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Cooper Beck/The Johnsonian

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Driver caught with drugs, student harassed by ex

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Graphic courtesy of The Carolina Panthers/panthers.com/Peoples

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Trustee LaRoche calls for return of representatives to board table

Changes to the board bylaws removed student and faculty representatives from board table amongst other changes



LaRoche

Winthrop trustee Jane LaRoche called for the return of student and faculty representatives to the board of trustees table after changes to the board's bylaws last summer revised representative rights and responsibilities.

LaRoche called the departure of representatives from the board table a "travesty" following the student and faculty reports to the board from student liaison Erin Emiroglu and faculty liaison Jennifer Jordan at the end of the April 8 meeting as a final, impromptu comment. Emiroglu and Jordan were seated with the public audience behind board Chair Glenn McCall.



McCall

In June 2021, the board of trustees, including LaRoche, unanimously approved a resolution to modify the language in the BOT bylaws that allotted positions for student and faculty

representatives to the board.

The version of the board bylaws adopted previously in June 2018 said the board of trustees "may invite the Chair of the Faculty Conference and the designated leader of the officially recognized student representative organization to attend meetings of the Board as representatives of their respective organizations to the Board with the right to discuss but without a vote."

In practice, the previous bylaws made the Faculty Conference chair and Council of Student Leaders president sitting members of the board who could not vote. Representatives would almost always be seated with the board of trustees and would have a nameplate denoting them to the public. Representatives were involved in public-closed executive sessions as non-voting members and served in a limited capacity on select board committees.

The bylaws approved in June 2021 include new language that allows for staff representation through the Staff Conference chair but mostly focuses on altering previously existing verbiage regarding student, faculty and staff representation. The 2021 language modifications shift away from representatives serving as default, non-voting board members and towards them serving as "liaisons" to the board who are called upon at the board's

convenience to speak on behalf of their organizations and report board activity back to their constituents.

"Liaisons may be invited to present to the Committees or full Board regarding special topics as needed. Liaisons are not members of the Board of Trustees. Therefore, they do not have a vote and are not permitted to attend the executive session of any Board of Committee meeting unless specifically invited by the Chair of the Board or Committee," the bylaws approved in June 2021 read.

Secretary to the board of trustees Kimberly Faust said the board approved the new bylaws with the manifest goal of creating "meaningful ways for the students, faculty, and staff to support the work of the Board."

"In previous iterations of the bylaws, students and faculty representatives were included," Faust said. "However, there were no shared expectations of the roles nor a definition of how the representatives would assist and interact with the governing board. Consequently, the representative roles were ceremonial in nature, cumulated in generic verbal reports given while seated at the table during Board meetings, and were often comprised of information already known to the Board."

Faust said that the board utilized last year's bylaw review to address the role of students and faculty in

relation to the board as well as include the staff perspective. The new liaison roles are the board's solution and are meant to serve as active participants in creating recommendations "rather than being inserted at the end of the process in their ceremonial positions seated at the Board table."

"Another misunderstanding with the representative role was that it was a conduit for making special requests directly to the Board and thereby bypassing the administrative hierarchy of the univer



Jordan

sity. Winthrop has a well-developed set of organizations (CSL, Faculty Conference, Staff Conference,) protocols, policies, and procedures for student, faculty, and staff concerns, issues, and requests to be heard by the appropriate administrators. The Board will not undermine the authority of the president by receiving special requests that should be addressed by the campus Administration," Faust said.

Staff liaison John Kroft said that he has not been able to fully take advantage of his role due to recent sickness and staff chair responsibilities taking precedent, but said that

the one time he was able to attend a meeting, he was addressed and asked to speak about the staff community while minutes were being taken prior to the meeting's adjournment.

"This is a colossal step in a good direction for Staff, but this is just the beginning for us as this is the first year we've been officially acknowledged in the Board's bylaws. This has been something Staff has been working toward collectively since the Staff Assembly was first created two sitting university presidents ago. I have no doubt that Dr. Debbie Garrick, next year's Staff Assembly Chair and Liaison to the Board will do a much better job at this than I have."

Jordan, who was elected as faculty chair in April 2021, said that her experience as faculty liaison has been unproblematic so far and feels that her input has been valued by the board.

"I do feel like my voice is being heard. I am not sitting at the table during the meetings, but I have been asked several times for my input and at the last board meeting prior to the one Friday, the Board invited me to speak and I had the floor for over an hour. So the optics may seem that they are not interested in what we have to say, but that has not been my experience so far," Jordan said.

Emiroglu, who is graduating this semester and will be succeeded by the recently elected president of

CSL for the 2022-2023 academic year Miguel Caldwell, said she thinks it matters that representatives sit with



Emiroglu

the board and hopes it will create a conversation.

"Sitting alongside Board members allows for us to interact and communicate with more," Emiroglu said. "Sometimes, board members don't know how students, faculty, and staff feel about proposals or other business until after they've voted or made some decisions. I do think they want to hear from us, however, we don't really have much time to interact with them until after the meeting. "Dr. LaRoche has always been an activist for the Winthrop community. She's willing to speak her mind for what she thinks is right and that's pretty admirable. Unfortunately, her time on the board is coming to a close. She used this final opportunity to spark the conversation that needs to be had. I think more people agree with her than others realize."

LaRoche's term as Seat 13 on the board of trustees will end this year. She is one of the two trustees elected by the Alumni Association.

Photos from winthrop.edu

Who is Edward Serna?

Winthrop's 12th president has big plans to improve the university

SPENCER HORTON
Staff Writer

"We are operating in a 'new normal.' Winthrop needs a president who can provide vision, leadership, and implementation," said incoming Winthrop president Edward Serna. "I am ready to take on those challenges and look forward to working with faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors and others to come up with a strategic plan to move the university forward."

Adapting to the "new normal" left by the COVID-19 pandemic is just one of the challenges that the incoming president plans to tackle, and his extensive experience working in higher education is sure to help him.

Serna has been working at universities all over the country since 2013. After working as an assistant professor at Athens State University and in several administrative positions at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, Serna became the president of the University of Maine at Farmington in 2019.

His higher education career came after working in business management for 11 years.

"My business background combined with my higher education experience has prepared me to understand the many perspectives needed to run a college campus," Serna said. "I bring not only management knowledge to Winthrop but also a passion for this institution and for advancing the critical mission of public higher education."

Passion for Winthrop comes easy for Serna, who got one of his four degrees here. Many are optimistic about Serna because of his alumnus status and think that this will help contribute to a bright future for the school.

"First of all, how incredible is it that an alumnus is coming back to lead the University," said exercise science program director Janet Wojcik. "I really liked how in his presentation he discussed how we need to figure out who we are and how we fit into the regional landscape as an educational institution."

"I am very excited that Dr. Serna will join Winthrop as its 12th President, especially since he is a graduate of our College of Business Administration," said dean and professor of accounting P.N. Sakseena. "We are looking forward to working in partnership with President Serna to continue to provide a transformative education to our students."

It is that business background that Serna believes gives him the unique tools that will help him excel as president.

"My time in the private sector gave me a good foundation for strategic thinking, financial management, data analysis, leadership and teamwork," Serna said. "Once I started teaching, I fell in love with working in higher education and made a career shift to educational leadership."

Serna highlighted the goals that he hopes to accomplish in his acceptance presentation, such as "working to increase our student enrollment, building on



Serna with his wife, Lauren, and kids, Anna Kate and Caroline

Courtesy of Judy Longshaw, News and Media Services Manager at Winthrop University

the synergy in the Rock Hill community, making Winthrop accessible for students, keeping the cost of Winthrop affordable and reaching out to strengthen and form partnerships across the campus and broader community."

For most of these goals, Serna says he will not be able to get started on making plans until he can get started in his new position and discuss them with his fellow faculty members.

He already has a few ideas for increasing student enrollment. "We need to tell the

Winthrop story more broadly and share what makes the Winthrop experience unique," Serna said. "Focusing on our historic and beautiful campus, which has always been a major draw, is certainly part of that as well."

Overall, Serna is looking forward to getting started at Winthrop and making an impact that will help the student body.

"I love talking with students, feeding off their passion and hearing their perspectives on the issues of the day. I will be involved

on campus with students as much as I can, balancing that with the need to enhance our partnerships with the external community, donors and legislators," Serna said.

"It is an honor to be selected as the 12th president of Winthrop. I look forward to leading bold change here at Winthrop that will resonate with the community and advance our core mission. My wife Lauren, our girls and I are excited to move to Rock Hill and look forward to being there this summer."

Information about the WU Alert system

Campus leadership gives more information about WU Alerts

MARLEY BASSETT
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Over the past couple of weeks, Winthrop University has experienced multiple instances of emergencies, from tornado sirens going off to an extended power outage last Monday night. Due to these emergencies, many questions have been raised around campus concerning the WU Alert system.

This alert system is required by the federal government under the Clery Act, that all colleges and universities have a method of notifying the campus of any emergencies.

In Winthrop's case, the alert system is made up of Alertus, which are the yellow boxes seen around campus buildings, Blackboard, which has the email, text, and phone call lists, and LiveSafe, which is the app Winthrop uses to send notifications out.

"WU Alerts are designed as the emergency notification for critical instances for when we want people on campus to take immediate action," said

Interim Chief of Winthrop Police Charles Yearata.

Critical instances are defined as anything that could have a severe impact on campus, such as weather or an active shooter situation.

In terms of the tornado sirens heard by students recently, Yearata said that the tornado sirens weren't actually for Winthrop.

"York County has nuclear sirens that they also use as tornado sirens and they are placed throughout the county. They also have an overlap feature so that if one fails, another picks up," Yearata said. "This is not an uncommon thing to happen where certain sides of campus will hear tornado sirens even when the area is not under a warning."

He also said that "if the campus itself has a tornado warning, you will definitely know. Not only will we send a WU Alert out but there are multiple sirens right around campus so deafening that you can't even hear yourself talk to someone."

A WU Alert was not



Alertus box used as part of the WU Alert system

sent out because Winthrop was not included in the warning, and the sirens were instead for McConnells and Chester County. However, Yearata did say that campus leadership is working on creating an email list, so students will know if there is the potential for tornadoes during the day.

"We are trying to send everyone an email at the start of the day

if there is the potential for tornadoes in the area that day so that way if the sirens do go off, y'all will know in advance that unless you receive a WU Alert, the sirens are not for our area," Yearata said.

With the power outage, the delay was caused by the wait for accurate information from both Duke Energy and the City of Rock Hill.

Marley Bassett/The Johnsonian

Yearata also cautioned against believing everything you see on social media.

"We understand that social media is raging and a lot of times you will receive 'information' faster. The problem is that sometimes it's not accurate and we are not going to initiate something unless we have accurate information," he said.

Winthrop students

have mixed feelings concerning the WU Alert system.

"Overall the WU Alert is a good thing. The critiques come when they delay the alerts or when they don't alert on something they should've," said freshman biology major Melody Guerin.

Sophomore human development and family studies major Grace Corbett agreed.

"I wish that students were provided more information about what to do in case of losing power; as no one really knew what to do. I wish that they could provide us with more information overall regarding the topic," she said.

"WU alerts are meant to keep students informed and safe, I just think they need to be a little more effective," said freshman political science major Maddy Best.

Yearata reiterated that the most important thing students could do was make sure that they are enrolled in the WU Alert system so that they can be notified in case of an emergency.

SC House passes transgender sports ban

SC House passed a bill barring transgender women from playing women's sports

MARLEY BASSETT
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The "Save Women's Sports Act," which would bar transgender women from participating in women's sports, passed the SC House of Representatives on April 6.

The proposed bill, officially H.4608, passed the South Carolina House with an 82-28 vote. It now moves to the Republican-controlled state Senate where it is almost guaranteed to pass.

The bill's official summary calls for all K-12 and colleges "to provide such sports teams designated for males may be open to female student participants; to provide such sports teams designated for females may not be open to male participants; to provide assumptions concerning the correctness of biological gender statements on official birth certificates of students."

If this bill passes the Senate and is signed by the governor, transgender female athletes in South Carolina will be required to compete in sports under the gender that they were assigned at birth rather than the gender with which they identify.

Rep. Ashley Trantham, who was the

lead sponsor of the bill, said in a speech on the House floor that "Women deserve to compete on a level playing field" and that the bill "ensures women are not forced to play against men on sports teams."

Rep. RJ May concurred, saying on the House floor that "Men have a biological advantage on the sports playing field, their bones are bigger, their lungs have more capacity, they are built differently. What this bill does is protect women who have a biological difference to males in a sport that they have competed their whole lives in, so it keeps the playing field fair and level."

Gov. Henry McMaster spoke in favor of the bill on April 6 during a brief media availability with The State newspaper.

"I believe strongly that you shouldn't have men competing against women in those kind of athletic contests," McMaster said. "I think most women agree. I think most people agree. This is one of those common sense things."

Current state Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman spoke out against the bill, saying that she believes transgender students



A transgender pride flag drawn on Scholars Walk

Courtesy of Terry Millett

will feel less protected in schools.

Winthrop University professor of political science Brandon Rinaldo-Benavidez agreed, saying that the bill "is simply saying that your genitals determine what type of sport you will play. To me that is clear effort to discriminate instead of protect."

Some Winthrop students said they believe the bill is rooted in transphobia. "It's blatant transphobia from a transphobic legislature that is based on absolutely no scientific information, only religious right-wing extremist propaganda," said a student who wished to remain anonymous.

"I have a strong belief

that the bills that are coming out for banning transgender individuals are due to just plain outright transphobia," said Xav Crooks, transfer social work freshman.

Crooks added that if "legislators truly wanted to understand transgender individuals and how the whole process works, they would do appropriate research based off actual facts and not from uncompleted studies dated back ten years."

Bills like these have been passed in fifteen other states as of this writing, including Texas, Florida, South Dakota and Utah. In South Carolina, only five students since 2016 have applied for waiv-

ers to play in sports categories different from their gender assigned at birth.

"If you actually cared about the students and individuals that are involved with this, you would do the research and then come to the conclusion that it's not a safety issue, it's not an 'unfair advantage.' Do your research," Crooks said.

"Oppression against anyone goes against the very nature of the 14th Amendment which guarantees equal protection under the law. Equal protection under the law is not a flowery phrase. It is literally required under the 14th Amendment," Rinaldo-Benavidez said.

Police ³ Blotter



SARAH HASSLER
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On April 8, the Reporting Officer (R/O) observed a black car going 38 mph in a 20 mph zone. The R/O conducted a traffic stop and then proceeded to make contact with the suspect, asking for his license, registration and proof of insurance. The R/O noticed the odor of marijuana during the initial contact and asked the suspect if he had any marijuana in the vehicle, and he said yes.

The R/O conducted a search of the vehicle, which revealed a smoking wrap with marijuana inside and a Bluntville Cigars pack with marijuana inside. The R/O ran the suspect's South Carolina driver's license through NCIC and requested dispatch to run a criminal background check, which showed that the suspect's driver's license and criminal history were clear.

The R/O issued the suspect a citation for speeding, more than 15 but less than 25 mph over the speed limit. The suspect was not charged for his possession of marijuana. The marijuana was bagged and submitted into evidence.

On April 12, the R/O was dispatched to investigate a male subject harassing a female student. The R/O met with the victim and the witness. The victim told the R/O that the defendant was attempting to contact the victim on the phone and was also spotted outside of The Nest at University Center Apartments where the victim lives.

The victim stated that she met the defendant roughly three weeks prior and was in a relationship with him until April 6. The victim also stated that she was sent several videos and messages prior to this incident by the defendant and that she told him not to make contact with her anymore and blocked his number.

The R/O attempted to make contact with the defendant over the phone, but the defendant did not answer. A message was left on the defendant's phone advising him to call the R/O back. The defendant will be advised to cease all contact with the victim and only return to campus for legitimate reasons, or he will face possible charges.

This week in American politics

TAYLOR SALLENGER
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Pfizer and BioNTech will soon ask the Food and Drug Administration to approve vaccine booster shots for those between the ages of 5 to 11 years old. This company announced on Thursday that a booster shot for that age group showed a significant increase in the level of neutralizing both the original and omicron variant in testing trials. In the coming days, it seems like Pfizer and BioNTech will ask the FDA for emergency authorization of the booster shots for the age group of 5 to 11 years old due to the results of the testing.

The director of the CIA, William J. Burns, said that he believes that Russia's desperation for a win in their ongoing war in Ukraine may cause them to potentially be tempted to use a tactical or low-yield nuclear weapon. Burns was previously an American ambassador to Russia and has dealt quite a bit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Burns believes that the U.S. should remain concerned over whether or not Putin decides to take this action, though he has said he hasn't

seen any "practical evidence" of the kind of movements that would cause the U.S. to believe the use of nuclear warfare was imminent.

On Friday, President Joe Biden announced that the U.S. will offer temporary protective status to Cameroon refugees who have fled the country due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Around 40,000 Cameroon nationals are expected to be eligible

for this protective status. This decision only comes weeks after the Biden administration was criticized for the large difference between the government's treatment of refugees from European countries and those from African, South American and Middle Eastern countries.

The U.S. confirms that two Ukrainian Neptune missiles sank the Russian warship,

the Moskva. The Moskva, which was previously considered the prize of the Russian Black Sea fleet, had been used to launch missile attacks on the country of Ukraine. Russia continues to claim that the ship was brought down by fires breaking out onboard, but U.S. officials confirmed Friday that was not the case.

Biden and first lady Jill Biden reportedly made \$610,702 in

Cooper Beck/The Johnsonian

2021, according to tax returns released by the White House. This is the first time the White House has released a president's tax returns for a year he was in office since the Obama administration. The White House released the tax returns of Vice President Kamala Harris and second gentleman Doug Emhoff as well.



Panthers, Rock Hill relationship in question

State Senator says fate of project lies in David Tepper's hands

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With construction having been halted for over a month on the Carolina Panthers' new headquarters in Rock Hill, some people, including state Sen. Michael Johnson, are beginning to question if the project will ever resume.

"In a way, from my perspective at least, you have a petulant billion-

aire who wants to hold everybody hostage," Johnson told The Johnsonian last week. "I thought Ronald Reagan said it best — you don't negotiate with terrorists — and we can't be held hostage to the Panthers."

Johnson, who was elected to the South Carolina Senate in November of 2020, previously served as the York County Council

Chairman.

He held that position in April of 2020, when the York County Council voted 4-3 in favor of a financial plan that required Rock Hill to waive 100% of its property taxes from the Panthers project for 30 years, the Rock Hill school district to waive 75%, and York County to waive 65%.

"I have never believed that the Panthers

would live up to all of their obligations," Johnson said. "That's why I voted against this two years ago. And I probably would have voted against it a few weeks ago."

The recent vote that Johnson referred to was a vote by the York County Council on a new financial proposal (which the Panthers have not yet agreed to) that would essentially have the Panthers foot the bill up front, and in turn, be repaid in tax credits.

Johnson added that without all the information, it's hard to criticize or praise the council's decision, though he said he "can't believe that York County could do anything more to try to make this happen than what they've already done."

After the council's vote in 2020, Johnson expressed concerns to The Johnsonian that the Panthers might not stay in Rock Hill long enough for a "payoff" to happen. He said now he isn't too surprised that the project stalled.

"Through all of the negotiations, I never thought the Panthers would live up to a 30-year obligation to both

the county and the city. What I didn't realize at the time is that they wouldn't even live up to a two-year obligation to us," Johnson said. "It is a shame for all involved, but I'm not overly surprised."

Johnson expressed displeasure in the fact that the current pause in construction is negatively impacting people who were planning to make a living in Rock Hill for the next few years, working diligently to build the Panthers' facility in a first-class manner and have it open on time.

"The Panthers just didn't walk away from York County. They've walked away from the people of York County and the people whose incomes were going to be derived from building this facility," he said.

Though not optimistic about the future of the Panthers in Rock Hill, Johnson did suggest that there could still be a positive outcome if the Panthers permanently abandon the project.

"From a just pure tax sense, to me, it's a win if we can then replace that with good commercial and industrial

properties that will generate revenue for the taxpayers of York County, because that's one of the things that the Panthers were not going to do," Johnson said. "They were not going to pay a dime of taxes to Rock Hill. And they were paying very little taxes to the school district or to the county."

"The question is — what happens to that property? Does David Tepper sell that property, and then someone can develop it and it can become useful for the area? Or does he sit on it and continue to be this petulant child who wants it his way or no way?"

While the Panthers haven't completely abandoned Rock Hill yet, Johnson said what happens next is up to Panthers owner David Tepper.

"It's his time to make a move," Johnson said. "And if he's not going to invest in York County, then what he needs to do is divest his interest in York County and allow us to find somebody who wants to be here and who's willing to grow with us over the years."



Photo courtesy of Michael Johnson via Facebook

Johnson served on the York County Council from 2013-2020

Winthrop Esports continues competitions without coach

Team members working together to keep team going

SAM HYATT
staff writer

Following the departure of esports coach Josh Sides at the end of 2021, Winthrop esports teams have continued this year with the oversight of Winthrop interim athletic director Chuck Rey.

"Since we do not have a head coach, we have been running things like it is a representative democracy,"

said Brock "Twice" Cheung, a member of the Valorant team. "Each team within Winthrop Esports has its own representative, and as a representative, I am just one part of the decision-making process regarding program-wide issues."

In addition to Rey's daily duties as interim athletic director, Cheung said that "he still gives Esports the special care we need



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletics

Winthrop added Esports in 2019

of new members now and it has resulted in the team being a lot more fun," said Jacob "FrostForest" Chan, the captain of the League of Legends team. "Not as many people were here during the spring semester due to Covid, so these past two semesters have been really fun for me."

This year, what with the loss of the Winthrop Esports coach, the team overall has

been putting the League of Legends team and its accomplishments as the priority.

"Overall, this transition period has had its bumps, but we are stable," Cheung said. "I'm graduating this semester so I will no longer be a part of the program after I graduate, but I'm sure within the next year it will be back to its peak."



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletics

Brock "Twice" Cheung

during this transition period and has been our biggest advocate to the current president of the school."

Although the details are not allowed to be released, Cheung said: "Chuck Rey has pushed for a lot of things we have wanted in terms of funding and conversations have progressed. I'm not allowed to specify what things are going on in the background, however, they are all great for the program's future and they wouldn't be possible without Chuck Rey." The only Winthrop

Esports team that is currently competing is the League of Legends team. They will be competing during the weekend of April 23 and 24, along with the weekend of April 30 and May 1. They will be competing in order to make it to the quarterfinals and possibly go to Los Angeles to play at the Riot Games studio during the summer.

In addition to the competitions occurring soon, the team plans to travel to St. Louis in July to compete in a tournament.

"We have gotten a lot



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletics

Jacob "FrostForest" Chan

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April Events

SAM HYATT
staff writer

April 20

The Anthology Book Release
10 a.m.-2 p.m. in DiGs Lobby

April 20

Farmers Market
12:15-1:15 p.m. on Scholars Walk

April 20

Demystifying Disability: How to
Begin the Shift from Ableism to
Allyship
6-7 p.m. via Zoom

April 21

The Bystander Moment:
Transforming Rape Culture at its
Root
6:30-8 p.m. in Owens Hall,
Room G02

April 21

WUG Talk: Devann Gardner,
MFA Thesis
Candidate
5-6 p.m. in Rutledge 119

April 22

Winthrop Jazz Ensemble &
Winthrop Commercial Music
Ensemble
7:30 in Barnes Recital Hall

April 22-23

Spring Dance Showcase
7:30 p.m. in Johnson Theatre

April 23

Carolinas Wind Orchestra
4 p.m. in Richardson Ballroom

April 23-24

Spring Dance Showcase
2 p.m. in Johnson Theatre

April 24

Winthrop Wind Symphony
4 p.m. in Tillman Auditorium

April 26

Study Day

April 27

MFA Thesis Proposal
Presentation: Bethany Salisbury
6:30 p.m. via Zoom

New sculpture in front of McLaurin Hall

JADA STRONG
staff writer

In the past few weeks, Winthrop professor of fine arts Shaun Cassidy and his students have begun a beautification initiative on campus, creating a new sculpture project for the outside of McLaurin Hall. Cassidy has enlisted some of his senior class students to create a new sculpture with him.

“We have a strong senior class that’s graduating this May. And they put up their senior show last week, so they have a block of time, like three weeks, where they’re not really doing much,” Cassidy said. “So, I thought it would be a good opportunity to utilize their creative skills and their making skills to create something for the university campus.”

For the new sculpture, Cassidy and his students decided to focus on putting their new art piece in front of McLaurin Hall.

“On the front line of McLaurin, it’s a particularly challenging site because it’s not very attractive. It has beautiful trees but not much else,” Cassidy said. “So, the students came up with a design to create a series of words that will snake through the landscape, kind of connecting. There’s a path in between to connect both sides of the path outside.”

The three-dimensional letters will be a sculpture that spells out: “Is What Brings Us Together.” The public art piece will be positioned under the trees in front of McLaurin Hall and will provide a functional seating area where students, faculty, and visitors would be



Outside of McLaurin Hall where the new sculpture will be Jada Strong/The Johnsonian

able to come together and rest as well as think about what this phrase means to them.

“So, the idea is that it’s really a question. So, what does bring us together?” Cassidy said. “Is it creativity that brings us together? Does faith bring us together? Does community bring us together? Does Winthrop bring us together, or do friends bring us together? It’s really posing a question to the community.”

Cassidy and the students are hoping that this sculpture will bring joy and significance to Winthrop students and hope it attracts them to

hang outside of McLaurin more often.

“We’re hoping that it will beautify that area of campus, draw people’s attention to it. We want it to be a place where people can come and sit and have a picnic, where a class can hang out,” Cassidy said. “Where individuals can hang out and reflect on their own lives and what their answer to the question is. It’s a lot of work. But I think it’s been very exciting.”

This project has also been a great learning opportunity for art students as well who have worked on this project.

“We’re really trying to connect it to the

site where it’s a good learning opportunity for students,” Cassidy said. “Because they have to think about the weight of concrete, how you’re going to make the molds, how do you work within a budget, all of those kinds of things. It’s a good opportunity for them.”

Cassidy hopes to have this project up by graduation for students to see before they leave campus, especially for the graduating seniors.

“My dream, if everything goes perfect, would be having it cast and have all the mold stripped off by graduation, that Saturday graduation,” Cassidy said.

WINTHROP MAD LIB!! Final Exams

It’s almost the end of the semester, which means that it’s almost time for finals. I have _____ (number) finals that I have to take this semester. Thankfully, some of them are easy! For _____ (class), I need to make a PowerPoint about _____ (topic). For another class, I have to take a _____ (number) page test! That seems really _____ (adjective)! My professor didn’t even give us a study guide, so I have no idea what is going to be on that test. Hopefully my friend, _____ (name), will help me with studying. I can’t believe that I have to wake up at _____ (time) for one of my finals...that’s so early! Why are they scheduled like that? Anyway, I believe that I will do _____ (adverb) on my finals this semester!



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



SAGE's Transgender Week of Visibility 7

success, with Starbucks and more

SAGE and Winthrop Dining Services brought limited-time, unique drink to the campus



Photo courtesy of @winthropdining1 on Instagram

(Left to right) Oliver, B, and Jules from SAGE posing with the Pride and Joy

RYAN LUMBERT
lumbertr@mytjnow.com

For its 2022 Transgender Week of Visibility, Winthrop's Sexuality and Gender Equality club partnered with the campus Starbucks through Sodexo to create Winthrop's exclusive, limited-time Pride & Joy drink: A frappuccino with strawberry cream, coconut milk, mocha cold foam and pink sprinkles.

"I have a whole Pinterest folder on drinks I would like to try," said B Ray, the social marketing executive for SAGE. "I saw a strawberry frappuccino with mocha cold foam, and I thought it would be a perfect fruity drink for the week."

SAGE is a student organization fighting for queer rights on campuses, and the Pride & Joy drink campaign was a part of its outreach program at Winthrop, and just one of the many events that went on during the week of March 28 through April 1, which focused on highlighting

community, art, love, achievement and joy in the trans community. Some activities included discussing local resources for trans folk and allies, a cultural event, as well as a social.

"It was incredible that Winthrop Dining Services went from an idea to fully approved drink in one day," said Oliver Taylor, former co-president of SAGE. "I am so proud of them, they came up with and did all the promotions."

"The amount of support we received and the amount of trans people we connected with have been more than we could ever imagine, and the Transgender Day of Visibility showed Winthrop trans people exist on this campus and can and do have pride and joy."

The theme for this year's week was "Trans Joy is Resistance," a quote from transgender artist Mars Wright, focusing on the idea that just by practicing joy and expressing their love, queer people

reject the cisheteronormative restrictions that others may try and place on them.

"Being transgender is something to celebrate, and the trans community at Winthrop is more capable than anyone ever thought," Taylor said.

SAGE reports that the Transgender Week of Visibility was incredibly successful.

"This was the first event of its kind here at Winthrop. The committee of SAGE is of and for the trans community, not even just here at Winthrop, but for all colleges in South Carolina," Taylor said. "This is the first week of trans celebration by trans people."

Some upcoming events for SAGE include an intersectional cultural event in collaboration with the NAACP, as well as more week-long pride events in the fall and spring semesters of the upcoming academic year.

The problematic Yik Yak app appeals to Winthrop students

App allows users to post anonymously

SAM HYATT
staff writer

Yik Yak has become a popular social media app for many college students. Those who use the app are able to post statuses anonymously and see other posts that are within a 5-mile radius of their location.

Since this app is popular on college campuses, many students use it to post about events happening on campus or in the area, along with asking questions concerning the campus. However, as a result of all posts being anonymous, some users are making statements that are bullying, harassing and sexualizing others, in addition to using slurs.

"The fact that you can choose to be 100% anonymous on it is definitely what drives people to say things they would never say face to face. It's

like hiding behind a screen," said Emma Oresic, a sophomore elementary education major. "People get really bold when what they say is anonymous."

There are many posts made by students that are merely rumors intended to start drama, but the statements are hurtful to those who are being discussed. This school year, there have been various posts about Greek life which have started rumors about those involved.

"I, as well as many other people, like to indulge in some drama, but some of the comments that are made on Yik Yak can be really harmful," said Sabrina Hafner, a senior digital information design major.

A student who would like to remain anonymous said that she saw a threatening comment made about her and her friends on Yik Yak while she was on cam-

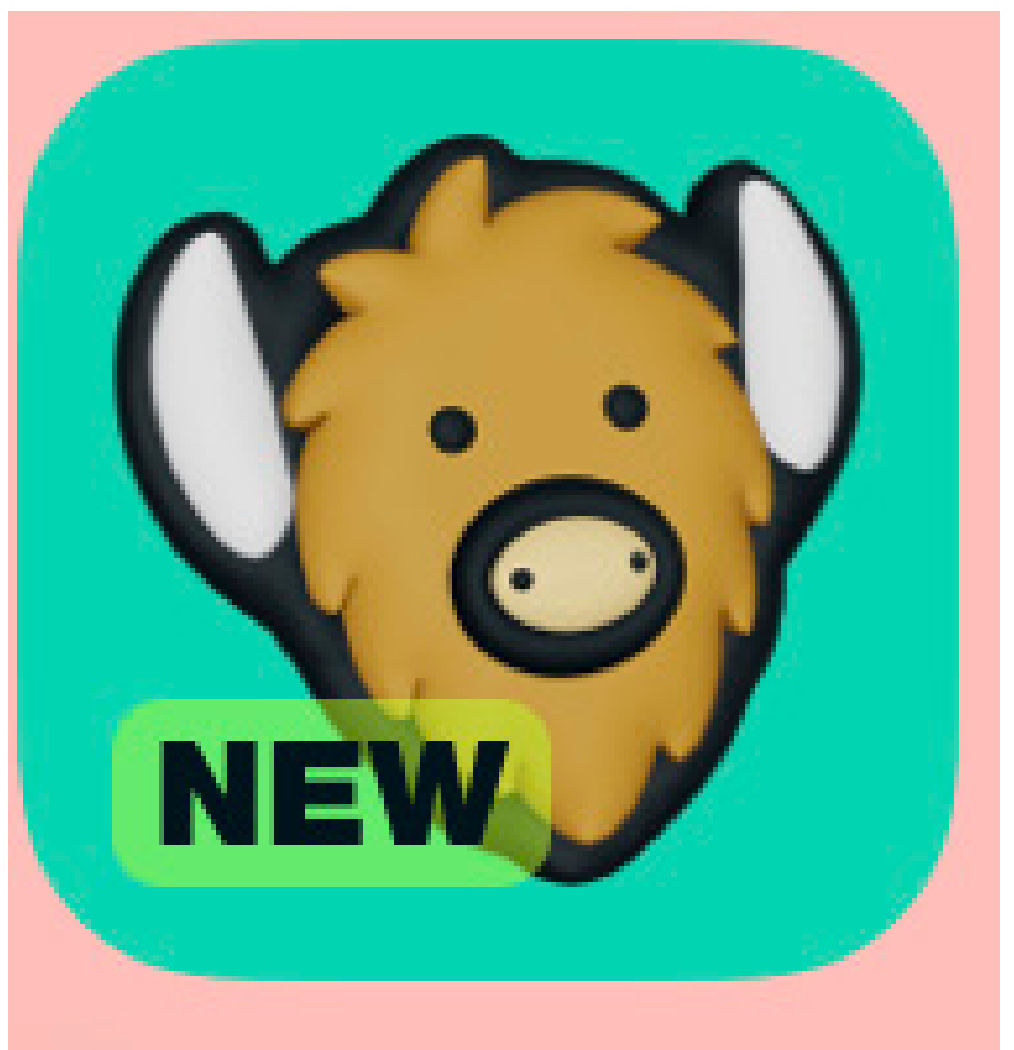
pus. While hanging out with some of her friends and eating lunch in the DiGiorgio Campus Center, they were making jokes and laughing. After settling down, one friend saw on Yik Yak that someone made a threatening post about them.

The post on Yik Yak read, "the girl with the bob in Digs and her friends need to stfu before I beat their ass."

"I didn't think anything of it because it is Yik Yak and I highly doubted that person would inflict harm on us, but it is scary how people can make threats like that with no repercussions," the anonymous source said.

Despite there being so much negativity on the app, Oresic believes that the app could be used for good.

"I do not think that the app is something college students should



YikYak

Yik Yak has become popular app on college campuses

have on their phone unless the negativity stops," Oresic said. "If the negativity left Yik Yak, I believe it could be used to spread awareness about things, promote organizations and events and be a fun and relaxing

place for people to go when they need a little escape."

Rather than posting rumors and slurs about people on campus, students could use this app to share information concerning events on campus, share news

and find people who are in their classes to start study groups. This may be a possibility if the app can begin to censor what is posted anonymously. However, the app may lose its appeal as a result.

The Johnsonian and The Roddey McMillan Record are searching for a new Editor-in-Chief

TO APPLY, EMAIL: BRYN EDDY, SMYTHB@MYTJNOW.COM

Ryan Lumbert & Gabe Corbin | Assistant AC&T Editors

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Dear Winthrop,

BRYN EDDY
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MARLEY BASSETT
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This is the final issue of the 98th volume of The Johnsonian. I have been with TJ for two out of its 98 years of service to the Winthrop and York County communities. As my term as its editor-in-chief comes to a close upon this issue's publication, I find it topical to write about TJ's importance to the Winthrop community, as it is often overlooked and undervalued.

Student newspapers are unique in that they renew themselves every year as their staffers graduate or move positions.

This annual change, though not ideal, is what sets college newspapers apart from state newspapers and shapes their identities. TJ is flexible, as its leader changes just about each school year. TJ welcomes new leadership styles, strategy revitalization, values, talents, etc.

The Johnsonian is a learning ground for young journalists, photographers, comic artists, graphic designers and podcasters. TJ accepts mistakes and encourages growth and experimentation.

TJ's ultimate mission

is to hold university officials accountable in order to improve the quality of life for those who live, work or learn on our campus. TJ staffers are students, too, so we have personal stock in this mission.

As TJ prepares to refresh yet again, for the 99th time, as the 2022-2023 school year approaches, I hope that it continues to gain momentum as its new and returning staffers report on Board of Trustees meetings, Title IX affairs, campus beautification, campus culture, students' artistic endeavors, politics, crime, sports, and so many other topics important to the campus and local communities.

I am preparing a stack of 2021-2022 issues to give to Winthrop's 12th president, Edward Serna, so he can see what Winthrop is all about as he enters his new role. I hope he reads them and considers Winthrop's community as something to be listened to, not silenced. Student-run newspapers are vital to a university because they give a voice to all students and allow them to be heard.

In closing, here are some of our most prominent headlines from the 2021-2022 school year:

"Infrastructure issues plague Winthrop" by news editor Christian Smith

"March to Pike house calls out fraternity and WU administration" by AC&T assistant editor Gabe Corbin and AC&T editor Mari Pressley

"Shepard Fairey creates mural in old town, gets student help" by news editor Christian Smith

"Safe zones to support LGBTQ students" by staff writer Sam Hyatt

"Door to Title IX Coordinator and ADA compliance officer position opens to Kevin Shepard" by assistant news editor Taylor Sallenger

"Winthrop men's soccer wins home quarterfinal" by sports editor Matthew Shealy

"Eagle of the Week: Karli Shepherd" by assistant sports editor Lily Fremed

"Cultivate RH secures land deal" by news editor Christian Smith

"Projects to improve campus life continue" by news editor Christian Smith

"This Week in American Politics" series by assistant news editor

Taylor Sallenger

"Students protest living conditions, lack of safety" by news editor Christian Smith

"Sounds about white.' Winthrop community not surprised by university's seemingly failed commitment to diversity as shown in presidential finalists" by editor-in-chief Bryn Eddy

"Edward Serna now 12th president of Winthrop University" by managing editor Chase Duncan

"The conflict between Russia and Ukraine escalates" by staff writer Spencer Horton

"COVID impacts on the Winthrop Arts community" by AC&T editor Mari Pressley

"Police Blotter" series by copy editor Sarah Hassler

"Behind the scenes insight to 'Pipeline'" by staff writer Jada Strong

"Musical movies 2022" by assistant AC&T editor Gabe Corbin

"Nuclear energy resides on Catawba River" by assistant AC&T editor Ryan Lumbert

"Miracle Park" photo story by photographer Olivia Esselman

"Opening Day 2022" photo story by assistant news editor Marley Bassett

"Alumni Spotlight: Haila Harvey" by staff writer Sam Hyatt

"Intruder in West Center" by managing editor Chase Duncan

"Response to 'Maus' ban by Tennessee school board" by staff writer Spencer Horton

"Former employees say Knowledge Perk created a hostile work environment" by assistant news editor Taylor Sallenger

"Sigma sorority suspended until 2025" by assistant news editor Marley Bassett

"Fight, win and have fun" by sports editor Matthew Shealy

"Winthrop announces next step in strengthening university budget" by assistant news editor Marley Bassett

"To live on or off campus. What's the move?" by staff writer Ainsley McCarthy

"South Carolina brings

back firing squads" by staff writer Spencer Horton

"Beautiful places in Rock Hill" photo story by photographer To'Mara Carmicheal

"Winthrop faculty talks about position cuts" by assistant news editor Marley Bassett

"Winthrop requires laptops in fall 2022" by staff writer Sam Hyatt

"Who is Edward Serna?" by staff writer Spencer Horton

"Winthrop students call attention to issues with disability services" by staff writer Jada Strong

"Trustee LaRoche calls for return of representatives to board table" by managing editor Chase Duncan

It has been an honor serving you, Winthrop, and it has been the greatest pleasure of my college experience to work alongside you, 2021-2022 staff of The Johnsonian.

Sincerely,

Bryn Eddy, 2021-2022 Editor-in-Chief of The Johnsonian

Lights Out



Mariana Beltran/The Johnsonian