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

Dorileke Grady

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 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.
In the DNA, Titan Basketball in The Works of Another Successful Season

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

The Westminster Titan Basketball team is in the tail end of their successful 2019-2020 campaign with the Titans top a four seed and another shot at the Presidents Athletic Conference title this year. The season, the team has been going with the "Unfinished Business" dogma to drive them after last season's mid-8 season loss 64-61 as they won that Chatham for the PAC Championship game.

However, family plays a role for the Titans this season as we were introduced to both the Ritter twins season when Dan transferred to Westminster College from Youngstown State University to play along with him 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 days.

"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 Hunter O'Hara on getting a chance to play alongside his brother again.

"When I one opportunity to play with him, just seeing all the work, he puts in and having him to mentor, I couldn't pass up that opportunity," said me, since we never really played together before, this being my last year and getting to share the court with him is pretty special," said Dylan O'Hara on getting the opportunity to play alongside his brother in his senior season.

"It is really cool, we have always played together before. Dan decided to walk-on and play at YSU our freshman year. I was a little bigger and stronger and that brought the competition out of me a little bit and I can't thank him enough for it." The Titans will wrap up their regular-season schedule at home against Grove City with the conference tournament the following week the format goes as follows.

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, February 25, 27, 29

Tuesday (quarterfinals): No. 8 at No. 1, No. 7 at No. 2, No. 3 at No. 5, No. 4 at No. 6

Thursday (semifinals): A 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.

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

Anthony Esposito

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 Lassiter High School for four years, she transferred over to Mount Union. While Snider was there, the team advanced for the NCAA Regional Semifinals a few years after the graduation, became the assistant coach at the NCAA DIII Ohio Wesleyan College in 2019. Snider has been the assistant coach for NCAC, DIII Gannon University. Both times she was the assistant coach it was for their women's lacrosse team. On November 12, 2019, Bethany Snider became Westminster’s new head Women’s Lacrosse Coach.

While interviewing Snider, I wanted to find out what her opinion was on a variety of questions from Westminster College itself to what she has to say personally.

What make you choose Westminster?

"We are so excited to be on Westminster's campus. Westminster is a school where they really care about their students and their education, not just them playing a sport. Westminster is a school where you can succeed academically and athletically and I felt like Westminster was the perfect fit for me." Westminster was the perfect fit for me. Westminster is a school where people love each other. Westminster is a school where people support each other. Westminster is a school where people help each other. Westminster is a school where people care about each other.

Do you remember when you were when students, as the start of your time here at Westminster, bright eyed and bushy tailed? Wait, no. that’s a description of the sailors that ran around campus. We were ga, at the start of our time here, keeping our noses out of trouble, on eyes and being eager to anticipate the "exciting," "wonderful" parts of college and so was everyone else. When the weather is nice, we have cans 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 might sound fun. I think for me, coming here to see and Westminster, make the administration, that really sparked my interest in the school. Westminster is a school that really cares about their students and that is how we were able to win the conference last season, I thought it would be a good opportunity for me as a young coach especially, to try and hold off of those accomplishments.

How does it feel to get the opportunity to become the head coach for the lacrosse team?

"It is incredible. I said with me being so young and being able to lead this group of young women, who I think have so much potential and passion for this sport. Westminster is a school that really cares about their students and their education, not just them playing a sport. Westminster is a school where people love each other. Westminster is a school where people support each other. Westminster is a school where people help each other. Westminster is a school where people care about each other.

When you think of Westminster, what comes to mind?

"I think about the people that I get to work with here, I think about the experience I get to have here, I think about the opportunity I have to make a difference in the lives of these students. Westminster is a school where people love each other. Westminster is a school where people support each other. Westminster is a school where people help each other. Westminster is a school where people care about each other.

Thank you so much for your time, Bethany. You have been amazing and I really appreciate it.

"Thank you so much for your time, Bethany. You have been amazing and I really appreciate it.

Within the lacrosse team, it has been an incredible experience. Westminster is a school that really cares about their students and their education, not just them playing a sport. Westminster is a school where people love each other. Westminster is a school where people support each other. Westminster is a school where people help each other. Westminster is a school where people care about each other.

Thank you so much for your time, Bethany. You have been amazing and I really appreciate it.

Within the lacrosse team, it has been an incredible experience. Westminster is a school that really cares about their students and their education, not just them playing a sport. Westminster is a school where people love each other. Westminster is a school where people support each other. Westminster is a school where people help each other. Westminster is a school where people care about each other.

Thank you so much for your time, Bethany. You have been amazing and I really appreciate it.

Within the lacrosse team, it has been an incredible experience. Westminster is a school that really cares about their students and their education, not just them playing a sport. Westminster is a school where people love each other. Westminster is a school where people support each other. Westminster is a school where people help each other. Westminster is a school where people care about each other.

Thank you so much for your time, Bethany. You have been amazing and I really appreciate it.

Within the lacrosse team, it has been an incredible experience. Westminster is a school that really cares about their students and their education, not just them playing a sport. Westminster is a school where people love each other. Westminster is a school where people support each other. Westminster is a school where people help each other. Westminster is a school where people care about each other.

Thank you so much for your time, Bethany. You have been amazing and I really appreciate it.

Within the lacrosse team, it has been an incredible experience. Westminster is a school that really cares about their students and their education, not just them playing a sport. Westminster is a school where people love each other. Westminster is a school where people support each other. Westminster is a school where people help each other. Westminster is a school where people care about each other.

Thank you so much for your time, Bethany. You have been amazing and I really appreciate it.
Hit the High Notes!
"Sing On!" Concert Coming to Orr

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!" concert.

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. "Mbiti 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."