

# THE JOHNSONIAN



Wren Brooke/The Johnsonian

The process of COVID-19 vaccinations being administered is slowly becoming a reality

## New COVID-19 testing and vaccination information

The 2021 Spring semester brings with it new information regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccination for Winthrop community members

Chase Duncan  
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The beginning of the Spring 2021 semester, alongside the gradual return of students to campus life, heralds new information and protocol regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

Winthrop Interim President George Hynd issued a campus-wide statement by email on Jan. 13 that outlined the current status of vaccination for Winthrop community members.

“Distribution is now being directed ... from the federal government to hospitals and pharmacies,” Hynd said in the email. “There are good reasons for this as many previously considered community dispensing sites would be challenged to store the vaccine safely and track two-dose vaccinations.

“If the vaccine becomes available through your primary care provider, hospital system, or pharmacy, I encourage you to get the vaccine that way as soon as possible.

“There is an effort underway for a community vaccination site that Piedmont Medical Center will organize at an off-site location to be announced. Winthrop and other entities in the community are being asked to help staff volunteer positions for this clinic. I will share more about this as information becomes available.”

Hynd specified in his address that the state does not require anyone to receive the vaccination and that very few Winthrop department employees are currently eligible to receive vaccinations.

“The only Winthrop departments eligible to receive the vaccine at this time under Phase 1a are Health Services and Campus Police because it is reserved for those healthcare workers; ‘at high risk of exposure and mission-critical to the overarching goal of preventing death... and residents and staff of long-term care facilities,’ ... as well as for first responders,” Hynd said, citing information from SCDHEC regarding the South Carolina COVID-19 Vaccination Plan.

Hynd also noted that due to specific

language under government-issued medical vaccination procedures, workers in the Human Nutrition and Athletic Training departments are not considered to be a part of the “high-risk” group.

“Our reading of the intent of the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and DHEC’s Phase 1a vaccine distribution rationale was it would cover healthcare professionals practicing under provisional licenses (graduates and post-doctoral students pending board examination) in primary critical care with high risk of exposure environments where staffing numbers were stressed by high COVID-19 positivity rates,” Hynd said.

Winthrop community members were informed on Nov. 6 through an address by President Hynd that students intending to attend in-person classes and/or live on campus would be required to submit negative COVID-19 tests prior to coming onto campus. Although many students have already completed and/or submitted the required negative COVID-19 tests to return to campus, the Winthrop Coliseum will continue to serve as a free COVID-19 testing site throughout the Spring semester.

“[Winthrop Coliseum testing] is first come first served Monday through Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM,” said Director of Health and Counseling Services Jackie Concodora. “Results are usually provided within 24 hours but could take up to 48 hours.

“Registration is only required once but it is strongly recommended to download the Aura app to have easy access to all test results per test date. Health Services will continue to offer diagnostic (student must have symptoms or be a close contact) COVID tests by appointment only through the Patient Portal.”

Despite Winthrop requiring students to submit negative COVID-19 test results to return to campus, university faculty and staff are not required to do the same, though it is strongly recommended.

“While we are not requiring a negative test result for you to come back to work, I am strongly recommending that faculty

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## Mass communication professor receives Winthrop’s highest

Dr. Padmini Patwardhan earned the Kinard Award for 2020



Photo Courtesy to Winthrop University

Patwardhan

Sean Miller  
staff writer

Winthrop’s highest teaching accolade, the Kinard Award, has been given to Professor Padmini Patwardhan of the Department of Mass Communication.

“The Kinard Award is given annually to a faculty member who has demonstrated a dedication to teaching and is highly regarded on campus by faculty and students,” according to Winthrop.edu.

Professor Patwardhan is originally from India and taught at the University of Pune before moving to the U.S. to concentrate on becoming a scholar.

“I felt I was at a point in my life where I really needed to become a good scholar, and in India, I worked professionally and taught at the same time, so I wanted to focus a lot more on being a scholar-teacher,” Patwardhan said. “And that’s why, kind of mid-career, I just jumped into a Ph.D. program here, and that was what first brought me to Southern Illinois University.”

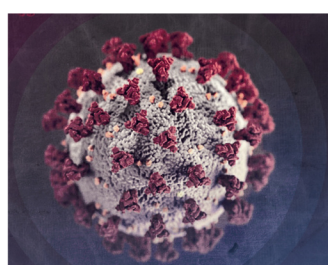
Patwardhan has been a member of the Winthrop faculty since 2005. She originally moved here to be closer to her husband, Dr. Hemant Patwardhan, who teaches marketing in the College of Business.

Professor Patwardhan is well-regarded by her students and peers. She holds very high expectations for her students and is known to be a tough grader, but offers them the mentorship they need to rise to the occasion. She describes her classroom environment as “a marketplace for ideas—where we can all share and grow and learn,” she said, “and believe me, I’ve learned so much from my students.”

As a researcher, she is constantly trying to stay up to date with her classroom materials and avoids teaching antiquated ideas to students. Student feedback is important to her and is always taken seriously, leading her to make tweaks and adjustments as needed. She values direct and hands-on engagement with her students and does not conform to the practice of strictly lecturing.

“My favorite part of teaching students is the relationships—even after students graduate and they’ve moved on, I make sure I stay in touch, or they stay in touch with me,” Patwardhan said.

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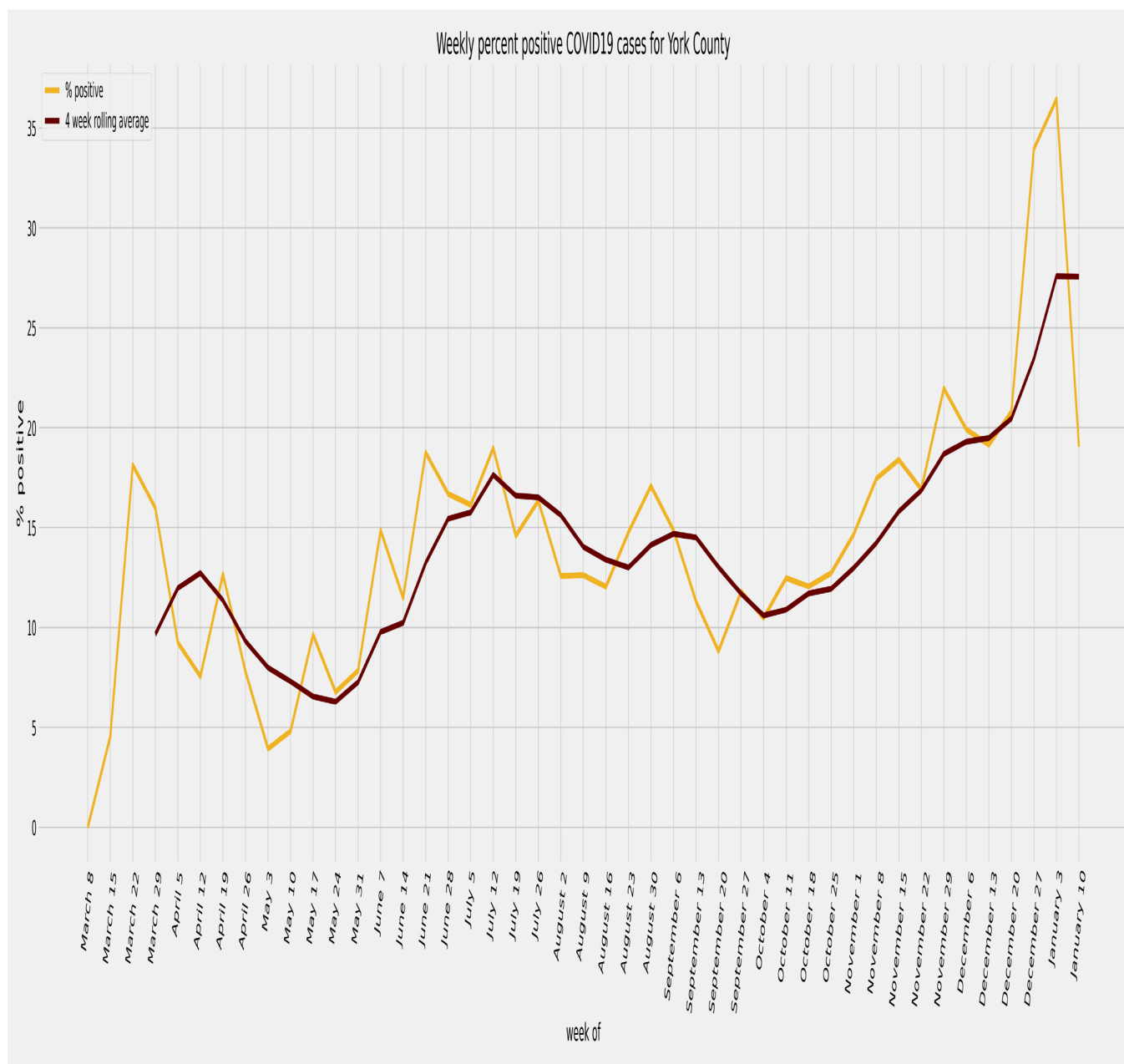




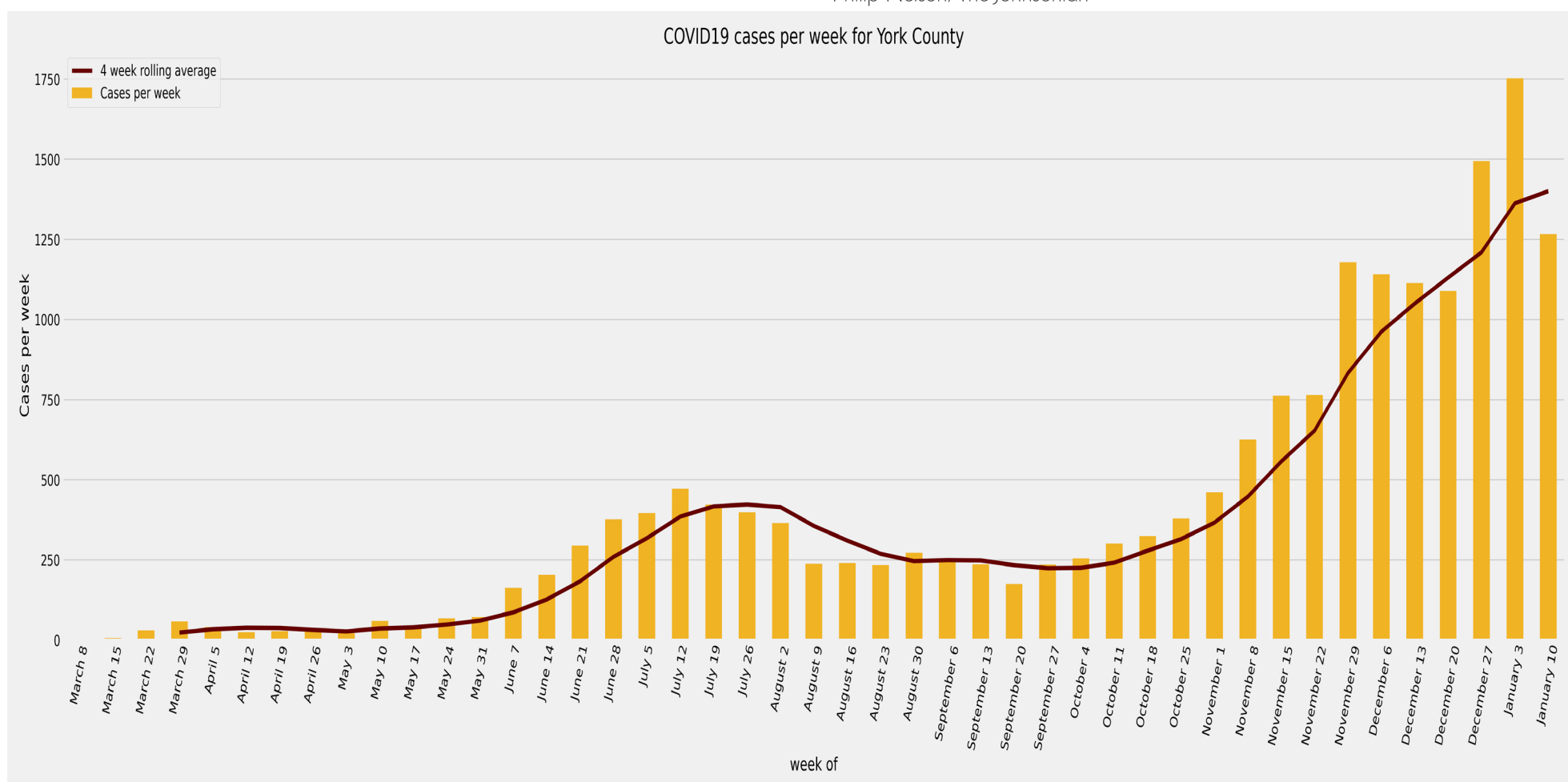
January 20, 2021

# 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



## ◀ Award from front

This is not the first time that she has received accreditation and recognition for her excellence in teaching. According to Winthrop.edu, she has also received the 2017 Charles H. Sandage Teaching Excellence Award from the American Academy of Advertising and the 2017 Distinguished Teaching Award in the Advertising Division from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

“Once the technology gets ahead of me and I feel that I’m no longer relevant in the classroom, I’m not saying I would retire, but I would try to seek to transition to something else,” Patwardhan said.

“I might actually focus more on soft skills - career development, guidance - you know, that kind of stuff. I just love doing that—helping students build portfolios, conduct mock interviews and all that kind of stuff.”

Patwardhan is integral to Winthrop’s community and maintains a standard of excellence that reflects well on Winthrop faculty.

## ◀ COVID from front

and staff avail yourselves of the free testing offered through DHEC at the North lot of the Winthrop Coliseum. As you are likely aware, public health advice is clear that if you are out and about in the community, you should be getting tested regularly even without symptoms,” Hynd said in an email addressed to Winthrop faculty and staff.

Winthrop sophomore math major Ashe Hayes professed her own disapproval of the differing standards between faculty/staff and students.

“I think they should either require everyone to or no one,” Hayes said. “If students have to get tested, then so should faculty and staff.”

“I think that it isn’t a bad idea but if you’re going to require students to get a mandatory test, then those who work on campus, especially those who come in contact with students frequently, should as well.”

## 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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## This week in politics: Inside Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

*As the nation grapples with a second impeachment in the wake of the capitol riot, Biden focuses on the road to recovery*

**Elijah Lyons**  
copy editor

President-elect Joe Biden introduced a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package to meet the challenge of rescuing the economy in the midst of a historic economic downturn and tackling the COVID-19 public health crisis. He indicated that this package was the first of two parts to his recovery plan, the second of which he plans to introduce to Congress in the coming months.

“Today, President-elect Biden is announcing the American Rescue Plan to change the course of the pandemic, build a bridge towards economic recovery, and invest in racial justice. The American Rescue Plan will address the stark, intergenerational inequities that have worsened in the wake of COVID-19,” according to the document outlining the measures.

Notably, the package would include \$1,400 one-time checks to Americans who are eligible under the income threshold. This aid would deliver on the requests of many House Democrats to put more money directly into the hands of citizens and would top off the \$600 checks Americans received as the results of the stimulus package passed in December.

The package also includes an expansion of unemployment insurance programs to include a \$400 supplement.

This number is higher than the \$300 supplement passed in December but lower than the original \$600 provided by the March package, according to The New York Times.

The federal minimum wage would rise to \$15 after holding steady at \$7.25 for more

than a decade. The New York Times suggests that almost 1.3 million people who would otherwise work may be left without jobs as companies adjust their payroll, but as of yet, it is unclear how long it would take to implement the new wage floor across the country.

The plan lays out additional aid for parents, temporarily expanding the size of tax credits for families. Families with children up to age 13 making less than \$125,000 a year would receive \$4,000 for one child and \$8,000 for two or more children. Families making up to \$400,000 would receive a partial tax credit. The credits are said to be “refundable,” or eligible to families even if they don’t make enough to owe income taxes.

“The increased and expanded fully refundable Child Tax Credit will cut child poverty nearly in half and provide much-needed support to middle-class families. Robust family and medical paid leave that would close loopholes in current law and expand coverage and eligibility to tens of millions, which is critical to workers and their families, our public health, and our nation’s recovery,” House Appropriations Committee Chair Rosa DeLauro said in a statement. “Nothing can do more to help ease the burden on American families than these critical measures for which I have fought so long.”

The American Rescue Plan provides much-needed assistance to states and localities, a total of \$440 billion, \$350 billion of which is reserved for emergency funding to state, local and territorial governments. Though

the plan doesn’t entirely flesh out the allocation of funds, the remainder is expected to come in the form of grants and loan programs for small businesses.

The Biden Administration also wants to speed up the school reopening process, suggesting \$170 billion to be supplemented by aid for state and local governments. While \$130 billion is set to go toward reopening schools kindergarten-to-eighth grade, \$40 billion is reserved to go toward colleges to assist in the shift to distance learning and other challenges brought on by the pandemic.

Unsurprisingly, the package would deliver funds to combat the COVID-19 crisis, investing \$20 billion in a far-reaching national vaccination program that would partner with state, local and territorial government systems and provide free shots regardless of immigration status.

\$40 billion would be reserved to stockpile protective equipment and supplies as well as strengthen supply manufacturing and deploy emergency response personnel. An additional \$50 billion would go to efforts to improve testing.

While Biden’s plan would deliver on the needs of many Americans and fulfill many of the requests from House Democrats, there is some concern such a package could be delayed from passing should the Senate get tied up with impeachment hearings for the then-former president. It is unclear how well Biden will be able to navigate his ambitious agenda in the midst of a hyper-partisan political landscape.

## Vice President Eduardo Prieto departs from Winthrop

*The Vice President for Access and Enrollment Management will no longer work at Winthrop, beginning in February*

**Chase Duncan**  
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President Hynd announced the departure of Winthrop faculty member Eduardo Prieto from his position as Vice President for Access and Enrollment Management to faculty and staff on Jan. 13.

“When I first arrived at Winthrop, I learned quickly that Winthrop’s senior leadership team is comprised of an astute, competent and enthusiastic group of professionals,” Hynd said. “They have challenged and supported me as we have persevered together through this pandemic.”

“Those circumstances make it difficult to announce that one of our leadership team is leaving the Winthrop family. Today the University of Mississippi named Vice President for Access and Enrollment Management Eduardo Prieto the inaugural vice chancellor for enrollment management to provide leadership to 70 professionals in admissions and financial aid beginning in March of this year. Joining the Ole Miss team is a fascinating opportunity for Eduardo, but a great loss for Winthrop.”

Prieto joined the Winthrop faculty in 2014, coinciding with the creation of the Division of Access and Enrollment Management, which sought to combine the Admissions and Financial Aid offices to help students create enrollment management strategies to attain “high quality,



Photo Courtesy to Winthrop University

**Prieto** affordable education,” according to the Winthrop University website.

Born in Oklahoma, Prieto had worked in enrollment management for over 21 years at four institutions, assisting recruitment, financial aid and budget management efforts prior to joining Winthrop University, and received a Master of Arts in communication and media studies from the University of Oklahoma in 1995, according to his LinkedIn profile.

“At Winthrop, Eduardo led a new division pairing admissions and financial aid. His team set new university records in fall 2020 and fall 2019 for number of freshman applications, recruited three of Winthrop’s nine largest classes (fall 2019, fall 2016, and fall 2015), established a new university record for highest average composite ACT score of 23 in fall 2018 (exceeded state of South Carolina overall average of 18.3), and achieved the highest Winthrop composite SAT average in the last 20 years in fall 2017 at 1084 (ex-

ceeded state of South Carolina overall average of 1064),” Hynd said.

“In transfer, out-of-state and minority recruitment Eduardo’s division set records as well, and Winthrop is fortunate he has assembled a hard-working, creative staff who work together to not only get students in the university’s door but help them on the aid front to remain enrolled and achieve their degrees.”

Prieto will continue to operate in his position as Vice President of Access and Enrollment Management until sometime in February. Hynd stated that a nationwide search will be performed to look for a suitable candidate to replace his position, and that an interim replacement would be selected sometime prior to Prieto’s departure.

“Please join me in wishing Eduardo every success and happiness in this new phase of his professional life. We will miss him and [his] wife Tracy and their dedication to the Winthrop community,” Hynd said.



# TraCE, the new transfer student portal

*Winthrop University launched a new transfer student portal, TraCE, that will aid students in the transfer process*

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Potential Winthrop transfer students now have quick and easy access to information regarding which of their credits from their previous school will be transferable should they choose to enroll at Winthrop, thanks to the new Transfer Credit Evaluator, TraCE, that became available for use on Dec. 1, 2020.

“We are very excited about the launch of the new Transfer Credit Evaluator (TraCE) here at Winthrop. This tool will be a huge asset to students looking to transfer to Winthrop, as it allows them to quickly and easily get information on what credits will transfer. In turn, this helps our admissions team guide these students to what works for them and will help them achieve their goals,” said Director of Marketing Katie Price.

Many college students choose to start their degree at a two-year institution then finish their degree at a four-year institution such as Winthrop, although there are many other students coming from other four-year institutions who find Winthrop to be a better fit. Through the new transfer student portal, Winthrop hopes to aid in easing such students’ transitions into the Winthrop community.

“Transferring from one institution to another can be challenging, so we want to do all that we can to make sure the process is as

easy as possible, and we think this evaluator tool is a huge step towards improving that experience for these future Eagles. Our faculty and staff are focused on ensuring that our students are supported and set up for success - and that starts long before a student’s first day of classes. Winthrop’s brand has long stood for a commitment to student success, and this effort is just one of the ways we are putting that into practice,” Price said.

One of the ways in which Winthrop cultivates student success is through requiring all students to take courses that enhance their critical thinking and open-mindedness, such as The Human Experience and Critical Thinking, Reading and Writing.

These courses, however, sometimes make transferring to Winthrop difficult because most colleges do not offer such courses and as a result, all transfer students must make room for them in their Winthrop class schedules.

“Those classes that we deem as making it challenging for transfer students are part of Winthrop experience, those are part of their education and I think they really help cultivate students to not only be open-minded and think critically but also to be able to use those skills once they graduate,” said Director of Admissions Dr. Amanda James.

“I know some work has been done to create a hybrid class for HMXP and CRTW and that puts many transfer students at the junior level.”

Most transfer students at Winthrop come from York Technical College, so Winthrop is well-versed in which classes offered at York Technical College are transferable to various Winthrop programs, but for students who come from other institutions, the transfer process can be more challenging.

“Essentially, [TraCE] is an online portal and a student will create a profile and then go in and they’re asked to put in the courses that they’ve taken

example, and they’ll get the breakdown for that so they’ll know how many units transfer over and they’ll also get a breakdown for other programs that may accept more units, which then means it’ll get them through faster.”

Creating TraCE was a joint effort by many departments at Winthrop, and as a result of their work, Winthrop is able to be more competitive with other institutions that aid transfer students in continuing their educations.

“There have



Wren Brooke/The Johnsonian

**Students from York Technical College make up a majority of Winthrop’s transfer students**

and they will enter the name of their previous institutions and the name of the course and the number of units that they received from that. Then, if that course has been previously transferred into Winthrop, it will auto-populate for them. Once all their courses are in, the students then receive a breakdown on the number of units that will transfer over to Winthrop based on their classes,” James said.

“It also gives them additional programs that will get them through their degree faster, so students could pick business or education, for

been a number of departments on campus that were integral in making this happen such as Admissions, University Communications and Marketing, and Records and Registration has been absolutely wonderful, as well as our IT department,” James said.

“This TraCE platform is the first step in many great programs that Winthrop is going to be putting out in the coming years. It’s really going to help impact and support our transfer enrollment numbers and our transfer students.”

## More on The Winthrop Plan

*The Winthrop Plan was finalized in 2016 with former Winthrop President Daniel Mahony*

**Bryn Smyth**  
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The future of Winthrop University is looking bright as The Winthrop Plan returns in full swing, promising to promote diversity, competitive programs, campus beautification and financial stability.

The Winthrop Plan began under President Daniel Mahony and was hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic, but current Interim President George Hynd looks forward to reinstating the plan in the upcoming semesters.

The Winthrop Plan is defined as “a strategy to become a national model for a student-centered university experience,” according to Winthrop.edu.

“When I arrived, actually, I thought of all the institutions that I have worked at and Winthrop is probably one of the most student-focused places; I found the faculty and staff were incredibly committed to the students. I was just always impressed with that the time I arrived,” Mahony said. “We were trying to build on things that, I think, were already a strength long before I arrived.”

In an effort to become more student-centered, Hynd has picked up where Mahony left off and is making plans to follow through on all five components of The Winthrop Plan: enrollment, community, diversity, facilities and financial stability.

“This whole notion of becoming a nationally recognized and certainly regionally recognized within the state, is that we are offering the right academic programs for our students in a changing economy and that our facilities are oriented toward the changing landscape in academia and I think one of the things that you will find is that once we get past COVID, and I’m being very optimistic here, that universities will have had to change for the times,” Hynd said.

Like many areas of the university,

The Winthrop Plan experienced hiccups as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, financial hiccups in particular.

“The salaries that people lost will come back because we’re only doing this furlough for this fiscal year, so once we get past the fiscal year, salaries go right back up to where they were... it really bears no relationship to The Winthrop Plan itself,” Hynd said.

“It’s really an outcome of us trying to manage our budget ... our budget requires us to make difficult decisions. We’ve had a 10% budget cut. We froze most positions when they’re vacated, so when a faculty member or a staff member leaves, we’re not immediately filling those positions. We’re trying to save money and the furloughs are kind of another lever we could pull to try and save money and we are doing everything we can to balance our budget so furloughs are a one-time event and there’s been no inclination that we would even think about furloughs for next year so they’re pretty much off the table.”

In upcoming years, because of The Winthrop Plan, Hynd hopes to find the university in a sustainable financial state that provides students with a positive on-campus experience.

“It’s all part of my aspiration, to take a look at our academic programs, academic master plan, working with the provost, take a look at our facilities, how we are managing our facilities and how should we be thinking about our facilities in different ways as our student population and their needs continue to evolve ... and then how we take care of our beautiful campus which is one of our best recruiting tools,” Hynd said.

“There are programs that we should be thinking about eliminating and refocusing those resources into new programs that meet the needs of our students as they move into an ever-changing economy.”



Wren Brooke/The Johnsonian

**With the implementation of TraCE, students transferring to Winthrop will have a better sense of which class credits transfer with them**



## Concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine

As the COVID-19 vaccine continues to be distributed throughout the country, some are worried about its possible

Sam Hyatt  
staff writer

A major step in controlling the spread of COVID-19 has been made as vaccines are being distributed across the United States. With the expanding distribution, there is much controversy concerning several aspects of the vaccine.

Due to the increasing cases of COVID-19, the vaccine and its distribution has given hope to many while also stirring fear in others because it is new and was created quickly.

According to John Hopkins Medicine, the purpose of the vaccine is to protect those who come in contact with others who have COVID-19. The United States Safety System is in place to ensure that all vaccines are safe and can be distributed to humans. This is done by conducting clinical trials, ensuring that the vaccine meets FDA standards and by documenting the problems and side effects of the vaccine.

Currently, the CDC reports that the only side effects of the vaccine include pain, swelling and redness at the injection site, along with chills, headaches and tiredness.

Senior education major Ashley Moore shares that her mom is a healthcare worker and has received the vaccine.

"When my mom got the vaccine,

she had no symptoms for her first shot but for the second shot she did have body aches but no other symptoms," Moore said.

There is controversy about who should receive the vaccine and when. According to the CDC, there are three phases of groups that should receive the vaccine.

The CDC suggests that healthcare workers should receive the vaccine first. The second suggested phase includes frontline essential workers such as police officers, teachers and grocery store workers, along with those who are 75 years and older.

And, currently, their last suggested phase includes those who are 65-74 years old, 16-64 years old with underlying conditions and other essential workers in fields like transportation, food services and public health.

"I think that all health care professionals, the elderly, and teachers should receive the vaccine," Moore said. "They should be first to get it because they work directly with people and the elderly are more at risk if they do get sick."

Taylor McNair, a junior elementary education major, shares a similar opinion to Moore

concerning who should receive the vaccine.

"I definitely agree with healthcare workers and the elderly receiving prioritized vaccines soon," McNair said. "And being an education major, I hope to see teachers receiving them soon."

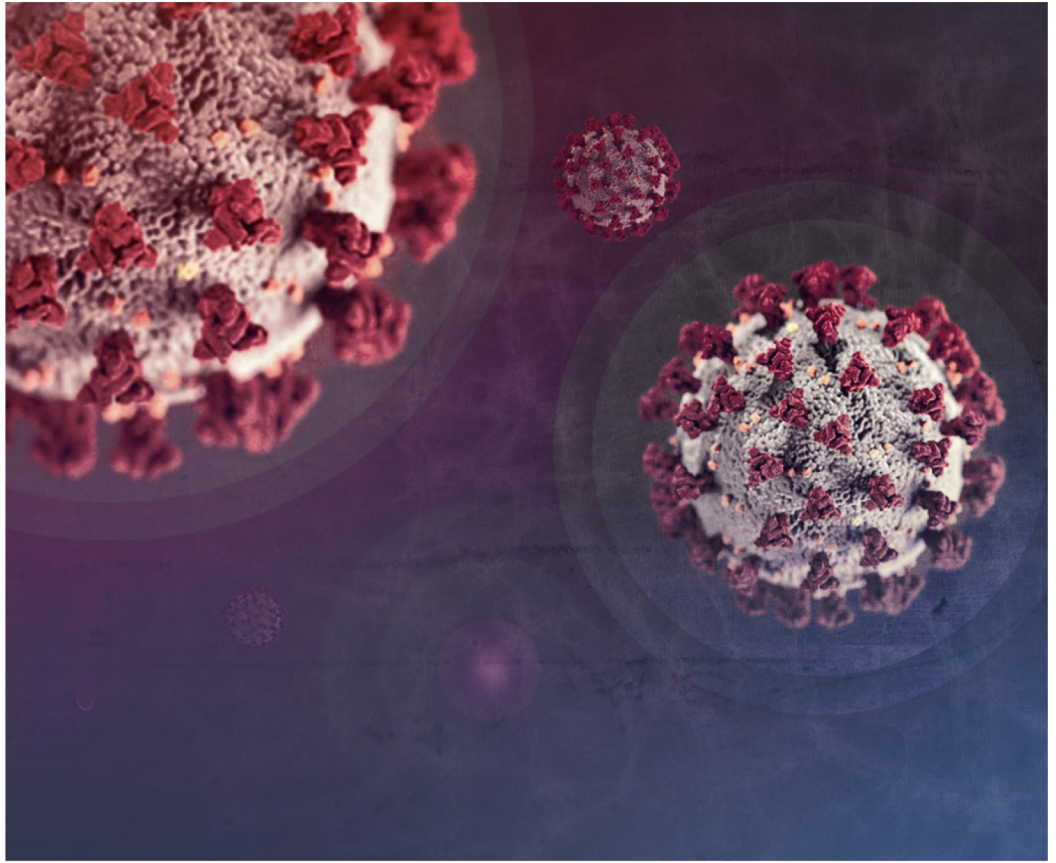
But McNair also shared a concern he has with the vaccine.

"I am concerned about the distribution speed and if what we are currently doing is too little too late," he said.

As more people continue to

receive the vaccine, many hope that, along with social distancing and mask-wearing, the vaccine will help slow the spread of the virus and there will be a visible decrease in COVID-19 cases around the world.

Junior sports management major Patrick Williams says his hope is that the vaccine will be "executed properly and more precautions are taken place" in order to slow the COVID-19 spread.



Graphic Courtesy to Winthrop University

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the  
Eagles  
could finish the  
season

## Women's basketball fights to the finish

*The Eagles are 1-7 in conference play, but better times are ahead*

Matthew Shealy

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The Winthrop women's basketball team suffered two losses last week in a conference double-header against Longwood University. The two losses extended the team's losing streak to seven games, giving Winthrop a record of 1-7 in conference play and 2-9 overall.

The Eagles traveled to Farmville, VA to take on the Lancers, who were 5-3 in conference play entering the series. As has been a theme for the team this season, Winthrop got off to a slow start and trailed 30-17 at the conclusion of the first quarter on Jan. 15. By halftime, the Eagles faced a 17-point deficit.

One thing Winthrop has done well this season is show resilience. As Head Coach Semeka Randall-Lay has told her players over and over, it's

important to stay the course and "trust the process."

After shooting 11-of-28 during the first two quarters, the Eagles went 10-of-18 from the field during the third quarter, including 4-of-5 from 3-point range. They outscored the Lancers by an impressive 28-16 margin and entered the fourth quarter trailing by only 5 points.

While Winthrop didn't lose any ground during the fourth quarter, it also didn't make up any. The Lancers beat the Eagles 73-68, though Winthrop gave its best effort behind senior Anika Riley's 15 points, 8 rebounds and 4 assists.

Game two against the Lancers started out better for the Eagles as they finished the first quarter only down 21-20 while shooting 7-of-13 from the field. At halftime on Jan. 16, Winthrop trailed 40-37.

Three points remained the closest Winthrop would get to reaching Longwood throughout

the entire second half. At one point Winthrop's deficit increased to nine, but at the end of the third quarter victory was still within reach for the Eagles who were down by seven points.

For the second day in a row, no net gain or loss amounted for Winthrop in the fourth quarter. The Eagles gave another valiant effort, including five players with double-digit scoring figures, but lost 80-73.

Although the team didn't bring home a victory, Winthrop's performance last week suggested that the Eagles are not going to simply throw in the towel on this season. Though they've been swept in their last three conference series, those three teams also own the best winning percentages in the conference.

With other teams toward the middle and bottom of the pack now on the horizon of Winthrop's schedule, there is still hope that

on a major high note. It may be hard to cheer for a 2-9 team, but fans must remember this group has faced a good bit of adversity.

After all, Winthrop has a whole lot of new faces on the squad this year (seven to be exact). The whole team is also trying to learn the system of a new head coach, and of course, they had limited preparation this off-season due to a global pandemic.

With 12 games remaining on Winthrop's schedule, there is still time for the Eagles to turn things around. Winthrop will travel back to the state of Virginia this week to take on Hampton University in a double-header on Jan. 22 and 23 before hosting Charleston Southern University in Rock Hill on Jan. 29 and 30.

## Open the Coliseum

Mark Laming

Special to The Johnsonian

Since my freshman year at Winthrop, sporting events have always been a big part of my college experience. Winthrop athletics helped me connect with friends with common interests, have a rallying point for our university, and gave me fun activities on the weekend.

Some of the most memorable moments of my life happened by the south goal in the Winthrop Coliseum, cheering on the Eagles with a few hundred of my fellow classmates. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person attendance at Winthrop men's basketball games was suspended indefinitely, leaving students, alumni and fans to watch from home.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed the college experience for everyone at Winthrop, one thing hasn't changed: the success of the men's basketball team. Winthrop's 2020-21 roster is arguably the greatest the school has ever seen, currently boasting a 13-0 record on top of an 18-game winning streak spanning back to the 2019 season, which is tied for the longest in the entire nation.

Unfortunately, the accomplishments of our student-athletes have happened in front of completely empty stands, with nothing but unoccupied garnet bleachers and silent concourses to bear witness to this historic run.

To lessen the disappointment of being locked out of the arena, many Winthrop supporters have taken to social media platforms to connect with others, watch games together and build a sense of community between fellow fans.

One fan even set up a tailgate in the parking lot of the Coliseum, watching the game on a TV mounted in a truck bed mere feet

from where the action was taking place. However, these new ways of experiencing Winthrop basketball pale in comparison to watching a game from the seats of Winthrop Coliseum.

There is an inherent risk to attending any kind of gathering with the state's current COVID-19 situation, but with mandated social distancing and mask wearing (which are standard on Winthrop's campus), a limited number of students and community members should be allowed to safely attend Winthrop home games at reduced capacity.

The Coliseum seats over 6000 people, allowing for lots of room for social distancing, and fans would be inclined to follow the rules to ensure that they can continue to attend games.

Our campus community has shown tremendous personal responsibility throughout the pandemic year, having some of the lowest case totals of any state school, and our students have leaned into mask wearing, social distancing, and have done what has been needed to keep their college experience safe and intact.

Local institutions like the University of South Carolina and Clemson University have hosted limited attendance sporting events with no proof of clusters stemming solely from attendance at the event. Each event had a limited number of tickets available for purchase and required attendees to wear face coverings at all times within the venue.

In July, Bristol Motor Speedway hosted 30,000 fans (25% of the massive race track's 162,000 seat capacity) for the NASCAR Cup Series All-Star race, the largest attended professional sporting event since the beginning of the pandemic. Local health officials found no community spread traced to events at the track, and concluded that the race was conducted in a safe fashion,

shielding participants, staff and fans from potential COVID-19 exposure.

Last week, Winthrop Athletics announced an updated attendance policy that allowed a limited number of student-athlete families and friends to attend the Jan. 14 and Jan. 15 home games. All

basketball team has provided a ray of light, giving all Winthrop students something to rally around and enjoy. Allowing a limited number of students into the games would give a small taste of normal, and for the two and a half hours the game is going on, an escape from the tumultuous and stressful



Photo courtesy to Winthrop University

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, fans have been unable to attend live sporting events at the Coliseum.

attendees were socially distanced and were required to wear masks while inside the Coliseum.

With evidence showing a return to the stands can happen safely, Winthrop's athletic department should allow a limited number of students and community members into the Coliseum with mandated mask wearing and social distancing. The event can be executed safely with a combination of well-thought-out measures, personal responsibility and motivation of our students and fans to continue to have the privilege to witness in-person games.

In a year defined by missed opportunities, stripped normalcy and students grappling with mental health issues, the

times that we are living through.

According to Winthrop Athletic Director Ken Halpin, the athletic department will "evaluate the possibility of possibly introducing a limited number of fans" into the Coliseum after hosting "a few men's and women's games with families, assuming all goes well." However, the Winthrop men's team only has four home games remaining on the schedule before the Big South Tournament.

A limited attendance game has been proven to be safe for attendees when the rules are followed. It is time that the athletic department consider allowing us to safely gather and enjoy this historic season together as a campus community.



# Two more wins for men's hoops

## Winthrop sweeps Longwood in conference double-header

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The Winthrop men's basketball team won both of its games in a conference double-header against Longwood University last week. The two wins improved the team's record to 13-0 and extended Winthrop's current win streak to 18 games, dating back to last season.

After capturing an early lead during their first game against the Lancers on Jan. 14, The Eagles struggled to completely pull away, but at no point in time did they have to play from behind. Despite shooting just 1-for-11 from behind the 3-point line during the first half, Winthrop took a 32-23 advantage into the locker room at halftime.

The Eagles shot the ball much more efficiently in the second half

of game one, shooting 13-of-24 from the field, 3-of-9 from behind the arc and 11-of-12 at the free throw line. Although Longwood pulled within four points midway through the second half, Winthrop was able to fend off its opponent and maintain the lead, securing a 72-61 win.

Micheal Anumba earned Player of the Game honors for his performance during Winthrop's first victory over Longwood, in which he scored a team-high of 14 points and assisted on three scores. His teammate, Chandler Vaudrin, also finished with an impressive 13 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

Holding Longwood at bay seemed easier for Winthrop during the team's second matchup with the Lancers on Jan. 15. The Eagles held their opponent to an abysmal 32% shooting during the first half while shooting 41.9% from the field themselves. With eight players having scored,

Winthrop boasted a 36-22 lead at halftime.

Winthrop continued to impress on defense during the second half, recording two blocks, six steals, and holding Longwood under 30 points again. Although the pep band could not be present to shout, "Up by 20!," the Eagles earned a comfortable 70-50 victory over the Lancers.

Adonis Arms was named Player of the Game following Winthrop's second win over Longwood. The redshirt senior recorded 15 points, 8 rebounds and 4 assists while his teammates, Micheal Anumba and DJ Burns, also scored 12 points each.

"When you win the first game... the key is to get your group to regroup the next morning – regardless of the fact that you won the game and what the point differential was – to really focus on our mishaps and our mistakes and the things that we need to improve, and I thought we did

that," Head Coach Pat Kelsey told Dave Friedman on 104.1 "The Bridge" following Winthrop's second win against Longwood.

"We came out as a really hungry team that got out-rebounded yesterday," Kelsey said. "They had 14 [offensive rebounds] yesterday [and] they only had five today. We really talked about guarding without fouling. Yesterday they shot 28 free throws [and] today they only shot 9. So, our guys' response to the things that we addressed in preparation this morning, I thought they responded really well."

The Eagles currently sit atop the Big South standings as the only undefeated team in conference play. With wins against Presbyterian College on Jan. 19 and 20, Winthrop's winning streak would extend to 20 games which would set the record for most wins in a row in program history.



Graphic courtesy to ESPN

# Eagle of the Week: Anika Riley

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After a close final score of 73-80 on Jan. 16 at Longwood, senior Anika Riley has 69 points and 15 assists for the 2020-2021 season so far, along with a shooting percentage of .424 and a free throw percentage of .667.

"I just want to finish strong and leave everything out since it's my last year, and not regret anything," Riley said.

Riley has also recorded a total of 69 rebounds, the second highest on the team, with 54 coming on defense and 15 on offense. Although neither weekend game ended in Winthrop's favor, Riley's most successful match was on Saturday, Jan. 15, where she scored 15 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Following multiple professional athletes for inspiration throughout her collegiate career, Riley feels she relates the most to Kawhi Leonard on the court, as they are both strong defensive players, but her overall favorite athlete is Serena Williams.

"I just really love how she's aggressive, emotional, passionate, strong. She's not afraid to be a strong woman and be more muscular in her sport, and her being a black woman with a successful story, I really love everything about her," Riley said.

During the 2019-2020 season,



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

Senior Anika Riley holds the second highest number of rebounds at 69 on the woman's basketball team

Riley started all 30 games of her junior year and recorded her 500th career rebound at Gardner-Webb.

"500 rebounds was really big for me. I think it was special because a lot of people underestimate me because I play a post and I'm 5'8", and usually in our conference they're 6'1" or 6'2"," Riley said.

Before these intense, challenging games, Riley can typically be found in the locker room participating in a dance circle with her favorite songs and teammates.

"I feel like that's what makes me loose for the game, and I just like doing it. It takes the pressure off because you prepare all week and

the coach is on you for little things to have all the details down. So when I'm leading up to the game I like to relax and make the time to have fun, because that's why we play to begin with," Riley said.

Off the court and out of the locker room, Riley is diligently working towards her mass communication degree and following her digital videography and production passion, all while striving to maintain her 3.0 GPA.

"That was my goal and promise to myself, to graduate with a 3.0. I've been able to hold that up since I've been here, which is one of those self-accomplishment, self-motivation [things], so that feels good," Riley said.

Riley is planning to graduate in May 2021 and move onto the working world of Charlotte, NC with her Bachelor's degree. Over her four years on campus, it was the close-knit community that made her time at Winthrop so memorable.

"I know all my professors, they recognize me and know me. Especially in your major, you start to take the same classes with the same faces. I think it's been fun to grow with the same kinds of people," Riley said.

While Riley considered coaching after graduation, she is hoping to combine her love for videography and athletics into a career of editorial producing in the sports world.

"Honestly, it's crazy to think I'm at the end already. I just started my last semester here and I'm reminiscent [of] how long and how short it's been at the same time. It's cool to figure out what the next steps will be," Riley said.

The Eagles are 2-9 after this weekend of away games at Longwood, but Riley remains determined to help lead her team to a successful season.

"We've been taking our time to build chemistry, but I feel like it's going to get better as we progress. I have high hopes to get some good wins and really compete in the conference. I'm looking forward to the rest of our games," Riley said.



# A&C the Johnsonian

January 20, 2021

## 2021 Fashion trends pull from the past

2021 fashion trends are here, but they strongly resemble some familiar looks from the 1970s

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We have all heard of the 20-year rule among fashion trends. To no surprise, spring and summer 2021 fashion week displayed all of our favorite funky and vibrant retro looks from the 1970s. Chunky shoes, bell-bottom jeans, fringe, and floral prints are just a few of the things they say are supposed to come back into fashion in the near future.

"70s fashion is definitely coming back," junior art education major Emily Shelton said.

"I think Farrah Fawcett hair has also had a come-back," Shelton said. "Afros have also made a comeback as both men and women of color are sporting their natural hair.

"Personally, I love 70s fashion because I think it looks so good on all body types, like with bell-bottoms. I love the funky and fun styles from the 70s such as chunky boots and sweaters with fringe. I like thrifting or finding vintage clothes in order to be fashion forward while also being sustainable."

News site Insider predicts that "Bold, out-there, and Pop Art-inspired floral prints will continue to be everywhere."

According to fashion magazine Marie Claire, "One of fashion's most emulated decades, winter will continue to mirror the era's burnt oranges and olive-tone hues, while mastering prints like argyle and paisley."

Senior art education major

Mimi Tierney said, "I think floral prints are getting big again and especially the color palette of mustard yellows, pastel pinks and blues, with deep reds/browns are making a comeback."

While we saw the rise of the skinny jean in the early 2010s, flare jeans and bell-bottoms are making a comeback. With Y2K style jeans increasing in popularity over the past year, Y2K jeans have taken inspiration from the 70s bell-bottom shape, and celebrities like Bella Hadid and Margot Robbie have already caught on.

What was first seen on disco queens in the 1970s can now be found on Saint Laurent's website for \$2,300.

Patchwork designs are on the rise but are arguably one of the hardest trends to pull off without looking a "little too retro." According to The Zoe Report, "One of the easiest ways to pull off the '70s patchwork trend is opting for a pair of jeans with a modern fit that will balance out the vintage feel."

Mini skirts graced runways this past fall, marking their official return to fashion in shows for "Giambattista Valli, Hermès, Isabel Marant, and Coperni," according to Refinery29. While mini skirts strongly resemble 1960s fashion, the trend has influenced the fashion industry for many years. However, designers seemed to have a more refined approach this time around. Refinery29 observed that "Mrs. Prada continued to fight against bulky, layered-on fashion with

the reintroduction of micro-mini skirts and -dresses at her Miu Miu show."

The beloved clog of the '70s, or what many refer to as the infamous "ugly shoe," has finally resurged, "Thanks to designers like Hermès, Isabel Marant, and more," says online women's magazine Bustle.

The nostalgia of chunky shoes has been brought back along with clogs. With similar shoes like chunky boots and sneakers already taking over "For You" pages and feeds, it is only inevitable for the clog to make its return. Fringe has also forged its way back into fashion after making a small cameo in the mid-2010s. According to news website Elite Daily, "Fashion houses like Prada have reimagined the detail on a much larger scale for winter, debuting coats with strips of fringe and intricate beaded designs." What was originally seen in old western movies can now be expected to make an appearance on jackets, dresses, and handbags this year.

Jamie Rankin, a senior art education major, shared 70s inspired trends that she noticed.

"I think accessories are another major comeback," Rankin said. "For example, sunglasses with larger lenses and bright colors. Hats and long necklaces as well. I personally wear some of these things myself."

As the old saying goes, the more things change, the more they stay the same.



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

## The future of superheroes

After a mostly superhero-less 2020, DC and Marvel have big plans for the next few years

Shyanne Hamrick  
staff writer

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed production for many anticipated films and series, and the superhero genre is no exception. Following a year with few major theatrical releases, the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) and DC Extended Universe (DCEU) have jump-started an action-packed release schedule for 2021 and beyond.

As Phase 4 of the MCU commences, Marvel Studios has recently announced a plethora of upcoming films. "Black Widow" is scheduled to be released on May 7, "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" on July 9, "The Eternals" on Nov. 5 and an untitled Spider-Man sequel on Dec. 17. Audiences can also expect films such as "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," "Thor: Love and Thunder," "Black Panther II" and "Captain Marvel 2" to be released throughout 2022, with "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" scheduled for 2023.

No release dates have been set for the very recently announced "Fantastic Four" and "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" films. Marvel Studios is also expanding familiar storylines with the premiere of various series on Disney+, but what does this mean for the MCU?

"The Cinematic Universe weaves storylines, heroes and villains across 23 feature films to date," Kevin Fiege, the president of Marvel Studios said in an article for Marvel.com. "And with Disney+, we're able to extend this way of storytelling to a new format — creating series that are connected to our theatrical releases, making the MCU more immersive than ever." Series coming to Disney+ in the upcoming months include "WandaVision," "The Falcon and the Winter Soldier," "Loki," "Ms. Marvel," "Hawkeye" and "What If...?" Set to premiere in 2022 are "Moon Knight" and "She-Hulk." In late 2022, Disney+ is set to premiere "The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special" as well.

► see Superheroes pg. 9

## Celebrating National Hugging Day

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, many are still finding ways to connect with others

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Jan. 21 marks National Hugging Day, a day that comes during a time where simple human intimacy is considered a luxury. Although this day may not be well-known, there are many who are saddened by the effects that COVID-19 has had on their ability to embrace their loved ones. According to SCL Health, hugging others has various benefits such as lowering stress, boosting our immune system and decreasing depression. 20-second hugs are proven to lower heart rate and blood pressure. They can also trigger the release of oxytocin, also known as the love chemical, in the brain.

Unfortunately, due to the increasing spread of COVID-19, National Hugging Day may not be celebrated to the same extent as it has in recent years. However, there may be other ways to spread joy and happiness in the place of giving hugs.

"I miss being able to see friends easily and being able to go out without having to worry about getting sick," said Jesse Martin, a senior biology major.

However, Martin shared that making plans in advance and sticking to them has been helpful for her and her friends.

Other students have found alternative ways to spend time with



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

their friends in a way that is safe with social distancing guidelines in place.

Junior social work major Morgan Carter said that she misses being able to hang out with her friends at the movies or restaurants. Even though these businesses are open, many are still weary about being around others. "COVID is scary," Carter said, "especially because we still have more questions than answers."

In place of spending time with friends in public, Carter and her friends have been taking advantage of technology by using apps such as Netflix Party and FaceTime.

"It's not the same," Carter said, "but we appreciate the time spent

nonetheless."

Although numerous people have had to change how they spend time with friends and family due to COVID-19, some have been impacted by the pandemic more than others.

Raegen Grooms, a sophomore psychology major, has been affected greatly by the pandemic. Grooms shared that she has never officially celebrated National Hugging Day, but "being an affectionate person, I have unintentionally celebrated it at some point."

Due to the pandemic, Grooms spent a lot of time away from her family and was unable to hug her mother for almost nine months.

"By the time I finally got to see [my mom] this holiday season, a simple hug was enough to bring us to tears." Grooms went on to say, "I never realized just how much I took small things like that for granted."

As we approach National Hugging Day and continue to live in a world of social distancing and mask wearing, remaining connected with others is important even if hugging has to be replaced with fist bumps or air hugs. "While a quick text doesn't hold the same weight as a hug," Grooms said, "it can make someone's day and remind them that people care about them."



◀ Superheroes from pg. 8

Marvel Studios have also announced a multitude of other Disney+ series without specified release dates, such as “*Secret Invasion*,” “*Ironheart*,” “*Armor Wars*” and “*I Am Groot*.”

Furthermore, DC Films announced the complex development of a multiverse in late 2020. The concept of multiverses refers to the simultaneous existence of a character in different worlds in order to thread each storyline together into a coherent whole.

“I don’t think anyone else has ever attempted this,” Walter Hamada, the president of DC Films, told the *New York Times*. “But audiences are sophisticated enough to understand it. If we make good movies, they will go with it.”

With the multiverse announcement, DC has announced a less extensive, yet substantial schedule for theatrical releases as well.

This year, fans can anticipate the release of “*The Suicide Squad*” on Aug. 6. In 2022, “*The Flash*” and “*Aquaman 2*” are currently set to be released on Nov. 4 and Dec. 16, respectively. The sequel to “*Shazam!*,” titled “*Shazam! Fury of the Gods*,” will be released in mid-2023.

Films with release dates yet to be announced include “*Black Adam*” and an untitled sequel to “*Wonder Woman 1984*.”

Like their Marvel counterpart, the DCEU is also testing the waters of TV series. Premiering this year on HBO Max are two series, “*Zack Snyder’s Justice League*” and “*Peacemaker*.”

With the announcements of upcoming films and series, Marvel and DC fans alike remain excited for the future of their favorite heroes.

## “Soul”: a movie review

\*This article contains spoilers for the Disney Pixar Movie “Soul”\*

Allison Reynolds  
staff writer

On Christmas Day, Disney+ released their newest Pixar film that was originally intended for theaters, “*Soul*,” available to its subscribers.

“*Soul*” follows around a middle school band director named Joe Gardner, who originally wanted to be a famous jazz musician. After landing a huge gig, Joe falls into a manhole and ends up heading towards The Great Beyond. Determined to play his gig before he dies, Joe ends up in The Great Before and gets paired up to train a cynical soul, 22, who has been stuck in The Great Before for several millennia, determined not to live because they see it as pointless.

Joe and 22 find Moonwind, who helps lost souls. Moonwind returns Joe to Earth and ends up sending 22 with him. Joe is relieved to be back until he realizes he ended up in the therapy cat’s body, Mr. Mittens, and 22 ended up in his body. For the rest of the movie, it’s a race to get Joe back into his own body before his gig.

Starring Jamie Foxx, Tina Fey, Graham Norton, Angela Bassett and Daveed Diggs, “*Soul*” is, in my opinion, Pixar’s best movie.

However, there are several aspects of this movie that I believe deem it not worthy for children. One is the fact that the main character falls into a manhole and “dies” within the first ten minutes

# His name is Elliott

## “*The Umbrella Academy*” actor Elliot Page comes out as transgender

Emily Curry  
staff writer

Elliot Page, the actor famous for roles in “*Juno*” and “*The Umbrella Academy*,” has recently posted a letter on social media explaining to fans that they are transgender.

Page, whose deadname (the name given at birth) was Ellen, put the letter on Twitter this past December. In it, Page announced that he identifies as transgender and that their preferred pronouns are he(masculine)/they(-gender-neutral).

Being transgender means identifying with the opposite gender to the one based on your original biology, or assigned gender at birth (AGAB), usually categorized into assigned female (AFAB) or male (AMAB) at birth. While most transgender people fall under the nonbinary umbrella, or greater community of those who do not identify with their AGAB, the trans community has a life of its own.

While some trans people know their identity from the start, many do not come to understand it until various stages in their life, often when they were raised in a conservative or religious family or community. From whatever point they come to terms with their identity, a trans person is faced with the decision of if or when to share that with those around them.

There are many types or levels of transitioning, and transgender people can choose for themselves based on safety, physical and financial ability and psychological needs to determine what they need to do to bring their mind and body to harmony.

Social transitioning refers to wearing clothes that conform to a trans person’s identified gender and usually requesting others around them to use their preferred name and pronouns. Some people may choose to use special clothing to help them socially transition, such as chest binders for AFAB people or gaffs for AMAB people.

Medical, or hormonal transitioning, refers to using hormone replacement therapy (HRT), which is usually prescribed by a doctor, to gradually change hormonal levels to be similar to those of someone of their true gender. Frequently the hormonal changes themselves can be euphoric, and additionally, the gradual body changes can also help relieve dysphoria.

Trans AMAB people will usually be prescribed a combination of estrogen and a testosterone blocker, and the process is often similar to hormonal therapy that cisgender women may undergo during menopause. AFAB people will usually only need testosterone to transition hormonally, as the testosterone naturally starts to lower their body’s estrogen levels.

Transitioning, whether socially or medically, is an emotional and often difficult experience for the person undergoing the transition. Many transgender people encounter transphobia (discrimination against those who identify as something other than their AGAB) during this time. Because of this, transgender and nonbinary people may be exposed to unnecessary violence.

According to the 2015 Transgender Survey, approximately 45% of the transgender population in America has been a target

of sexual assault. Of the transgender individuals who responded, the vast majority of survivors had been people of color. 17% of the transgender individuals who had been assaulted had been living in poverty or were homeless.

Suicide rates within the LGBTQ+ community are higher than heterosexual/cisgender individuals due to the lack of support many face. Open discrimination may also be a cause, as many feel unsafe or targeted for embracing an identity with which they were born.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, many transgender teens had attempted or contemplated suicide for various reasons. Roughly half of young transgender men had admitted to feeling suicidal. 29% of young transgender women had confessed to also feeling suicidal, while 42% of gender-nonconforming teenagers had also admitted to contemplating or attempting suicide. It has been noted that transgender suicide rates drop significantly after the transition process begins.

In their coming-out letter, Page refers to the crimes committed against those who do not identify as their assigned gender at birth as “insidious and cruel.” Page goes on to acknowledge that these acts of violence often have “horrendous consequences.” He urges readers of his letter to make resources available for transgender/gender-nonconforming people in order to lessen the statistics of violence and death that mar the community.

Page will still continue to act and has publicly thanked his wife and fans for their continuous support during a vulnerable time in his life.

of the movie.

One quote that I find really inappropriate for a kids movie is when Joe and 22 are in The Great Before, and a group of new souls (essentially babies/toddlers) are playing, and a building falls on them. Joe thinks that they all were killed, but 22 reassures him, “you can’t crush a soul here. That’s what life on Earth is for.”

Another part of the movie that is dark is where Joe and 22 go to look for Moonwind in “the zone.” “The zone” is where people go when they are doing something they are passionate about and end up in a euphoric state. It is also a place where lost souls, souls who have become obsessed with their passion and therefore end up broken, end up.

Moonwind helps these lost souls snap out of their obsessed and broken state to find something else that they are passionate about. For example, the audience sees Moonwind help a lost soul who belongs to a man who we assume is working a 9 to 5 office job and is secretly unhappy. In my opinion, kids should not be learning about this stuff, considering how impressionable kids are.

With that said, I found “*Soul*” extremely beautiful and was balling my eyes out by the end (I’m



“Soul” is available to watch on Disney +

not someone who cries at movies often). Not only did the happy ending bring tears to my eyes, but the movie’s overall message touched me as well.

One of the movie’s overall themes is to enjoy the little things in life. Viewers see this in the scene in which 22 is in Joe’s body, and they are experiencing what it’s like to be in a body for the first time, and 22 finds the simplistic things in life breathtaking. At one point, 22, while in Joe’s body, sits on a stoop eating a lollipop and feels the breeze and is in complete bliss.

I’m someone who has struggled with depression for a good chunk of my life, and this movie helped me learn to appreciate the little things

in life. Like when your favorite song comes on your playlist. When your dog gets excited when you come home, even if you’ve only been gone an hour. When you take a bite of your favorite food. When it’s that perfect temperature of not too hot/not too cold outside. When you watch your favorite movie. When you see someone you haven’t seen in a long time. The feeling of clean sheets. That feeling you get when you’ve been laughing for a long time, and you can’t breathe.

“*Soul*” helped me learn not to take the little things and small moments in life for granted. You only get one life, and you choose how to view it.



January 20, 2021

## Environmental Studies and Evangelicals A glimpse into how climate change and religion are related

Autumn Hawkins  
staff writer

Climate change is a pressing issue that, unfortunately, evangelical Christians are refusing to buy stock in.

The evangelical faith is a subdivision of Protestant Christianity that combines the beliefs of denominations such as Reformation, Pentecostal, and Anabaptist. The four main tenets of evangelism are salvation through religious conversion, participating in missionary work/spreading God's word, believing that the Bible is the ultimate authority in life, and placing emphasis on the crucifixion of Jesus.

Climate change has been addressed by scientists as a growing concern that could prematurely put an end to modern society. It is projected that by 2050, major cities including Charleston, New Orleans, and Miami will be completely submerged if action is not taken to better the climate. Despite the rising threat, evangelical Christians remain skeptical.

According to research conducted by Pew - a research center specializing in social issues - only 28% of evangelical Christians believe that humans contribute to global warming. Almost two-thirds of those surveyed insisted that there was no "solid evidence" that climate change even exists.

While some evangelicals

believe that climate change is a sign of the coming apocalypse, there are others who believe that it is a "liberal hoax" manufactured by the Democratic party in order to steer Americans away from religion and towards dependency on the government. While there are many different ethnicities and political opinions represented in the Christian faith, the evangelical Christians referred to in this article are predominantly Caucasian and politically conservative.

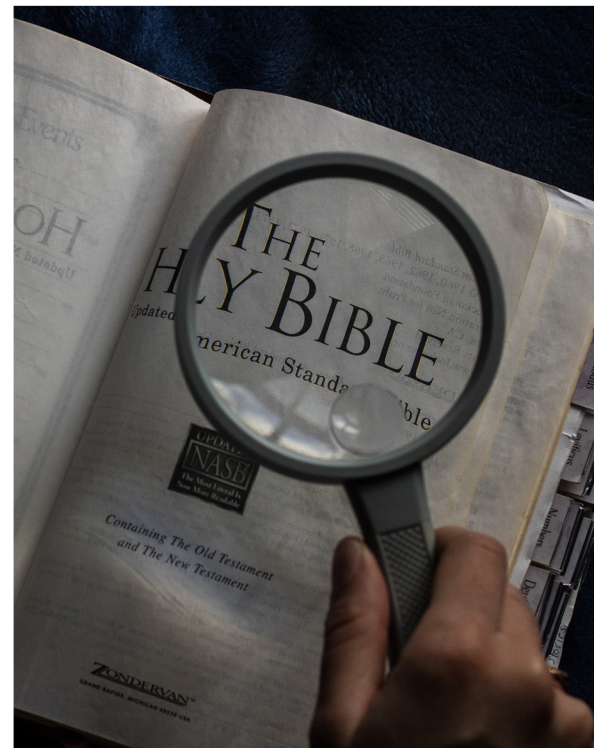
Katharine Wilkinson, a climate change activist, wrote *Between God and Green: How Evangelicals Are Cultivating a Middle Ground on Climate Change* in 2012 to address what Wilkinson referred to as "the political will and public engagement necessary to fuel robust action on global climate change." The book focuses on how there are evangelical Christians who are aiming to protect the environment and persuade other evangelicals to follow their "duty to protect God's creation."

Wilkinson also addresses the fact that skepticism regarding climate change has increased dramatically since the turn of the century. A potential reason for the disbelief that climate change is a pressing issue could be from the types of media that Americans are exposed to. Conservative news sources often downplay global warming as a strictly liberal belief, one that is founded in false statistics, according to many Republican politicians.

The Young Evangelicals for Climate Change are a nonprofit group dedicated to mending the gap between religious belief and the reality that climate change is an increasingly relevant concern. Their work also focuses on helping marginalized groups and preserving minority cultures, two issues which are directly impacted by climate change. Neighborhoods impacted by generational poverty - especially in the Southeastern part of the United States - are historically more likely to house people of color (due to systemic racism not allowing minorities the same opportunities for success as white Americans) and are often in areas that are prone to flooding as sea levels rise.

Dan Kahan, a social scientist, argues that evangelicals feel strongly about climate change due to not believing in evolution, and so therefore is not as reliable as the media makes it out to be. He theorizes that the fear of being excommunicated for disagreeing with the church also plays a part in why evangelicals are so outspoken about their environmental beliefs.

Climate change is a pressing matter, as it is estimated that sea levels rise by approximately 8 inches a year. Even with startling facts and public demands for change, middle-class white evangelicals still refuse to believe that climate change even exists.



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

## African-American representation at ABC

### Why has it taken so long for ABC to have an African-American Bachelor?

Allison Reynolds  
staff writer

Representatives of the American Broadcasting Channel (ABC) announced in June of 2020 that the upcoming season of *The Bachelor* would be centered around Matt James - the show's first African-American bachelor.

A week before ABC announced James's contract with the show, a petition was posted on Change.org, demanding that *The Bachelor* include more minority groups - especially people of color. The petition also stated that ABC should put more effort into screening contestants to ensure that they had not exhibited racist behavior in the past. This is in direct response to Hannah Brown - the season 15 lead of *The Bachelorette* - who posted a video of herself using a racial slur on social media. Within the week, the petition had over 85,000 signatures.

Before James signed on with ABC, Rachel Lindsay had been the only African-American lead contestant when she appeared on *The Bachelorette* in 2017. The lack of diversity among the contestants and bachelors/bachelorettes has been a point of controversy among viewers and contestants alike. Lindsay has publicly spoken out about being the first African-American bachelorette on social media since the announcement of her joining the show.

The show had cast only Caucasian men until 2014 when Juan Pablo Galavis agreed to be the bachelor for season 17. Galavis became the first bachelor of color, as he is of Venezuelan descent.

In 2012, two African-American men auditioned for the role of the bachelor, but ABC quickly turned them both down. The men claimed that their denial stemmed from racial discrimination, but it was never proven to be the cause. Legal action was not taken due to a lack of evidence.

"We have a responsibility to make sure the love stories we're seeing onscreen are representative of the world we live in," ABC Entertainment President Karey Burke said during a press conference. While Burke did not respond to why they decided to wait until now to cast an African-American

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## Kim and Kanye...and Jeffree?!

### Kim Kardashian and Kanye West are getting a divorce. Is it because the famous rapper was having an affair with beauty guru Jeffree Star?

Allison Reynolds  
staff writer

It's no surprise that amidst the world trying to make 2021 a much better year than 2020, six days into the new year the Capitol Building was seized. In the days afterward, it was reported that Kim Kardashian and Kanye West are getting divorced, and rumors that Kanye West had romantic relations with YouTuber beauty guru Jeffree Star followed.

Apparently, Kim and Kanye's marriage had been spiraling downward over the span of recent months and they have reportedly already started seeing other people. Speculations for Kim's new man all point to political figure Van Jones, while Twitter is convinced that Kanye's new love interest is Jeffree Star.

The rumors began when TikTok influencer Ava Louise posted a video claiming that since the divorce between Kim and Kanye had been announced, she could finally "spill the tea." Louise stated that Kanye had been "hooking up" with a famous male beauty guru. Louise also promised that "her source was legit." Hours after posting this video, Louise told her TikTok followers that Kim Kardashian allegedly slapped her with a lawsuit.

While the rumor is very shocking and seems way out of the

blue, fans pointed out that geographically it makes sense. Kanye has been living out of his and Kim's Wyoming ranch for much of 2020. Jeffree also moved to his mansion in Wyoming part-time back in August, though some of that time was spent with his ex, Andre Marhold. Before relocating to Wyoming, Kanye and Jeffree both lived in Hidden Hills, an exclusive gated community next to Calabasas, California.

In response to the rumors, Jeffree tweeted and posted on Instagram, "I'm ready for Sunday Service." Sunday Service is also the name of the famous church service created and run by Kanye West. Jeffree also played into the rumors by tweeting that "e-detectives" had been studying a picture that the guru tweeted out in late December. In the picture, Jeffree is wearing sunglasses and a few figures can be seen in Jeffree's glasses. According to the "e-detectives," one of the figures is Kanye West. When drama YouTuber Dustin Dailey reached out to Jeffree for a comment about the rumors, Jeffree told Dailey that the rumors were not true.

Louise later told Insider magazine that there was no "concrete evidence" that Jeffree and Kanye had relations as she previously claimed. However, Louise has also made the claim that Kanye



Star Photo Courtesy to Wikimedia

had an entanglement with a lesser-known beauty guru, Cole Carrigan, who is friends with Ava.

Jeffree Star also released a YouTube video on Jan. 7th debunking the rumors that he was hooking up with Kanye West. In the video, Jeffree says, "I'm single, I'm not sleeping with anyone." Jeffree also said in his video that this rumor is the "dumbest [s\*\*\*] he's ever read in his entire life." Jeffree went on to say, "Me and Kanye have never hung out and this whole thing is really funny."

While 2020 was a terrible and tragic year for many, the few days that have existed in 2021 have been filled with some interesting things—not even including the Capitol Building insurrection.



◀ Bachelor from pg. 10



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

bachelor, she promised viewers that ABC will try to be more inclusive in the future.

With James's season of *The Bachelor*, viewers are worried that the show's producers will purposefully use his race to incite conflict. This happened with Lindsay's season of *The Bachelorette* when ABC cast a man who had posted racist things about African-Americans on social media. Viewers found it suspicious that he was cast during the season with the first African-American bachelorette.

Another possible reason why it took so long to have an African-American bachelor is that producers were afraid to conquer the topic of interracial relationships. There are many Americans who would protest James choosing a white contestant to marry, and viewers suspect that perhaps television officials are unsure how to handle that possibility. Viewers of color posted on social media that the producers would not know how to broach the topic of James possibly choosing an African-American woman, either. "Authentic relationships between two black people in love is extremely difficult to find," one viewer commented on Twitter. In previous posts, she had expressed her concern that the producers would not be as supportive of the bachelor's decision as they are when the lead is Caucasian.

*The Bachelor* starring Matt James premiered at the beginning of January, and new episodes are released every Monday evening.

## Riots and Racism: how the Capitol insurrection differs from Black Lives Matter protests

*A discussion about racial equity protests and the Capitol riots and the obvious difference in treatment*

Autumn Hawkins  
staff writer

Donald Trump held a rally in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 6 to garner support from his voters during the transition period between administrations.

As the rally concluded, Trump encouraged the attendees to march down Pennsylvania Avenue to gain attention regarding "fraudulent" votes that ultimately led to the nomination of Joe Biden as President-Elect. Rally attendees were sighted arriving at the grounds around 12:15 p.m. until almost an hour later. The Capitol Building was breached at approximately 12:50 p.m.

Among the protestors in attendance at this riot were members of the Proud Boys, a violent, far-right white supremacist group. Photos and videos of these men yelling and getting violent were later posted on social media. While there were other inciting incidents to the violence, the Proud Boys have a reputation for getting physical to defend their beliefs.

The riot quickly escalated as law enforcement and protestors alike deployed chemical warfare and engaged in an armed assault. Sadly, among the violence, five lives were lost.

Right-wing attendees and spectators alike have publicly commented on the riot. They justify the actions taken at the Capitol Building by comparing them to the Black Lives Matter protests that occurred during the previous summer. There are striking differences, however, between the events at the Capitol Building and the Black Lives Matter protests.

At the rally, Trump riled the crowds by demanding the government reveal the "truth" behind

the 2021 election results. Even though there is no evidence that the election was staged, right-wing conservatives insist that Trump was supposed to have won. The violence was further instigated as Trump took to Twitter to encourage his supporters to go to the Capitol and discover the truth. The riot was instigated by hearsay, by an adult man throwing a tantrum over his loss.

In contrast, the Black Lives Matter protests were driven by genuine concern. Of the murders committed by police officers in 2020, 28% of the victims were African-American. At first glance, this figure may be misleading, until one considers the fact that African-Americans comprise just 13% of the American population. African-Americans are three times more likely to be murdered by police in America due to their race.

Black Lives Matter protests were held in order to raise awareness of systemic racism, as well as to commemorate the lives of African-Americans who had been murdered by law enforcement. Buildings were defaced and stores were looted, but the overall driving force was desperation for peace and racial equity. The events at the Capitol Building were intended to harm and destroy what the far-right extremists considered a threat.

So what did these extremists find threatening? Their government and the process by which power is transferred between administrations. They sought to fight against the transference of the presidency - a key foundation on which the United States was built. When the legislation of the United States was crafted, it was heavily emphasized that the role of leading this nation would be handed to a new person every four to eight years.

The United States Code, the



Photo Courtesy of PBS

### Rioters at the Capitol

official compilation of each law of the United States, defines domestic terrorism in article 2331 as an action done by Americans with the intent to "intimidate or coerce a population, to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction/assassination/kidnapping."

When Trump encouraged his supporters to fight against the election certification, he was encouraging one of the most violent acts against a government building in American history. The rioters at the Capitol Building aimed to change the election results by any means necessary, which directly coincides with the legal definition of domestic terrorism. The moment the Capitol was breached, these rioters officially became domestic terrorists.

Why weren't Black Lives Matter protestors committing domestic terrorism? When they looted and defaced privately owned buildings, they were committing vandalism. The Capitol insurrection directly led to five people dying, and an armed militia storming into a government building. It seems that in their effort to "Keep America Great," far-right extremists became the enemy they sought to destroy.

## Trump vs Twitter—Censorship or Civic Duty?

*Twitter permanently suspending Trump's account: the issues of freedom of speech and responsibility*

Wren Brooke  
staff writer

Almost two weeks ago, Twitter permanently banned now-former President Trump's account, citing several tweets violating their 'Glorification of Violence policy.' Is this an infringement of his free speech, or just Twitter doing their due diligence to protect the public?

Just after midnight on January 6th, Trump began a stream of tweets deriding the election results as well as the casting of electoral votes scheduled for that afternoon. His tweets during the morning mainly claimed discoveries of fraudulent votes, while those during the afternoon addressed his supporters, egging them on with only some degree of subtlety.

Besides a seven-hour period (presumably while he slept), his Twitter account only fell silent twice that day: once from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the time of the Capitol being stormed, and then again at 6 p.m. when Twitter temporarily suspended his account for 12 hours. In total, he made 22 posts that day.

At 7 p.m. the next day Trump tweeted a video speech in which he acknowledged Biden's victory in the presidential election for the first time, and announced his goals to have a smooth and peaceful

transfer of power. However, this statement was marred by the false assertion that he issued the order that deployed the National Guard, a clear attempt to embellish his role in turning the tide of the riots.

He also defended his bitter opposition to the election results, claiming "my only goal was to ensure the integrity of the vote, and so doing I was fighting to defend American democracy," and refusing to openly admit his mistake. Trump returned to his original approach on Jan. 8 when he addressed his 75 million electoral voters as "great American patriots" and dramatically announced his planned absence for the Inauguration on Jan. 20.

Recently, Twitter has begun cracking down on the deletion of records of permanently suspended accounts held by politicians and celebrities, so Trump's tweets from his personal account can only be viewed in independent archives.

The permanent suspension was issued because of two tweets Trump shared on January 8: first, "The 75,000,000 great American Patriots who voted for me, AMERICA FIRST, and MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, will have a GIANT VOICE long into the future. They will not be disrespected or treated unfairly in any way, shape or form!!!" and shortly later "To all of those who have asked, I will not be going to the Inauguration on January 20th."

According to CNET, Trump immediately took to the official @POTUS Twitter account, which he had largely ignored until then, to rant about Twitter violating Internet law and restricting his free speech. Twitter has since limited his activity from the presidential account, but do not plan to suspend the account because it will be transferred to President Biden upon his inauguration.

Since the permanent suspension of Trump's personal account, many arguments have surfaced regarding Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA), which is the law currently protecting Twitter from legal action in response to the temporary and permanent ban.

Section 230 says that the owners or providers of a social media platform are not liable for anything a user posts on their website, and the CDA allows them to block indecent material on their site, particularly to prevent it from reaching minors.

Trump's argument that his freedom of speech was blocked is flawed for two reasons. One comes from the first Amendment, and one comes from the Supreme Court. The First Amendment, which speaks of freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition, is framed within the first few words - "Congress shall make no law." So while Congress cannot inhibit anyone's speech, the First

Amendment is irrelevant to the operation of a private company like Twitter.

Furthermore, in the 1968 case *Pickering v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court noted that any government employee's freedom of speech is significantly lessened. Specifically, if the statements are incompatible with their status as a public official, or simply if they knowingly or recklessly are repeating falsehoods, their speech is not protected. All three of Trump's tweets that are at issue fall into those categories, and therefore are not considered part of his freedom of speech.

However, it's worth remembering that Twitter did not take action over those tweets out of a sense of civic duty. Trump has been tweeting statements about the coronavirus with varying degrees of truthfulness and credibility since January 2020. While Twitter did mark some of them as 'fake news,' they did not take serious action until all eyes were on them following the Capitol being stormed.

While Twitter's actions appear to have been largely out of pure self-interest, Trump's dispute falls outside of the First Amendment's jurisdiction. It may very well be for the best that Trump's Twitter pulpit and his presidency have come to an end so close together so that America can finally move on from his regime.



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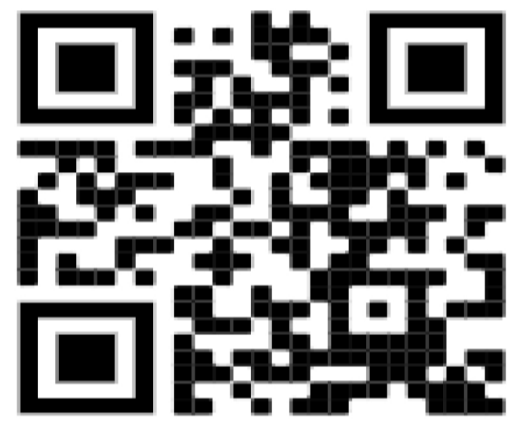
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