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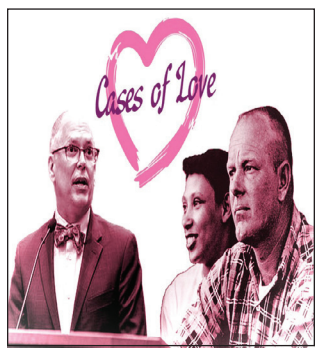


Winthrop University February 17, 2023 Rock Hill, SC



Drs. Disney and Lipscomb reflect on their Winthrop love story

pg. 2



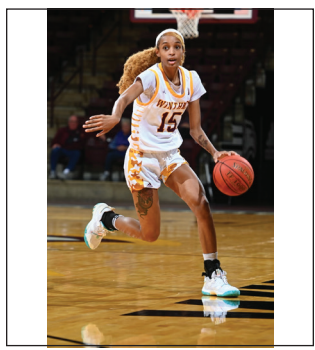
Monumental Supreme Court cases that led to an increase in marriage rights

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A sibling bond grows stronger now that they are together at Winthrop

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Athlete Frances Burch reflects on her love of basketball

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There are so many things to love about Winthrop University

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Photos showcase all of the love around Winthrop's campus

pg. 8

"It all started with a Phish t-shirt."

Alumni Valerie and Kevin Bassett reflect on their Winthrop love story



Valerie and Kevin Bassett on their honeymoon

Courtesy of the Bassett's

Marley Bassett
 Editor-in-Chief

Editor's Note: These are my parents and I had the best time interviewing them.

Withers Education Building is not often thought of as a spot where love stories begin but that was the case for Winthrop alumni Valerie '96 and Kevin Bassett '94 who both graduated with a bachelor of science in early childhood education.

"I was on the third floor of the Withers Education Building talking with some professors to, you know, work on my resume.. And as I was coming out from talking with those professor's, Valerie was walking up the stairs with a Phish t-shirt and I was like, oh, wow, I just saw those. I just saw them. We chatted for a little bit. Exchanged pleasantries," Kevin

said.

They then both went on their way until they met again at what was then the Harris Teeter on Cherry Road, which has since been replaced with an Earth Fare.

"I was walking into the Harris Teeter. And there is that man I met in Withers with skinny little legs and he's got a backpack and he's shoving meat into his backpack," Valerie said.

After exchanging pleasantries again, they gave each other their phone numbers and Kevin invited Valerie over for a dinner of cube steak, onion rings, and off-brand Kool-Aid.

The two then dated for a couple of months during the summer but separated in August because according to Kevin, "I was very self-absorbed. And you really can't have

a functioning relationship when somebody's self absorbed like that."

Fast forward four years later to 1998 where Valerie, who was working at an education supply store, ran into a coworker of Kevin's from Independence Elementary. Valerie took a chance and guessed his district email correctly and the two fell back in touch.

"I took a stab, and I typed it in. And sure enough, it was him. And we started emailing back and forth. We would email every day, sometimes twice a day. I don't know how we did that, while in the classroom. And every morning when I would come to school, I'd look and see if he wrote the first message, or if I was gonna send the first message."

Cont. on pg. 2

Set up for success: the Serna's love story

Winthrop President and First Lady were tricked into a blind date by a mutual friend. Now they've been married for thirteen years.



The Serna family today after 13 years of marriage

Courtesy of the Serna's

Ainsley McCarthy
 News Editor

When their friend lied to each of them that the other was interested in meeting, it took the couple—who had never met before—two dates to discover that they had been deceived. Looking back on their time together, they haven't stopped dating since then, and both of them love going on adventures together.

His travels with the First Lady are among his favorite memories of their relationship thus far. Trying new foods and visiting historical sites together is fun and gives them quality time together.

"I love Edward's desire to travel. We go on amazing trips together, just the two of us, with our girls, or with friends and always have the best time," said First Lady Lauren Serna.

"I equally love that he still enjoys dating me. He continually makes an effort for us to spend one on one time together."

"We love being each other's travel buddy," she said.

She also said that though she and Edward are "total opposites," they have helped each other develop traits that have contributed to their individual personal growth. "My extroverted side had rubbed off on his introversion and vice versa. I've helped him become more social and he's helped me become more organized!"

This dynamic has remained relevant during President Serna's transition into office at the University. He said Lauren has encouraged him to connect with fellow Rock Hillians to garner Winthrop the support of the

surrounding community, and has enjoyed forging those bonds herself while Edward is focused on internal commitments.

Lauren's outgoing nature, Edward said, is his favorite quality of hers, as well as "the way she lights up a room."

Edward said he appreciates his wife's ability to add joy to his life. "I am very, very goal oriented. Because of that, I can sometimes forget to enjoy the moment. Lauren forces me to slow down, take a look around and enjoy life."

According to Lauren, the two usually celebrate Valentine's Day with a dinner date, and she often receives roses, which she adores.

Cont. on pg. 2





Cont. from pg.1: Set up for success: the Serna's love story

While Edward said that compromise was vital to a lasting partnership, the best relationship advice that Lauren would give to other couples is, "Date each other! Even after thirteen years of marriage and multiple children with two thousand activities going on, find time for just the two of you to be together away from the house and distractions."

The pair posted pictures of themselves and the family on their respective Instagram pages to commemorate Valentine's Day. They also answered some questions for Valentine's Day in the caption. Readers can take a look at @winthropres and @winthrop1stlady.

Cont. from pg. 1: "It all started with a Phish t-shirt"

He asked me out on a date to Hayden's which was a restaurant by where I lived in Pineville," Valerie said.

"We started dating, which was great. I remember, she was living in Pineville. And I was living in Rock Hill. And we usually get together on Friday night, either she would come down to Rock Hill, or I'd go up to Pineville. I remember always waiting on the porch, I'd have a cigar or something, and just waiting, just all with butterflies all excited when she would come in, and I'd see her come in, and it's just like, oh, this is great," Kevin said.

The two then decided in 1999 to move down to Summerville, SC. They later became engaged in 2000.

"So we get to Hunting Island. Beautiful, beautiful place, highly recommend going there. So I'm setting up his tent and I said, Hey, I need you to come over here. And help me with this. And I'm already down on one day trying to pretend like I'm fixing something. And then I pro-

posed to her, Kevin said.

He continued saying, "She was so happy. And when we went driving around the island, I got to listen to Ass Factor, a hardcore punk rock band, who she absolutely hates and that I love. And I said hey, can we listen? She said I don't care. And I'm like sweet. I'm milking this thing and we listened to Ass Factor and drove around the island."

The two were then married on June 30, 2001 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Greenwood, SC.

They both agreed that "it was one of the best times we ever had."

A special thing that was incorporated into their vows was a line from "The Jeffersons" theme song "Movin' on Up". The line was "As long as we live, it's you and me baby and there ain't nothing wrong with that." The couple has the quote framed in their house.

The two also agreed that the reception was "the best party we ever had."

"That dance floor was jumping from the get go which was

great, which is what we wanted. And it was a good celebration, a lot of fun. A lot of laughs, a lot of great memories. So that was a very, very joyous occasion," Kevin said.

When asked about their major marriage milestones, Kevin said that his was when Valerie helped him get sober after nine-and-a-half years of marriage.

"My behavior was out of control. Or actually, my drinking was out of control. And she was instrumental in helping me get the help I needed. And she's been so supportive ever since that. So that's been something that's been very meaningful to me was her loving and guiding me towards health."

Valerie said that a big milestone for them was deciding to work at the same school in 2012 "because we had always said we would never teach at the same school."

Both of them agreed however that their favorite accomplishment was raising their children, Marley and Lily.

"The choices

that you two have made and continue to make just fill us with joy just raising two wonderful, very highly achieving young ladies. I don't know how it's done. You gotta give credit to Valerie for that," Kevin said.

Today Valerie and Kevin are both teachers at William Reeves Elementary School in Summerville, SC where they teach 2nd and 1st grade respectively.

25 years later and they say that "their love continues to grow each and every day."



The Bassett's their first Christmas after getting married

Courtesy of the Bassett's

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Cases of Love: remembering Supreme Court cases that made love possible

This week in American politics: Valentine's Day edition

David Ibragimov
Staff Writer

This time of year, we celebrate Valentine's Day; a day that originally started as a tribute to St. Valentine but over the years has become a cultural celebration of love and romance throughout the United States. As an honor to this celebration, it is important that we recognize two very historical Supreme Court cases that have defined what love is in our country, and that have allowed Americans to have the ability to love without fear of legal persecution.

Out of the two Supreme Court cases, *Loving v. Virginia* was the first to be brought in front of the Supreme Court, taking place in 1967; a time of the Civil Rights movement, racial segregation and a racist demand to keep white and Black Americans separated, even in marriage. Such was the case

of a biracial couple Mildred and Richard Loving, who at the time of their marriage, lived in the southern state of Virginia.

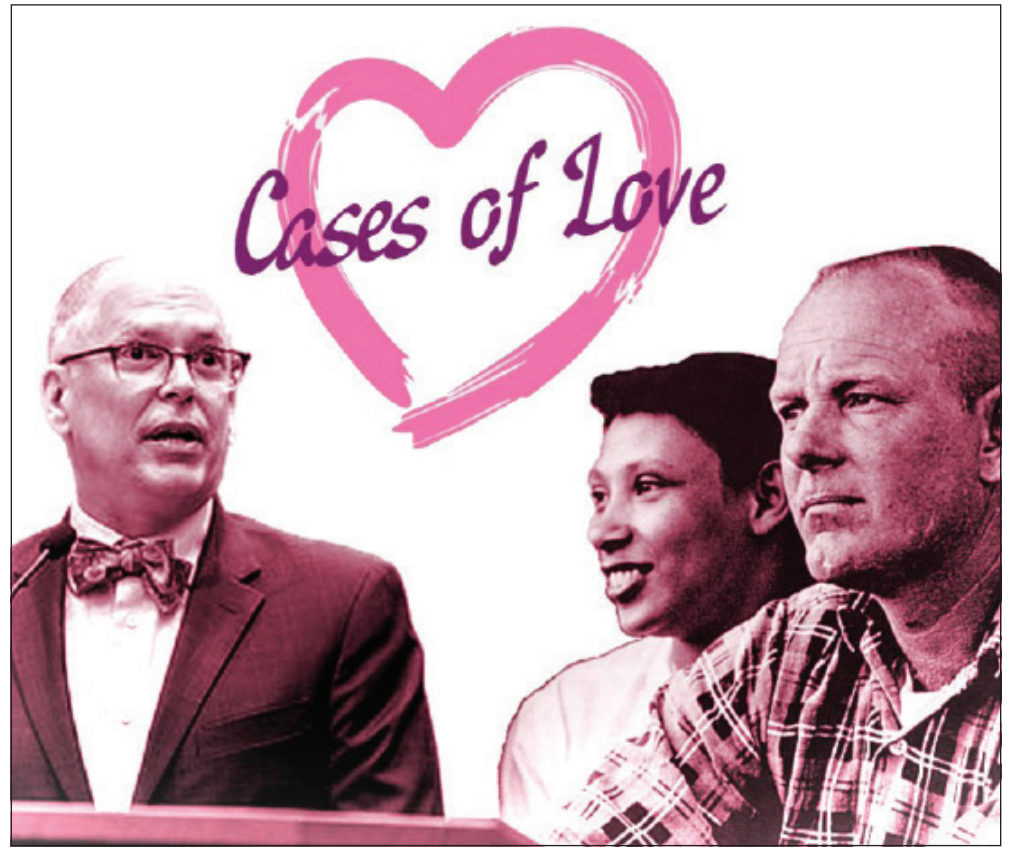
According to "Virginia's Racial Integrity Act of 1924", the couple did not have the legal right to marry based on race and were arrested by the Virginian authorities and sentenced to one year in prison. Because of the cruelty that they experienced, the loving couple demanded to appeal to the Supreme Court, stating that they were treated unfairly and that the state acted in violation of the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, which states that "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor

deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

In 1967, the Supreme Court voted unanimously in favor of *Loving*, demonstrating that even in such a difficult time in our history, all Americans should have the right to love who they want, regardless of skin color and later, sex, as this case became the basis for the rights of same-sex marriages in *Obergefell v. Hodges* decades later.

The case of *Obergefell*, contrary to popular belief, did not legalize homosexuality in America, as this was done 12 years earlier in *Lawrence v. Texas*. The case of *Lawrence v. Texas* was considered a major legal win for LGBTQ Americans throughout the country, but many LGBTQ people still found themselves suppressed and silenced in many areas of life, one of them being the right to marry.

In 2013, James Obergefell and John Arthur James got



married in Maryland, a state which recognized gay marriage. At this time, the couple moved to Ohio and Arthur James was very sick. Expecting the worst, the couple desired to place Obergefell as a spouse on James' death certificate. The state of Ohio refused to do this since the state did not recognize same-sex marriage and did not intend to do so.

The couple sued the state on the grounds of unequal treatment, arguing that they should have the same right to marriage as their heterosexual counterparts throughout the country. Even though Arthur James died a few months into the litigation, their desire to fight for their marriage created one of the most pivotal moments not just for LGBTQ Americans,

but for America as a whole.

We celebrate the day of love, the day of romance and the day of relationships. This is a celebration that invites every person to participate, but for some Americans, love would not be possible without them having to fight for this right throughout history.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Courtesy of Pexabay

8 Steps for a perfect love letter

Mari Pressley,
Managing Editor

Humans have been writing love letters for centuries. In what seems like a lost tradition in time where everything is digitized, a letter is now appreciated as a sentiment or more heartfelt.

The act of hand-writing a letter to the one you love may offer another facet to express your feelings for the first time or remind your partner of how much you love and appreciate them. An alternative to a text message or email, a love letter is just the right romantic, "The Notebook" -esque

way to convey your message with a fresh yet traditional feel.

Here is a step-by-step guide to help you write a love letter that your partner will adore.

1. Create outline or plan: Brainstorm your key points or ideas. Before you start writing, have a plan in mind. Think about questions like: What do you want to say? How do you want them to feel?

2. Find your materials: The stationery choose sets the tone for your letter. Chose your pen and paper carefully as this may affect how your letter

is perceived.

3. Greet them: Don't feel the need to maintain formality. In order to reflect the nature of your relationship, that may mean starting with "Hey [insert name]," or you may write, Dear [insert name]."

4. Say how you feel: The most important detail is that you honestly and freely express your feelings. While maintaining sincerity, tell your partner why you love them. Think about these questions: what makes them special? What do they mean to you? Feel free to use jokes or sayings

The art of writing a great love letter

that are unique to you and your partner.

5. Be specific: Make it personal. Write about specific memories during your time together. Recount a funny or romantic moment, your first date, and just anything that relates to your time as a couple.

6. Make them feel appreciated: give them thanks for whatever you see fit. Whether it be their love, support or companionship, let them know how grateful you are for them. meaningful gesture.

7. Plan for the future: Write about your plans for the future. In your love letter, tell them how you want to continue to love and support them. Tell them a little bit about your plan to spend more time together, or your commitment.

8. Sign off: When ending your love letter, close in a way that reflects your feelings. Take this opportunity for a personalized closing like "Love [insert name]", or "Yours



Courtesy of Pexels

truly." Lastly, sign your letter with your name. And, you can add your own personal touch like a kiss mark or sticker.

While writing a love letter can be significant for both you and your partner expressing your love and appreciation through a hand-written letter will forever be a meaningful gesture.





Ravyn and Ainsley: A couple invested in journalism and activism at Winthrop

“We’re trying to make this campus a better place.”

Mari Pressley
Managing Editor

Meeting at a Winthrop University Students for Change interest meeting last school year, sophomore music technology major Ravyn Rhodes, editor-in-chief of The Roddey McMillan Record and junior mass communication major, Ainsley McCarthy, news editor at The Johnsonian, connected through their passion for activism, accessibility and journalism. After Ainsley sent a message in the group chat about needing someone to just hang out with one evening, Ravyn decided to join her and they brought their guitar with them.

While they bonded over their shared love of music and activism, Rhodes remembers having the time of their life that evening and that they “felt comfortable in her presence.”

Ravyn says the first thing they said

to Ainsley was, “You look like you belong on the bridge of a Star Trek ship,” referring to her wheelchair.

Ravyn says that they were “really drawn to her company.”

The couple remembers WUCHELLA this past spring as one of their favorite memories.

“I saw an amazing opportunity to get her in the hot air balloon and have that moment happen. And like seeing that look in her eye was one of my favorite things. It was awesome. You know, the hot air balloon didn’t go up like super high. But we could see a good chunk of Rock Hill from where we were. And she absolutely adored it,” Ravyn said.

Ainsley recalls one of her favorite memories with Ravyn was seeing (them) perform in concert for the first time. “Sitting in the front row and getting to watch you do your thing ...

watching you in your element and doing what you’re passionate about is so magical.”

Rather than celebrate Valentine’s Day last year, Ravyn threw a big party for Ainsley. Before that, Ainsley never had a birthday party that wasn’t shared with her twin brother.

“There were so many people and everyone dressed up. Even my current roommate said that she got stopped and asked if there was some kind of banquet or something going on that night because droves of people were headed in the same direction all dressed up in fancy clothes. It just felt really nice to be with everyone at the same time, laugh and be together,” Ainsley said.

Ainsley says that she is “more confident” and “more comfortable” talking to people because of how many people her partner knows on campus.



Courtesy of Ravyn Rhodes and Ainsley McCarthy

“Everybody that they know I’ve kind of started to become acquaintances with, so it’s really interesting feeling a lot more open and connected to the community now. It’s definitely for the better,” McCarthy said.

Ravyn says that since Ainsley and them have been together, they “feel more level headed.” And, she has taught them, “calming techniques.”

In the past, Rhodes has been approached with questions about being in an interracial relationship.

They said, “That is something that I find that we do not have any significant interactions with, like, I tend to tell people—this might be an up there conver-

sation— but I tend to tell people, you know, Ainsley does not benefit from white privilege in the same way an able-bodied person might.”

Being with other white people in the past, they said their current relationship has been different, “For me, I can exist in this relationship, and blackness and all, and it not be an issue. And she can exist in this relationship, you know, with her obstacles, and, and not be an issue. We coexist in that way. And I find that a lot of interracial relationships don’t have that element.”

In terms of what drew her to Ravyn, McCarthy said, “I’ve never felt so understood by another person. The willing-

ness that (they) have to just listen, and not only to listen, but also to be there, right beside me trying to make this campus a better place, and being right there with me when I’m expressing frustration about my struggles is invaluable. They empathize with me. They love me. I believe that’s what love is.”

“Eww, I love you.”

Two sorority sisters and Greek life leaders talk to us about Valentine’s Day, unlikely pairings, and bonding over free fries.

Jeremiah Williams
Staff Writer

February 14th, Valentine’s Day: a day hated, loved, feared, hoped for and everything in between. But for Hannah Switzer, a junior political science major, and Carlee Norwood, a senior sociology and psychology major, the day allows them to freely be the sappy, supportive, sorority sisters right out of “Legally Blonde.”

“I think we could get married in a heartbeat,” Switzer shared. “We’re like an old married couple...we’ll even say ‘Remember, it’s not me against you, it’s us against the problem.’”

Switzer and Norwood recognize the winding road it took to reach that point, however. At first, an unlikely pair, Norwood was serving as Zeta Tau Alpha’s New Member Educator and met Switzer by

recruiting her former roommate. Their differences were immediately noticeable to the two.

Switzer was a second-semester freshman with a shaved, purple head and a social introvert. Norwood was and is an admitted extrovert, and at the time, she was rising quickly through the ranks of her sorority. However, after a summer trip to Switzer’s home in James Island with a group of their mutual friends, a true bond was formed between the two.

“After a couple of days, I got sick of the others, but I never got sick of Hannah. As soon as I left, I missed her...” Norwood said.

Their sorority ties are not all that keep the pair close, though. Norwood and Switzer had plenty of words to share about how they’ve kept their friendship strong after the three

years of stressful college classes and the ins-and-outs of Greek life.

“No matter what I’m going through, she’s someone that will always listen and find advice that’s always useful,” Norwood said of Switzer. “Hannah’s always been able to make a positive difference in my life.”

She was not alone in praise of her sister, though. “Carlee weathers me through my seasons and listens when you talk. It’s a support that’s hard to find and it’s hard to find one that lasts,” Switzer said.

The two described their relationship as symbiotic, each helping the other and being there for each other.

“I prefer your company to being alone... that’s the true mark of someone I want to spend time with,” Switzer explained, as she described the mark of a true friend.



Courtesy of @wu_panhellenic Instagram

Norwood concurred, “I pull her out of her shell, and she’s willing to come into mine.”

Stories of friendship and symbiotic sisterhood like theirs are not rare on Winthrop’s campus. Sororities have long held “Galentine’s” celebrations: a popular way for friends to celebrate and appreciate each other without the pressures of romance and gifts. Switzer even writes personal, platonic

Galentine’s to the sisters of the Theta Sigma chapter of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. Norwood herself is in the midst of planning an “elaborate Valentine’s Day date” for one of her sisters.

In times like these, on days like these, it’s important to remember that love on Valentine’s Day doesn’t have to be between romantic partners or star-crossed lovers. The comfort of an understanding

friend, the freedom to be who you are in their presence and the trust knowing you’ll see each other through the worst is love. A kind of love that doesn’t require Valentine’s Day to celebrate.

But, if you do plan to celebrate Valentine’s Day, this writer suggests you follow Carlee’s example and tell a friend today: “Eww, I love you.”





Compromise is a key factor for this couple's relationship

Winthrop couple discuss their long-term relationship



Courtesy of Aliya Busbee

Aliya Busbee and Darrin Davis posing in matching sweatshirts, celebrating their one year anniversary.

Jada Strong
Staff Writer

Aliya Busbee, a Winthrop alumni who graduated with a bachelor's in psychology and Darrin Davis, senior business administration major, have been together for over two years now and met through their mutual friend and Darrin's former roommate Jason.

"Jason met Aliya when he came to school," Davis explained. "And we didn't really get to know each other until about a year after we met."

One of the strengths the couple possesses in their relationship is their willingness to communicate efficiently together.

"We don't really make things complicated in the way we make decisions together," Davis said. "We don't harbor on every detail, we're very straightforward and take every challenge as they come."

While the couple are compatible in ways that are important for their relationship, they do agree that they are very different from one another.

"We are very different people, so it's very much an opposites attract situation," Busbee said. "We work well together like puzzle pieces, but we're not very similar if that makes sense."

Both parties discussed taking great joy in seeing one another in their element and seeing them become better individuals.

"I enjoy how when he likes something like you could see it all over his face. He's smart and he really is a leader," Busbee said.

"He holds everything down and does everything by himself. He cares and he's passionate. He's evolved in his style and in his activities outside of school and his push for his own career. I just enjoy seeing his drive."

"I would say I enjoy how artistic she is. Prior to being with her, I wasn't a very artistic person and since we've been together, I would say her artistic side has rubbed off on me," Davis said.

"With spending so much time with her and seeing her when she was in school dancing, and seeing her think and how she draws I think it's changed the way I think as a person and I really appreciate that."

Since coming together, they've found ways in which they help balance each other out.

"She keeps track of the small things. I am a big picture person. Like the only time I'm not a big picture person is when I have

to plan something," Davis said. "But outside of that I am very much a, 'this is what it is' type of person. So a lot of times, she helps me remember smaller things that I have to do and keeps me from being overwhelmed or stressed."

Prior to getting into a relationship Busbee admitted that she had a more romanticized version of what she thought a committed relationship would be like, but since being in a relationship she views romance through a more realistic lens.

"Before I had a very romanticized and fairytale view of love, like the Disney version of love, when I was younger I would plan my wedding and I would watch 'Say Yes To the Dress' every weekend," Busbee said. "And this is the longest relationship I've been in so far. So I feel like of course love is there but there is more compromising and it's not easy all the time. It's like sometimes it's business and sometimes it's pleasure. Sometimes you're angry and you have to show your face because you have things to do. So it's not always the same. You have to keep a balance that and realize that everything's not like sunshine and rainbows all the time."

Celebrating the special bond of sisterhood: Maddison and Angellina Bosch

Sisters Maddison and Angellina Bosch discuss their bond of sisterly love this Valentine's Day



Courtesy of the Bosch sisters

Sisters Maddison and Angellina Bosch

Zoe Jenkins
AC&T Editor

Love extends far beyond romantic love and comes in several forms.

According to the Ancient Greeks, there are eight kinds of love: eros, the romantic love; philia, affectionate love; pragma, enduring love; storge, familiar love; ludus, playful love; mania, obsessive love; philautia, self-love; and agape, selfless love.

While Valentine's Day's focus is often on eros or romantic love, other forms of love can be celebrated during the holiday.

One of the loves that can be celebrated can be philia or affectionate love. Also referred to as brotherly love, philia can be celebrated by those with sibling-like love, whether biologically or not.

For Maddison Bosch, junior, and Angellina Bosch, freshman, this love is present as they both attend Winthrop University.

The age difference between the sisters is thirteen months and the pair also have younger brothers, Dominic and Noah.

The two say that due to being so close in age, they feel so close.

"A lot of the time I don't actually feel like the older sister," Maddison says.

The sisters have always been close, even through childhood.

"We still fight. We're still close," Angellina says.

"We shared a room for the first thirteen years of Angellina's life so closeness and fighting are implied," Maddison followed.

"Nothing [has changed] except for the fact that we don't share a room anymore. We still fight, we still watch the same movies and shows and read the same books. And most of the time, we even end up wearing similar clothes", Angellina said.

"We're pretty alike", Maddison stated.

"We have similar interests," Angellina followed.

"Angellina's more artsy and stylish than me though."

"And she can write, I can't do that", Angellina complimented.

When asked, Angellina said her favorite memory of her sister includes the time she kicked Maddison in the teeth when the elder sister tickled her.

"You're welcome for the dollar, by the way," Angellina said. "Seriously though, my favorite memory is when we were around five? And we made a tent in our living room out of bedsheets and ate junk food and watched 'Adventures of the Gummi Bears.'"

Bears."

Meanwhile, Maddison's favorite memory of them together was, "when I was eight and Lini was seven, we got a swingset for Christmas, and we ran out to play in our pajamas and socks even though it was cold and wet. That was a good day, I liked that."

With their relationship with their brothers, Angellina says "Yes, we are close to our other siblings. Maybe not in the same way because of the age gap, but we get along. We hang out, we play video games. We have a playlist! We're close."

While Maddison and Angellina are only thirteen months apart, their younger brothers have a much larger gap.

The sisters spend a lot of time together. Their favorite things to do together are book shopping and watching shows like "Legend of Vox Machina," "Sherlock," and "The Witcher." They also enjoy getting Starbucks together.

When asked what the best thing about each other was, Maddison answered, "That's hard. I like a lot of things about her."

Angellina had a more specific answer, "I'd say your ability to quote Vines and insert them into every situation."



Frances Brown's love for the game of basketball

WU WBB player Frances Brown reflects on her basketball journey's ups and downs

Maliik Cooper
Sports Editor

For Frances Brown, love is not exclusively a feeling shared between two people in a romantic relationship. The word can also be used to describe how she feels about basketball.

"The moment I fell in love with basketball is when I touched the ball for the first time when I was 14 years old and I made my first shot," Brown said, acknowledging the moment she knew basketball was her passion. "After that I wanted to keep making shots because it gave me confidence and made me feel good."

For Brown, a junior business administration major from Valley Stream, New York, dedicating herself to her favorite sport wasn't always for the better.

"You really had to love the sport to compete in New York because New York hoops is just a different kind of game. It's aggressive, it's crafty, it's every man for himself," she explained.

"(The saying there goes) Bring

your game not your name."

In addition to the native competition Brown dealt with living in New York, she also had to deal with coaching that was detrimental to her journey.

"He disrespected us and made life a living hell everyday," she said of one of her high school coaches.

"But I knew that my purpose was bigger than him and his antics and that it was just a bump in the road. I knew I was going to face adversity throughout my journey and to push through that I just kept looking at the bigger picture. I just wanted to keep getting better as a player."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Brown was able to find a positive use for her love of the game of basketball. She used it as a way to deal with negative emotions stemming from not being able to finish her senior year of high school basketball.

"Basketball got me through quarantine and not being able to play games for a long time," she said.

"Everyday I would go to the courts and hoop and work in my game."

Playing basketball for Nassau Community College post-pandemic provided Brown with some of her favorite memories with basketball.

"I got used to playing at the college level and I got to play with a little bit more freedom. I had fun every game, averaging about 20 points, 10 rebounds and 4 assists per game," Brown shared about her experience playing junior college basketball.

"The mark I made in JUCO helped inspire others in their journey. I made a lot of good relationships and connections and got to play against some people I played in high school with."

The relationships Brown has made playing the sport of basketball have become invaluable to her. She's even gone so far as to say "98%" of her current friends are people she's played basketball with.

"I've known them for a long time, they're like family to



Courtesy of Winthrop Athletics

now. My friends, but most importantly my best-friend, have always encouraged me to do better and to keep grinding no matter how hard it gets," she said.

"They always had my back. I love how far an orange round basketball can take you. If it wasn't for basketball, I wouldn't be here in South Carolina on a full ride and I'm very grateful for that."

If you ask Brown, she'd say part of the reason she's so fond of basketball is because it's become a therapeutic escape for her.

"I love basketball because when I'm on the court, that's the only time I forget about all my prob-

lems. It's the only time where I feel free and can relieve my stress. This sport has saved me from a lot of sad and lonely times," she said.

Another reason for Brown loving basketball is all the life skills the sport has helped her develop.

"Basketball teaches you how to face adversity, how to work with other people, time management, and most importantly effective communication," she said.

"It's not just a sport, it can teach you life lessons and give you skills lots of other people won't naturally have."

Brown is truly appreciative of everything the game she loves has provided

for her, and in turn would recommend it to others for these same reasons.

"I would recommend basketball to others because it keeps you active and can take you places that other interests can't. It can teach you a lot of life lessons and help you develop certain skills that you can't get anywhere else. But most importantly it's fun, competitive, and it's a great field to make relationships and connections."

Why are some students anti-Valentines Day?

Students share their opinions on Valentines Day

Sam Hyatt
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day, also known as the day of love, is one that has mixed feelings. Some people enjoy the holiday as they buy candies and flowers for their loved ones, while others dislike the holiday and can be one that is dreaded each year.

Shopping for Valentine's Day themed candy and pastries are one of graduate student Jordan Terry's favorite things about the holiday.

"I love Valentine's Day because I feel like it gives me a chance to express to not just a loved one, but also to my friends, how much I love them," Terry said.

Starting in January, stores can be found with aisles filled with

Valentine's Day gifts that are to be given to loved ones.

Some people do not look forward to Valentine's Day because they are alone while their friends and family are spending time with their significant others, however, some people do not favor the holiday because of the capitalistic component.

According to CNBC's Kameron McNair, he shares that it is predicted that 57% of money will be spent on candy, 40% on gift cards, 37% on flowers and 21% on jewelry.

"I do understand why some people don't like it though, capitalism tends to ruin a lot of holidays, but I personally still really love to celebrate Valentine's Day."

Stephanie Martin,

a graduate student in the English department states that she does not like the pressure that Valentine's Day places on having to spend money to demonstrate love to her partner.

"Valentine's Day is a capitalistic construct designed to make me prove my love to my partner via monetary gifts," Martin said. "I should not need to be given a predetermined date to demonstrate my love, nor should there be pressure placed to spend money to prove love."

Instead of spending money on significant others or feeling pressured to celebrate Valentine's Day, there are other ways that one can show their love throughout the year.

"We don't celebrate as much as we just



Courtesy of Pixabay

CNBC predicts americans will spend about \$26 billion on Valentines Day

choose to spend intentional time together, though it is difficult to do anything without spending money," Martin said.

"We avoid doing elaborate gifts and instead we try to do something that lets us spend time together. That always looks different depending on our mood, but sometimes it's going out to play Pokémon, picking out a movie to watch, grabbing sushi from our favorite place or cooking together.

For those who do not want to participate in the cliché Valentine's Day

activities like spending a lot of money on teddy bears, candy and dinners, couples or friends can celebrate the holiday by doing things that they enjoy.

"I don't necessarily think that gift giving is bad, but I find the gifts marketed around Valentine's Day to be distasteful," Martin said. "The whole thing feels staged and like you have predetermined gifts you 'should' buy each other. I think, at the very least, if gifts are going to be exchanged that they should be relevant to your partner's likes."



Winthrop love: what Rock Hill loves about Winthrop

A love letter to Winthrop University.



Tillman Hall, circa 1920

Courtesy of Winthrop University

Autumn Hawkins
Opinion Editor

During the Valentine's Day season, The Johnsonian would like to reflect on a common love that unites students, staff, alumni, and the greater Rock Hill community: the love of Winthrop University.

For over one hundred years, Winthrop has taken in students and changed their perception of the world -- offering education, housing and guidance to thou-

sands of young adults annually. Faculty and staff have collectively dedicated one hundred and thirty years to caring for students and helping them grow into well-rounded adults, often sacrificing their own time or resources for the ability to impact and lead Winthrop's student body.

One of the most beloved features on Winthrop's campus is its landscaping and overall appearance. Students, alumni and tourists alike flock to

Winthrop's campus in the spring and summer in order to take photos among the cherry blossom trees and the variety of flora that Hardin Gardens boasts. The botanical diversity at the Recreational and Research Complex also attracts visitors to the university's campus to admire the woods, aquatic greenery and blooms indigenous to the Carolinas.

The variety of academic programs that Winthrop has to offer

is also a reason to feel pride and affection for the university. In an anonymous survey, students and alumni were given the opportunity to share what they love most about their experience at Winthrop. Their varied responses paint a picture of a close-knit community and top-of-the-line education.

"I love that each cohort is so close-knit and collaborative," an anonymous education major said. "My program is one of the smallest on campus, so I feel like I've gained a second family!"

A freshman who has yet to declare a major shared that they "appreciate the variety of general education classes that freshmen have to take -- it helps narrow down what programs students do/do not mesh well with."

Campus involvement was also a large factor in the survey that students and alumni participated in. Multiple students admitted that they love the variety of on-campus events that happen throughout the year, and that these events help them feel connected to both the campus and each other.

"I have met so many of my friends simply by going to cultural events and Resident Life activities!" said a sophomore psychology major.

Alumni also still hold love for their alma mater, as evidenced by their survey responses.

"I am forever grateful to Winthrop for showing me my calling in life and helping me become the educator I am," said an education major who graduated in 2019. Wren Brooke, a theatre major who graduated from 2022, is grateful for the emotional opportunities that Winthrop provided. "If I hadn't come to Winthrop, I never would have fallen in love or met some of my best friends." Brooke said in an interview.

Winthrop's impact on the greater Rock Hill community is evident through the partnerships that it receives. Local businesses, such as Knowledge Perk, advertise their products using Winthrop-themed designs or names. Local hotels partner with the university to offer special rates to alumni. The university's involvement in community events such as the Come-See-Me Festival speaks of a mutual affection between the city of Rock Hill and Winthrop University. Winthrop University has shown unconditional love and support for all of those who walk their campus -- community members, employees, or students.

Since 1886, a com-

mon theme has united the past, present, and future of Winthrop University -- a deep love and respect both from and for its students.

Reveille: Shipping Show





Love around Winthrop

Lily Hayes
Photographer



Educational studies major, Ryli Parham (junior), conveys love for her roommate by walking their dog around campus.



Many friendships here at Winthrop have been formed through clubs such as RUF, such as Marianne Jenkins (freshman), Kayla Hall (freshman), Betsy Ryerson (freshman), and Emily Koehler (freshman).



Individualized studies major, Jaquan Doby (senior) and English major Olivia Jeffries (sophomore) are two RAs who became friends while Jaquan was an RA at Richardson.



Many lifelong friendships are formed here at Winthrop through roommates, classmates and clubs.

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