YELLOW MAGENTA

THE WESTMINSTER COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

HOLCAD PERSPECTIVES ~ NEWS ~ FEATURES ~ ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ~ SPORTS

**VOLUME CXXXVI** 

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020

## A Month of Recognition and Observance Campus and Pittsburgh Celebrate Black History Month

**Danielle Grady** 



Students smiling for the camera before entering the 2019 Ebony Ball. Credit: Westminster College Flickr

February 1 marked the start of Black History Month an annual month-long celebration of African Americans' achievements and a time for recognizing their central role in history. While organizations and individuals are honoring the month in various ways countrywide, both Westminster College and the city of Pittsburgh are offering events that allow students to join in on the observance without having to travel too far from campus.

On campus, Black Student Union (BSU) is sponsoring a "What is Black" series each Thursday throughout the month. Though two of these sessions have already passed, two more will round out the month.

The Feb. 20 event will feature "What is Black Mental Health?" Guest speaker Julius Boatwright, founder and CEO of Steel Smiling, will give a presentation on mental health in the African American community, according to a BSU Instagram post. Through his Pittsburgh-based organization, Boatwright works to bridge the gap between community members and mental health support with education, advocacy and awareness.

On Feb. 27, BSU will present "What is Black Excellence?" African American alumni will return to campus for the event to discuss their experiences at the College and explain how they impacted their lives after college, a BSU Instagram post explained.

Previous sessions of the "What is Black" series included "What is Black History/Culture?" on Feb. 6 and "What is Black Love?" on Feb. 13. The events featured a discussion about African American history/culture through an interactive game of bingo and a discussion about the definition of black love with candy grams, respectively.

All hour-long installments in the "What is Black" series take place at 1 p.m. in McKelvey Campus Center's Mueller Theater.

In culmination of the celebratory month, BSU will host the third annual Ebony Ball on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 7-11 p.m. in McKelvey Campus Center's Witherspoon Rooms. The theme for this year's ball is "Harlem Nights: The Roaring 20s," according to a BSU graphic. All Westminster students are invited to enjoy an evening of music, dancing and entertainment at the event.

Krislina Mercer, BSU president, explained that BSU's main goal for Black History Month is to educate and recognize the importance of African American culture.

"Black History Month is for acknowledging the accomplishments of past African Americans," Mercer said. "We are also recognizing the movements that were made to better the African American community throughout history."

Black History Month activities in Pittsburgh focus on ways to learn about and honor black history, uplift the black community locally and support black leaders in the work of anti-racism, according to PUMP, an organization with a mission to make Pittsburgh the most dynamic and diverse place by engaging, educating and mobilizing all young people to create

**Quote of the Week:** 

change in the community.

Ongoing events and series include the "Pittsburgh Negro League: Hall of Fame" exhibit at the City-County Building, guided tours of "From Slavery to Freedom" at the Heinz History Center and the play Too Heavy for Your Pocket at the University of Pittsburgh's Falk School.

Date-specific Black History Month events in Pittsburgh, which include film screenings, tours, readings, talks and more, are listed on pump.org.

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Julius Boatwright, founder and CEO of Pittsburgh-based Steel Smiling.

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"Sing On!" Concert



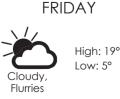






roacse22@wclive.westminster.edu





SATURDAY



High: 35° Low: 27°



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020

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- No letter will be edited when factually incorrect or in need of contextual clarification.
- Grammar and spelling errors will also not be corrected.
- Opinions expressed are those of the author.

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Applications must include a resume and three (3) writing samples as well as a cover page with the applicant's name, year in school, major, culmulative GPA, phone number, and mailbox number.

Please submit all applications to roacse22@wclive.westminster.edu

### In The Dna, Titan Basketball In The Works Of Another Successful Season Mason Flanigan

YELLOW MAGENTA

Sports Section Editor



The Westminster Titan Basketball team is in the tail end of their successful 2019-2020 campaign with the Titans seeking a top-four seed and another shot at the Presidents Athletic Conference title this year. This season, the team has been going with the "Unfinished Business" slogan to drive them after last season's nail biter loss 64-61 when they hosted Chatham for the PAC Championship game.

However, family plays a role for the Titan's this season as we were introduced to both the Ritter twins last season when Dan transferred to Westminster College from Youngstown State University to play alongside his brother again. Now this year we are seeing two of the O'Hara brothers sharing the floor at the same time for the first time since their high school

"Playing with Dylan was one of the main reasons I decided to come here. Growing up we kind of went against each other being four years apart so we weren't always on the same team," said First-year Guard Austin O'Hara on getting a chance to play alongside his brother again.

"When I got another opportunity to play with him, just seeing all the work, he puts in and having him to mentor me, I couldn't pass up that opportunity."

"For me, since we never really played together, this being my last year and getting to share the court goes as follows. with him is pretty special," said Dylan O'Hara on getting the opportunity to play alongside his brother in his senior season.

"It's really cool, we always had played together but Dan decided to walk-on and play at YSU our freshman season and spent a year apart. Then decided it was probably better playing here so we reunited for our sophomore season," said Junior Guard Anthony Ritter

I got the opportunity to meet up with Bethany

Snider and engage in a one-on-one conversation with

her. She has an astounding background when it comes

to playing and coaching. She was the head coach for

the True Lacrosse club team from 2013-2017. She went

to Thiel College for two years. While she was there, she

acquired an unofficial PAC Championship in 2013.

After those two years, she transferred over to Mount

Union. While Snider was there, the team advanced

to the NCAA Regional Semifinals. A few years after

she graduated, she became the assistant coach at the

NCAA DIII Ohio Wesleyan College in 2019. Snider

later became the assistant coach for NCAA DII

Gannon University. Both times she was the assistant

coach it was for their women's lacrosse team. On Nov.

12, 2019, Bethany Snider became Westminster's new

what her opinion was on a variety of questions from Westminster College itself to what she has to say

head Women's Lacrosse Coach.

on playing with his brother.

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"For us, because we're twins, it wasn't hard to get reconnected because we've played together our whole lives. One year off wasn't that bad, but playing with him has always been the best since we were little," said Daniel Ritter on what it means to play alongside his brother at Westminster.

Dylan O'Hara is serving as one of the Titans team captains this season as well as being the top scorer in the Presidents Athletic Conference.

"It's kind of a once in a lifetime thing where I get to play with my big brother and him being the team captain. The way he fills in that role, I couldn't pick anyone better. He is a great leader, leads by example and does what he needs to do, showing everyone what they need to do," added Austin O'Hara on his brother being a team captain. "I've always kind of had that being the little brother, but seeing it firsthand here is just something special."

"Playing together helps our team chemistry because I know him, I know exactly where he wants the ball for a shot, we all play together all summer, so I know our strengths were to give the ball coming off a screen, we have a lot of team chemistry especially from the summer working together," said Daniel Ritter on how playing alongside family helps team chemistry.

"We always said we would play 2-on-2 vs the O'Hara's. I don't know if we ever did, but growing up, Dan and I would play 1-on-1 games as a rivalry and we would get into fights and that sometimes ended up badly. We made it through though," said Daniel Ritter on his sibling rivalry.

"I'd say for Dylan and I there is definitely a rivalry, but being four years apart, so I had to understand he is always going to be a little bigger and stronger. At the same time, it was like I wasn't going to stand down because he was a little bigger and stronger and that brought the competition out of me a little bit and that I can't thank him enough for."

The Titans will wrap up their regular-season schedule at home against Grove City with the conference tournament the following week the format

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, February 25, 27, 29 Tuesday (quarterfinals): No. 8 at No. 1, No. 7 at No. 2, No. 6 at No. 3, No. 5 at No. 4 Thursday (semifinals): Lowest remaining seed at

the highest remaining seed, lower of remaining middle seeds at higher of remaining middle seeds. Saturday (championship): Lowest remaining seed

at the highest remaining seed.

Copy edited by: Sydney Roach

## Meet Westminster's New Women's Lacrosse Head Coach, Bethany Snider



What made you choose Westminster?

"I think my personal experience in this conference with me coming from Thiel College. Playing in the conference, I know a lot of the schools in the area; it really sparked my interest. I thought it would be a fun way to get back into the Pittsburgh area and kind of compete with schools that I have had exposure to in the past. Unfortunately, when I was playing, we did not play Westminster. The program had not started yet, so I think having the experience to come here, see the campus, meet the administration, that really sparked my interest for applying for the job. Knowing that they won the conference last season, I thought it would be a good opportunity for me as a young coach especially, to try and build off of those accomplishments."

How does it feel to get this opportunity to become While interviewing Snider, I wanted to find out the head coach for a women's lacrosse team?

> "It is incredible. Like I said with me being so young and being able to lead this group of young women,

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it is an incredible opportunity. A lot of people do not have the chance to do this or they spend a lot of time as an assistant and really honing in on specific things. This has given me such a good chance to learn more about the administrative side as well as mentoring student-athletes in a closer environment. Incredible is what I would say. I am really thankful to everybody here for setting the opportunity. It has been great so far."

What leadership styles can you bring to the locker room?

"I think looking forward to the history of the program, it is a young program, so I think with me coming here my experience at Mount Union I rely on that a lot because we are a brand-new program as well. When I transferred into Mount, we were only in our third year ever and had come off a conference championship and advanced to the NCAA tournament. That was very similar to this team here. I think for me coming in and focusing on building a culture, that is kind of the leadership that I look to create here. I'm really focusing on that senior class and the girls to come to take more responsibility, more ownership, being a little more prideful, and getting excited to put on Westminster uniforms."

Knowing that women's lacrosse won the PAC last year and advanced to the NCAA tournament, how do you plan on repeating history this year?

"That is a great question. Every team looks a little different each year. We know that teams graduate seniors every year and you have to find talent that is going to replace that. You have got to develop your players to continually want to get better. It is a lot of pressure; I'm not going to lie. We obviously have a target on our back just from the other teams in the PAC, but that is something we are aiming for every single year. That is something I want the girls to talk about every single year is we are going to go to the championship game, we are going to win, we are going to advance. I think looking forward for the future of the program is trying to be a little bit more competitive regionally. I am really focusing on getting the best talent here and developing.

Margo Mason is one of your best players and has unfortunately

passed on playing this year. What are your thoughts on Margo not playing

"Honestly, I don't know Margo, I have never met her. Obviously, she did phenomenal things for us last year, but again every year teams look different. I think this is giving us a really good opportunity to allow underclassmen to fill those shoes and really distribute the roles to everybody else. Like I said, I do not know her personally. I know she misses lacrosse and she enjoyed lacrosse. However, I was not here last year, so I can not really speak to it too much. I am still looking forward to developing those underclassmen and having them fill into that role."

Is there anything you would like to say to the students of Westminster, the faculty, and the supporters?

"Definitely, your support means everything. We are such a young program and seeing you guys in the stands even yesterday when we had a scrimmage. To have the stands almost half full was exciting and the girls loved it. Your support means everything to us. I am looking forward to meeting all of you guys and being apart of the community here. Thank you for welcoming me and I look forward to seeing you guys around."

Follow up question: You talked about how you guys had a scrimmage yesterday. That team was from Japan.

"Yes, they are Gukushuin University in Tokyo Japan. I personally lived in Japan for a year and taught English there. I helped out with a couple of the university programs during that time. So, when I took this job it was kind of something I wanted to do. I want to help grow the game both locally and internationally. I saw this as an opportunity to utilize cultural exchange, but to also via the game that we love. It was such a fun opportunity. The girls really enjoyed it and the other team loved it. They thought the campus was beautiful and they took so many pictures. I think too looking forward for Westminster, there might be some students that might want to study abroad here or graduate school here. It was a really cool opportunity to be able to host teams like that."

Copy edited by: Sydney Roach

# Protect from Prospectives

Charlotte E. Shunk



Remick Admissions House hosts hundreds of prospective students each year. The number of prospective students has increased during the 2019-2020 school year compared to past years. Additional tour times have been incorpo rated into the Admissions House's schedule to accommodate more prospective student arrivals.

Do you remember when we were young students, at the start of our time here at Westminster, bright eyed and bushy tailed? Wait, no, that's a description of the squirrels that run around campus. We were g, at the start of our time here, keeping our noses out of trouble, eyes on the book, and eagerly anticipating the "exciting," "wonderful" parts of college we heard all about when we toured the place as seniors in high school?

When the weather is nice, we have canoes that we take out on the lake, they said. You can double major and travel abroad and still graduate in four years, they said. There are lots of places to eat and hang out at night, they said.

All of those things sounded exciting when we were juniors and seniors in high school. Boating and traveling and hanging out late at night captivated us, paid a deposit, signed a form, and brought us to our home at Motherfair. Now, though, we are tired and dragging our feet through the snowy sludge on the way to class. We keep our heads down because the "exciting" things we were promised are not happening.

College is a black hole. It's mysterious and alluring from the outside. Once you dive in, though, it's a vacuum. The more time I spend inside the vacuum, the more I realize we decorate the entrance of the vacuum. We affix carnival mirrors, glitter, and picket signs with loops cursive saying, "Hop in here!" and, "Welcome Home!" to the outside of the black hole then forget to adorn the inside.

So many things in the black hole of college life are looked at through the perspective of how they can relate and be appealing to prospective students. This phenomenon has taken on such velocity in the past few years especially, that on-campus activities for currently-enrolled students are being placed under microscopes, prodded, and interrogated to ask how they can incorporate prospective students instead. Long-established Westminster traditions are being assessed. If an event does not seem to have an attraction basis for prospective students, then it won't be allotted a budget. It won't be allowed to happen. Our creative arts publication, Scrawl, for example, used to put on "Scrawl Day," a day of student-wide writing workshops, book signings with authors, poetry readings, and other activities - a day that was Tradition for a number of years - is not able to be reincarnated as it once was. Why? An event with such a wide interest pool cannot be held, cannot be approved by the school, without marketing it toward prospective students. Never mind that Scrawl - and any other organization on our campus – is for currently-enrolled students to participate in.

You would think that activities such as these would be endorsed because prospective students who are interested in such events will be enticed by hearing about the event. They might even want to attend the school so they can participate in the event themselves. As a student.

Hijacking student traditions to make the school appealing to prospective students leaves the school bereft of activities. Current students stop wanting to execute events because the administration will want to target the event toward people who don't go here. If people who don't go here attend events, current students won't want to attend the event (after all, they feel it is no longer for them). If current students don't attend events, events stop happening.

Participating is a rite of passage. We all chose Westminster because something in our visits to campus made us look forward to spending the next four years racking up debt and seeing the same ten people in all our classes. Admissions relies upon our student organizations thriving in order to make campus life. If we sacrifice our traditions, if our events only get approved because it will make the school more money in the future, then we are sacrificing student life.

It is wrong to pay attention to solely people you want to look good to, prospective students, and people who make you look good, alumni. Current students are on campus because the coercion process of tours and sweet talk worked. But we won't continue upholding the values that brought us here if the only reason to do so is to be appealing to new people. Continuing a legacy is good. It's important. It is what keeps the school operating as a school. The school cannot keep operating as a community, though, its superior quality, if the people who eat in the TUB every day, sit in Patterson for class every day, walk across the quad, study in the library, live in the residence halls, play sports on the athletic fields are ignored.

We arrived at this campus just like the squirrels who live here – bright eyed, bushy tailed. But we lose that. We've lost that. Our traditions are being wrung dry of student engagement and celebration. They are being hung to dry, on display to lure people in, and then tucked away nicely in a drawer never to be seen or enjoyed again. We are here and we are now. Traditions are forever, but only if we covet them as they are meant to be: enjoyed by students or lost forever.

Remick Admissions House greeted each of us while we were students in high school. The building and its staff doted on us as prospective students, then forgot about their promises and traditions once we paid our deposits as committed students.

Copy edited by: Brock Powell

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020

# <u>SPORTS</u>

# Hit the High Notes! "Sing On!" Concert Coming to Orr

**Brock Powell and Charlotte E. Shunk** 

Correspondent and A&E Section Editor



Westminster College Music Professor Dr. Andrew Withington

Westminster College's School of Music will be holding a celebration of vocal chorales Feb. 18 at 2:00 p.m. "Brothers Sing On! Sisters Sing On!" features Mother Fair's voices in the form of the Men's and Women's Choirs as well as guest singers from surrounding school districts. Beaver County Christians, Blackhawk, Butler, Grove City, Laurel, Lincoln, Lincoln Park, Mercer, Neshannock, Slippery Rock and Wilmington High School choruses will each be featured in the "Brothers Sing On! Sisters Sing On!"

WC's Men's and Women's Choirs will each perform for the visiting high school students.

The Men's Choir, directed by music professor Dr. Andrew Withington and accompanied by Irina Trenga, will perform a variety of songs thematic of sea shanties and nautical rhythms. On par with their music theme, the men will don sailor hats during the performance. The choir pulled a similar stunt previously during the "Brothers and Sisters Unite" concert during the Fall 2019 semester, to the pleasure of the audience. Incorporating the hats during this concert will continue to engage the audience as well as display to the visiting high school students the whimsy collegiate choirs can behold. The Men's Choir is also rehearsing pieces that incorporate rhythmic clapping, a technique that traditionally helps choirs sing on beat while also entertaining their audience.

The Women's Choir, directed by adjunct professor Ashley Graziani and accompanied by Jeff Wachter, will be performing songs reflective of diverse cultures. "Mbiri Kuna Mwari" (Les Kesselman) is a piece derived from text traditional to mass of the Shona peoples, the majority tribe in Zimbabwe. "Babethandaza" (Victor C. Johnson) is a captivating traditional South African folk song. Women's Choir will also perform "Johnny Said No" (Vijay Singh), a piece characterized by its driving emotions.

In preparation for the Brothers Sing On! Sisters Sing On! concert, both Men's and Women's Choirs have rehearsed their pieces three hours per week during class times. In particular, the groups' directors are ensuring the choir members focus upon diction, dynamics, and other details of each piece.

Both the Men's and Women's Choirs will also perform alongside 264 members of the 11 high school choirs.

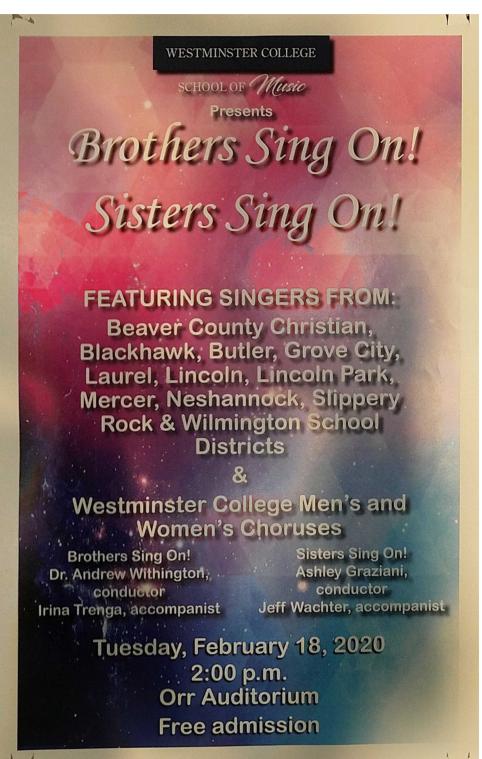
First-year Dan Horgan said, "Personally, this concert will be the biggest combination of choirs I've ever been a part of, so it's an awesome opportunity to meet singers from the area."

High school choirs often have the opportunity to send select students to audition for prestigious ensembles, such as District, Regional or National Choirs. One thing students most enjoy about such opportunities is bonding with students from other schools who are just as passionate about music as themselves. "Brothers Sing On! Sisters Sing On!" will create a bonding experience similar in breadth and importance. The day's ensemble will be comprised not of a variety of schools, but a single choir community. The day will be celebrated through rehearsals that culminate in a performance in Orr Auditorium.

This event was first created by past WC choir director Samuel Barbara, who instigated the "Brothers Sing On" portion of the concert. Withington resurrected Barbara's concept of combining high school and collegiate choirs, but wanted to do so with a component tailored for the sopranos and altos of the choir. Thus, the "Sister" component of the concert was created. Withington intends Brothers Sing On! Sisters Sing On! to be an annual event.

"Partnering with the high schools gives us the opportunity to share the joy of music and show that it doesn't have to end in high school even if you don't plan on being a music major [in college], sophomore Owen Meilander said. "It will give the students a fun and inspiring day of making music with other passionate students, both high school and college."

Copy edited by: Sydney Roach



Credit: Brock Powell

