

Winthrop moves to mask-optional

Hynd announced lifting of mask mandate on March 24

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Winthrop University transitioned to a mask optional policy on March 24, ending the mask mandate first enacted fall semester of 2020.

Interim President George Hynd announced the change in an email on March 24, and said the decision was made due to campus and York County's low infection rate, an 82% vaccination rate among in-person students and the passing of peak flu season.

"This is great news and further evidence that we are transitioning towards the endemic stage of COVID-19," Hynd said in the email. Masks are still required in the Health and

Counseling Services departments and will still be available through Facilities Management and Student Affairs.

The email encourages mask wearing for those at high risk for illness,

those who live with or frequently interact with someone at high risk of illness, those who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine and those with COVID-19 symptoms.

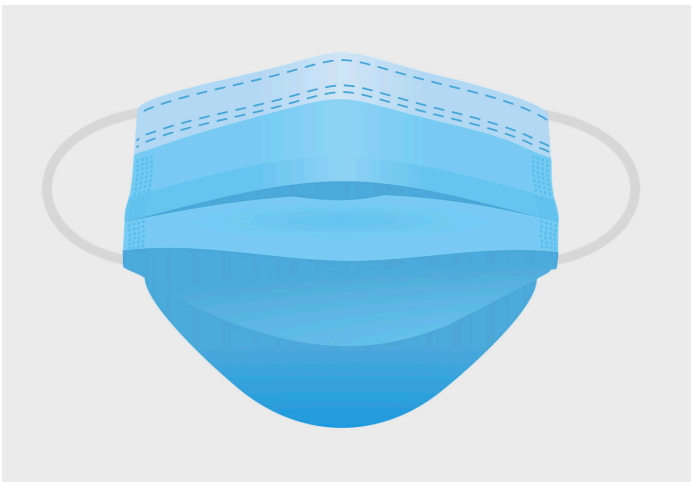
omore economics and integrated marketing communications double major, said in response to the poll. "Plus, I would be lying if I said that it wasn't nice to not have to wear

wear masks correctly in the first place, and since spring break just got finished, who knows what could happen," Nakamura said. Ellen Wilder-Byrd, associate vice president for communications and marketing, said the lifting of the mandate does not indicate wider COVID-19 policy changes.

"At this time there are no plans to announce other changes to our current COVID-19 management efforts. The lifting of the mask mandate was a stand-alone decision, not part of a larger plan," she said.

In the email, Hynd said the university will continue to update the COVID-19 dashboard through the spring semester, and will monitor the spread of the omicron sub-variant and take precautions as needed.

Vaccine and testing clinics will be available on campus 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 20 and May 2 in McBryde.



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In a poll on The Johnsonian Instagram the day the email was sent, 45 people said they were happy with the mask optional announcement, while 51 said they did not believe it was time yet.

"I'm a little worried about the timing because it's right after spring break, but I'm cautiously optimistic," Isaac Pelletier, soph-

one." Others aren't as optimistic, like math education junior Paula Nakamura, who said three days is not enough time to see if cases will go up after spring break because it can take up to a week for someone to get sick once exposed to COVID-19.

"Another thing I don't like is that people around campus don't



Flags on Scholars

Bryn Eddy/The Johnsonian

2022 Transgender Week of Visibility is from March 28 to April 1

Visit @officialsagewu on Instagram for more information on campus events pertaining to the week



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Empty classroom in Owens

Jamia Johnson/The Johnsonian

Winthrop announces next step in strengthening university budget

Hynd announced the upcoming elimination of more faculty positions

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More faculty positions will be eliminated soon due to the university's need to balance the budget for 2023 by eight million dollars.

Interim President George Hynd sent out an email to all Winthrop faculty and staff announcing the decision on March 11.

Much of what Winthrop is doing to balance the budget has been to cut down on faculty and staff positions and therefore salary expenses by filling only necessary positions, eliminating some positions when they can and reducing

departments' operational budgets.

The university plans to continue doing this while also cutting more faculty positions.

It is important to note that "currently, we do not anticipate the need for furloughs, another RIF for staff nor do we anticipate the need to cut tenure-track or tenured faculty," Hynd said.

"The RIF impacted a limited number of positions and those people in them. The future budget reductions will be focused on salary reductions through vacant position elimination, retirements, and non-renew-

al of contracts," Justin Oates, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs, said.

RIF stands for a reduction in force. This is commonly used when positions are cut with no intention to replace them. This results in a permanent decrease in the number of employees.

Adjunct or non-tenured track positions are most at risk of being cut and will be notified as needed of position cuts that could impact them.

Faculty and staff will also be notified of "additional vacancy eliminations, temporary personnel and student

salary reductions, and reductions to operating budgets that have been submitted by various vice presidents," Hynd said.

"The vast majority of our budgets support faculty and staff salaries. When student enrollments decline, revenue also declines. When our revenue goes down, we must reduce our expenses to balance our budget. This requires reducing faculty and staff positions to reduce expense," said Adrienne McCormick, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. ...

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Roddey will lose kitchens, require meal plan in Fall University to restrict availability of appliances and private rooms in Roddey Hall

AINSLEY MCCARTHY
staff writer

Occupants of Roddey Hall will have stoves and ovens removed from their apartments in Fall 2022 and are being assigned roommates despite having paid for private rooms.

The Department of Residence Life informed current Roddey residents of upcoming changes in an email sent on March 2.

The email said that “beginning Fall 2022, Roddey residents will be required to purchase a meal plan each semester,” and that “all rooms will be double occupancy.”

A follow up email sent on March 20 explains the changes.

“We need to make a program change for Roddey residents because the University will discontinue providing stoves and ovens in Roddey apartments due to their age and repair/replacement challenges,” the email said.

The message also said that “because [Residence Life employees] have an obligation to all



Alyssa Brooke/The Johnsonian

Roddey Apartments, a residence hall at Winthrop University.

of our resident students to ensure access to food and nutrition, a mandatory meal plan will be required each semester.”

Some students, such as sophomore Reagan Woodward, found that these adjustments did not fit their financial or dietary needs.

“I got into Roddey freshman year because of my allergies, and just other medical reasons,

but that was the main reason,” Woodward said. “I’ve had to prepare my meals every single day—I’ve never had a meal plan. It’s going to be kind of hard, and I don’t want to pay a thousand dollars for a meal plan when I’m not going to use it.”

The new meal plan called Block 75 will be offered exclusively to Roddey residents. It will cost \$1,055 and

provide 75 meals and \$500 in Café Cash per semester. However, pricing may change with the Board of Trustees’ approval.

Under this plan, students would have access to three Eagle Eatery or Markley’s Food Court meals a day for approximately 41 days. A typical semester lasts 75 days.

According to the Winthrop University

website, the second most affordable option is the Block 100 meal plan. It provides 100 meals and \$600 in Café Cash for \$1,647.

Woodward is not the only resident dissatisfied with the added expenses and overall quality of living.

Gray Balentine, a senior who has lived in the same private room for the past two years, said that the renewed

contract is due on Thursday, March 24, and she has not signed it yet.

“I checked a couple days ago, and I have a roommate for some reason. I’ve emailed them multiple times. I’ve called them multiple times with no contact back,” Balentine said.

Balentine said when she went to the office in person, she was told that they are unsure if they could offer private rooms yet.

“I’m not going to, you know, sign up for a room that I don’t want. It seems kind of odd to me that they would tell us to put in our intent forms when they haven’t finished receiving applications for the school yet. They can’t guarantee me a living situation, but I’ve paid extra to stay in this room by myself,” she said.

As of March 25, Interim Director of Residence Life Howard Seidler has not responded to a request to comment.

This Week in American Politics

Updates about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Supreme Court Confirmation hearings and more

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President Joe Biden announced Thursday that the U.S. would take up to 100,000 Ukrainian refugees and donate \$1 million to European countries to help with the humanitarian crisis currently happening as a result of Russia’s attack on Ukraine. European countries are currently working hard to house all of the refugees fleeing Ukraine. “This is not something that Poland or Romania or Germany should carry on their own,” Biden said. So far, around 3 million Ukrainians have fled from the country as a result of Russia’s attacks. The White House said that the refugees allowed in the U.S. will primarily be those who have family already living in the U.S., and the refugee admissions program will help them gain permanent residence status. They will also be giving refugees temporary visas.

The White House has put together a team of high level security officials to work out a contingency plan in the event that Russia uses chemical, biological, or

nuclear weapons.

This team, known as the Tiger Team, is looking into options in case Russian President Vladimir Putin decides to further his attacks into a NATO country or to other countries surrounding Russia. Officials currently believe that the chance that Putin uses a weapon of mass destruction is very small, but the chance that Russia will start to use chemical weapons in their invasion of Ukraine is much higher.

Disney Employees held a walk out protesting the company’s inaction over Florida’s “Don’t Say Gay Bill.”

This piece of legislation restricts conversation about sexual orientation and gender identity in Florida classrooms. The company initially avoided signing a Human Rights Campaign letter opposing the bill, despite Disney’s history of supporting the LGBT community. In response to the employee walk out, Disney announced that the kiss between two characters of the same sex in the upcoming movie “Lightyear,” has been added back into the film after previously being cut.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson spent two days last week answering

Senators’ questions during her confirmation hearing for her Supreme Court nomination. If accepted into the Supreme Court, Jackson would be the first Black woman in her position. The Senate Judiciary Committee is set to make their vote on Jackson’s nomination on April 4. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said that he would not support Jackson’s nomination, but with support from Senate Democrats and Left-leaning Independents, as well as the Vice President, it looks like Jackson’s nomination will end up being confirmed.



Cooper Beck/The Johnsonian

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... Oates agreed, but noted that budget cuts will include all areas on campus.

“Academics, Finance and Business Affairs, Student Affairs, Advancement, HR, and the President’s Office will all be affected. The reductions have been discussed by leadership and will impact salaries, benefits and operating,” he said.

Faculty positions that are of critical need to the university are still being filled even while adjunct positions are being cut.

As for how a decrease in adjuncts will affect Winthrop, McCormick said that, “our reduction of adjunct positions will mean that we will see larger sections in some areas, and we will also space some courses out and offer them less frequently.”

Student enrollment is another cause of faculty cuts.

“At the same time that we are reducing faculty numbers, we have had student enrollment declines. So our current faculty-to-student ratio has not changed significantly and remains at 12:1,” McCormick said.

Since student enrollment has declined, there is less revenue coming in and therefore less room in the budget to support the number of adjunct fac-

ulty positions that Winthrop currently has.

“Cutting adjuncts is not easy, as we have many wonderful adjunct faculty members who contribute a great deal to our curriculum. But the role of contingent faculty is to provide the institution with the ability to be responsive to changing enrollments,” McCormick said.

McCormick said that maintaining a sustainable budget is important as it ensures the university’s future.

“To be good financial stewards of the institution, we must make informed decisions about instructional staffing. As enrollment numbers go down, so too must our number of faculty. Building a sustainable budget will ensure Winthrop University continues to provide transformative educational experiences to our students,” she said.

Faculty and staff are working together to redesign budgets and duties to ensure a more balanced budget, Oats said.

“I am confident that we will continue to deliver the same high quality educational experiences while we are working toward a more sustainable student-to-faculty ratio,” McCormick said

Winthrop student wins city council seat

Sutton, senior history major, won Ward 5 in runoff on Feb. 23

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He was awarded Coast Guardsman of the Year in the 2000s. He coached NFL players when they were kids. He just won a city council seat. And, he is a Winthrop student.

His name is Perry Sutton, a Rock Hill native who won a runoff election on Feb. 23 against incumbent Nikita Jackson for the Ward 5 city council seat. He is also a senior history major at Winthrop set to graduate in May.

Eddie Lee, professor of history, said Sutton's dedication to his classes is remarkable, considering all he has going on.

"He's in a class that meets on Mondays and Wednesdays. So the election for the Rock Hill city council seat that Perry won was on a Tuesday. Perry was sitting there in my class on a Monday doing what Perry always does, asking good questions, answering questions that I posed to him, commenting on various things that we were talking about," Lee said. "And then the day after he won, he was back sitting there in that class doing the same thing."

Sutton said he wasn't even considering going to college after he left his last job, but after the VA told him he had to do something with his time, and that they would pay him, he thought he might as well.

Winthrop wasn't even his first choice. At first, he was talked into going to Grand

Canyon University, an online school, which he quickly found he did not enjoy. Next, he was going to go to University of North Carolina at Charlotte, but the day he was supposed to go for an interview, a man shot and killed two people inside a classroom.

Eventually, Sutton called Winthrop and got Katie Sardelli, former director of Military, Adult, and Transfer Services, who sold him on Winthrop. "I'll be graduating May the seventh in part because Katie Sardelli talked me into coming here. So no, there was no way. People will tell you, I was like, 'No, I'm not going back to school,'" he said.

History was Sutton's major of choice because he is a history buff. He said even though he looked at other majors, he always knew he was going to choose history.

"Now that I'm a city councilman, I'll use it in making some decisions. If you use history, you see the decisions that were made that were mistakes. Well, being a history major, I hope I am smart enough not to make those same mistakes by looking at what was already done," he said.

Sutton hopes to help improve his ward in several ways. Safety, he said, is his number one priority because gun violence is high in his area. He said the house next to his was shot up twice in one week, and it would have been shot up three times if a young girl had not been standing outside the



Sutton with two of his grandchildren, Chandler and Carter.

Courtesy of Perry Sutton

house.

"I call it ducking bullets. And a lot of people think, 'Well, that's over there.' I'm going to tell you something: when you are ducking bullets, it will move. We have this other neighborhood, not too far from there. The guy called me — and this happened before I was elected — he was outside with his kids and two cars rolled past. And when they rolled past, they shot at each other, went around, came back and shot at each other again. And that's in Rock Hill," he said.

Mental health, Sutton said, is his second priority. The homelessness problem in Rock Hill is related to both mental health and the lack of "affordable" housing, he said.

"I hate to say that word. Affordable housing. So what do you call

affordable? But housing is expensive ... For Winthrop students, it is really important. 97 — I'm just throwing out a number. I believe it is true — About 97% of the students when they graduate would not be able to afford a house," he said.

Finally, Sutton said he wants to get more people involved in their community, for example, by partnering with Winthrop to get students out to help the Rock Hill community with the skills they are learning here at the university.

Sutton himself is deeply involved in the Rock Hill community. Beyond being a student and a city councilman, he also coaches the Sylvia Circle Demons, a youth football team which has produced five NFL players: Jadeveon Clowney, Stephon Gilmore, Chris Hope,

Anthony Johnson and Rick Sanford.

Sutton said he plans to keep coaching the team, even with his city council seat.

"That was one of the things that I said because it keeps me, first of all, close to the kids and close to the people," he said.

And with everything going on, Sutton still is enrolled in five classes at Winthrop. However, because he is a non-traditional student, he said he may not be getting the full Winthrop experience.

"I've enjoyed it. I have not really experienced Winthrop, and that's because, first of all, I'm older. So actually, I use Winthrop as my getaway. I really do. I come hide here. Yeah, and so I've been an introvert on campus as much as I can be," he said.

Police ³ Blotter



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On March 23, the Responding Officer (R/O) and Officer Adam Watson were conducting speed enforcement operations on Eden Terrace. Officer Watson noticed a car with no tag and initiated a traffic stop. The R/O approached the vehicle and asked the driver for his license, registration and proof of insurance.

The driver provided his license with no registration or proof of insurance. The R/O ran the license through NCIC. The results showed that he was wanted in Chester County for failure to appear on drug charges. The R/O called his supervisor, Sgt. Michael Reid, and explained the situation.

Sgt. Reid confirmed with Chester County that the driver was still wanted. The R/O then detained the driver, read him his Miranda rights, and due to further questioning from the officers on scene, frisked the driver. The driver denied consent for the officers to search his vehicle but did state there was a methamphetamine glass pipe in the vehicle.

The R/O searched the vehicle and found the glass pipe with residue in a small black box in the glove compartment. The R/O finished searching the vehicle and the glass pipe with residue was seized and placed in an evidence bag.

The vehicle was towed by Interstate Towing, and the driver was transferred to the custody of a Chester County Sheriff's Office deputy. The seized glass pipe with residue will be sent to the York County Sheriff's Office for testing.



Students enjoy Winthrop-provided hammock hangers

Bryn Eddy/The Johnsonian



CSL approves charter for cheerleading club

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A new cheerleading club joins the ranks of Winthrop student organizations in the form of WU Cheer.

The club's charter was approved by the Winthrop University Council of Student Leaders at the March 21 meeting. The club aims to promote awareness of

the cheerleading sport and teach the basics of tumbling and other cheer techniques.

The group will be open to all, but have a regular team as well as a competition team. The club will aim to accommodate and provide useful experiences for cheerleaders of all skill levels.

The club will part-

ner with the already established Spirit Squad, Winthrop's cheerleading team that performs at university sports games, to create cheerleading events for Winthrop community members.

For more information related to the club's management, contact CSL@winthrop.edu.



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Winthrop finds success at home track

Agbeyomi and Vivanco headline Winthrop's top performances

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The Winthrop track and field program had a handful of noteworthy performers at this past weekend's Winthrop/Adidas Invitational.

Sophomore sprinter Toluwayan Agbeyomi was one of Winthrop's top finishers, placing second in both the men's 100 meters and 200 meters.

"I'm dropping time little by little," Agbeyomi said. "I'm one step closer to breaking the school record in the 100. I plan on breaking that this year, by the grace of God."

Agbeyomi does not plan on slowing down.

"I'll definitely be running with some fast guys in the coming meets, so that will definitely force me to run faster," he said.

"His 10.52 time in the 100 puts him number two on [the] all-time list for the Eagles," said head coach Ben Paxton.

Paxton said Agbeyomi also led off the winning 4x100 meter relay team, which finished with a time of 42.66 seconds.

Sophomore Bautista Vivanco also made a statement for Winthrop, claiming victory in the men's 400-meter hurdles with a personal-best time of 54.59 seconds.

"Before this particular meet, I placed an emphasis on my hurdling technique, especially on being able to correctly hurdle in the second half of the race, where I am the most tired and fatigued," Vivanco said.

"I ran my fastest race ever which gave me the win on my home track here at Winthrop while my friends and teammates were watching," Vivanco said. "Honestly, it feels amazing."

Vivanco also noted that he still has room for improvement. "I need to get more comfortable with the first and last hurdles which are the ones in



To'mara Carmichael/The Johnsonian

The Winthrop/Adidas Invitational was the second outdoor event the Eagles have competed in this year

which I slowed down the most.

"Thankfully, we still have over six weeks before our outdoor conference [championships] to keep working and getting better," he said.

The Eagles had nu-

merous top finishers. Jaden Mathieu finished third in the high jump at 2.00 meters.

Libby Roush placed fifth in discus (40.67 meters) while Jelani Haigle earned fifth in the triple jump (12.77 meters) and eighth in the long jump (6.13

meters).

Elizabeth Barnett finished sixth in the pole vault with a season-best 3.04 meters. In javelin, Jeremiah Boyd took home a seventh-place finish with a throw of 36.77 meters.

Winthrop had seven other top-10 finishers,

which Paxton acknowledged he was proud of.

"Proud of our athletes stepping up to not only compete at home but work tirelessly putting on a great meet," he said. "Always looking to put our best foot forward."

Eagle of the Week: Garrett Gainey



Photos courtesy of Josh Bookbinder, Winthrop Baseball

Gainey practices his pitching at Winthrop Ballpark for the season

SAM HYATT
staff writer

Winthrop baseball player Garrett Gainey was named Big South starting pitcher of the week on Monday, March 21.

"I was extremely excited about being honored as Big South starting pitcher of the week," Gainey said. "I stopped and thanked God for giving me the ability to play this game I love and receive great awards such as this one."

Gainey started playing baseball at the age of 3 and fell in love with the game. He played competitively from ages 6 to 15 until he suffered a full labrum tear in January of 2017 which required surgery.

"[I was] told from the doctor himself that this surgery is a pitcher's nightmare, and many pitchers don't come back to 100%," Gainey said.

After surgery, Gainey began rehab and intense therapy in Columbia, South Carolina,

where they helped him for two years to get back to playing in the field at one hundred percent.

Due to the labrum injury on his throwing arm, Gainey was unable to play his sophomore and junior year of high school. In January of his senior year, he attended a baseball camp at Winthrop Ballpark where he got the opportunity to return for an official visit two weeks later.

"I received a scholarship offer on my official

visit and felt like Winthrop was a great choice for my academics and athletics," Gainey said. "Getting any opportunity to play is a blessing for me because I overcame a surgery that not many pitches come back from."

As a sophomore, Gainey has

been the only pitcher on Winthrop's roster to be credited with multiple wins this season.

"I get to compete with my teammates and earn a win beside all of those guys. They have a major impact in the games we have won this season" Gainey said.

Since his freshman year, Gainey said he feels like he has "progressed tremendously by learning how to actually pitch in college rather than just throwing like in high school."

Additionally, he feels like he has filled a leadership role for the team which has always been a goal for him since his freshman year.

"Garrett has been outstanding for us this year because he has worked extremely hard to put himself in the position to have success," head baseball coach Tom Riginos said. "I

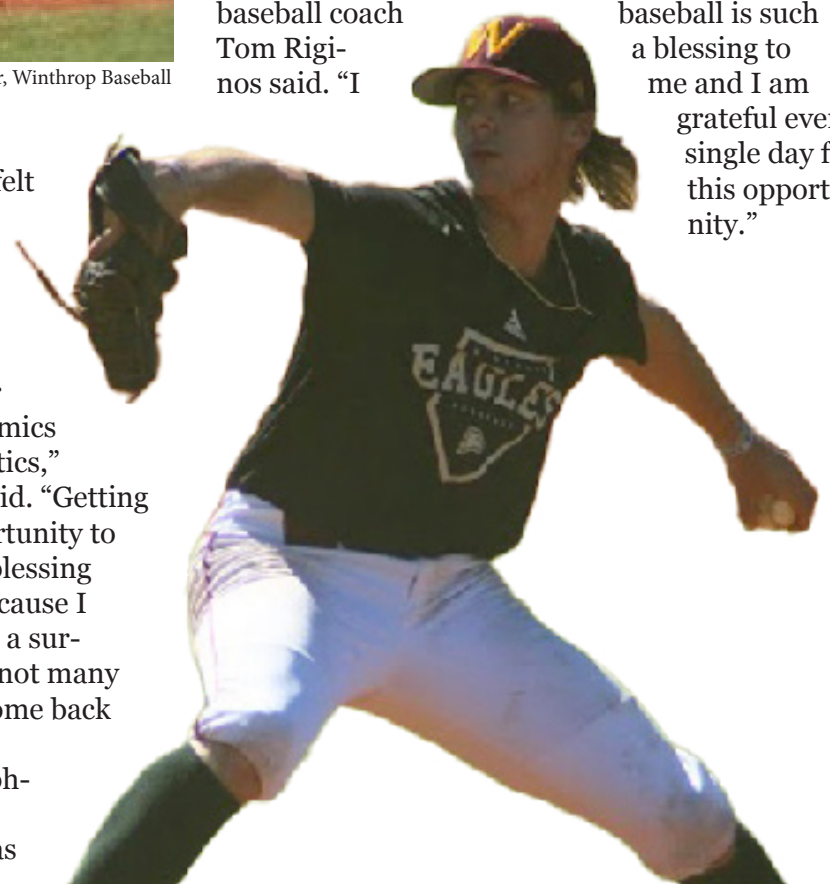
am looking for him to continue his success the rest of the year."

Looking forward to the rest of the season and his time on the team, Gainey has expectations for the team to win a Big South Championship and to go to an NCAA Regional.

"We are coming together greatly as a team at the right time which is great for getting into conference," Gainey said.

For the rest of the season and the next few years on the team, Gainey looks forward to making memories with his teammates and having as much time on the field as possible.

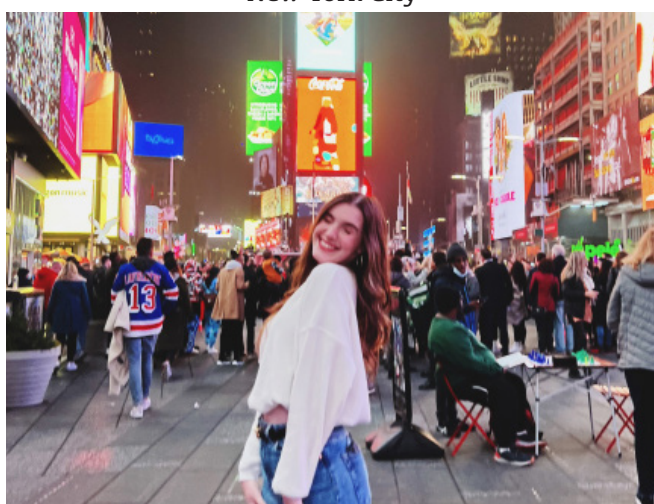
"I was blessed by God to receive a scholarship offer to play Division I baseball here at Winthrop University," Gainey said. "Being able to play college baseball is such a blessing to me and I am grateful every single day for this opportunity."



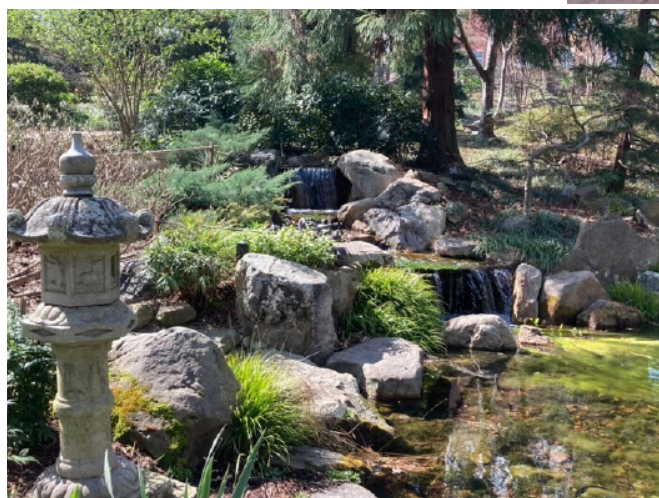


Political science major Bautista Vivanco went with Spencer Bermúdez and Ian Latham to Linville Falls in North Carolina

Senior musical theatre major Riley Gray traveled to New York City

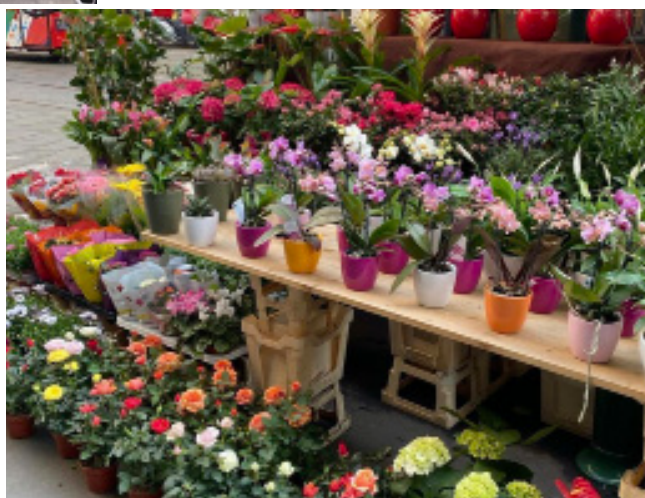


Freshman Marley Bassett got to visit her best friend since fourth grade at Princeton



Music education major Baten King visited the botanical garden at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte

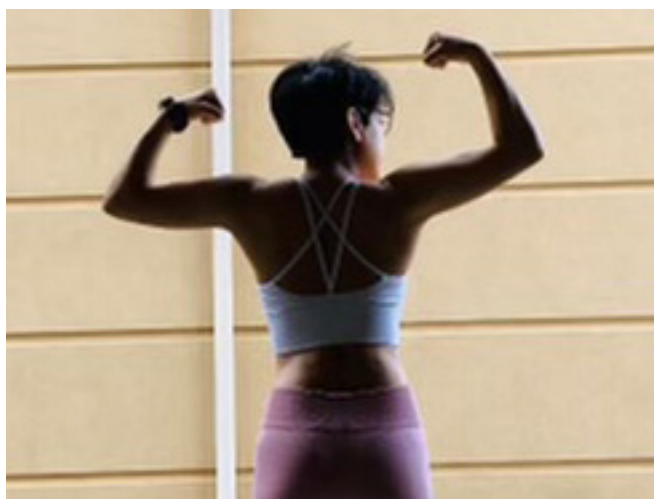
Spring Break 2022



Sophomore political science major Sabrina Angola spent time in Milan, Italy



Senior theatre performance major Ally Baumgartner traveled to ACDA's southeastern conference to perform Kelly Ozust's piece "Shifting Modalities"



Senior educational studies major Chloe Pearson is a transfer student. Over spring break she had what she called "just a little photoshoot"



Political science major Alyssa Robinson went home to work on her family's food truck, the Seafood Hut

A Review of 'The Batman'

The Batman Films get just get darker and darker

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SAM HYAITT
staff writer

From Director Matt Reeves' \$600.4 million box office hit, "The Batman" is a nearly three hour long tale of the Defender of Gotham depicted in a much grittier and darker lens than audiences are used to. The film is seductively casted with "The Twilight Saga" star Robert Pattinson as Batman alongside "High Fidelity" star Zoë Kravitz starring as Cat Woman.

The recent depictions of Batman seem to get more serious and twisted with each film with some of the most recent depictions of Bruce Wayne being in "The Dark Knight," "Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice," "Justice League" and "The Joker." The darker tone of the newer films is unlike some of the earliest Batman films like

"Batman: The Movie" starring Adam West which is a far sillier and more childish and humorous portrayal than we know today.

Junior biology major, Ashly Simmons had a fresh perspective as she had never seen the other Batman films prior to watching "The Batman."

"It seemed very dark and medieval. Contrary to popular belief, I thought it was a little lackluster. The acting was very good but I was waiting for moments to be on the edge of my seat and I never really got there," Simmons said.

At a whopping two hours and 56 minutes, the film is poorly cut as it takes a long time to arrive at many of its questions surrounding who the Riddler is and who killed Annika.

"It was good but it's not something I would tell someone to spend three hours watching. Maybe the length of the movie had something to do with it but I've watched long movies in the past as well and maybe it was because I didn't really have a bit of backstory of Batman to understand the underlying concepts and such. It was just a little flat for me," Simmons said.

As aforementioned, the Batman movies have gotten darker and darker and darker, and the music selections have not fallen far behind. In what Rollingstone calls, "One of Nirvana's weirdest, most whispy songs," "Something in the Way" was a little known Nirvana song that has had a revival, surging in streams and trending on TikTok after the movie's release.

Junior graphic design major Rachael Dauksch said, "The Batman was a great film for both superhero fans and film fanatics. The score and soundtrack heightened the intensity of the film and perfectly encapsulated the threatening and gloomy atmosphere of Gotham itself."

Not long after Cat Woman checks Batman on his focus of high-level murders of politicians making for a very politically charged conversation, the pair share a kind of unnecessary but steamy on screen kiss.

"This film has done the best at showing the dilapidated, crime-ridden state of Gotham and how crime, economic failures and corrupt politicians have brought down the city. The Riddlers' use of

streaming and internet forums was an entertaining take on the character and exciting to watch play out. I definitely recommend this movie to anyone who's down with the three hour run time," Dauksch said.

While the anti-populist ambition was slightly predictable after watching "The Joker," where Joaquin Phoenix absolutely slayed (literally), I kind of agree with the Zodiac Killer wannabe, aka Riddler's, "eat the rich" view on Batman's backstory. In actuality, maybe being an orphan who's also extremely wealthy and taken care of is a far more digestible narrative than stories of poverty-stricken children who grew up in Gotham's orphanage system.

As the phrase "I am vengeance" was repeated a few times throughout the film, I applaud the casting and cinematography which seemed to go for a more shadowy yet perfectly reinvented look with Pattinson, who doesn't exactly have the face of a greathearted superhero, but the face of a bank robber who will stop at nothing to free his brother from prison or a beautiful telepathic vampire.

Senior business administration major Sean Miller said, "I was skeptical of it at first, having Robert Pattinson as the Batman. However, within a few minutes of the movie starting it blew out of the water almost all my expectations."

If there is anything I adored about this film, it was the cinematography. I felt like I was transported to the unrighteous, dreadful and gloomy world of Gotham where I was truly a fly on one of the grubby walls of the fictional city.

For instance, the cinematography is particularly remarkable in the fight scene when Batman first enters the Iceberg night club lounge and strikingly takes down almost every club bouncer imaginable as the strobe lights overwhelm the screen and the base cheesy club music plays in the background.

Chills were felt throughout the theater during the show stopping fight scene in the hallway where Batman takes down several guards in pitch black darkness and is spasmodically hit countless times by gun fire. I was astounded with intensity and anxiety in the most beautiful way. The

scene felt like something just a cut above a Bond movie.

"The soundtrack was great, especially as a fan of Nirvana. The camerawork was very artistic and rather than seeming like a cheesy hollywood film, conveyed the more serious tone of Gotham and the characters. What I enjoyed the most was that the film approached Batman from a new unique angle. It humanized him more as a real person with real world mental health issues and followed the story of the Riddler like an episode of "Criminal Minds." I was heavily invested in all the characters and stayed glued to my seat the whole time," Miller said.

While the film made impressive use of special effects, the musical composition was memorable, the dreary setting built through the cinematography and set design was noteworthy, and Kravitz and Pattinson had an unnerving on-screen chemistry. "The Batman" was worth the watch and I strutted out of the theater feeling like a badass.



'Menagerie,' an upcoming art exhibit in Rutledge Building and McLaurin Hall featuring diverse artworks

Upcoming art exhibit for senior B.F.A students

JADA STRONG
staff writer

From April 4 to May 6, the Rutledge Gallery and Lewandowski Student Gallery will be featuring the 2022 BFA Senior Exhibition, "Menagerie." This new exhibit will feature 18 senior BFA students' artistic works showcasing a multitude of themes that are important to them.

One of the students, Grayce Kellam, who is a senior sculpture major, describes the title of the exhibit, Menagerie, as the perfect title to ensure that the exhibit exemplifies inclusivity and diversity.

"The title Menagerie is basically just a strange and diverse collection of artworks. We didn't know how else to come up with a

title to cover everyone," Kellam said. "Because we're all so different and we're all making such incredible things. We didn't want anyone to be left out."

Though she is a sculpture major, Kellam describes herself as more of an interdisciplinary artist.

"I combine multiple mediums to create one big giant piece, thing

experience," Kellam said. "So, sculpture and projection, or sculpture and video or literature, I like to combine a bunch of different things into one."

One of the art pieces Kellam is showcasing is a sculpture wall that displays her love of Egyptian art.

"I've always been inspired by Egyptian art. I've always wanted to include literature on my sculptures, not just next to them or stand with them. And one thing in Egyptian art is the words that they carve are actually formed as some kind of magic for the dead," Kellam said. "It acts like a sister soul for the afterlife. So just the idea of me being able to carve my words, carve my narrative, carve my strength into a wall and have those words become 3D sculptures themselves."

Another artist being featured in this exhibit is Lauren Baechel, a senior sculpture major. She describes her work as being heavily concept based.

"I like to try to create spaces for people to have spots to heal in. My past work was based around allowing other people to have a space for that," Baechel said. "But for this specific installation, there are three pieces in this show that are mine. I

wanted to have a more selfish approach to what I was doing."

Baechel's past works have been about creating a safe haven for those who come to see her art. However, this time around, her pieces are centered more on how she is feeling in her life at this moment.

"The healing that I was doing was really based around other people having spots to heal and go in and having places to mourn where they usually wouldn't mourn," Baechel said. "But in my life recently, I've had some pretty dramatic things happen. So, I wanted to take a more selfish approach to it."

In one of Baechel's pieces she will showcase her personal relationship with being raised Catholic while also being a queer woman.

"I was raised really Catholic and I'm a queer woman. So, you know, it kind of clashes with each other. But my parents are really devout Catholics," Baechel said. "So, this piece is about my relationship with the actual religion and trying to kind of process the fragility of it and how growing up in that state has impacted me."

MyAsia McCollum is a B.F.A who is majoring in fine arts with a concentration in paintings. "My work for the se-

nior show is called 'into the dark.' It is an exploration of my own traumatic experience and events that happen and just the way of processing and healing from it," McCollum said.

"I'm showing different stages of healing, like just not knowing what to do, being confused, and then moving to being set free from all of it, being just able to deal with it, cope with it and move past it."

One of McCollum's pieces is a painting display of multiple cut offs of parts of faces.

"This painting is called 'into the dark web.' It's different pieces of faces showing different emotions and the web represents my mind always being so confused, not knowing what to do next, or how to deal with stuff, just my mind is always racing," McCollum said. "So that's what this picture kind of represents. Just trying to figure out stuff and things. Not quite being able to figure it out at that moment, being very broken, and being pulled in different places."

The Menagerie exhibit gives the chance for these senior artists to showcase some of their more vulnerable sides, while also having something every viewer can relate to in their own lives.



Lauren Baechel works on pieces for the menagerie exhibit

Jada Strong/The Johnsonian



This painting belongs to MyAsia Mccollum

Jada Strong/The Johnsonian

Russia moves to disregard copyrights

Russia responds to sanctions by crippling the power of foreign IPs

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As the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues, several countries and international corporations have implemented sanctions against Russia.

Technological sanctions have included Apple suspending all of its product sales, as well as restricting several of its digital services such as Apple Pay and Apple Maps. Microsoft followed suit by suspending its own new product sales, and each company removed Russia Today, a Russian-controlled media outlet, from their respective app stores.

"Ukraine has the support of several tech companies," said Dr. Andrew Besmer, an associate professor of computer science at Winthrop. "Google is providing several Ukrainian websites access to Project Shield in order to provide some



RuTracker is a popular Russian piracy website

Ryan Lumbert/The Johnsonian

sort of stable communications. It could damage morale amongst Ukrainian citizens to see that any of their governmental websites have been taken down by Russian cyberattacks."

According to Google, Project Shield, an anti-DDoS service, is currently protecting over 150 Ukrainian websites.

In response to technology sanctions, the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia has released a document known as the "Priority Action Plan for Ensuring the Development of the Russian

Economy in the Conditions of External Sanctions Pressure," which lays out several mechanisms to prevent the economic impact that any sanctions may have.

For example, measure 6.7.3 states that citizens will have a "cancellation of liability for the use of software unlicensed in the Russian Federation, owned by a copyright holder from countries that have supported the sanctions." In effect, this would legalize the use of cracked or pirated software of companies who withdraw their presence from the

country.

"It would make it more difficult for companies to return after the war. If intellectual property rights were disregarded now, many foreign companies would be unwilling to re-invest or return to the country, given the insecurity of their assets, especially with the prospect of nationalization," said Dr. Danko Tarabar, associate professor of economics at Winthrop.

"Many companies would refuse to do business there. Russian workers would have to leave the country to work at these com-

panies, leading to loss of talent in Russia—a form of brain drain."

Media giants WarnerMedia and Disney have ceased content distribution within Russia, preventing the releases of new films and shows in the region.

In response to media sanctions, State Duma Deputy Dmitry Ionin proposed unblocking RuTracker, a popular pirating website which is blocked by default by all Internet Service Providers in Russia, allowing Russian citizens to more easily access blocked media.

Piracy is already popular among Rus-

sian citizens. In a 2019 study performed by Russian software company ESET, it was reported that up to 91% of respondents used some form of illegally obtained software.

Parallel to technology and media sanctions have been the withdrawal of several restaurant chains, such as McDonald's. In response to McDonald's exit, Russia nationalized all of the corporation's assets within the country and rebranded each of the same locations as a new franchise called "Uncle Vanya," with an uncannily similar-looking logo.



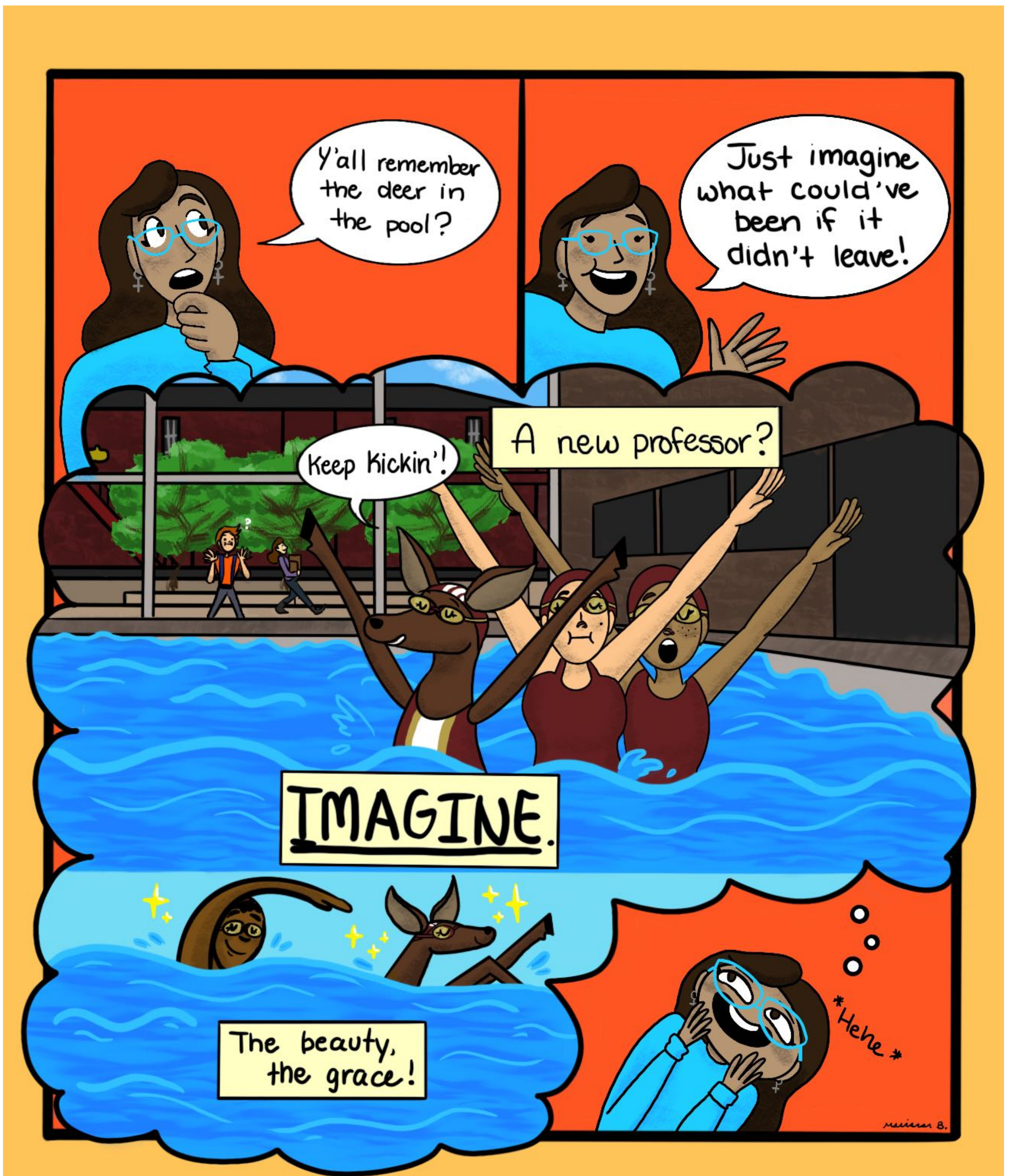
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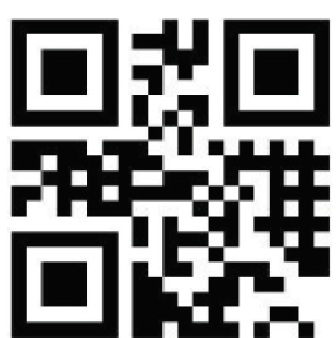
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West Center Deer: What could have been



If you would like to be featured in Mariana's next comic, shoot her an email at beltranm2@winthrop.edu with your **CRAZIEST** roommate story!

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The 2021-2022 Johnsonian staff consists of hard working college students at Winthrop University. Not all staff members plan on pursuing journalism after graduation but they nevertheless recognize the importance of outputting factual and ethical stories to the surrounding community. Each of these students have been vetted and interviewed for their work ethic and willingness to learn. These students do not receive college credit for their work on The Johnsonian. These students work together as a team to publish around twenty stories and twenty pieces of art/photography each week during the academic year.