


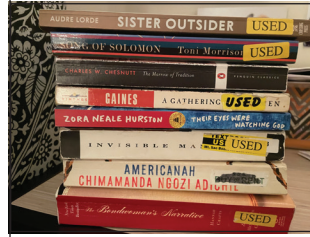




1923-2023 THE JOHNSONIAN *centennial*



Winthrop University		February 23, 2023		Rock Hill, SC	
					
Police Blotter pg. 2	This week in American politics pg. 3	Recap of DSU's "Fun-Stuffed" event pg. 4	Diversity in Literature pg. 5	Being an LGBTQ athlete in the Big South conference pg. 6	The enduring legacy of The Johnsonian pg. 7

Meet Todd Hagins

From Assistant United States Attorney to Winthrop University General Counsel, Todd Hagins is the most recent addition to President Serna's cabinet.



Courtesy of Winthrop University

Ainsley McCarthy News Editor & **Jeremiah Williams** Staff Writer

Todd Hagins, a former federal prosecutor, joined President Serna's office on February 16 as the university's chief legal representative and advisor. From providing legal advice to the university to working closely with the Title IX office and process, the role of General Counsel comes with a number of responsibilities.

According to a press release on Winthrop University's website, Hagins will give expert advice on matters related to workplace safety and general employment, as well as with Title IX, The Americans with Disabilities Act and student discipline. He will also work with the Office of Procurement to assess the legality of contracts, leases and memorandums, and will take over as the Freedom of

Information Act (FOIA) officer.

Departments he will interact with include Title IX coordinator, dean of students, vice president for student affairs, the chief of police, the president and more.

It is unclear what his salary under this position is.

He has spent more than 20 years working with nonprofits, law enforcement and in higher education.

His years of experience providing legal counsel, as well as redesigning and establishing processes before being hired at Winthrop gives him hope that his insight will improve the processes that interact with the General Counsel's office, which will help faculty and staff bring a better educational experience to students.

He said the "hallmark" of a successful general counsel is that your name is forgotten, but the

impact of your decisions is undeniable.

Hagins also said a significant portion of his expertise involves reading and evaluating contracts, and likens the duty to reading an IKEA instruction manual.

"Imagine if you really liked your job, but every day you had to read and understand a 20-page packet of IKEA instructions. In my brief time at Winthrop I have met some exceptional, dedicated staff members who love their jobs, but I imagine most don't want to have to understand the IKEA instruction book; they just want to do their primary job whether that is to get a piece of equipment for a computer science professor or a piece of equipment for the gym. Too often, contract processes ask staff members to read and understand the impact of...

cont. on pg. 2

Black history month block party celebrates and uplifts the Black community

First Calvary Baptist Church holds annual Black history month celebration



Jada Strong/The Johnsonian

Drumline walking out to perform at the Black history block party

Jada Strong
Staff Writer

On February 18, First Calvary Baptist Church held their annual black history month celebration event. However, the organizers put together a block party at the church instead due to unforeseen circumstances instead of having a parade. During the block party, they had free food, business vendors, the first homecoming court from Clinton College and more.

Tynetta Moore, a southside community advocate, does a lot of community service for the United southside community. She has partnered with Reverend Buie Jr, First Calvary Baptist Church's pastor for the past three years to have their annual parade.

"Reverend Buie has partnered with us for the last three years. And how we got started is that we had some people from the community get together. And we started what's called the I Dream parade,

or the I dream week in 2021. And so in 2021, we had our first march or parade on Proper road and the same thing for 2022. And now in 2023, we turned into a block party, because we had a couple of roadblocks and some policy changes," Moore said. "So as I say, you make lemonade and lemon cake out of lemons. And so, you know, as a community advocate, you push forward."

Moore sees this event as a chance for Black vendors and Black-led organizations to get their name out there and have a chance to shine as well as to show the community the amazing work they've been doing and what they have to offer.

"We basically go to different churches, we go to different businesses, we go to different organizations and say, 'Hey, you know, partner up with this event, because it's all about the community.' It's all about coming together. And so,

Pastor Buie and the First Calvary Baptist Church family has been with us since day one. And it's been absolutely amazing," Moore said, "He's actually the chairperson of the pathways community board, and when I tell you, his heart is in the community, he is a mentor, he's a teacher and he's also a huge supporter."

Moore highlighted some businesses and organizations that participated in the block party, such as the Nichols Family Foundation.

"So Jamie Nichols was a lawyer who sadly took his own life a couple of years ago, but he started a foundation with his family. And they continue their family foundation in honor of his memory and legacy, offering a \$1,000 scholarship that high school seniors can apply for. And every fourth Sunday at Armory Park, they feed the community so those who need food can come to get a plate."

cont on pg. 2

Police Blotter



Marley Bassett
Editor-in-Chief

Vehicle theft goes haywire

An officer observed a vehicle that did not have a license plate on and then observed the driver of the vehicle pull into a driveway and then promptly leave. The officer attempted to hold a traffic stop but the subject sped off and then subsequently wrecked the vehicle. The subject then proceeded away on foot and could not be located by the officer. This occurred on February 4.

Withers students stuck in elevator

An officer responded after being told that there were several students stuck in an elevator located in Withers Education Building. Facilities management came and helped the students get out and was able to get the elevator working again on February 10.

Person arrested for possession of fentanyl

A subject was found on the sidewalk outside of Richardson Hall holding his stomach after an officer responded to a call on February 10. The Rock Hill Police Department was also there and repeatedly asked the subject if he was okay to which the subject kept falling asleep. A blue pill was found in the subject's pocket which the subject identified as fentanyl. The subject was then placed under arrest by the Rock Hill Police Department.

Harassment on Park Avenue

An officer responded to a call by the victim on February 13, because of harassment from the subject who lives on the same floor as them. The harassment had been occurring for approximately three weeks. The officer then spoke with the subject about the incident.

From pg. 1: Meet Todd Hagins

of a 20-page contract," Hagins said.

"Luckily, I enjoy reading 20-page contracts. So by me focusing on improving that process, as well as some others, Winthrop staff can focus on adding value to the Winthrop experience for others."

Hagins earned a bachelor's in political science and religion at Furman University and his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

A week before entering his undergraduate program, his father, who had worked at a cotton mill for more than 35 years, had to medically retire. He thought he may have to postpone going to college to get his finances in order, but he was able to acquire enough funds from working, money from his parents and

from financial aid to graduate. He was the first person in his family to do so.

He likes to say he learned two things from the challenge, "First, don't work in a cotton mill. That will destroy your lungs. Second, there are people in every organization who have a passion for helping others," he said. "Without those people at Furman, I know I would not have gone to that school or graduated when I did."

Though he always knew he wanted to be a lawyer, this made him realize that he could use his profession to help people. This mission led him to go on to work with government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Hagins started his legal career serving as a legal clerk for

Justice E.C. Bennett on the South Carolina Supreme Court. He had previously interned with Federal Judge Matthew Perry, who was close to Martin Luther King Jr.

Both Judge Perry and Justice Bennett emphasized the importance of ethical conduct to uphold the legal profession.

6 months after joining the District Attorney's office, Hagins found himself arguing his first case in front of Judge Perry, representing the United States. It was when he sat down after giving his opening statement that he knew for sure that he had made the right career choice.

He was hired as a federal prosecutor during his clerkship and was mentored by Scott Schools, who advocated for ethics,

as well as empathy when tasked with problem-solving.

Hagins said that Schools, who is now the Chief Compliance Officer for Uber, was known to say that "Attorneys too often say 'No' without understanding what someone is really asking because it's always easier to say no than to take the time to solve a problem."

Another colleague he has worked with was United States Attorney Reggie Lloyd, the first Black U.S. attorney. Lloyd asked him to join the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) upon being named its director in 2008.

Following his time at SLED, he worked at a non-profit. He has spent the last 10 years serving as an attorney and Director of Compliance at the University of South Carolina.

When applying for his position at Winthrop, he said he was "struck by the passion that President Serna and his leadership team have for addressing the opportunities that Winthrop faces in a post-pandemic environment."

From pg. 1: Black history month block party

Ricky Potts, who has lived in Rock Hill his whole life, and has been teaching soul dancing for almost 20 years, was also there to promote his classes.

"I started at home with my wife and kids. We had started line dancing at home and I told my wife that other people might want to learn this," Potts said. "I started out with three members and now I'm up to about 65 to 70 members."

Pott's classes are only three dollars from Monday to Thursday and he can be found if you search Ric's Dancercise Club on Facebook.

Sierra Hughes is a former elementary school counselor now turned baker at the party promoting her bakery business,

Sweet Tooth By Si.

"I started Sweet Tooth officially in 2018. At first it was just an LLC. I was just doing it a lot on the weekends. But it got to the point where I had to tell people no more than yes, based on my availability. So during the pandemic, many people were still buying from me while we were stuck inside. So business was still booming. And long story short, it was a faith move. I was like, 'Oh God, you want me to be a baker?' I was already good, setting out the life I was ready to accomplish, but God had other plans," Hughes said.

Her customers sung many praises when they tasted her cakes and cupcakes. You can find her cupcakes at @sweettoothbysi

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American Chernobyl: Chemical spill in East Palestine leads to environmental disaster

This week in American politics

David Ibragimov
Staff Writer

Dark skies, paranoia and anxiety grabbed a hold of the community of East Palestine; a city located on the border of Ohio and Pennsylvania. On February 3, at approximately 8:54 p.m., a freight train belonging to Norfolk Southern Railway derailed from the tracks. 50 cars derailed, 11 of which were transporting hazardous chemicals.

Reports from The National Transportation Safety Board stated that some of the carts were heavily damaged, and one was at risk to explode and release a large concentration of chemicals for a 1-mile radius. This concerned the residents of East Palestine and health officials because the freight train was transporting dangerous and sometimes lethal chemicals. Some examples are vinyl chloride, Butyl acrylate, Ethylhexyl acrylate, Ethylene glycol monobutyl ether and isobutylene.

Upon further investigation, Governors Mike DeWine of Ohio and Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania made a joint statement and evacuation spanning a two-mile radius from the train derailment, issuing orders for the evacuation of the residents of East Palestine and of the bordering residents in Pennsylvania.

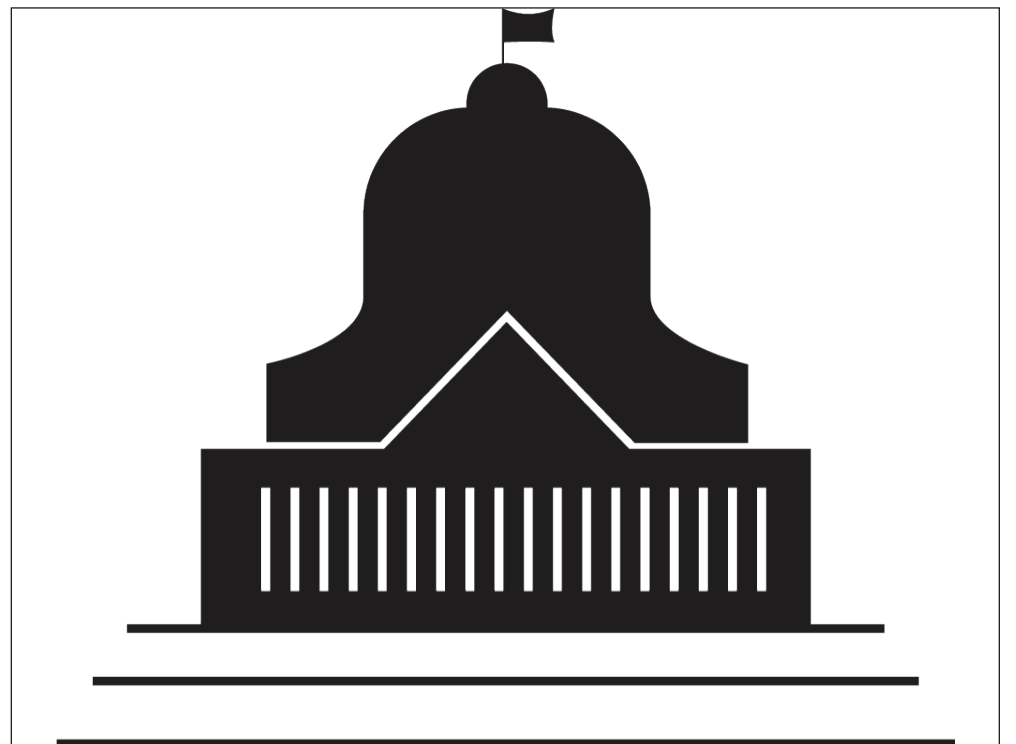
On February 6, Norfolk Southern railway sent specialists to slowly burn away the chemicals to get rid of them and also to reduce the possibility of lethal concentrations from spreading. However, in this process, many residents took pictures of dark clouds of chemicals releasing into and darkening the sky in the aftermath of the incineration.

The paranoia increased even more when residents began to complain of having severe headaches, becoming severely sick and at times claiming to witness the deaths of home pets and livestock. They say this demonstrates the dangers of the

chemicals.

On February 8, Governor DeWine made a statement regarding the disaster, and a reporter by the name of Evan Lambert recorded the statements by live video. In exchanging a few words with the governor and with Major General John Harris of the Ohio National Guard, Lambert was escorted from the building and arrested by the police. He was told to stop his live recording and was jailed for five hours before being released without any charges.

Although officials present said that Lambert was asked to leave for being loud and disturbing the other reporters present. Later, the Governor and Attorney General personally got involved in ensuring Lambert's charges were dismissed, and many spectators throughout Ohio and the US were alarmed that a legitimate reporter was arrested. Some criticized the suppression of the right to free speech and press, while others said that there may



James Mack/The Johnsonian

be something that the local government is hiding from its citizens regarding the chemicals released.

Concerns remained when a cloud of chemicals moved into the Ohio River. Local health officials spiked alarms when an estimated 3,500 fish died throughout the water beside East Palestine. As of this time, the Environmental Protection Agency has assessed both the quality of the air and water surrounding the derailment site and has said that the qualities of the environment are stable and residents could return to their

homes.

The extent of the effects the derailment has had to this region of the country are still unknown. Both state and federal governments are working together to combat any potential dangers that may still continue to lurk around.

Alumni Spotlight – Anna Grace McLaughlin remembers eating Popeye's on campus with friends

McLaughlin now works at Thrive Family Services



McLaughlin was a Winthrop Rockette from sophomore year to her senior year.

Courtesy of Anna Grace McLaughlin

Sam Hyatt
Guest Correspondent

Anna Grace McLaughlin, an alumni from the class of 2018 and 2020, learned about herself while a student at Winthrop University.

"During my time at Winthrop, I learned who I am, who I want to be, and where I am going," McLaughlin said. "There will always be bumps in the road, but overall, I would not change anything because it led me to where I am today."

Her first year at Winthrop was one that was a learning

experience.

"It began with a scared, nervous college freshman who was trying to navigate her 'new normal,'" McLaughlin said. "Getting through the ups and downs of freshman year was an experience I am extremely grateful for as I was able to make Winthrop my home away from home."

McLaughlin remembers that some of the memorable trends on campus from 2015 to 2020 were comfy T-shirts, oversized cardigans, leggings and Chaco's.

"Everyone was bopping to their own music choices, but I can personally remember Arianna Grande's 'Thank U, Next' coming out and being my obsession for weeks," McLaughlin said. "Though my music style has changed drastically, it still makes me happy to listen to that song and remember dancing around in my Walk2Campus apartment with my incredible roommates, who will now all be in my wedding party."

While at Winthrop, McLaughlin remembers eating at El Cancun and Moe's off campus with her

friends.

"My friends and I would grab Popeye's (no Chick-Fil-A yet!) and then head to class most days," McLaughlin said.

Some of her favorite memories from Winthrop include late-night dance rehearsals in Johnson, study sessions with her friends and roommate and late nights hanging out with friends.

"I also enjoyed in-class discussions about social movements with my social work professors and classmates," McLaughlin said. "I always enjoyed homecoming and the first week of classes, but especially loved any opportunity where I could share with others what I was passionate about, such as dance performances and presentations with my social work research."

McLaughlin's advice for current Winthrop students is to "enjoy your time

and do one thing each week you have been wanting to do on or off campus. The time passes so much quicker than you could expect. Your time in college as a young adult is extremely important, so use that time before you get thrown into the craziness of adulthood."

For freshmen, she advises them to not be afraid to "branch out. Talk to someone random on the elevator, speak to a passing stranger in Digs or ask a classmate to study together! There are so many ways to make lifelong friends while in college and putting yourself out there is one of them."

"Enjoy your time at Winthrop," McLaughlin said. "College is the best four years of your life, but it will pass quicker than you ever expect! Study hard, party some too and enjoy making friends you will have for a lifetime."

McLaughlin's on-campus life was disrupted in 2020 because of the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Being a graduate student in the midst of a pandemic was a challenge," McLaughlin said. "My graduation was taken away and I had to learn to navigate the 'new normal' while being quarantined in a small apartment. The student body did the best we could, and it taught us to navigate challenges."

"During graduate school, I participated in a graduate research position where I was able to conduct research on incarcerated individuals and their ability to reintegrate into the community after opiate addictions, as well as working to provide an opportunity to do so," McLaughlin said.

Why should we have diversity in the literature we are reading?

WU students give recommendations on adding diverse books to your TBR stack

SAM HYATT,
Volunteer Writer

As Black history month comes to an end, it is important to remember that we should continue seeking out literature by Black authors and adding diversity to what we are reading.

During Black history month, there are numerous articles online that give recommendations for books by Black authors that readers should add to their “to be read” list. These suggestions can also be found on separate shelves in bookstores and libraries. However, these advertisements seem to be hidden on the shelves until next year.

Moving forward, readers should be making the conscious decision to actively seek out literature that adds diversity to their bookshelf.

“The importance of having diversity in the literature that we read is that it gives the reader an opportunity to hear other people’s voices separate from their own group or race,” said Amber Nelson, a senior English major. “It provides perspective on other’s lived experiences and helps to round you as a reader and a person. By avoiding specific

representation in literature, you are essentially silencing voices that deserve recognition and praise.”

Some recommendations of literature that can add diversity given by Jordan Terry, an English graduate student are “Freshwater” by Akwaeke Emery, “Woman Hollering Creek” by Sandra Cisneros, “Parable of the Sower” by Octavia Butler and “The Moors Account” by Laila Lalami.

“I attempt to be conscious about my reading decisions and ensure I am reading from a wide range of backgrounds,” Nelson said. “I ask my professors for recommendations, especially if they specialize in a field like African American literature or another specialty, I am not familiar with. I Google lists and mostly just stay open to books that might be offered to me. I recommend Toni Morrison’s book ‘Playing in the Dark’ which is a literary theory book essentially, but helps to bring perspective to reading African American written pieces. That was recommended to me by a professor, and I was thankful for it!”

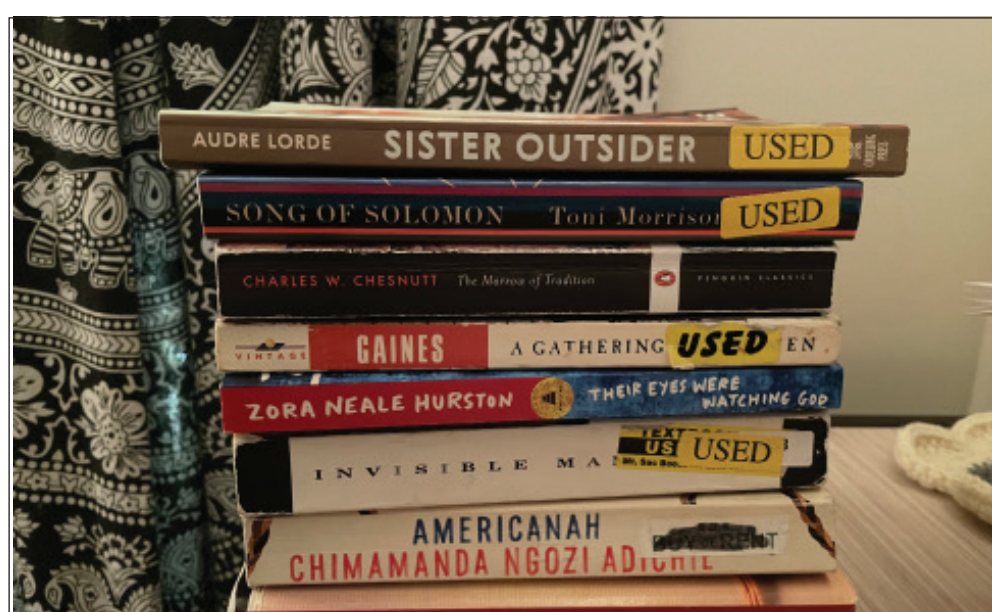
The Winthrop English department does a great job at offering classes that expose its students to diverse

literature. The department is currently offering a class in the African American Novel and previously offered classes in Middle Eastern Studies, Non-Western Literature and Black Queer Studies.

“It’s not really hard, in the 21st century, to find diverse literature,” Terry said. “Something that I like to do whenever I go to the Liberty Bookstore is to try and look for authors I’ve never heard of before or that write about places and situations that I’ve never experienced. Reading diversely isn’t just about reading Black and brown authors, it’s about reading diverse stories and situations. Stepping outside of your own reality and learning about someone else’s.”

Dr. Leslie Bickford, an associate professor of English, is currently teaching the African American novel and African American Studies classes that have been cross-listed with each other. Students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are taking the class.

Bickford’s advice to students who are reading literature that covers difficult and sensitive topics is to read through the pieces slowly and talk to



Recommendations of literature to add diversity to what you’re reading

others about what you are reading by joining a book club or talking with friends or classmates.

“Take it slowly: don’t rush through a novel or poem or play without stopping to understand the context, both historical and aesthetic,” Bickford said. “Seek out resources that can help you understand the larger conversation going on. One author may be writing in reaction to or praise another or about a specific historical event. Finding short works in an anthology that gives an introduction or longer works, like novels, that have well-written introductions can help cultivate a deeper understanding.”

When working

through difficult pieces of work, Bickford suggests reaching out to a faculty member to help understand and process the world.

“Seek out faculty members whose work in teaching and research may help you understand and even process difficult works,” Bickford said. “If the piece is about race, for example, it may be helpful to talk not only with a faculty member or mentor or friend of the same race as you but also with someone who shares the race of the author, if that differs from your own. Be intentional about reaching out. Faculty love talking about not only literature but also its intersections with our

lives and ways of seeing the world.”

When picking out the pieces of work we want to read, it is important to remember to have diversity within the texts.

“Literature, all art, in fact, can help build empathy and understanding between different cultures, ethnicities, genders, races—it can help us understand each other over gulfs of any types of difference, really,” Bickford said. “If we stick only to writers who are like us, we never grow beyond our own spheres of knowledge and comfort. We can end up living in an echo chamber where only the ideas and opinions that suit us are ever before us.”

Popular DSU event “Fun Stuffed” returns with success this Valentine’s Day

A celebration of Black music history takes the initiative to launch a new major and ensembles in



Zoe Jenkins/The Johnsonian

A line begins to form before the opening of the DSU event, Fun-Stuffed.

ZOE JENKINS,
AC&T EDITOR

For many, stuffed animals can be a symbol of nostalgia.

Stuffed animals remind us of the comfortable squeeze our childhood selves needed when we were stressed, lonely, or just needed a hug.

They were present for many people when they needed them most.

On February 14, the chances for childhood nostalgia and memories returned with DSU’s event, Fun-Stuffed.

Hundreds of stuffed animals were spread

across the tables for the opportunity to be “adopted.”

Anyone who attended had the choice to pick from a variety of animals. The animals available included “Bamboo,” the panda; “Paprika,” the red panda; “Furry,” the brown bear; “Trunks,” the elephant; “Mookey,” the monkey; “I-Hop,” the frog; “Snowshoe,” the husky; “Bandit,” the raccoon; “Jill and Joey,” the kangaroos; “Leo,” the lion; “Bubblegum,” the bear; “Charlie,” the cheetah; “Lily,” the llama; “Gert,” the baby goat; “Dot,” the dalmatian;

and “Burly,” the Brachiosaurus.

The animals came in two different sizes, the “8” animals and the “16” animals. Prices varied depending on the size and whether a person wanted to insert a recording into the stuffed animals or wanted to dress the animals up.

The building process of the stuffed animals mimicked that of the brand Build-A-Bear, where one chooses the animal, stuffs it, closes it up, and gets the opportunity to name it and sign an “adoption certificate.”

Lines of people wait-

ing for the stuffed animals wrapped around the perimeter of Richardson Ballroom.

Even before the event opened at 11 a.m., the line had already taken form.

For the new stuffed animal “owners,” this was an inclusive chance to celebrate Valentine’s Day for both couples and singles.

Friends could bond over the creations of their new friends, while a couple could bond over the time they stood in line and gifted each other their animals.

Some of the attendees of the events included students Cass McKinney, Dykia Holland and Kameron Gavin.

“I saw the signs outside on Scholar’s Walk about a week ago and I was really excited. I didn’t know what we were going to be doing, I thought that maybe we would be designing our own or I had no idea. I got here and saw that we were stuffing our own animals that were pre-made and that was really cool. I

got a raccoon, I love him but I’m not sure what I’m going to name him yet but he’s cute,” McKinney said.

Towards the end of the event, many people who had bought a stuffed animal faced the problem of the lack of stuffing. Some had to wait for another round of stuffing to arrive or had to share with others, leaving the stuffed animals uneven or only partially filled.

This was a problem that Dykia Holland faced.

“I came to the stuffing event because I always wanted to go to one, this is my first time, so it is really exciting. I got an eagle because of Winthrop and his name is Flat Stuff because they ran out of stuffing. So you’ve heard of Big Stuff? This is Flat Stuff,” Holland said.

Despite the lack of stuffing, Holland was still able to enjoy the event and gained a new “friend,” Flat Stuff the eagle.

The stuffing wasn’t the only thing that ran out quickly, many of

the animals were gone not even thirty minutes after the doors opened. The more popular animals included the frog, the red panda and the goat.

“I got here and the lines were wrapped around [Richardson Ballroom]. I didn’t know where to go at first, but we figured it out and got in line. It moved pretty fast because we had to step really big, so we didn’t wait very long. But all the stuffed animals we wanted were gone when we got there. I got a panda even though I wanted a red panda. I don’t have a name yet, but I’m gonna give it to my Valentine and let him name it,” Gavin said.

Based upon the lines and many of the tables being bare of most stuffed animals, Fun Stuffed was a popular and successful event.

The DSU Daytime/Late Night Chair and organizer of the event, Shania Tucker-McFadden agrees.

WU honors the ballroom scene: "It's Not a Dance. It's a Ball"

DSU brings ballroom to Winthrop at "The International Legend Ball"

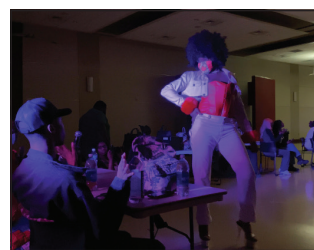
MARI PRESSLEY
Managing Editor



The five elements of vogue include hand performance, catwalk, duckwalk, spins and dips and floor performance. /Jeb Barlett



Each house is usually made up of a mother and/or father whereas it's members are often called "children." /Jeb Bartlett



Balls often have themed nights. /Jeb Bartlett



The Judges panel gives this runway walk 10s across the board. / Jeb Bartlett

DSU (DiGiorgio Student Union) hosted its first ever ball on Saturday night. The International Legend Ball commented by ballroom pros from houses like The Xclusive International Haus of Wintour along with students new to ballroom.

Ballroom, a culture that combines elements of fashion, modeling, pageantry and dance is typically an underground scene that has provided a "safe haven for black and brown young people" in the LGBTQ community for decades. Ballroom is now "widely seen and celebrated (and appro-

priated) in the mainstream—across fashion campaigns, music videos, social media" time.com reported.

Ballroom appeared in New York City during the Harlem Renaissance, as a "response to a decades-long campaign undertaken by the Black church to rid the New York neighborhood of its LGBTQ residents." according to time.com.

And, "In the quest for Black freedom, these community leaders decided queer folk did not deserve representation." As the black LGBTQ community was outcasted, "the ballroom scene centered its participants' radical

presence in an empowered performance space." according to time.com.

Junior Shaniah McLellan is the founder of The Blueprints, an on-campus organization for Black women, by Black women. She said, "I really enjoyed how energetic the participants were. I believe that Ballroom Culture is very beautiful and everyone should have a chance to experience it!"

While the room filled with cheers at every dip and spin, seasoned pros and legends went up against "virgins," a ballroom-coined term for first time performers.

"The energy was

amazing the entire time!! It was just really just a space that I felt really comfortable in, even though I've never experienced it before," early childhood education major, Tia Pittman said.

Students competed in the form of voguing, "runway battles in face, realness, and body." And, the prize was \$50 in categories like, "Virgin Vogue," "Body" and "International" while categories like, "Commentator," "Schoolgirl/Schoolboy Realness" and "Runway" had prizes of \$100.

In DSU's instagram promotion for the event, they wrote "Get your houses in order

for Winthrop's first legendary ball!" Houses "serve as alternative families to LGBTQ+ people in need of safe spaces." according to rmpbs.org. And, you may notice houses are named after famous fashion designers or moguls.

"I enjoyed how comfortable the atmosphere was. Learning more about the ballroom industry was an experience that I'm glad I had, along with seeing how everyone was a family." biology major, Heaven Mooroor said.

Ballroom references have appeared in places like Madonna's 1990s hit, "Vogue" and

the 1990 documentary "Paris is Burning" and more recent streaming shows like "Pose" and "Legendary." Last summer, Beyoncé paid homage to Ballroom in her most recent album, "Renaissance".

In reference to the "Renaissance" album, Beyoncé thanked her gay uncle, Uncle Jonny in her dedication to Act I: Renaissance who is said to have inspired Renaissance. The singer also said, "Thank you to all of the pioneers who originated culture, to all of the fallen angels whose contributions have gone unrecognized for far too long. This is a celebration for you."

A celebration of Black music history creates upcoming bachelors in music for fall semester



A celebration of Black music history takes the initiative to launch a new major and ensembles in response to the lack of Black music in the music department.

Ariannah Johnson/The Johnsonian

ARIANNAH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The accomplishments and achievements of Blacks are honored during Black History Month. A Celebration of Black Music History took place at The Edge in DIGS on Thursday, Feb. 16.

Black musicians who transformed the world with their voices and songs were highlighted in A Celebration of Black Music History. These Black musicians came from many musical genres and periods.

Deja King, a junior music education ma-

yor, felt that not much Black music is shown in the music department.

"We don't see it in the music department, and how systemical the system was not built for it," King said.

Jordan Hamilton, senior music performance major, "would explain how Black musicians' achievements have never received the attention they deserved throughout history."

"Most of our ensembles and everybody's across the world are traditional

European," Hamilton said.

Duke Ellington, a well-known American composer, provided the first opening ensemble. Dr. Patterson, associate professor of music explains why Duke Ellington is his favorite American composer.

"His body of work covers everything from big band music, radio, tours, popular music, sacred songs, and orchestral works," Patterson said.

"He was doing this 10 to 15 years before any-

body else was catching on to some of these styles and trends."

Historic music from varying periods can help audiences understand the condition of life at the time it was created. The ensemble's last composition was a piece of Haitian music that represented the struggle for African independence.

"You can hear it play through the music, even with the bass portion, which begins with one voice screaming out, then more,

and builds up with the intensity that drew us to that piece," Hamilton said.

Hamilton performed at The Edge for the first time when performing in the ensemble. "Compared to the other events, it was definitely more lively. I felt like we were more intact with the fans and listeners," Hamilton said. "It felt like home."

When people are performing an ensemble audience would clap at the end of the song. "You don't have

to be prim and proper and clap at the end of the song, if you like it, speak up," King said.

"If you like what someone is saying, say hallelujah and shout amen, then we are allowed to do that."

Those interested in joining, showing support, donating to A Celebration of Black Music History, or being a part of a commercial break can email patter-son@winthrop.edu. Their Instagram is @wucommercial_break.

WU WBB surges to win five of six games

Led by senior forward Paige Powell's play, WU WBB strings together five wins in six games

Maliik Cooper
Sports Editor

Winthrop women's basketball has picked up their play as of late. Starting with a win against Presbyterian on January 28th, Winthrop ran off a tally of five wins in their next six games.

Their only loss during this span was a six point loss to UNC Asheville. Additionally, the game after his streak ended, Winthrop's leading scorer Paige Powell dominated the regular season conference champion Gardner-Webb Bulldogs. She finished the game with 24 points and 13 rebounds, leading both teams in both categories.

Including the Gardner-Webb game, Powell led the Eagles in scoring four times in seven outings. When asked about her recent uptick in performance, she explained the factors that have led to her strong recent play.

"Just being free out on the court and letting my defense lead to my offense, instead of the other way around. I feel like I bring energy. When I'm giving it my all and playing hard they feed off of me and reciprocate the energy."

Sophomore guard Leonor Paisana's play has also shown improvement over this streak, culminating in a career high 21 points and six threes against USC Upstate on February 12th. She cites both her individual commitment and her team's for this newfound production.

"I've been more confident in my game (recently). I've been putting in extra work. And since the team is playing better together it's also creating more opportunities for me."

It hasn't just been her putting in the work either. Powell's play has

come as no surprise to Paisana.

"Paige is an amazing player. She brings aggressiveness to the team. I've seen her putting in extra work (too) and it's paying off."

She also believes there was no secret recipe for WU women's basketball's recent success, rather things just began to click.

I wouldn't say something changed," she said. "I think we finally started playing better together. Like we finally connected and started having chemistry on the court."

Powell likewise agrees that they've "...always had the potential and ability." She identified a different aspect of the team to explain their wins as of late.

"What's changed is our mentality. We just had to connect our minds with it (the team's potential and ability)."



Courtesy of WU Athletics

Paige Powell takes it to the rim during her dominating performance vs. Gardner-Webb

One of the highlights of the streak was Powell's nine steal game against Radford on February 4th. Nine steals is the second most for a single game in Big South history, and is just a part of the reason her strong play earned her conference player of the week honors.

"Everyone on our team is aggressive on defense and that's one of the characteristics we have as a team," Paisana said about how the Eagle's defense helped Powell force so many turnovers.

"Paige knows how

to play post D and in that game she was fired up. We loved to see it."

Powell, a graduate student, also talked about how her experience being in her fifth year of college basketball has helped her this season.

"I would say my ability to read in game situations and handle the pressure of the game," she said.

Winthrop has two games left in the regular season against Campbell on February 22nd, and High Point on February 25th, both on the road. In

Powell's opinion, the Eagles' momentum should help them finish the season strong before the Big South conference tournament starts on March 1st.

"(Winning) gives us confidence. It lets us know the work that we've been putting in is paying off. When we all have that confidence we're able to challenge any team in this conference."

Allyship in action creating inclusive environments for LGBTQ+ student-athletes

Big South hosts event to ensure inclusivity for LGBTQ+ athletes throughout the conference

This past Sunday the Big South conference hosted a zoom meeting with the intention of ensuring that every Big South institution is a place where LGBTQ+ athletes feel comfortable being themselves.

The Student Athlete Advisory Committees across the conference agreed that they'd like to see more done in this area.

"SAC (Student Athlete Advisory Committee) leaders wanted to see more done on allyship and promoting inclusivity with our students," assistant athletic director for Academic and Student Success Claire Mooney-Melvin said.

The 90 minute

meeting was led by Shane Diamond, a gender equity consultant and former collegiate ice hockey player.

Some points of emphasis he covered were relevant terms and definitions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity, introduction to policies and laws that govern transgender inclusion in sports at the state and federal level, and opportunities for interactive participation. The meeting ended with a Q&A session with Shane.

"I think it was a good opportunity for students to kind of learn on how to interact with them (LGBTQ+ student athletes) and support them on

their teams," Mooney-Melvin said of what the attendees got out of the event.

The attendees were a mix of student athletes, regular students, and officials from other schools across the Big South.

In Mooney-Melvin's opinion, having meetings like this to show solidarity with those who may have been previously uncomfortable expressing themselves at Winthrop was a step in the right direction. Especially in an area of the country that traditionally isn't as welcoming to the entire gender spectrum.

"This is not an area that is as welcoming. So trying to help them fight, and having students that



Courtesy of Flickr

Title IX helps ensure that no one feels like an outsider on Winthrop's campus

may not be part of that community help them fight and gain those rights. Kind of opening the eyes of people on what they don't get," Mooney-Melvin said.

"Unfortunately the LGBTQ+ community does not have the rights they deserve in a lot of ways, especially in the Big South (conference) states in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina."

Winthrop University specifically however does their best to combat this by enforcing Title IX according to Mooney-Melvin.

"We go off of Title IX in making sure that our students feel safe," she said.

In general

Mooney-Melvin believes Winthrop athletics was already a safe place for diverse sets of people.

"I think our student athletes are pretty inclusive. They've seen a lot of different walks of life, you know? People that walk a different lifestyle or have different beliefs. People who come from different backgrounds. So we have a pretty inclusive student body," she said.

"But I don't know that this is something that's talked about very often."

Malpractice wasn't Mooney-Melvin's issue so much as exposure to the topic.



Courtesy of Claire Mooney-Melvin

The Big South wants events like these to promote equality

"We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us"

Reflecting on the centennial year legacy of The Johnsonian

Marley Bassett
Editor-in-Chief

I was looking through old newspapers from our vast archives to find ones to display at our 100th anniversary celebration and I began to think about the legacy of The Johnsonian and all of those who had come before us to begin the legacy and those who will come after us to continue the legacy.

For 100 years, this paper has been a constant on Winthrop's campus. The Johnsonian has been there as a steady and reliable source for campus news, opinions, local news, features on those in our campus and surrounding community, national news, sports and so much more.

For 100 years, this paper has reported on major national news such as 9/11, the Challenger explosion, Hurricanes Katrina and Hugo, among many others. This paper has managed to localize these stories so that the impact of these events

are made personal to the Winthrop and Rock Hill community.

For 100 years, this paper has held the university accountable for incidents of sexual assaults, budget and position cuts, conditions of residence halls, Title IX cases, presidential scandals and more.

I wonder what the Winthrop community would look like without this paper. I think so much would have gone unnoticed and swept under the rug if The Johnsonian had not been there to report.

I am deeply honored to have been chosen to carry on the prestigious legacy that The Johnsonian entails and to see the paper through its 100th year. But I know I would not be here and the paper would not have survived without those who led and contributed before me.

To the countless staff members and advisors who have served before me, I simply say thank you. Thank you for en-

suring that the paper continued to survive and for playing a role in the honored legacy that this paper holds.

As we come upon our 100th year, I have realized that the current staff stands on the shoulders of those who came before us. We would not be here without them. Without their impact, service and dedication to the paper and to Winthrop, we would not have the opportunity to continue to live up to the standards set by previous members.

I have come to realize the deep honor that comes with working on The Johnsonian. It is an honor to be selected to serve on the paper and through the paper, provide the service of knowledge and information to the community.

I have also come to realize the passion that all staff members, past, present and future have for the idea of journalism and free press and for providing that to those around us. And the passion that goes



Marley Bassett/ The Johnsonian

into crafting the stories and editions that are printed weekly. This passion is what is at the core of this newspaper and what allows it to continue to thrive.

To the Winthrop community, it has been our staff's highest honor to be able to serve you for the past 100 years. It is my hope that we are able to continue to serve you for the next 100 years.

It is my hope that this paper continues not only to survive, but that it thrives. I hope that its legacy stays as memorable and important as it has been. I hope that it is never forgotten and that it continues to grow and increase in its ability to reach as many people as possible.

But one thing that we all must remember is that we stand

on the shoulders of those who came before us. Without them, we would not exist and it is to them that I and the rest of my staff extend our heartfelt thanks for allowing us to continue the legacy of The Johnsonian.

Happy 100 years TJ. May you continue to impact those around you. I am forever grateful to be a part of your legacy.

Sincerely,
Marley Bassett,
the centennial
editor-in-chief

Reveille: Crew Huddle



Lily Hayes
Photographer



Get a birth certificate for your stuffed animal to fill out with its birthday and name



Take your new stuffed animal home to cuddle



Fill the animal with as much stuffing as you'd like to make it soft and cuddly



Fill the animal with as much stuffing as you'd like to make it soft and cuddly



Pick out which stuffed animal you want to create. Options include lions, red pandas, dinosaurs, raccoons, giraffes, and so much more.



Fill the animal with as much stuffing as you'd like to make it soft and cuddly