

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

**VOLUME CXXXVI** 

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

### Westminster's School of Communication Sees Major Changes **Exploring the New Majors and Changing Faculty**

**Sydney Roach** 

Editor-in-Chief



Credit: Sydney Roach

The School of Communication at Westminster College is facing major changes starting next semester.

Communications faculty and staff from the School of Communication called a meeting for all students in the department on Tuesday, Feb. 18 to discuss the new changes. These faculty members included Dr. David Barner, Bradley Weaver, Kandice Hartner, Dr. Brittany Rowe-Cernevicius, Dr. Keith Corso, Gary Swanson and Dr. Colleen Merrick.

The majors and minors within the program are going through significant changes, the various faculty members explained. Come fall 2020, the majors and minors will all have different names and different requirements. However, there will be three common courses required for each major. These courses are COM 203-Media Writing, COM 205-Mass Communications and COM 430-Audience Research and Analysis.

The current broadcasting and media production major will change into "broadcasting and sports communication."

There will be a new major within the School of Communications: creative media production. This major is entirely new at Westminster and will be offered beginning next semester.

"Our School of Communication students and alumni have won national awards—including Emmys—for music videos, documentaries and public service announcements," Barner, professor of broadcast communications and outgoing chair of the School of Communication, said. "We're excited to launch another major that will provide an even wider range of career options and opportunities to succeed."

"Creative media production is an exciting area of growth and opportunity right now," Dr. Jeffrey Coker, vice president for academic affairs and enrollment and dean of the College, said. "The new major in our School of Communication will serve current and future Westminster students very well."

The public relations major is changing to "strategic communication and social media," while the communication studies major is changing to "public communication and leadership." The multimedia journalism major is dissolving. While these changes do not affect students currently in the School of Communication, underclassmen can shift into one of these new majors starting next semester when the new classes will be offered.

Most of the classes currently offered in these majors will still be taught, but they will have different prefixes. For example, the current public relations courses have a "PR" code, but under the new major, they will instead have an "SCSM" code. The communications faculty at the meeting said that this should not impact registration.

There will be several faculty changes within the School of Communication, as well. Barner, the current chair of the School of Communication, is retiring after this semester. He will continue as an adjunct professor and director of broadcasting. Prestien, a public relations professor, is also retiring. Hartner, currently an adjunct faculty member, is going to become a fulltime lecturer of communication to help teach courses in the new creative media production major.

"I am excited and thankful for the opportunity to continue working in the School of Communication at Westminster. The Creative Media Production major focuses on storytelling, hands-on learning, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with students to build on these concepts," Hartner said.

Merrick, communications professor, is stepping up as the new chair of the department.

"I think every good department is always changing, so to have ours make a change, I think it's going to bring in a lot more students and be a positive thing," junior broadcasting and media production major Maddie Keenan said.

Barner emphasized multiple times throughout the meeting that students currently enrolled in the School of Communication will still be able to finish their degrees.

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Credit: westminster.edu

**FEATURES** 

Nina Silver

**SPORTS** 

**Tennis** Preview

**SPORTS** 

Titan

Baseball

**SPORTS** That's

Outrageous!



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**FRIDAY** 



High: 28° Low: 18°

SATURDAY



High: 27° Low: 15°

Cloudy

SUNDAY





Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen. - Michael Jordan

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THE HOLCAD - WESTMINSTER COLLEGE, NEW WILMINGTON, PA

#### The Holcad

357 McKelvey Campus Center, Box 157 New Wilmington, Pa., 16172

#### holcad@westminster.edu

Advisors Dr. David Barner, Brad Weaver

Layout and Design Consultant Kandice Hartner

### EDITORIAL STAFF 2019-2020

Editor-in-Chief Sydney Roach Layout Editor Erica McNatt

**SECTION EDITORS** Danielle Grady, Charlotte E. Shunk,

Mason Flanigan

**CORESPONDENTS** Anthony Esposito,

Garvey Biggers

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All letters must be submitted by 12 p.m. Monday to make the Friday edition. E-mail: holcad@westminster.edu Mail: Box 157

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### Watch Out, Cancer Cells: the Research is Coming!

Charlotte E. Shunk A&E/Features Section Editor



Junior Nina Silver undergoing research on pancreatic cancer cells, for which she received a grant from The Drinko Center. Credit: Charlotte E. Shunk

Junior biology major Nina Silver first wanted to pursue a STEM degree to eventually go to med school to become a psychiatrist. Prior to undergoing psychiatry, though, Silver is utilizing her time at Mother Fair to research more efficient treatments for cancer.

Cells are typically self-aware. If they are working less efficiently than they should be – in other words, if they are stressed – cells will kill themselves. This form of cell-suicide is known as apoptosis.

Apoptosis occurs when proteins in cells are transported by other proteins out of the cellular nucleus and into cytoplasm, Silver explained. Pancreatic cancer creates a certain type of protein in cells called Ran protein. Ran protein halts the transportation of harmful proteins out of cells' nuclei. When Ran protein is present within a cell, too many proteins are transported into the cell and too few are transported out of the cell. This results in the cell not being able to apoptosis to rid itself of the cancerous Ran protein.

Silver is experimenting to find a more effective means of treatment for pancreatic cancer. She is working with the drugs five-fluorouracil and Gemcitamine to determine whether a combination of the two drugs would result in a more effective fight against pancreatic cancer as opposed to either fivefluorouracil or Gemcitamine used on their own as well as opposed to no treatment at all.

Gemcitamine is the primary drug doctors use when trying to treat pancreatic cancer. It kills cells in which the Ran protein has halted protein transportation into and out of the cellular nucleus. While currently the most effective at ridding bodies of cancerous cells, Gemcitamine is not an altogether effective drug because pancreatic cancer has developed to build resistance to the drug.

Five-fluorouracil is a secondary drug used to treat pancreatic cancer. Its use has proven not as effective as Gemcitamine and is often used in conjunction with other drugs.

"Two treatments used together can function differently together than they would separately," Silver

Silver's hypothesis in undergoing research of pancreatic cancer cells is that the combination treatment of Gemcitamine and five-fluorouracil will cause less nuclear (and more cytoplasmic) amounts of Ran protein. Essentially, Silver is conducting experiments to determine a method of eliminating cancer cells that is both effective and overcomes resistance to individual treatment methods.

Researching cancer cells is Silver's Senior Capstone project. Biology professor Dr. Karen Resendes is advising Silver through the project.

Resendes has previously advised alumni Eve Terwilliger and Emily D'Amico. Terwilliger and D'Amico conducted research to find more effective means of treating cervical cancer using a process similar to that of Silver.

Silver began her research during the Fall 2019 semester. Resendes and other Capstone students helped Silver to begin her research process by training her to complete the methods of experimentation. Silver's first experiments used HeLa cells, leftover cervical cancer cells from Terwilliger and D'Amico's research.

Every type of cancer has distinct characteristics. There is not a uniform approach to researching or treating "cancer" as a generalized form. Rather, each type of cancer must be studied individually to find its unique form of effective treatment.

The output of Terwilliger and D'Amico's research suggested that their experiment might be more successful if tested with Panc1, pancreatic cancer cells. Critics of Terwilliger and D'Amico's conclusion asked why they didn't test their methods on Panc1 cells. Therefore, Silver's experiments seek to expand upon her predecessors'.

To make her research specific to pancreatic cancer, though, Silver had to purchase Panc1 cells. Cells for research come at a high price -- \$375.00, to be exact. Silver's research relies upon Panc1 cells. To bypass the immediate cost of her research, Silver applied for a grant from Westminster College's Drinko Center for undergraduate research funding.

The Drinko Center funding application asked Silver to explain the importance of her project and what she would be using the money to purchase. Upon receiving the grant money at the beginning of the Spring 2020 semester, Silver purchased the Panc1 cells she needed and shifted her research from emulating the prior tests of Terwilliger and D'Amico to testing specifically for pancreatic cancer.

In addition to publishing her research at the conclusion of her three-semester-long experiments, Silver said, "I also hope this research provides a base for other labs to continue off. [This] will ultimately help develop a treatment for pancreatic cancer that is reliable in its ability to fight that type of cancer, as there really is not one for pancreatic cancer yet."

In accordance with her Drinko Center grant, Silver will present her findings thus far on how combination treatments affect Ran proteins in cancerous cells at Westminster's annual Undergraduate Research and Arts Celebration (URAC) April 22.

Copy edited by: Erica McNatt

## FEATURES/SPORTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

THE HOLCAD - WESTMINSTER COLLEGE, NEW WILMINGTON, PA

## Tennis Preview

**Anthony Esposito** 

Everyone is excited to watch sports, if you are an athlete then you like to play sports. Spring season for sports is underway as the athletes get together with their teams and start practicing in the preseason preparing for the regular season games or matches. Tennis happens to be one of those sports. Tennis is a competitive sport that people of all ages can enjoy. For the spring season, the Westminster men's tennis team has already started their season off with practices that started Monday Feb. 17. Their first match will be on Friday Feb. 22 at 3 pm. The titans will be traveling to Erie, PA to face off against Penn State Behrend.

I got the opportunity to take to two individuals from the men's tennis year? team. David Hayden is the head coach for the men's and women's tennis team. Miguel Ascensio is a junior and is one of the top players on the men's tennis team. I was able to get a one-on-one with both of them to get a little preview on what the season is going to look like.

Coach Dave Hayden:

What are your expectations for this year?

I think we are going to have one of the better teams out of the five years that I have been here. We did not really graduate any players. We got everyone back and we added a couple of new additions. We are all very optimistic for the season.

Out of all the returners, who has shown the most improvement?

That is a tough one. I do not think I can single any one person out. Everyone has worked hard in the offseason and has improved their game. The new comers have worked hard in the summer to get to be here.

Who do you think will make an impact on the team?

Miguel Ascensio has been our number one ever since he has been here. He is kind of the one that drives everything. We have a great supporting cast of characters like Alex Georgescu, Logan Maannheimer, Noah Weiss, and some of the incoming freshman such as Jimmy Oberlin

If you could play doubles with or against any tennis great, past or present, who would it be and why? Would it be at the US Open, French Open, Australian Open, or Wimbledon?

That is easy, it would have to be Roger Federer because he is the best that has ever played the game and I would not have to do much work. We would play at the US Open.

Miguel Ascensio:

This is your last year, but you are only a junior. Why is this your last

I'm in the 3-4 Pre-Dental Program with Case Western. It allowed me to cut a year of off my undergrad. I also didn't have to worry about sending applications to other dental schools and interviewing, which was a big plus.

I'll definitely miss the team, but I'll miss playing competitively the

What will you miss most about playing after this spring?

most. I have competed since I was 9 years old, so it will definitely feel weird to not be playing competitively any more.

Who do you think will have an impact on the team?

I think that Jimmy and Potter, the two freshmen this year, will give us a big boost this year. We didn't graduate anybody last year and they are both in the starting lineup, and they'll definitely give us more depth.

If you could play doubles with or against any tennis great, past or present, who would it be and why? Would it be at the US Open, French Open, Australian Open, or Wimbledon?

I would play with Roger Federer at Wimbledon. He has been my favorite player, and I have tried to model my game after his. It would be really cool to play with the undisputed G.O.A.T. at the most prestigious tennis event in the world.

Copy edited by: Mason Flanigan



Coach Dave Hayden



## Titans Eye Postseason Hopes, Picked 7th in Preseason Poll

Sports Section Editor

With the Titan baseball team's spring break trip to Florida just days away, the team is eager to tie up the cleats and hit the diamond once again. The team lost three players who graduated last year: Dante Parente, Cory Pullen and Hunter Alexander. However, Alexander returns to the team this season as an assistant coach.

Alexander, the 2019 team MVP, joined the staff as a hitting coach and mentor to the current catching staff. He is not the only coach in a new role this season, as the College hired Patrick Riley to take over as the new head baseball coach after former coach Kelly Swiney announced he would not return for the 2020 season. Swiney instead accepted the head coach position at the University of Mary Washington. Also, Clay Martin joins the cause as the Titan's new pitching coach. Martin is a recent graduate of Washington and Jefferson College, where he posted a 3.95 ERA, 48 strikeouts in just over 70 innings pitched and earned All-PAC honors a good year," Riley said on WCN's Coaches Corner show. twice in his career.

Aside from the coaching staff, the team will gather around team captains: seniors Tyler Barnot and Frank Cinicola, who was named to the First Team All-PAC last year. Some of the other notable returners include sophomore outfielder Dawson Porter, who despite missing time due to injury came back and had an outstanding .484 batting average. The pitching group can expect to see great contributions from Dante Sienko, Paul Midili, Marcus Masters and Emilio Rivera.

The PAC's preseason poll ranked the team to finish seventh out of expectation." nine teams this season with W&J, Grove City, Bethany and Thiel being the heavy hitters.

2020 PAC Baseball Preseason Coaches' Poll School (first-place votes) Points 2019 Records 1. W&J (8) 38-13 (21-3 PAC)

2. Grove City (1) 52 28-16 (16-7 PAC) T-3. Bethany 43 27-16 (14-10 PAC) T-3. Thiel 43 17-22 (13-11 PAC) 5. Waynesburg 21-19 (15-9 PAC) 40 6. Saint Vincent 33 20-19 (12-12 PAC) 7. Westminster 23 15-21 (10-14 PAC) 8. Chatham 16 7-29 (4-20 PAC) 9. Geneva 10 7-28 (2-21 PAC)

"The Team is looking good; we are working hard. Obviously with the weather we can be a bit limited in what we do, but we will go down to Florida in a few weeks. Overall, the guys are working hard, buying into the mentality. We are definitely very excited, both myself and the other coaches have been impressed with what we've seen and we think it will be

"As a coach, your expectation is always to win the conference and advance as far as you can, that's no different for us. In order to do that, you got to make the playoffs and to do that you have to do well in the conference. Kind of like a domino effect, as we talk about with our guys, we have our long-term goals and advancing. Ultimately all we can control is what we do today and what we can do to get better and stay dedicated, so we can get what we are trying to accomplish. You can have your longterm vision, but you also have to get through short term ideas. That's the

The Titans will open the 2020 season with a doubleheader against D'Youville College on March 8 as part of their spring break trip. Can the Titans get gritty and exceed expectations? Be sure to follow the team's season on WCN247.com.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

## **SPORTS**

# That's Outrageous: The Astros Atrocity

**Garvey Biggers** 

Correspondent



Credit: Story Blocks

The baseball season is starting this weekend with the first games of Spring Training beginning on Saturday, and yet there is still plenty of talk going on about the Houston Astros and their cheating scandal. For those that do not know, the Houston Astros were caught stealing signs electronically from the 2017 and part of the 2018 season, attesting that they did not use their previous methods in last season. They used a method where they set up a camera in centerfield and peaked in to the catcher's signs, telling the pitcher what to throw and relaying it in real time to a person banging a trashcan within earshot of the batter at the plate to swing on a particular pitch. In baseball, stealing signs has alway been a part of the game, but the method they used was beyond the code of ethics for this sport, rooted in tradition and edict.

Now, a reasonable person that isn't a baseball fan would think, "Okay, get the guys out of the game for a year or so, let serve a punishment that should tell the rest of the league this is unacceptable." That's not how the commissioner of baseball, Rob Manfred, or as many baseball fans call him, Uncle Manfred. Uncle Manfred gave amnesty to the players that came forth and told the the league's officers of their cheating, in return, they would not face further punishment. This alone is outrageous, a team that has supreme talent on the offensive side and on the mound, they used this cheating method to win a World Series and a MVP, Jose Altuve in the 2017 season. On top of that, the apologies by star players like the aforementioned Altuve and Alex Bregman have been hollow and unforgiving of their cheating.

But it doesn't stop there, no. Uncle Manfred has gone on to implement a rule regarding hit batsmen and the intention if they were being thrown at, "completely separate from the Astros' situation". Although, Alex Bregman said in a podcast last year, Pardon My Take, "I like the way the game has always policed itself, if you do some stupid stuff on the field, you or your teammates is going to get hit."

If you look at any national baseball writer's Twitter, it is flooded with Astros headlines and players takes. A couple takes that stood out to me were that of Lebron James and Mike Trout. James said, "Listen I know I don't play baseball but I am in Sports and I know if someone cheated me out of winning the title and I found out about it I would be \*\*\*\*\*\*\* irate! I mean like uncontrollable about what I would/could do! Listen here baseball commissioner listen to your players speaking today about how disgusted, mad, hurt, broken, etc etc about this. Literally the ball is in your court(or should I say field) and you need to fix this for the sake of Sports!". Manfred has shown not only incompetence, but what the players think. The quote from James is a credit to NBA commissioner, Adam Silver, known best for understanding players needs, complaints and a willingness to work out any grievances. Then, you have Mike Trout, the star of the game today, who rarely says anything and shies away from national media attention even when it's due. Trout said, "They cheated...I don't agree with the punishment...I lost respect for some of those guys." going on to say, "Going up to the plate knowing what's coming...that would be a lot of fun.". For a guy who stays mum under most circumstances, this should come as a shock to the commissioner as a call to action to reopen the case and find the punishment; take it into your own hands that this can't happen again and make these players an example.

Almost as egregious, but sticking to the point that Manfred is out of touch with players, he was quoted saying the Commissioner's Trophy was "just a piece of metal". He has since backtracked what he said, but the point still stands and hasn't paid enough attention by the national media. This quote set off a siren in my head when I saw it, proving Uncle Manfred has

never played a competitive sport in his life, or at least, not at a level where he honestly had to try at it. I know for a fact, that "piece of metal" is all I ever work for when I have to wake up at 6am when I have to get up for my lifts, when I'm sore and tired, the time I sacrifice talking and being around loved ones, nights of fun I give up, and injuries I face come to raise that "piece of metal" at the end of the year as a symbol of what I gave up to

earn that title. This atrocity that has taken over our game for the last two or three months has disgusted me and so many more because unlike the steroid era that took place in the 90s and early 2000s, these were the only known players to have used this method to win and diminish the career achievements of those who played the game clean. For this, they got away with murder, able to put on their resumes they won a World Series, a MVP and two division titles. THAT IS ABSOLUTELY OUTRAGEOUS!

The players of the Astros have come out with the normal tagline of, "We're going to win the World Series and this will all blow over." Which could be argued is still a possibility, but it will never be blown over, they will forever be held in the books with an asterisk by their name for their two, possibly three years of involvement in this scheme to become title holders. There was so much more I could have laid out in this article of this debacle, but I'm only allowed so many words. So if there is anything to take away from this, it is: justice is blind and there will be a deserved punishment for these Astros players whether it's from the league office or on the field.

Copy edited by: Mason Flanigan





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