

# THE JOHNSONIAN



## Remembering September 11, 2001, 20 years later



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

### Honoring those who lost their lives and those who continue to suffer as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks

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As a day that will live on in the minds of Americans, Sept. 11, 2001 left a scar on our nation. An unprecedented terrorist attack took place on American soil, killing 2,977 people.

It was a Tuesday morning at 8:46 a.m. when American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, followed by United Airlines Flight 175 hitting the south tower at 9:03 a.m.. At 9:37 am, American Airlines flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon. The last plane, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed into an empty field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Passengers onboard revolted against the hijackers who were originally aiming to crash the plane into the Capitol building or the White House.

Many thought that the first plane crash was just an accident. It wasn't until the second plane hit the south tower everyone knew the nation was under attack.

Dr. Jennifer Disney, director of Winthrop University's political science department, was in Brooklyn, New York on Sept. 11, 2001. In a cultural event last Thursday about the

20 year anniversary of September 11, Disney told attendees she was a graduate student at City University of New York at the time. Disney described being woken up by a phone call with her mother that morning asking if she was okay.

"I was talking to my mom watching live on TV when it happened, when the second plane hit," Disney said.

Disney talked about how unreal it felt and how she had to go down there to see it with her own eyes.

"I remember the very next day, I said 'I have got to go down there. I gotta go. You couldn't get to the subways right around where it happened, but I found a way to get there just to kind of see because you just didn't believe one, that these building were hit, and two, the fire and the gasoline, the way [the buildings] fell just seemed impossible, unfathomable, unimaginable. I remember wanting to be there just to see it, just to make it real," Disney said.

This attack left its mark on the nation. It was unexpected and unbelievable. It changed the way America viewed many things, one of the most visible being national security.

"The attack on the US was truly a seismic shift in nation-

al security, as the previous decade had been a triumphal one celebrating the end of the Cold War," said Dr. Chris Van Aller, professor emeritus of political science. "We seemed to be relatively safe. The first major point is, as the 9/11 Commission noted, we could have been better prepared for such an attack in terms of the agencies involved, as the CIA for example did not talk to the FBI about important info the former had."

After the tragedy of Sept. 11, America was launched into a war on terror.

"Fighting terrorism is like 'eating soup with a knife' meaning that balancing a response is very tricky, and the U.S. made substantive mistakes in terms of a thoughtful and effective reaction. We essentially fought three wars after the attack, a general one on terror, the Afghan one, and finally the Iraq conflict. In each we got the balance wrong, based on American ideas on strategic culture, that is, how we typically fight wars," said Van Aller.

What happened Sept. 11, 2001 is still affecting survivors to this day. Many first responders and people who were close to the site have passed away or are still suffering due to cancer,

respiratory diseases and other health issues caused by the burning of the buildings, debris and the amount of time they spent at Ground Zero in the aftermath.

These days, most college students do not remember the attacks, only the aftermath.

"When someone mentions Sept. 11, 2001, what we think about is usually the people who were directly affected by it. We only really know what we've heard and what our teachers have shown and taught us in school. It's mostly about the survivors and the people who've passed on," said junior psychology major, Tyrani Flanningan.

The memory of seeing the videos in class growing up are memories shared among many college-aged students.

"I remember seeing the video footage in school every year. It helps put into perspective what happened but it is still hard to wrap my head around sometimes since I wasn't even born yet. I was still so young when most of the wars and conflicts happened, so they weren't really on my radar. Most of what I know is just from school," said sophomore English education major Haley Beu.



Bryn Eddy Smyth/The Johnsonian

A view of the Freedom Tower, which stands where the twin towers once stood, from the Brooklyn Bridge

## Winthrop students call attention to issues with disability services

**Jada Strong**  
Staff Writer

Diagnosed with Spastic Diplegia Cerebral Palsy when she was 18 months old, sophomore mass communication major, Ainsley McCarthy, took to Instagram on Sept. 5 to share an informative and heartfelt message, bringing attention to the lack of awareness and issues regarding disability services on campus.

McCarthy showed many pictures of evidence of some of the constructional issues of the services that are provided for disability issues on campus.

"Broken elevators. Cracked,

uneven ramps," she wrote. "Finicky push buttons, outside doors which are adhered to the wall with tape, or sometimes no push button at all."

McCarthy's post gained much sympathy and attention from fellow students around the school, and many even shared their own personal experience and frustrations with the issues of disability access on campus.

"I had started using a wheelchair when I came to college because even though I can walk, long distances are difficult for me and tiring," McCarthy said. "Last year I had noticed these issues but it wasn't as pressing of an issue for me at the time because I had only

had two in person classes, so most events were cancelled for the year. It was more of an inconvenience last year than anything but this year I was really struggling to get from place to place. I've had a few instances where I've almost hurt myself which is scary and embarrassing."

McCarthy wanted to speak on the issues at hand but wasn't sure how or who to speak to, until she was given a homework assignment.

"I got this assignment last week for my foundations of digital media class where we had to make a post on some social media platform and the goal is to get at least 200

interactions," McCarthy said. "So I thought that was as good a time as any to post something and see what happens. I made my account public in hopes that the post would spread around."

McCarthy's post gained over 600 likes. The post even made its way to Assistant Dean of Students Anthony Davis who Ainsley plans on meeting with to address her concerns.

A majority of issues that differently-abled students face on campus stem from features that are designed to be helpful, but have sustained damages deeming them unhelpful and even hindering.

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“A lot of the crosswalks and ramps are severely damaged with cracks and bumps. They’re just really deformed. To go across them is just really challenging. Trying to get across them could launch someone off their wheelchair,” McCarthy said. “Thank God I haven’t had it happen yet, but I have friends who are in wheelchairs who have had it happen to them. Especially if you’re by a busy road, I don’t want them to get hurt or that I get hurt.”

Megan Ploch, a senior biology major, who also uses a wheelchair has noticed how the bumps in the sidewalks and the road take a toll.

“Winthrop is good to get around because it’s a small campus. However, the sidewalks are not the best. Even the smallest bumps effects how I can get around in my chair,” Ploch said. “Some of the ramps are too steep or have little bumps as well. So you have to pop a wheelie to get up or you could fall out of your chair which unfortunately has happened to me a few times.”

Another recurring issue is the elevators that break down from time to time.

“The elevator in Sims is old and kind of scary,” Ploch said. “They break down a lot and the one in DiGS is a nice elevator but it also breaks down a lot. So when it does, I can’t get to the post office, Markley’s or Starbucks.”

Another pressing issue is that the emergency blue lights around campus used to alert campus police oftentimes do not work.

“The one by Phelps still does not work,” McCarthy said. “Last year for instance, I had tested it out once and my friend and I waited over 30 minutes, and no one arrived. I can’t even reach the button without standing and not everyone who’s in a wheelchair

has the ability to stand.”

Another student who has addressed her concerns in the past is Audri- ana Rollins.

Rollins is currently taking a semester off from Winthrop because she felt that she wasn’t being given the help she deserved because of her disabilities and health issues. However, she has shared her support for Ainsley’s post while also sharing her own experiences at Winthrop.

“I used the Office of Accessibility and thought things were going to go well,” Rollins said. “I struggle with seizures and a couple others illness that can prevent me from using the stairs due to my blood pressure and things like that. And I have a service dog.”

“There were times when I couldn’t get the help I needed and was pushed to the side,” she said. “I had several softball scholarships my freshman year and I tried to participate in some light plays with softball. They were highly discriminating on the fact that I have a service dog even though I’d have really good references and experiences.”

Rollins had reported this to Human Resources while she was on campus but had not heard back while attending Winthrop.

“I had reported the way I was treated, which is why it honestly blows my mind that these issues are still happening now,” she said. “One lady had once grabbed my service dog and ripped his skin. So I decided I wasn’t going to continue to pursue softball there.”

Rollins was the first person ever at Winthrop to be involved in the athletics department with a service dog. Rollins, at the time, was a sports medicine major, in which she was discouraged by many.

“I was approached by the athletic director and told ‘I don’t

think this major is for you’ and I was sure that I wanted to do this.” She said, “It wasn’t until my sophomore year when I felt like really hit hard.”

Rollins felt supported in some areas with her disabilities yet still neglected in other ways.

“The Office of Accessibility was doing their job but there’s only so much you can do,” she said. “I once had a professor who was just such a rude guy. I had constantly had absences because I was a commuter and I had to walk all the way from the commuter parking lot to that class. And if you’re disabled, it was a difficult walk. So there were times, especially when it was hot, when I’d have to take breaks, or I’d even pass out. And I’d show up and tell him why I was late, and he wouldn’t accept that.”

Rollins said the lack of understanding and compassion made it tougher for her to stay on campus and continue her studies at Winthrop.

“I was trying so hard and doing my best but little things kept adding up. It just got to a point where I felt unsafe. People wouldn’t respond sometimes to my service dog if I had a seizure, there were times where campus police didn’t know what to do and tried to Narcan me a couple of times,” she said. “It came to a point where I felt like it wasn’t a safe environment for me.”

Tatianna Davis, a senior mass communication major, has Osteogenesis Imperfecta, a brittle bone disorder. Davis, who is also a wheelchair user, has noticed that the school is lacking accessible rooms in some of the residence halls.

“Overall, as a freshman, Winthrop made me feel comfortable my first year. I had gotten a handicap room that was wheelchair accessible,” she said. “But as I got into my

senior year this year, I had gotten a room in Courtyard but I was placed in a non-wheelchair accessible room before another student this year had left. So luckily, the girl who was in that room had moved out but at first I had to adjust to not having my own space to move around as freely.”

The room Davis currently lives in is the only wheelchair accessible room in the whole residence hall.

“I feel like Courtyard should have more than one wheelchair accessible room, because there is more than one student that has accessibility needs. So that’s a big issue at Winthrop,” Davis said.

Davis has also experienced some uncompassionate and rude remarks from a professor this year as well.

“I was told by a professor that regardless of my condition, since this is an online class, I should be able to always have my work in on time,” she said. “Which I don’t think is fair because I can’t control my flair ups. I can’t control if I get a broken bone so if I can’t complete my work because of the pain, I don’t get any extension.”

McCarthy said accessibility issues are a huge problem and that Winthrop needs to be proactive in addressing them.

“These issues are so widespread and [have] been left untouched for so long, it’s hard to know where to begin,” she said. “These issues need to be addressed beyond a simple email. It puts all the pressure on the disabled person to come forward and speak about it which isn’t always feasible. Because you come away from these certain situations hurt or humiliated. You don’t want to call attention to yourself. So, I feel like they need to have more of a proactive system rather than a reactive one.”

## Winthrop releases new school year budget

*A look into how university officials are organizing the budget in order to meet the needs of the Winthrop community*

**Marley Bassett**  
Staff Writer

Winthrop University unveiled its 2021-2022 school year budget. The total budget amounts to \$124.3 million and covers a variety of expenses, both required and not required for the school.

The biggest allocation was for total divisional expenses which totaled \$78 million. This covers academic, finance and student

affairs as well as advertising, human resources and athletics.

“Over 85% of the total divisional expenses are compensation and benefits for permanent and adjunct personnel as well as summer faculty,” Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs and CFO, Justin Oates, said.

The second biggest expense was scholarships and funds which equaled \$14 million as well as an additional \$6 million that comes from the

housing and dining services budget. The auxiliary budget which covers housing, dining and health services was \$13.7 million.

The university has designated \$8 million for general expenses, such as utilities and money to set aside for contingency funds in case of emergencies or repairs. \$5 million will go toward paying off debts that are incurred annually by the school. Winthrop receives approximately \$6 million from

outside fundraising sources, such as athletics and academic departments.

Each division of Winthrop worked closely with the financial division to make sure that funds were given out properly so that all of the university’s needs were accounted for and met.

The university determines how the budget will be set by first “determining the institutional expenses that have to be covered and allocating

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### About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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the remaining balance among the different divisions,” Oates said. “The Finance Division then worked with each of the divisions to ensure critical positions were covered before allocating that balance to cover non-compensation program expenses.”

Winthrop has also implemented a new three-year budget plan so that expenses can continue to be given out according to the needs of each university division.

Interim President George Hynd said planning three years out can also help division and departmental planning.

“By planning three years out, the university can better prepare and align annual budgets to the university master and academic long-term plans,” Hynd said. “Areas can know what to expect in future years as long as the enrollment and state support are in-line with the multi-year assumptions used in the three-year planning

model.”

The university has also established a contingency fund to use in case a division needs more funds than they were given. Because of the uncertainty that still exists due to the continued spread of COVID-19, the current budget will be fluid.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Adrienne McCormick, said, “While the leadership believes that the existing allocations

meets the current needs of the university, the divisions will continue to monitor their finances throughout the year and will make appropriate changes based on how expenses and revenues unfold throughout the fiscal year.”

Winthrop University’s leadership believes that this budget will best meet the required expenses and needs of each division.

## Chick-fil-A employee positive for COVID-19, restaurant closes temporarily

### The Winthrop Dining Services staff takes precautions after Chick-Fil-A employee tests positive

**Mari Pressley**

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A Chick-fil-A employee tested positive for COVID-19. As of Sept. 2, the staple restaurant, located in Markley’s at the Center, has been closed to prevent a further spread. Dining Services is following protocols to ensure the safety of students and staff.

According to an email to students sent on behalf of Sodexo, the employee is isolating at home.

“Through contact tracing, any employee exposed has been tested and we have determined that no students were exposed. All positive cases have been reported to Sodexo, our Winthrop Contract Administrator, and the South Carolina Department of Health,” Dining Services General Manager, Helen Hoban, said.

Throughout the pandemic, Winthrop Dining Services has taken measures to protect the Winthrop community.

“Everybody is masked outside. If you go back in the kitchen now where they’re preparing food, everybody’s masked... Hand washing, first, last and always and then we do a daily check in the morning when they come in and several times, of course, throughout the day when the managers goes around asks, ‘What’s going on? How you feeling?’” Hoban said.

Winthrop Dining Services Marketing Director Aba Hutchison said extra mea-

sures for employees and students have been put in place to ensure sanitation in the food-handling process.

“In the kitchen and everything like that they’re still wearing masks. And we make sure of course, that they’re still wearing gloves, hand washing of course, that happens normally, but it happens more frequently. And we make sure that the utensils are changed even more. Right now we’re still making sure that even for the students that their gloves are worn. So for example, we are having some areas phased out of self serve, but we’re still making it that students had to wear gloves while doing some self serve activities,” Hutchison said.

Completing full contact tracing and notifying employees who were exposed to COVID, Winthrop Dining Services was able to get all of the employees tested. After getting the results back, there was one person who tested positive. As of Sept. 10, there are still two employees that Winthrop Dining Services is waiting to hear back from.

“The outbreak and COVID and Chick-fil-A came on really fast. [An employee] called in sick, so we arranged for [them] to have a rapid test, which they can do at the lab here in town, and we were able to get [their] results within 40 minutes. So that’s why everything happened so quickly last week because [they were] a mid-shifter. Everybody in the morning was exposed to [them] and everyone in the evening was exposed

to [them]. So that’s why we had to shutdown Chick-fil-a immediately,” Hoban said.

In the meantime, Chick-fil-A has been cleaned and sanitized to their COVID protocols so there is no opportunity for anybody to get anything residual. However, it is not a requirement to get tested often, nor is there a requirement to get vaccinated.

“As far as I know, right now if you are vaccinated and you test negative, then you don’t have to quarantine. But if you’re not vaccinated and you test negative, there’s a period of time that you start the quarantine which is also what has affected Chick-fil-A,” Hutchison said.

While Winthrop Dining Services strongly encourages its staff to get the vaccine, the choice remains optional. They make sure that employees are as socially distanced as possible and it is no longer allowed to eat in crowds during lunch breaks.

“Everyone was tested after this event. The state of South Carolina does not require vaccines or testing on a regular basis; neither does Sodexo... We follow our campus’ leads on things like that. So no they don’t. If anybody comes in and feels remotely not well with any of the symptoms, they are sent out immediately and asked to go get a test. I haven’t had anybody refuse to get tested. We have had people that have chosen not to get vaccinated. It’s everyone’s personal decision,” Hoban said.

Since the beginning of the school year, Dining Services

has made a few changes to its self serve protocols.

“We’ve made some more things available to students but with gloves and tongs. And I will say that students... about 19 out of 20, are really good about it. And we have one occasional off wetlander that doesn’t, but pretty much everybody’s using gloves, or taking a napkin and tongs and maybe being cautious but we’re going through a lot of gloves, which I think is a positive thing. And every time I pretty much annoy a lot of students because every time I walk by and see somebody using a glove, I stop to thank them for doing that for us,” Hoban said.

Since the shutdown of Chick-fil-A, The Grill has become many students’ new go-to restaurant at Markley’s as well as the pop-up events that have been implemented.

“[B]ecause of Chick-fil-A being down, [Sodexo] wanted to make sure that there was something because you couldn’t have Chick-fil-A. I want you to have something special every night. And that will continue until we get it back up and running, which hopefully will be next week,” Hoban said.

“We’re pushing hard to get things as close to normal as we can again, but it’s just the priority was...making sure you guys were safe. Employees are safe. And then we tried to add something over there to give something back. So you had some kind of special thing because you didn’t have Chick-fil-A,” Hoban said.



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian



# PFAS in the drinking water

## How dangerous are PFAS to our bodies and environment?

Sam Hyatt  
Staff Writer

Harmful chemicals called per- and poly fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been found within the water supply or ground water in many communities around the country, with sites as close as the Charlotte airport measuring over 142 times the US Environmental Protection Agency's recommended safe levels, according to the Environmental Working Group.

Scientists have found the long-term effects of the consumption of PFAS can cause increased cholesterol, cancer, decrease in fertility and interference with the body's natural hormones, in addition to affecting the development of a fetus, leading to growth, learning and behavior developments.

PFAS are considered "forever chemicals" because they do not break down in the environment. These chemicals are used to make materials such as carpets, clothing and paper food wrappers and make materials resistant to grease, water, and stains. However, "PFAS manufacturing and processing facilities, airports and military installations that use firefight-

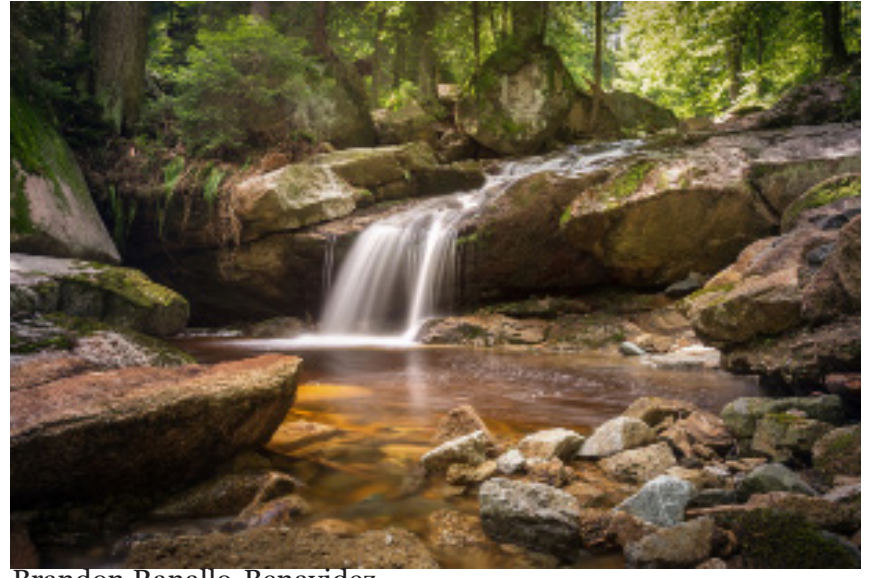
ing foams are some of the main sources of PFAS," according to the EPA.

There are two types of PFAS: Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS). Two known water treatments, Ion Exchanges and Activated Carbon treatments, which are used to absorb natural organic compounds, have been developed to filter out these chemicals.

According to the CDC, the National Biomonitoring Program measures the amount of exposure people have had with PFAS, and participants in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) were found to have 12 types of PFAS in their blood.

In February 2021, the Biden-Harris administration announced that they would begin their efforts and take action to advance science in order to have more control over PFAS entering the water systems. The EPA created a new "EPA Council on PFAS" on April 27, 2021 that is "charged with building on the agency's ongoing work to better understand and ultimately reduce the potential risks caused by these chemicals," according to the EPA website.

However, according to Dr.



Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez, an assistant professor of political science at Winthrop University, while the EPA can do testing, it cannot do anything to improve water quality without the help of local governments. Even on military bases, where PFAS are most frequently found in groundwater, local governments control the water supply and distribution.

"Water treatment facilities are almost always locally run. So unless it is something massive where they have their own water treatment facilities for the military base, it is almost certainly going to be connected to the local water supply that the local city that it's in uses," Ranallo-Benavidez said.

When a high level of PFAS in drinking water is identified by the EPA, it issues a health advisory. However, according to the EPA website, "EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory and provide technical information to states agencies and other public health officials on health

effects, analytical methodologies associated with drinking water contamination."

Some sites, like the Charlotte airport, are reported by the EWG to have PFAS levels over 10,000 parts per trillion (ppt) in the on-site groundwater in 2019, over 140 times higher than the EPA's recommended 70 ppt. While surrounding areas only report small amounts of PFAS in tap water, some evidence suggests that even small amounts can have an impact on health.

Military bases in South Carolina are not immune. According to the EWG, in Charleston, SC, the Charleston Air Force Base's groundwater in 2018 was found to have PFAS in a concentration of 1,150,000 ppt, over 16,000 times the EPA's recommendation. The Myrtle Beach Air Force base in Myrtle Beach, SC, was found to have concentrations of PFAS in the groundwater equal to 2,640,000 ppt in 2019, which is over 37,700 times the EPA's

# Mayoral candidate: Ishmael Lowery

## Part one of a series on Rock Hill mayoral candidates

Garrett McCluggage  
Staff Writer

A local business owner has announced his candidacy for the upcoming Rock Hill mayoral race. Although candidate Ishmael Lowery is not running on behalf of a specific party, he defines himself as a conservative.

Lowery is a believer in the power of community organizing and engagement on a grassroots level. He wants to revitalize the local economy by putting more resources into youth outreach and education by, for example, creating a trade-apprentice pipeline.

He wasn't hesitant about sharing his reasons for running.

"We're fighting for the family," he said. "We need to give our communities more activities and opportunities. There are existing community centers that lay dormant and we have not been able to keep up what

we have."

Lowery is equally outspoken about his goals and how he sees his candidacy.

"I want to see Rock Hill become a symbol of unity. Our country is unfortunately divided and I think that is on a city level as well. I want to bring people of different backgrounds and I believe that unity starts with personal responsibility," he said.

When asked how he defines "personal responsibility," Lowery emphasized his political philosophy.

"I don't believe in government overreach. I think you can't pull water from an empty well; and if you are not taking personal responsibility and accountability for yourself and your family, then you don't have anything to offer," he said.

Lowery, a professed conservative, wants to, according to his website, "[i]mplement policies that help small businesses thrive and encourage growth."

"We need to streamline the process of getting small businesses started," he said. "It is very difficult to establish a new presence in Rock Hill and so this will hopefully allow businesses to get established faster and last longer. Small businesses are one of the cornerstones of our society."

Lowery favors a more protectionist stance to local businesses against big box stores and corporate chains.

"In order for our small businesses to be the big businesses of tomorrow, they're going to need some support and especially now since this past year the COVID pandemic has been especially hard on small businesses owners," he said.

Lowery described himself as a "God-made man."

"I do not believe I can do anything without the Lord leading in my life," he said.

Lowery, a devout Christian, holds his faith seriously. "I wouldn't be where I am today without Him."

Aside from his religious convictions, Lowery sees himself on a "crusade" for the physical safety of the city. The biggest difference between himself and his political opponents, current incumbent Mayor John Gettys and York County councilman William 'Bump' Roddey, "is supporting our law enforcement."

"When we talk about public safety, our officers cannot be understaffed. So we need a mayor who is going to stand behind our law enforcement and support them," Lowery said.

Lowery also wants to repair the bridge between the community and the police force and establish a more friendly, community-oriented method of law enforcement.

The vote for the Rock Hill Mayorship will be held on Oct. 19. Deadlines for voter registration are Sept. 17 in-person, Sept. 19 online, and Sept. 20 by mail-in application.



Photo Courtesy to Ishmael Lowery

Lowery



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Photo Courtesy to Kim Truett from the University of South Carolina

One of the rooms inside of the Anne Frank Museum.

## Anne Frank Center at UofSC

### University of South Carolina to open a center in remembrance of Anne Frank

**Sam Hyatt**  
Staff Writer

The majority of people know the unfortunate story of Anne Frank and her family. Students at the middle, high school and college level are still reading and studying “The Diary of a Young Girl” in an effort to keep her voice alive.

Frank, among millions of others, was taken and killed by the regime of Adolf Hitler during World War II. Although Hitler hoped to keep the voices of the victims of the Holocaust quiet, people across the world have made sure that they are still heard.

The University of South Carolina in Columbia has decided to continue to keep this story going by opening the Anne Frank Center on the university’s campus. The center will be officially open to the public on Sept. 15.

Doyle Stevick, the executive director of the Anne Frank Center, said, “In 2013, I had the opportunity to visit Buenos Aires, where the Ana Frank Centro developed a home into a full-fledged Anne Frank House partner site. It provided the inspiration for that possibility in the USC, but I never imagined it might come true.”

When people visit the center, they can expect to learn about the history of the Frank family during their time in hiding in an annex above Anne Frank’s father’s business. Along with learning about the family, visitors will be able to view official artifacts that represent the family’s experience, as well as read pages from Anne Frank’s diary.

“Visitors receive a guided tour through our exhibition. We are committed to peer education, and our tours will be led by undergraduate volunteers

as well as our staff,” Stevick said. “Right now, we’re scheduling group tours and expect to open up a system for individual visitors to join others for timed-entry tours.”

“We have four content rooms and two seminar rooms where we are committed to a philosophy of ‘Remember, Reflect, and Respond,’ which is the heart and hand of learning. Learn the history, consider its lessons, and act in the present,” Stevick said.

Professor Ann Jordan, an instructor of English here at Winthrop University, teaches a Holocaust literature class. In this class, the students read “The Diary of a Young Girl.”

“Anne Frank’s story is powerful, and her determination, optimism, and unwavering belief in the basic goodness of people should serve as an inspiration to all. I am happy and proud to see a permanent

collection located in our state,” Jordan said.

After the opening of the center, it is expected that numerous schools across the state will begin scheduling opportunities for students to go and learn about the life of the Frank family.

“Our bread and butter is outreach to schools. We want to welcome as many people as possible here,” Stevick said. “Our hope is that visitors will then bring out traveling exhibits back to their communities, schools, and colleges, so more people can engage with this history.”

Thankfully, the Anne Frank Center is close to Winthrop’s campus, and students will be able to visit without driving a far distance. Utilizing resources such as this center is important as students continue to grow as scholars and gain more information.

## ‘Negotiating the Land’

### A preview of the upcoming cultural event with lecturer Dr. Gleb Aleksandrov

**Emily Curry**  
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In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue, and in doing so, changed the fates of two civilizations. The people of Europe were ecstatic to learn of a New World with untold riches. The Native Americans had to deal with foreigners invading their homes. But is this perception of the past the truest one?

This is what Dr. Gleb Aleksandrov of the Higher School of Economics in Moscow will be discussing in his lecture at the “Negotiating the Land: Perceptions of Land, Property, and Environment in 17th Century Colonial New England” cultural event coming up on Sept. 20.

Aleksandrov is an anthropologist and a historian who is very interested in societal evolution. His fascination with New England came because of what an excellent case study it is.

“The more I researched, the more fascinated I became with specifically Native American societies and cultures, but also the colonies themselves,” he said.

According to National Geographic, “Experts estimate there were between 70,000 and 100,000 Native Americans living in New England at the beginning of the 17th century.” These villages were “semipermanent; when the agricultural land was depleted of nutrients, groups would move to settle nearby areas.” The clash between the Native American idea of semipermanence and the European idea of land ownership will not be the only topic that Aleksandrov covers. “When we look at the past, especially when looking at specific areas of the past, we have these unconscious ideas,” he said.

As Aleksandrov pointed out, there are many perceptions of what happened during the 17th century that are more or

less set in stone; the Europeans arrived, and they drove the Native Americans out and did serious damage to their culture.

While this is certainly true, what is often overlooked is that Native Americans had just as much impact on colonial society.

Aleksandrov said the most common perception of the colonists was that “they were Englishmen, so they generally retained the English worldview, and everything that happened later is the consequence of that.”

However, the colonists’ time in the New World did change their worldview, and some of the credit goes to Native Americans.

“The constant contact with Native Americans did very much change English culture,” Aleksandrov said.

According to Aleksandrov, this lecture was actually supposed to take place last year, but due to the pandemic, it had to be postponed. However, that delay now means this lecture concurs with some of the biggest revelations of atrocities committed against Native Americans.

Just this summer, mass



Courtesy of Dr. Rick Chacon

graves were uncovered at schools that forced Native Americans to assimilate to Western culture. Discussion on this topic, while at times difficult, is just as important as ever.

Aleksandrov hopes that, if nothing else, this lecture will encourage students to learn more about how intertwined the fates of neighboring societies are. He wants students to “see intercultural contact as less of one culture inducting the other and more of a mutual influence.”

This cultural event, “Negotiating the Land,” will be held on Sept. 20 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Dina’s Place in the DiGiorgio Campus Center. Admission is free, and this event qualifies as a Global Learning Initiative event.





Photo Courtesy to Entertainment Weekly

The first transgender winner of the U.S. version of RuPaul's Drag Race.

## RuPaul crowns the first transgender American winner of 'Drag Race'

*Kylie Sonique Love is the first transgender winner in over 12 years of the U.S. award-winning franchise*

**Gabe Corbin**  
Staff Writer

For the first time in U.S. "RuPaul's Drag Race" franchise history, RuPaul has crowned a transgender winner on the hit American TV show. In the grand finale of the sixth season of "RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars," RuPaul crowned fan-favorite drag performer Kylie Sonique Love as the winner.

For the last twelve years, RuPaul has given the crown and title of "America's Next Drag Superstar" to multiple winners of the fan-favorite, award-winning television series. As a result, most queens have become legendary superstars, with favorites like Bob the Drag Queen, Symone,

Trixie Mattel and others making epic names for themselves outside of the show's circuit.

Because so many contestants have won and competed, RuPaul has released a new variant of the series: "RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars." In it, past contestants and fan-favorite queens have returned to take another stab at the crown and win a spot in the "Drag Race Hall of Fame."

Recently, in the grand finale of the sixth season of "RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars," the final four were forced to compete against each other in a lip sync smackdown. While fan favorites Eureka, Ra'Jah O'Hara and Ginger Minj held their own in the contest, RuPaul announced that the winner would be none other than the fourth contes-

tant, Love.

Love, formerly known as Sonique, was a past contestant on the second season of the franchise's main series, "RuPaul's Drag Race," back in February 2010. She placed ninth in the competition but would later return for the "RuPaul's Drag Race Holi-Slay Spectacular" in 2018.

Her appearance in that holiday television special marked her return to the spotlight, with fans hoping that Love would show up in a future season of "All Stars." A couple of years later, the drag queen's fans' wish was granted when it was announced that Love would be one of the 13 contestants of "RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 6."

Along with twelve other

queens, Love competed for the chance to win \$100,000, a crown, a one-year supply of Anastasia Beverly Hills Cosmetics and a spot in the "Drag Race Hall of Fame" alongside winners like Shea Couleé, Chad Michaels, Monét X Change and other winners.

Love's iconic win makes her the first drag queen to win an American season of Drag Race.

While another transgender woman, Angele Anang, won the second season of "Drag Race Thailand," Love is the first transgender winner of an American "Drag Race" contest.

Although there have been other contestants to compete who were transgender at the time of release, like ninth season runner-up Peppermint and thirteenth season icon Gottmik, and contestants who transitioned after the show, like Gigi Goode and Laganja Estranja, Love is the first-ever transgender winner.

Love placed high in the competition, with her doing well in the Acting Challenge, the Blue Ball challenge and her epic lip sync battle against past contestant Manila Luzon to "Dirrty" by Christina Aguilera.

No one would think that "RuPaul's Drag Race" would produce a transgender winner, especially after RuPaul made comments about gender and transgender women back in 2018 in a report by NBC stating that he would not accept a transgender queen into the competition.

RuPaul has since apologized to the trans community for her comments, but it worried fans that they would never see a trans winner. So when Love was crowned, #TeamKylie fans were happy as could be for their winner.

Will there be more queens to follow in Love's footsteps? Maybe so, but for right now, we have a new winner of "RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars," and her name is Kylie Sonique Love.

## The hottest albums of late 2021

*Lil Nas X, Kanye West and Drake are just a few of the artists releasing new albums as the year begins to close*

**David Botzer**  
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Despite being almost ten months into 2021, any music lover should be ecstatic about the number of new albums the year still has in store.

The third quarter of the year has already been packed full of jams from the hottest artists, like Billie Eilish's "Happier Than Ever," released at the tail end of July.

According to Vogue, the young artist unveiled "a new, platinum-blond look that signals the 19-year-old musician's growing maturity and artistic evolution" alongside the album. The songs on the artist's second album touched on more personal aspects of her life while still maintaining the offbeat signature style of Eilish.

A little under a month later, on Aug. 29, Kanye West released his first album since "Jesus is King" in 2019. The album, titled "Donda," contains a total of 27 tracks, including ones with contributions from Jay-Z, The Weeknd, Young Thug, Jay Electronica, The Lox, Travis Scott and others.

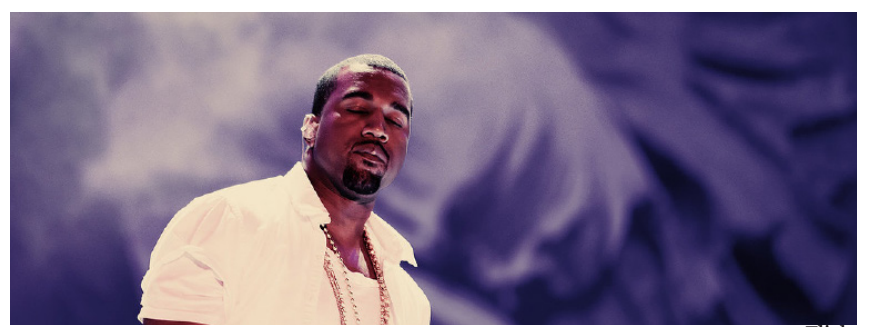
Jay-Z, Scott and Young Thug all lend themselves to another recently released album, Drake's "Certified Lover Boy." The album was released on Sept. 3 following a delay from January due to a knee injury, according to Pitchfork. The release is the artist's sixth in his prolific career.



Photo Courtesy to Wikimedia

Lil Nas X has garnered a lot of attention this year from the media. From controversial music videos to controversial shoes, the artist has kept attention on himself and seems to want to keep things that way as he rolls out his debut album, "Montero."

Releasing on Sept. 17, the star of "Old Town Road" fame seems set on pulling out all the



Flickr

stops for this album. According to Pitchfork, he has already been "obliterating streaming records in stripper heels," with the music video for the album's title song.

The following month, on Oct. 15, music lovers can go from a fresh face in the industry to a veteran. Coldplay will be releasing their ninth album, "Music of the Spheres," and have already gotten some discussion going from the reception of the song "Higher Power" that will be featured on the record.

However, the more intriguing talking point is the decision for some songs on the album to be titled with just emojis. One such song will be titled with an Earth emoji, and another will feature an emoji similar to Saturn.

Towards the end of the year, on Nov. 19, Swifties will be happy to see the latest previously released Taylor Swift album get the "Taylor's Version" treatment.

"Red (Taylor's Version)" will feature new recordings of the

tracks from the original album with changes that reflect her visions for the songs rather than the studio's at the time. According to Pitchfork, it will also feature completely original songs with talents such as Ed Sheeran and Phoebe Bridgers lending their voices.

All of the aforementioned albums and more show that the music industry in the latter half of 2021 is indeed thriving. All of the talented artists making music for the masses show that they have no plans to slow down as the year begins to

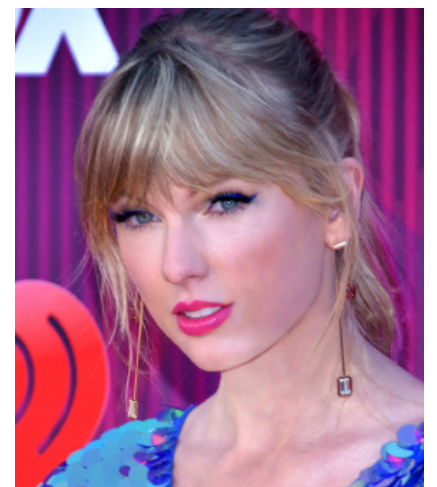


Photo Courtesy to Wikimedia



## Is Axiom Space the first form of commercial space travel?

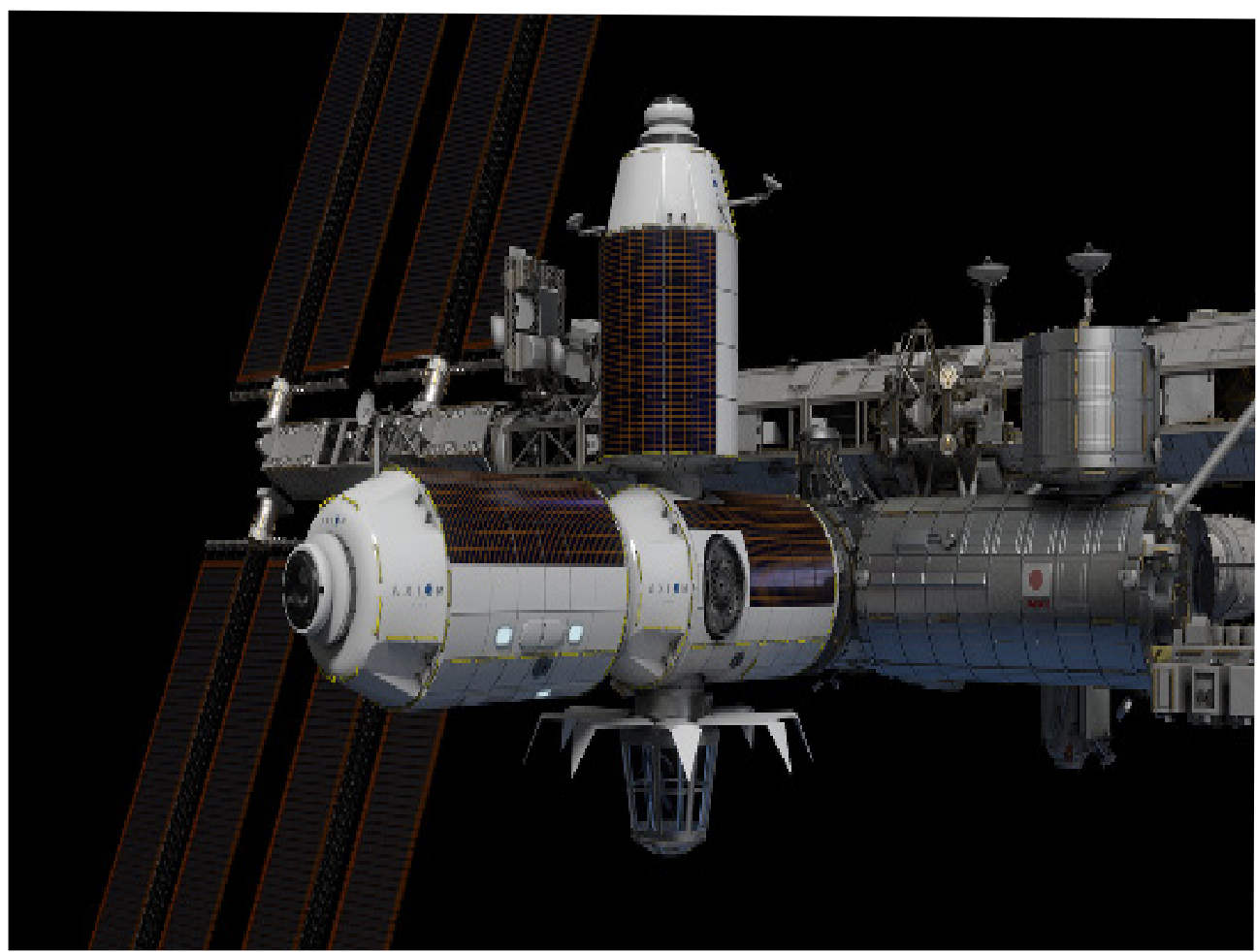
Axiom Space is changing the industry of space travel through working with the ISS and SpaceX

Gabe Corbin  
Staff Writer

For more than four years, Axiom Space has been working on a project to commercialize private space missions. However, in a massive deal with Elon Musk's SpaceX, the two groups are now going to work together to fly crews for commercial missions.

Axiom Space is a privately-owned space mission company that has worked to create a commercial space station between Earth and outer space. The company, owned by Michael Suffredini, a former program manager of the International Space Station, is working with the ISS and Elon Musk's SpaceX to develop a "commercial space station."

"We are on track to enable that future by managing the first-ever private missions to the ISS as a precursor to our development of the world's first commercial space station,"



Artist rendition of Axiom Space's modules connected to the ISS

Pixabay

Suffredini said in an Axiom Space press release on June 2.

Axiom Space has already planned a couple of early private missions for the ISS, and their future work with Musk's SpaceX will provide the "groundwork" for a long-term commercial space flight. The crew of the AX-1 mission, the first space mission in a joint SpaceX and Axiom venture, is set for private astronaut missions from early 2022 to 2023.

The crew will be manned by former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, along with mission pilot John Shoffner and other customers to be announced as members.

Axiom's goal to make the first commercial spacecraft is so that it can benefit humanity. The company's aim is to provide space infrastructure as a service to the public, working at the International Space Sta-

tion to develop a new variant of the famous satellite, one that is going to "sustain human growth off-planet and bring untold benefits back home."

"Axiom Space is a force in the space sector, and it will become a centerpiece of the C5 Capital portfolio and enhance our vision for a secure global future," said Rob Meyerson, C5 operating partner joining the Axiom Board of Directors, in a statement back in February.

However, Musk and Suffredini's plans to commercialize space have been met with some controversy. Famed astronauts Neil Armstrong and Gene Cernan have criticized the push to commercialize space travel; they have since testified before Congress that this plan could threaten America's winning streak in space exploration.

It has also received criticism from Blue Origin, another

space company owned by famed billionaire Jeffrey Bezos. They have been critical of Musk's plan to commercialize space, and their habit of sending billionaires on free joy rides to space has caused some stir from the media.

Nevertheless, the future of space exploration is in the pockets of the rich and powerful. With the age of space commercialization, scientists are continuing to develop ways to protect astronauts as they head to the stars.

While companies like Blue Origin face controversy, Axiom Space and the SpaceX company seem to be taking charge and aiming American rockets at the commercialization of the infinite void of stars.

## Apple to add new feature to iPhones

Apple will allow driver's licenses and state IDs to be added to Apple Wallet

Marley Bassett  
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, Apple announced that it was releasing a feature in select states that would allow iPhone users to add their driver's license or state ID to their Apple Wallet. This feature will be released first in Arizona and Georgia, with Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Oklahoma and Utah to follow.

"The addition of driver's licenses and state IDs to Apple Wallet is an important step in our vision of replacing the physical wallet with a secure and easy-to-use mobile wallet," said Jennifer Bailey, Apple's vice president of Apple Pay and Apple Wallet, in a statement found in Apple's Sept. 1 press release about the announcement.

iPhone users will also be able

to use their driver's licenses or IDs during TSA checkpoints at select airports. These security checkpoints will be some of the first locations at which residents in the states mentioned above will be able to use their identification in the Apple Wallet.

However, privacy concerns have been voiced by many consumers.

The Apple Wallet has several security features, such as encrypting consumer identity data and protecting against tampering and theft. Identification in the Apple Wallet is only presented digitally through encrypted communication with the identity reader, so consumers do not have to unlock their device. Users can also use the Find My app to freeze or erase any Apple device that is lost.

Many Winthrop students believe that this is a promising development.

"I mean, we have credit

cards, boarding passes and sometimes car keys on our phones already. I assumed it was just a matter of time before driver's licenses and the like are digital," said Daniel Hupp, a criminology major.

Theatre major Jacob Dunham, too, said this new Apple Wallet feature seems like it will be convenient.

"Adding the driver's license makes it super worth the time, and it's kind of cool," Dunham said. "This also gives me the impression that Apple has become more innovative than ever."

Freshman Melanie Williams said that "it could be convenient to have your driver's license on your phone in case you lose it," but pointed out that "we should still have a physical license on hand just in case your phone dies or you lose your phone."

States that have already implemented this new Apple

update are extremely pleased with it.

"Beyond being innovative and exciting, a digital version of a driver's license offers increased security and privacy for our residents, making it something every resident should consider," said Eric Jorgensen, director of the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division, in a statement.

Apple, the TSA and already-participating states will release more information on when this new program will become available in all 50 states.

Apple Wallet will also have a new update coming soon that will give users access to their home, apartment, and hotel room, as well as certain corporate badges. With the advance of technology, expect to see the loss of more and more physical items such as IDs and keys.



Marley Bassett/The Johnsonian



### Eagle of the Week: Jana Owens

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One of two Winthrop Eagles honored for their performance at the Virginia University volleyball Tournament earlier this month, Jana Owens began playing volleyball when she was in third grade.

In fifth grade, she joined a club team that her coach had recommended in order to play more competitively. Volleyball wasn't her only sport though — growing up, she also played soccer, basketball and softball.

"I played at the club level for all of those sports but ended up dropping them when I got to high school to focus on volleyball," Owens said. "I did run track in middle school and high school for the school team as well."

As she focused on volleyball in high school, Owens began playing the setter position.

"I never really had a 'position' in volleyball growing up. I played a little bit of everything," she said. "It wasn't until my sophomore year of high school that I started setting and at that time my coach told me I wasn't good enough to play [Division I]."

Despite her coach's opinion, Owens said she began reaching out to schools at every level of the recruiting process and that same year committed to play at a Division I school.

While Owens said she remembers receiving an email from Winthrop in high school, she was looking to play at a bigger school, which is why she



Courtesy of Winthrop Athletics

Owens is a senior on the volleyball team.

ended up at Appalachian State University her freshman year.

"I really enjoyed my time at App school-wise," Owens said. "It's a beautiful campus and I enjoyed the environmental consciousness of the school as it involves my major."

"The volleyball team is a really competitive program, and I got a lot better while I was there, but I just didn't click with all the girls relationship-wise. I also had both of my assistant coaches leave in the spring of my freshman year, who I really enjoyed."

After one year at App State, Owens transferred to Win-

throp. She appeared in 15 matches (almost twice as many as her freshman season at App) and totaled 163 assists.

Owens wore the number 24 her sophomore year but switched to the number six in 2020.

Her junior year, she recorded a team-high 352 assists, as well as 112 digs through 16 matches. This season she's off to a hot start with 227 assists through eight games.

Her 124 assists across Winthrop's three wins in the Virginia Tournament earned her All-Tournament Team honors.

"It's always reassuring and

rewarding to be recognized for your efforts, but I honestly wasn't expecting anything," Owens said. "Especially in my position, as cliché as it is, it's really not possible without my teammates. They make my job so much easier."

Owens said her goals this year are to maintain a good team hitting percentage, be a consistent leader with high energy and push the team to reach its goals.

"Our team goal is always to win conference and the first round of the NCAA [Tournament] but we also picked a motto for this season - we over me," Owens said.

"With 20 girls on the team, it's inevitable that not everyone will play, but we need everyone to win. So we picked that motto to keep reminding ourselves that each person plays a role and that it takes everyone to reach our goals."

Owens, who is a senior, said she has not ruled out using her "covid eligibility year" and playing collegiately for one more season.

"I would like to go to grad school [because] I want to be an environmental engineer and I only have an environmental science degree. Unfortunately, Winthrop doesn't have the grad program that I'm looking for," Owens said.

"It really just depends on what opportunities are available because I'd like to stay in the Charlotte area, so I know that limits my options."

Owens and the Eagles take on the South Carolina Gamecocks next on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Winthrop Coliseum.

### Winthrop Volleyball splits with ETSU

Eagles earn sweep on Friday, get swept on Saturday

Arden Zayas  
Staff Writer

The Winthrop volleyball team played in two thrilling head-to-head matches against East Tennessee State University over the weekend, winning the first game and losing the second.

Friday's match started off with the Eagles scoring the first three points, then ETSU later tying it at 7-7. After another tie of 12-12, Winthrop eventually won the first set 25-20.

In the second set, ETSU took the lead for quite some time, with Winthrop trailing as much as 9-1. However, because of an error made by the Buccaneers, the Eagles made eight points and led 23-21. The Eagles once again won the set, this time 25-22.

Brookelynn Thomas and Karli Shepherd helped win the third set for Winthrop with continuous back-to-back kills. The game ended with four kills from Morgan Bossler and a 25-18 win for the Eagles.

Bossler's kills Friday helped her surpass 500 in her Winthrop career.

"I wish we could keep her in for all rotations because of who she is," head coach Chuck Rey said about Bossler. "[She's] someone who wants to dominate, and she does."

This was the team's fourth straight win, including their off-campus wins in Virginia.

On Saturday, the first set began with ETSU dominating

the court. Both Bossler and Shepherd made kills in this set, but it was not enough to secure a win, with the Buccaneers winning the set 25-18.

At the beginning of the second set, Lily Leistiko led with a kill. The game was back-and-forth, with the teams tying at 14-14, then ETSU led with four straight points. The set ended with the Buccaneers once again winning, 25-17.

During the last set, the Eagles were leading late until a tie of 23-23. The Buccaneers ended with three straight kills and won the game.

Rey called the result an "uninspired performance" and said that in the COVID-19 era, it is a lot more difficult to play at the same strength. He also mentioned that on the second day — keeping in mind it's not regular for sports to play again in less than 24 hours — it is a bit harder to win with more wear and tear of the body.

Rey also said that he would rather their movements all around be smoother and that the team could do a better job of reading the game. He noted that Leah Metzger has a great read of the game and that her

tenacity is unstoppable.

Some of the most notable moments of Friday's game were when Metzger continued to make amazing saves in all three sets.

"We may be a little bit out of position, and she adjusts really well to those things," Rey said.

With the excitement of the game coming up against the South Carolina Gamecocks on Thursday, Rey said the Eagles will definitely have fun working against a bigger team. Winthrop looks to get back in the win column Thursday at 7 p.m. at Winthrop Coliseum.



Matthew Shealy/The Johnsonian

Winthrop Volleyball defeated ETSU 3-0 on Friday but lost to ETSU 3-0 on Saturday.





September 15, 2021

## NCAA allows NIL deals

### Winthrop student-athletes are taking advantage of NIL deals

Sam Hyatt  
Staff Writer

Student-athletes are now eligible to sign name, image and likeness (NIL) deals and receive compensation regardless of their state's NIL laws.

The NCAA announced on July 1 that D1, D2 and D3 student-athletes can begin signing with companies. According to CNN, it is estimated that around 460,000 college athletes can now sign sponsorship deals.

After the announcement from the NCAA, college athletes began promoting themselves on social media in hopes that companies would begin offering endorsements.

Upon receiving information concerning the new rules of NIL deals, some colleges have implemented new policies stating that their athletes cannot use the school logo, designs or uniforms in any of their NIL activity.

For example, Clemson University implemented policies stating that students cannot use Clemson's designs, logo or athletic department property within their deals and to earn compensation.

As for Winthrop Athletics and its policies concerning NIL

deals, interim athletic director Hank Harrawood explained that the department has based its policy on the state law that is anticipated to go into effect during the summer of 2022.

Athletes who will be participating in business deals are required by the state of South Carolina to complete a NIL disclosure. This form gives information regarding the details of the deal between the student and companies. An example of this form can be found on the Winthrop Athletics website.

Matthew Levenson, an infielder for the Winthrop baseball team, has taken advantage of the opportunity by signing a NIL deal.

"I currently have a deal with GLHF Supplements and receive compensation through monthly salary by promoting and selling their product," Levenson said. "They are a newer company, but they sell a highly tested product that most companies do not get because of high costs."

"I also just signed a clothing deal with Envision Clothing Company. They are a recent start-up launching workout apparel for athletes and any physical activity. The ideals of the company line up with my personal ideals as they promote hard work and dedication."

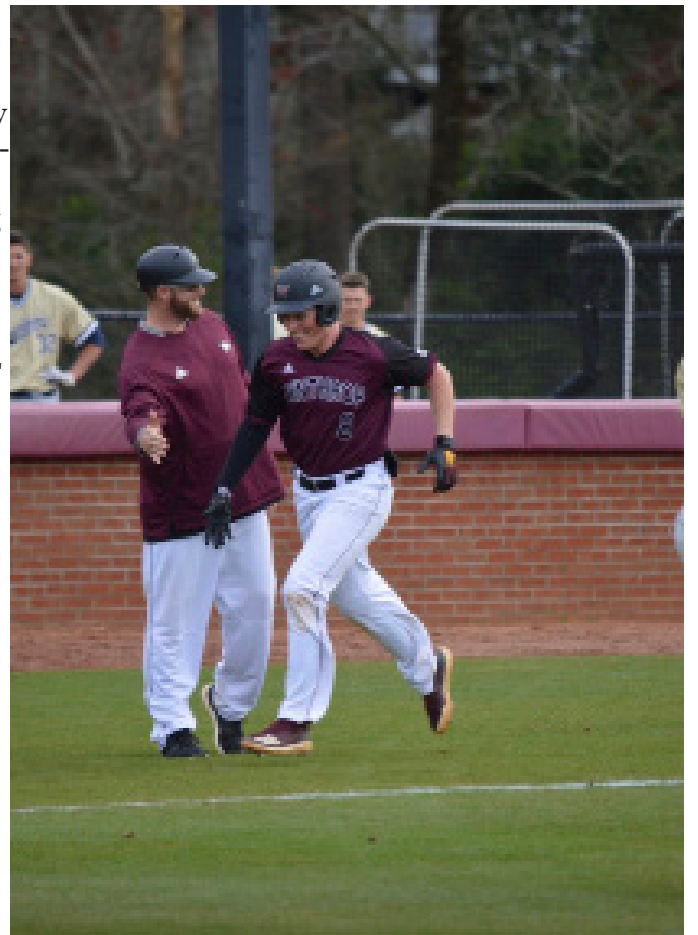
As a result of the NCAA's new rules, the expectations and push for athletes to begin taking deals and endorsements have increased.

"I think other student-athletes should take advantage of this NIL because it can only benefit them," Levenson said. "There is no hurt in trying to make some extra money and promote yourself. It has helped me grow my own personal brand."

According to ESPN, students who begin signing NIL deals with companies can receive compensation in the form of money through a third-party service such as Cash App, Venmo or Zelle. Compensation can also be received in the form of free prod-

ucts and gear that can be used during games and practices as long as it is approved by their athletic program.

Compensation such as clothing and athletic gear can be used as a part of the NIL deal as it would promote the company and be a form of advertisement.



Courtesy of Mike Pawelcyk

Levenson rounds the bases during a game against Charleston Southern.

## Winthrop men's basketball schedule expected soon

### Eight non-conference matchups already confirmed for the Eagles

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Eight opponents have been identified for the Winthrop men's basketball team so far this off-season as schools have begun releasing their non-conference schedules.

While Winthrop has not confirmed any non-conference games, many of its opponents have already announced that they will face the Eagles this upcoming season.

On Nov. 9, the official start to the 2021 college basketball season, Winthrop will host Mary Baldwin University, a Division III program. Last season served as the team's inaugural season, but the few games the school participated in were all considered exhibitions as the team was still competing as a club team.

Exactly one week later, Winthrop is set to travel to Middle Tennessee State University. The Blue Raiders notoriously upset the Michigan State Spartans as a 15-seed in the first round of the 2016 NCAA Tournament but are coming off a not-so-outstanding season in which they went 5-18 overall.

The Eagles will take on another team in Tennessee just four days later on Nov. 20, facing Vanderbilt University. The Commodores earned an abysmal 9-16 record last season but return one of the South Eastern Conference's best players in Scotty Pippen Jr.

Following their match in Nashville, the Eagles will catch a quick flight to the west coast, where they will face Washing-

ton State University on Nov. 22. The Cougars are currently the first team Winthrop will face that had a winning record last season (14-13).

Winthrop will not travel far for its next match when the Eagles take on a second member of the Pac-12 Conference, Washington University, on Nov. 27, which falls on Thanksgiving weekend. The Huskies finished 5-21 overall last season, winning just one of their six non-conference games.

The Eagles will be back in



Matthew Shealy/The Johnsonian

Winthrop tips-off against High Point to start a game in February 2020.

Rock Hill on Dec. 7 to host Furman University for a second season in a row. Winthrop handled the Paladins with ease in 2020, winning 87-71 behind an 18-point performance from Charles Falden, who has since transferred and is exhausting a "covid eligibility year" this season at James Madison University in his home state of Virginia.

Winthrop has faced Furman four times in the last five sea-

sons, winning three of the four contests.

One team that Winthrop has not faced in the last five seasons but will meet in 2021 is Mississippi State University. The Eagles will hit the road for this game, but rather than playing on the Bulldogs' home court in Starkville, the matchup will take place on Dec. 21 in the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

Winthrop has a 1-0 record against Mississippi State all-time, with the lone match-up

gural men's basketball season.

The Eagles will host Converse, a Division-II program, on New Year's Eve.

Other opponents there is great potential for the Eagles to face include Coastal Carolina University (whom Winthrop agreed to a four-game contract with in 2019), the University of Hartford (whom the Eagles faced in Connecticut in 2019), and Elon University (whom Winthrop hosted in 2019).

It is also likely that Winthrop will play a game in the Rock Hill Sports and Event Center's "No Room for Racism College Basketball Event," which will take place Dec. 10-12. The tournament is set to feature the University of South Carolina versus Florida State University on Dec. 12, as well as High Point University versus South Carolina State University on Dec. 10.

In 2020, Winthrop Athletics announced that it would "host an exhibition men's basketball game for the purpose of raising money and awareness for an organization determined annually by [the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee] to fight racism and promote justice" every season moving forward.

That game was scheduled against Liberty University last season but was canceled due to schedule limitations caused by COVID-19.

The Big South Conference is expected to release the full slate of conference games sometime this week which will likely coincide with Winthrop's full non-conference schedule release.



September 15, 2021

## Ableist assumptions: Winthrop's treatment of differently-abled students

*An editorial focused on the recent issues with campus spaces not being accommodating to those with disabilities*

**Autumn Hawkins**  
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The Winthrop University administration has been the target of quite a stir regarding its treatment of students with disabilities.

During the summer, Winthrop often will limit access to elevators and other inter-ability spaces in order to do maintenance and routine functional checks. This is not necessarily an issue, as there are not too many students on campus during the summer. However, at the start of this academic year, many places on campus are not fully accessible.

In Withers, Winthrop's home base for education majors, the main elevator did not work until late August. This caused issues with regards to students being able to access the upper floors - especially Plowden Auditorium. Even though it is currently active, it is not running smoothly.

Withers is not the only campus building where elevators

are not fully operational. Dormitory buildings, specifically Richardson, have a reputation for the elevators not working or being indefinitely "under maintenance." This can cause issues with students getting to and from classes on time, or even being able to access their own bedroom. When the elevators in dormitories are not operational, this can also prohibit students with mobility issues from doing their laundry, as this can be their only way to access the building's basement.

Accessibility limitations are not just limited to elevators being shoddy. Emergency call centers - tall pillars indicated by blue lights that are used to alert emergency services - are known for not working properly. While this can cause issues with emergencies regarding sexual assault, it can also determine the outcome of medical emergencies. When these call centers are disconnected, students who may need immediate medical assistance are put in danger.

Visually limited students are also put at risk on Winthrop's

campus. The crosswalk signs that lead to Dacus Library are equipped with auditory indicators to help students with limited vision. An automated voice tells students when it is safe to cross the street and counts down the seconds until the light changes. It also emits a beeping sound so that students can find their way to these landmarks. However, many of these crosswalk signs no longer work. Some of their buttons are stuck, so students cannot indicate their need to cross. This also prohibits students from hearing the necessary auditory cues, potentially leading to a student walking into traffic.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Winthrop is not adequately providing access to its buildings. Per ADA's clause 36.2, "a public accommodation shall afford services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations to an individual with a disability in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the individual."

In layman's terms, Winthrop University needs to give stu-

dents every opportunity to succeed, whether that is academic accommodations or the ability to enter a building.

ADA's clause 36.2 also mentions that public spaces need to ensure that their facilities are up to date and fully functional. "A public accommodation shall maintain in operable working condition those features of facilities and equipment that are required to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities."

If crosswalk signs and elevators do not count as equipment and facilities for people with disabilities, then what does?

Winthrop's walkways are cracked and have been seemingly left to the elements.

Winthrop University's Office of Accessibility has claimed that they are dedicated to creating an equitable environment for all students. While this is specific to academic accommodations, this should expand to all aspects of campus life.

Interested in writing  
a volunteer column  
for the Opinion  
section?

Email Autumn Hawkins at:  
hawkinsa@mytjnow.com



Visit our website,  
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podcast, "On Air: The Johnsonian."





# MEET THE STAFF

Get to know the staff that creates the magic behind THE JOHNSONIAN!



**Christian Smith**  
**Assistant News Editor**

Hey! My name is Christian (he/him), and I will be one of the assistant news editors this year. I am a senior pursuing a mass communication major with a journalism interest and a political science minor. In addition to journalistic writing, I also enjoy writing fiction and playing tabletop roleplaying games, like Dungeons and Dragons!



**Lily Fremd**  
**Assistant Sports Editor**

Hello! My name is Lily Fremed, and I am a junior early childhood education major working as the assistant sports editor for The Johnsonian. Aside from writing for the newspaper, I work in the on-campus preschool class at Macfeat Laboratory School, give campus tours as an Ambassador and am a member of Alpha Delta Pi. I am also a major Disney fan, and I have visited Disneyland more times than I can count!



**Emily Curry**  
**Assistant Arts Editor**

Emily Curry (she/her) is currently in her second year at Winthrop University. She intends to major in mass communication with an interest in journalism and minor in legal studies. This year, she is excited to be working with The Johnsonian as an assistant editor in the Arts, Culture & Tech section. She enjoys writing stories, both original and fan fictions, and adores anything Disney.



**Jessica Shealy**  
**Executive Copy Editor**

My name is Jessica Shealy (she/they), and I am a senior double majoring in English and political science. I am the executive copy editor for The Johnsonian this year. My interest in copy editing sparked the day I started noticing spelling errors in my copies of the Harry Potter books.



**Spencer Horton**  
**Assistant Tech Editor**

Hi! My name is Spencer Horton, my pronouns are he/him, and I'm a senior mass communication major who will be the assistant tech editor for The Johnsonian this year. I've always enjoyed writing of any kind, whether it be creative or journalistic, and a fun fact about myself is that I play bass in a rock band.



**Anna Sharpe**  
**Copy Editor**

My name is Anna Sharpe (she/her). I'm a senior MCOM & Spanish major and will be on staff at The Johnsonian as a copy editor this year. A fun fact about me is that in 2019 I was the youngest person to serve as Editor-in-Chief for The Johnsonian.



Hispanic Heritage Month  
Preserved in Clay and Stone: Celebrating the History of Ancient Latin America  
September 16  
3:00 pm  
Exhibit & Panel Discussion  
Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections

Bubble Soccer  
Sept. 17th, 3:00 PM | Campus Green  
\$5 STUDENT, \$7 PUBLIC, or FREE with DSU Pass

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