year of eligibility and we can come back – it just means the world to me and I know I speak for some other seniors as well,” Yankle said. “The fact that we get to come back and wrap things up properly after four years of a lot of hours and time put in, it’s really special.”

Yankle said he was on a baseball diamond “as early as [he] can remember.”

“My older brother also played baseball and my dad coached when he was younger, so I was always hanging around the field,” Yankle said.

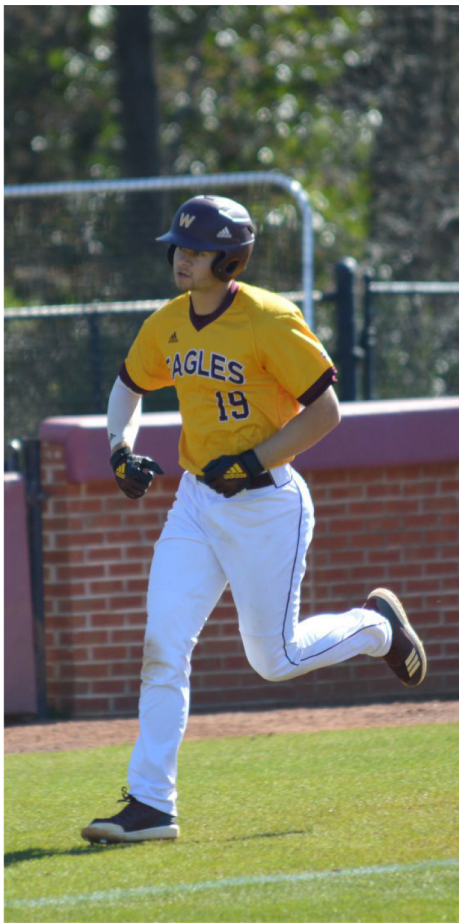
Although Yankle is motivated by a variety of sources, he said his family inspires him “more than anything.”

When he isn’t on the field, Yankle can usually be found playing video games, wakeboarding, or listening to music.

Originally from Ohio, Yankle would prefer to stay in the Carolinas after graduation to find a management position in a healthcare facility, but he tries to “treat every day as just another day,” leaving his options completely open. He has even bigger aspirations.

“It is my dream to play baseball professionally and I would love the opportunity to play in the MLB,” Yankle said.

Yankle is excited for the Eagles to get back on the field for games as he “would like to win a conference championship and make a regional,” but before then he is looking forward to going home for Thanksgiving to visit his family and dog Sadie.



Photos Courtesy to Winthrop Athletics



Eagle of the Week, Spencer Yankle

Welcome to the South

Winthrop attracts student-athletes from all over the United States

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With 90% of Winthrop students already from South Carolina, many of them get to see their families on a regular basis throughout each semester. Approximately 8% of the students on Winthrop’s campus are out of state students, so big holiday breaks from school, like Thanksgiving, will be the first time these out of state students see their family in almost four months.

Sabrina Fonda, a junior majoring in corporate finance with a minor in accounting, calls Wellington, Florida home. A member of the golf team, she discovered Winthrop while going through the college golf recruitment process in high school.

“I loved its location, I was very impressed with the golf team and the athletics program, the size of the school was perfect, the campus was beautiful, and I really wanted to go to college somewhere outside of Florida where I could experience a different area of the country,” Fonda said.

Aside from loving the student-athlete community on campus, Fonda adores the fact that unlike South Florida, South Carolina has visible changes for each season.

“I really enjoy the fall because I love seeing the leaves change color and feeling the temperature get cooler,” Fonda said.

Since there were no golf tournaments to participate in this semester, the golf team has their work cut out for them as all tournaments will be squished into one spring semester.

“I think we have a team full of really solid players and we can all come together to have a great season in the spring. I am very proud to be able to represent Winthrop in competition and love being a part of such a great team,” Fonda said.

Normally Fonda can only make it home about once a semester since it is a 9.5 hour drive or a two hour flight, so she is looking forward to spending time with her family at their Thanksgiving feast.

One day Fonda wishes to travel beyond the states, visiting Bali, Indonesia.

“It looks like such a beautiful, peaceful destination and I hope that I can vacation there at some point,” Fonda said.

One out of state athlete is actually on an international journey right now.

Brock “Twice” Cheung of the esports team is working this semester remotely from Mexico after his step-father’s work moved the family there. Originally from Jefferson City, Missouri, Cheung has, in fact, never stepped foot in South Carolina.

“[Working remotely] may apply for the spring as well so it could be as late as next fall as to when I touch foot on campus for the first time,” Cheung said.

With Cheung being ahead in his studies as a mass communication major, his graduation year is unofficial, but will either be 2022 or Spring 2023. Before attending Winthrop, Esports Head Coach Josh Sides tried to recruit Cheung, but he was already committed to attend the University of Missouri where his mom graduated.

Cheung’s plan changed when the pandemic hit. According to Cheung, “Mizzou was handling it extremely poorly,” so when Sides reached out to him once more, he was definitely interested.

“I mainly chose to attend for the following reasons: Winthrop’s mass communication department has the same accreditation as the University of Missouri’s journalism school, the ability to allow me to be fully remote for the first semester if not the first whole academic year, and the ability to continue my career as a collegiate esports athlete,” Cheung said.

Although he is roughly 1,700 miles away, Cheung’s Winthrop experience has already been better than he expected.

“I naturally get along better with everyone and it’s been a much more positive experience. All the players are great and Josh works extremely hard for the players first. It is something I wish a lot more collegiate programs took note of,” Cheung said.

Creating his nickname for the esports world, Cheung’s younger brother and sister, who are twins, were his inspiration.

“I got ‘Twice’ from the idea that I have two little siblings. People mistake it for the Kpop group all the time so I always have to explain,” Cheung said.

Deeply missing his grandparents, Cheung is looking forward to his return to the states, but it looks as though his Thanksgiving will still be abroad.

“I don’t know if we’re planning any big dinners or anything but my mom’s birthday is on Thanksgiving so I’m sure we’ll do something for that most definitely,” Cheung said.

Like Cheung, fellow esports player Benjamin “Del” Grieser, a junior computer information systems major from Rollins, Montana, found Winthrop through Coach Sides.

“I chose to attend to follow him, as he was my coach at my old school. Combined with the increased resources and his leadership, it was a no-brainer,” Grieser said.

One perk to staying in South Carolina is that Grieser will not experience as much cold weather compared to his home where it is “only warm four months of the year.”

Grieser’s nickname comes from his favorite rapper, Del Tha Funky Homosapien, who has inspired him from an early age.

“My favorite part of the Esport team is the close knit atmosphere we have. I can truly say that my team is my family, and each day we work to succeed together,” Grieser said.

Since Grieser is “working very hard to get internships in the derivatives trading or market making world” and it is quite expensive to travel across the country, he will not be returning home for Thanksgiving.

Luckily, he said he thoroughly enjoys the food on campus, as “it’s a big upgrade” over his prior schools.

Discovering new food is also an exciting activity when moving to another state for senior Teyah Floyd of the women’s track and field team.

“I love going to Pelican’s and Waffle House since we do not have those in Connecticut,” Floyd said.

From Farmington, Connecticut, Floyd heard about Winthrop through an NCAA recruiting



Teyah Floyd is from Connecticut and is a part of Winthrop’s track and field team.

website.

“I chose Winthrop because they offered me a partial scholarship for track and I was determined to attend college in a southern state,” Floyd said.

Even though moving away from home is quite an adjustment, especially when moving to another state, Floyd said she “adapted quickly and made new friends and teammates,” and happily accepted the southern hospitality.

“I adjusted to the types of food, language, and slower, more polite lifestyle,” Floyd said.

Running since she was twelve years old, Floyd gets inspiration from LeBron James because “he has done a lot to give back to his community and others, along with his inspiring upbringing prior to the NBA.”

Now a sprinter for the Eagles, Floyd adores being a part of such a big, loving team.

“It’s like a big family and we support each other, get to travel together and watch each other grow as teammates and people,” Floyd said.

Floyd’s goal is to graduate in May 2021 with a minimum GPA of 3.2. Afterward, she hopes to find a place to live between Charlotte and Fort Mill, where she can educate young student-athletes on the importance of nutrition.

William Metcalf-Shull, a runner for the men’s cross country team and a junior exercise science major, always wanted to attend college outside of his home in Lancaster, Ohio. He decided to attend Winthrop “because of the Coach and it was the best financial option for a school with [his] intended major.”

Another positive of leaving his northern state is that he does not have to deal with snow here in the south. He usually finds time throughout the semester to visit home during short breaks from classes and competitions, but traveling for Thanksgiving will be his first time home this semester.

“My favorite part about Winthrop is easily the friends I’ve made while being here. I also appreciate the student-athlete community here; having that makes being an athlete more enjoyable,” Metcalf-Shull said.

Now running competitively for his eighth year, Metcalf-Shull hopes to qualify for the NCAA East Preliminary meet in the 1500m run.

“I first started running because one of my teachers in middle school was the cross country coach and told me I should give it a try,” Metcalf-Shull said. “My favorite races are the 3000m and 1500m - it’s too hard to decide between them.”

Ultimately, different weather and a close athletic community seem to be the most popular reasons for out of state students choosing to attend Winthrop.

A&C the Johnsonian

November 11, 2020

The festival will go on *Despite COVID-19 limitations, the Student-Directed Fall One-Act Festival is still happening*

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Anyone familiar with the Winthrop University Theatre Department's schedule of performances knows that as the end of any semester approaches, the Student-Directed One-Act Festival will be there to give students one of their last chances to see some of Winthrop's best perform. Despite COVID-19 making most theatre work tricky business, it is not stopping this show.

Unlike previous years, which have seen several plays as a part of the festival, this year only two are being performed. The first is "Love/Sick" by John Cariani. According to senior theatre education major and director of the play, Hannah Baird, "Love/Sick" is "a series of short scenes between two people. Each scene is a depiction of different stages of hard times in a relationship." Taji Mayberry, a senior psychology major who plays the characters of Bill and Jake in the show, said that the show focuses on how "love isn't one specific thing" and is "very dynamic."

"[This year], we are very steadfast on making [the play] realistic and hitting close to home," Baird said. "We believe that these are scenarios that people have been or will be in in their lives at some point, unfortunately. And for those people, we really want it to resonate with them as something that they walk out with almost a pit in their stomach."

According to Baird, the original writer of the play described it as "a funny until it's sad play." She said that she wants "audiences to walk away with having just

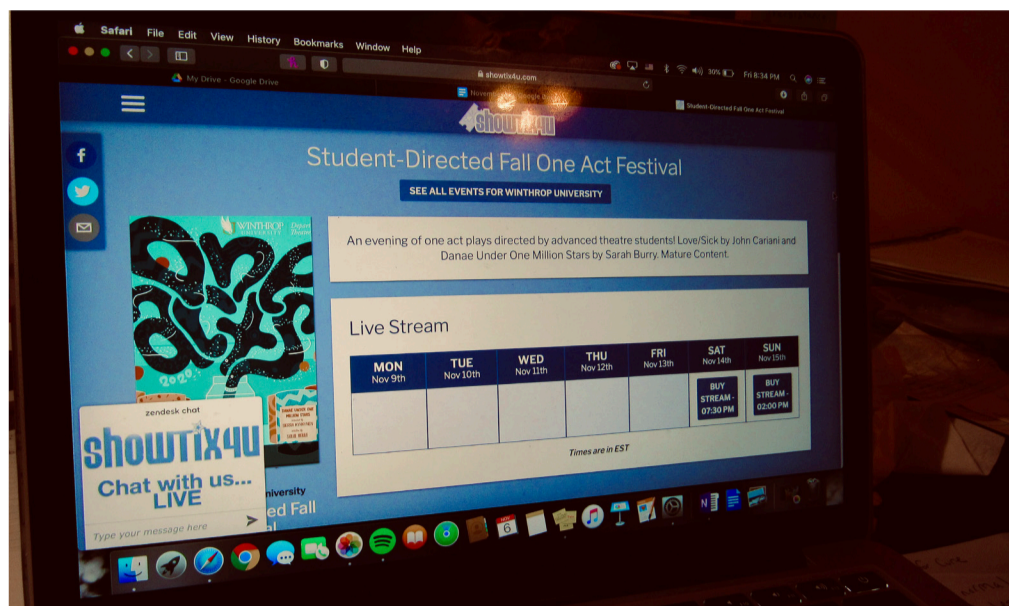
laughed so hard until they felt horrible, which kind of sounds really weird, but it's really true. The show is very funny until it takes a turn and it gets very sad."

Mayberry said that he hopes that audiences also leave the show with the message that "Love is hard, love is difficult, and love isn't one set thing. Love isn't perfect. People have issues and are still in love. People go through problems and different relationships and love isn't one perfect circle. Love comes in many shapes and sizes and situations."

The second play being performed at the one acts is "Danae Under One Million Stars" by Sarah Burry and is being directed by junior theatre performance major Sierra Kyhkynen. According to them, "Danae Under One Million Stars" is a reinterpretation of the Greek myths of Callisto and Danae using the Roman names of the involved figures.

"Our show, it jumps between two settings and between Danae explaining stuff that happened to her and her girlfriend, Callisto... and these scenes between her and Callisto," Kyhkynen said. "The function of the play is primarily a memory play. So, it is these two worlds that are completely separated except by the narration of the one character. And with this story, the actual myths of Callisto and Danae never crossed paths, but...[the women] are the daughters of kings of neighboring kingdoms in ancient Greece. So, this story is about two star-crossed princesses."

Unlike their counterpart's more realistic centric play, Kyhkynen said that their play is "much more fantasy, it's less rooted



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

in realism than other [one acts have been]...it takes liberties with realism." They also hope that audiences will walk out of the show seeing the "circular nature of Greek mythology" and feeling "that there could be some semblance of hope in the world despite anything awful that's happening, like be able to see how the world could be despite the circumstances."

Due to the limitations of COVID-19, neither play will be available in person this year. Instead, both shows will be livestreamed and tickets can be bought through showtix4u.com using links on the College of Visual Performing Arts' section of the Winthrop website. Tickets range from \$3 with a Winthrop ID to \$5 for the general public with a \$10 family option available as well; however, it is warned that the show may contain mature content. Two streams will run of the performance, one at 7:30 pm on Saturday, Nov. 14, and one at 2 pm on Sunday, Nov. 15.

Airing out the Dirty Laundry, an art movement

One artist does her part to give women a platform to have their voices heard

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Anyone who has walked through the first floor of the DiGiorgio Campus Center since the middle of October is likely to have noticed the clothes hung on the wall by the stairs leading down to Markley's. Eye-catching clothes of a variety of style with words strewn across them saying things such as "My name does not define me, I do" and "Yes, my legs are hairy" hang on a clothesline as a part of the "Airing Out the 'Dirty' Laundry" art movement brought to Rock Hill by artist, activist, community arts organizer and founder Andrea Downs.

Downs, an art teacher with seventeen years of experience working with middle and high schoolers and twenty years doing mixed media work, said that she has always focused on the themes of "storytelling and identity and relationships" in her work. Particularly, she said that a huge focus of what she teaches "centers around teaching social justice through art and also contemporary art and contemporary art practices."

Following the 2016 U.S. election, Downs' artwork started to shift to respond to the injustices cropping up more and more in the world. In early 2017, following her attendance at the Women's March, she created a piece of artwork responding to the experience titled "Airing Out The Dirty Laundry."

▶ see Dirty pg. 9

The Art of war

Emily Curry
staff writer

Amidst all the chaos our country faces, there is still much to be thankful for. On Nov. 11, Veterans' Day, we show our appreciation for those who have fought for us, who have risked life and limb to keep this country and its people safe. We pay respects to those who lost their lives, and we are grateful for those who came back.

But the soldiers who do come back from the frontlines often bring the frontlines home with them. It has been given many names over the centuries, such as shell shock or battle fatigue, but today, we recognize it as post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. PTSD is a serious mental disorder that can have damaging effects on how soldiers settle back into civilian life.

Luckily, as the fields of psychology and medicine advance, we've found many ways for veterans to combat the symptoms of PTSD. One of the more innovative methods is through art, be it musical, visual, or even theatrical. Many organizations have been created to help in this endeavor, from the National Initiative for Arts and Health in the Military, which

serves veterans across the country, to smaller community-centered organizations, such as Do Good Multnomah in Portland, Oregon.

In fact, earlier this year, Do Good Multnomah worked with a local art gallery, the Brassworks Gallery, to showcase veterans' art that told the stories of what they've experienced. According to an article written about the event, Marine Corps veteran Christian Gabriel explained that art "gets me out of my head...When I couldn't sleep at night, I started painting and writing."

Gabriel helped the art gallery's curator, Robin Weirich, to put together a show they called Acrylic Warfare. According to the same article, local veterans' artwork "covers the walls at Brassworks Gallery. Their stories are told on cards by each of the more than 40 pieces." Jonny Fisher, a developmental manager with Do Good Multnomah, explained how the veterans 'signed up to fight and after they get out they're still fighting. It's up to us to pick up the fight.'

Another project that highlights the healing power of the arts is the upcoming documentary film, "Re-story: Transforming Veteran Stories into Art," which will de-

A look at how veterans are using art therapy to overcome trauma

but at the National Veteran Film Festival on Nov. 13-15. Students from Columbus College of Art and Design worked with veterans to share their stories. According to CCAD's blog, the documentary will "explore how their creative efforts as artists have helped them to process their individual military experiences."

Included in the documentary are short animations that were created from veterans' poems, which in turn were created during a poetry workshop organized by the Veteran Arts Initiative of the VA Central Ohio Healthcare System. Heather Seymour, a VAI program coordinator, expressed how important the film is because "The common thread is that no life experiences define us, we are all dynamic. We all want to be heard, understood, and this platform of storytelling is essential in a digital world."

There are hundreds of stories that need to be heard, but unfortunately never will be. PTSD can truly ruin veterans' lives, and after serving their country, the least they deserve is the stability of mind and soul. So on this Veterans Day, reach out to the veterans you know and learn their stories, and don't forget to thank them for their service.



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

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Artist Spotlight: This dancing dog keeps theatre alive

Isaac Nicolau performed as a singing Snoopy in his virtual theatre debut

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Snoopy the dog: a loveable, moody best friend to Charlie Brown. But this cartoon canine is also a singing and dancing entertainer in “Snoopy! The Musical,” brought to life by freshman musical theatre major Isaac Nicolau.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, several theaters and live performance companies have been asking, “How are we going to do what we do?” Nicolau said. This question also rings true for him, both as an artist and a student.

Many college freshmen this year are missing out on in-person classes, regular club meetings and time with friends on campus this year. Nicolau said he has discovered that, while it isn’t what he planned for, there are still opportunities to learn and be involved.

The same is true for his experience with creating theatre amidst this pandemic. Recently, Nicolau was a part of a production of “Snoopy! The Musical,” a virtual show put on by Mooresville Community Children’s Theater in his hometown. This show, which premiered on Oct. 30, followed the stories of Snoopy and his friends in a comic strip style, with animated props and sets surrounding the characters in their version of the Peanuts world.

Nicolau said this was a completely new experience for him. Recording sessions simply included him, the director and a green screen, while the rest of the process was achieved with the power of editing. While acting in a room alone, reacting to cast members that weren’t actually there, Nicolau said, “It was tough for me to know what am I doing and is it working.”

Along with scene partners, Nicolau is used to feeding off of the energy of a live audience in a performance. “The audience is almost like a guide,” he said. “When I make a joke...or I say a line in a specific way, the audience will react. They’ll laugh, they’ll shift in their seats... they’ll make some sort of indicator that I’m doing something right or wrong, but I didn’t have that.”

This connection with the audience is exactly what led Nicolau to pursue theatre four years ago. As a freshman in high school, Nicolau said he took his first theatre class because “my mom made me.” He



Artist Spotlight, Isaac Nicolau

then laughed as he said it was “love at first sight,” and he has been hooked ever since.

He decided to join his school’s spring musical that same year: A show called “Night of the Living Dead! The Musical!”, in which he played the role of a Bob Ross zombie, as well as another character towards the end of the show. “I had this long awesome robe and this long Gandalf beard, it was great,” Nicolau said.

On the last night of the show, Nicolau said he was onstage as this character when he felt something start to go awry. “I had just done three dance numbers as Bob Ross... and I was sweating,” Nicolau said. All of a sudden, his beard completely fell off in the middle of his last scene. “I am this beardless kid, 14-year-old scared boy on stage, and so the first thing I do is crack a beard joke.” The audience was quiet, so Nicolau and his scene partner diverted to a completely improvised scene about beard jokes.

Eventually, Nicolau said, “I realized that the audience wasn’t

quiet because it wasn’t funny. It was so funny that they had no air left to laugh, they were laughing so hard.”

By the end of the scene, the audience was on their feet for the pair of actors. “It was that moment that I realized that’s what I want to do,” Nicolau said. “I don’t want to do it for me. I’m not here to act for myself. I’m here to act for other people. I’m here to make them laugh...If I can just brighten someone’s day, that makes it all worth it.”

And Nicolau is still working towards making that possible today. While live theatre is being re-defined by the pandemic, “we’ve all had to figure out new ways to do the thing we’ve been doing the same for the past hundreds of years,” he said.

But Nicolau has been able to see this time as a source of reflection for artists such as himself. “We can look back and see that we don’t always have to do things the same way,” he said. “It was this year that I realized I can go off and make something, anything I want.” And that is just what he intends to do.

Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian

◀ Dirty from pg. 8

This led to Downs beginning to wonder, “What if through art and through visual storytelling, I create a space for women over time and, not just some women but all women, to tell the stories that they want to tell and the experiences that they want to tell and to not feel silenced or shame or that they have to share a specific story that we’re told is OK to be public.”

In February 2018, Downs hosted a get together for twenty other women, where she provided them all materials to use to create artwork related to the silencing of women using articles of clothing they brought with them. “This space is for you,” Downs explained in reference to what she told the women that day. “This is a space for you to share a story or experience through visual storytelling that addresses something about unity or strength or hope or a resistance of oppression, injustice or exclusion. And that was that. That was kind of the birth of everything. And there were a lot of Laundry Days that followed that...but it started in my family room and now it’s at the museum uptown.”

When explaining the main goals of the Dirty Laundry movement and its accompanying workshops that invite local women to make their own Dirty Laundry pieces, Downs said there were two parts to it. “One, I knew that I wanted to create the space for women to create their pieces of dirty laundry through visual storytelling. But I also knew that it was going to become a part of what I was hoping would be pop up installations on laundry lines where viewers would be invited to engage in unveiling women’s stories that they were sharing. So one of the kind of aesthetic things that I always have invited women to do is to have some kind of a top layer to their piece.”

Downs went on to explain that this top layer would have some transparency to it, beckoning the viewer to unveil what’s underneath and engage more personally with the story underneath. “And also what I’ve told women kind of all along is, is the way I see it in terms of like symbolism as well, is that it protects their story. A lot of times these are stories that women are being extremely vulnerable and sharing stories that they have never told before, whether they’re about trauma or abuse or sexual assault,” Downs said. “...And I like the symbolism of that where women make those choices about how much they are revealing and how they’re doing it.”

Downs said, in regards to what she wants viewers to take away from their view of the art, “My hope is that it leads to conversation and dialogue and specifically conversation and dialogue about kind of these cultural expectations that we’ve had of women in this country for a long time and specifically about what we are told as women to keep private and what we are told that we can talk about in public...Above all [else], my hope is that it touches individuals on a much more personal level, like women who may not feel ready to participate in the dirty laundry, but just by going in, they might feel heard because they’ve had the same experience...”

Currently, the “Airing Out the ‘Dirty’ Laundry” display is scheduled to remain up in the DiGiorgio Campus Center until Nov. 20, and a larger exhibition can be found at the Arts Council of York County Perimeter Gallery in downtown Rock Hill until Nov. 21.



Kaitly Paddle/The Johnsonian

◀ Jerry from pg. 10



Photo Courtesy to Wikimedia

then that person may not be the best option for a romantic relationship.

In reference to the issue, POLITICO said a neighbor and good friend of the Falwells said that Becki Falwell told him about the affair she was having with the student, to which the neighbor replied, “Jerry will be upset.” Becki Falwell’s response was, “the only thing Jerry would be upset about was that he didn’t have a chance to watch me have sex” with the student.

Falwell is also receiving backlash for joking about having crushes on students. Students have come forward saying that he would show off a picture of himself with both of his arms around topless women. Former students have also said that Falwell would talk about the size of his penis to students.

Falwell has also been known to have regularly used the university’s private travel (often to Florida), kept five immediate family members (including his son Trey), on payroll, sold a university-owned home to his son Trey and extended a university backed loan to a family friend.

Part of the reason why the Falwells are receiving so much backlash is because of the fact that they are engaging in sexual acts. These sexual acts are taking place outside of marriage, which is forbidden in the evangelical church. Falwell is worried about his reputation being drug through the mud, yet has no consideration for the reputation of the university. Liberty’s reputation has been synonymous with the Falwell family for generations. Former faculty has stated that that they had observed Falwell showing up to campus smelling like alcohol and slurring his words.

Several people have left the university instead of speaking out because that’s what they would rather do. “The church has a bad habit of keeping things secret. They want to keep it in house, take care of it in house. And Liberty’s the same way. It wants to suppress things and keep things quiet and that’s what they did with Jerry,” said former Dean of the College of General Studies Mark Tinsley — who left in 2017 — to POLITICO magazine.

And if people haven’t left the university, they have been kicked off. Mark DeMoss, whose father donated \$20 million for the construction of DeMoss Hall (one of the largest buildings on campus), was pushed off the board in 2016. DeMoss was pushed off the board for the questioning of Falwell’s endorsement of U.S. President Donald Trump instead of other Republican contenders. DeMoss said “Trump’s behavior is not Christ-like behavior that Liberty University has spent 40 years promoting with its students.”

In discussing the actual lawsuit against Liberty, several lawyers from different sides of the spectrum have come forward with statements. Boz Tchividjian, a former Liberty law professor and grandson of the late Billy Graham, said, “independent investigations are often conducted by law firms while betraying the victims.”

Amy Coney Barrett: a product of privilege

An examination of white privilege reflected in the judicial system

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One of the biggest political issues in 2020 has been the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Despite her lack of judicial experience, President Donald Trump nominated Barrett to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in 2017. Now being recently nominated by Trump and confirmed by the Senate to the Supreme Court, Barrett reflects the state of white privilege in America. While Barrett is obviously an intelligent person, having graduated at the top of her class from Notre Dame University, this does not necessarily mean that she is the most qualified person to be appointed to such a powerful position of authority as the Supreme Court.

If the Supreme Court was filled with people of color who also do not have much experience within the judicial system or positions of leadership, there would be no room for suspicion of white privilege being given. However, most of the few people of color who have been appointed in the past have had a far greater amount of experience under their belt prior to their appointments.

Eighty-five percent of the federal judges appointed by Trump through July 7 are white, with only 15 percent of a different race or ethnicity, according to Pew Research Center. There are currently only two sitting supreme court justices who are people of color. Clarence Thomas is just the second African American to be appointed to the Supreme Court and Sonia Sotomayor is the first Hispanic. As

if that information wasn’t shocking enough, no African American woman has ever been appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in history.

The first African American female mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina Vi Lyles worked her way up to this position through years of efforts, experience, leadership and creating plans to make the city a better place. Even just to become a mayor, which is of course a huge position of leadership but not to the extent of power as a Supreme Court justice, Lyles worked for years for the city of Charlotte as a budget analyst and director, assistant city manager, consultant director, Outreach Director for the 2012 Democratic National Convention; all this before she was even elected to the Charlotte City Council in 2013.

Although Barrett’s career is impressive, having been a law professor at Notre Dame University from 2002 to 2017, besides being a clerk for U.S. Circuit Judge Laurence Silberman and Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia for one year each, she does not have a vast array of qualifications to lead in such a high position of authority.

In contrast, Supreme Court Justice Thomas had already worked as an assistant attorney general of Missouri, a legislative assistant to the Senate Commerce Committee and assistant secretary of education for the Office of Civil



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian

Rights, all before being nominated by former U.S. President George H. W. Bush for a judgeship on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Finally, long after he had made these achievements, he was nominated to the Supreme Court by Bush to replace Thurgood Marshall who was the first African American on the Supreme Court who also worked his way up prior to his appointment.

Sure, Barrett worked hard to get where she is, but what the lack of diversity within the judiciary system reveals is that people of color unfortunately have to jump through much more hoops and achieve far greater feats. If this was not true, there would have already been numerous African American women on the Supreme Court by now.

By Trump nominating Barrett, it gives even more evidence of white privilege and, due to these being lifetime appointments, only gives African American women more of a disadvantage in this country.

Are there real benefits to honor societies?

Honor societies have been around for a long time, but with high fees do they really provide their members with any significant benefits?

Jeb Bartlett
staff writer

For hundreds of years honor societies have been seen as prestigious foundational institutions that seek out those who are in the top of their respective fields and offer various benefits to their members willing to pay an entrance fee. But do honor societies really come with enough perks for people to continue joining them?

The core purpose of an honor society is to promote academic prowess, provide members with financial aids, encourage leadership, offer help to communities and, “Provide a rich tradition of colligate history,” according to the Association of Collegiate Honor Societies, an organization that certifies honor societies.

Membership into these honor societies often can be attained through invitation or an application. Often honor societies will reach out to prospective members who are already meeting certain criteria, such as a high GPA, to offer them membership. If students choose to accept the offer, they will then often have to pay a fee that typically ranges from \$50 to \$100.

But what exactly does that fee buy you? The biggest foreseeable benefit in joining an honor society is a networking opportunities. Because many honor society members are members for life, new inductees have access to older society members with similar career interests through means of

networking. The access to connections that honor societies provide has become increasingly crucial for those seeking employment as, today, between 70 and 80 percent of job listings aren’t posted — but are instead filled through networking, NPR reported.

Another advantage provided by honor societies are member exclusive scholarships. While there are many different scholarship opportunities out there, within honor societies there are even more opportunities. Many societies have scholarships that can only be awarded to members, such as the six different scholarships awarded to members from across the country by the Honor Society, back in March.

The other touted benefit of honor societies is the claim that employers are more likely to hire you if you were in an honor society. However, this is not necessarily true. When hiring, employers are not necessarily going to be impressed just because of membership to an honor society but would instead be more likely to consider the applicant if they were involved in a leadership capacity with the society, according to former manager Alison Green of the blog Ask A Manager.

Overall, it’s clear that honor societies are only as beneficial as people are willing to make them. If you were to join an honor society and not make connections or



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

become an active member, you would most likely be throwing your entrance fee away. However, if you were to utilize the interpersonal connections made within honor societies and were able to take on a role in a leadership capacity, the benefits could pay off exponentially down the road.

With many internet sites out there promoting scholarship and other job opportunities though, the argument could be made that now, because of the internet, people could make the same connections and find opportunities to exemplify leadership on their own, for free, without the need for an honor society.

Ultimately, the choice just comes down to an individual’s personal needs when choosing the best path for them, whether it be paying to join an honor society or utilizing the internet to find similar opportunities, potentially for free.

November 11, 2020

Missing children and misguided immigration practices

The children being detained in ICE camps are going missing - why?

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

During the administration of President Donald Trump, over 2,000 immigrant children have been separated from their families.

In 2018, those children were separated from their parents, being placed in foster care or with distant relatives. Half of these parents were deported without their children knowing. It was only brought to light when the federal courts ordered that these children be found and reunited with their parents.

The Council of Foreign Relations has revealed that 70 percent of these children are teenagers, but a large percentage of these children are under 10 years old. In the cases of separation since 2018, six of these children have died while separated from their families.

As of last October, federal lawyers have fought to find the families of over five hundred children. Approximately half of these families were deported to Central America and Mexico without their children - further terrorizing these families during an era in which immigration is villainized. Attorneys have been able to contact the parents of 550 children since 2018. Only thirty of these families currently have a chance of coming to the United States for a reunion, however.

The social activist group Justice in Motion is currently touring

Mexico and Central America to search for these children's parents. With the pandemic, however, social distancing and travel restrictions have further complicated the process. Through Justice in Motion's work, hundreds of parents have been contacted.

The CFR has also revealed that the families and unaccompanied children arrested by immigration officers in 2019 totals around 475,000. While these children are mostly over 15 years of age, the separation of families is still emotionally taxing and some children are unaware of why it is even happening.

The United Nations defines human rights as rights that are "inherent to all human beings - regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, or any other status." These rights include the right to life, freedom from slavery or torture, as well as the right to education and work. It could be argued that these rights are being violated in the cases of these children.

By separating children from their parents (and possibly deporting the parents without informing the children), it could be argued that immigration officers are violating their right to liberty. Liberty can be defined as freedom of control, which is the opposite of how these families are being treated. These families are not being granted the right to life, as some of these children are becoming ill or even dying while separated from their families.

The separated children are on the receiving end of emotional

warfare, since they often do not understand why they cannot live with their families in detention camps or in their native country. This can be argued as torture, since it is causing thousands of children emotional and mental anguish. By denying children the right to stay connected to their heritage and family, American immigration officers are forcing assimilation onto these children as they are pushed into the foster care system. This can be likened to the erasure of indigenous cultures in the last 300 years.

These families are being denied the right to education because students in foster care have restricted access to school funding and resources. By putting these children into a corrupt foster system, immigration officers are denying them the same educational opportunities as other American children. This could be compared to the "separate but equal" rule during the 1960s, which is now seen as unconstitutional.

Families who choose to immigrate to the United States do so to give their children a better quality of life. This decision is made so that the future generations can have access to education and rights that they may not have in their native countries. Children should not be punished for being given a chance to have a better life. The way that the American government treats immigrant children is cruel, and quite frankly, violates the international rights of these children.



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

What's up with Jerry Falwell Jr.?

A profile on the former president of Liberty University and the scandals surrounding his name

Allison Reynolds
staff writer

Liberty University, a private evangelical university located in Lynchburg, Virginia, has been receiving a lot of attention after the recent resignation of their president, Jerry Falwell Jr.

Liberty, which was founded by Falwell's father, is also receiving attention because of the fact that they are being sued by Falwell over his claim that the university has damaged his reputation. The big question is, is the university damaging his reputation, or has Falwell damaged his own reputation? People are also wondering, since Falwell has several scandals attached to his name, why it has taken so long for Liberty's trustees to take action against him.

Falwell's resignation came after a man by the name of Giancarlo Granda went public in saying that he was involved in a year-long sexual relationship with Falwell's wife of which Falwell participated in. Granda met the couple while working as a pool attendant in Miami, Florida. Granda told The Independent that "my relationship with the Falwell's involved having sex with Becki while Jerry watched us."

Falwell released a statement to The Washington Examiner which said "my wife had an affair with an ambitious young man, but I was not involved in the affair." Falwell also said that Granda has tried to blackmail his family. Prior to his resignation, Falwell had already taken a leave of absence in August 2020 following a suggestive picture he posted on social media. The picture showed Falwell with his pants unzipped and his shirt pulled up over his stomach, while he had his arm around his wife's assistant whose shorts were also unzipped.

Another thing that Falwell is receiving backlash for is a 'game' that he and his wife would play involving the students at Liberty. The game would involve the couple pointing at students and imagining what it would be like to have sex with them. A former student, who was a friend of the Falwell's son Trey, said that Becki Falwell would perform oral sex on him while he was staying the night at the Falwell house. The student said this happened while he was 22 and he is now 32.

▶ see Jerry pg. 11

Success and sexuality: are strong women really less likely to find a partner?

A look into how being a successful woman can change the dating game

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

When beginning a new relationship, it can be difficult to accept traits about our partners that may not necessarily align with our own personalities.

However, this should not be how the success and independence of a woman should be measured. During the beginning of a relationship, success in the workplace or academically can be downplayed to appear more humble and relatable. Some men may find these instances of success "intimidating" or off putting.

Sami Wunder, a relationship coach and dating expert, has figured out why this is the case. "There is something there that is not enough," Wunder said in an interview regarding how women view their success while dating. Women can view their own success as not being enough due to the patriarchy's fragile ego.

Wunder said that this feeling of trying too hard or not being enough comes from the drive to work hard. "If you work hard, you get success. Both in business and in love." This thought process can lead to some people assuming successful women are "coming on too hard" or are too intimidating.

Women who feel as though they need to try harder to impress

their partners are more likely to end up in abusive or toxic relationships, Wunder said. Every woman, especially those who succeed in the workplace but fall short on dates, needs to realize that a true partnership values who they are outside of work or school. "A man doesn't fall in love with you because you've led meetings... he falls in love based on the connection you have."

Many of Wunder's clients find that they value their self worth based on achievements or admirable qualities they see in themselves. When these women realize that their self worth isn't based on their accomplishments or anyone's expectations, they often realize that they are not in a safe or healthy relationship. Wunder also encourages her clients to think of relationships as parts of life, not as something to be "achieved" or won.

While this sentiment can certainly be observed in lesbian and gay relationships, Wunder's work focuses mostly on heterosexual couples.

Wunder has also found that when her clients are more assertive or more accomplished than their partners, it can lead to men finding these women to be intimidating or overly dominant. This also stems from implicit biases these men may have surrounding how women should behave.



Kaily Paddle/The Johnsonian

Sexism is something that can turn any date into a nightmare, especially for women who refuse to bow to society's expectations.

Wunder also gives her clients examples of being successful from her own marriage. Her spouse encourages her business — which is their primary source of income — and respects that she is successful and independent outside of their marriage. Wunder, in turn, respects her husband's work and praises that they can openly communicate about everything.

Overall, Wunder encourages women to leave a relationship if they do not feel comfortable celebrating their achievements alongside their partner's. If communication cannot allow for mutual success in both the relationship and individually, then that person may not be the best option for a romantic relationship.



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