

Courtesy of York County Government
York County proposes voting line changes



Graphic Courtesy to Maggie Claytor
Jan. 13 Blotter - Trespassing man becomes belligerent



To/Mara Carmichael/The Johnsonian
Men's basketball beats Campbell 74 to 72



Jada Strong/The Johnsonian
MFA student explores artistic space and spirituality



Mariana Beltran/The Johnsonian
Somewhere in Antarctica Pt. 4 Beltran comic



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Sunday's serene southern snow



Bryn Eddy/The Johnsonian
Scholars Walk statue with snow accessories



Bryn Eddy/The Johnsonian
Oakland Avenue entrance decorated by the winter weather

Students protest living conditions, lack of safety

Two protests end of fall semester sought to expose campus issues

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The removal of mold from residence halls, accessibility improvements, increased funding for the Office of Victims Assistance, the removal of controversial figures' names from campus buildings and increased campus security measures were among the demands made by two student-led protests at the end of the fall semester.

The first and largest protest, organized by student organization WU Students for Change, took place on Dec. 3, the same day and time as the annual Rock Hill Christmas Parade passed by campus.

"The reason why we wanted to do it during the Christmas parade was to let the community know that we're upset with what we are given here on campus," said Grayce Kellam, protest coordinator for WU Students for Change and senior fine arts major. "It was going to be not-your-typical protest. We were just going to hold signs that were abbreviated so that they were PG."

The protest was planned to be held on the sidewalk in front of the president's house. However, according to an email sent to all students on Dec. 2 from Assistant Chief of Police Charles Yearata and Vice President for Student Affairs Shelia Burkhalter, the protest could not happen in that area due to a permit from the City of Rock Hill for the Christmas parade.

WU Students for Change said in an Instagram story they requested to simply move off of the sidewalk and onto campus behind the fence, complying with the city's permit but still being near the originally planned location but was denied by Winthrop's administration and forced to move the protest in front of Byrnes Auditorium, one of the four designated free-speech zones on campus.

In a later post, WU Students for Change indicated they submitted a request for assistance to the American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina.

"While we understood why we had to move

from the sidewalk to campus and were happy to comply with that request, forcing us into a small designated area on campus is a violation of our free speech rights," the post reads.

For a full list of demands, which includes concerns around the handling of sexual assault and Title IX cases, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, diversity, campus safety and living conditions, search [WUStudentsforChange](https://www.instagram.com/WUStudentsforChange) on Instagram or go to chng.it/RDyTLsgR.

"The original list of demands that came out when the organization was founded was largely focused on Title IX only," said Ainsley McCarthy, WU Students for Change executive board member and sophomore mass communication major. "And, obviously, we don't want to just focus on Title IX. There's a lot more that goes into campus safety. So a lot of the new ones that have to do with accessibility and diversity are new to this semester."

see [PROTEST](#) pg. 3

A new interim athletic director: Chuck Rey

Head volleyball coach now serving in additional role

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Following the departures of Hank Harrawood and Kelley Kish, Chuck Rey is now serving as Winthrop University's third interim athletic director since August.

Rey, who has been the head women's volleyball coach at Winthrop since 2018, was approved by the Board of Trustees in late November.

"The whole time as we've gone through AD transitions, I've always told everybody in the senior leadership role here in athletics that I'm willing to do whatever I can do to help out athletics," Rey said.

Before Rey, Kelley Kish began serving as interim athletic director in mid-October. Days after accepting the position, she was offered the director of athletics position at Wingate University (which she had applied for months prior). She stayed at Winthrop until Dec. 1 to give the university time to find a new interim AD.

Rey said he received a call from interim university president

George Hynd around the time Kish was leaving, and they discussed his background in business.

"I spent 10 years in international marketing," Rey said. "I've owned my own company, I've had 80 employees. We did very, very well at one time before I got into coaching."

"We spoke a lot about those things and had a chance to meet with some people of the board of directors for Winthrop," Rey said. "After those conversations, the president and the board were gracious enough to offer me this opportunity, and I've enjoyed the opportunity."

Rey has had no shortage of work to do in his new position. During his first month and a half, he's already been a part of a search for a new women's lacrosse coach (which he said is being finalized and the new hire will be announced soon).

"I've been very fortunate, and I'm very appreciative from the top down. And I think it's because of my relationships that I've had with people across

campus for a long time, ever since 2008, and the trust that they have in me in this position to allow me to make decisions," Rey said.

Another process Rey has had his hands on lately is helping guide the Winthrop basketball teams through their respective COVID-19 pauses. The women's team had to postpone five games, while the men's team was forced to reschedule two games.

"First and foremost, an unbelievable person," said head men's basketball coach Mark Prosser in regard to Rey. "It's also refreshing, and there's a sense of security that comes with a coach or a former coach in that position."

"He was unbelievably supportive (while the team dealt with COVID-19 issues). He's been awesome. We've loved working with him," Prosser said.

Something Rey wants to see Winthrop Athletics continue to do and be better about is relationship building.

see [CHUCK](#) pg. 4

Projects to improve campus life continue



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

Facilities and IT work to address student concerns about infrastructure and WiFi

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Quality of life changes around campus continue to be completed, from lighting around campus being improved to the repair of concrete in areas around Lee Wicker Hall and Carroll Hall. However, major projects, like the remediation and renovation of Byrnes Auditorium, plumbing, ventilation and door locks in Richardson Hall, and moisture and leaks in residence halls continue only in the design and preparation phases.

WiFi issues, mold and

bugs in dorms continue to be a problem for students, according to a survey conducted on The Johnsonian’s Instagram. Student activist organization WU Students for Change also included issues like mold in its list of demands from the Dec. 3 protest.

Despite a complete replacement of the WiFi infrastructure in Phelps Hall, other buildings on campus are still struggling with WiFi issues.

“The next [residence hall to get a WiFi infrastructure update] is Courtyard. We have a quote, but

there is a thing with funding. Courtyard is like a separate enterprise, so we’re having to juggle a few things,” said Patrice Bruneau, assistant vice president for Computing and Information Technology. “All the other residence halls will require major cabling, so we can’t do it during the regular year.”

WiFi in non-residence hall buildings on campus could start soon, Bruneau said.

“So other than the residence halls, we’re looking at academic buildings, and Rutledge seems to be the top priority right now.

And we’re in the design phase. So there’s a project manager from Columbia, that’s looking into it, and planning all that,” Bruneau said. “That would be something we could do. It will require some wiring, but I think we can squeeze in between classes, or like on Fridays, Saturdays sort of timeframes, hopefully anyway, and do some work when there’s nobody or very few people in the building. And then try to do it before the end of the school year.”

Student activists are also pushing for an increased number of

security cameras on campus. Currently, Bruneau said they are updating the ones they have.

“So within a few months, knock on wood, we will have all the security cameras refreshed, definitely the residence halls, then we’ll move on to academic buildings, and then the outside areas like parking lots and things. So that’s a project that’s ongoing. And if we have any issues, it’ll be logistics, you know, supply chain,” Bruneau said.

The most recent WU Students for Change list of demands in-

cludes functioning blue lights, which Bruneau said was not on his radar until the group started advocating for their repair.

“I’m looking at replacing the ones that don’t work anymore, don’t work reliably,” Bruneau said. “A contractor has been on campus, surveyed and is working on a list of what we can replace with what. And so that will include the blue lights. This is definitely in response to the students’ concerns.”

Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2022



Jamia Johnson

The second and smaller protest took place on Dec. 7 and also began in front of Byrnes Auditorium but marched to Tillman Hall and into the president's office, where a list of demands and a petition was delivered.

The petition, which included complaints similar to the WU Students for Change list of demands, had over 70 handwritten signatures. "The synopsis was, we

don't want to be on a campus in which we are unsafe either health-wise, physically with the sexual assault that was happening, accessibility-wise with broken sidewalks, steep ramps, that kind of stuff," said Carter Bentley, protest organizer and freshman history major.

Police were called to the scene as the protestors entered Tillman Hall, but, according to Yearata, it was only for a noise complaint.

"So when they [the protestors] started coming into Tillman, individuals who worked in Tillman, not in the president's office, called us saying 'There's someone yelling in Tillman,' which is why our officers responded. But once we got there, the group was already talking to the president's office, and nobody was yelling," Yearata said.

Unlike the first protest, the organizer was

a single person, not an organization.

"I just wanted to do a one-off protest. I would do more if need be. But this wasn't supposed to get traction from the clubs," Bentley said. "Like, it's great to have club help. But the way that it turned out was more like, 'This is my protest, co-signed by all these other clubs that were not supposed to involve themselves in it.'"

Yearata said that as

long as protests remain peaceful, he and everyone else at Winthrop Police actually encourage student protests.

"We expect you to protest, you know, that's part of the learning and growing aspect. So, without an underlying threat or underlying situation that we are made aware of, usually, we're very off hands," Yearata said. "Peaceful protest is good. And that is how change occurs in our country."

Police 3 Blotter



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On Jan. 13, the Reporting Officer (R/O) responded to a call regarding a subject who was handing out fliers and becoming belligerent with people who would not take them.

The R/O searched the campus for this individual and eventually spotted a subject matching his description heading towards the center of campus.

The R/O attempted to make contact with the individual, who then ran away from the R/O into a bookstore. The R/O then followed him in and was advised by the manager that the subject had run out of the business's back door and into the alley.

After searching the alley, the R/O returned to the store and spoke with the manager, who stated that the individual was a frequent customer and that his vehicle was still parked in front of the business. The R/O then notified Sgt. Michael Reid, who advised that it may have been an individual he had dealt with previously.

Reid advised that on Jan. 8, he responded to an individual matching the subject's description, who was carrying a sign and stopping cars in line for COVID testing and becoming belligerent when people would not speak with him. Reid advised that he warned the individual to leave and that he would not be allowed on Winthrop property without permission. After learning this information, Assistant Chief Charles Yearata arrived on scene to assist the R/O.

The R/O waited and observed the vehicle for a time, eventually witnessing the subject return to his vehicle to leave. The subject traveled the wrong way down a one-way alley, and the R/O initiated a traffic stop. The subject vehicle yielded, and the R/O made contact with and detained the subject. Reid was able to identify the subject as the same individual from the prior incident. The subject was arrested, charged with trespassing and taken to the Rock Hill City Jail to be booked.



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At the Dec. 3 protest, WU Students for Change draped a banner over the Winthrop University sign in front of Byrnes Auditorium

Christian Smith /The Johnsonian

York County proposes voting line changes

York County council defers a vote on new voting line map

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York County is postponing a county council vote on proposed voting line changes that come after the 2020 census report. The county is currently divided into seven districts that incorporate Clover, Fort Mill, Hickory Grove, McConells, Sharon, Smyrna, Rock Hill, Tega Cay and York.

The districts that would see the most changes are Districts 1, 2, 3 and 5 due to population shifts since the last census, according to Greg Suskin, public information officer for the York County government.

The census is taken every 10 years to determine the amount of U.S. House representatives each state gets and "also to determine the population of city council wards and state legislative districts," said Dr. John Holder, professor of political science at Winthrop University.

Since York County is continuing to grow, "the council wards have to be adjusted so that each ward ends up with as close to the same number of people as possible. There's been a lot of growth on the

north side, coming down from Charlotte and Fort Mill, and not so much on the south side," Holder said.

Tom Audette, the councilman from District 1, which covers northern Fort Mill and Tega Cay, "will actually see his district shrink due to the large population growth in Fort Mill and Tega Cay," Suskin said.

The council has spent a lot of time debating different maps and boundaries, often down to the neighborhood or street to ensure as much equal representation as possible. The council will be voting again on the map next Tuesday.

"I believe the changes that we will be voting on Tuesday will meet all required criteria, and I agree with the changes that will be voted on Tuesday evening," said Vice Chairman Robert Winkler, councilman for District 3, which covers all of the primarily rural western York County.

Winkler will have a larger area of York County to represent since his district had a slower population growth than others. The same changes are being made to Districts 2 and 5 due to slow

population growth.

According to Holder, when drawing the map, the council members must make sure they are not gerrymandering, which is "the practice of drawing the boundaries of electoral districts in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage over its rivals or that dilutes the voting power of members of ethnic or linguistic minority groups," according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

"The main consideration under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is whether Black voters are adequately represented on the Council," Holder said. "The population of Rock Hill is 39% Black, and two of the six wards have majority-Black populations, so that means that council as a group will continue to be reasonably representative of the city population as a whole."

The district to see the most changes will be District 1, as many Charlotte residents have moved to the upper Fort Mill area.

Once the council has officially voted on the map, the new voting lines will be in place for the next ten years.



Graphic Courtesy to Cooper Beck

A year into Biden's presidency and still no student loan forgiveness

Biden has not followed through on his campaign promise to forgive student loan debt

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President Joe Biden has yet to keep the promise he made to voters to eliminate student loan debt.

On the campaign trail, Biden said forgiving student loan debt is something that "should be done immediately."

The 2020 election had the highest youth voter turnout in recent years, largely due to Biden's promise of student loan forgiveness. Now youth, especially those who have taken on student loans, are wondering if President Biden intends to keep the promise he made to Americans on the campaign trail.

Some Winthrop students have strong opinions about Biden not yet keeping his promise to young voters.

"I feel like by doing that, he's failing and letting down almost the entirety of the people who voted for him," said Mary Abrahamson, a sophomore secondary English education major. "Most of us are college-aged, and not only that, but the students who statistically hold the most student loan debt are Black Americans, more specifically Black women. It feels as though he's not only pushing aside the needs of the marginalized

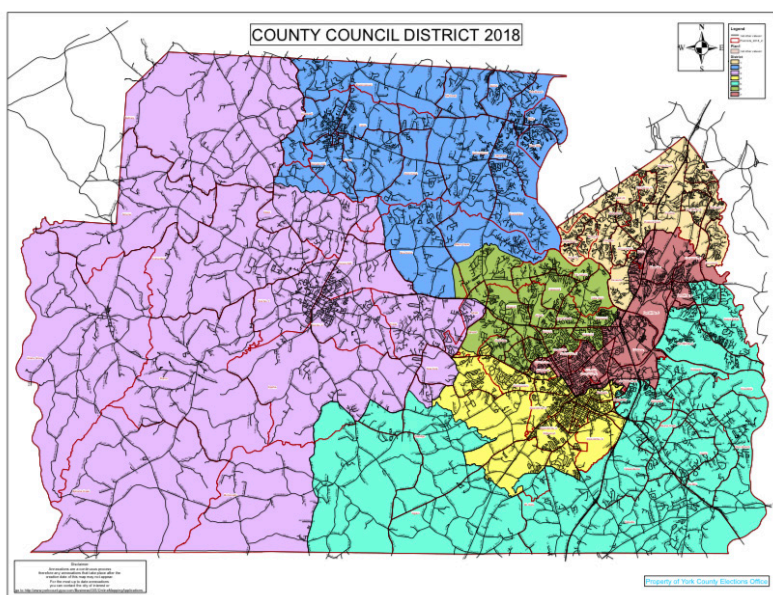
groups he claims to support but the needs of a majority of the people who trusted him with their vote."

A common theme among those who are upset about Biden's lack of action when it comes to canceling student loans is that if he doesn't get it done, it will be one of the biggest failures of his presidency.

"Something about being elected by a young demographic and then backing out on all your promises really rubs me the wrong way," said Olivia Corby, a junior psychology major. "It makes me wonder if he actually had any intentions to begin with or if everything he said was false promises."

"It also seems cruel and unusual to hold your people to all this debt when the government is trillions of dollars in debt and they get to roll with those punches while American citizens are fighting for their life."

With the midterm elections coming up later this year, the Democratic Party has to wonder whether their inability to pass student loan forgiveness either through Congress or by executive order will make or break the election results.



Most current map of York County voting lines

York County Government

Two Winthrop Eagles announced as inductees into Big South Hall of Fame

Winthrop tennis coach Cid Carvalho and volleyball player Mary Hock Leventis announced as part of the Big South conference's 2022 Hall of Fame class

SPENCER HORTON, staff writer

The 2022 Big South Hall of Fame inductees were announced on Jan. 5, and included in this year's lineup are former Winthrop tennis coach Cid Carvalho and volleyball player Mary Hock Leventis.

Carvalho and Leventis will be officially inducted into the

Hall of Fame on March 6, along with Radford University's Duane Filchner and Campbell University's John Payne, an honor in which both athletes take great pride.

"It will be a great honor to receive the award on behalf of the players and coaches," Carvalho said.

"I'm floored, honestly," Leventis said. "I'm

very humbled and surprised, but I'm proud that I had the career that I had and excited that they recognize that."

For Carvalho, this comes after a long tenure of playing and coaching tennis filled with success. Carvalho played tennis at Winthrop in the late 70s, though he started playing tennis at 15, a late age for most competitive players.

"I liked tennis because it is an individual sport," Carvalho said. "From the time I picked up a tennis racquet, I never stopped playing."

He became the coach in 1985 and retired in 2019 after winning 26 Big South Championship titles, with 21 of those coming as the women's coach and five as the men's coach.

He even helped the Eagles win a first-round match in the women's NCAA Championship in 2018, making Winthrop the first Big

South team ever to do so.

"Cid Carvalho is probably the most decorated coach in the Big South conference in any sport," said Big South commissioner Kyle Kallander. "Outstanding leader of student-athletes, and it's incredible the success that the program had under his tutelage."

Despite his achievements, Carvalho says he's most proud of the players and coaches that helped build the program.

"They cared for each other and competed with everything they had," Carvalho said. "I didn't do anything differently. I was blessed to be surrounded by the right people."

Leventis had similar success as a standout on Winthrop's volleyball team. While playing on the team from 2002-2005, she became the Big South's first-ever volleyball All-American in 2004

and was voted onto the Big South Volleyball 2000-09 All-Decade Team.

Leventis is ranked first in kills in Big South history with 2,067 in her career, first in career aces per set with 0.71 and first in career service aces with 360.

"She was just a dominating student-athlete," Kallander said. "I remember her very clearly as being the premiere volleyball

student-athlete in the Big South conference at the time."

She also joined the coaching staff for a few years, one of which was 2006, a year where the Eagles won the Big South Championship.

"Being able to win championships and create relationships with my teammates and compete at the highest level is probably one of my biggest accomplishments," Leventis said.



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communications
Leventis was the first women's volleyball athlete from the Big South to earn All-American honors.



Photo courtesy of Big South Conference
The Big South Hall of Fame was formed in 2003-04. Up to individuals are inducted each year.

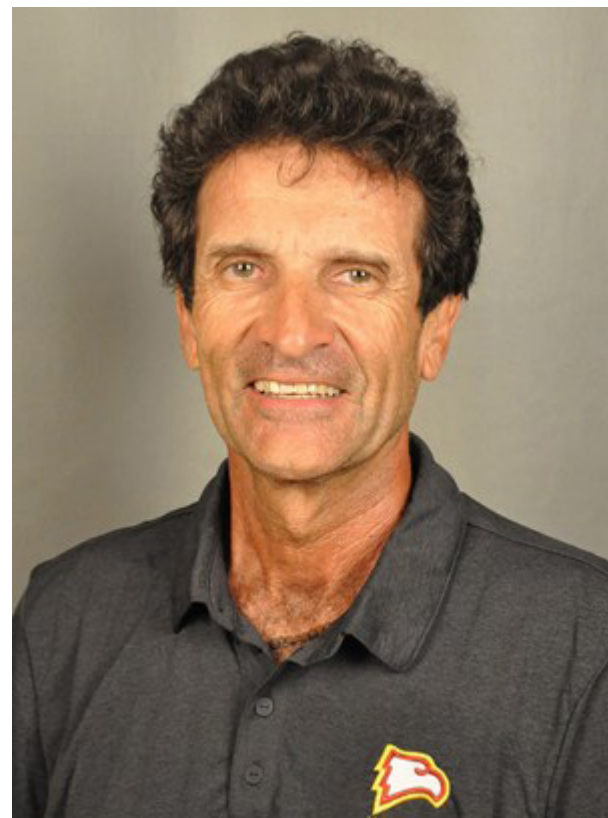


Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communications
Carvalho was inducted into the Winthrop Hall of Fame in 2020 following his retirement in 2019.

cont. REY from pg. 5

He said the department has started a new initiative called "WE CARE" (an acronym for Winthrop Eagles – Community and Relationships) with the goal of building relationships, particularly on campus.

"I told the staff this and the coaches this: however long I'm in this position, the most important thing we can do is continue to build

community and relationships," Rey said.

"Whether I'm here or not, if we continue to help each other out and help the community out and the relationships out within athletics and also with the other side of campus, we're going to be better off for whoever comes into this particular position."

One thing is for sure, Rey loves Winthrop.

"I love Winthrop. I love being here," he said. "I love being part of the university.

I've been fortunate to be part of Winthrop starting in 2008, kind of at the end of the DiGiorgio era, and seeing what Winthrop is and was."

At that time, Rey was an assistant coach for the volleyball team. During his first tenure at Winthrop, he got to know

Mary Hock Leventis, a former All-American for Winthrop who also served as an assistant coach for a few years with Rey.

Rey attributes a lot of his knowledge about Winthrop's history to Mary Leventis and her husband Gabe Leventis, who played basketball at Winthrop from 2000-2004. He also said people like Cid Carvalho, Joe Hudak, Mark Cook, and sev-

eral current long-time coaches at Winthrop

mean to boast — with the volleyball program

incoming transfer from Florida SouthWestern



Rey looks on from the sideline during Winthrop's volleyball match against South Carolina.



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communications
Rey has served as an assistant coach and as head coach for Winthrop's women's volleyball team

have "built this university in a lot of ways" and have his respect for all they've done for Winthrop during their careers.

"We love Winthrop; we want to be here. They've got me for 12 or 13 years. If I could write a contract for 12 or 13 years, let's sign on the dotted line because I want to be here," Rey said.

"I've found some good success — and I don't

and have had opportunities to move up and move on, but that's not what we want. We can win a national championship here at Winthrop, and I want to be a part of whatever sport that is that's going to win a national championship," he said.

Rey hasn't let this new role keep him from getting work done for the volleyball team. Earlier this month, the team announced an

State College.

"I've got a good mentor friend of mine, Jaime Gordon; he's at Morehead State. He's the volleyball coach and athletic director there. It can be done," Rey said.

"In a way, if this is the direction the university wants to go, I hope to continue both roles. I believe I can do that, and it'll save the university some money too."

Winthrop golf alum wins SCGA Player of the Year award

Christian Sease becomes third Winthrop alum in a row to receive the award

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For the third straight year, a Winthrop men's golf alum has won the South Carolina Golf Association's Player of the Year award.

Christian Sease, a member of the Winthrop men's golf team from 2012-2017, was recognized by the SCGA as its 2021 Player of the Year on Jan. 8.

"It was awesome," Sease said. "Most golfers kind of strive to do that, to be the top one that year. It was always a goal of mine, especially from a young age."

Sease is the third Winthrop alum in three years to receive the award, following Kyle Bearden in 2020 and Jordan Sease in 2019.

"It speaks a lot to the caliber of players we've recruited and had in our program," said Winthrop men's golf coach Kevin Pendley. "They're proud Winthrop alums and it speaks to the character of the people, that they've continued to work hard at their games even post-college."

According to Pendley, Christian Sease wasn't recruited much coming out of high school. He had a connection to Winthrop (his cousin Jordan who played for

Winthrop a few years earlier) and the Eagles had an available roster spot.

"We redshirted him his first year," Pendley said. "He could hardly break 80 in some qualifying rounds. Got down on himself at times, but he was always back the next day working hard, busting his butt to get better."

"It was gradual, day after day, you could just see it coming. He just wanted to be good and wanted to play, and took pride in his work. That's the biggest thing from his time here — just how hard he worked."

The SCGA's Player of the Year award is determined by a point system earned by participating in tournaments throughout the year. This year, Sease finished with 256.67 points, which was 41.67 points ahead of second place.

"I got most of my points really in one week," Sease said. "I tied for fifth in the U.S. Mid-Amateur — it was in Massachusetts this year — then came back and that weekend I won the South Carolina Mid-Amateur."

Sease pointed out that Bearden, the SCGA's 2020 Player of the Year and his teammate at Winthrop, finished in

third this year, while former Winthrop golfer Walt Todd, Jr. came in fourth. 2019 Player of the Year Jordan Sease also ended the year at eighth in the standings.

"We have a ton of guys, Winthrop alum, that are playing in all these tournaments and it's just cool to see because we've all been so successful in the last few years," Sease said. "It's definitely something I think we kind of developed at Winthrop and we've just kind of taken off from there. Definitely neat for the school. It's always good to represent Winthrop in that way."

Sease also mentioned Winthrop alum Taylor Dickson, who plays professionally in the Korn Ferry Tour, a development tour for the PGA Tour.

Sease said he played professionally for about two and a half years after finishing school, but his career didn't take off like he had hoped. He's now working for an insurance company while continuing to fuel his passion for golf in the amateur ranks.

While he says he'd love to go back-to-back as the Player of the Year, he may not get to participate in quite as many events this year since he's getting married.



Photo courtesy of the South Carolina Golf Association via Instagram @scga1929

Sease is the third Winthrop alum in a row to receive the Player of the Year trophy

"I'm going to have to play well as the ones that I do to get back-to-back, but we've already started joking about who's going to be the Winthrop guy to extend the streak to four, so we'll see how that holds up."



STUDENT MEDIA POLL

Week 10

Matthew Shealy's votes Michael Covil's votes

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Auburn | 1. Auburn |
| 2. Gonzaga | 2. Arizona |
| 3. Kansas | 3. Gonzaga |
| 4. Houston | 4. Kansas |
| 5. Duke | 5. Duke |
| 6. Arizona | 6. Wisconsin |
| 7. Kentucky | 7. Houston |
| 8. Wisconsin | 8. Purdue |
| 9. Purdue | 9. Baylor |
| 10. Baylor | 10. Kentucky |
| 11. UCLA | 11. Villanova |
| 12. Villanova | 12. Iowa St. |
| 13. Texas Tech | 13. Illinois |
| 14. Illinois | 14. USC |
| 15. Michigan St. | 15. Davidson |
| 16. LSU | 16. Texas Tech |
| 17. Iowa St. | 17. LSU |
| 18. USC | 18. Michigan St. |
| 19. Ohio St. | 19. Providence |
| 20. Providence | 20. San Diego St. |
| 21. Loyola Chicago | 21. Miami |
| 22. Davidson | 22. Connecticut |
| 23. Connecticut | 23. Ohio St. |
| 24. Iowa | 24. Boise St. |
| 25. Miami | 25. Loyola Chicago |

Lacrosse coach bids farewell to Winthrop

Blankenship steps away from coaching, new hire coming soon

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Lacrosse head coach Julika Blankenship has decided to step away from coaching with a desire to spend more time with her two young children and husband.

"I am excited about the next chapter for the Olliver family. I also can't wait to be with my babies on weekends all spring long. It's time that they get the Momma they deserve," Blankenship said in an Instagram post on Dec. 22.

In that post, Blankenship accredited lacrosse for bringing her husband, best friends, traveling, and numerous valuable lessons into her life. Although it was a voluntary choice for Blankenship to step away from coaching now, interim athletic director and head volleyball coach Chuck Rey hopes to make athletics more manageable for coaches who are mothers.

"We have to be better about this — in terms of schools, athletic directors, athletic programs



Photo courtesy of Blankenship via Instagram @julikaannb

In an Instagram post, Blankenship said she can't wait to spend more time with her children. She spent five and a half seasons as the head coach at Winthrop

— in helping women that are parents to be able to keep their jobs, and want to continue to thrive in their jobs when they have kids," he said.

When Blankenship became an Eagle in June of 2016, she was only the second lacrosse head coach in Winthrop's history. Blankenship's first year at Winthrop resulted in an overall 9-10 record for the Eagles.

"We are saddened by Coach Blankenship

leaving, but we understand that she had to do what was best for her family and their future," junior midfielder Molly Dankowski said.

"Coach Blankenship, she was awesome. She's built a really great program here, and it's in a great place for the next coach," said Rey.

During her time at Winthrop, Blankenship collected a 31-27 overall record while appearing in two Big South Conference championships. She coached eight players to All-Conference

First Team honors, five to All-Conference Second Team honors, one All-Academic and one All-Conference honorable mention.

"I am so grateful for the bosses, administrators and AD's that took a chance on me at various points in my career and allowed me to fail while supporting my process and trusting in my plan. I am grateful for the many assistant coaches that have been a part of my programs. I appreciate you, I love you and I'm so lucky

to have you as a part of my family forever," Blankenship said in her Instagram post.

According to Rey, the athletic department is getting "really close" to announcing the hire of a new lacrosse coach.

"We're really just working through background checks and paperwork-type stuff. It could be as soon as, and we hope, sometime next week. No later than the end of this month because their season is obviously starting up," Rey said.

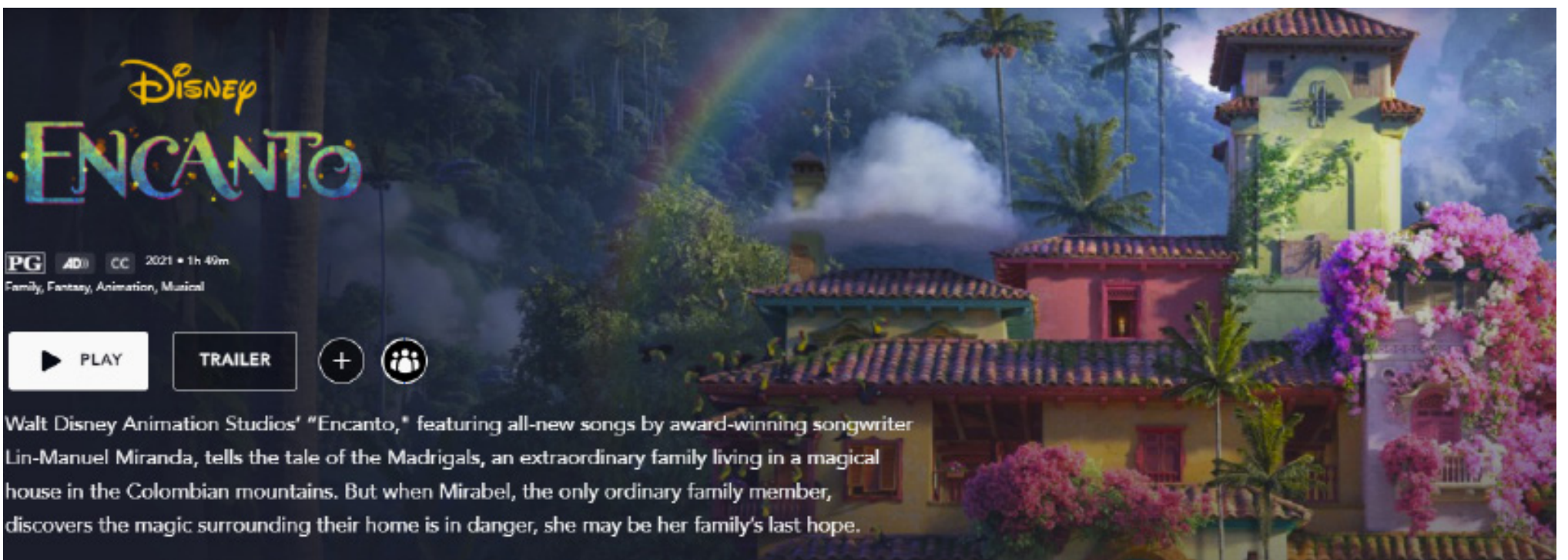
The team ended 7-8 overall in the 2021 season after a tough 8-21 loss at High Point in the Big South Tour-

namment.

"I am looking forward to playing games and cheering on my teammates this coming season. Our team is very excited for the season coming up. We had a great fall and feel prepared for what is ahead of us this Spring," Dankowski said.

The Eagles travel to Greenville on Feb. 18 to compete against East Carolina for the first lacrosse match of the season.

"I can't wait to watch my amazing athletes from Winthrop dominate this year and forever. I love you with my whole heart and thank you for trusting in



The home of the Madrigal family is the first image Disney+ subscribers see before viewing the critically acclaimed film, “Encanto”

Gabe Corbin / The Johnsonian

‘Encanto’ review

Disney’s recent hit film “Encanto” is a thrilling, charming and powerful film showing just what it means to be remarkable

GABE CORBIN,
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After almost two years without an animated musical epic, Disney returned with a brand new film showing rich culture and influential music in their most recent film, “Encanto.”

The film stars Stephanie Beatriz (“Brooklyn Nine-Nine”) as Mirabel Madrigal, the youngest daughter of the Madrigal family. Every Madrigal child has a “gift,” a superhuman blessing from the house itself that gives them incredible powers. Mirabel, the only “normal” Madrigal with no powers, is the family’s only hope when she discovers she has to save the magic that blessed her family.

Beatriz stars along-

side María Cecilia Botero as Abuela Alma Madrigal, John Leguizamo as Bruno, Mauro Castillo as Félix, Jessica Darrow as Luisa, Diane Guerrero as Isabela, Angie Cepeda as Julieta, Wilmer Valderrama as Mirabel’s father Agustín, with Rhenzy Feliz as Camilo and Adassa as Dolores. The film was directed by Jared Bush and Byron Howard and features music by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Overall, the movie was a critical and commercial success, with fans adoring its cultural aspect and setting. The film has a 91% score on Rotten Tomatoes, which calls the film an “enchanted, beautifully animated fun for the whole family.” Metacritic gave the

film generally favorable ratings, and moviegoers gave it an A grade in CinemaScore exit polls.

The movie grossed \$216.1 million compared to its roughly \$150 million budget, but it did reasonably well in the theaters.

One of the highlights of the film was the music itself. The soundtrack has a variety of emotions and energy with every song, from the charming melody in “The Family Madrigal” to the Latin-pop beats in “Surface Pressure.” In addition, Beatriz’s singing ability in “Waiting on a Miracle” and in “What Else Can I Do?” with Guerrero was acclaimed as well as her chemistry with the other voice actors.

One of the stand-

out songs was “We Don’t Talk About Bruno,” which became a smashing success. It reached No. 1 on Spotify’s Top 50 - USA chart and was viewed 67 million times on the Disney Music VEVO Youtube channel. Paired with the vocals of reggaeton singer Adassa and the quickfire but jamming voice of Rhenzy Feliz, this song became a smash hit of its own making.

The movie also did a good job exploring the emotional side of this large family, showing how Abuela Alma acts and reacts

to members of her own family. Abuela Alma’s personality and reasoning gave this film a solid emotional depth, and every character’s issues were seen and discussed.

In addition, it gave audiences a profound portrayal of mental health, from Isabela struggling to remain “pretty and perfect” to Luisa’s issues with carrying too much. It became a strong point of conversation, both on-screen and with audiences.

Overall, “Encanto” was a beautifully made film that featured a

substantial selection of characters and music that made it stand out amongst Disney’s pantheon of animated characters. The movie was a success and became a smash hit that made it 2021’s most successful animated film.

“Encanto” is an experience — both visually and musically — and is a movie that everyone should see.

Winthrop DSU will have a cultural event showing of “Encanto” in Dina’s Place on Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3 or free with an all-access pass.

The prevalence and causes of ‘Zoom fatigue’

Recent studies consider the cognitive load of constant Zoom meetings and digital interactions

RYAN LUMBERT,
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As the United States enters its third year of grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, students and employees across the nation have been plagued by a digital affliction of the mind: Zoom fatigue.

A literature review by Dr. Jeremy N. Bailenson of Stanford University and published in 2021 in the journal Technology, Mind, and Behavior has put forth four arguments as to why Zoom fatigue is so prevalent and so debilitating.

First, Zoom users must withstand close-up eye gaze for several hours on end, which is taxing on the psyche due to the intimate na-

ture, typically reserved for close friends and family. Faces also appear closer to the user than they would in the real world due to the distance at which most users keep their cameras from their faces.

Second is the cognitive load required to interact with others in Zoom-space. Users receive fewer cues over a video call than they would in person, the result being a strain on users to glean as much information as possible from the limited input of a video call, especially if users are rushing between digital and in-person meetings.

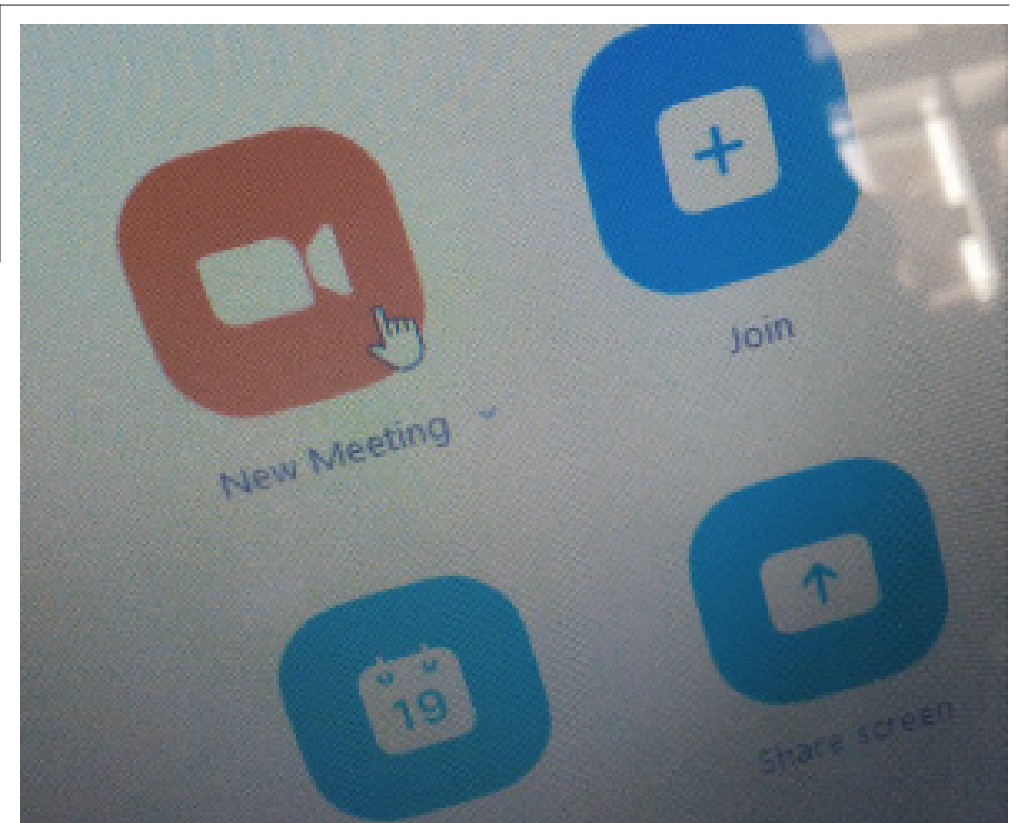
Dr. Jessie Hamm, a professor of mathematics at Winthrop, said, “I am used to interacting

with students, and with Zoom, I typically feel as though I am giving so much energy and getting nothing back. It takes away my favorite part of the job, which is connecting with students.”

However, Hamm does report some benefits.

“It is so much more convenient to be able to join a meeting virtually, especially as a parent of two kids,” she said.

“It was a bit overwhelming to go to an in-person and then rush back to my dorm to hop onto a Zoom meeting and then back to an in-person class,” said Michelle Aguilar-Gaspar, a sophomore biology major. “It didn’t even really feel like I was going to



Ryan Lumbert / The Johnsonian

college.”

Third, the self-view video feed of the user’s own camera can make users feel increased levels of self-consciousness. A study being published in March by Dr. Kristine M. Kuhn of Washington State University in the journal Computers in Human Behavior found that individuals with a high public self-consciousness felt more negatively towards video calls the more often their face was visible.

“Constantly being on a screen and having to self-monitor my actions felt terrible,” said Rollins Mosley, a sopho-

more musical theatre major. “It limited the time I spent outdoors and with friends. My stress levels definitely went up.”

Fourth, video calls entail reduced mobility. Workers and students who have previously been afforded some mobility through walking around the workplace or moving from class to class have now been stuck behind their screens in the same spot for as long as their meetings or classes last.

Josiah Bauer, a recently graduated mathematics major, has voiced his concerns about the lack of move-

ment caused by the need to video call.

“I needed to find a place with a stable internet, which can be rare on campus, and then stay in that spot for however many classes I had in a row. I felt stuck,” Bauer said.

Zoom fatigue also appears to affect women more than men. In a different study published by Stanford researchers in 2021, it was found that women reported feeling the effects of Zoom fatigue upwards of 13.8% more than men, even when controlling for differences in duration and time between meetings.

What is the reason for New Year's resolutions?

People around the world set new goals for themselves at the start of each year

SAM HYATT,
staff writer

The start of the year means seeing excessive amounts of “New year, new me” posts on social media. Popular brands post articles explaining the various trendy resolutions people should make that coming year.

According to History.com, the act of making New Year's resolutions started about 4,000 years ago in ancient Babylon. Differently from those making resolutions today, those living in Babylon would celebrate the new year in March when crops were planted.

During this time, the people would partake in a 12-day celebration called Akitu, to crown a new king or reaffirm their loyalty to their

current serving king. In addition, they would also make promises to the gods to either repay their debts or return borrowed items. If they broke these promises, it was believed that the Babylonians would fall out of favor with the gods.

A few thousand years later, in ancient Rome, Julius Caesar decided to adjust the calendar to make the first day of January the beginning of the year.

Today, people use the first day of January as a way to restart their lives or change habits. Even though resolutions can be changed at any point throughout the year, the new year brings a sense of starting over with a clean slate.

“This year, my New

Year's resolution is to stop procrastinating on my schoolwork because procrastinating has caused me stress and anxiety in the past. I feel the happiest when I am on top of things instead of waiting last minute,” said Ashly Simmons, junior biology major. “I also want to focus on myself more by setting boundaries and prioritize myself rather than putting others before myself and my needs.”

There are endless resolutions people could make each year. These resolutions allow people to be in control of how they carry out their resolutions.

“I make New Year's resolutions, but I do not do them as goals that I have to meet. I make them as a mental

space that I want to be in this year,” said English master's student Jordan Terry. “This year my resolution is to do everything with my own peace and happiness in mind.”

Even though New Year's resolutions are popular and important to thousands of people each year, they are not for everyone.

“I do not make New Year's resolutions because I feel like if I want to change some-

thing, then I should start working towards changing it no matter what time of year,” said English master's student Stephanie Martin. “However, I see why other people make resolutions because they bring comfort to someone that a new year will be different, and hopefully better.”

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there are numerous resolutions that people can make that can benefit their

health and safety.

Resolutions like journaling, exercising at home and reading more are ones that allow people to stay home.

“Things fluctuate all the time, including good and bad things,” Martin said. “So I just work with what I have at any given moment and try to make the best of it.”

Artist Spotlight: Grant Mahan

Mahan, MFA student, talks about his art style and themes

JADA STRONG,
staff writer

Artist and Winthrop student Grant Mahan displayed his MFA thesis proposal exhibition back in November of 2021 and is currently working on his academic paper for his thesis.

“So, I'm currently in a place where I'm navigating my starting thesis, which is like a year-long project, basically, right? This basically perfect paper, you know, academic paper,” Mahan said. “And I'm kind of in this space where I'm struggling because it needs to be very concise. And it needs to be about, like, one or two ideas. And I tend to work all over the place.”

Mahan has found that creating his work first and research second has allowed him to conceptualize his work and later reflect.

“I was listening to an artist talk the other day on a podcast about artists who is a teacher at Queens University in New York, and he was saying how the academic format is kind of, you have your research and your

concept,” Mahan said. “And then you execute your work based on your research in concept. But I'm kind of on the flip side of that. I kind of execute my work. And I kind of have things, somewhat planned, but it's mostly intuitive. And then after making the work, I reflect on it.”

Currently, Mahan is exploring themes in his artwork such as queerness, spirituality and mental health. These themes have heavily impacted his life as well.

“Under the umbrella of identity, there's queerness, there's mental health, and then there's spirituality, which I think all intersect,” Mahan said. “I was raised in a very religious environment, and then coming out as queer, there's obviously conflict there. And then in the mental health territory, it's interesting, there's a lot of conversation about looking toward being in touch with your spirituality in some way, whatever that means.”

Mahan's focus in art is the visual genre of abstract art, which

includes using shapes, forms and textures to achieve its effects.

“Abstraction is kind of getting up the roots of concept, instead of painting before was about kind of having a window to the world outside,” Mahan said. “But abstraction began finding a way to record what's in your head, mentally.”

Bethany Salisbury, who is also a part of the MFA program here at Winthrop, has had the chance to learn and work with Mahan. This is her first year here at Winthrop, studying studio art. Like Mahan, her art focuses on mental health.

“My work is mostly about mental health, mental illness and the nonhuman signifiers that we use, like animals and plants just sort of symbolizes concepts within our own narrative. And to explain ourselves to other people,” Salisbury said. “So I made my living as a pet portrait artist, but making art, a little bit more about specific disorders using animal symbolism drawing from sort of late antiquity, stories and myths



Jada Strong / The Johnsonian

Mahan is a second year MFA candidate, expecting to graduate next fall semester

to kind of work through this series in particular.”

Salisbury has been working on incorporating animal symbolism with sculpting and had Mahan as a subject in one of her pieces.

“Grant is pretty open about his bipolar disorder. And I love that he's in his own art,” she said. “So I wanted to use people that were open about their mental health issues.”

Salisbury has nothing but high praise for the work that Mahan has done during his time at Winthrop.

“I have a lot of respect for him as a painter and an artist. He has a really hard skill set. So, he's really a very formal painter. So he's very skilled with working with the paint,” Salisbury said.

Salisbury has been able to learn from Mahan as well.

“Even though I feel like I've been a painter

for 20 years, I feel like he knows more about paint in and of itself,” she said. “So I think he has a really great working knowledge of color form, kind of surface-level aesthetics, that then he also brings spirituality.”

Mahan's work has touched his fellow classmates and professors. Professor of sculpture Shaun Cassidy has been working at Winthrop for 23 years and had Mahan in his class last semester.

Cassidy enjoys seeing students bring originality and try new techniques in their work as he has seen with Mahan.

“One of the things that's exciting about working with graduate students at the beginning of their program is they're really trying to explore a lot of different ideas, try new things out, and not just repeat work that they made as an undergrad-

uate,” Cassidy said. “So it was interesting working with Grant, you know, he's an energetic, bright student.”

Cassidy is excited to see Mahan's work continue to excel in the future.

“So last semester, Grant was working in printmaking; he was working in painting. Towards the end, he experimented a little bit with found objects and color,” Cassidy said. “So, it's a very exciting time for a graduate student.”

“He's interested in trying to break down stereotypical approaches to uses of color. I'm particularly excited to see him create larger, more ambitious works that explore a space between painting and sculpture.”

To check out more of Grant's work, you can find him on Instagram, @the.johnsonian.



Visit our website, mytjnow.com, to listen to our podcast, “On Air: The Johnsonian.”



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Socialist Student Union 101

A look into what Winthrop's student socialist organization stands for

JOSH SIMON,
Representative of Winthrop's
Socialist Student Union

The Socialist Student Union is a student-led organization on Winthrop's campus that advocates for a political philosophy called socialism. The organization's purpose is to educate the Winthrop community on socialist principles and to take actions in line with those same principles.

To explore this organization's position, take a look at the socialist view on politics. Through the socialist lens, politics is an arena in which the interests of various classes struggle against one another. A class in this sense is a social class, determined by the way in which individuals in a group make their living.

In the modern capitalist context, there are two classes: the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Under this system, the bourgeoisie are the ones who own the means of production or the means with which resources can be extracted and raw materials are processed. These means of production can be anything from the tools used on a farm, mineral-rich land or a clothing factory.

Essentially, these are the things which are used to make the necessary products of society. The proletariat on the other hand, who

make up the other 90 to 99% of the population, are the ones who actively produce things for society. In other words, the bourgeoisie may own the factory but the proletariats are the ones who make and maintain everything in it.

The latter survives via wages determined by the former, while the former survives via surplus value. Surplus value is an economic term referring to the bourgeoisie profiting from the difference in the cost of production (including wages) and the money they make from selling their product, investing, etc. Since the bourgeoisie are in control of the means of production, they are not only able to just influence politics but create policies in their favor. If the bourgeoisie wishes to stay in the social position they currently occupy, they must wish to maintain this relationship.

Socialists support the political interests of the proletariat or working class, of which students are included. Socialism in general favors the proletariat because they are the ones who make society function and bear the overwhelming burden of its upkeep. A factory without workers is useless just as is a university without students. Since the political interests of the proletariat can only

be won by organized political action, that is the method by which activists try to enact change.

What history has shown time and again is that no institution is neutral because every institution is bound up in production since production is necessary for every branch of life. Therefore, whoever has control over the means of production has control over society.

How does this involve Winthrop? Universities are not exempt from this relationship. In a public university, for instance, most policy-makers are appointed by the state either directly or indirectly.

The state is obviously a political institution, and according to the Socialist Student Union, the state is one which sides almost exclusively with the bourgeoisie in prioritizing the usage of the land, labor and resources of society. Notice how instead of land being utilized for free or affordable housing, it is prioritized for real estate companies to build homes that are sold for profit. This is why there are more houses than homeless people in the United States.

The bourgeoisie are organized for political action through the state, therefore only by organized political action and struggle can the proletariat achieve

political interests. Workers in the United States are beginning to become more conscious of this, with one result being the wave of strikes and unionization that occurred this last year. Workers' unions are a prime example of organized political action on the part of the working class.

In public universities like Winthrop, such impacts of this political situation are seen. On Winthrop's Board of Trustees, for instance, Vice-Chair Kathy Bigham is the wife of the late Republican Party activist Larry Bigham. From when Bigham was first appointed to the present, the South Carolina general assembly has been controlled by the Republican Party, making this appear as a calculated political decision.

This would not be an issue in itself, and an individual may act in any capacity they wish regardless or even in spite of their authorities. However, both the state and the university have shown repeated disregard for the needs of students and workers in favor of unclear, likely private, interests. Ultimately, this makes any appointment by this administration dubious as to whether or not they will support student interests. The consequences of these

political decisions can be seen clearly in the conditions on campus, especially in the dorms as well as conditions in South Carolina more generally.

Some may say that this is the purpose of the media and our learning institutions. As stated in this article, institutions are not neutral. It has already been established the ways in which public education can be hijacked by the owning class, but the media is very easily manipulated as well.

Most mainstream media is owned by international corporate conglomerates, the consequences of which can be seen in what events they choose to cover and how they cover them. Fox News is a very obvious example of biased reporting for a bourgeois agenda. However, even supposedly factual media regularly distorts reality. During the past two years, for instance, the biggest protests in human history took place in India with over 250 million participants, spearheaded by worker's groups and communist parties.

Despite the overwhelming size of these protests, they got scarce coverage in mainstream American media during their height. These media companies gave even less coverage to the socialists intimately

involved in this struggle who oftentimes put their personal safety at risk. Winthrop students may have noticed fliers distributed by the Socialist Student Union around campus with clippings on the front and an article on the back. This was their attempt to expose the student body and others to non-corporate owned media as well to give a socialist view on the issues at hand.

What has been outlined here is a rough sketch of this organization's political beliefs. The organization's ultimate concern is for the wellbeing of the people as a whole and they believe that this is achieved by giving political authority over to the people. Just like a union is organized against the tyranny of their boss, they believe that the working class must be organized against any tyranny that faces the public from any governing body. To do this, the people must be organized towards concise political action for their interests, supported by the guidance of continued political education and revolutionary theory. The Socialist Student Union invites everyone to become involved with this struggle.



Part Four: Somewhere in Antarctica

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