

Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority suspended until 2025



Bid Day 2022

Photo courtesy of @winthroptrisigma



Graphic courtesy of trisigma.org

Sorority allegedly broke rules pertaining to hazing and alcohol

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The Delta Pi chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma was suspended until February of 2025 for violating both the Winthrop University student code of conduct and the National College Panhellenic guidelines that govern all sororities. The sorority faced charges of collusion, inappropriate purchase and consumption of alcohol, and hazing, according to Winthrop's webpage. The incidents that were reported occurred on March 5, 2020, and

Oct. 28, 2021. The investigation was started on Jan. 24, 2022, and the sorority was formally charged on Jan. 27, 2022. "Rules were broken by the organization, both National as well as University rules. Some of these include collusion, many alcohol violations, social events policies where hazing took place, health and safety policies, membership intake policies, as well as the rule of consent not being considered at all times," said former Tri Sigma member and junior psychology major

Chelsey Ingram. Elizabeth Gibson, another former member and junior psychology and sociology major, concurred. "The rules were constantly being broken. Alcohol was being provided to underage members as well as underage new members who were not even initiated at the time. While alcohol was provided to members, so was marijuana," Gibson said. The two former members who reported Tri Sigma also spoke out on the toxic and unhealthy culture of the

sorority. "Tri Sigma has a very toxic culture, and it is absolutely shown through the people that were involved in making others feel uncomfortable. Rumors would start about sisters who were called psychopaths or even deemed as pathological liars," Gibson said. Ingram concurred, saying that "the things said to members in many cases are so brutal and inhumane. I found myself being so uncomfortable around any and every previous sister because of the negativity, bullying,

and belittling that was said about them." "Not only would there be nasty things spoken about their own sisters, but Tri Sigma was never afraid to make nasty songs about the other organizations and other girls on the campus. It was absolutely disgusting," Gibson said. The two also spoke about their experiences with hazing, with both saying that they had been hazed by more senior members of the sorority. "When members of the chapter were repeatedly yelling 'this is not hazing if you say

yes,' then as a non-initiated new member, I thought they were right and thought nothing of it. But when their pressure was applied as hard as it was, I, of course, was not going to be the one who said no for fear of being singled out," Ingram said. "Without going into deep details, there were a handful of events where I was forced to do activities that I did not want to do. Alcohol was included in said events, and even videos were captured, making it even worse. That was hazing," Gibson said. ...

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Recent on-campus assaults by non-Winthrop people increase desire for more campus safety precautions

University continues to consider installment of Winthrop ID swipe machines at each campus building entrance

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In light of recent on-campus assaults committed by people not affiliated with the university, university officials and campus police are further evaluating possible ways to increase campus safety. One such possibility is the installation of ID swipe machines at the entrances of more campus buildings. There are already a number of campus buildings that require the swipe of a student, staff or faculty ID to enter, such as residence halls, Owens Hall (only during non-business hours) and Dacus Library. Many older campus buildings such as Bancroft Hall do not have a card swipe machine at the entrances. Bancroft Hall is where a recent on-campus assault was committed by a person entering campus despite not being affiliated with the university. On Friday, Feb. 18, "reporting Officers Sgt. Reid and Officer Wat-

son responded to Bancroft Hall in reference to a suspicious person harassing a student," according to a police blotter. The student told the officers that the trespasser first made comments to them that made them uncomfortable, so they got up and left. When the student returned to the area to use the restroom, they were cornered by the trespasser at the door of the restroom and they were then verbally assaulted by the trespasser. After talking with the student, the officers informed the trespasser that if he were to be caught on campus again, then he would be arrested. In this particular case, requiring the swipe of a Winthrop ID at the entrances of Bancroft Hall, could have potentially prevented the assault, however, despite Phelps Hall being one of the campus buildings that does currently require the swipe of a Winthrop ID to enter, a sexual

assault of a student was still committed by a non-Winthrop affiliate on Nov. 16, 2021. More information on this assault is available at mytjnow.com. "I definitely feel like more if not all doors should require ID access for safety reasons, besides DiGs which is a public area," said music major Trey Binnom. "No random people should be able to get into any building during the day while most of the doors are unlocked. There have been a bunch of security problems too, specifically where I work as an RA." Whether installing card swipe access machines at each door is feasible is still being evaluated by university officials. "The Winthrop University Police Department, Facilities Management, and Information Technology have and are looking at adding card readers to various exterior doors for each building," assistant chief of police Charles Yearata said.

"Winthrop University is always looking at increasing safety on campus and exterior card readers are definitely a part of the solution. However, there are several obstacles that must first be overcome. These include, allocating fiscal resources, reviewing the already available infrastructure, and various network considerations. "Each building is unique regarding the listed obstacles and unfortunately there is not a single solution that would work universally. However, we are continuing to examine the issue and make progress as the obstacles can be overcome." Installing card readers can be pricey, which is a major reason the university has yet to install them. "I don't have the information with me, but the cost varies greatly with a building's existing equipment. I would estimate that converting a door to card access would cost somewhere between \$5,000 and \$7,000 if the build-

ing already has a card access system. In other words, that is the cost if the building already has other card readers. For a building without any card readers, the cost is much higher," said Patrice Bruneau, assistant vice president for Computing and Information Technology. Some students desire for there to be even more safety precautions implemented outside of installing card readers at more building entrances. "It'd be nice if all buildings had cameras in them," said Susana Atuncar-Castillo, senior international business and Spanish major. "Anything to make sure students are safe, I feel like that's what we should do. Because I mean, we are paying our money and I feel like that's just kind of how it should go anyways," said Jaquarius K. Norman, chair of the campus safety committee. "I do think having the access card would increase safety, but then again, I kind of worry about how many

people are gonna actually be responsible and not let people in and do things like that. "I mean, we are always gonna have that risk, because nothing's perfect or whatever, but I think overall, it'll kind of give students more of a sense of safety than what we have now." There is no action as of now to move forward with the installation of card swipe machines at each campus building entrance, due to their expense and lack of flexibility with being installed on older buildings. "I would also mention that if any student or faculty/staff feels uneasy about another individual on our campus, they should immediately contact the Winthrop University Police Department and advise of the situation. Officers would then be dispatched to the location accordingly so that the individual can be identified and the appropriate action taken," Yearata said.



SC Senate bill to ban all cellphone use while driving
NEWS, pg. 2



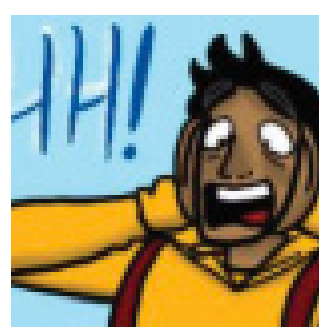
iMacs stolen from campus
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Indoor track and field championship
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Rock Hill's One Word Poetry Festival Returns
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Another Flood (reported in Courtyard)
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CSL approves charter for new culture clubs

New culture clubs create spaces focused on nerd pop and Korean culture

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The Winthrop University Council of Student Leaders approved the chartering of culture appreciation clubs. The pop culture-focused Black Nerds, or BLERD, Association and Korean appreciation KPOP club join Winthrop's extracurricular ranks.

The BLERD Association is a pop culture ap-

preciation club focused on creating a safe space for students of color to explore shared interests in "nerd/pop/Black culture," according to organization leader Kierra McCall.

"We're hoping to host a panel discussion/lecture featuring prominent professors on campus who can come and talk about Marvel and how it relates to American history (in

the future)," McCall said.

BLERD hosts meetings every Wednesday at 6:30 that are open to all students. Students seeking more information can visit the organization's Instagram @blerdwinthrop or contact the group's faculty advisor, Interim Dean of Students Anthony Davis.

The KPOP Club invites students to

learn more about Korean culture and join like-minded individuals in enjoying and learning about various aspects of the culture, like food, music and dance. Students seeking more information can contact the student organization's president at rossf2@mailbox.winthrop.edu.

CSL Vice Chair and senior elementary education major Miguel

Caldwell said approval of charters for student organizations gives the Council an opportunity to "illustrate the importance of student representation."

"Having new organizations centered around things of interest for our student body gives them the opportunity to create spaces for themselves that can last for generations to come," Caldwell said.

cont. SIGMA from pg. 1

... Due to some of the aspects of their sorority, both members' mental health declined.

"These were the actions that took place within the chapter through its more prominent, louder-spoken members, the ones who established where your social status was within the chapter as well as influenced the rest," Ingram said.

Ingram continued, saying that "they laid the foundation for a negative community that was built upon hatred towards one another and bonding through that hatred. This would send me into the deepest mental discomfort I have ever experienced because they contributed to me doing things that I knew did not align with the person I am."

Due to these reports, the decision was made to suspend the sorority from Winthrop's campus for three years.

"Cases of organizational misconduct are handled and resolved in accordance with the procedures listed in the Student Conduct Code. The purpose of these policies and procedures is to cultivate learning, encourage accountability and responsible decision making and prevent the occurrence and recurrence of harmful behaviors," said Interim Dean of Students Anthony Davis.

Possible Title IX rumors were addressed and were deemed to be false.

"All of Greek life is not bad and does not give experiences like the ones I had but instead give the best experiences," Gibson said. "Tri Sigma does not represent a good sisterhood or honest faces, but instead they represent what not to do. Tri Sigma needed to be taken off campus and honestly, I should have reported it way sooner."

distracted driving contributed to the accident. (SCDPS)

Texting and driving is 6 times more dangerous than driving drunk. (NHTSA)



Cherry Blossoms in bloom



Bryn Eddy/The Johnsonian

Bryn Eddy/The Johnsonian

Bill to ban holding a cellphone while driving

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The South Carolina Senate passed a bill last month that intends to ban South Carolina drivers from holding or touching a phone for any reason while driving.

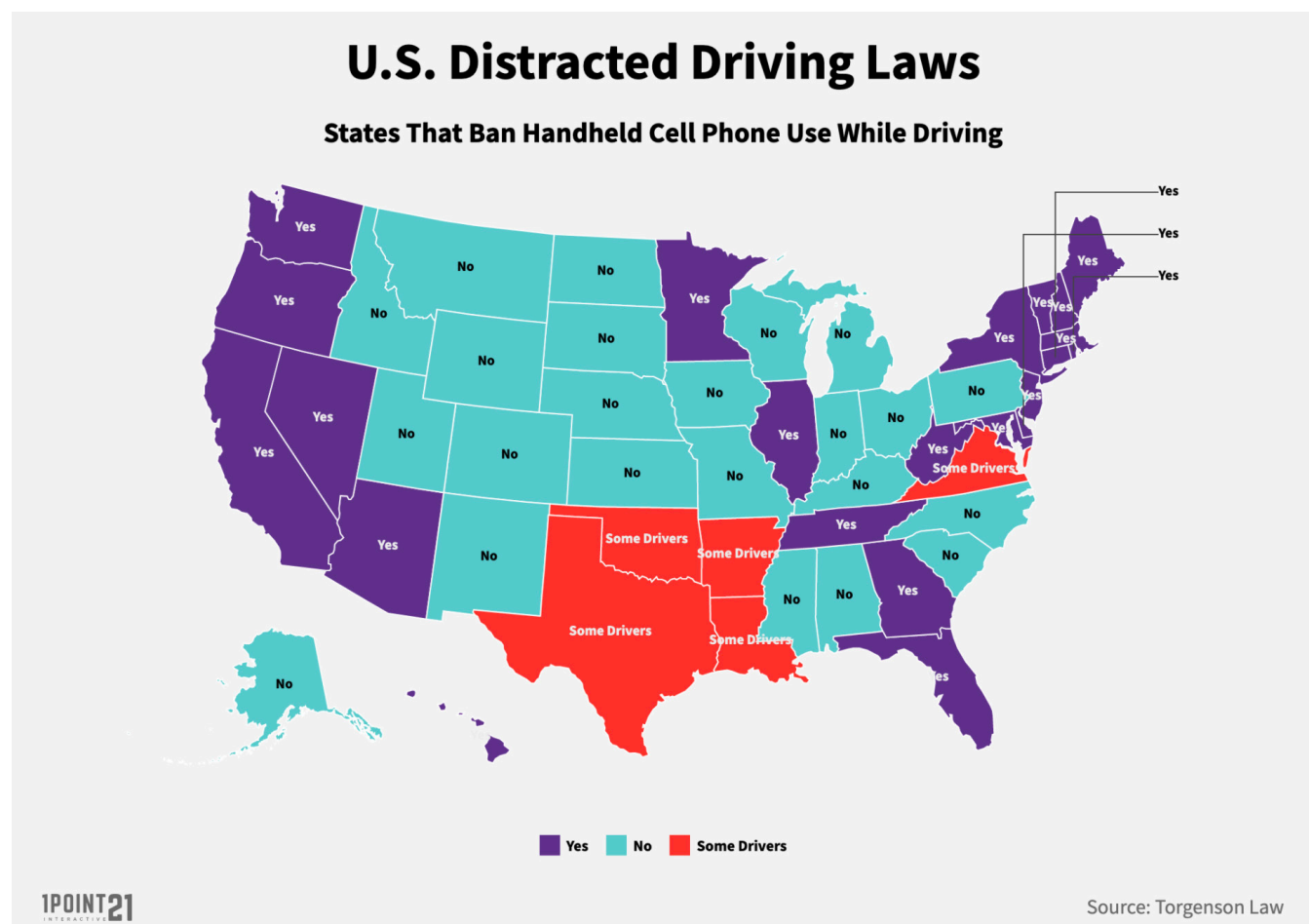
The bill heads to the House after a 37-3 Senate vote on Feb. 23. Drivers face a \$100 fine and a distracted driving offense.

Some exceptions to the law would include beginning or ending a call, turn it on or off, use a GPS app, voice-to-text apps, earpieces, and other smart devices.

First responders and law enforcement would be exempt from the law if they were to use their phone on the job.

It has been illegal to text and drive since 2014, but this bill aims to place further restrictions on phone use behind the wheel.

The doi.sc.gov web-



site lists these facts pertaining to SC driving:

Distracted driving kills more than eight people and injures another 1,095 people daily in the U.S. (NHTSA)

South Carolina ties

for 7th worst drivers in the U.S. according to a study of key metrics. (SmartAsset.com)

South Carolina is #1 in the nation for Fatality Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled in 2019. (IIHS)

South Carolina averages two crashes every hour involving a distracted driver. (SCDPS)

A teen driver is involved in a collision that kills or injures someone every 1.4 hours in South Caroli-

na. (SCDPS)

1,006 people were killed in traffic accidents on South Carolina roads in 2019. (SCDPS)

In 2019, South Carolina reported 18,936 total collisions where

News tips?
Comments?
Suggestions?

Let us know!

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Russia invades Ukraine starting the largest conflict in Europe in decades

The historic invasion has caused many to wonder how far the conflict will go

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With the conflict between Russia and Ukraine growing each day, many Americans are wondering whether the country will or should get involved.

There is the fear that Russia's invasion of Ukraine could catapult the world into another world war, however, Ukraine is not a member of NATO and instead is receiving limited assistance from NATO countries. For a global war to occur, Russia would need to attack a country officially allied with NATO.

Currently, countries across the world have placed sanctions on Russia to deter President Vladimir Putin from continuing his attack on Ukraine. While sanctions are a usual practice when conflict arises, Putin has said that he believes these sanctions can be taken as a declaration of war.

"These sanctions that are being imposed are akin to a declaration of war but thank God it has not come to that," Putin said, speaking to flight attendants from Russian airline Aeroflot during a televised meeting on March 5.

Ukrainian President



Photo courtesy of Samuel Francis Johnson on Pixabay

A protest of Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Volodymyr Zelenskyy is encouraging Ukrainian citizens to continue fighting. In a video posted to Zelenskyy's official Facebook Saturday, Zelenskyy said, "Every meter of our Ukrainian land reclaimed by protest is a step forward: a step toward victory."

Zelenskyy also called on the United States for assistance regarding the establishment of a no-fly zone over Ukraine.

Putin said that if NATO countries attempted to make Ukraine a no-fly zone, the consequences would be catastrophic

for the world, as they would be seen as "participants in a military conflict." Currently, NATO countries, including the U.S., have rejected the request for the no-fly zone to avoid potentially escalating the conflict.

Whether or not the U.S. should be playing a larger role in the conflict is a controversial opinion among many. Winthrop junior political science and sociology major Jessi Lessenberry believes Western countries like the U.S. are making the conflict worse and should be focusing on doing things to help the

Ukrainian people.

"The situation between Russia and Ukraine is devastating, but not surprising, especially after constant provocation from many Western powers, including the United States. I think the best thing we can do right now to help aid those in Ukraine is offer any kind of humanitarian relief possible. This, most importantly, includes making space for refugees from Ukraine, especially those who are being turned away by other countries, like people of color and queer folks," Lessenberry said.

Sophomore psychology major Giselle Mesa echoes Lessenberry's belief that the Ukrainian people should be the focus right now and believes people should stop trying to make light of the situation.

"Oftentimes, it seems like people in Western countries want to focus primarily on how things affect them, rather than realizing that there is a country that is under attack and people that are dying. There are people out here making memes and worrying about whether they're going to be drafted and aren't understanding that this isn't about them. They live in the United States, they'll be fine, but Ukrainians are out here fighting for their lives right now," Mesa said.

While the U.S. officially joining the war could be a possibility, many believe the Ukrainian people should be the focus right now, ensuring that people are being respectful of the ongoing conflict and that those who are fighting for the existence of their country continue to be the priority.

Police Blotter



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On Feb. 21, the Reporting Officer (R/O) was dispatched to Park Avenue and Stewart Avenue regarding a suspicious man leaving the area in a Toyota. The initial caller informed Winthrop Police Dispatch that she had witnessed a suspicious-looking male running from the Rutledge breezeway to his vehicle.

The suspect was seen carrying an iMac computer monitor which he placed in the vehicle's backseat before driving away towards Park Avenue and Stewart Avenue.

Upon arrival, the responding officers were unable to locate the vehicle the caller had mentioned. Dispatch was able to run the tag of the vehicle through NCIC, but after searching the surrounding area, responding officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

On Feb. 22, Chief Yearta was contacted by a student regarding a missing iMac. The R/O then attempted to locate surveillance footage of the incident, but was unable to find any footage from inside the building the laptop was taken from. However, the R/O did locate footage of a vehicle matching the description of the suspect entering Winthrop campus.

The footage showed the same vehicle the caller had mentioned driving in front of Tillman. From that camera angle it was observed that the suspect's vehicle had driver side rear collision damage along with a missing brake light cover on the passenger side. The footage also shows the suspect running towards his car with the iMac computer and driving off.

COVID-19 testing centers closing

DHEC to end daily reporting of COVID-19 cases March 15

DEVYN BROWN
Staff Writer

Starting this month, South Carolina will reduce the number of public COVID-19 testing sites and end the daily reporting of cases.

The decision to close testing sites was made last month by the SC Department of Health and Environment Control due to declining cases and hospitalizations and the availability of at-home testing kits. As testing sites are closing, DHEC will not have access to daily COVID-19 reports.

DHEC will begin closing public testing sites in counties with five or more private PCR COVID-19 testing sites on March 1 and counties with two to four private testing sites on March 15. Public

testing sites will not be closed in counties where the agency is the lone provider of testing or where there are one to two private testing sites.

Due to the closure of public testing sites, daily case reporting will end by March 15.

"DHEC is actively closing a number of testing sites and will stop daily case reporting this month. At the Winthrop Coliseum, DHEC will soon end funding but supports the continuation of this community testing site," George W. Hynd, Interim President, said in an email on March 7.

"Testing contractor Genetworx will shift to requesting insurance information for testing beginning March 15 that will cover testing

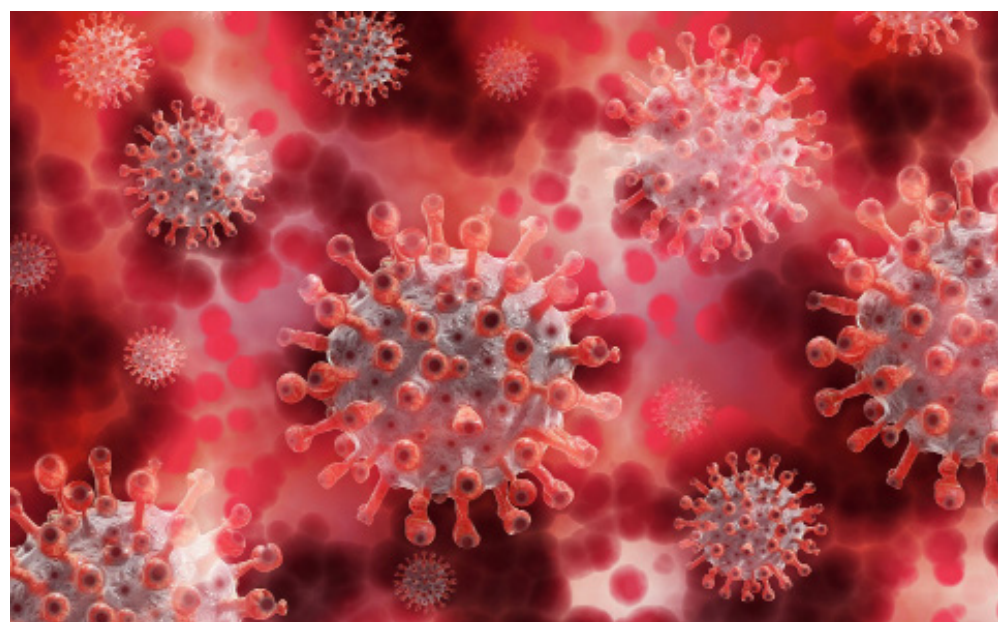


Photo courtesy of Pixabay

An illustration of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19.

for COVID-like symptoms and being a close contact, but not for surveillance. Genetworx will continue to offer testing for individuals who are uninsured."

With this change, other COVID-19 guidelines, such as those for

events, are changing as well.

The Charleston Bridge Run 10K, which draws more than 40,000 runners and walkers each year to Charleston, has removed its COVID-19 guidelines prior to the

event on April 2 after reviewing the CDC's and DHEC's guidance and discussing with their medical team.

DHEC will still track the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations and related deaths.

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

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Eagles fall to Longwood in Big South Championship

Hopes of a third-straight NCAA Tournament bid fade away for Winthrop after beatdown at Bojangles Coliseum

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After soundly defeating High Point in the quarterfinal round and fending off Gardner-Webb in the semifinals, the Winthrop mens' basketball team suffered a brutal loss in Sunday's conference title game against the Longwood Lancers.

Longwood, which entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed after finishing the regular season 15-1 in conference play, jumped out to an early 9-2 lead over the Eagles.

Though Winthrop would momentarily get the score back to within five points after two free throws made by senior Micheal Anumba, the Lancers continued to step on the gas in the first half, putting more and more distance between the teams until the lead was as great as 21 points (37-16) with 3:39 left before half-time.

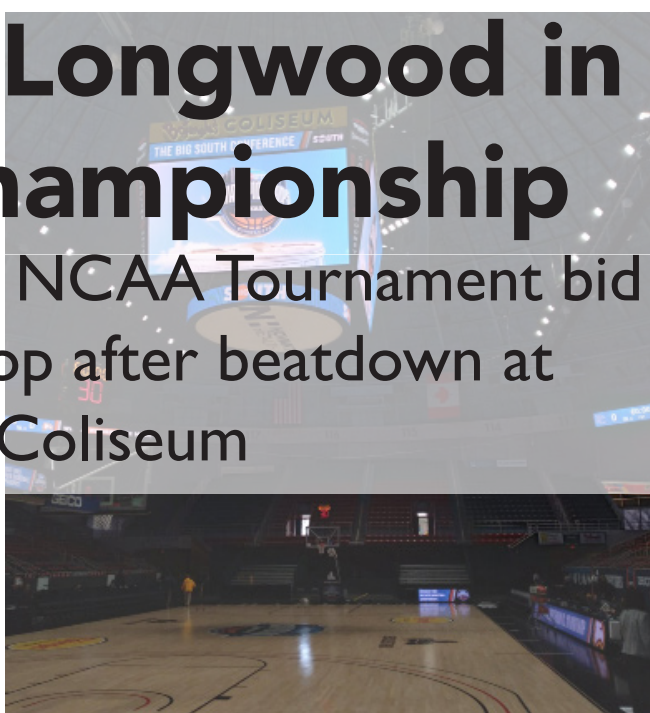
The Lancers shot 8-of-10 from behind the arc in the first half

(compared to Winthrop's 2-of-10), leading them to a 45-27 halftime advantage. Twenty-two of those Longwood points came off of Winthrop turnovers.

Winthrop was no stranger to playing from behind this season, but for the first time in a long time, the hole proved to be too deep for the Eagles to dig out of.

Winthrop pulled back to within 15, only for the Lancers to go on a 13-0 run, putting the Eagles down by a whopping 28 points (62-34) with under 14 minutes to play. From there out, the teams mostly maintained pace with each other as Winthrop slowly came to terms that it would not be "three-peating."

One member of the Winthrop squad who won't get another shot at making the NCAA Tournament is graduate transfer Patrick Good. Good was supposed to go "dancing" in 2020, when his East



Matthew Shealy/The Johnsonian

This year, the Big South Tournament was held at a neutral site — Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte

Tennessee State team went 30-4 and won the Southern Conference Championship under the leadership of head coach Steve Forbes.

That 2020 tournament was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, influencing Good's decision in 2021 to join Winthrop for his final year of eligibility as he hoped to finally get to compete on the biggest stage in college basketball.

"What an emotional experience it has been as well a wonderful ride," Good said in a farewell post on his social media platforms. "It flew by so fast, but I cherished [and] enjoyed all the flights, bus rides, team meals, film sessions, etc.

"I am glad I finished out my final year of

eligibility at Winthrop University. Even though the championship game didn't go as planned, this was a special year full of adversity [and] memories."

Good finished with 11 points in Sunday's loss — one of just three Winthrop players to record double-digit figures in scoring. He was joined by Anumba (who had 12) and Big South Player of the Year DJ Burns Jr. (who scored 14).

With Sunday's result, Winthrop finishes the 2021-2022 season 23-9 overall in Mark Prosser's first season as head coach. The Eagles only dropped three games to conference opponents — two in the regular season and the loss in the title match.



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Sunday was not fun. Winthrop did not win.

The Eagles fought, but were no match for the Longwood Lancers, suffering a devastating, beatdown defeat in the conference championship game and missing out on what would have been a third-straight NCAA Tournament bid.

Along with many other Winthrop fans and alumni, I am disappointed. Perhaps deflated is a better word. Deflated, like a New England Patriots football. (My apologies to Pats fans for the unprovoked insult).

In all honestly, it felt like the air had been let out off the ball on Sunday as Winthrop missed shot after shot in the first half. It just wasn't Winthrop's day, and Longwood took advantage of that in every way possible. It was Longwood's day.

The Lancers are a

'Fight! Win! And have fun!'

great story, and they earned their right to dance this March. But while it may not have had the perfect ending we'd all hoped for (and in a way, become conditioned to expect), Winthrop was a great story this year, too.

It'd be a shame not to take a step back and appreciate all the pieces of Winthrop's story this year. 23-9 is not too shabby, and neither is a 14-2 record in conference play. In most years, that's a regular season title and a No. 1 seed in the conference tournament.

This of course comes in Mark Prosser's first season as head coach, with a good amount of change in personnel. One change — the addition of graduate transfer Patrick Good.

What a pleasure it was to watch Pat do his thing this year. How many times did he bail Winthrop out and hit a big three-pointer (or multiple) in the waning seconds of a game to...

see FIGHT pg. 5

Winthrop Track and Field caps off indoor season with conference championships

Three Eagles earn Big South honors

SAM HYATT
staff writer

The Winthrop track and field team traveled to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, at the end of February to compete in the Big South Conference Indoor Championships.

"We knew that going in that this was the youngest team, and we did not have the experience that was needed," said head cross country and track and field coach Benjamin Paxton. "The last two years, we did not have many who had competed at the championship level before."

At the meet, Winthrop's Bautista Vivanco and Libby Roush received All-Academic honors as a result of academic achievements.

"Being the recipient of this prize was definitely something very meaningful to me," Vivanco said. "This award serves me as a reminder of my roles not just as a Winthrop athlete but also as a Winthrop student, in the sense that it gave me encouragement to continue developing my academics through the rest of my college career."

In addition to receiving the academic awards, Vivanco competed in the 200- and 400-meter dash and was the third leg of the 4x400 meter relay.

Freshman Jaden Mathieu broke a personal record and freshman record in the high jump at the meet, finishing one spot off from the podium with a jump of 2.00 meters.

"I'm pretty satisfied with how I did in breaking my personal record, getting the freshman record, and being one place away from All-Conference from my first Big South Championship was great," Mathieu said.

Winthrop's highest-ranking performer was Ambar Nunez-Gomez, who finished in second place in the women's weight throw with a toss of 17.43 meters. Winthrop's Daren Hinds also ran a freshman record of 8:42:62 for the 3,000-meter run.

Now that the indoor season has ended, the teams are preparing for the outdoor season.

"We are on a nice three-week break which will help in recovery both mentally and physically. We will be able to work on volume and then rest during spring break before returning to compete at [the] University of North Carolina at Charlotte Invitational," Paxton said.

During the outdoor season, there will be several athletes in disciplines that are not contested indoors, such

as 400-meter hurdles and discus.

"These athletes will make an impact on the conference level," Paxton said.

In preparation for the upcoming outdoor season, Nunez-Gomez plans to work with her coach in being process-oriented.

"I have a lot of goals for the rest of the season," Nunez-Gomez said. "I definitely want to push my hammer personal record further than it was last year. I want to be able to improve little by little each meet, even if it was centimeters worth of personal records."

As Mathieu enters the upcoming outdoor season, he will be watching film and doing extra work outside of practice.

"My goal is to make incremental improvements and eventually hit 2.09 [meters], which is 6 feet and ten inches, and [that] will place me in the top 100 [for] Division I high jump," Mathieu said.

Winthrop track and field will be hosting the Winthrop/Adidas Invitational at the Irwin Belk Complex as its only home meet this season. The meet will be held March 24-26.

"Admission is free and a great way to spend your spring days at the Winthrop farm," Paxton said.



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Track and Field

Vivanco (second from left), Nunez-Gomez (second from right) and Roush (far right) show off the medals they earned

cont. **FIGHT** from pg. 4

...earn a win or send it to overtime?

I was present for both the madness against Mercer on Homecoming (when Winthrop erased a 9-point deficit in the final 51 seconds of regulation) and for the insanity at USC Upstate (where Good hit a deep three to force overtime).

How thankful I am for those memories. How thankful I am for the last four years of Winthrop basketball.

Along with comeback wins and overtime victories, Winthrop earned a West Coast

win over the University of Washington this season. Any win over a power conference team should be celebrated, and this one is no exception. Add that victory to the one over a ranked St. Mary's team in 2019, and Winthrop is starting to put together a nice resume of wins out west.

But speaking of resumes, a loss in the conference title game is not the blemish that it feels like in this moment of defeat. The fact that Winthrop has made it to the championship round three seasons in a row is amazing. The fact that

championships are the standard in Rock Hill is even more incredible.

No matter the make-up of Winthrop's roster next year, I expect the Eagles to be right back in that title game come March of 2023. It's the Winthrop way. The fans know that, the players know that, and Mark Prosser and his staff know that.

I'm grateful that I've attached myself to such a tradition-rich basketball program. You can't win 'em all, but Winthrop wins most of 'em. It's been fun, and I know there's a lot more fun to be had.



STUDENT MEDIA POLL

<i>Student Media Poll Top 25</i>	<i>Week 17 Matthew Shealy's votes</i>	<i>Michael Covil's votes</i>
1. Gonzaga (18)	1. Kentucky	1. Kentucky
2. Baylor (2)	2. Gonzaga	2. Villanova
3. Arizona	3. Baylor	3. Arizona
4. Auburn	4. Villanova	4. Gonzaga
5. Kentucky (2)	5. Kansas	5. Baylor
6. Duke	6. Duke	6. Duke
7. Kansas	7. Arizona	7. Tennessee
8. Purdue	8. Providence	8. Arkansas
9. Villanova	9. Tennessee	9. Kansas
10. Tennessee	10. Texas Tech	10. Providence
11. Providence	11. Auburn	11. Auburn
12. Wisconsin	12. Arkansas	12. Texas Tech
13. Texas Tech	13. Illinois	13. St. Mary's
14. UCLA	14. Wisconsin	14. Illinois
15. Arkansas	15. Purdue	15. South Dakota St.
16. Illinois	16. Murray St.	16. Purdue
17. St. Mary's	17. Houston	17. Murray St.
18. Houston	18. Connecticut	18. Wake Forest
19. Murray St.	19. St. Mary's	19. Wisconsin
20. Connecticut	20. South Dakota St.	20. Michigan St.
21. USC	21. UCLA	21. Connecticut
22. Iowa	22. Loyola Chicago	22. Houston
23. Texas	23. North Carolina	23. North Carolina
24. Colorado St.	24. Memphis	24. Vermont
25. North Carolina	25. Vermont	25. UCLA

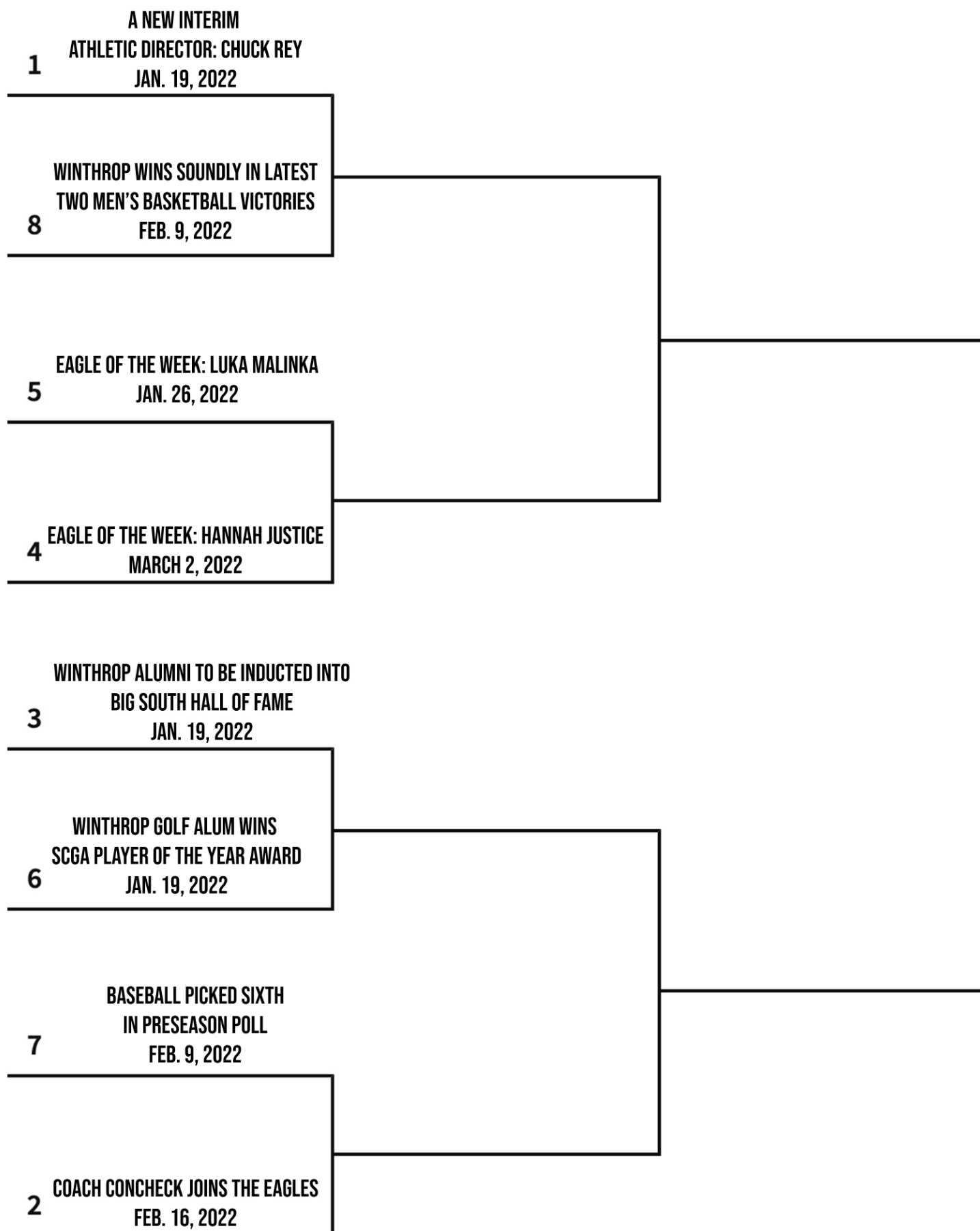


Photo Courtesy of Michael Covil/Winthrop Live

Fun times were had at Coastal Carolina in December despite Winthrop's 74-64 loss

Johnsonian Madness

In honor of March Madness, The Johnsonian's sports editors invite you to choose your favorite sports stories from this semester in an epic bracket-style selection process. If you missed a story, you can always find it online at www.mytjnow.com. Complete your bracket, share a picture on Twitter or Instagram, and tag @thejohnsonian.



Rock Hill's One Word Poetry Festival Returns

The 2nd Annual One Word Poetry Festival "make[s] a statement and show[s] how valuable poetry is and can be to the city"

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The One Word Poetry Festival returns to Rock Hill with various events for Winthrop students to take advantage of.

Kicking off with a creative writing showcase at Dina's Place on March 30th and ending with a poetry lunch in Richardson Ballroom on April 3rd, "The festival include a Various workshops, Creative Writing Showcase by Winthrop University students, a Youth Open Mic, Adult Open Mic featuring music by Rock Hill Hall of Fame band, "Mellogroove," where there will be a food truck and beverages for sale from the Rock Hill Bottle Shop." said Ephraim Sommers, Assistant Professor of English at Winthrop and Chair of Educational Events.

On Saturday April 3rd, the finalists for the Youth Poet Position will perform and Rock Hill's next Youth Poet Laureate will be named. Author of Pink Elephant and 2009 Women's Individual World Poetry Slam Champion, Rachel

McKibbens' will lead a poetry workshop and host a keynote reading and Q&A at Sunday's poetry brunch.

The One Word Poetry festival planning festival committee is made up of all community volunteers who give great insight into the event's schedule, programmatic offerings, promotion and other details that ensure the festival "happens without a hitch." Poet Laureate of Rock Hill, Angelo Geter said.

As Geter is the festival director and founder of the event, other team members include Dr. Ephraim Sommers, Coordinator of Educational Activities, Dr. Joya Holmes, Coordinator of Community Service, Abbie Towson, Coordinator of Public Outreach, and Debra Heintz, Coordinator of Event programming.

"When I created the One Word Poetry Festival my intent was to highlight the importance of poetry, writing and creative expression in Rock Hill. The arts are important to the community but are

often overshadowed by sports, finance and other industries. I wanted this festival to make a statement and show how valuable poetry is and can be to the city. I want those who attend to be exposed to the various types of poetry, learn more about the art form, and show that everyone can be impacted and inspired by it in different ways." Geter said.

Last year's festival was pushed to a later date, during Winthrop's summer break.

"So the first thing that changed was last time, we kind of kept having to push the event back for different reasons to later in the year. And what ended up happening was we were a month outside of Winthrop being in class. And so by that time, everybody at Winthrop has gone home." Sommers said, "So one of the major changes we wanted to make was having it happen during the Winthrop school year so that we could have those events be cultural events. And I also wanted to

have a kickoff event with Winthrop poets. And so that's going to be we didn't have that last year." Sommers said, "I'm really excited about that, obviously, because Winthrop gets to be represented, right, because this event just isn't about Winthrop. It's really about the community of Rock Hill."

Embracing Winthrop's artistic community, as well as the Charlotte, York County, and Columbia areas, Sommers sees the festival's impact as a reminder to the community of the greater artistic world around them.

"I think it allows students, you know, this is one thing that's really important to my teaching, is I think a lot of students at Winthrop come to to Rock Hill, and don't really get a chance to look at the surrounding community very much, you know, unless they're from here, right, they might like, stay mostly on campus, they might go to a coffee shop or two that's near campus." Sommers said.

Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Senior, Alexandra Aradas was named as South Carolina's first Youth Poet Laureate at last year's festival.

Aradas says her experience in creative writing originally started as a form of therapy. "And that was basically the thing that I used to keep myself alive, because I suffer from depression. And that would, that's what I use. And so I have a lot of experiences from



Rock Hill and the State of South Carolina's First Youth Poet Laureate, Alexandra Aradas
Photo Courtesy of the One Word Poetry Festival Website

that of like, being in the hospital and writing. And that really motivated me. And that encouraged my passion for writing." Aradas said.

Taking interest in social justice, Aradas realized she wanted to use her writing and be a Civic Poet.

"Where I was, like, when I, when I first started my term, I had like the SpeakUp Youth conference that I went to, and I read it. And that was really cool, because I got to read poems like about Black Lives Matter and about voting to like children. And that was really cool." Aradas said, "I think the significance of [my role] is that I have gained the confidence to talk about those issues. And my role, my platform, it like, it gives me the ability to talk about it."

As South Carolina Youth Poet Laureate, "perks include a monetary stipend, a reading

performance and tour, mentorship from the current Rockhill, adult poet laureate, and opportunities of having her work highlighted throughout the city." according to yclibrary.com.

Before last year's announcement of Rock Hill Youth Poet Laureate, Aradas' mother prepared her for the worst outcome.

"And she was like prepping me already, before we even left the car to lose and it's not that she doesn't believe in me, but she just knows how the world works. And so when I One like, that was probably one of the greatest moments of my life because I finally realized the power that my poetry had. And specifically going even more personally, or personal."

To view the One Word Poetry Festival's full event schedule, visit <https://onewordpoetryfestival.com/>.



Pictured is Jericho Brown, Pulitzer Prize Winner for best poetry book, the Tradition (Copper Canyon, 2019)
Photo Courtesy of the One Word Poetry Festival Website

Calculators and monopolies

Prohibitive calculator costs have changed the way students do math

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Despite arriving on the market nearly 20 years ago, Texas Instruments' TI-84 Plus is still the standard calculator for mathematics courses across the country. Boasting specs that make your grandpa's computer look like a feat of quantum engineering, the TI-84 Plus continues to be marketed at a list price of \$150 as of 2022, even though it started at \$120 in 2004. In an age where laptops and smart devices are the norm, how is this outdated piece of technology still managing to keep pace?

The secret ingredient to the TI-84 Plus' relevancy, and Texas

Instrument's relevancy in general, is lobbying. According to OpenSecrets, an organization dedicated to tracking the lobbying data, Texas Instruments began lobbying to several federal departments, including the Department of Education and the Office of Science and Technology Policy, as early as 2005. Its lobbying expenditures have remained consistent over the decades, ranging between \$1 and \$2 million, at \$1.25 million in 2021.

"It was required by my high school in Charlotte," said Mario Delgado, a computer science major. "I use a TI-nspire, which cost

around \$200 when I got it. But I wasn't even allowed to use it on most tests."

In 2013, Texas Instruments lobbied the Texas state legislature for a bill which would mandate that all high school students take Algebra 2, a class which requires the usage of graphing technology.

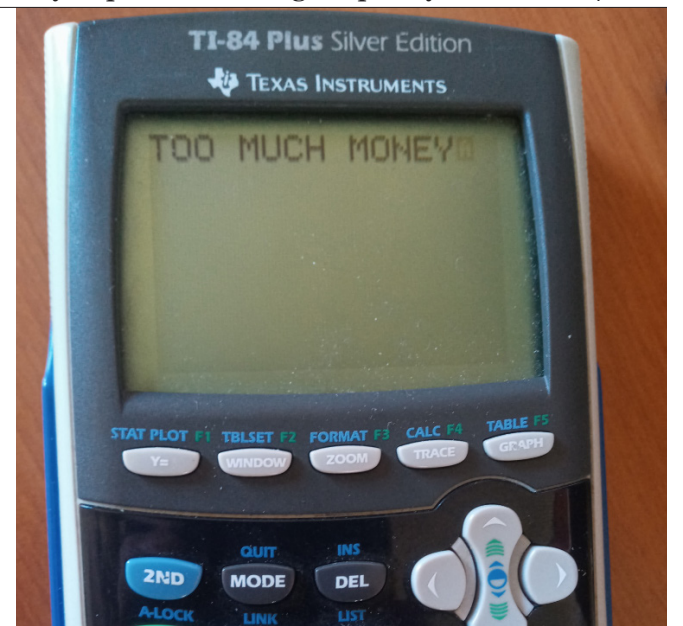
"You basically had to have one in high school, even though it wasn't required for me," said Alli Brophy, a computer science and mathematics major. "The school-provided ones weren't great. I got my current TI-84 for around \$100 in 2021. It took a little bit of price-hunting."

All of this lobbying

has allowed Texas Instruments to become the dominant force in the calculator market, occupying nearly 71.39% of the market as of 2019. The TI-84 Plus is assumed to be the default calculator used by students, professors, textbooks and even testing administration companies, such as College Board. But is this technology even necessary?

"I mainly use my phone for everyday math," said Nick Casale, a computer science major. "What's the point in buying a new calculator when it's so expensive?"

"I have not required students to have a calculator in my classes



A typical TI-84 Plus
Ryan Lumbert/The Johnsonian

for nearly four years now," said Dr. Kristen Abernathy, Associate Professor of Mathematics here at Winthrop. "Most of my classes only need basic phone functionality, and usually anything more complicated can be done in an app on one's computer. I lean towards open-source software. I don't see the need for students to pay for calculators."

As it stands now,

students and professors are starting to move away from what was once standard technology to open-source alternatives. This shift at Winthrop may be indicative of a more general trend, in higher education at least, of bucking the hold that Texas Instruments has on academic resources and on the education industry overall.

Upcoming Cultural Events

For students who are looking to complete their cultural event credits, there are a few interesting cultural events happening in the month of March

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March 9th

11:00 AM

“Roots and Ramifications of 21st-Century Challenges to the Freedom to Read,” will be a 90-minute online lecture that discusses recent challenges to school library holdings and public school curriculum as well as the literary significance of banned book controversies, and how they impact marginalized groups.

March 10th

11:00 AM

“Addressing Global Gender-Based Issues: The Case of Belize,” will be an online lecture and discussion.

7:06 PM

“The Importance of Black Educators,” a discussion in Dina’s Place about the importance and impact of African American educators and their role in the schools and communities they build.

March 22nd

11:00 AM

At “Bridging the Gap: Connecting the Winthrop Experiences,” campus leaders will be sponsoring another discussion event at Dina’s Place. The event will feature campus leaders, faculty and staff engaging in insightful discussions with personal stories and talks about bridging the gaps between the Winthrop Student experience and Rock Hill State University.

7:00 AM

In honor of Women’s History Month, “America’s Real Sister Act: Black Catholic Nuns in United States History” will be an online event that discusses the history of Black Catholic Nuns in U.S. History.

7:30 PM

Pianist Matthew Manwarren will perform at Barnes Recital Hall. The event will last an hour and will feature a series of classic songs and performances from Manwarren.

If you are interested in any of these events featured throughout the semester, you can visit <https://www.winthrop.edu/culturalevents/events.aspx> to learn about what cultural events will be happening.

Tall Stories: A Bookstore That Has All The SC-Fi and Fantasy Books You Can Read

JADA STRONG
staff writer

Tall Stories Bookstore, located at 164 Cherry Rd, is a bookstore that specializes in mostly Sc-fi, fantasy, and mystery genres. They have collectible items and many signed books as well as first editions too.

The store is open on Friday’s and Saturday’s from 10 am-6pm and is a family owned business. The owner, Donna Rankin, runs the store with her daughter in law, Ashley Rankin. Another employee of theirs is Jenna Deaton, a Winthrop Alumni who also works at Winthrop too.

Donna used to live in California and had many bookstores down there until she decided to move down to South Carolina to be closer to

her family and that’s when she decided to open a bookstore in Rock Hill.

“We had moved to this coast about eight years ago from California.” Ashley said. “And when my son Dylan was born, about a year later, she was like, ‘I don’t ever want to leave.’ And I’m like, I love that. And so I volunteered to help her unbox some books. And all these years later. I’m still in boxing, but I love organizing. And so it works.”

Although the store is only open a couple of times a week, the employees are always there putting in the work and keeping their business thriving.

“We opened in May 2019, And we were going great, And then all of a sudden pandem-

ic hit, and we had to close. And so, we had to figure out another way to be able to support the bookstore.” Donna said, “So, we spent all of our time cataloging and doing online sales. And we’ve just, that’s just taken off and done really, really well for us.”

The bookstore is within walking distance from campus, has a good deal of customers that are students from Winthrop’s campus.

“We have people that are looking for literature, like I say we have a lot of students who are interested in theater will find books for them.” Donna said, “Another genre that has always been a popular one is poetry, we have a really good poetry section, lots of science fiction.”

Tall stories carries a lot of older fantasy and Sc-fi books so with so many books being adapted into shows, many customers come looking for the books the shows are based off of to read.

“They’re all into everything that’s current in with the media, and the shows that are on Game of Thrones, and we have newer books, but a lot of the older books are now such as Game of Thrones, Harry Potter, Lock and Key.” Donna said, “So we have all of that.”

While the banning of books continues to happen in states like Tennessee, tall Stories also



A Tall Stories sign
Jada Strong/The Johnsonian



A picture of the inside of Tall Stories Store
Jada Strong/The Johnsonian

collects banned books that are not being provided in schools.

“We will sell any banned book; we don’t believe in banning

any literature.” Donna said, “We don’t believe banning books, that’s shutting people’s minds off, readers should have the choice.”



A picture of the inside of Tall Stories Store
Jada Strong/The Johnsonian

Upcoming superhero movies in 2022 2022 will experience various superhero movie releases

SAM HYATT
staff writer

In 2022 there will be numerous superhero movies appearing in theaters, “The Batman” being one of the earliest releases of the year.

“The Batman” movie release has been one that fans have been eagerly awaiting for several months. The movie, starring Robert Pattinson, was originally supposed to premier in October 2021, however the release date was pushed back until March 4, 2022, as a result of the Covid-19

pandemic.

“I’m stoked for the new Batman movie,” English graduate student Lillian Barfield said. “I think Robert Pattinson, honestly, is going to do amazing, but I am keeping my hopes low because I have not enjoyed many Batman movies so far.”

While the film will be released in the United States and various other countries around the world, Warner Bros. have decided to push back the release date in Russia as a result of the recent conflict between Russia and the

Ukraine.

Another film that was postponed and will be premiering this year is “Thor: Love and Thunder.” Big names such as Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman, Christian Bale and Matt Damon will all be starring in the film. The film is set to be released on July 8, 2022.

The movie “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse” will be released on May 6, 2022. After Doctor Strange casts a spell opening a passage to the multiverse, a threat causes conflict for him and his team.

“I’m looking forward to the ‘Doctor Strange in the Multiverse’ movie that is coming out! It seems pretty cool and with what is in the trailer, there may be some crossing between Marvel and the X-Men which I am very excited about,” Camille McCarty, a sophomore theater tech major said.

The film “Black Adam” directed by Jaume Collet-Serra and starring Dwayne Johnson will finally be released on July 29, 2022. The film has been in development since 2014 but was stopped multiple times. The character Black Adam first appeared in 1945 in DC comics, however, will be returning as a supervillain.

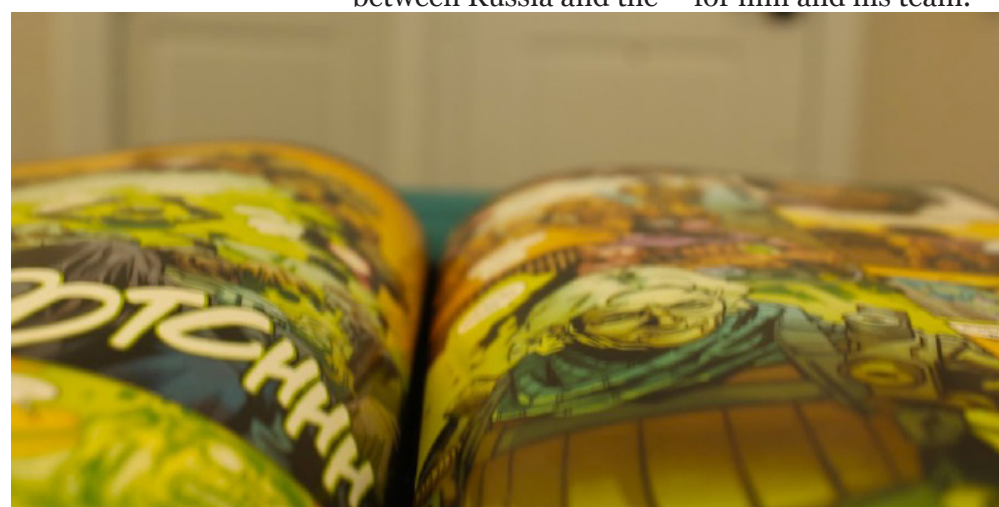
“I have heard about the “Black Adam” movie coming out and he was the one DC character I always really admired. First, because of his connection to Egypt, and his superpower has always

interested me, but I feel like he’s always been the supporting character and never the main character, so I am most excited about that,” Martin Jackson, a senior political science major said.

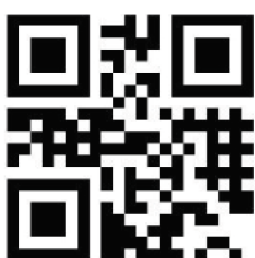
“Morbis” is a new film that focuses on the story of a terminally ill man who accidentally transforms himself into a vampire after doing an experiment. Morbius, played by Jared Leto, becomes a supervillain as he is searching for human blood. Others who star in the film include Michael Keaton, Matt Smith and Adria Arjona. The film is set to release on April 1, 2022.

As the year continues, superhero movie fans can expect to be busy watching their favorite superheroes and supervillains on their new journeys.

“The movies that are coming out in the near future seem really good,” McCarty said.



Numerous films will be released in 2022
Gabe Corbin/The Johnsonian



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Winthrop Mad Libs

I'm so _____(adjective) for spring break! I have so many things planned. My bestie, _____(name) and I are going to _____(verb) all night long! I'm also going to go to _____(place) for the first time. Hopefully I'll be able to talk to my crush while I'm there! This spring break is going to be the most _____(adjective) ever because I am going to _____(verb) for the entire time. Thankfully, none of my professors assigned homework so I am free to do whatever I want the entire time. My mom obviously wants me to _____verb), but I don't think so! I can't wait for spring break to finally get here!

Ugh, I'm so _____(emotion/adjective)! It's finally warming up, which means the plants are growing...which means my allergies are coming back. Every day it seems like my nose _____(verb ending with -s) more and more. My eyes won't stop _____(verb) either! It seems like I have _____(number) tissues with me at all times right now. And the worst part is, I can't seem to stop _____(verb ending with -ing)! Seriously, how am I supposed to pay attention in class if I keep _____(verb ending with -ing)? It's so _____(adjective). My professors keep giving me _____(adjective) looks about it, but I can't help it! I'm going to have to stock up on _____(noun) if I'm going to make it through this spring.

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Another Flood (reported in Courtyard)



Mariana Beltran/The Johnsonian