

# The Johnsonian

Winthrop University  
Rock Hill, SC  
February 9, 2022

## Happy Valentine's Day, Winthrop!

Our beautiful campus is a popular venue for weddings, engagements and couples' photography



Photo Courtesy to Keith and Lakyn Photography

Josh and Peri had their wedding in McBryde Hall on July 17, 2021; Left picture taken outside McBryde; Right picture taken in McBryde



Photo Courtesy to Keith and Lakyn Photography



Photo Courtesy to Sunny Hutchinson-Hunter

Nat and Rachel were married on July 5, 2014. Photo above taken at campus' main entrance



Photo Courtesy to Megan Kaley Photography

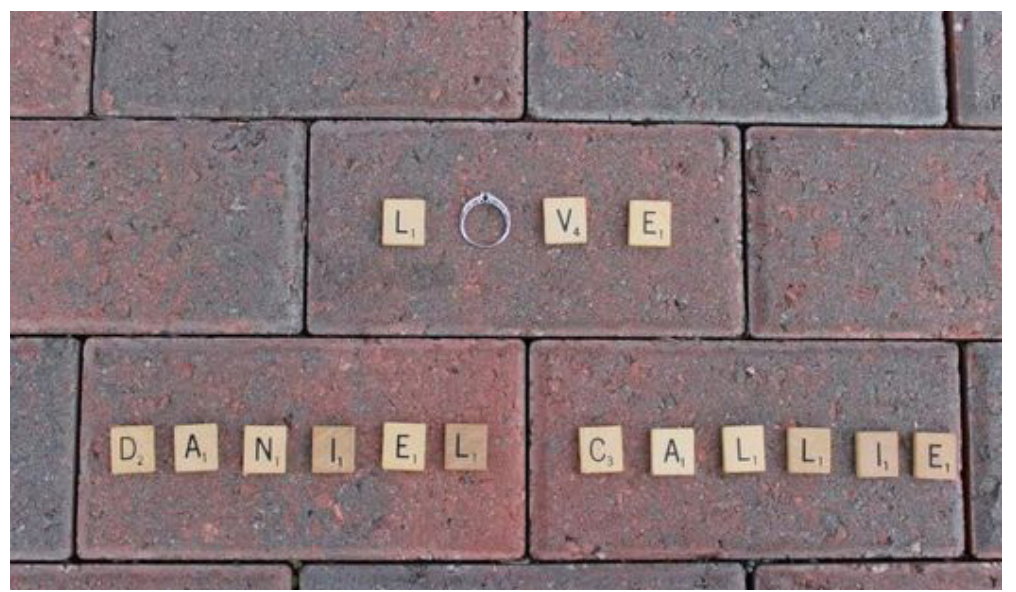


Photo Courtesy to Megan Kaley Photography

Daniel and Callie were married on campus on June 8, 2013; Photo directly above taken on Scholars Walk; Second right-most photo taken at fountain near Tillman

## Presidential finalists introduced to Winthrop community



### Edward Serna

- President of University of Maine Farmington
- Doctorate of Education from University of Alabama
- Master of Science from Auburn University
- Master of Science from Clemson University
- Bachelor of Science from Winthrop



### Martin Roth

- President of University of Charleston in West Virginia
- Ph.D. from University of Pittsburgh
- MBA from University of Pittsburgh
- Bachelor's degree from University of Pittsburgh



### Neal Weaver

- President of Georgia Southwestern State University
- Ph.D. from University of Oklahoma
- MBA from Southeastern Oklahoma State University
- Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Panhandle State University

### Presidential Search Committee announced Friday, Feb. 4, that they narrowed down their search to three finalists

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Edward Serna from the University of Maine Farmington, Martin Roth from the University of Charleston in West Virginia and Neal Weaver from Georgia Southwestern State University were announced as finalists for the position of

Winthrop University's 12th president by the Presidential Search Committee.

According to a press release, "Each of the finalists will spend multiple days on the Winthrop campus, where they will complete a robust interview schedule, make a presentation to the cam-

pus community and attend a public meet and greet. Serna will be on campus Feb. 6-8; Roth on Feb. 8-10; and Weaver on Feb. 10-11."

The finalists were chosen after an eight-month search process that the board undertook with the assistance of Myers McRae, a Georgia-based higher

education consulting firm.

"Chairman McCall, I have waited for this moment," said Presidential Search Committee Chair Julie Fowler during the Feb. 6 Board of Trustees meeting. "The work of the Presidential Search Committee [has] officially ended. We did what we

set out to do. We had a robust, diverse pool of candidates that we have diligently worked to whittle down to a final three that we want to bring to campus and introduce to our beloved Winthrop University and to the Rock Hill community and York County."

Fowler said the board

will make its choice within two weeks, with an announcement tentatively by the end of the month. The new president will begin work on July 1, according to the press release.

The Johnsonian will continue to cover all WU president-related matters. Contact us with related opinions.



Graphic Courtesy to SCEA

CSL approves new education student organization  
NEWS, pg. 2



Graphic Courtesy to Maggie Clayton

Jan. 29/31 Blotter - Vehicle break-in & possible larceny  
NEWS, pg. 3



To Mara Carmichael/The Johnsonian

Winthrop beats NC A&T 64-54 on Feb. 3  
SPORTS, pg. 4



Photo Courtesy to Anna G. Dean

COVID's impact on Winthrop arts community  
AC&T, pg. 7



Bryn Eddy/The Johnsonian

Commentary on three presidential finalists by EIC Bryn Eddy  
OPINION, pg. 8



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### CSL approves new education student organization

#### The South Carolina Education Association gains a new chapter at Winthrop

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The Winthrop University Council of Student Leaders approved the chartering of a university chapter for the South Carolina Education Association, a nonprofit education advocacy organization aimed at supporting education majors.

The new Winthrop chapter will be titled "Aspiring Educators," and it aims to unite teacher candidates to learn more about the teaching career as well as offer programs and benefits to members, according to faculty advisor and associate professor of social studies education Margaret Gillikin.

"The SCEA offers members support and relationships with other teachers, opportunities to advocate for change in schools, and professional liability insurance of \$3 million

for each member. This latter benefit covers work-related issues and access to attorneys to handle those issues at no cost," Gillikin said.

"We will offer programming about issues related to teaching and collaborate with teacher candidates on other college campuses. Possible programs might be on working with parents, improving teaching skills, or becoming informed about legislation that impacts schools, teachers, and students."

Winthrop sophomore and middle level education major Amber Downs advocated for the SCEA and answered questions from the CSL prior to the charter's unanimous approval. Downs said that the group plans to eventually cooperate with fellow WU pro-education organizations such as the National Educational Association and



Chase Duncan/The Johnsonian

Amber Downs answers questions and concerns from the Council of Student Leaders

other groups to provide aid to a wider range of student educators.

"I'm so thankful to the CSL and them giving us the opportunity to start this organization," Downs said. "I'm so excited for the future and networking and working together

to advocate for South Carolina college educators."

Downs said the organization will have its first meeting on March 3, and will be held in person as well as on Zoom. The membership is free to teacher ed candidates, accord-

ing to Gillikin.

"I believe all teachers and teacher candidates should join a professional organization like this one," Gillikin said. "As Sherry East, the South Carolina President of the SCEA, stated, 'Doctors would never practice medicine

without liability insurance.' Teachers should not enter the classroom without protections. In addition, we can accomplish so much more together than any one of us can accomplish alone."

### The conflict between Russia and Ukraine escalates

#### What started in 2014 with Crimea's annexation has begun to heat up again as Russia mobilizes near Ukraine's border

SPENCER HORTON  
Staff Writer

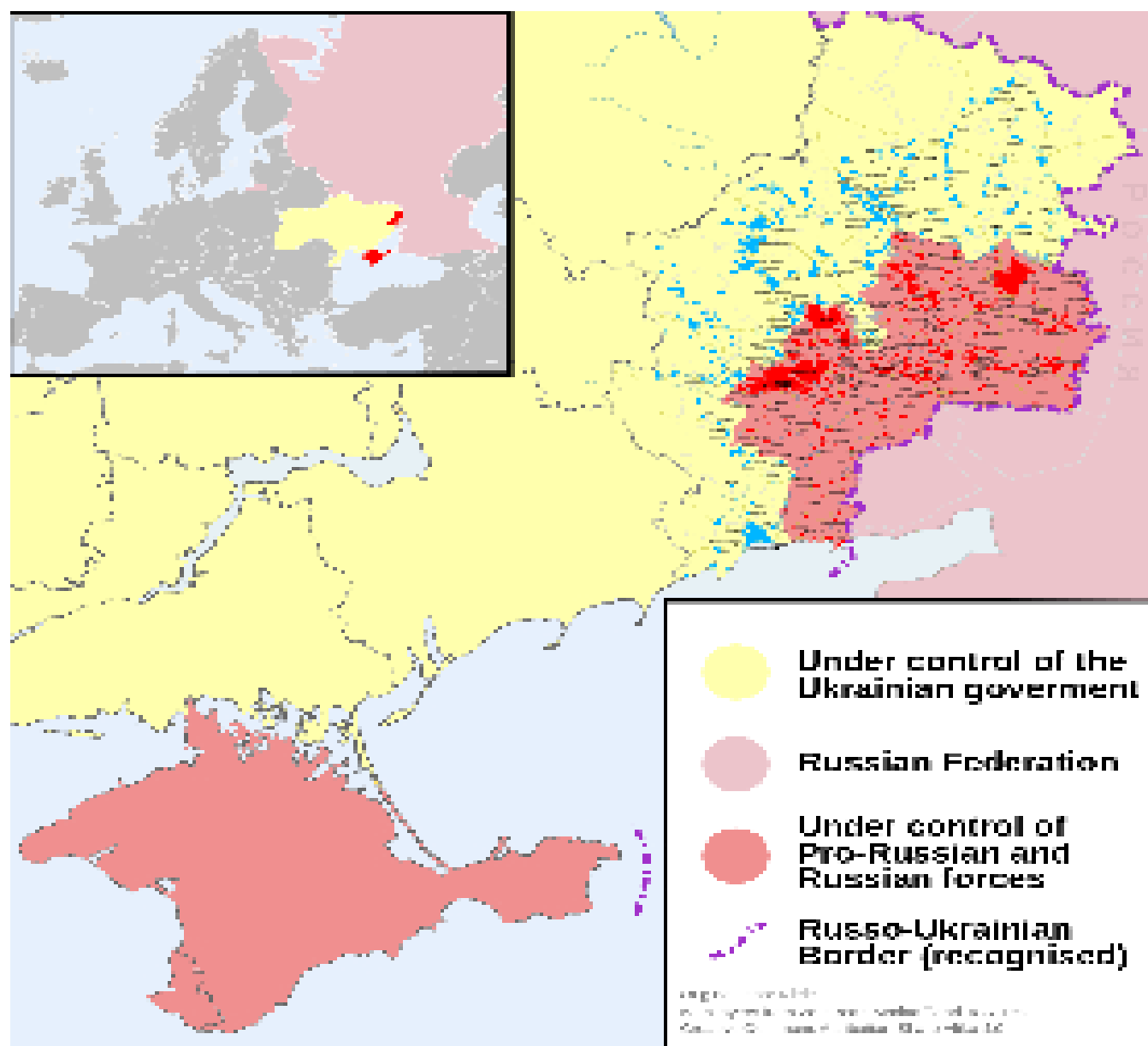
Tensions between Russia and Ukraine have continued to escalate after diplomatic talks between the U.S. and Russia failed to bring an end to the crisis.

What started in 2014 with Russia's annexation of the Ukrainian region of Crimea has evolved into what many fear will become a war with global repercussions.

President Joe Biden said that if Russia invaded Ukraine, it would be "the most consequential thing that's happened in the world, in terms of war and peace, since World War II."

"It really is incredibly dangerous," said associate professor of history, Dave Pretty. "As someone who teaches a course on the first World War, it is very reminiscent of the summer of 1914. Everyone knew then there was a dangerous situation, but no one quite seemed to think just how horrible the possible outcome could be."

Though the conflict started in 2014, it started to calm down in 2016 with few major moves being made until March 2021 when Russia brought 100,000 soldiers and military equipment near Ukraine's border.



Courtesy of Wikipedia Creative Commons

Map detailing areas of conflict in the crisis so far

The troops were partially removed by June but were brought back in Oct., a move made by Russian President Vladimir Putin in order to "study" Ukraine and determine what Russia's next move will be.

Putin's purpose for doing this is to try and keep Ukraine out of NATO over fears that they would attempt to reclaim Crimea.

"Let's imagine

Ukraine is a NATO member and starts these military operations," Putin said. "Are we supposed to go to war with the NATO bloc? Has anyone given that any thought? Apparently not."

"Putin has long wanted control over his 'near abroad,' as Russians tend to officially refer to the former Soviet republics like Ukraine, Belarus and

Kazakhstan," said Pretty. "Putin is very scared of being encircled by enemies."

In response to this crisis, the U.S. and the United Kingdom have evacuated their embassies in Ukraine capital Kyiv, a move that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called a "mistake" as he claimed that there is no incoming war between Russia and Ukraine

and commented on the impact of these fears on Ukraine's economy.

"They're saying tomorrow is the war. This means panic in the market, panic in the financial sector," Zelenskyy said. "How much does it cost our country? We have been in these situations for eight years. We have learned to live with this and develop with this."

In a situation where

war does come, there have been varied opinions on whether or not the U.S. should be involved.

"What does the U.S. do if it does go in?" said Pretty. "This is even dicier. Becoming involved can, by many predictable paths, lead to the third World War. That is the worst-case scenario, by far."

But while the very worst case comes from getting involved, there may be more probable negative outcomes from not getting involved. A loss of prestige from inaction goes far beyond just national pride."

"I would be a supporter of U.S. involvement," said sophomore English major, Paige Abercrombie. "I do wonder though if there's anyone geographically closer that would be able to provide support and if that could possibly even be delivered in a more timely manner."

"I feel like we've had a bad history of joining things that we weren't supposed to join," said sophomore political science major, Muluken Hass. "But with the way that Russia's acting I feel like it's in the best interest of Ukraine for us to try and diplomatically help them out. Hopefully, we don't go to war but I don't know what's going to happen at this point."

# Degree Works gets a facelift

## Ease of use and mobile friendliness among goals of new update

JULIUS DEMUNN  
Staff Writer

Degree Works was updated on Feb. 4 to make its user interface more user-friendly by introducing collapsible blocks and optimizing it for mobile devices.

The tool, which is located in the online student services platform Wingspan, helps students look at classes taken and those still needed for graduation while also providing an overview of their academic history.

Registrar Gina Jones sent out an email on Feb. 2 announcing the update.

The essence of the

tool is not changing, according to Jones. Rather, a change to the look of the tool will make it more accessible, more mobile friendly and easier to understand.

Though the update is only now being implemented at Winthrop, it has been available since last year.

"As with all software, it gets updated from time to time. The company that owns Degree Works, Ellucian, told us two years ago that this was coming, and it was released last year," Jones said. "Given our challenges surrounding COVID, we decided to wait to implement the changes."

The Office of Records and Registration will be holding two informational sessions about navigating through the new update, according to Jones' email. Academic advisors and professors will also be given training on the new updates.

Jones said she can see a clear, visible difference between the old version and new version of Degree Works.

"The new version allows the collapse of the different area blocks for ease of scrolling. It will look a lot better on mobile phones and tablets. Some of the administrative parts are different, and it is not as

colorful as the previous version, but that's just a personal preference," she said.

Students such as Dominick McCrea, a junior social work major, welcome how mobile friendly the new Degree Works is.

"Before, I was never able to pull up Degree Works on my phone, which was frustrating when needing to view it for something and not having access to a computer," McCrea said.

Biology major Shantonia Franklin said she wishes this update, or something like it, could have come out sooner.

"The old version used to be so congest-

ed with words that it made things confusing at times to read and understand," she said.

Jones said she wants to push the use of Degree Works after this new update, as not all students utilize the service.

"We're going to be communicating with students more about the importance of Degree Works, especially leading up to the advising period," Jones said. "I would hope that students would be interested in making sure they're on the right path towards their degree."

## Police Blotter



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On Jan. 29 reporting Officer Sgt. Reid responded to a vehicle break-in. When the R/O arrived on the scene, he met with the victim, a Winthrop student, who explained that she parked her vehicle in the Courtyard parking lot earlier that morning. She stated that when she visited her vehicle later in the morning, she found that the car had been rummaged through and the glove box was left open.

The victim told the R/O that she checked her vehicle but nothing was taken. The R/O advised her that he would return to the station and check the video surveillance to see if the cameras caught anything. The R/O checked the cameras but the particular camera where the victim's vehicle was located was not recording.

Sgt. Reid met with the victim again on Jan. 30 and explained that the camera in the parking lot where she was parked in the Courtyard was not working and didn't pick up anything. Sgt. Reid asked the victim if he had permission to close the case with the promise of reopening it if RHPD came up with some suspects, which she agreed to.

On Jan. 31, the R/O was informed by Dispatch that there had been a possible larceny. The R/O met with the victim and her mother who informed the R/O that five items were unaccounted for since she recently moved out of her dorm room and had gone to collect her belongings. The victim stated the items in question were a humidifier, a t-shirt, various cups, a gray bowl and a Memory foam mattress cover. At this time, the R/O explained and presented the victim with a Victims Notification Form and informed them if they had any other issues to contact the R/O or Chief Charles Yearta.



Send in your campus photos for a chance to be featured in the  
**Johnsonian**

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Comments?  
Suggestions?

Let us  
know!

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Graduate-transfer Drew Buggs (No. 11) attempts a three-pointer during Thursday's 64-54 victory over North Carolina A&T

To'Mara Carmichael/The Johnsonian

## Winthrop wins soundly in latest two men's basketball victories

### Eagles earn first double-digit wins in conference play while missing three key players

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Despite trailing 31-25 at halftime, Winthrop earned a 64-54 win at home over North Carolina A&T State on Thursday.

The team's first double-digit victory over a Division I opponent all season, Thursday's game was especially impressive because the Eagles were without usual starters Patrick Good and Cory Hightower, and consistent rotational player Josh Corbin.

Good was on the bench but not in uniform (medical), while Hightower (medical) and Corbin (personal) were not present.

"Having some guys that weren't here, certainly other guys were given opportunities to play some more minutes and to step up," said head coach Mark Prosser.

One of those play-

ers was sophomore Sin'Cere McMahon, who recorded 13 points in 31 minutes, which he said is probably the most minutes he's played in his collegiate career.

"We've got a lot of guys that can just come in and probably start on any other team. Playing hard together, I think we're probably the best team in this league, no problem," McMahon said.

McMahon praised teammate Drew Buggs, who led the team with 36 minutes, recording five points, four rebounds, and dishing out eight assists.

"Drew's probably one of the best leaders I've ever played with. He's all about the team. Not a selfish bone in his body," McMahon said.

McMahon had his best performance of the season at Longwood on Jan. 29 when he scored 17 points while shoot-

ing 5-of-7 from three-point range. The Eagles didn't ride McMahon's effort to a win though, as Winthrop lost to the Lancers 92-88.

McMahon said Winthrop may have benefited from that loss in some ways.

"I think actually that might have helped us a little bit, just because nobody on this team likes losing. That was a big game. We feel like we're better than them," he said.

"We didn't quite show that as a team on Saturday, so it was just a big emphasis to come in here and play really hard and come out with a [win]."

Another player who stepped up on Thursday was junior Jamal King, who finished with a season-high seven points in just 12 minutes off the bench.

"He's a young man that has done a lot of really good things in a



To'Mara Carmichael/The Johnsonian

Micheal Anumba (No. 3) drives toward the basket

Winthrop uniform. He's a really good player, and given the opportunity tonight, he showed that again," Prosser said.

"He was huge, especially down that stretch where we're trying to fight for the lead. He had [a layup] around the rim and those two free throws. Gives you a three. He's going to be physical, he's going to guard," Prosser said.

Winthrop is now 9-0 at home this season,

which McMahon largely credits the fans for.

"They bring it every night and just make it hard for the opposing team," he said.

Thursday's game versus NC A&T brought out a season-high 2,192 fans, topping the previous high of 1,803 recorded on Jan. 22 when the Eagles hosted Gardner-Webb.

Following Thursday's 10-point win, the Eagles traveled to Hampton, collecting a

12-point win in a 69-57 victory over the Pirates.

Winthrop was again without Good, Hightower and Corbin. Prosser said after Thursday's game that he expects all three players to be back, and hopes it will be soon.

The Eagles return home for a two-game homestand this week, hosting Radford on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Presbyterian on Saturday at 4:30 p.m.



To'Mara Carmichael/The Johnsonian

Students get on their feet to cheer on the Eagles



To'Mara Carmichael/The Johnsonian

Many student-athletes were honored at halftime



To'Mara Carmichael/The Johnsonian

Thursday's game was on ESPNU, drawing lots of fans

# Baseball picked sixth in preseason poll

## Winthrop receives one first-place vote despite low placement overall

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For the 2022 baseball season the Eagles have been picked sixth in the Big South Conference, placing them 19 points above Charleston Southern and 10 points below Garner-Webb.

Regardless of where the Eagles are placed, Head Coach Tom Riginos “[doesn’t] put a lot of stock into the preseason poll,” as he wants “the motivation to create organically” for the team.

“We have had years where we’ve been the conference favorite, where we are placed in the top forty, and years where we are not. The only thing that matters is where we finish at the end of the year. We want to be the top team in the conference, ranked in the top thirty or twenty-five at the end of the year,” Riginos said.

Last season the team was picked to finish second in the preseason

poll, and ended up finishing the 2021 season 16-21 in the Big South Conference.

“It’s definitely motivation and we take note of it, but beyond that it goes in our rear-view. Nothing’s decided on paper; there’s a reason we go out and play the games, and that’s what we’re focused on and excited for,” said graduate player Josh Bookbinder.

Bookbinder, a right-handed pitcher, is ready for his first season at Winthrop following three years at Newberry College and an elbow injury last spring.

“It seems like the guys on the team show up every day ready to put in as much work as possible to get better, and everybody seems to completely trust the guy next to them,” Bookbinder said.



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communications

The Eagles finished with a 16-21 record against conference opponents last season

“There’s a ton of competitiveness in the locker room and there’s a sense that everybody has something to contribute, no matter what their role, position, age, class, or any other qualifier. The coaches are great, and work harder than anybody else to help us get better,” Bookbinder said.

In preparing for this upcoming season, Coach Riginos focused on reestablishing the team’s identity, core values, and work ethic. Knowing that success

on the field often correlates with success off the field, Coach Riginos emphasizes the importance of his players excelling academically.

“This was the fifth consecutive semester we have over a 3.0 GPA. We felt good going into the holidays and coming back on Jan. 10th when we started practicing again. I feel really good about where our guys are right now,” Riginos said.

In March 2021 the Eagles were forced to

push pause on a couple of their series games due to Covid taking its toll on the team. Unlike those two weeks of multiple players missing practices, the team is currently healthy with all players in attendance as of last Saturday.

“I think we also know that it can hit you at any time and we’ve got to be prepared to deal with it, but let’s hope we don’t have to deal with it,” Riginos said.

Opening the season on Friday Feb. 18th the Eagles will welcome Eastern Michigan to the Winthrop field. This season’s line up also consists of both home and away games against Clemson and South Carolina.

“We are very fortunate that both those head coaches have agreed to come to Rock

Hill, so I think from a community standpoint, a student standpoint, and an attendance standpoint of these two games, we are really excited. Now we just have to hope for great weather,” Riginos said.

Riginos is also ready for the challenge of competing against non-conference team Liberty this season, as they are now a top 25 ranked team.

“That’s going to be a very competitive weekend,” Riginos said, “and then our conference has gotten better from top to bottom. It’s not the same Big South as it was ten years ago.”

Riginos continues to encourage students to come support the “good bunch of young men that’s going to play hard every day.”

“I can’t wait for opening day, and I’m looking forward to seeing fans in the stands and winning some ball games,” Bookbinder said.

Happy Valentine’s Day from The Johnsonian’s sports editors! Share these valentines with the Winthrop sports fans in your life.

Valentine, you're a REY of sunshine

To:

From:



### STUDENT MEDIA POLL

Week 13

Matthew Shealy's votes

Michael Covil's votes

1. Auburn
2. Gonzaga
3. Houston
4. Purdue
5. Kentucky
6. Duke
7. Arizona
8. Kansas
9. Providence
10. Illinois
11. UCLA
12. Texas Tech
13. Wisconsin
14. Michigan State
15. Baylor
16. Marquette
17. Villanova
18. Connecticut
19. Ohio St.
20. Arkansas
21. USC
22. Murray St.
23. St. Mary's
24. Wyoming
25. Davidson

1. Auburn
2. Houston
3. Gonzaga
4. Duke
5. Kentucky
6. Purdue
7. Providence
8. Texas Tech
9. Arizona
10. Illinois
11. Marquette
12. Villanova
13. Kansas
14. UCLA
15. Ohio St.
16. Wisconsin
17. Baylor
18. Michigan St.
19. Murray St.
20. Arkansas
21. Wake Forest
22. Boise St.
23. Wyoming
24. Tennessee
25. Colorado St.

I'm pretty FONDA you ;)

To:

From:

My heart BURNS for you

To:

From:



Pixabay

With the global rise of streaming services and the simultaneous increase in film production, the number of romance movies has doubled since 1998

## The importance of romance films

### How romance films have influenced our expectations

JADA STRONG  
Staff Writer

The aspect of romance on the screen has always been a factor of what viewers consume in media in almost every form of entertainment. Whether the romance genre is enjoyable to watch or not, everyone likes the idea of a couple being able to make it.

Professor Mark Nortz, senior instructor of the mass communication department, believes that the idea of giving viewers hope is what draws their attention to the romance plot.

"I think that the genre can cross so many different types of film, there's always

some kind of romantic element that really brings people in," Nortz said. "I think people like to be able to root for a couple, you know, they're going to make it or, you know, maybe they need to move on. But I think people like to get caught up in that. And I just think it's interesting that you can pretty much apply romantic films to just about any type of style of film."

When people watch a movie or a tv show, they seek entertainment, an escape from reality. Romance creates a way to bring joy and happiness to any story and has the

idea of love serve as a conquest to conflict.

"I think it's popular because people, they need to know that there's some hope there. To see that romance can thrive in adverse situations, they always say love conquers all, people like to believe that romance can bring you together, it can lift you up," Nortz said.

"I mean, can you imagine a movie, where the person never ever connects with anybody and like, every day is a disaster. Or every time they get married, they get divorced. People would just get tired of it. They need to know that there's hope, and

romantic movies are the romance genre that gives people hope. Again, everybody likes a good thriller, and everybody likes a good action film, but I think people tend to remember the little bit of romance that happens within some of these films because it gives them hope," Nortz said.

While romance films can bring a certain amount of tenderness to the viewing experience, it is always important to remember that entertainment is not reality. There is a theatrical and hyped-up element to every story being played on screen.

Freshman musical

theater major Emmanuel McDowell will be in the upcoming play, "Pipeline," here at Winthrop.

McDowell, who is used to playing characters in an idealized fantasy world, has never swayed his view on how different romance is in real life versus on-screen.

"Romance in media is very different from what we see in our day-to-day adult life. For example, a lot of musical theater shows and things like that play up the love to be very kiddish and very innocent and beautiful. You don't go through that with your day-to-day life," McDowell said.

"I've never gone into relationships thinking my life is going to be a Hallmark movie. But I did expect it to be a little easier."

McDowell shares how romance films often hype up a meet-cute and that fated connection with a stranger rarely applies to real life.

"When you're dating or in the streets, you don't walk up to people and be like, 'Hey!' It's more so, 'Oh, let me see if I can figure out their Instagram, start following them, then DM them. Or let me see if I can find them on Tinder,'" McDowell said.

"It's never like in real life, things of that nature. And a lot of movies, they play that up. But I never went into a relationship thinking that everything was going to be sunshine and perfect. But they do portray that in most movies that I watched."

## Alumni Spotlight: Cody Clunan, '14

### Winthrop alum shares Winthrop experience

SAM HYATT  
Staff Writer

Winthrop alum Cody Clunan shared details about his time as a transfer student after transferring from Tri County Tech to Winthrop University.

"When I came to Winthrop, I was lucky enough to know people already there," Clunan said.

During his time at Winthrop, Clunan was involved in clubs and in campus life, including both the Winthrop Outdoor Adventure Club and Paintball Club.

"The Winthrop Outdoor Adventure Club was a lot of fun because we were able to plan a ski trip to the Boone area for a long weekend. Also, I got into the paintball club through several friends at the tail end of my Winthrop time," Clunan said.

Aside from clubs, Clunan stayed busy on

campus by attending sporting events and other social gatherings especially during election cycles on campus.

"The Coliseum was packed for big games, and the atmosphere was fun," Clunan said.

While reflecting on his time at Winthrop, Clunan remembers a massive snowstorm that took place during his first week on campus.

"The campus quickly turned into a campus-wide snowball fight in front of DiGs," Clunan said. "The last good one I was in, we had some friends from UNCC come to Winthrop and ended up getting snowed in by southern standards. After we all woke up the next morning, we tried to venture out which then caused my roommate's BMW to get stuck."

Another fun memory Clunan has involved him and his friends

smoking a pig during homecoming weekend.

"My friend and I come from families who liked making BBQ. My friend's dad owned a large livestock company and would give us a pig to cook. We did it one year on a whim and it took off after that," Clunan said. "We did an open invitation for free, so there's honestly no telling how many people came because word spread fast. Pat Kelsey came to it the first year as head coach because our friend was a manager for the team."

Clunan also shared that during his time at Winthrop, the Harlem Shake was popular on social media and campus, along with the Winthrop Worm Twitter page being well known.

"My roommate and one of his friends made the Harlem Shake video that's on YouTube on Scholars Walk," Clunan



Cody Clunan cooks a hog for homecoming

said.

In addition to the rise in social media and the epidemic of inchworms on campus that fell from the trees onto students passing by, the Winthrop worm Twitter page became popular among students.

"It used to rain worms basically," Clunan said.

After graduating in December 2014 with a degree in sociology, Clunan moved to Charlotte for work where he lived with some friends. Now Clunan is a police

officer in the Greenville area.

"My favorite part now is dealing with mental health issues and fraud cases. I have gotten to go to a week-long class that NAMI does for law enforcement called Crisis Intervention Training and another class called the Crisis/Hostage Negotiator class. Those classes really open up a new way to talk to people in a crisis situation," Clunan said.

Due to his work,

Clunan has not had the opportunity to be as involved as an alum as he would like. However, after getting a new job, he hopes to become more involved.

In addition to working in law enforcement, Clunan is working towards earning his MBA.

"Knowing what I know now, I would not change anything because it set me on the path that I am on now," Clunan said.



Scholars Walk brick reads, "Will you marry me?" with three hearts carved beneath; brick can be found in front of Crawford

# What is Wordle?

## A new game called Wordle is currently sweeping social media, but what exactly is it?

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A new game has been taking over social media for the last few weeks because of its creative challenge and addictive gameplay. Wordle has become a hit sensation as more and more people discover the game and compete. Wordle is a relatively newer game created by software engineer Josh Wardle. It is a competitive game where the player has six attempts to guess a singular five-letter word. If the letter is included in the final word and is in the right place, the tile

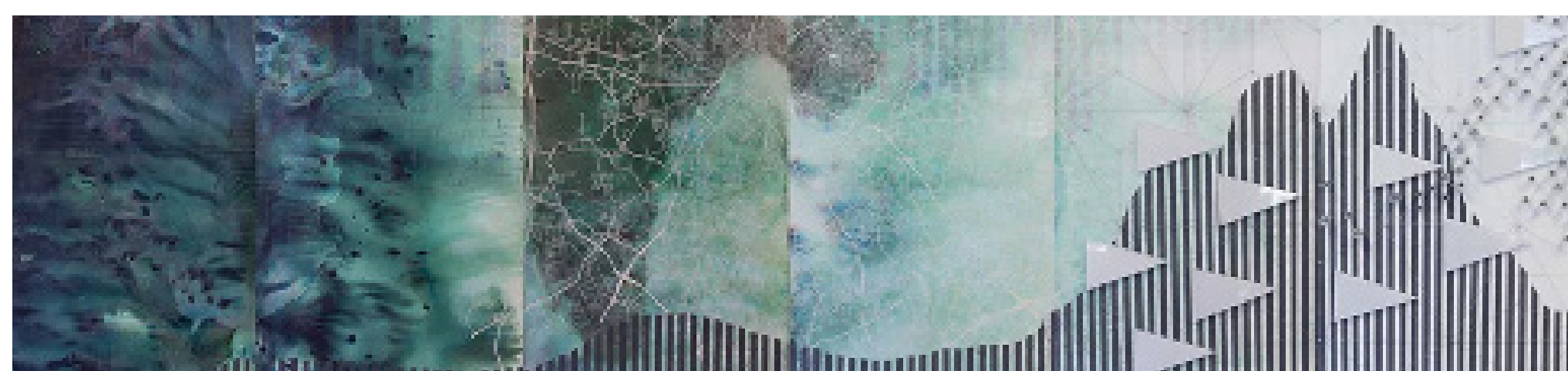
will turn green. If the tile turns yellow, that means the letter is included in the word, but is not in the right place. If the tile turns grey, that means the letter is not included in the mystery word at all. Since its release to the public in October of 2021, the game has become a smash-hit sensation shared all over the world. When it was first released, only 90 people were playing it, according to The New York Times. Two months later, almost 300,000 people were playing. Many different websites theorized that the game became popular

because of its simplicity; the simple challenge, the easier way of sharing results, and the fact that it does not take very long to play. "I think people kind of appreciate that there's this thing online that's just fun," Wardle said in an interview with The New York Times. "It's not trying to do anything shady with your data or your eyeballs. It's just a game that's fun." Even Winthrop students and faculty have become addicted to the games. "At first, the trend was kind of confusing," sophomore illustration major Michael Yelton

said. "Just seeing all the colored squares on Twitter, but looking into it, I found it's just a simple little word game. It's also a fun way to exercise your brain." English professor Jo Koster said that the game was intriguing and became hooked after one round. "Wordle is a simple and fun mental exercise that challenges me to recognize patterns in words," Koster said. "I like to do it first thing in the morning so I can kick-start my brain for the day." "I think it has become more popular because of viral messaging,"

Koster said. "Lots of people started talking about it on lots of platforms, and The New York Times and CNN and People magazine started writing about it, which has just accelerated the popularity." Wordle is currently a free-to-play website. With The New York Times having purchased the game on Jan. 31, it remains to be seen what will become of the site. The word changes every day, so be prepared for any five-letter word to pop up. "Some days it seems easier than others, and you'll often see a lot of people posting online

on a day when the solution is particularly hard," Koster said. "It totally depends, of course, on what five-letter word you decide to start with. "And some days you just get lucky; this week one of my starting word guesses turned out to be the solution, so I solved it in one pass. That almost never happens. It was fun seeing my friends' responses." Winthrop University's Facebook page even featured a post playing off of the format of Wordle. The word used in the post was "eagle."



Anna G. Dean's body of work titled, "One Year of Covid," made with COVID-19 vaccine vials among other materials. Courtesy of Anna G Dean

# COVID's impact on the Winthrop arts community

## Winthrop alumni shares Winthrop experience

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After the decade-defining COVID-19 pandemic, the arts community has been navigating the many obstacles that the virus has placed in front of it. Department of Fine Arts Chair and associate professor of fine arts with knowledge in the area of emerging technologies in the arts, Karen Oremus said, "I think many of us can think outside of the box when it comes to the home studio. Shaun Cassidy, for example, taught sculpture remotely and had students make work with the materials in the natural environment around them. Myles Calvert taught printmaking with take-home kits and presses. He even had a project where students screen-printed imagery onto the ground with flour." Assistant professor of fine arts Stephanie Sutton with a specialization in photography and time-based media said, "There is a newfound appreciation for

hearing the same things and being able to move around one another as we make. I have seen new interest in analog processes like sculpture and darkroom photography. For the students who were here before the pandemic, they seem particularly energetic about being back in the studio with faculty after weathering the storm together." Sutton's work has been concerned with isolation and how the screen can reflect or mediate individual lived experiences, but the pandemic's impact of social connection, the use of nonverbal language, and the lack of facial expression have propelled her research. "I am curious about the phenomenon of looking at the compulsion to look at your own square in Zoom over others when talking yet longing for full-face conversations in person again. The role that my preferred medium of performance for the camera has helped us manage social disconnection with platforms

like TikTok, Zoom and dating apps," Sutton said. Many visual artists were forced to readjust because of the pandemic, sparking an influx in online exhibitions and outlets to sell and share their work from home. "The rise of NFTs also offered new opportunities for artists to make income - if they were tech-savvy and willing to take a risk in an untested market. During lockdown, art collectors were stuck at home, unable to go out to galleries but they were also spending lots of money to make their homes more comfortable - which meant buying more art. Artists who were able to be flexible and shift quickly had record sales during lockdown. Artists who were not able to reinvent their market did not fare so well," said Winthrop University CreatorSpace Interdisciplinary Technology Lab Coordinator, Anna Dean. Dean completed her residency at the McColl Center in a partnership with Atrium health

where she created her body of work titled, "One Year of Covid." "Covid had a really interesting impact on my personal work. In March 2020, I was installing my MFA thesis exhibition here at Winthrop. All the pieces I had been constructing were so large that I had never even seen them all assembled. I had been working on this body of work for three years, and I was up on a ladder, installing a projector in the gallery when they came around campus and told me I had to leave because the governor just shut down the state of SC. I went home and spent two days laying in my backyard - kind of in shock, trying to figure out what I was going to do with my life since I was not going to graduate, and my summer solo exhibition that I scheduled in another gallery was obviously not going to happen either," Dean said. "I saw an advertisement for an artist residency at the McColl center that was a partnership with Atrium Health. I applied and was amazed that I

was selected for the residency. My project during my residency was an investigation into the impact of Covid on the Charlotte community. I spent months interviewing front-line workers at Atrium. I interviewed Dr. Passeretti, infectious disease expert, who was the first person in NC to get the vaccine. While I was interviewing her, I asked her, 'What do you do with the empty vaccine vials?' She agreed to save them for me." Weeks later with over 6,000 empty vaccine vials in her studio, Dean was able to visit the mass vaccination event at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte where she witnessed 20,000 people receive the second dose of the vaccine. "It was an incredibly emotional event, and I am forever grateful to have been a witness to that moment in history," Dean said. Using the empty vaccine vials to build a sculpture and a large twelve-foot panel, incorporating data related to the pandemic, Atrium purchased both

of Dean's pieces and they will be installed on Atrium's new campus later this year. Dean made two more of the vaccine vial sculptures. One of which will be on display at the Mint Museum in Charlotte from March through June, as part of the Coined in the South exhibition. "I think the entire art department was forced to take a step back from the resources and space we have on campus. We had to think of more cost-effective materials and find out what we were able to create at home in the space we have available to us, at least in sculpture," Senior art major Devlin Thayne said. With the rise of Zoom and virtual meetings, artists have been expanding their Art Talks to larger audiences. "Now, I regularly attend talks by artists in galleries all over the world," Dean said. "We can make great art in solitude, but we make much better art when we have the support of our creative community of faculty and peers," Oremus said.

# 'Sounds about white.' Winthrop community not surprised by university's seemingly failed commitment to diversity as shown in presidential finalists

Commentary from Editor-in-Chief Bryn Eddy on three finalists for the position of Winthrop University's 12th president  
\*TW: Mention of sexual assault\*

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The Presidential Search Committee has announced the three finalists for the position of Winthrop University's 12th president. All of them are men, and upon first glance, it seemed as though each candidate is white.

"Sounds about white," commented Grace Jones, '15, on the university's Instagram post about the presidential finalists.

During candidate Edward Serna's presentation at Dina's Place on Feb. 7, he said that he is Hispanic, a fact many were not aware of until his mention of it.

Looks can be deceiving, and therefore, we should keep an open mind about the next two candidates, Martin Roth and Neal Weaver.

The next two candidates' professional backgrounds are similar to that of our previous presidents. Both currently serve as presidents of primarily white institutions including the University of Charleston in West Virginia (58% white, 22% unknown, 9% Black, 2% Hispanic, 1% Asian, according to collegesimply.com) and Georgia Southwestern State University (72% white, 23.9% Black, 4.1% other, according to collegefactual.com).

If it comes down to the other two candidates, it appears that (though looks can be deceiving) the next president will blend in with nine of the 11 former presidents, who were all white men — the other two were white women who, combined, served only three years. The other 133 years of Winthrop's history have been led by white men.

Winthrop's 12th president will be the face of not only the university but the Rock Hill and York County communities as well.

When people from outside of the community look at us, they will see an inaccurate depiction of who we are. They will not see LGBTQ people. They will not see differently-abled people, and if Serna is not hired, they will not see diverse people.

Instead, they will see a face that is all too similar to those of our

presidential past. They will see a university that seems unwilling to depart from its confederate history. They will see a campus still decorated with statues of and buildings named after men whose successes were built on the backs of people of color.

"[The diversity of the finalists] definitely came as a shock to me as well since Winthrop is a university that prides itself on diversity and inclusion," said Erin Emiroglu, chair of the Council of Student Leaders. "I was not able to be a part of the application process, so I did not know the candidates until the students did. ... We just learned today that the first candidate is Hispanic, so he is part of a minority group, and a lot of people assumed that he was just this white man. ... I think that even if the candidates are not diverse, as long as they are willing to work towards diversity and inclusion, then there is hope, definitely."

On Winthrop's Instagram, a post was made on Feb. 4 in honor of Black History Month. The post featured four women of color who will be remembered as trailblazers in Winthrop's history. This was the second-most recent post made on the account as of Feb. 7. The most recent post featured the faces of the three presidential finalists.

Seeing this post adjacent to the Black History Month post presents an obvious irony.

Cynthia Plair Roddey, '67, one of the women featured in the Black History Month post, said, "I just wondered where the diversity was. I did not see a female. ... I know [the university] wants to get the best-qualified person ... but they should be inclusive in their nomination of candidates. I would think that at this point in time, that we would be progressing towards equity and that they would include [women] in their recommendations."

The university employed the help of Myers McRae, a Georgia-based executive search and consulting firm, in the search for presidential candi-

dates.

"With Myers McRae's help, the presidential search committee was pleased to assemble the most professionally qualified finalist pool for a Winthrop presidency in recent years. All of these finalists mentioned the great potential they see at Winthrop, and we are thrilled to be hosting them," said Presidential Search Committee Chair Julie Fowler.

The Myers McRae team assembled a profile that outlines what the 12th president should be like.

In the profile, it was written that at Winthrop, "[u]ndergraduates represent 48 states and 31 countries with diverse students comprising 45% of the student population."

It was also written that the presidential candidate must have a "demonstrated record of accomplishment and impact in advancing issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, encouraging a culture of and acceptance for diverse thought and comfortably participating in and championing open dialogue on matters of importance to include a spectrum of political opinions."

Whether the university used Myers McRae in order to have an unbiased interview process or to just receive a more experienced opinion, it was an inconsiderate choice in the eyes of the Winthrop community.

"I just want Winthrop to stop with the external president searches in general. [There are] plenty of qualified folks within those walls that [they] just don't wanna pay," Kalea Young-Gibson, '20, said.

Most members of the Myers McRae team do not fit the profile they provided for applicants. The team is made up of six white men, six white women and one woman of color. The director, R. Kirby Godsey, is the former president of Mercer University, a historically Baptist university in Georgia. His background is not different enough from that of Winthrop's Presidential Search Committee and Board of Trustees.

In short, it is no surprise that white presidential search

members chose three male candidates and that the Winthrop community criticized the choice of finalists for a lack of diversity.

The minds of Winthrop's diverse faculty, staff and students were barely considered in the search for the person who is supposed to be representative of their interests and diversity. It is both upsetting and insulting.

Eden Cook, a junior theatre major, asked, "When are we going to see the diversity the university promises to commit to? Where is the inclusivity?"

William Stockdale, '20, called the university's choice in finalists "truly disheartening."

"Pretty disappointed, Winthrop," said Lexi Meyer, a senior business administration major. "I was really hoping for more diverse candidate options, especially with how Winthrop promotes being diverse on campus and in advertising."

I love Winthrop. I love Winthrop because it was on this campus that I was exposed to, for the first time ever, people different from me. I am a straight Southern white woman who was accepted as a freshman to attend this diverse university back in 2018.

Upon beginning my freshman year, I was a religious and narrow-minded person. I was quickly exposed to students and faculty who were diverse in their backgrounds, abilities, identities and sexual orientations. I now find myself, less than four months until graduation, as a person eager to learn more about human experiences different from my own. I find myself thrilled to be surrounded by people who think and act differently than me. I owe these life-changing experiences to the Winthrop community.

I am disheartened that the chances for future freshmen and transfer students to receive such life-changing experiences are being lessened by the possibility of having yet another white male president.

If Winthrop continues not to prioritize diversity and keep hiring male presidents instead of attempting to satisfy the desires of

the faculty, staff and students, the diversity of this institution will soon be diminished.

I once heard Chair of the Board of Trustees Glenn McCall say at a board meeting that Winthrop is a business and that the students are its customers. I hope the 12th president, whoever that will be, does not see us that way.

I hope he sees us as a diverse group of adults who are faring with an unstable academic environment because of the pandemic.

I hope he sees us as students who are hurting from the multiple instances in which our on-campus traumas were ignored for the sake of keeping Winthrop's name clean.

I hope he sees us as students afraid to walk our campus at night, especially considering the fact that our blue light system has been faulty in the past.

"The most recent WU Students for Change list of demands includes functioning blue lights, which [Patrice Bruneau, assistant vice president for Computing and Information Technology] said was not on his radar until the group started advocating for their repair," wrote The Johnsonian news editor, Christian Smith, in our Jan. 19, 2022 issue.

"I'm looking at replacing the ones that don't work anymore, don't work reliably," Bruneau was quoted saying in Smith's story. "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."

I hope he sees us as students struggling to make it to our classes on time because of this campus' lack of accessibility.

"Broken elevators. Cracked, uneven ramps," sophomore Ainsley McCarthy wrote in an Instagram post on Sept. 5, 2021. "Finicky push buttons, outside doors which are adhered to the wall with tape, or sometimes no push button at all ... These are just some of the issues that I am forced to reckon with every day."

I hope he sees us as students who are hesi-

tant to trust our campus police because of Charles Price, a former WUPD officer who is in prison for 52 counts of sex crimes.

I hope he sees us as students who feel unsafe in their own residence halls after a man off the street entered Phelps Hall and sexually assaulted a student on Nov. 16, 2021.

I hope he sees us as students who arm themselves with self-defense tools after one of our own was held at gunpoint and raped next to campus by then 16-year-old Terry Shaimek Tyler, who is now serving 60 years in prison, according to WSOCTV.

I hope he sees us as students struggling to complete our homework in our dorms due to poor WiFi, mold and other infrastructure issues.

I hope he values our student-athletes, both international and American, especially considering the elimination of the tennis team, which caused multiple international student-athletes to leave this university.

"Tennis is a part of who I am, which is why I will be transferring to another Division I school to continue my path," Angela Georgieva, an international student from South Africa, informed the Board of Trustees in November of 2020.

I hope he takes our Council of Student Leaders seriously.

"Has CSL been taken seriously? I would say yes, 100%. I came in as a freshman when President Mahony was still here, and I know that he had a great connection with the previous CSL presidents, and I think we all know as students that he was very involved with the student body in general," Emiroglu said. "President Hynd, while working with him, has learned a lot about CSL, and I think he has been very excited with the work that we have done, so I think that he is also appreciative of the work that CSL does."

I hope he sees us as a community in desperate need of a president who welcomes our protests, Freedom of Information requests, student journalists, and faculty and staff input.