

THE JOHNSONIAN



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Students were required to upload proof of a negative COVID-19 test to Winthrop University Health Service's patient portal in order to return to campus

Glitch in patient portal postpones in-person attendance

The first in-person classes of the Spring 2021 semester were supposed to take place on Tuesday, but erroneous non-compliance notifications were sent to professors thus postponing students' return

Bryn Smyth
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Professors across campus received an influx of erroneous non-compliance notifications on Monday, Jan. 20 pertaining to the required COVID-19 test results that all Winthrop students were required to upload to the Medicat Patient Portal no more than five days prior to arriving on campus for moving in, if an on-campus resident, or for attending in-person class, if a commuter.

"I have a total of nine students in three classes who've been cleared by Winthrop to return to in-person classes," wrote Dr. John Holder, a professor in the Department of Political Science, in his Facebook status on Tuesday.

By Thursday night, Holder had only nine students who were not cleared to attend in-person classes.

Professors received varying percentages of student non-compliance notifications, and as of Tuesday, the university is unsure of just how many students were wrongfully notified.

"I am not sure of the exact number [of erroneous student non-compliance notifications], but there was a combination of issues that occurred. There were issues with students getting their information into the Medicat Portal and in our staff getting information out of the portal and into a format that would allow for easy reporting to our faculty on the status of each student," said Timothy A. Druke, Assistant Provost for Curriculum and Program Support.

"The staff in Student Health and in the Dean of Students Office continue to work to review student submissions and to get the updated information to the faculty. The goal is to get correct information to the faculty as soon as possible after students submit the proper documentation."

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Adrienne McCormick, sent an email to faculty and staff on Monday, which stated that the inundation of false reports of student non-compliance were due to "two system errors - one related to spreadsheet updates and one related to email. These problems resulted in inaccurate and falsely elevated reports of non-compliance. The good news is that many more of our students complied with our requirement than today's reports suggested."

Despite the data resulting from technical errors and not student's failure to upload

results, students affected by this error were still not permitted on campus until the issue was resolved, causing many professors to enact a change in plans.

"Since 22 out of the 23 people in my class were non-compliant, I said maybe it doesn't make sense to show up just to teach one person, so I emailed the class and said that we're not sure what's going on here so let's go ahead and do tomorrow's class through Zoom," said Dr. Michael Lipscomb, a professor in the Department of Political Science.

"My approach is that I'm just going to play it by ear and when we get to a place where we've figured out what went wrong and when we've corrected it, then we'll return to face-to-face. So, I'm just trying to work with the administration as they try to work out whatever the problem or the glitch was and work with the students in a way that's fair to them."

Students who received non-compliance notifications despite having uploaded negative COVID-19 test results desired to resort to showing their test results to each of their professors individually prior to entering the classroom.

"They [had] us take tests, which isn't unreasonable, and upload the results despite how slow their system could be and they knew quite well that they would have a whole insurgence of new tests coming in. They have taken too long and have held many students back from entering the classroom despite having viable results that even a teacher could see the screenshots of and be okay with," said Yogi Patel, a senior business administration major.

Some students found the patient portal website, medicatconnect.com, to be unreliable when uploading their test results and this caused further problems for the university in acquiring accurate data. Upon logging into the portal, there is a disclaimer that states, "If you are unable to log into the portal to upload your Covid-19 results, please email your results to wuhealth@winthrop.edu."

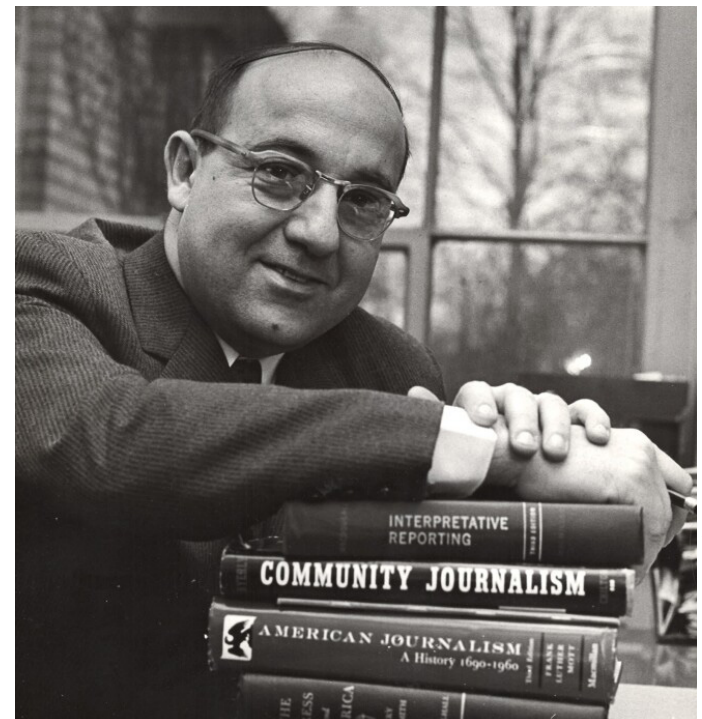
Having to compile data of students who submitted results via email and via the portal made it even more difficult for the university to navigate the system errors.

"The patient portal was a very outdated and finicky website. It didn't seem to be legit or work well. I got an email the night before in-person classes and was told I was not cleared to attend class. I have heard some professors were told 70% of their

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Professor William Fisher, a mass communication department pioneer

Former Winthrop professor William A. Fisher died on Jan. 15 at his home in Rock Hill



Fisher

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Former Winthrop mass communications professor William A. Fisher, 97, passed away in his Rock Hill home on Jan. 15. He is survived by his wife of 72 years and three children.

Fisher was from Indiana and received his bachelor's degree from Franklin College and his Master of Science in Journalism from Northwestern University, Medill School of Journalism. He worked at multiple newspapers before teaching at Kent State for 34 years, according to his obituary at greenfuneralhome.net.

After retiring from Kent State, he came to teach at Winthrop University in 1984. He then retired from Winthrop in 1993 but kept teaching part time until the early 2000s and stayed connected with Winthrop into his early 90s.

"He remained involved in the program even after he completely retired. He would come to our functions like our awards dinners... he was able to maintain an incredible sharpness of mind well into his 90s... last time I saw him, he was maybe 92 years old and he was sharp as a tack. It was amazing," said Dr. Guy Reel, a professor in the Department of Mass Communication.

"We usually have our mass comm week and we have alumni panels almost every year and we would ask the alumni what their most useful class was and almost always say it was the media law class taught under Mr. Fisher... the stuff they learned in there they used in their jobs and I will say that the class was a little bit terrifying for some students, but terrifying in a good way. In other words, they were compelled to excel in that class and if they didn't, then they would hear about it and that's the class they remembered the most when they left Winthrop."

Fisher was a dedicated professor who created a classroom environment that was conducive to learning and hard work.

"He was very outgoing and very confident... He was a demanding professor. He taught communication law for a long time and he had a certain structure to it that he insisted on. I couldn't recite the whole structure, but it was something like an exam every two weeks, and he would offer to help students prepare for it if they wanted to make appointments and come into his office... He was tough but fair," said Dr. William Click, Professor Emeritus of Mass Communication and former chair of the Department of Mass Communications.

"When he came to Winthrop, there was no mass

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January 27, 2021

◀ Portal from front

students were not cleared, and no one is quite sure what's going on. The Dean of Students office told me, in an email, that there was a major error within the system and many students were wrongfully not cleared. I don't know when I will be able to go into class, but hopefully this will get sorted very quickly," said Taylor Evans, a senior theatre and mass communications major.

Some students, however, found uploading their results to be no problem and many received notifications clearing them to attend class in a timely manner.

"I just thought the process was really easy to understand. We received several emails about getting tested and in those emails, it explained exactly what to do. All I had to do was set up my account and transfer my results that I received in a pdf form. I'm confused as to how people had issues with this," said TJ Wynn, a senior computer science major.

"I didn't have any issues submitting my test. I was tested on Monday, got my results Tuesday, the doctors emailed me a pdf of my results, and I uploaded them to the portal with no issue," said Lauren Welborn, a freshman elementary education major.

Upon Student Affairs working diligently to send out accurate student non-compliance information, professors began receiving new data, which was more promising than the initial data, but still had an error.

"They sent faculty a list of those in their classes who were or were not compliant with the COVID test... the problem is, some students are not listed at all, so we have no information about that. In my two classes, three students are not listed at all. Glitches do happen so we should all be flexible in accommodating students," said Dr. Guy Reel, a professor in the Department of Mass Communication.

Student Affairs is working hard to correct the system errors in hopes that the university will have an accurate depiction of compliant and non-compliant students so in-person instruction will be feasible.

◀ Fisher from front

communication department, they lumped it in with speech and journalism and I don't think there was even any public relations, so he started trying to put his stamp on it and he created that by going to the president and the dean apparently and he got them to establish a lab for news writing. At that time, it was typewriters and not computers and he added several courses to the curriculum that he thought was needed to make people better journalists."

Fisher was integral to developing Winthrop's Department of Mass Communication and his work readied young journalists to enter the workforce.

"He was definitely one of the key players at the ground level in getting the department elevated to the status it holds today [as a nationally accredited program]. There are not too many nationally accredited journalism departments in the country and Fisher has played a big role in jumping through a lot of those hoops. The accrediting committee looks closely at your curriculum and the quality of your graduates, they sit in on your classes,

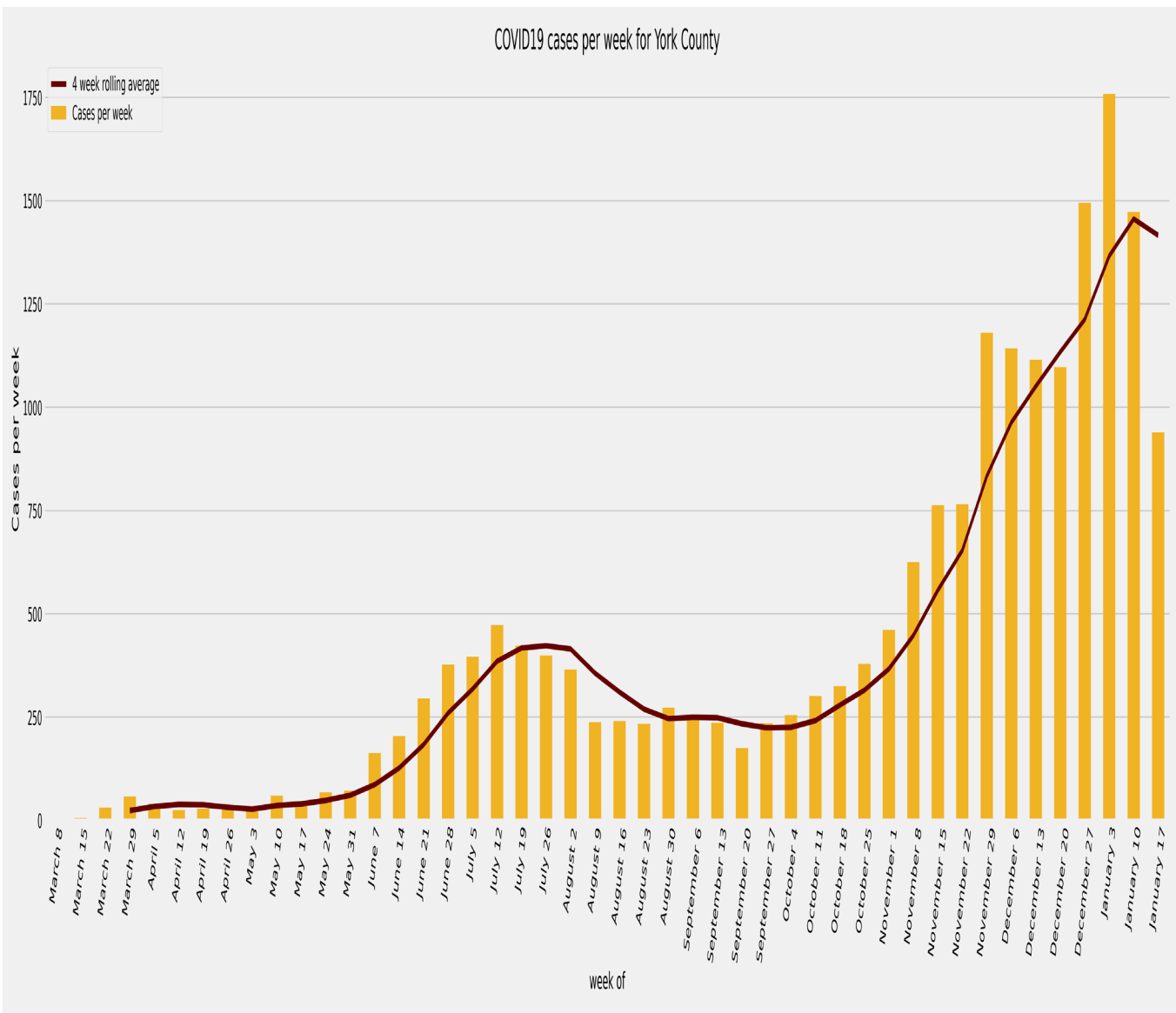
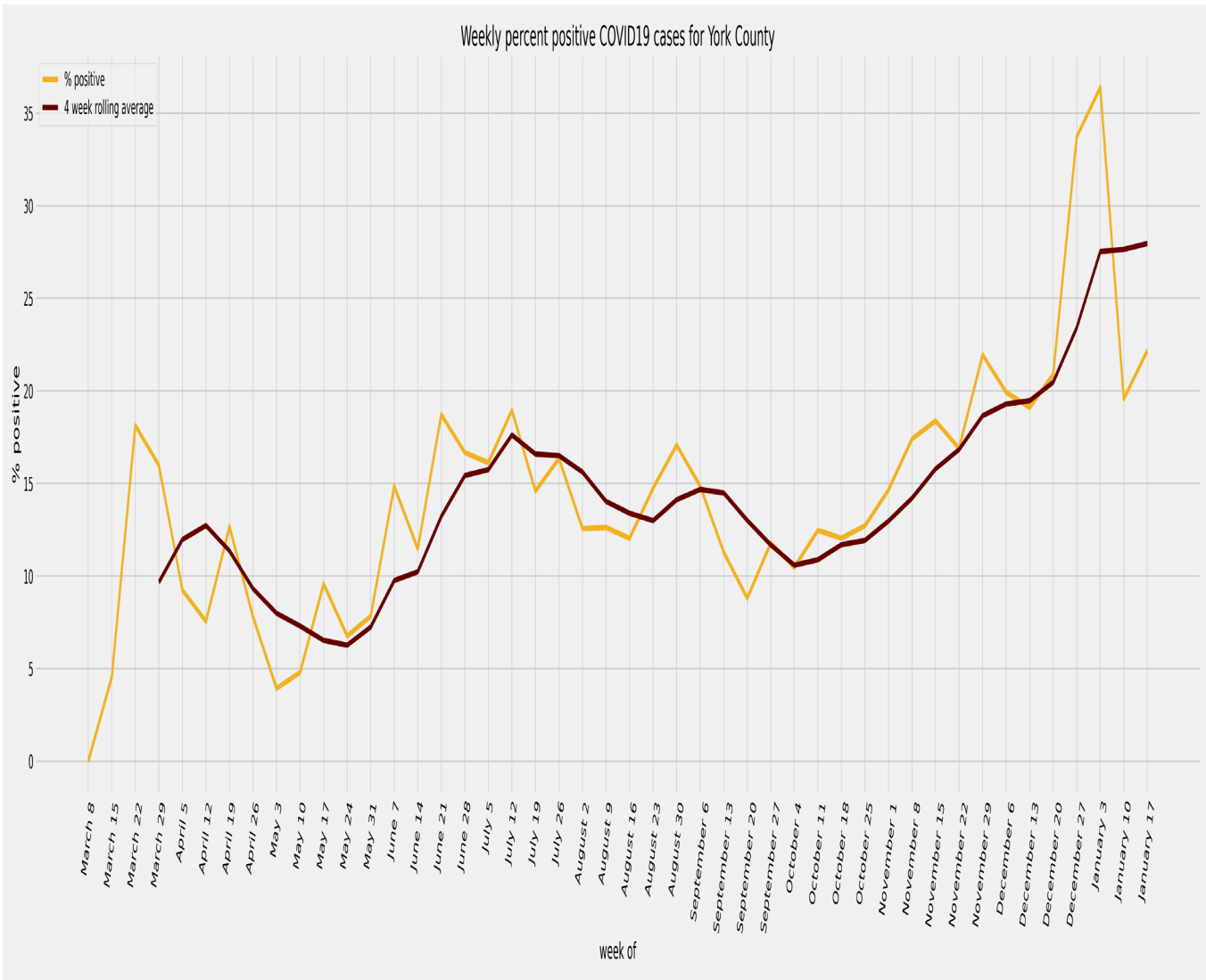
COVID-19 data

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

Fisher cont.

look at your technology and at your faculty and their credentials, so Fisher definitely helped us with that," said Dr. Larry Timbs, Emeritus Associate Professor in the Department of Communications.

"He was one of a kind and he'll be missed. He touched a lot of lives and I'll never forget him, that's for sure, so he's left his mark on Winthrop. He loved Kent State University where he came from before he got to Winthrop, but he came to love Winthrop, too."



Philip Nelson/The Johnsonian

About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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

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Rock Hill approves board to review police complaints

Rock Hill City Council approved a board that will review complaints against the police from a citizen perspective. The WUPD has begun to initiate a similar concept

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The Rock Hill City Council approved the establishment of a citizen review board last September that would examine civilian complaints levied against the city's police department and its officers.

The citizen review board will consist of six citizens selected by Rock Hill City Council members based on the regional wards that each official represents, as well as an individual selected by the mayor. A retired police officer will also temporarily sit on the board as an advisor for the first year of its activity.

"The citizen review board aims to provide a platform for legitimate concerns from citizens on police behavior," said City Council Member for Ward 5, Nikita Jackson. "It will bring a sense of security and also allow citizens to know that we care about how they feel in regards to grievances they have with our police department. We were being very proactive in the wake of everything that has been going on nationally in trying to establish a citizen's review board so that our citizens will know that they can have a neutral party that will hear their concerns with the police department."

Apostle Dr. Norma Gray,

president of the Rock Hill branch of the NAACP and Rock Hill Mayor John Getty's selected candidate for the board, was the primary advocate for the board's creation and had campaigned for its implementation for several years. Gray stated that Rock Hill Chief of Police, Chris Watts', private approval of the review board in early 2020 was the spark that enabled her to galvanize the community to begin building the citizen review board's proposal.

"Right before the pandemic and social distancing really started hitting hard in March, we began holding community meetings at the Freedom Center where the NAACP office was," said Gray. "We had about 70 individuals at our first meeting where we laid out our proposal and took questions and suggestions in terms of what we wanted it to look like."

"As the pandemic moved, we had to make everything virtual. We created an online platform on Facebook called 'The Citizen Review Board', where we broke down into individual groups so we could really focus on inclusivity. We reached out to the Muslim community, we reached out to the Hispanic community, we reached out to the LGBTQ community. We wanted to hear from every sector of the community in terms of what they wanted a citizen

review board to look like, which is how we got started preparing a proposal we could present to the city council.

Gray believes that the board will help bolster trust between citizens and police officers in the wake of nationwide protests against police brutality over the past year.

"I think it's important because in the climate we live in right now, there's a real lack of trust among the common community with police departments. I believe the citizen review board will help bring the level of trust up so the average person will begin to have more faith in police again. I think it's great that we can organize an unbiased, autonomous group of individuals that are committed to seeing that our police are reviewed and respected, and that communities can work towards rebuilding trust and transparency with police," said Gray.

The city council's 5-1 decision follows in the footsteps of other cities such as Columbia and Charlotte, which have created similar citizen review boards. The board's nominated members are expected to be finalized by the end of January and begin operating sometime after, according to Gray.

Winthrop University Police

Department's Assistant Chief of Police Charles Yearta told The Johnsonian that the city's citizen review board will not have a relationship with the WUPD, but believes that the decision is a step in the right direction and wishes to implement a similar idea at Winthrop.

"Although WUPD and RHPD have a close working relationship and maintain open lines of communications, we are governed by separate entities. RHPD reports to the Rock Hill City Manager, who then answers to the City Council. WUPD reports to the Vice President of Student Affairs, who then answers to the President of Winthrop University and the Board of Trustees. For this reason, it would be improper for the City Council to have governance over WUPD. However, WUPD listens to any complaints or concerns that any individual or entity has with our operation."

"I believe that in today's society, transparency of a law enforcement agency to the community that they serve is not only healthy, but critical to their operation and success. Unfortunately and too often, the inner working of an organization remains unknown or unclear to those not employed

▶ see WUPD pg. 4

Police blotter 1/12-1/19

A roundup of crime on campus

Sarah Hassler
staff writer

On Jan 12, the reporting officer was on patrol at the intersection of Charlotte Avenue and Myrtle Drive when they observed a black vehicle speed through a red traffic light. The officer proceeded to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle at the intersection of Charlotte Avenue and Milton Avenue. The driver had no Winthrop affiliation. The officer asked the subject if he knew why he was being stopped, to which he responded, "yes, for running through the light." While talking to the subject, the officer noticed the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle, and this was confirmed when the subject blurted out that he had just smoked some in the car. The officer advised the subject to step out of the vehicle and move to the rear of the car. The R/O questioned the subject on whether he had any marijuana on his possession or in the vehicle. The subject admitted that he had smoked it earlier and there was none left in the car. Due to what had already been detected, the officer advised the subject that his vehicle would be searched.

When searching the vehicle the officer located a small amount of marijuana in the coin storage compartment. The officer also noted that the car had marijuana shake spread throughout as well as a digital scale which still had some marijuana residue left on it. The officer seized the marijuana and the scale and advised the subject that he would be issued a South Carolina Uniform Traffic Ticket for Violation of Drug Laws (Possession of Marijuana 1st offense). The subject was also ad-

vised that he would be issued a warning for disregarding the traffic light at Charlotte Avenue and Myrtle Drive. Afterwards, the subject was released from the scene.

On Jan. 13 the reporting officer was working overtime in the south lot of the Coliseum when they observed a silver Ford pickup truck that had backed in behind the hedgerows at the front of the parking lot. Both the tires on the passenger side of the truck were flat and there was significant damage done to the rims. The licence plate had been removed and the VIN number on the dash was covered up. An interstate wrecker was contacted and with the use of a slim jim tool, the officer was able to gain entry to the truck. The officer uncovered the VIN number and found the suspect through a DMV check. Officers soon located a concrete covered storm drain by Eden Terrace with significant damage and gouge marks in the road leading to the truck in the parking lot. The vehicle was towed with a hold placed on it pending the location of the truck's owner.

On Jan 15, the reporting officer requested the YCSO attempt to make contact with the suspect at the address listed on the side of his SCDL. They were able to make contact with the suspect's former landlord who informed them that the suspect had left several months ago and did not know where he was or how to contact him. Later in the day, an individual called the WUPD inquiring about the vehicle. The officer spoke with her and the suspect who stated that he was driving by Eden Terrace when he dropped



his phone and struck the drain, causing damage to the drain as well as his vehicle. The officer advised the suspect to come to WUPD with his license and proof of insurance and complete an accident report. The suspect said that he would be in later that afternoon, but as of Jan. 20, the suspect has failed to make contact with the officer. Several attempts were made to get a hold of the suspect without success. The suspect will be issued with a warrant for leaving the scene of an accident.

On Jan. 19 the reporting officer was on patrol on Cherry Road in the City limits of Rock Hill when he observed a vehicle without its lights on. The officer initiated a traffic stop and the officer made contact with the subject, who had no Winthrop Affiliation. The subject stated that he did not have his driver's licence and the R/O ran the suspect's information through NCIC. The suspect's license was suspended and the vehicle's information was under suspension as well. The officer informed the suspect that he would have to call someone to pick him up. The R/O then had dispatch call Interstate Towing to have the vehicle towed. The officer issued the suspect a citation for driving under suspension first offence. The vehicle was towed from the scene and the suspect's mother arrived to pick him up.

WHO Chief Scientist warns that COVID-19 herd immunity unlikely by the end of 2021

The WHO's Chief Scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan says that herd immunity is unlikely by the end 2021

Sean Miller
staff writer

As 2020 came to a close and the vaccines began to be distributed, many people in the U.S. and abroad breathed a sigh of relief, believing that the pandemic would soon be over. However, the World Health Organization's Chief Scientist, Soumya Swaminathan, announced in a press conference on Jan. 11 that herd immunity is unlikely to occur by the end of 2021.

"Because even as vaccines start protecting the most vulnerable, we are not going to achieve any level of population immunity or herd immunity in 2021 and even if it happens in a couple of pockets in a few countries, it's not going to protect people across the world," said Swaminathan.

Herd immunity is a term used by epidemiologists

and virologists when discussing infectious diseases. According to the Center for Disease Control, herd immunity or "community immunity" is defined as "a situation in which a sufficient proportion of a population is immune to an infectious disease (through vaccination and/or prior illness) to make its spread from person to person unlikely. Even individuals not vaccinated (such as newborns and those with chronic illnesses) are offered some protection because the disease has little opportunity to spread within the community."

As of Jan. 21, 17,546,374 vaccines have been administered in the U.S. according to covid.cdc.gov. Dr. Anthony Fauci recently spoke at Biden's first white house press briefing, stating that 75-80% of Americans need to be vaccinated before we return to a degree of normality.

▶ see WHO pg. 4

WU Professors help develop African American history curriculum

The initiative will transform fifth grade history curriculum to emphasize how African Americans pioneered many areas of medicine, technology and social justice

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Three Winthrop professors are working together to provide instructional materials for fifth grade teachers that focus on African American healthcare professionals, inventors and scientists as a result of a \$10,000 grant from the South Carolina Department of Education.

Modern pedagogy emphasizes the belief that curriculum must contain representation of all students according to race, culture and lifestyle in order to create a positive learning environment.

History curriculums, however, especially in the south, lack thorough representation of African American students.

“When you look at what’s called the master narrative, which is kind of the big narrative of US history and how it’s currently taught, it is still very much a white man’s history and the people who are not rich white men show up only whenever they disrupt what the white men want to do. For example, [current curriculum] teaches about slave uprisings such as the Stono Rebellion in South Carolina history, because enslaved people broke away and killed white people,” said Dr. Margaret Gillikin, a member of the team and assistant professor of

social studies education.

“By highlighting successful, innovative, creative African Americans, we flip that narrative, and that teaches students that African Americans are not troublemakers... most people can’t name African Americans who have been inventors, scientists or doctors, but we can all name white people in those categories... if you look at Edison, there was actually an African American that was doing the same stuff at the same time. If you look at Amelia Earhart, there was actually an African American that was doing the same thing at the same time... a lot of times African Americans are left out of that narrative.”

It is imperative that all students be able to see themselves within the triumphant historical figures taught in the classroom and this can only be accomplished when everyone’s history is taught. Teaching the history of slavery is important because students must understand the evils of racism, but they must also learn about people with their same skin color who were in high places of science, mathematics and other areas of marginalized academia.

“My perspective in the grant is the idea that science should be something everybody feels

invited and welcomed into,” said Dr. Richard Cox, a member of the team and an assistant professor of elementary education.

“I’m trying to make sure that we get a wide variety of both male and female people of color...we’re trying to make sure that we’re representing South Carolina as well as the rest of the nation, when we choose our people to study. We have these books that do highlight both men and women as scientists and inventors, and we’ll probably buy those for participants... we didn’t want the focus to only be on slavery. We wanted to get beyond slavery and have a focus on innovators and scientists. People of color were the ones doing the work during slavery. They came up with a lot of the ideas and inventions during those times but did not get credit for it because they could not file a patent.”

Allotting inclusive curriculum materials to fifth grade teachers is done through an application process that accepts nine fifth grade teachers, who, if accepted, “will work together in groups of three to design three inquiry units covering themes of economic advancements and social and cultural development,” according to winthrop.edu.

This initiative was started in

2019 and was actually benefited by the pandemic.

“We had to finish it all online, which was a challenge, but we were able to take a lot of the money that we did not spend on food and use it to buy teachers more books,” said Dr. Joy Stapleton, a member of the team and an associate professor of elementary education.

“Each teacher got like 27 books about African Americans and we thought that was really great even though we had already given them a fair number of books as part of the grant... we will access not only Rock Hill and Fort Mill and our partnership areas like the Rec Center, but we also sent it out through the state through the social studies people at the state level, as well as the South Carolina social studies group... The good news about us being stuck at home and online is it doesn’t matter where they live, anyone can participate. Before the pandemic, we had to really keep it local since meetings were on campus.”

Thanks to the work of Gillikin, Stapleton and Cox, fifth grade teachers across the state and in surrounding areas will have the opportunity to teach a curriculum that helps every student feel celebrated and represented in their history books.



Kaily Paddie/The Johnsonian

The Freedom Walkway off of Main Street in Rock Hill includes murals, like the one pictured here, that are dedicated to Rock Hill’s African American history

◀ WUPD from pg. 3

within it. This can lead to confusion and mistrust among the public in which they serve. Alternatively, transparency and open lines of communication allow for an organization to not only keep the trust they are allotted with, but to

rebuild it in areas where it may have been diminished. It is for this reason that WUPD is in the initial planning stage of attempting to initiate a similar concept as the Rock Hill Citizen Review Board, on the campus of Winthrop University.”



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

Winthrop University’s Police Department is planning to implement a similar concept as the RHPD’s review board

◀ WHO from pg. 3

“Let’s say we get 75 percent, 80 percent of the population vaccinated,” Dr. Fauci said. “If we do that, if we do it efficiently enough over the second quarter of 2021, by the time we get to the end of the summer, i.e., the third quarter, we may actually have enough herd immunity protecting our society that as we get to the end of 2021, we can approach very much some degree of normality that is close to where we were before”.

The number of vaccines required to vaccinate 75-80% of the U.S. population would be an estimated 500 million vaccines. This would be an am-

bitious undertaking for the new Biden administration to accomplish in 2021.

Former Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar spoke at a news conference in the White House last week and announced that the U.S. federal government does not have a reserve stockpile of COVID-19 vaccines.

“We now have enough confidence that our ongoing production will be quality and available to provide the second dose for people, so we’re not sitting on a reserve anymore. We’ve made that available to the states to order,” said former HHS Secretary Azar.

This has been criticized by multiple state

governors who have complained that the federal government had lied to them about the number of doses that would be available. Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz have all criticized the Trump administration’s handling of the pandemic and vaccine production, calling it “botched.”

President Biden signed at least 10 executive orders on inauguration day, addressing the coronavirus pandemic, including a national mask mandate in all federal buildings and federal lands. His pandemic plan begins with an initiative to have 100 million

vaccines available to vaccinate 50 million Americans by the end of his first 100 days in office.

Winthrop sophomore and political science major, Vincent Wasner, said that he is confident that the new administration will be able to manage the pandemic and is optimistic that normality is on the horizon. “I think eventually we’ll be able to get it under control. I think probably by the summer, a lot of this will be done and over with. We’ll be getting back to normalcy,” said Wasner.

Americans are eager to get back to business as usual, but only time will tell when that will be.

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**contact Savannah Scott
scottse@mytjnow.com**

The weekly meeting of the Y. W. C. A. was held on Monday evening. Catherine ... The ... ning was ... wards. Th ... s made b ... ke on th ... lions are ... rt as follo ... The two ... ns are jud ... d moral. ... rds, or ... mes, whi ... ndards, o ... is. Laws a ... t their ri ... onsibility ... uphold th ... e so closel ... the peopl ... r of the p ... rred tha ... ect the rig ... 'Moral sta ... re higher ... ey involv ... ong and ... d, rather ... n. Moral ... honor ... dts. Que ... e general ... erefore ... rictly with ... immoral ... "There is a ... e to live ... ue to frien ... ervations ... ndency fo ... come high ... among the students of the world. ... is fact is a good omen for the fu- ... re."

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January 27, 2021

Double Trouble

Double Trouble

Double Trouble

Double Trouble

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The Winthrop men's basketball team secured two double-digit wins against Presbyterian on Jan. 19 and 20, giving the team 15 wins and zero losses on the season. Over the weekend, the women's team split a pair of games against Hampton, improving its record to 3-10.

While the men's victories were a shock to no one, the women winning the second game of a double-header was a pleasant surprise; it's something they hadn't done against any of their first four conference opponents this season.

On the other hand, the men's team has now won six times on day two of a double-header this season. In fact, Head Men's Basketball Coach Pat Kelsey said his team has strived since the start of the season to have the same energy and hunger to win on day two of each series as they do on day one.

"We just said we're going to try

to be the number one day-two program in our conference," he said Friday on 730 The Game, ESPN's Charlotte radio station.

"It's a heck of a challenge and it's kind of a chess match a little bit where their coaching staff and our coaching staff are both pouring over the tape and looking at what things hurt them, what things they did well, [and] what adjustments they could make for the next day."

Making adjustments is key to winning on day two. It's also important to maintain a high level of energy, though that's not as easy as it may seem.

"You don't sleep for two days," Kelsey said. "You just run on adrenaline – almost like you do in the conference tournament. Then usually you have that day off – or the players have that day off – the next day and that's when you realize you've got to catch up on a couple hours of sleep."

Though the teams have experienced significantly different seasons thus far, both want to finish strong. While the men are

Winthrop men's and women's basketball must find ways to win on day two of double-headers



looking to make an NCAA Tournament run, the women still have a lot to prove. A day two victory was a good place for them to start.

"Great team effort by everyone. Feels good to get a win," Head Women's Basketball Coach Semeka Randall-Lay posted on Twitter.

Hosting Charleston Southern this Friday and Saturday, Randall-Lay's team will have a great opportunity to boost their win total. The Buccaneers are 4-6 in conference play and are currently on a three-game losing streak.

If Winthrop's women could sweep – or at least win one game against Charleston Southern – they would surpass the team's win

total from 2017-2018 (the last time the team was under the direction of a new coach) and potentially move up in the conference standings.

Also playing in Rock Hill this week, the men's team hosts UNC Asheville on Thursday and Friday. The first game of the double-header will be broadcast on ESPNU, marking the third nationally televised Big South matchup that Pat Kelsey's squad has appeared in this season.

Two wins would give the undefeated Eagles a 17-0 record, but no matter the outcome of the first game, you can bet Kelsey's men will give it their all in game two.

Esports optimistic about upcoming season

After strong showing last season, Esports looks to have another successful spring semester

Alex Romano
staff writer

Following a very strong performance last semester, Winthrop Esports teams are gearing up for another successful season.

"We were really successful last season, so we're not gonna try to change up the formula too much. We brought in some new players, we've upgraded our roster, we feel like we're in position with a lot of these games to compete for championships," said Head Coach Josh Sides.

Though the team is focused on wins this season, that isn't their only goal.

"One goal that we always have in addition to winning is continuing to build the right culture and be there for each other. That's something that we pride ourselves on here at Winthrop," Sides said.

The League of Legends team has already begun competition, defeating Kilgore College 2-0 in its first match this past Saturday. The Eagles ranked as high as fourth in the ESPN College League of Legends coaches poll last spring during the team's inaugural season.

The Rocket League team will be competing in CRL (Collegiate Rocket League) qualifiers beginning on Feb. 4, but the Overwatch and Valorant teams are currently awaiting the release of their schedule for this semester.

"We're still waiting to hear back from Blizzard (the developer of Overwatch) on what that season is going to look like. I know there have been some concerns about whether or not they are going to have a season, but it sounds like they're going to," Sides said.

In addition to the new players on the roster, a Super Smash

Bros. team has been added this semester.

"It's kind of a different animal. It's the first game we're playing on consoles – first fighting game that we're doing. It's a very interesting medium because it's very much one-on-one instead of a team-based dynamic," Sides said.

The roster for the Super Smash Bros. team is still unannounced at this time but will be made public very soon.

"We're finalizing our fifth player and the roster should be released pretty soon after that," Sides said.

Although the Super Smash Bros. team is new to competition, the players are all existing Winthrop students.

"We already have a good Smash presence on campus with some really good players, [so] we didn't feel the need to go out and bring in extra players," Sides said.

While Winthrop Esports is eager

for competition to begin again, the program is still looking to add to its roster for this semester.

"If there's anybody on campus that is potentially interested in playing, we are looking for a seventh player for our Rocket League team who could be a substitute. And for our Overwatch team we're looking for a player as well," Sides said.

Anyone interested in competing on the Rocket League or Overwatch teams should email Sides at sidesj@winthrop.edu.

Those who want to stay up to date on the esports action can follow the esports team on Twitter @WinthropEsports and on Instagram @winthropesport. Fans can also follow @winthropesports on Twitch to receive notifications when the team streams its matches live.

Eagle of the week: Joey Tepper

Matthew Shealy
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Born in Phoenix, AZ, Joey Tepper moved to Fort Mill with his family when he was ten years old after his dad's job was relocated to the area. Now on the third stop of his collegiate baseball career, Tepper is back in town getting ready to suit up for the Winthrop Eagles.

"Thankfully, Coach Riginos and his staff gave me the opportunity to come play at Winthrop and live out my dream. I'm very blessed that they gave me that

opportunity and I'm excited to be here," Tepper said.

Coming out of high school, Tepper was offered a couple of preferred walk-on spots (including one at UNC-Charlotte), but Spartanburg Methodist College (a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association) was the only school to truly offer him a chance to play.

"Coach [Tim] Wallace gave me an opportunity and he told me, 'I know you want to play Division I baseball. There's no reason you can't come here for a couple of years then go and live your dream out.'"

Tepper said he trusted Wallace and took his word. Sure enough, after two seasons at SMC, Tepper got the opportunity he was hoping for.

"There was a bunch of DII offers that were kind of rolling in, but in the back of my head I was always like 'I want to play Division I baseball,'" he said.

"Middle to end of the season my sophomore year, Furman actually came to one of our games. I had a really good game and got to go on a visit and see the campus and their facilities, and I fell in love and committed pretty quickly."

But Tepper's first season with

the Paladins was cut short. Through the team's first 17 games, he got to play in just seven before COVID-19 halted the 2019-2020 season last March. To make matters worse, two months later, the Furman Board of Trustees unanimously voted to eliminate the school's baseball program as one way of addressing the financial impact of the pandemic.

"It was a lot to take in," Tepper said. "A lot of the guys didn't really know where their futures were going to end up."

Tepper, however, had Winthrop on his radar.

► see Eagle of the Week pg. 7

Winthrop Volleyball alumna serves dessert

Tamisha Martin owns successful bakery with Lupus in remission

Lily Fremed
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A local athlete, artist, bakery owner and Winthrop alum, Tamisha Martin had her world flipped upside down when she was diagnosed with Lupus at age twenty.

According to the Lupus Foundation of America, Lupus is a long-term chronic disease that can cause inflammation and pain in any part of your body. More specifically, it causes your immune system to attack healthy tissues instead of infectious ones.

Before attending Winthrop or having any symptoms related to the disease, Martin was working towards her baking and pastry degree in Virginia. After two years and successfully earning her degree, she was ready to take her volleyball skills to a larger court.

"I always wanted to be the hardest working and the best player on the team," Martin said.

Although she was ready to transfer, Martin did not have a specific campus in mind, but knowing she wanted to be closer to home, she only emailed schools in the Carolinas.

"My brother at the time played [basketball] at Winthrop and he always felt good things, and I knew they had a great volleyball program, so Winthrop was the first place I thought of. Joel McCartney was actually the coach at the time, and he responded within an hour," Martin said.

A few months after their correspondence, McCartney left to coach at Georgia, so in 2007 Martin joined the Eagles to play for Sally Polhamus. Coming in as the only transfer student was a big adjustment for Martin, but something even bigger began.

"I didn't know what was going on with my body. I was just getting sicker," she said.

With unsolved symptoms, Martin continued to push herself on the court, fighting for a role among six freshmen and six returning players. She even continued playing while going through chemotherapy.

"Volleyball is like everything to me. I think that also made it worse, because I was becoming depressed from not feeling well but also trying to play volleyball with a team that didn't know what I could do," Martin said.

Eventually, Martin had to leave the team, as her doctors informed her she would no longer be able to play at the collegiate level, especially since it became very challenging for her to walk.

"I remember just having to get tested every week and it kept coming back that my sedimentation rate was high, and

we just couldn't figure it out for almost a solid two months," Martin said.

Needing to regain some of her strength, Martin started playing for the club volleyball team at Winthrop. Shortly after, she found a Lupus specialist in Wilmington, NC who changed her life.

"He saved me," Martin said. "[He] found the right medicine cocktail and I've been able to coach and play volleyball since."

That is, until Martin's kidney function took a dive in 2013. She began dialysis, attending the treatment for over four years until she received a kidney transplant in March of 2017.

"Ever since then my Lupus has been in remission, so I haven't had any effects, and the kidney transplant has been going well. I have to go to the doctor just once or twice a year just for him to see me. It's been amazing," Martin said.

Able to take control of her life, Martin's first choice was to travel – something she now does twice a year.

"My first stop post-transplant was Hawaii, and I just had the most amazing time. That definitely was my favorite place," Martin said.

Over the years, she has visited Las Vegas, New Orleans, Miami, Texas and California. When she was in Los Angeles, she even got to be on the game show "The Price is Right," which was "just everything of [her] childhood."

On multiple occasions, Martin has made it outside the country, traveling to the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and the Virgin Islands.

"[I am] making up for a lot of lost time because for five years I couldn't go anywhere because I was on dialysis. You can't travel because every two, three days you have to be hooked up to the machine," Martin said.

Throughout her childhood, Martin learned to cook and bake with her mom, and after graduating, she spent eight years working for a bakery.

However, her personal desires of traveling and baking for friends required a flexible schedule. And being an artist before a baker, decorating her own desserts became the perfect mash-up of the two.

"You know you start doing some family members' cakes, and then you start doing friends' cakes, and I just found myself at a point where I was working more on cakes for my own stuff than I was for the bakery," Martin said.

With enough clientele to have a steady career, Martin decided to leave her job and create her own online bakery, Thee Sweet Life.

"I knew that was a part of



Photo Courtesy to Tamisha Martin

Tamisha Martin worked at a bakery for eight years before opening her own online bakery, Thee Sweet Life

something I wanted to do and I was finally at the place where I was stable in my health and had the freedom to do what I wanted," Martin said.

The start of the COVID-19 pandemic was bittersweet for Martin as she was nervous to refund a few wedding cake plans, but she was also able to take a break from her busy baking schedule.

"I was like 'I'm going to get my life together. I am going to clean and work out and eat, pray and love it.' Each month there were [more] people over the pandemic [who] just wanted desserts. It actually helped my business grow more. It was surprising," Martin said.

Although she is always baking for others, Martin's favorite treat to eat is chocolate chip cookies.

"It's just a top tier dessert. I love to eat cheesecake [too], but I also love to make it because I have a lot of fun with the flavors and get really creative. I love it all. My favorite part is definitely getting to express my artistic side," Martin said.

Aside from baking and traveling, Martin loves staying active on the volleyball court, playing in the adult league at the Rock Hill Sports & Event Center. She also has been coaching for over ten years, working with Carolina Juniors Volleyball in Charlotte and other local Rock Hill teams.

Martin tore her ACL back in October 2019, so she returned to the court only six months ago. Working with the Eagles as an alumni mentor is also a proud part of Martin's life.

"Chuck [Rey] definitely includes the alumni in a lot of things. He's just been very supportive of me and I appreciate him. He invited all the alumni [in 2019] and allowed me to share my story. I'm always at the games; any chance I have to come to the games, I'm there."

Despite the curveballs of this last year, with many games and events being canceled, Martin can handle anything after her years of obstacles.

"It's just about staying positive," Martin said. "I just have a really strong faith in God and that has gotten me through all of this."

◀ Eagle of the Week from pg. 6

"When I was back at SMC, right before I started talking to Furman, Winthrop actually called me and I got to talk to Coach [Robert] Monday a little bit. They never really pulled the trigger, or they found someone else, whatever the case may have been."

Once things unraveled at Furman, Tepper said he texted Daniel Blair, his former roommate at SMC. Blair had transferred to Winthrop and was part of the Eagles' pitching rotation in 2020. Blair contacted his coaches, and within days they made Tepper a Winthrop Eagle.

"Due to the cancelation of Furman Baseball, I am blessed

to say I will finish my baseball and academic career at Winthrop University. God always has a plan," Tepper shared on Twitter.

With two years of eligibility left, Tepper is determined to earn playing time in the infield at Winthrop. He's no stranger to hard work; his dad was drafted by the Cleveland Indians after playing at an NAIA school in Texas.

While Tepper would also love the chance to pursue a professional baseball career, he does have other career paths in mind. After his playing days are over, he's interested in becoming a sports agent or a coach.

"I think my life would be weird if

I just gave up sports completely," he said. "Just being around the game and learning from other coaches and other people, and just try to climb the ranks there and see where it takes me."

Winthrop is set to take the field for the first time this season on Feb. 19 against Appalachian State. The Eagles ranked 40th in the Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's pre-season poll, but the team isn't taking anything for granted.

"Like Coach TR has told us, that just means that other people think that we're good," Tepper said. "We haven't proven anything yet, but I'm real excited to get going with these guys and see where we are at

the end of the year."



Eagle of the Week, Tepper

A&C the Johnsonian

January 27, 2021

January is “It’s OK to Be Different” Month

“It’s Ok to be Different” Month allows people to recognize and embrace their differences during the month of January

Sam Hyatt
staff writer

January’s “It’s OK to Be Different” month is celebrated through self expression and the embrace of nonconformity during the most popular time of year to bring about personal change.

Due to misrepresentation in the media, it is not uncommon for people to feel self-conscious and insecure when it comes to things that set them apart from others. January is usually a month when people decide to pick up new hobbies or drop certain habits in order to better themselves. However, the resolutions people make are often made in order to fit a specific look or idea, which in the end, may push them to conform to being like others rather than stand out.

Senior biology major Jesse Martin said, “I think ‘It’s Ok to Be Different’ month is a good idea because people compare themselves to others all the time, but this month takes some of the pressure away so that people can be themselves.”

Being different does not just apply to physical looks, it also includes personality traits, hobbies, interests, clothes, etc. Many people find it hard to accept their differences because of social media and the projection of “normalcy” that is advertised. The various characteristics that make up each person contribute to each individual’s different appearance to others, making them unique.

Kyra Sikorski, a junior French major, said, “I think [It’s OK to Be Different month] is important because we need to embrace our own values and differences because if we were all the same, life would be boring.”

Many people enjoy surrounding themselves with others who share similar characteristics. However, Sikorski said, “I like people who are different from me because it allows me to experience the world through their perspective.” While we navigate through life surrounded and heavily influenced by the comparisons to and opinions of others, it is important to find others who support you and give you the space to accept and embody whatever makes you unique. Martin said, “It’s important to find supportive people but it is also just as important to support those that are supporting you as well.”

Junior conservation biology major Morgan Turner said, “I am different because of my open mindedness and it seems there’s not much of that sometimes.” After learning about “It’s OK to Be Different” month, Turner shared, “I think the idea is really cool, it lets people know that it’s okay if they are not the same as others or don’t live up to society’s standard of ‘normal.’”

Although society may portray an individual’s differences to others as a negative characteristic, embracing that aspect of one’s life is important. “People can embrace their differences and uniqueness in everything they do,” Turner



Cooper Beck/The Johnsonian

said. “It shows the real you.”

While the month of January is a month of many firsts for a lot of people. “It’s OK to Be Different” month serves as encouragement for people to accept their differences and embody their inner uniqueness.

“Don’t let anyone tell you that you need to change who you are,” Turner said, “it is your life, live it the way you want to.”

Now in Brilliant WandaVision!

A new age begins for the Marvel Cinematic Universe

Emily Curry
staff writer

The long-awaited Phase 4 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe finally arrived in the form of WandaVision, a Marvel series streaming exclusively on Disney+. In 2019, we saw the thrilling conclusion of what has been dubbed the Infinity Saga in Avengers: Endgame. With the launch of Disney’s streaming platform, fans were promised more content focusing on individual characters in the form of episodic series.

All of this came to a screeching halt when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the globe. Many of the upcoming Marvel projects were put on hold, and WandaVision was no exception. But at long last, on Jan. 15, the first two episodes of WandaVision were dropped on Disney+. I am very excited to be talking about some of my favorite characters, so without further ado, let’s get started with what we know.

The stars of this series are, of course, Wanda Maximoff, aka Scarlet Witch, and Vision, played by Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany, respectively. The premise is that Wanda has created a universe for herself and her android lover, a universe that draws its inspiration from television shows across the decades. The first two episodes were inspired by the 50s and 60s, referencing shows of the eras like The Dick Van Dyke Show and Bewitched, and filmed in black-and-white.

However charming these episodes were, they didn’t offer much in the way of exposition. As far as we the audience knew, Vision was killed in Avengers: Infinity War when the villain Thanos destroyed him in order to get to the Mind Stone embedded in his head. And yet here Vision is, fully intact, Mind Stone and all. I believe that Wanda, who has the power to manipulate minds, is experiencing a mental breakdown and has created this alternate universe as a way of coping. But even that isn’t confirmed yet.

Both of the episodes employed very sit-com-esque tropes, such as Vision’s boss coming for dinner in the first episode, and Wanda and Vision trying to conceal their powers during a magic show in the sec

▶ see WandaVision pg. 9

Arts majors get creative with virtual learning

Students in arts-related majors are finding new ways to participate and create in their community amidst the second semester affected by the pandemic

Sam Hyatt
staff writer

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many have had to make adjustments to their daily lives due to social distancing guidelines. College students are a major group of people who have had to accommodate virtual learning and discard the in-person class schedules they were used to.

As the majority of college students are continuing classes virtually this semester, students majoring in the arts are being greatly affected by the lack of community and hands-on learning from in-person classes. Junior psychology major and theatre performance minor Sydney Pauley said, “A lot of our classes are hands on as you can imagine, so having to learn those skills through Zoom is definitely a learning curve for all of us.”

Along with having to learn remotely through Zoom, some students feel as if they are not getting the same quality of education that they were receiving in their traditional in-person classes. A large part of the learning experience includes being surrounded by those who are learning and sharing the same passions as you.

Ally Baumgartner, a junior theatre performance major, said, “everything that is performance

based [is] now virtual so I’m not getting the full experience of classes like I was pre-COVID.”

Now that students are learning remotely, whether it be in their homes or in residence halls at Winthrop, they are having to be creative in where and how they get their work completed. Sophomore theatre performance major Nevaeh Woolens shared that she has had to find ways to complete her performance work in small spaces. Woolens said she has “found myself feeling unmotivated because I missed learning in a performance space.”

Although students are continuing to learn virtually and find new ways to succeed in their classes, Woolens believes that learning virtually may be beneficial to this group of college students. “I try to think of this as a learning experience” Woolens says, “since virtual learning may help me in a future career choice.”

Through the experience of learning virtually, Pauley, Baumgartner, and Woolens share the positive lessons they learned in their virtual classes that they are able to apply to this second college semester that is affected by the pandemic.

Baumgartner explained that she “learned the life skill of being



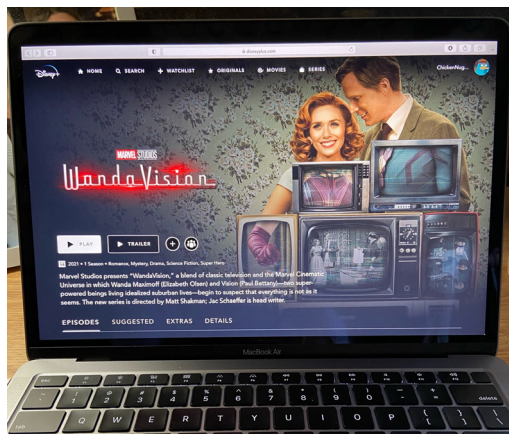
Oivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

flexible and understanding,” while Pauley shared she has “learned to never be afraid to ask questions because professors are more accommodating and open to questions than I had previously thought.”

Despite the obstacles of virtual learning, students that have arts related majors, professors and the arts department have made accommodations in order to meet their needs.

“For a while I didn’t think there was going to be any opportunities for me to expand my resume because of the pandemic,” Pauley said, “but the theatre community has allowed us to do auditions and productions over Zoom.”

Even though students are not able to meet and participate in the classes in a traditional form, they are now able to create spaces virtually that allow them to be a part of a community.



Kaily Paddie/The Johnsonian

◀ **WandaVision** from pg. 8
 ond. But every now and then, there is a jarring moment to remind us that things aren't what they seem.

Several times during the second episode, Wanda runs into color, specifically, red. A toy helicopter inexplicably lands in her bushes, and later, her neighbor cuts her hand and bleeds bright red. By the end of the episode, color is completely restored as we move into the 70s, but only after Wanda miraculously becomes pregnant and has a strange encounter with a bee-keeper that climbs out of the sewers.

We also hear someone from the real world trying to contact Wanda through a radio, asking, "Wanda, who is doing this to you?" This gives the impression that the reality Wanda has created is not actually under her control. Or maybe she is being allowed to believe that it is while someone else is actually pulling the strings. My suspicions are on her nosy neighbor Agnes.

WandaVision will continue to premiere one episode every Friday on Disney+ for the next seven weeks. And according to Marvel Studio executive Kevin Feige, this show will tie in directly to one of Marvel's upcoming movies, Doctor Strange and the Multiverse of Madness. If there's anything Marvel's good at, it's connecting their characters. So who knows what, or even who, Vision and Wanda might encounter? In the words of Wanda herself, "We just don't know what to expect."

Holocaust Memorial Day

Allison Reynolds
 staff writer

The Holocaust, a mass genocide of Jews, gypsies, queer individuals and the disabled took place between 1941 and 1945. Deemed as Hitler's 'final solution' for eliminating all Jews from Nazi Germany, by 1945, the Holocaust ended with the murder of two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population. Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on Jan. 27, marking the liberation of Auschwitz, the largest Nazi death camp.

Holocaust Memorial Day was designated by the United Nations in Nov. 2005. The United Nations Assembly resolution 60/7 was created to honor the victims of the Holocaust. While the resolution was created to educate people about the Holocaust and help prevent future genocides, it rejects any denial of the Holocaust and condemns all manifestations of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment, or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic or religious belief.

Not only has Holocaust Memorial Day celebrated the ending of the genocide in Germany, but previous Holocaust Memorial Days have celebrated the ending of the genocide in other countries as well. Holocaust Memorial Day 2019 celebrated the 40th anniversary of the ending of the genocide in Cambodia, which ended in 1979. Holocaust Memorial Day 2019 also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the ending of the genocide in Rwanda, which ended in 1994. According to Awareness Days Events Calendar, Holocaust Memorial Day 2019, "reflected on what happens when individuals, families and communities are



Wren Brooke/The Johnsonian

driven out of, or wrenched from their homes, because of persecution or the threat of genocide, alongside the continuing difficulties survivors face as they try to find and build new homes when the genocide is over."

Most commemorations are held at the United Nations, but there are some that take place at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. and at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Yad Vashem is Israel's official memorial to the Holocaust. Every year on Holocaust Memorial Day, the Ministry of Dispora Affairs, a government ministry in Israel, releases an annual report on antisemitism.

There are multiple ways to celebrate Holocaust Memorial Day, including visiting or donating to a holocaust museum, or helping a holocaust survivor. You could even do an online tour of a Holocaust museum, since most museums aren't open due to

COVID-19. According to a non-profit for Holocaust Survivors, The Blue Card, "one-third of the 100,000 survivors in the United States live below the poverty line."

Holocaust Memorial Day is important for several reasons. One of which is assuring that history will not repeat itself. Edmund Burke once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Hitler and the Nazis did not just decide to commit mass genocide over night. They came to that conclusion over a period of time, meaning at some point, someone could have stopped them.

Holocaust Memorial Day can never be just another day that passes by. Not only do we need to make sure that the lives of those who died in concentration camps are never forgotten, but we also need to make sure that something like the Holocaust never happens again.

What This Year's Common Book Teaches Us

Cultural events related to this year's common book are asynchronous digital

Jada Strong
 staff writer

Every year Winthrop appoints a book for students to read that teaches us about something new about a different culture to explore a topic that we might not know about. These books are chosen mostly for freshman students to focus on in their human experience classes. This year, that book is *The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story* by Hyeonseo Lee

"The Winthrop University Common Book is actually chosen during a long process by a committee of faculty members and Residence Life staff members." Dr. Amanda Hiner, co-director of HMXP: The Human Experience said, "As a committee, we liked how accessible and engaging this book was, as well as the way in which the book addresses many of the themes of the HMXP course, including the value of personal autonomy, freedom, education, family, community, and diversity."

This year's Common Book is focused on the story of Lee, A North Korean defector who at the age of 17 unintentionally escaped North Korea and then later went back to rescue her mother and brother.

Like the common books before it, *The Girl with Seven Names* has many cultural events associated with it. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of these events are online and asynchronous.

According to students, these events provide an entertaining

and commutative way to learn. "I think it's important to have these events because it allows students to see different cultures or see different lifestyles that may not be like theirs." Gabrielle Walker, a freshman biology major, stated. "It helps create more accepting adults in the future."

For one of the events, students were able to watch an interview of Lee talking about her country and how she escaped from North Korea to China and finally living in Asia. During the interview, Lee talked about the hardships of her journey and leaving behind the country she loves, thinking it was the best place on Earth.

North Korea has a dictatorship ruling in their country that makes it hard for people to provide for their families and broken laws can be punishable by death. Lee talked in the interview about how she witnessed her first public execution at the age of 7. This, for her, was common to witness in her country. Although this type of ruling was what she was used to, it's a foreign one to us here in the U.S. that not many are aware of.

"I had no knowledge about the dictatorship rules in North Korea before this book," sophomore Arianna Whitmire said.

Walker also didn't know the finer details of North Korea's laws before reading. She said, "I only knew of the basics that we learn about communistic countries. One thing I learned was the different statuses they had in the country of families."

One concept students can take

away from Lee is her bravery and courage to go through what she went through and persevere. She's inspired many with her story to do better and fight for what they want.

"I hope students will learn to want more out of their lives," Whitmire said, "not only for the sake of themselves, but for their close ones as well." Although many students cannot personally relate to what Lee and other defectors go through, they can take the courage and will-power defectors had and apply it to themselves.

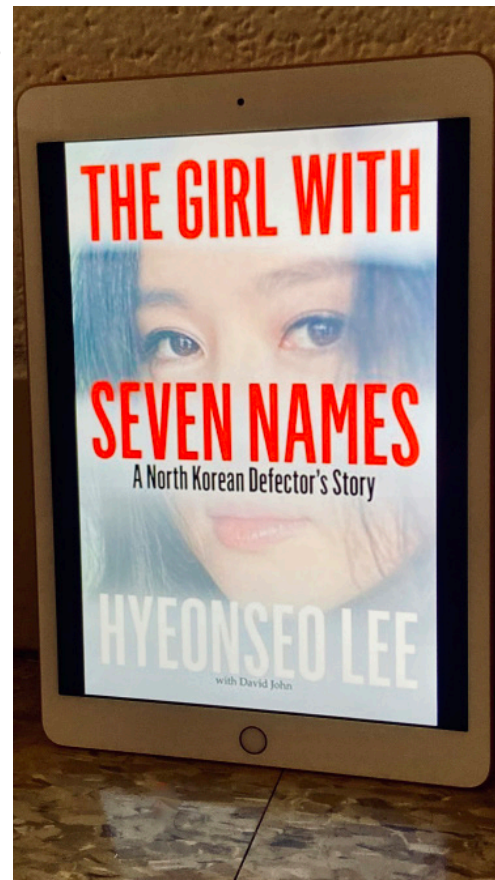
Another thing students can take away from the Common Book is that Lee wasn't allowed to do or say certain things in her country otherwise she and her family would've been punished.

In the United States, most citizens have the access to freedom that North Koreans don't. Dr. Katerina Moyon, co-director of HMXP said, "I hope students 'walk a mile in their shoes.' The point of the entire exercise is to begin to see a different perspective on the world."

Despite knowing what it's like to live in North Korea, Lee still loves and misses her country. Hyeonseo Lee explained in the interview how it's hard for her to adjust to a new culture after all she's ever known.

"I think it's a fair feeling," Walker said. "It's all you've ever known. Conflicting emotions are a very real thing that many don't acknowledge."

Moyon also agreed and said, "I would say that this is a universal experience, though much more



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

dramatic and in the forefront in North Korea. Sometimes in our own existence in the United States we struggle with laws or practices that disagree with what we believe. Are we still Americans if we disagree? How do we distance ourselves from them or help change them...or live with them? Do they make us who we are? We too likely experience some cognitive dissonance from this situation."

Lee's story teaches students so much about what it's like to grow up in a culture that has completely different laws and morals that might make you question what's right and wrong. In the end, Lee fought for a better life for her and her family. She exemplified bravery and taught how valuable freedom is and to be thankful for it.

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January 27, 2021

How a senate loss became a DNC win

Jaime Harrison chosen by Biden to be DNC chairman—Why this is a big victory?

Wren Brooke
staff writer

On Jan. 14, President Joe Biden issued a statement naming Jaime Harrison as his choice for the Democratic National Committee Chair, shortly after Harrison lost the 2020 Senate election to incumbent Lindsey Graham.

Why are Democrats considering his nomination a win? Harrison's loss to Graham last November was a cause of disappointment for many. Graham, who has held office since 2003, replaced the notorious racist, Strom Thurmond, after Thurmond's 54-year reign.

Although Graham has not garnered quite the same infamy as his predecessor, his similar longevity and ultra-conservative stance led to some South Carolina Democrats holding out hope when the newcomer proved to be a powerful opponent.

Harrison drew attention at the national level when his campaign's fundraising grew to record-breaking proportions. According to NBC, Harrison raised over \$130 million in his 2020 Senate bid, \$57 million of which came during the third quarter, topping any other Senate campaign's single-quarter records.

Starting out working in education, he was a chief officer

for College Summit, a nonprofit organization helping low-income students enroll in college, and taught ninth grade social studies at his high school alma mater. Starting into politics, he was a staffer for House Whip Jim Clyburn, who he now refers to as his "political dad."

He is no stranger to leadership, and his resume has made him the DNC's near unanimous pick for several months. Harrison was also executive director for the House Democratic Caucus in 2006, and in 2013, he became the first African American chair of South Carolina's DNC in history.

Harrison's selection follows a trend of Biden seeking highly qualified and experienced candidates to bring in with him. The selections are a refreshing change from Trump's cronyism back to a hopefully more stable administration.

The party chair serves as the perfect stage for Harrison from which to promote the fundraising committee that he announced in November. The 'Dirt Road PAC' is a grassroots organization working to support Democratic platforms in the South and encourage voter registration.

According to Harrison, the committee's name is inspired by a South Carolina voter who lived on a dirt road and insisted that

they would stay out of politics until a Democrat or a Republican had it paved. Despite his Senate loss, establishing Democrat footholds in the South has already paid dividends during the 2021 Georgia special elections.

As of Jan. 20, after the new Georgia representatives were sworn in, Democrats lead only by a slim margin in the House of Representatives, and are at a stalemate in the Senate. This does not bode well for the mid-term elections, a period when the opposition party has predominantly gained seats in the past.

The Dirt Road's plan to put real challengers into elections in the South is the first of its kind for decades. Since Reconstruction, the Democratic party has given up the majority of Southern ballots as a lost cause and focused their efforts elsewhere. However, in the coming years the new strategy may be integral to a victory in Congress for the Democrats.

Despite the party looking ahead to an uphill battle, Harrison's leadership of the DNC is a source of hope and could revolutionize American politics.



Photo Courtesy to Wikimedia

Preparing for graduation

As graduation gets closer, Winthrop faculty shares tips on how students can prepare for life after graduation

Sam Hyatt
staff writer

As we are at the start of the spring semester, numerous students are looking forward to crossing the finish line of their undergraduate career and receiving their diploma at graduation. However, before students can obtain their diploma, there is still a lot of preparation to be done before commencement.

In addition to completing the final classes needed to graduate, soon to be graduates have other tasks to complete in order to be prepared for life after leaving Winthrop in May. These tasks may include searching for job openings, applying for jobs, completing graduate school applications, as well as updating or creating a resume.

Fortunately, there are several resources at Winthrop University that are available to aid students in preparing for post-graduation. The Center of Career Development and Internships provides numerous services for students such as resume and cover letter review, practice interviews and career fairs.

On Feb. 23, there will be a Career Showcase held virtually that will provide opportunities for students to network with various businesses. Students can register for this event by visiting The Center of Career Development and Internships website.

Tiffany Alexander, the Associate Director of Employer Engagement and Internships at Winthrop, suggests soon to be graduates should be "perfecting their LinkedIn page, begin developing a professional resume and cover letter, and network with people in your field."

It can be difficult to find time prior to graduation to work on and begin preparing for employment, but it is important to begin these tasks soon rather than waiting a few weeks before receiving a diploma. "Searching for employment is a process" Alexander said, "everyone's experience is different, it could be easy, or it could be challenging."

Finding mentors and networking with professors and other faculty may also be beneficial in one's preparation in finding employment or gaining more information about a specific field.

► see [Graduation](#) pg. 11

Face expectations: are cosmetics in College worth it?

How much makeup is too much? Does extreme contouring make women look less feminine/more masculine?

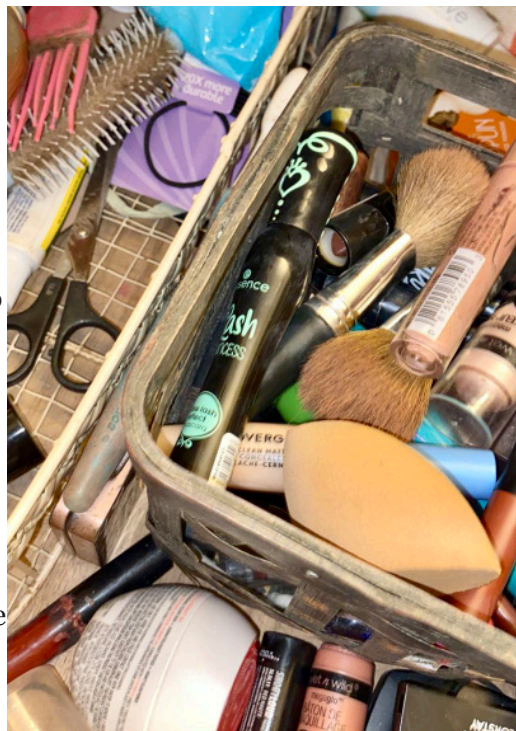
Wren Brooke
staff writer

You wake up and just know that today's the day you show up to class in your pajamas looking like an absolute mess; we've all done it (or at least wanted to), so what difference does it make whether or not you wear makeup in college?

Everyone has their personal approach to cosmetics. Some only use them on special occasions or have sworn them off until their dying day, and a few, regardless of gender, would refuse to be seen without at least a minimum of mascara and some lip gloss.

As Campus Circle writer Laura Koeller points out in 'Makeup vs. No Makeup,' for the habitual wearer, the point isn't about looking attractive, but just looking and feeling put together. Just like you don't "leave the house without brushing your teeth," you don't "leave the house without makeup." Most people who 'put on their face' every day have done so since high school or even middle school.

Many people who don't wear makeup or have familiarity with it struggle to consciously notice it, including a large percentage of males. The 'nude' look du jour of the recent years has added to that, and those of us who regularly use cosmetics have gotten used to having to explain that no, we're feeling okay, and we just didn't have the time to put on



Kaily Paddie/The Johnsonian

foundation today.

Putting on your face isn't just for show, however. According to a 2011 study by P&G Beauty, 268 adults (91 male and 177 female) were shown images of 25 women with 'nude,' 'professional,' and 'glamorous' makeup looks, compared to them barefaced, in the images with them wearing makeup the women were rated to appear more competent and likeable.

While this provides an excellent reasoning for wearing cosmetics on a daily basis, it is also a sobering thought for academic and workplace environments. After all, it's always good to be taken seriously at school or at work, but the general goal is to be judged

by your own merit and skill.

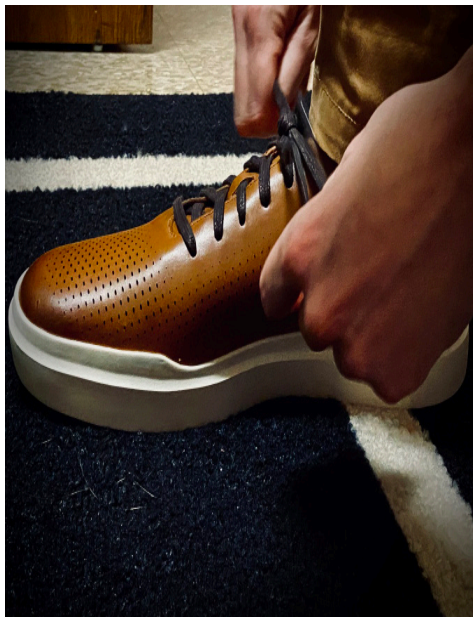
What should we do about this? There's not much that can be done besides promoting understanding, so really the best thing to do is whatever feels right to you, since that is the most honest representation of yourself.

One aspect about cosmetics use that people are quite opinionated about is contouring. For example, some of those who dislike their chin, jawline, or cheeks prefer to use contour to soften, sharpen or define the area. On the other side, critics of the practice have voiced their beliefs that it detracts from the femininity of female-identifying individuals.

While just about any of us who have tried contouring can remember at least one time you came away looking like a chin-strap penguin, the angled brush isn't just for the weak-chinned. For trans and gender-nonconforming individuals contouring can be downright useful. Transgender women have been using makeup techniques including contouring to pass undetected in public for centuries, and for many the practice can help ease dysphoria.

When it comes down to it, no matter who you are, just be yourself—whether that includes makeup or not.

◀ Graduation from pg. 10



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

Dr. Chen, the Internship Coordinator for the English department, suggests beginning searching for and applying to jobs now. “Different jobs or industries may have different timelines when it comes to hiring new graduates, but some jobs are probably open already,” Dr. Chen explained.

Additionally, in reference to applying to jobs, Dr. Chen says to “develop a timeline for yourself and use a spreadsheet to keep track of the jobs you are applying for: what materials they request, deadlines, and mark your process as you begin applying.”

Senior Middle Level Education major Courtney Smith shares that in preparation for graduation she is “currently in Internship II, working on edTPA, and finishing up her last classes needed to graduate.”

As graduation is nearing, Smith says “I feel well prepared for graduation and finding a job afterwards. I feel that I have worked very hard for where I am getting to very soon, and I’ll reap a lot from that hard work beyond a degree and a job, and I am very thankful for that.”

Although this process may seem intimidating or discouraging to some, Dr. Chen shares, “Don’t feel like just because you lack professional experiences, you can’t apply for a lot of jobs. We all have to start somewhere.”

Potholes and Politics

Why local politics matter, and why there’s so much construction taking place

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

The greater York County region has experienced significant growth in the last decade; however, increased population inevitably leads to increased construction.

According to the York County Economic Development team (YCED), York County had the nation’s highest increase in employment in 2017. Nationally, employment rates rose 1.6 percent over the course of 2017. In York County, however, employment was up nearly seven percent during the first three months. This increase in employment then created more jobs as construction to build more residential neighborhoods and buildings took place.

Historically, York County has been an industrial region. According to the Brookings Institution (a public policy nonprofit) the area’s main export has largely been manufacturing. However, office buildings and corporate spaces have captured the attention of white-collar workers.

As more residential and commercial buildings are being constructed, road repairs are becoming increasingly important. York County is an up-and-coming corporate area, which means that first impressions are everything. Derelict road conditions could possibly prevent major corporations from establishing themselves in Rock Hill.

Rock Hill’s Planning and Development department oversees the administration of building/demolition permits, ensuring that all buildings are up to code, and coordinating the city’s zoning. Records of their previous meetings are available on Rock Hill’s local government website to allow citizens to fully understand where construction will take place and for what purpose.



Wren Brooke/The Johnsonian

The Planning and Development department strongly encourages the public to contact them. Emails can be sent to any member of Rock Hill’s governing body by accessing the city’s official website. If any citizen wishes to go to a public meeting, they are held at Rock Hill’s City Hall. Phone inquiries can be sent to (803)-329-5590.

Inquiries about roadwork, transportation, and similar topics can be made to South Carolina’s Department of Transportation (SCDOT). Public comments are addressed in press releases to ensure information gets efficiently distributed. Phone inquiries, comments or complaints can be made to (803)-737-1200. The SCDOT’s website also features a section where visitors can email their inquiries to a representative.

But why does getting involved in local politics matter? These repairs and construction largely impact how Rock Hill functions. With roads closing in order for workers to safely repair it, this can alter commute times, putting strain on Rock Hill’s growing corporate dis-

trict. It can also endanger citizens if the construction takes place near exposed pipelines, power lines or other public utility.

Public opinion is a contributing factor as to how city officials determine whether or not to approve any changes within the area. While voting takes place within the different departments, citizens have the freedom to request anything they believe will improve the community. The constitutional right to speak freely and hold assembly is why these meetings are held. A population can protest or agree to anything the local government plans, and the governing body has to at least hear their complaints.

While the increased construction in Rock Hill ultimately means that the community is growing—and therefore so should the economy—it also means that this is an important time for local residents to make their voices heard. The decision of whether or not to increase the community is not solely the job of the city officials. Residential voices pave the way for future growth opportunities, after all.

Intellectual checkpoint: video games and their impact on brain functionality

A look into how video games impact the brain, and which games stimulate thought

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

Video games have long had the reputation of rotting childrens’ brains and making them emotionally stunted, however, there is evidence that proves that the exact opposite is true.

Using controllers to play video games has been proven to build motor skills in children as young as four years old. S.R.I International, a research group that focuses largely on economic studies and advancing artificial intelligence, has released studies that indicate that developing these motor skills through playing video games also adapts the brain to better handle pressure. By playing video games, children are also learning pattern recognition, hand-eye coordination, and spatial awareness.

First person shooters are a popular genre of video game, especially among teenage boys. While multiple parenting groups have stated that this genre turns children into emotionally numb murderers—and even cite these games as a cause for school shootings—academic researchers have determined that this is not the case. First person shooter games require the player to have good hand-eye coordination, decision making skills, and the willingness to take risks.



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

While the violence of first person shooters desensitizes players to unnecessary violence, it can also show children the realities of war. Call Of Duty is a popular franchise that focuses their games around different points in history, such as the modern Taliban conflicts in the Middle East, the World Wars, and the Vietnam War.

While playing the games, players are exposed to a simulation of the harsh conditions that the Armed Forces deal with on a daily basis. While this could certainly desensitize children to violence, it could also lead to them having more empathy toward those who are subjected to the reality of bloodshed.

So what genres of video games benefit the players? Strategy games, such as Starcraft and Into The Breach require its players to be able to make quick decisions, memorize information, and act under pressure. Strategic video games have been linked to players being able to analyze a situation in order to find the most logical approach.

The Civilization franchise is centered around creating a sustainable empire, so players learn how to think diplomatically as they create alliances and determine what is best for their citizens.

In action role-playing games (RPGs), players are able to explore

in-depth fictional worlds while interacting with the plot of the game. The Witcher series allows players to hone their hand-eye coordination by battling monsters, enemies, and wild animals. Players also learn about the fragility of economy, as they have to barter with non-playable characters (NPCs) in order to receive a steady income.

Detroit: Become Human teaches players about the consequences of their actions, as every decision made while playing impacts how the story ends. Detroit: Become Human also ventures into philosophy as players contemplate what it means to be human.

Simulation games, such as Sim City, allow players to gain access with construction, engineering, and local politics as they effectively create their own city. Farming Simulator also allows players to gain knowledge of real careers as they manage a farm, breed livestock, and sell their produce.

Stardew Valley allows players a chance to relax as they try to restore the small village of Stardew Valley, all while they build professional and personal relationships with the Valley’s residents.

While playing video games in large quantities is bad for eyesight, players mentally benefit from various genres of games. By playing video games, players are learning and developing—especially if they play as children.

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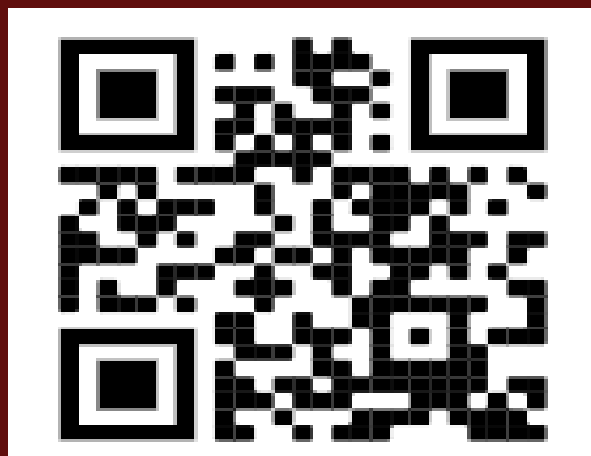
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TJ TALKS

A weekly look at what's happening at Winthrop

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