Westminster College boasts an interdisciplinary curriculum founded on the principles of the liberal arts tradition. For some students, this idea of interdisciplinary learning might mean getting their clothes dirty painting in the art studio while also synthesizing complicated reactions in the lab. For others, it could mean becoming birders and tweeting about their endeavors while also completing comprehensive financial audits. For those who attend February's installment of Titan Talks, it will mean learning about both cancer treatment and television drama all in one night.

Students, faculty and members of the community are invited to McKelvey Campus Center's Berlin Lounge for the next segment of Titan Talks on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. The lecture will feature Westminster professors Dr. Karen Resendes and Dr. James Rhoads as they present “Breaking Bad & the Science of Cancer.”

Dr. Resendes, associate professor of biology, will discuss the science of cancer treatment in her portion of the talk, according to a press release published by the College. The root cause of cancer progression can vary widely, even within the same cancer type. Resendes will provide some insight regarding this and give an overview of the similarities and differences that occur in the development of cancerous tumors. Additionally, she will introduce the range of treatment methods that can be employed in combating various forms of the disease, a Westminster press release explained. Resendes will also emphasize how the basic scientific research being performed at Westminster may one-day impact future cancer treatment plans.

Dr. Rhoads, professor of political science, will follow Dr. Resendes’ lecture with one of his own exploring the hit American television drama “Breaking Bad,” a Westminster press release reported. The show follows a mild-mannered high school science teacher who transforms into a merciless player in the local drug trade, driven by the desire to provide for his family after being diagnosed with terminal lung cancer.

Titan Talks are free and open to the public. Reservations can be made at https://www.westminster.edu/alumni/events. There will be light snacks at the event.

Dr. Resendes, co-director of the Drinko Center, joined the Westminster faculty in 2009. She earned her undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary before continuing on to earn a Ph.D. from Brown University.

Dr. Rhoads, criminal justice/sociology and political science chair, joined the Westminster faculty in 1992 after earning his undergraduate degree, master’s and Ph.D. from Kent State University, according to the College’s undergraduate catalog.

Titan Talks, launched in the fall of 2018, is a three-part series featuring Westminster scholars and professionals. It aims at helping human beings develop their best selves and live lives with a mindful purpose, according to a release published by the College.

The next installment of Titan Talks will be in March.

Quote of the Week:
You are no better than anyone else, and no one is better than you. – Katherine Johnson
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We’re all familiar with the saying, “You go to be true” is an especially cynical phrase, so I am intimately familiar with the concept of skepticism. However, I recently had something of a lapse of judgment while applying for summer internships. Handshake, a job and internship searching app for college students, often sends me emails about internships that I think I’ll find interesting. Usually, I don’t look too deeply into these suggestions. Most of the time it’s because I’m too busy with classes and work, but sometimes it’s because I’m just not interested in the internship or the location of it.

One day just a few weeks ago, I was absent-mindedly scrolling through my countless emails when I saw an interesting internship listing from Handshake. Several things about this listing caught my eye. The internship was based in Washington D.C., which is where I ultimately want to live. I would also get to go to journalism conferences, meet professionals who work in the area and I would get paid $1,000 per month. Even though I have been swamped with classes and work lately, I decided to apply. Everything seemed perfect. It was a paid internship in my major and in the city that I want to live in. The fact that everything about the listing was perfect should have been my first red flag.

I should have noticed the second red flag when the application for the journalism internship asked me several questions about my opinions on the Conservative Movement and to talk about my favorite public policy officials. I did think it was odd that they wanted to hear my opinions when journalists are supposed to be non-biased, but the temptation of $1,000 per month and the possibility of living in D.C. proved too great.

After hours spent perfecting my essays, resume and writing samples, I was almost ready to submit my application. The only thing left was my cover letter. I looked back at the internship listing one more time to make sure I understood it from my cover letter. While re-reading the description, I came across the words “looking for conservative journalists.”

These were the first signs that I had been looking through a collection of my entire application. As mentioned above, journalists are supposed to be non-biased. Of course, we all humans with opinions, but a journalist should leave their personal feelings at home. Other than my discomfort over this ethical dilemma, there was also the problem of how I answered the essays in the application. I mainly talked about left-leaning politicians, not knowing that this application was looking for conservative responses. You can imagine how embarrassing it would be for me if I submitted my application the way it was.

This whole situation could have been avoided with one simple step: read the fine print. There was no mention of the conservative movement anywhere else in the original internship listing except for those four words, but it is still my fault for not reading it closely enough.

As busy college students, we often feel pressured to apply to tons of internships and jobs at a time. I know lots of people who send out the same resume and cover letter to many locations hoping for at least one response. I don’t think this is just because they’re lazy. We don’t always have time to thoroughly research each opportunity or spend time carefully writing every letter and cover letter. Applications for internships and jobs we’re also behind on homework assignments and sleep schedules. However, this method of mass applying can often backfire. I only hope that my embarrassing experience can serve as a cautionary tale to other burnt-out students looking for internships and jobs.

Influential Choir Professor Approved to Stay
Sydney Roach

Westminster College’s Visiting Assistant Professor of Music is not so “visiting” anymore. Professor from abroad, Dr. Andrew Withington was approved to stay at WC on track for tenure the week of Feb. 3.

Withington, originally hailing from New Zealand, is Motherfair’s Director of Choral Activities. Withington arrived at WC at the beginning of 2020-2021 school year after interviewing for the position summer 2019. After one and a half semesters of successful choir concerts, fruitful recruitment efforts and community involvement, Withington was approved by Westminster executives to stay on as a professor.

Withington selects arrangements for and directs WC’s Choir Concert, Chamber Singers, Men’s Choir. Among his change in title, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities, Withington’s responsibilities will expand to teach courses other than choir ensembles. Withington taught Choral Conducting during Fall 2019 and currently teaches Advanced Conducting and individual voice lessons to vocal students Spring 2021. Withington will be a Choral Literature to his portfolio of courses.

Withington has numerous goals for the WC choral ensembles which he is determined to accomplish in the coming years.

Both Chamber and Concert Choirs go on trips each year, often performing along the east coast and across Pennsylvania. In the next few years, Withington hopes to tour internationally.

Withington stated that his biggest goal is to increase the size of each choral ensemble. A successful recruitment campaign would be marked by nearly doubling the size of Chamber, Concert, Men’s and Women’s Choirs, which currently boast 15, 39, 20 and 16 members, respectively.

Withington plans to accomplish his goal of increasing the breadth of WC choral ensembles by recruiting both on- and off-campus.

On-campus, Withington has sent emails to students who indicate potential interest in choir. He tried to schedule conflicting, sometimes allowing students to attend choir rehearsals once per week if they have conflicts on other days. He even launched a “Sing in the Spring” campaign at the end of the Fall 2019 semester to gain interest of students during the time of course registration.

In addition to paper and virtual efforts, Withington arranged “Guy for a Pie” within each ensemble. If choir members brought a friend (currently not enrolled in choir) to a choir rehearsal, Withington would give a pie to both the choir member and the friend.
"I want to break down barriers that people have about choir, notions that choir only does high-brow, classical music. We do a full range of genres," Withington said.

Exemplifying the range of genres they can perform, WC choral ensembles are rehearsing to perform with the Neil Diamond tribute Celebrity Series event, WC’s Jazz Band Ensemble and for a Gaelic concert with pieces traditional to the culture.

Off-campus, Withington has been a guest conductor for various Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) functions. His presence at such events allows him to promote not only the music department, but also Motherfair as the future home for high schoolers. Withington is also organizing and conducting workshops at various high schools.

Withington has utilized his time at Westminster thus far to become engaged in WC culture. Withington’s presence is a staple at campus and community events, as he attends as much as he can.

"It’s very important – and this is the teaching side of me – in terms of making learning happen and facilitating learning with students, it’s very important to be connected," Withington said.

Withington works to create a classroom environment that is safe, comfortable, and conducive to learning. He does so by staying connected to his students through being involved on campus. Withington attends sports competitions, concerts by music ensembles other than choir and other special events on campus to support his students outside of the classroom.

Withington also spends time singing in the chancel choir at New Wilmington Presbyterian Church, the body of faith across the street from WC.

"[I sing] to stay in the game, to understand what my students go through when they are singing in class," Withington said.

The newly-titled Assistant Professor of Music has many ideas to increase the profile of choral ensembles on campus. He is passionate about Westminster culture and about the wellbeing of his students. Withington is implementing many new ideas throughout campus and reinvesting interest in choir. He will continue to do so in his now long-term stint at Westminster.

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The Westminster College men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams wrapped up their quests for the 2019-2020 Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC) Championship the evening of Saturday, Feb. 15. Both the men’s and the women’s teams finished in second place with 852 and 850 points, respectively.

Women’s Final Rankings
1. Grove City College 972
2. Westminster College 850
3. Saint Vincent College 719
4. Chatham University 446
5. Washington & Jefferson College 177
6. Bethany College 62

Men’s Final Rankings
1. Grove City College 1085
2. Westminster College 852
3. Saint Vincent College 685
5. Bethany College 125
6. Chatham University 37

Although the Titans finished second to Grove City for both titles, the teams came home with some notable awards from this season’s performance.

Junior Connor May (Highlands Ranch, CO / Glacier Park) earned the PAC Men’s Diver of the Year, his third-straight, while senior Kaitlyn Fast (Wooster, OH / Wooster) earned PAC Women’s Diver of the Year, the second of her career. To cap off the individual awards, sixth-year Diving Coach Heath Callouin was named the PAC Men’s and Women’s Diving Coach of the year for the third consecutive year.

Six Titan divers will have another opportunity to advance, as they qualified for the regional 2019-2020 NCAA Championships at Greensboro Aquatic Center in North Carolina. May, Austin Shaw, Patrick Holton, Fast, Zoe Cable and Janiezon Elia will all have the chance to make a splash for the Titans once more this season after impressive performances throughout the year.
Getting to Know About eSports and Alec Rich, the President of Super Smash Bros. Club

Anthony Esposito

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020

THE HOLCAD - WESTMINSTER COLLEGE, NEW WILMINGTON, PA

Being a gamer is a part time that most of us enjoy doing. It does not matter what console it is on, everyone can enjoy playing their favorite game. We have a cub on campus called Super Smash Bros Club for all of you video gaming people on campus. I got the opportunity to do an interview with the president of that club. His name is Alec Rich. Alec is a Junior here at Westminster College majoring in accounting and he is a part of the Super Smash Bros.club. He has a passion for video games and he balances it very well with everything else that he has going on. He has a bunch of tv's in his room and at home that he fixes up for those that want to play but do not have a tv. That will be discussed more coming up.

What is your favorite console to play on? What is your favorite video game to play?

That is a simple question. I would have to say that I enjoy my all-time favorite console to play the Nintendo GameCube has to be my favorite console. Super Smash Bros. Melee has to be my favorite game of all time. That was not an easy decision to make by any means.

On average, how many hours do you spend playing video games a week? How do you have time to play tennis and school work?

Between the time I spend with Smash Club and online with my friends at home, at least 20 hours a week. I am very busy for most of my day. At the end of almost every single day my friends from home and I get on Discord, which is a group chat app, and we can connect through voice. We get on here and we play for about two hours whether it's Super Smash Bros., Pokémon or dumb shooter games that we play. From midnight to two a.m. is our prime time, which is basically after my brain shuts off. I am done doing homework, tennis is over, I have gone to the gym, I have gone to class and I have worked for the day. That is the time that I really take advantage of it. It is always so much fun, it is not good for my sleep schedule, but it is always so much fun.

For those who may not know, what is eSports all about?

Esports is the growing segment of competitive play. A lot of people think video games, they think they just play for fun and that is all well and good. I play for fun all the time. Esports is more of a competitive nature beyond even just the simple everyday competitive stuff. I play tennis and tennis matches are the big matches, PAC matches are huge. Just as important are our Smash Club tournaments. We are going to a tournament this Sunday and that is game day for us, that is eSports. That is us competing against players from other schools, competing against each other even. The prize is on the line. It is, for a lot of major games, eSports has really blown up in the past couple of years and almost every game has an eSports scene. It is kind of like the professional version of casual play.

Would you say eSports is for enjoyment or purely for competition?

I think you have to enjoy it. Just how football players like playing football, they are not there just to compete. Of course, people have fun competing and that is what makes it so appealing. You grow up as a kid and think oh I'm the best. You play your friends at home and then you go out and play the community where there are other players that have played their whole lives too. It is a head-to-head competition and they thrive on that. I love that why I play. You have to like it and all the time and hours you put into playing the game, you have to enjoy it. I think most people do.

Are you on a team?

The teams for eSports are kind of weird. Smash is an individual game. Basically, when you go to tournaments, for Smash Bros the very least, it is every person for themselves. We all definitely support each other and the other players that go, but that does not mean we are all in it. It is very individual. I know there is a group of students here that are Rocket League team and they actually represent Westminster nationally against other colleges. They are a team. They have to work together and they practice together. That is really awesome and I love it. That is a great game, but I do not play it myself. It is really cool that they are a part of a team and I wish that we had an even bigger community so that all the people that play in any eSports world would be able to know each other and be able to support each other no matter what game they are playing.

Do you have any advice for the players, fans and competitors out there?

There are two things that I would say when it comes to playing in any eSports game. It is such a really big commitment and it is not easy to pick up a game and he really good, even though that is what a lot of people would think because it is video games. As many hours as you put into your sport, as many hours you are in the gym or on the courts, you are going to have to put just as many hours into that game. It gets really crazy watching films and watching top players. The same thing you do for sports you have to do for that eSports. It is not something that you can casually pick up. The other thing you have to always consider is that you can't overthink and over analyze. You still have to have fun, even when you are playing sports if you overthink or over analyze you are not going to play as well. Put the time in and remember why you are doing it. It has to be fun. Bring a friend. If you are ever going to a tournament and it is by yourself, you are always in the wrong mindset. If you get in a funk someone will knock you out of it. Most tournaments are multiple stages, so one loss won't knock you out right away. Bring a friend to keep your mindset kind of fresh and they are just really good to bring.

So, I heard that you collect these TV's in your room and you fix them up so people can game on them.

I do have a ton of TVs. Right now, in my townhouse I have six and in my basement at home I have about four or five that I just don't bring here. The really funny part is that a lot of people don't recognize the value of their old TVs. The big box TVs you see are called CRT's. They are actually really good for specific types of games. Most people throw them away. I have picked up several on the side of the road that were for garbage. They work perfectly and we try and get the ones that aren't a million pounds so we can actually carry them. If there is a TV on the side of the road, I am going to pick it up, even if it doesn't work. We picked one up that was absolutely trash, but we couldn't let a perfectly good CRT go to waste if it was going to be thrown away. For the Super Smash Bros. club, it is a really big thing to have a big setup so that anyone who wants to play can play. That is one of our big things. Having enough TVs to set that up is really important. We purchased a TV with the club money before and every time I know brings a few so that we have them. I think I look at TVs differently than most people because I have like 15 at my house and it is like add another one why not.

I asked a few other students on campus what their favorite game was and their favorite game they play. Here is what they had to say.

Brennan Pelzer: My favorite console is the PS4, and my favorite game is Fortnite.

Adam Saunders: My favorite console is the Xbox One, and my favorite game is Call of Duty.

Payton Goodwin: My favorite console is the Xbox One, and my favorite game is Fortnite.