

THE JOHNSONIAN



Benson

Photo Courtesy to Winthrop University

Winthrop student establishes non-profit to aid underserved communities

A Winthrop student has established a non-profit organization to help underserved communities. Its first project aims to help link black patients with black healthcare professionals and physicians

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The toils of managing schoolwork, personal finances and relationships in the midst of a pandemic can wear down even the sturdiest of college students. Winthrop psychology major Clara Benson manages all this in addition to serving as the founder and director of the Community Resources for Enduring Wellness (CREW), a nonprofit organization that aims to provide access to necessary resources in underserved communities.

One of the first initiatives launched by the nonprofit organization was the Black Wellness Project, an online and still developing database that aims to link black patients with black healthcare professionals.

“The inspiration for the Black Wellness Project came from the incessant inquiries from friends centered around finding black health professionals,” Benson said. “A colleague of mine, Latia Curtis, asked me three times in one week! I knew then that something needed to be done. So, in 2020, I spent the weekend between Summer 1 and Summer 2 compiling the Black Therapist List.”

“...It seemed like such a simple, logical thing to do. I could not figure out why no one else had done it. I know what it feels like to spiral and not have needed support. I wanted to do my part to ensure wellness resources would be available to those who want them.”

Benson officially established CREW in June 2020. Within the first few months of the nonprofit’s establishment, Benson attained a \$40,000 grant from the Southern Power Fund through the Highlander Research and Education Center, according to Winthrop Communications Coordinator Nicole Chisari. From there, she began using

the funds to hire a staff to aid in maintaining and improving the organization as well as compensate consultants.

“That grant money mainly went towards hiring and contracting an accountant, grant writer, strategic planner, website developer, project assistant, as well as compensating myself and other consultants for the long hours of work required to make our vision a reality. It really set us up to be able to do the best work in the most effective ways. Without it, this project would not have grown wings until May of 2021, leaving vital resources out of reach of South Carolinians for even longer. I am grateful to the Southern Power Fund for investing in wellness resources for southern folks,” Benson said.

Moving forward, Benson hopes to expand the organization’s reach into other states, as well as hire additional staff members and begin serving as a resource for curriculum development.

“The future is bright! This year, we anticipate being fully funded so that we will be able to hire an assistant director, paid intern, and part-time fundraiser. We will launch the virtual database in June and have plans to expand it to include both North Carolina and Georgia before the end of the year. Within the next five years, my hope is that we will have boots on the ground across the south, engaging in resource bridging and sponsorship of community-created wellness programs,” Benson said.

“I encourage the campus community to consider doing community work. No matter our talent, there is much work to be done in order for us to ensure equity and liberation for all people.”

More information regarding CREW and the Black Wellness Project can be found through emailing info@crewsc.org.

Campus Safety Ambassadors: students hired to promote safety and issue \$25 citations

Winthrop University has hired nine students so far to serve as campus safety ambassadors that will help enforce COVID-19 safety precautions on campus



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

If you are not eating while in the DiGiorgio Campus Center, you are required to have on a mask.

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In order to help enforce COVID-19 safety guidelines like mask-wearing, social distancing and proper sanitization practices, Winthrop has hired nine students to the position of Campus Safety Ambassador (CSA) and is in the process of hiring two more students to the position as of late last week. The CSAs are directed to report students not following guidelines to the Dean of Students Office, which will then issue such students \$25 citations.

“The Campus Safety Ambassadors will have multiple functions,” says Anthony K. Davis, interim dean of students. “Primarily, they will work to spread awareness about COVID-19, but will also support Student Affairs staff in upholding Winthrop University’s COVID-19 safety guidelines pertaining to physical distancing and masking in common areas such as DIGS, West Center, etc.”

The CSA program began on Friday, March 5, and the Dean of Students Office has already begun issuing citations as a result of the ambassadors’ work.

“CSAs are expected to address and document all violations of Winthrop University policy... CSAs will have the ability to issue citations but will not initially. They will, however, report incidences and violations to the Dean of Students Office, who will then issue \$25 citations,” Davis said.

CSAs are paid \$10 per hour and are also eligible to receive incentives such as meal vouchers for doing good work, according to Davis.

The university brought about this program in response to an increase of students growing fatigued in following COVID-19 safety guidelines. Faculty members have reported an increase in students not following safety guidelines as it is nearing an entire year from the start of the virus taking its toll on the nation.

President George Hynd at the Feb. 19 Board of Trustees meeting said, “We’ve hired six Campus Safety Ambassadors to monitor students about masking up and those students that parentally seem to be without a mask will be issued citations.

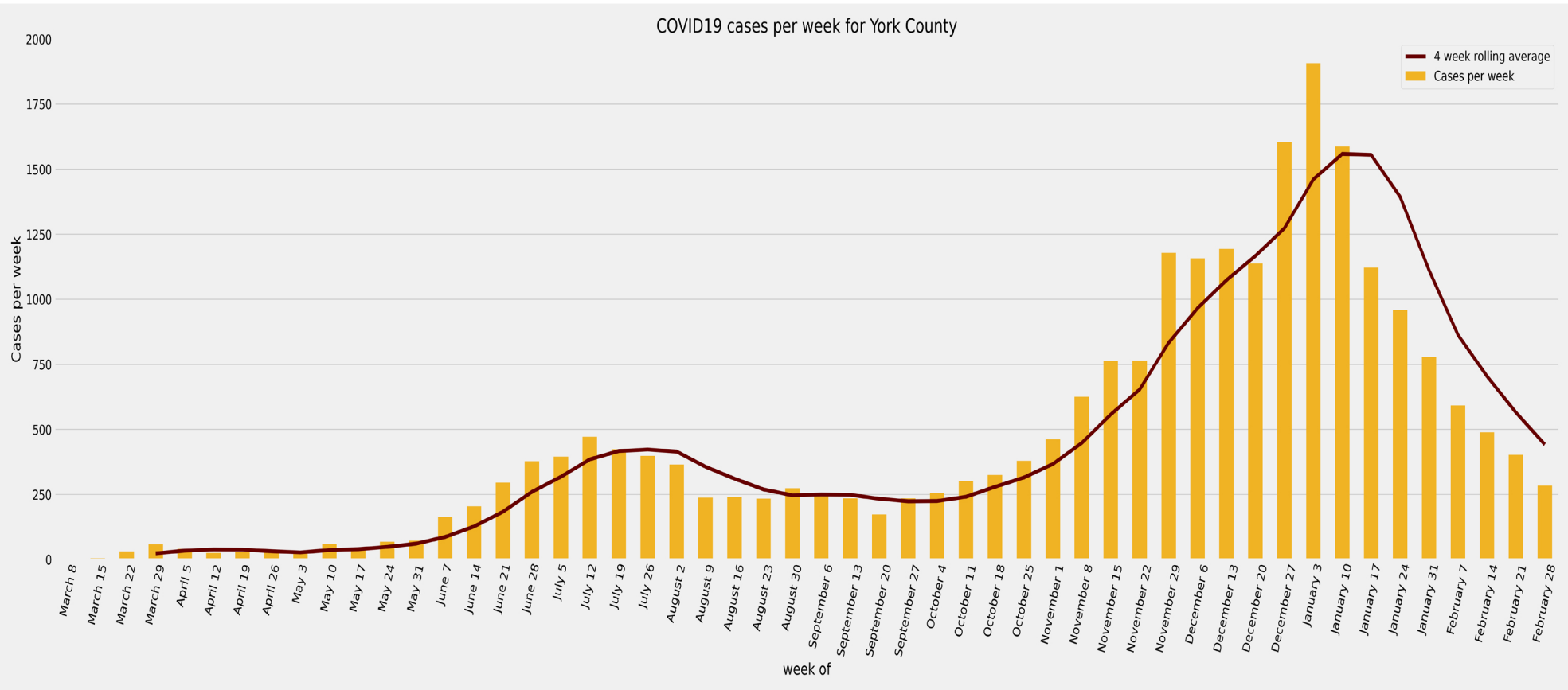
▶ see [CSA](#) pg. 2



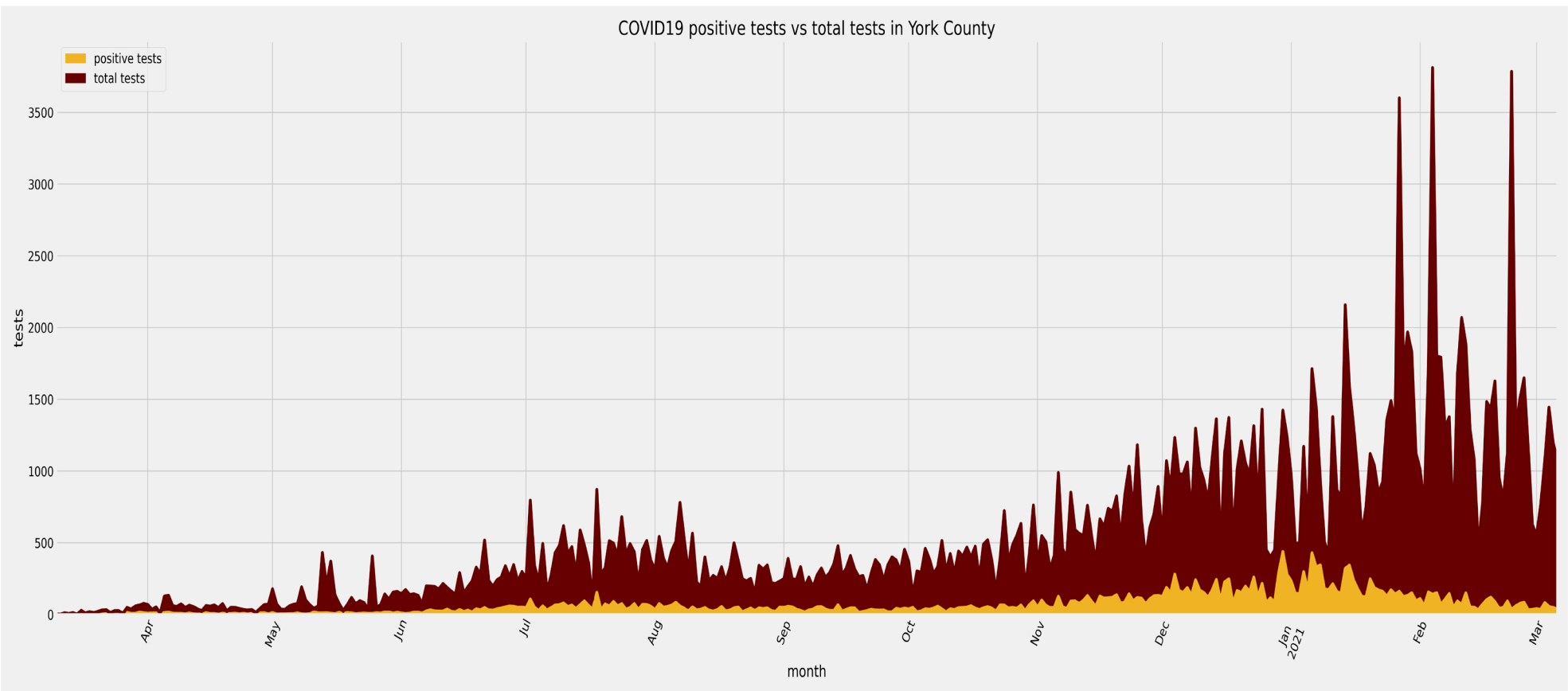


COVID-19 data

During the pandemic, The Johnsonian wants to keep you up to date with the number of positive cases in the York County area.



Philip Nelson/The Johnsonian



Philip Nelson/The Johnsonian

CSA from front

Needless to say, it's something that I think we need to do because one thing we've observed is when a staff member or faculty member walks into a room, some students may have forgotten to put their mask on, so the masks immediately come up. What we're not sure about is what happens when we leave the room. So, the safety ambassadors will be coming at odd hours around campus to make sure students are continuing [to follow guidelines]."

Some students feel that the CSA program may not be entirely necessary and are even uncomfortable with the idea that CSAs themselves are students that will be monitoring others in such a close manner.

"I am not 100% sure of my support for [the CSA program] just because sometimes putting students in charge of governing other students can go wrong... Everyone I see does a pretty good job [at following COVID-19 safety guidelines]. I live in the dorms so you kind of expect to see people in the hallways not following the guidelines, but I've never seen someone like that or anywhere else on campus. I think most people are pretty good about it," said Sam Bell, a freshman graphic design major.

In designing the CSA program, it is not the intention of the Dean of Students Office for CSAs to be undercover or not easily recognized by other students. They are not meant to be seen as student police, but rather as ambassadors for the wellbeing and safety of the entire Winthrop

community during the pandemic, and even after the pandemic.

"They're not actively seeking people breaking the rules," said Amy Sharpe, executive assistant to the dean of students. "We're trying to make it to where their job is fun, and people don't look at them like campus police. That's what we don't want because it is supposed to be about safety. It's supposed to be not just about wearing your mask, but also don't text and walk downstairs, for example. The program came about because of COVID, but our hope is that it will continue after COVID. Campus Safety Ambassadors will be a new group, per se. Our campus safety group."

Some students are hopeful that the CSA program will make strides towards returning to traditional learning as early as next semester.

"I think what they're doing is good, because even though the pandemic is slowing down, if we just stop all precautions and protocols, then it'll just come back, and we'll get more cases, and then we'll have to close businesses again, and maybe even close schools. So, I think the [CSA] program is good, and I think if we keep following these protocols, next semester, we'll be able to come back without a mask," said Dylan Bower, a sophomore business administration major.

Students, faculty and staff should expect to see Campus Safety Ambassadors around campus, in uniform, for the rest of the semester, and possibly in subsequent semesters even when pandemic protocols are not in place, because it is the university's intention to foster a safe campus for everyone regardless of a pandemic.

About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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Saliva-based COVID testing available for Winthrop community members

President Hynd announced a new form of COVID-19 testing available for Winthrop community members that uses saliva to provide quick and easy testing for the virus

Philip Nelson
staff writer

Winthrop University has introduced a rapid saliva-based COVID-19 testing initiative for non-symptomatic students, faculty and staff in partnership with the University of South Carolina.

The testing events are scheduled to occur bimonthly in McBryde Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on select dates through Dec. 2021. In order to participate, campus community members must pre-register and bring their Winthrop ID to the testing site. According to Winthrop's Saliva Assay Free Expedited (SAFE) Testing page, campus community members are instructed not to eat, drink or smoke anything before the test. Additionally, they cannot have symptoms of COVID-19 prior to receiving the test.

If a student tests positive after receiving SAFE testing, Health Services will be notified of the positive test. Faculty and staff positive tests will not be reported automatically to Health Services. Winthrop encourages students to test at least once a month in order to mitigate asymptomatic spread on campus and is working on methods to report student positive cases on their COVID-19 dashboard.

The SAFE test was developed by researchers at USC's College of Pharmacy. Through federal funding, USC was able to provide the saliva-based test to their students and faculty beginning in August 2020. USC requires students



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian

Saliva Assay Free Expedited (SAFE) testing will be done on select dates in McBryde Hall. Nasal swab testing provided by DHEC will still occur at the Coliseum testing site (pictured above).

living on campus or participating in campus activities to test once a month and offers testing on most weekdays. Unlike USC, Winthrop will not require students, faculty or staff to take the test on a monthly basis. Other public universities in South Carolina have also had saliva-based testing initiatives in place for several months.

Prior to the SAFE testing announcement, Winthrop had relied on campus community members to voluntarily report positive tests to campus Health Services and had recommended students receive tests at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control testing event at the Coliseum. Winthrop's Health Services also offers a COVID-19 test for students who meet certain conditions. The test offered at the DHEC event and Health Services is the nasopharyngeal swab

test, which requires one to three days before the results are returned. SAFE testing uses a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) that is 97.5% accurate in the early stages of infection, and the results can be returned within 24 to 48 hours of sample collection. PCR testing is considered the medical standard for COVID-19 tests.

During the first week of SAFE testing, there were 49 samples collected, and none of these samples came back positive. Since Winthrop began displaying the number of positive cases on their COVID-19 dashboard, there have been 136 cumulative positive tests. If an asymptomatic student living on campus tests positive, they are required to quarantine for ten days following the date of their positive test.

This announcement comes almost a year after the first initial positive COVID-19

test in the state. In the announcement email, President George Hynd mentions that many campus community members have requested a method of detecting asymptomatic spread on campus since last summer.

At the June 2020 Winthrop Board of Trustees meeting, Faculty Conference Chair Dr. Adolphus Belk, Jr. expressed to the Board that many faculty and staff wanted to know if testing would be available to students and if there was a plan to make it mandatory.

In order to alleviate these concerns, Winthrop required all students attending courses or living on campus to upload negative test results before arriving at Winthrop for the Spring 2021 semester. Winthrop hopes this new SAFE testing initiative will increase their testing capacity and help them isolate spread on campus.



Police blotter

2/23-2/24

A roundup of crime on campus

Sarah Hassler
staff writer

On Feb. 23, Assistant Chief Yearta was contacted by the witness in regards to an incident that occurred during a public Zoom meeting. After talking to the witness, Yearta was advised that on Feb. 23, at approximately 6:30 pm, Winthrop University's International Center hosted a virtual Zoom event with the Rock Hill School District #3 Virtual Academy. The witness then stated that the purpose of the event was to share international cultures with students in the 6th - 8th grades from the Virtual Academy.

The witness further stated that the Zoom link was Winthrop University's and did not allow multiple participants to screen share. During the presentation, inappropriate sounds were played by one of the attendees. The witness then advised that they muted everyone in the meeting and were able to complete the content portion of the program. The witness advised that they had received a number of compliments from the students and the Rock Hill School District #3 Virtual Academy in the Zoom chat regarding how pleased they were with the event up to that point.

However, the witness then stated that even though they had the Zoom controls set to prevent multiple screen sharing at one time, the event was Zoom bombed with pornographic images towards the end of the program. This occurred while they were having the students play a trivia game. The witness described the images as being very explicit and graphic. After this occurred, the event was closed, and the event stopped with screen sharing at approximately 7:23 pm.

The witness then informed Yearta that the Zoom meeting was recorded and that the Zoom meeting was

organized under a meeting ID and an associated passcode.

According to the witness, the link for the Zoom meeting was distributed only after the participants pre-registered for the event. This incident report will remain active and be forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division for further review.

On Feb. 24, the Reporting Officer (R/O) was dispatched to Owens Hall in reference to an individual that walked into the building with a firearm. The description given was for a white male in a blue shirt and blue jeans with blonde/strawberry blonde hair. The R/O arrived at Owens and searched the area for an individual matching that description. The R/O made contact with one individual, but no weapon was found. The R/O searched each floor of Owens Hall and each floor of Bancroft Hall. The R/O was unable to locate any individual matching that description.

The R/O then advised dispatch to have the witness give him a call. After the witness called the R/O, he made contact with the witness, a Winthrop student. The witness stated that she observed the individual sitting in the DiGiorgio Campus Center when she observed what appeared to be a holster on the suspect's hip. The witness stated she could see him adjust his shirt to cover the firearm. The witness then stated that he left and walked into Owens Hall. A witness stated that she had a video of the alleged firearm. The witness showed the R/O the video and sent it to the R/O via text. The R/O could confirm from the video that it was, in fact, a firearm on the suspect's hip.

The R/O then took several statements from several other witnesses listed in this report. As the R/O was finishing interviewing the witnesses,

see Police pg. 4

Blackboard Learn to go under upgrade in May

Taylor Sallenger
staff writer

Winthrop University is receiving a major upgrade to the Blackboard Learn interface on May 10.

The upgrade, called Blackboard Learn Ultra, includes a brand new landing page and theme for users, as well as Blackboard Ally, an

easy access tool.

Blackboard Ally will allow students to have greater accessibility to their course materials and work by providing access to download alternate formats such as a Word document or digital braille.

The team behind the move to Blackboard Learn Ultra has been working for the last

couple of years to make this upgrade happen successfully and is ready to share the program with students and professors alike.

"I'm excited about it. I've been wanting to move to this for, I think, over two years now, and then all the COVID stuff kind of pushed it back. So I feel like we've been

in this 'we're ready to go' phase for a while but haven't had the right span of time to deliver it all," said Thomas Cornelius, the instructional designer for Winthrop's Office of Online Learning.

While one of the biggest changes students will notice on May 10 is the new landing page

see BB pg. 4

Winthrop student parking expansion unlikely while school revises master plan

Students have been wondering if Winthrop will offer better parking accommodations for students

Sean Miller
staff writer

Winthrop students are familiar with a lack of convenient parking close to their residence halls. Many students feel that the school should invest in better parking accommodations for students that must walk a significant distance from the Legion parking lot back to the central campus. However, because of the strain that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on Winthrop's budget, coupled with the revision of Winthrop's master plan, it seems unlikely that the university will expand student parking in the foreseeable future.

Some students believe that a parking garage should be built in the Legion lot and others think that staff spots should be given to students. Danny Kilgore-Wilson is a sophomore social studies education major at Winthrop and believes that the university should be doing more to accommodate students' parking needs.

"I don't feel as if Legion is best fit for safety concerns. Parking across the street where any Rock Hill citizens can come and go freely is not safe for students who pay for parking on campus. It can give aim to violence and stalking, being that many rock hill residents can roam around that area while you're trying to get to campus," Wilson said. "I also feel that the university should not have faculty and staff parking in front of residence halls. It is inappropriate if you ask me. Faculty and staff should not be that close to my place of residence. If a problem were to ever arise, they would know



Kaily Paddie/The Johnsonian

After a revision of Winthrop's master plan, parking changes are not coming any time soon.

where I live."

COVID-19 has affected all higher education institutions, some more than others. Winthrop has been able to weather the storm but has had to make tough decisions to keep the university afloat. Most notably, in January, the school sold off its last off-campus property, the Coke building on Cherry Road, to Lancaster Land LLC. According to Winthrop.edu, the university also "instituted 10% operational budget cuts, a hiring freeze and furloughs this year."

Winthrop's operating budget is annually revised and approved by the board of trustees who decide budget objectives and where to cut spending.

The pandemic has thrown a

wrench into Winthrop's master plan for expansion and has forced administration officials to scratch their heads about what to do next. The master plan is a list of goals and objectives designed to be accomplished over the next ten years, set forward by the president of the university and board of trustees. Winthrop's current master plan has been revised by President Hynd who has directed his staff to begin working on a new 3-5 year plan for Winthrop that aims at the "beautification of Winthrop."

It is unknown if this will include a plan to rethink student parking at Winthrop, but because of the pandemic's effect on the school's ability to collect tuition and housing fees, it seems unlikely.

"80% of Winthrop revenue comes from tuition and student fees... there is a decreased undergraduate enrollment of 5% and pandemic expenses have impacted the school's bottom line. Additional impacts to the university's budget have occurred from Fall 2020 housing occupancy, which is 63%, down from 91% in Fall 2019," according to Winthrop.edu.

Assistant Chief Yearta of the Winthrop University Police Department says that state funding for the University has declined since the recession of 2008 and that the university's primary concern is the upkeep of existing parking.

"Right now the focus is on maintaining the current parking lots we have and actually doing some repairs on them and some regular maintenance that needs to be done," Yearta said. "Whenever we go through a redone campus master plan, there is always the potential for the addition, or changes to parking and because we're in the initial stages of that, I have no idea where that's going to go. So right now, the answer would be, 'not in the near future.'"

COVID-19 has affected almost every aspect of campus life, including the future of parking at Winthrop. If the university plans to address students' concerns about parking they will have to include it in their master plan and begin to think about raising the costs of parking passes. Hynd and other administration officials will likely continue to focus on other areas that need improvement for the time being.

◀ BB from pg. 3

with a unified color scheme throughout the interface, most of their courses will not begin to change until the fall.

Professors and their departments will have the option of whether or not to start using the Blackboard Learn Ultra style of courses. Students should expect to see some courses using the Blackboard Learn Ultra style and some continuing to use the current interface, creating a mix of classes using both styles.

While there will be some significant

changes to Blackboard implemented, the changes will not be difficult for students or faculty to understand or learn how to navigate.

"I think students are going to have an easier time navigating it because it behaves like the rest of the internet does at this point. So things are going to be a little bit more standardized, in the way that you navigate and access materials, and it is going to be more streamlined," Cornelius said.

With all the new

modifications within the interface, there are still many changes students are hoping to see when they upgrade to Blackboard Learn Ultra.

"I would like the calendar to put all my assignments and tests in there so I don't have to put them in there manually," said Alexandra Elliot, a freshman exercise science major.

Emilee Kellett, a junior theatre performance major said, "I'm looking forward to seeing if I will be able to access

Blackboard easier on all platforms because I've had issues with accessing certain content on devices like my phone."

Faculty and students alike will be affected by the switch to Blackboard Learn Ultra and other updates coming along with the interface. The hope is that it becomes an easier platform to use and that everyone is excited and looking forward to the changes that are taking place with a more user-friendly interface.

◀ Police from pg. 3

he received another call from dispatch stating there was a student in room 102 of Owens Hall that was not wearing a mask and had a firearm on his hip.

The R/O then went to room 102 and observed the suspect with a partially concealed firearm. The R/O then entered the room and immediately asked the suspect to place his hands behind his back. The suspect began to question why the R/O was attempting to handcuff him. The R/O continued to ask the individual to put his hands behind his back.

The R/O then placed the suspect in handcuffs and escorted him out of the room.

The R/O searched the suspect's right waistband and recovered a Rock Island 1911 .45 caliber handgun. The R/O then escorted the suspect to his vehicle to finish searching him. The suspect stated he had a concealed

weapons permit. The R/O informed the suspect that even though he had a concealed weapons permit, he was not allowed to carry a firearm on campus. The R/O also recovered a spring-assisted knife with a blade five inches long in the suspect's pocket. The R/O then advised the suspect he was under arrest and would be transported to the Rock Hill City Jail.

The suspect was advised of his Miranda Rights once he was placed inside of his vehicle. The R/O then transported the suspect to the Rock Hill City Jail, where he was booked on charges of carrying a weapon on school grounds and carrying a firearm in a school/ public building. The firearm and the knife were booked into evidence at the Winthrop University Police Department.





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March 10, 2021

Winthrop Men's Basketball: back-to-back Big South champs



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

Winthrop wins Big South Championship for second year in a row

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In front of a small but rowdy group of fans inside Winthrop Coliseum, the Winthrop men's basketball team clobbered the Campbell Camels in the Big South Conference Championship on Sunday, earning an 80-53 victory.

The win gives Winthrop an automatic bid into the prestigious NCAA Tournament and adds to an almost-perfect season for the Eagles who are now 23-1.

The first half of Sunday's big game was closer than the final score may indicate. Campbell's Ricky Clemons scored first to put the Camels up 2-0, and just a little over five minutes in, the score was tied at 10-10.

At this point, Winthrop started to feed the ball to big-man and Rock Hill-native DJ Burns in the paint. At 6-foot-9, 275 pounds,

Burns was a mismatch for every player on Campbell's roster.

By halftime, Burns had 14 of Winthrop's 32 total points on 7-of-8 shooting from the field. Despite Burns' dominance, the Eagles only held a six-point lead heading into the second half.

The Eagles picked up the pace when they returned from the locker room. After a 12-5 run in Winthrop's favor to start the second half, Burns took the life out of Campbell's bench with a one-handed slam dunk, giving Winthrop a 46-33 lead.

With Winthrop up 49-36, senior Kyle Zunic added ice to the burn with back-to-back three-pointers, sparking a 12-0 run for the Eagles and boosting their lead to 25 points with 6:49 to go.

With 1:40 remaining, "Up by 30!" chants erupted throughout the Coliseum as two free throws for Chandler Vaudrin gave Winthrop a 77-47 advantage.

Those shouts were combined with other cheers as Pat Kelsey sent his last remaining substitutes (Tom Pupavac, Keyshawn Hunter and Nate Buss) into the game.

To put a cherry on top of the big win, Pupavac nailed a shot from behind the arc to hit the 80-point mark for the Eagles. As time expired, sophomore Russell Jones Jr. launched the basketball into the air (just as Hunter Hale did a year prior), and Winthrop's benched rushed the court in celebration.

Burns finished with 22 points in 21 minutes for Winthrop, only missing one shot in 12 attempts. He, along with seniors Charles Falden and Chandler Vaudrin, earned All-Tournament Team honors.

Vaudrin was also named Big South Tournament MVP, averaging 11.3 points, 10 rebounds, and 8.3 assists through three tournament games. His

triple-double in the quarterfinal against High Point was the fourth of his D-I career, making him just the 14th player all-time to record four official triple-doubles at the D-I level.

Winthrop won all three of its conference tournament games decisively, with a 25.67-point average margin of victory. With only one loss on the entire season, Winthrop will enter the NCAA Tournament as one of the best mid-major teams on the bracket, with a serious chance to upset a higher-seeded team.

Currently it looks like the Eagles will be no lower than a 13-seed, but they could potentially end up a seed or two higher. Winthrop fans can tune into the selection show on CBS at 6 p.m. this Sunday to see who Winthrop will face in the Round of 64.

Cross Country hosts Big South Championship

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After a short spring season of only two races, Winthrop hosted the Cross Country Big South Championship on Friday, March 5.

"I think that we have put in a great two months of training and we are ready to give it our all on Friday," graduate student Olivia Paxton said prior to Friday's events.

On Jan. 29, the Eagles earned a fifth place spot during the Adidas Winthrop Invite, and a couple weeks later at the Highlander Invitational on Feb. 12, Winthrop came in third place competing against Radford and UNC Asheville.

"It definitely feels a little weird having a cross country season starting in January when I'd normally be gearing up for track, especially when that season is so short. But it's also a nice way to prepare for my goals for track season since we are rolling right

into that," junior Oliva Esselman said.

Ten teams took to the Winthrop Lake course where the women ran a 5K at 2:00 pm and the men followed with an 8K at 3:00 pm. Esselman came in 17th, setting a personal record for the first time since high school with a time of 18:34.7, and was named to the Big South All-Academic team.

Although "so much can just depend on the day, atmosphere, [and] headspace," as Esselman said in regards to breaking her personal record, she was clearly more than prepared as she crossed the finish line 33 seconds faster than at the Adidas Winthrop Invite.

Esselman was one of two Eagles to finish in the top 20, following Paxton, who earned a sixth place spot with her personal best time of 17:49.8 and All-Conference Honors.

"The most memorable thing has to be just the feeling of excitement around racing again. The return

to normalcy was huge for us; We're just so happy to have these opportunities again," Esselman said.

Paxton is hoping to return to Winthrop in the fall for another season of cross country, but if the NCAA does not grant her a sixth year of eligibility, she plans to transition her focus on training for a marathon.

Over on the men's team, freshman Spencer Austin led the way, finishing in 24th place with a time of 25:27.4.

"My first season running for Winthrop has been great. Running in college is definitely much harder than it was in high school. Having to wake up at five or six to run for months at a time can be rough, but the coaching staff here at Winthrop has done a good job of helping us transition from high school to college," Austin said.

Not far behind was sophomore Jeremiah Boyd, who recorded a new career-best in the 8K with his 27:20.4 pace and was also named

to the Big South Conference All-Academic team.

Overall, the Winthrop women's team finished fifth and the men's team finished sixth for the Big South Conference. Many of the runners will return to the Winthrop field on Saturday March 13 for the first event of Track and Field season, the Winthrop Dual/Tri Meet.

"I definitely feel our cross country training has given us a nice base to build on for track. Since it was fairly short, none of us should be worn out from cross country, but rather be in a good place to start scaling back a bit on mileage and incorporating more speed," Esselman said.

"I look forward to helping the Winthrop Cross Country [and] Track and Field programs become stronger than they were before. I really believe in coming together as a team for a common goal, and I know how great it feels to accomplish something as one family," Austin said.

Eagles lose to Gamecocks

Winthrop baseball suffers 19-8 beat down at home against undefeated South Carolina

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Fans wearing garnet attire spread throughout the Winthrop Ballpark last Tuesday as the Eagles hosted South Carolina for the first time since 1999. The Gamecocks (now 10-0) defeated Winthrop with ease, scoring 19 runs to the home team's eight.

Winthrop's Dalton Skinner tossed the first pitches of the game, facing just four batters in the top of the first inning and holding the visitors scoreless. In the bottom of the inning, Winthrop's bats spoke early.

Scout McFalls fired up the hometown fans with a leadoff single, and he proceeded to steal second base. When the next batter struck out, McFalls stole third, putting him in an easy scoring position with only one out.

Winthrop's Dillon Morton brought McFalls home, hitting a double to left center field and giving the Eagles the first run of the game. That lead did not last long.

The Gamecocks scored five runs in the second inning, recording four hits including a 3-run homer by Brady Allen that clanked off the scoreboard. In the third inning, Joe Satterfield batted in two more runs for South Carolina, putting Winthrop down 7-1.

The Eagles had no answer, and the Gamecocks completely took the wind out of their sails in the fourth inning by adding nine more runs to the scoreboard (capped off by a 3-run bomb for Andrew Eyster that bounced off Winthrop's enormous batter's eye.)

Winthrop countered with two runs of its own in the bottom of the fourth as Matt Levenson and Tyler Baker each recorded an RBI, but the Eagles were still facing a 13-run deficit.

The next three innings drug by despite neither team recording a single hit. The Gamecock offense had stalled, but the Eagles were too depleted to make up any ground.

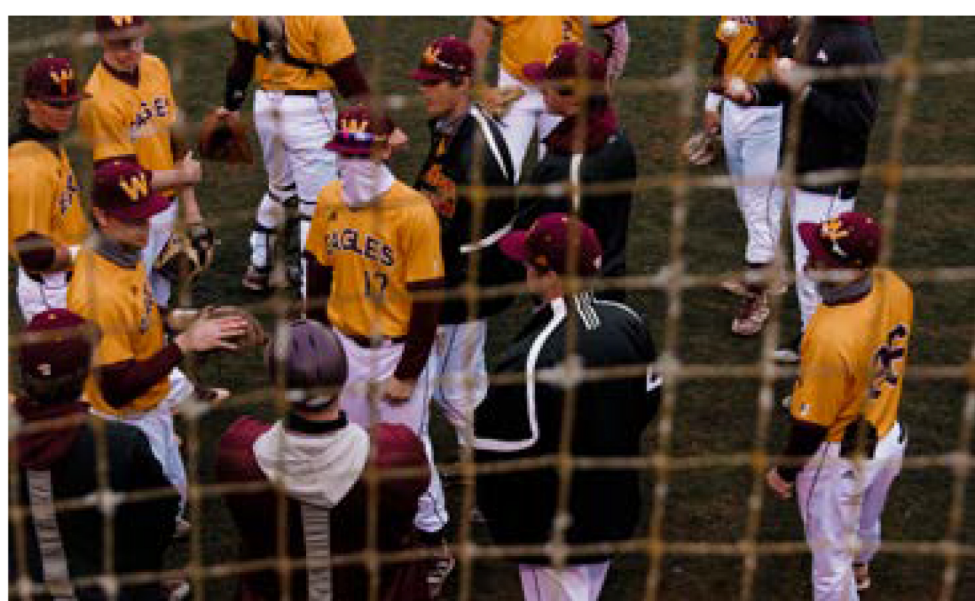
In the eighth inning, Winthrop narrowed the gap by adding two more runs to its total, taking advantage of some pitching mistakes for South Carolina. Heading to the ninth inning, Winthrop still trailed 16-5.

The visitors put on one more show in the ninth inning, boosting their run count to 19 after the first two batters of the inning were hit by pitches. The home team matched this effort with one more rally of its own.

With two runners on, freshman Luke Hannum doubled down the left field line, bringing in both baserunners. After being batted around to third, Hannam recorded the last run of the game on a balk by the Gamecock pitcher.

Now 3-5, Winthrop has just two non-conference games remaining (a home-and-home series with Wofford that will be played in between conference games). The Eagles were originally set to open conference play at High Point for a three game series on March 5 and 6, but the games were postponed. Winthrop's next series is scheduled for this weekend in Rock Hill against Gardner-Webb, with games on Friday at 5 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

A previous article that appeared in The Johnsonian's Feb. 24 issue incorrectly stated that this was going to be the first time in school history that Winthrop hosted the Gamecocks.



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian

Eagle of the Week: Ashlynn Harris

Alex Romano
staff writer

The world of collegiate soccer is fast paced and full of action. Without a doubt, one of the most exciting players to watch on the field is Winthrop's own Ashlynn Harris.

When she isn't conducting clinical research at her internship, senior and exercise science major Ashlynn Harris is the starting goalkeeper on the women's soccer team.

Originally from Hilton Head, Harris competed in volleyball, basketball and soccer in high school, but it was her skills on the soccer team that propelled her to the collegiate field.

"I originally was a field player, but then they were like 'She's too tall to be in the field; there's no chance.' So, then they threw me in goal, and so I have been playing goalkeeper since I was nine or ten years old. Ever since then, I was just in love with it. I just fell in love with the sport," said Harris.

As high school ended, Harris visited several schools in hopes of



Photo Courtesy to Winthrop University

Harris

playing on their team but ended up deciding on Winthrop.

"I came here on my unofficial visit and I was with all the seniors and I had a dinner with all the coaches, and the coaches just made it feel like a family," Harris said. "I realized very quickly, instead of

coming onto a team as a freshman and having to do freshman duties, they were all so inviting I felt like I could talk to any of them and I had 25 new best friends."

Currently in her last semester at Winthrop, Harris recalled a few of her favorite moments as a part of

the team.

"Beating Asheville at home — it was pouring down rain and terrible conditions. Our team ended up beating them [and] everyone just let out a big sigh of relief like 'we did it.' It was just the nicest feeling," said Harris.

Harris said that another fond memory she has is in the match against the South Carolina State University Bulldogs in 2017, where Winthrop was able to earn a 1-0 win in overtime.

"We played SC state at SC state and the whole game they were just heckling us and talking bad to our coaches. Like, they definitely should have been thrown out. We ended up winning in overtime and after that we all just ran and dogpiled on the field," Harris said.

The Eagles have already had two games postponed this season, but they look forward to their next match against UNC Asheville on March 14. Be sure to follow @WinthropWSoccer on social media to stay up to date with Ashlynn and the rest of the team.

March 10, 2021

Art galleries in downtown Rock Hill

The Rock Hill area has other art galleries that are not related to the Winthrop University Galleries



The Courtroom Gallery is located at the Gettys Art Center.

Cooper Beck/The Johnsonian

Allison Reynolds
staff writer

Several art galleries are present in Rock Hill. Specifically, downtown Rock Hill is home to all different types of artists who use different subject matter and different mediums.

An art exhibit entitled *Air & Dust* opened up in the Courtroom Gallery, which is on the second floor of the Gettys Art Center, on March 1 and will be open for viewing until April 22. The reception for the exhibit will be on April 8.

The exhibit is described as “a contrast of cool and warm, blue and yellow vistas. A visual dialogue of textural divergence.” *Air & Dust* features art from Cat Babbie, who specializes in fiber art, and Joan Coff, who uses paint as her medium.

The Gettys Art Center is located at 201 East Main Street

(right across the road from Amelie’s French Bakery) in downtown Rock Hill. Gettys is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Also located in the Gettys Art Center are several artists’ studios. Pam Bailey, an artist who specializes in wheel thrown and hand built pottery, displays her work at Gettys. Katherine Petke of Black Crow Pottery also specializes in wheel thrown and hand built pottery. Lori Benson shows off style recycled and eco-fashion.

D. Alexandria Baker of Scattered Pieces Studio is also located in Gettys. She specializes in acrylics, pencil and ink work and calligraphy, and photographs, architecture and nature. James Simpson of Sprengeri Studio Gallery, whose studio is located in the basement of Gettys,

specializes in abstract paintings of white water rivers.

Harriet Goode has her art studio located in her home. Goode shows off her work by appointment only. She primarily paints women, who she calls her “spirit sisters.” Goode also says that her paintings are narrative and tell a story, sometimes not in English. Goode’s studio is located at 131 East Main Street in downtown Rock Hill.

Also in downtown Rock Hill on Main Street is the Center for the Arts. There are also a plethora of artists located there. Mike Baker is a professional photographer and does everything from environmental portraits to in-studio headshots. He also photographs weddings and other events. Marcia Buike specializes in watercolor, pastels and mixed media. Buike also teaches art classes

at the Center.

Barry Grant also displays his work at the Center, and he specializes in watercolor, mixed media, sculpture and jewelry. Jennifer Hamilton works in paint, mixed media and sculpture. Wanda Steppe is an oil painter. And Elsa Turner primarily does mixed media collages.

Center for the Arts is located at 121 East Main Street in downtown Rock Hill. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is closed on Saturday and Sunday.

A lot of artists are struggling because of the pandemic. Not only were people not able to view their art because of quarantine, but some people also would not buy art for sale because of the risk of germs. Consider going out and supporting some artists and let them know how good their work is.

And the Golden Globe goes to...

Awards season begins in this virtual ceremony

Emily Curry
staff writer

For the first time in its history, the Golden Globes took place in a semi-virtual setting. While everyone from the hosts to the nominees tried their best to maintain the spirit of the awards ceremony, it was still uncharted territory.

Comedians Tina Fey and Amy Poehler hosted from opposite coasts. Fey was in the Rainbow Room of New York City, and Poehler was in the ballroom of the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills.

Throughout the ceremony, they brought levity by poking fun at anything from politics to the nominees and winners.

A live audience was made up of first responders who have made many sacrifices throughout the pandemic and throughout their careers. Some of the presenters also made in-person appearances, while others had chosen to pre-record their piece.

Like most of us have been for nearly a full year, all of the nominees were tuned in via a virtual meeting platform. However, their celebrity status did not exempt them from dealing with the same problems we have.

The very first award of the night went to Daniel Kaluuya of *Judas and the Black Messiah* for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture. He had trouble with his internet access and nearly missed out on giving an acceptance speech. Thankfully, the issue was quickly resolved.

One of the more positive aspects of the virtual nature of this ceremony was seeing movie and television stars with their families. When Mark Ruffalo won Best Actor in a Miniseries or Television Film for his performance in *I Know This Much is True*,

he gave his acceptance speech surrounded by his wife and children after receiving several hugs from his children.

Others showed off their various pets. And while many nominees did choose to dress up for the event, there was certainly a more casual air to the ceremony.

After a particularly unrestful year, it came as no surprise that many acceptance speeches included topics such as representation, conservation and political discord.

Jane Fonda, who was awarded the Cecil B. DeMille Award, called for inclusivity in the movie industry, saying, “Let’s all of us make an effort to expand that tent, so that everyone rises and everyone’s story has a chance to be seen and heard.”

Perhaps the most emotional speech of the evening was the one given by Taylor Simone Ledward on behalf of her late husband, Chadwick Boseman, who sadly passed away last August. Boseman won Best Actor in a Drama Motion Picture for his role in *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*.

Ledward’s stirring words in honor of Boseman included how “He would say something beautiful, something inspiring, something that would amplify that little voice inside of all of us that tells you you can, that tells you to keep going, that calls you back to what you are meant to be doing at this moment in history.”

What came as somewhat of a surprise is that *Hamilton* left this ceremony without a single award. *Hamilton* has won numerous awards, from an astounding eleven Tony Awards to a Pulitzer Prize. Many were surprised that *Hamilton* was nominated at all for the Golden Globes, but it would seem that their winning streak has finally run dry.

► see GG pg. 9

► see Plot pg. 9

The story plot debate

The debate on the correct number of story plots continues

Sam Hyatt
staff writer

The subject of English literature, overflowing with information, requires English majors to constantly read, learn new names of authors, write, analyze pieces of text, look for literary devices within a text and explain purpose within a text.

Among the numerous pieces of information that these

students learn, one that is not commonly taught is the debate between there being only seven plots or 36 plots that stories mimic.

In 1916, Georges Polti, a French writer, published his book, *The Thirty-Six Dramatic Situations*. In this book, he argued that all stories fall into one of the thirty-six plots. Among these plots are loss of a loved one, conflict

with a god, deliverance, and pursuit. Dr. Robert Prickett, the associate dean for the College of Arts and Science and a professor of English education, said, “I have done a mini lesson using the ‘Hero’s Journey’ concept as a way to discuss superhero archetypes and origin stories in my Literary Merits of MARVEL class.”

However, other authors and writers have

argued that there are only seven archetypes or plots which all stories mimic.

In 2004, Christopher Booker, an English journalist, published his book, *The Seven Basic Plots: Why We Tell Stories*. In this book, he argues that the seven archetypes are rags to riches, overcoming the monster, the quest, voyage and return, comedy, rebirth and tragedy.

◀ Plot from pg. 8

Dr. Dustin Hoffman, an associate professor and the director of graduate studies in English, said, “I teach my students that there are only two plots: 1. A character goes on a journey, or 2. A stranger comes to town.”

Since there is not much taught concerning this debate, many English students and aspiring writers may be losing some foundational knowledge in the subject.

“I think it’s important for students to know about this debate because it could be helpful if they are trying to write a book because they can use these plots to develop their story,” said Jesse Martin, a senior conservation biology major. “In my HMXP class, we talked about this and how famous authors have stolen ideas and plots from other authors.”

Concerning those who are writers or aspiring writers, there may be pressure to pick a plot at the beginning of the writing process. However, there is not a correct process or step-by-step way to

write.

“When we’re writing, we’re aiming as much as possible to avoid formulas,” said Hoffman. “For creative writing classes like mine, I’d worry about the theory like this being used like an instruction manual. At the same time, it’s essential that an artist is aware of the tradition they are working within and what has come before them.”

Similarly, Dr. Prickett said, “If you want to ‘play with’ tropes, structures, archetypes – whether embracing them or exploding them – you have to be familiar with them.”

It is clear that professionals, authors and others active in the English literature world have not been able to come to a consensus on which number, if any, is the correct number of story plots. Although the debate may be an interesting topic, it does not affect those who wish to be writers.

“Language wins over plot,” Hoffman said, “and language will always have infinitely more possibilities.”

◀ GG from pg. 8

It has also been announced that “Hamilton” would not be considered for any Oscar awards. According to an article for the Los Angeles Times, “the SAG Awards is treating ‘Hamilton’ as a TV movie rather than a film” and is thus ineligible for an Oscar.

The Golden Globes

is considered the kick-off for the annual awards season. Oscar nominations will be announced soon, with the ceremony coming up in late April. It will be interesting to see how much of the Academy Awards has been predicted by the Golden Globes.

Artist Spotlight: Make it glow

Mari Pressley
staff writer

Senior art education major Kate Callahan has been making art ever since she was a toddler. With early access to art supplies, making art has always been something she enjoyed doing in her free time, even as a child.

“We always had art supplies in our house,” Callahan said, “so it was just something else that we would play with, just like playing outside, for example.”

“And then my mom had gone to art school, and I also had a lot of other creative people in my family. I was just kind of in an environment that was very creative and artsy. I had a lot of art supplies and tools that were accessible to me.”

After graduation, Callahan has plans to become an art teacher. While she graduates in May, the artist has already been scouting out her job options and will be K-12 certified this May.

Callahan completed an internship at Richmond Drive Elementary School last semester and is currently interning at Fort Mill Middle School this semester.

“I actually thought that I also [would] not enjoy middle school, [but] I’m actually in a middle school internship right now and loving it, she said. “I think I’d actually love to work with that age group.”

As far as how she has developed her art, Callahan said that she always “got lucky with getting in art classes K-12” instead of getting put in electives such as PE or band.

“When I was, like, really little, like in elementary school, this is kind of nerdy, but instead of doing something fun, I was doing what was fun for me,

which was scrapbooking,” Callahan said. “I would do a lot of scrapbooking in elementary school and in middle school. I would work on drawing a lot, especially faces and characters from movies.”

Nowadays, Callahan has developed her art experience through a variety of art forms here at Winthrop in studio classes

and practicality, Callahan uses what Winthrop has provided her within her different studio classes that she has taken while also drawing inspiration from apps like Instagram, TikTok and Pinterest.

“I kind of have to think of other ways to branch out in other materials to try because what I learned in my studios is

bake clay, what the clay should feel like when it’s done baking, the tools that she should buy and with which brands she should work.

“I started doing a lot of experimenting,” said Callahan. “I bought a little bit of clay and played around

with it, and I was awful.

The first stuff I made was so bad. I got too excited with the supplies.

“I had bought maybe like around 50 dollars worth of supplies. And I tried baking them in the kitchen at my house, like the clay, and I pulled them out of the oven, and my mom and I stood there and looked at each other, and both just felt defeated, like, ‘This is not good. We wasted money. This didn’t turn out good.’

“But I kept working.”

“I’ve been getting crazy lately, too,” Callahan said. “Like, no rules. I’ve been using glitter and glue and all sorts of stuff that’s just really wild. But it’s really fun.

“I also have to package them too. I’ll have different packaging supplies that I’ll have to use. And then if I sell stuff in person at a vendor market where I’m able to sit at a table and sell my earrings, then I’ll have cute little paper baggies with a business card and hand them to people.”

If you would like to continue following Callahan’s journey, make sure to follow her business social media accounts, @girlglowearrings, on Instagram, TikTok and Etsy, and her other Instagram @kateeartht, where she showcases her students’ artwork as well as her own.



Photo Courtesy to Kate Callahan

Callahan

such as printmaking, ceramics, drawing and 3D design.

“As far as at Winthrop with my studio classes,” said Callahan, “I guess my specialty...would be printmaking because I’ve taken the most studios in that area. I’ve taken relief, screen, intaglio, and then I also have printmaking experience from 2D design ... and then I also have a little printmaking experience from high school.

“So, that’s the area where I’m the most well-rounded for something specific like that, and then, of course, I can do a little bit of everything else too.”

Taking into consideration accessibility, safety

really cool, but a lot of the techniques and materials wouldn’t transfer directly as far as to K-12 teaching,” Callahan said.

“I have to think of what I’ve learned in my studios and how I can make that safe or how I can make that affordable to students. That’s been a bit of an adjustment.”

Before starting her business, Girl Glow Earrings, Kate spent about 2-3 months on serious research. She would look up articles and YouTube videos and search Instagram and Pinterest to figure out how other people were doing this. That research involved figuring out how to condition the clay properly, how long to

Study spots around Winthrop’s campus

The nice warm weather may push students to begin studying outside around campus

Sam Hyatt
staff writer

As the weather begins to warm up and schoolwork continues to pile up, students are finding themselves spending more time outside in spots around campus.

Since the beginning of COVID-19 in March 2020, students have been cooped up at home or in their dorm rooms. As a result of quarantine and social distancing, it seems that schoolwork has become more tiresome to complete than compared to previous semesters.

While there seem to be piles of assignments, discussion board posts and papers, finding places to study around campus rather than staying in the dorm room can

give a boost of energy and motivation to get work completed.

Freshman exercise science major and Winthrop women’s soccer team member Sadie Guest said, “I like to go to the Coliseum where athletes can go to study hall because it’s quiet and easy access, but I feel like I am in my room more than ever.”

Winthrop’s campus has plenty of study spots. Many students find themselves working with others at the tables inside of the DiGiorgio Campus Center or at the private tables in Dacus Library.

Megan Jensen, a graduate student studying secondary English education, said, “When I was still on campus, I loved finding hidden corners

of campus to do homework in where nobody would find me.”

With warm weather heading our way, students may find themselves adventuring around campus and claiming new spots to study.

Freshman exercise science major Izzy Giarrizzi said, “I like studying outside near DiGs when it is nice outside.”

Other places around campus that are both comfortable to do schoolwork and have nice views include the Campus Green in front of DiGs and the amphitheater. They are both open places that are pretty and great places to do homework with friends or alone. Bringing a blanket or towel may be a good idea for the spots as they are grassy areas.

“I really like Scholars Walk and Campus Green,” Guest said. “Everything is so clean and in the middle of campus.”

The front part of campus does not get the attention it deserves as it is not the main part of campus nor the most popular place to hang out.

However, the benches and places to sit in front of Byrnes Auditorium are quiet places to study or complete classwork. “I think the front of campus, the part facing Oakland Ave, is the prettiest part of campus,” said Jensen. “I love walking beneath the overhanging trees and looking at the front of Tillman,



Kaily Paddle/The Johnsonian

Now that the weather is warming up, pick a nice spot to study.

Bancroft, and Margaret Nance.”

Among the numerous beautiful places around campus, Winthrop has an abundance of tables outside that are perfect places to do work. They may not be in the quietest or most convenient places but can provide a change of scenery from a dorm room or

the library. While it is important to stay safe by properly wearing a mask, washing hands and social distancing, finding places around campus that are outside and quiet may bring a sense of motivation to students who are starting to feel burned out from their course load.

March 10, 2021

The Feminine Fight

Women's History Month celebrates all women, but feminism is still pretty exclusionary

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

March is Women's History Month, yet it, and some branches of feminism, are not an accurate representation of the women it is supposed to honor.

In 1981, Congress deemed the first week of March to be "Women's History Week." Six years later, the National Women's History Project petitioned until Congress agreed to adopt Women's History Month. Throughout the past thirty-odd years, the United States has rallied together to celebrate the contributions of various women to modern advancement.

However, it seems that modern feminism is not as inclusive as many would believe.

Many notable women that public schools highlight in March are Caucasian, middle-to-upper class Americans. While celebrating the accomplishments of Eleanor Roosevelt, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and countless others is important, there are so many women and female-identifying people who deserve recognition too.

Perhaps the most famous feminist event was the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, where hundreds of people gathered to protest for women's rights. Headed by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, gender equality in all matters of American culture (politics, religion, family life, etc.) was heavily debated. During the Convention, it was

stated that "woman is man's equal and was intended to be so by God" and that women "ought to be enlightened in regard to the laws under which they live [...] to assert that they have all the rights they want."

Even though women's rights were heavily discussed and fought for in the nineteenth century, women did not receive the right to vote until the 1920's, and women of color were barred from voting centers until the late 1970s. The Seneca Falls Convention is the first major marker of American feminism, but even that was heavily exclusionary. As the centuries progressed, feminism evolved.

▶ see *Feminine* pg. 11



Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

Women are coming together more than ever to fight for equal rights.

Stop trying to control our bodies

How young is too young for minors to decide on transgender surgery/drugs?

Wren Brooke
staff writer

Recent social media trends have included a return of hostility towards the transgender community, and many such posts eventually boil down to the question: How young is too young for transgender children to receive gender-affirming hormones or surgery, with or without parental consent?

As of late, the alt-right community has raised an issue over transgender children being able to medically transition over what they claim is "too young." In the United States, without explicit parental consent individuals are allowed to transition at 18. However, with parental consent, they can begin puberty blockers as young as 14, and hormones, as well as some surgeries, at 16.

While that may sound like a young age, our views on when children can have agency over their own bodies are quite

skewed. The sad truth is that modern society has had a misguided concept of transgenerism for decades, but it's a way of thinking that goes back hundreds of years.

The cases that have been cited involving young transgender children have usually placed the ages in question at around 13 or 14, which might seem young. For children under 16, doctors are only legally allowed to prescribe puberty blockers which only temporarily pause natural puberty.

Outside of the use of puberty blockers, children begin sex-specific growth as young as 11 or 12. For a child who is transgender, experiencing pubertal changes incongruent with their gender identity can be intensely distressing.

These changes can be medical, such as body hair and genital growth, and many transgender individuals request to undergo

▶ see *Bodies* pg. 11

Racist rhetoric that blames Asian Americans for COVID-19 must be stopped

Hate crimes have spiked in the Asian American community since the beginning of the pandemic

Sam Hyatt
staff writer

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, the Asian American community has suffered an increase in hate crimes due to the Chinese origin of the virus.

Large cities such as Los Angeles and New York City have seen an increase in hate crimes against this group of people as a result of racist terms being used due to the pandemic. According to the Los Angeles Times, the city has experienced a 114% increase in hate crimes against the Asian American community in 2020 compared to the previous year.

During the pandemic, there have been reports of individuals being violently attacked on the street, being called racist slurs and having businesses refuse service because of their ethnicity, among other horrific reports.

As the reports and information concerning the pandemic were being broadcasted, terms such as "Kung-flu" and "Chinese virus" were being used by former Pres-



Photo Courtesy to scmp.com

Protests are being held to protest against hate crimes in the Asian community.

ident Donald Trump. However, these racist terms have added fuel to the hate some have for the Asian American community.

"I think that the terms 'Kung Flu' and the 'Chinese virus' are dehumanizing and demoralizing terms that are ridiculing an entire race of people," said junior English major Troy Jennings.

"The biggest way to stop these terms is to become aware that these phrases are negatively impacting people and start spreading awareness around campus," Jennings said. "We can put up signs around campus or send out announcements in the weekly emails from Winthrop about awareness and prevention."

As these hate crimes increase, it is necessary that people begin to advocate for the

Asian American community as these crimes are fueled by hate and racism. "The place of origin of a pandemic does not make racism okay," said Kai McCormick, a sophomore art major.

Different organizations have begun creating GoFundMe accounts in order to raise money to help the victims of these hate crimes pay their medical expenses. "In order to reduce and eventually eliminate these, and all, hate crimes, we have to educate our students more diversely," said McCormick, "we have to teach inclusion and acceptance earlier in our schools."

As a result of the increase of hate crimes against this particular community, USA Today reports that Russell Jeung, the chair of the Asian American

studies department at San Francisco State University, created the Stop Asian American Pacific Islander Hate Tracker. This tool allows people to report violence, harassment or discrimination.

The disgusting and horrific hate crimes being experienced by the Asian American community all relate back to the false and racist narrative that it is the communities' fault that we are experiencing a global pandemic. Although the pandemic is hard for everyone, it is simply not okay to react toward others through violence, discrimination or harassment.

"More than likely these people are using the Asian American community as an outlet for their anger and resorting to violence instead of taking a step back and evaluating their emotions toward the entire situation," Senior early childhood education major Ashley Westbrooks said.

Moving forward, it is necessary that we advocate for the Asian American community and have tough conversations with those who are using racist terms and discriminating against others due to their ethnicity or appearance.

◀ **Feminine** from pg. 10

Women of color began to receive the same rights as their caucasian counterparts, sex workers slowly gained respect from the general public, and LGBTQ+ identifying women were able to feel free to be themselves. However, modern feminism is still incredibly divisive.

A branch of feminism is dedicated almost solely to the exclusion of transgender and gender non-conforming people in modern feminism. These Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminists (TERFs) openly discriminate against those they perceive as anything but cisgender (identifying with one's sex assigned at birth). On the surface, TERF-branded feminism appears to have good intentions, but their exclusion of those who may not necessarily agree with society's gender norms is definitely hypocritical.

Until recently, women of color were not in the feminists' mind at all. The Seneca Fall Convention focused primarily on the advancement of white women. The Civil Rights Movement was seen as a "minorities-only" problem, as if racism did not openly impact how feminism was shaped. This has been summed up with one phrase: white feminism, which unfortunately, still exists today.

Modern feminists claim that their movement is for everyone, yet disabled women/female-identifying people are often excluded from the narrative. While women gained the right to vote in 1920, disabled Americans had to wait an additional seventy

years to have their basic rights guaranteed. These sub-categories of feminism are just people saying they're accepting of everyone while openly being racist/ableist/LGBTQ+phobic.

Social activist and author Alice Walker coined the term "womanist" in response to the discrimination present in modern feminism. Put simply, the womanist sub-movement is meant to uplift and advocate for what Walker refers to as "the wholeness of entire people." Womanism recognizes and celebrates the adversity minorities, lower-income citizens and queer-identifying people have overcome. Walker wrote that "womanism is to feminism as purple is to violet" - they are often misconstrued as the same thing, but there are subtle, yet distinctive differences.

Countless women have made history but have yet to be widely recognized. Martha P. Johnson, an African-American transgender woman, was one of the first openly transgender American social activists. Tammy Duckworth is the first American of Thai descent to be elected into the Senate, as well as the first Senator to have multiple amputations. Claudia Gordon is credited as the first African-American deaf lawyer to practice in America.

Yes, feminism means advocating for the rights and equity of all women/female-identifying people. However, there are subcultures within feminism with malicious intent. Research into feminism is heavily encouraged so as to not accidentally discriminate against a minority group.

Education and Economics: COVID relief funds in college

Although Winthrop has issued funding for COVID relief, is it enough?

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

In December of 2020, Winthrop University received approximately two and a half million dollars from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). The national Office of Postsecondary Education and the federal Department of Education have stated that the funding can only be given to students who are attending Winthrop during the spring of 2021 and are legal U.S. citizens/permanent residents. Graduate degree-seeking students are also eligible, which is different from the previous semester's emergency funding.

When the CRRSAA was passed in December, the federal government allotted over eighty billion dollars to postsecondary education institutions across the United States. In January, an additional \$21 billion was announced as the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

However, these billions of dollars can only help the postsecondary students who are actively enrolled. As of October 2020, millions of college students nationwide have had to leave school in order to work full time or to care for those with health concerns. According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (NSCRC), almost a quarter of the United States' incoming freshmen students have deferred their enrollment since the



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

Winthrop has sent out another COVID relief package.

beginning of quarantine. Public universities - like Winthrop - have reported an average of a 10% decline in their student populations.

Community colleges have had an 18% decrease in their incoming freshmen population nationwide, which puts low-income and rural students at a huge disadvantage financially. In rural areas, Internet access is not widely available, and job opportunities may be limited due to a lack of resources. Even though these areas are historically some of the lowest income-generating areas, over half of the United States' community colleges are centered in rural communities.

With the decrease in community colleges and universities alike, the United States' economy will ultimately suffer in the long run. The Georgetown University Center found that graduates with at least a bachelor's degree earn approximately \$950,000 more during their lifetime than their peers who only have a high school diploma. Combining this discrepancy in pay with the economic impact a

global pandemic has, countless Americans will find themselves under the poverty line.

Regardless of the area in which students live, the transition to socially distant learning puts millions at a disadvantage. At-home Internet services are expensive and could be out of budget for many college students and their families. Local library services were closed nationwide for the majority of 2020, which meant that students could not access the resources their communities normally provide. Even if students were able to routinely access public Wi-Fi, those connections may be weakened by other students, leading class Zoom meetings to crash and causing students to miss parts of the lesson.

Students who have dropped out of school during the pandemic are immediately impacted by this decision. Their credit scores are being impacted by student loans that they might have never gotten the chance to use. Paying these loans off during a time of limited employment can directly cause families to not have enough financial

resources to provide for their children.

If emergency funding for postsecondary education had come sooner, the decision to discontinue education might have been different for the students who had no other option. Low-income students, students from rural areas, and minorities have all been put at an academic disadvantage by the COVID-19 pandemic. While emergency funding is a blessing for so many students, countless of their peers may have been able to continue their education if the federal government had prioritized the United States' school systems from the get-go.

For Winthrop students, the deadline to apply for the CRRSAA funding is March 10. To learn more about the funding, students are encouraged to contact Miranda Knight (knightm@winthrop.edu) for information or additional resources.

If anyone is interested in donating additional funding to the student emergency fund, please contact giving@winthrop.edu for information about donation and volunteer opportunities.



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

Transgender people often choose to fully transition to the gender that they identify with. The process is a compilation of pills, medical treatment, psychological exams, and surgery.

◀ **Control** from pg. 10

surgery to help alleviate body dysphoria.

These changes can also be social. Establishing accurate names and pronouns is important to mental health. While it is never too late to begin medically transitioning, transgender individuals assigned male at birth (AMAB) in particular undergo a number of changes - facial hair growth, bone or cartilage development in the throat and brow bone, and vocal shift - at a very early point in puberty. Addressing these changes can require significant medical care including surgical operations, and depending on the age at which hormones are accessible to the individual, some of them can never fully

be addressed.

Transgender individuals assigned female at birth (AFAB) go through a different, but similarly difficult experience. Hormonally, some aspects such as facial hair and Adam's apple growth, as well as voice deepening, are accessible to them with hormones even at an older age, but there are traits such as bone structure and physical stature that are determined by testosterone levels at a fairly young age, which is a common challenge for transgender AFAB individuals who start hormones at an older age.

No kind of transitioning, whether hormonal or social, is required at all to be transgender. But

for many members of the community, some forms of surgical transitioning are a long-term goal. It is costly and rarely supported by insurance companies, but can often help alleviate body dysphoria and remove hormone-producing organs.

Being denied access to medical transitioning procedures can be psychologically traumatic to an individual, and it is the transgender community that is affected by disproportionate rates of depression, anxiety and suicide risk. They are also at high risk of familial attack, abuse, religious attacks or cleansing rituals, conversion camps or outright being ejected from the home.

The transgender

community is one of the most commonly misrepresented groups in society, mainly because of being rejected so far from the mainstream. As a trans woman myself, I can very confidently say that gender dysphoria is a real thing, and if I had been able to access medical help sooner I would be a happier person now.

There will always be accidents and misunderstandings, but with medical professionals, hormones and surgeries are overwhelmingly an intentional and good thing. I think I speak for most of the transgender community when I say this: Please stop trying to control our bodies.

THE JOHNSONIAN

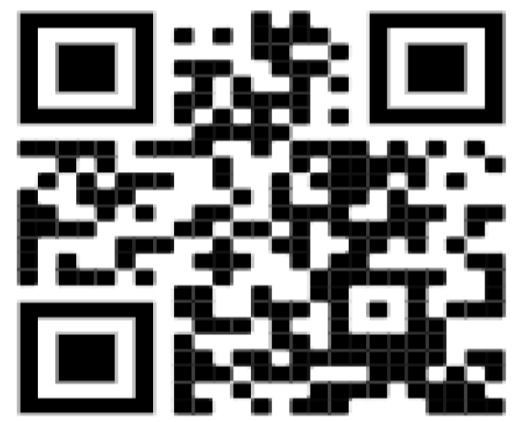
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