

The Whitworthian

The student voice of Whitworth University since 1905

Vol. 112 Issue 3

November 2021

Spokane, WA



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The Whitworthian has served as the main source of news and sports coverage for the Whitworth community since 1905. The Whitworthian is an organization composed entirely of students which produces The Whitworthian monthly newspaper and thewhitworthian.news.

OUR MISSION

The Whitworthian staff is dedicated to presenting accurate and relevant information in an innovative manner. Our goal is to be accountable while informing, entertaining and providing a forum for expressing the interests of the Whitworth community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The print edition of The Whitworthian is published monthly, except during January and student vacations. The content is generated entirely by students. The college administration does not review the newspaper's content. Opinions and ideas expressed in The Whitworthian are those of the individual artists, writers and student editors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Associated Students of Whitworth University (ASWU), the university, its administration, faculty/staff or advertisers. The Whitworthian is paid for through advertising and subscription revenue and in part by student activity fees as budgeted by ASWU.

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Columns, editorial cartoons and reviews are the opinions of their individual creators and not necessarily the opinion of The Whitworthian, its editors or its staff.

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The Whitworthian is a public forum that believes in freedom of speech and expression as guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

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Limit to 250 words.

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Cover photo by Mario Gonzalez.

Editors' Note

It is time for a change. We have done a lot of reflecting in light of our current political climate, the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing tragedy of racial violence in this country – particularly directed toward the Black community – that has been brought to light over the past year or so. We recognize that, in the past, we have chosen the path of comfort and convenience. We assigned, interviewed, wrote, edited and published according to our usual practices and our normal routines. This is unacceptable. The idea that journalists cannot take a stand against injustice without undermining their objectivity is a lie that not only keeps us from doing what is right but from doing what our job requires of us, to elevate the voices of every person in this community, especially those who are so often pushed to the margins. We condemn the idea that good journalism must assume an air of false neutrality in situations in which we have a moral imperative to pick a side. The press is on the side of the oppressed. We exist for them – to give them a voice, to give them a chance of being heard. As such, we have a responsibility to make it clear what this newsroom stands for. We are committed to actively fighting the systems that oppress BIPOC, women, the LGBTQ+ community, indigenous people, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. We are committed to including all people in our coverage, especially those that have historically been underrepresented by the work we have done. We are committed to using diverse, equitable and inclusive practices in our work. We are committed to honoring the input of those who tell us where we have fallen short and where we can do better. We know that accountability is the only way forward. We are committed to using our work to make Whitworth a place where all people feel heard, seen, and valued. This is the consensus of the editorial board.

**A Call to Change
On Transparency at Whitworth University**

In a moment of transition, transparency is paramount. Whitworth is at a pivotal moment. Following the departure of President Beck Taylor to Samford University, the search process began for his eventual successor. The initial announcement raised many questions, regarding both timing and transparency. How would the university handle the search for the next president? How would students be involved? And what about the many unanswered questions surrounding certain protections for faculty and students? One need look no further than the recent turmoil surrounding Seattle Pacific University's response to the question of LGBTQ+ hiring policies or the continued questions surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion in academic spaces. Above all, if this university is truly committed to its mission of an education for the mind and heart, how faithfully is this mission being carried out? The presidential search committee began fielding offers from third party search organizations at the end of the spring semester, with many emails being sent out to students and staff encouraging input - which would remain confidential - throughout the entirety of the search process. However, confidentiality was applied to more than just student feedback. Outside of the committee, no student would have access to any of the final candidates prior to the new president being announced in December. The Whitworthian was included in the category of members of the community excluded from the search, waiting on emails that are few and far between, lacking any real information regarding the search, let alone the candidates. The continued company line is that confidentiality is needed in order to protect the candidates from any sticky situations that might arise at their home universities if they were to be found out. In other words, trust the process and the handful of people entrusted with choosing the next president. Trusting the process without verification is not something that a newspaper is supposed to do. If anything, the very principle upon which a free press is founded is to question everything, including the process. A free student press is responsible for more than simply recording the yearly history for the sake of posterity. If this is the sole function of any media source, the bedrock of democracy is broken at its foundation. The student body, and by extension its voice, have a unique and unfiltered right to examine and know in full those who are vying for a position that is the face of the university and thus the policies thereof. There are continued issues surrounding discrimination that have yet to be addressed in a significant manner and the student body has the right to know the stances and convictions of those that will influence policy from the top down. Vocal promises of administrations past are no longer sufficient. One student on the search committee is not enough. We refuse to rest on our laurels and be nothing more than a resounding gong. The future of Whitworth is not set in stone - not yet. Confidentiality has its place, but not here, not now. If this university is truly committed to the education of the mind and heart, then those whose hearts and minds are being educated deserve to have input on who is directing that education. We the editorial board of The Whitworthian are aggravated by the continued lack of transparency. If the University is committed to truly serving the students, access is deserved by the entirety of the student body. The Whitworthian is the vehicle through which the student body's voice is heard. In order for that vehicle and thereby the voice of students to work, all must have access to the information surrounding the presidential search. This call for transparency is not just about the student newspaper. It's about the student body as a whole.

Are Our Heads Stuck in Space?

Nicole Harris | Opinions Editor

Going to space is an experience most of us can only dream about - an experience Star Trek actor William Shatner said, "Everybody in the world needs to do," as reported by Space.com.

I mean, "space for all" has a nice ring to it.

The new space race promises to bring down the costs of space travel, making it more sustainable to complete more trips. The only caveat—it will still cost more than the average American could possibly afford.

Even as recently as 2014, Virgin Galactic only charged \$250,000 a seat to fly into space, according to Forbes. Compared to the \$28 million paid by the unnamed auction winner of Blue Origin's July 2021 flight, as reported by NPR, a few hundred thousand seems almost affordable. According to The Wall Street Journal, some experts predict that Blue Origin's prices will significantly lower once they hit the public with a single seat starting around \$500,000.

A recent poll published in The Conversation by public relations professor

at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Joseph Cabosky, Ph.D., found that 80% of participants, from both sides of the aisle, believed that recent launches of Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic were "billionaire ego trips." The same poll also found that 74%

agreed with the statement: "Space travel and research are important for the future development of humanity."

Privatization seems to be an effective way of achieving that development. According to professor of engineering & physics and space propulsion expert Kamesh Sankaran, Ph.D., the significant lowering of price is positive, as a lower cost barrier leads to more flights and more access. Sankaran says, "You'll now open up possibilities that you and I cannot imagine about what life will be in 80 years."

As with most technologies, when space travel was first introduced, it was expensive. Sankaran compares this cost

barrier to that of air travel and computers. But over time, with the help of demand, cost eventually lowered and now most of us have access to entire computers in our pockets. Long gone are the days of political prowess fought for by warring governments, as we saw throughout the Cold War. Now there are dozens of horses in the race, all fighting for contracts such as the NASA Artemis Program, which aims to complete several moon landings, including putting the first woman and first person of color on the moon.

While this emphasis on competition could positively propel scientists to create faster, cheaper and better technologies, it could also lead to shortcuts that could ultimately hurt the average American. Over the years, NASA Spinoff has recorded over 2,000 inventions derived from NASA technologies since 1976. Technologies such as carbon monoxide detectors

"I mean, "space for all," has a nice ring to it."

and advanced firefighter protective gear were all developed because of scientific advancements meant to protect astronauts entering the most extreme conditions. Though NASA was not a part of developing any of these inventions for life on Earth, the government-sponsored program made its discoveries openly available to the public. This free and open access has led to hundreds of life-saving products, many of which have become standard in homes and businesses.

The concern with this new private-enterprise-led space race is that it could lead to loss of that access. Will companies, in the name of competition, hide discoveries in order to beat out competition? With NASA's recent choice to only accept one company's bid on the human lunar lander, that competition might only become fiercer. So, why go to space? Well, why climb Mount Everest? Sankaran suggests, "As humans, we are going to devote our energy and resources to something, so we might as well devote it to something

that pushes the boundaries of our abilities as opposed to something destructive."

He says, "We can build bombs, or we can build rockets, they're essentially the same technology." But even in the example of Mount Everest, first climbed in 1953, horrific consequences have come from continuous tourism. According to BBC, hundreds of mountaineers have died on their way to the summit, leaving many bodies frozen to the mountain, some even serving as guideposts for future climbers. Despite

Photo by Mario Gonzalez.

the risk of death, climbers continue to apply for permits to climb, leading to severe overcrowding, according to The Washington Post. As more climbers go up,

"If we get too caught up in looking outside of our world...we might end up harming what is right in front of us."

more trash and human waste is left behind.

One of the major criticisms of this new space race is the possible environmental effects, with the end goal of

many space programs being sustainable, continuous spaceflight. The Guardian recently reported that while rocket carbon emissions are considerably lower than the

aircraft industry, the rocket industry is expected to grow by 17.5% by the year 2031, and with no international regulations on the types of fuel used or the amount of emissions allowed, the environmental impact could become a huge issue. According to Sankaran, many people assume that spaceflight is always environmentally harmful, when in fact, that doesn't always have to be the case. He says, "The Space Shuttle main engine was not [a] hydrocarbon burning, fossil fuel burning engine at all. It was burning hydrogen and oxygen to produce water vapor."

However, even the release of water vapor, which forms clouds in our atmosphere, may have a negative environmental impact according to Science Daily. With all this in mind,

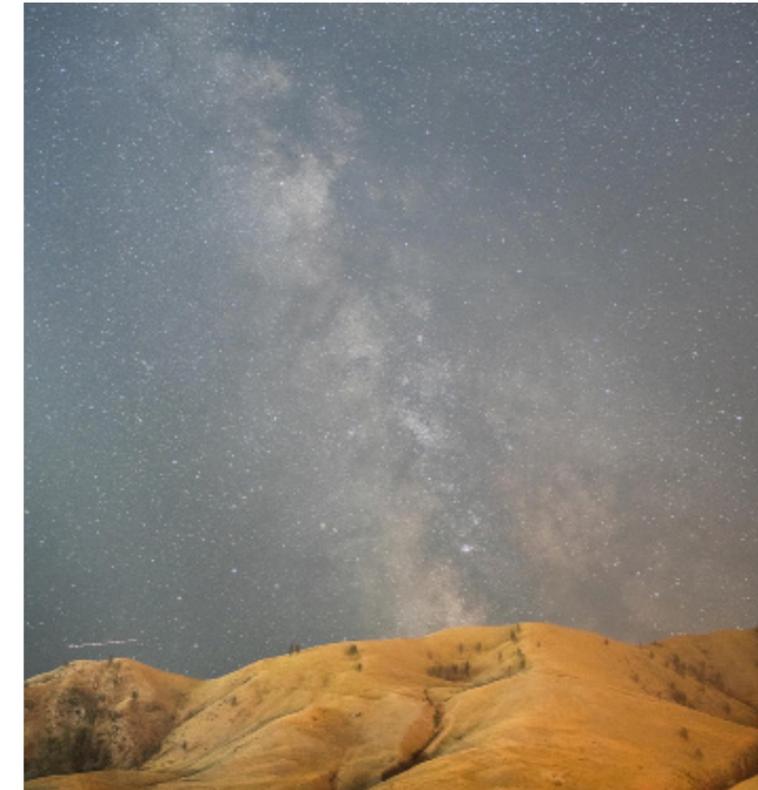
it seems like billionaires should spend their money elsewhere - fighting world hunger, eliminating extreme poverty, anything other than 11 minute flights into space. But in reality, billionaires will spend their money how they wish to, regardless of the political pressure to do otherwise - something Sankaran is quick to point out.

If we get too caught up in looking outside of our world for the sake of pushing our human limits, learning more, reaching further, we might end up harming what is right in front of us.

Human nature is to explore, to be creative, and while this type of creativity might lead to some offhand development of necessary technologies, albeit life-saving technologies, there need to be limits placed on companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin.

As humans, we tend to go too far in the name of discovering and experiencing the unknown. While that might be a beautiful and necessary part of the human experience, it is also one of the most dangerous.

We need limits. We need regulations. Without these, humans might go too far, too fast.



Summer Fellowship Program

Fellows faced challenges that led to change

Emma Maple | Staff Writer

Summer of 2021 saw the Office of Church Engagement's Summer Fellowship Program experience its first full year of operation since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Additionally, many student experiences with this year's program led to significant changes within the Summer Fellowship Program.

These changes arose due to summer fellows, Office of Church Engagement (OCE) staff and United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) representatives having extensive conversations about accommodating cultural differences and fulfilling student needs.

The Summer Fellowship Program, put on through the OCE, is a way for students to experience ministry and mentoring opportunities around the world. The program was started in 2015, and after struggling to stay alive during the "summer of COVID," Lauren Hunter, Associated Director for Summer Fellows, said that

it was back in full force with 47 students sent out in 2021. Fellows are placed in predominantly Christian environments ranging from summer camps to churches to nonprofits. Students have the opportunity to live in a "homestay" provided free of charge by their site.

Most of the issues that occurred this summer were related to these homestays. Hunter said, "The hard thing about our program is that...we have to have homestays to be able to host the students. That is one area of this program where we're somewhat

"But as the summer went on, Hunter realized that the program would benefit from larger changes."

vulnerable as we do trust these external partners." Zach McGuckin, club coordinator for Whitworth's chapter of USAS, was



Summer of 2021 saw the OCE's Summer Fellowship Program experience its first full year of operation since COVID-19 | Photo by Juan Rodriguez.

involved in the meetings that took place this summer. He said that most of the students he talked to "really loved their actual fellowship site." It was the surrounding circumstances such as homestays, finances and transportation that presented difficulties for them.

When fellows first voiced concerns regarding homestay issues, Hunter said they tried to attend to them individually because each situation had a unique context. But as the summer went on, Hunter realized that the program would

benefit from larger changes. Hunter said that one of the larger struggles that students experienced was finances. The program provided each student a salary of \$3,000 which was paid in four installments over the summer. Homestays were supposed to provide students with food, and the fellowship program offered reimbursements for student's transportation costs. However, some students' homestays were not providing them with food and almost all students weren't aware of the transportation reimbursement policy.

Another key struggle was related to "discrimination or microaggressions experienced by students of color," said Hunter.

Celia Vigil, '23, who was placed in Tacoma, WA, said that she experienced microaggressions and a lack of cultural awareness at her homestay. "My homestay family was incredibly sweet and caring, [but] it was still pretty hard to connect culturally."

"It was really, really hard not being around anyone who looked like me or had the same cultural background as me... It is already like that at Whitworth to some degree, but [it was] to a higher level at my homestay."

USAS, a student activist organization, became aware of these difficulties halfway through the summer. Fellows involved in USAS, as well as those who recognized the club as a possible agent of change, reached out with their difficulties.

The first step USAS took was arranging a Zoom meeting with USAS members to give fellows a space to talk about their experiences. Afterwards, USAS went through the summer fellowship contract and recommended changes. McGuckin also

sent out an email on behalf of USAS to all the fellows explaining the transportation reimbursement policy in greater depth.

Hunter said that she heard about these meetings after a few fellows forwarded her McGuckin's email. She then met with USAS to discuss the situation. Hunter said, "It was really valuable feedback because they [USAS] had distance [from the situation] ... I think at that point we were aware some changes really needed to be made."

After exchanges of emails and a meeting between the fellowship program and USAS, as well as several internal fellowship program staff meetings, several changes were made to the program's operations.

On the financial side, the OCE added \$600 to the fellowship stipend and is currently seeking additional sources of funding for international student fellows. They also set aside a portion of the budget to be given to students who need to purchase food for their homestays.

The program is also actively working to become a safer space for students of color. The OCE is implementing a stricter vetting process for the homestays that

Hunter says will include "gauging of the homestay's level of cultural humility, competence and ability to provide a safe environment." They are also requiring sites to provide a list of multiple options for homestays, so that if one doesn't work out, the student will still have somewhere to live.

Additionally, this year's student ambassador team for the program is comprised solely of students of color, who will help the OCE navigate any future changes that might need to be made. The hope is that the ambassador team will help Hunter with decisions, as well as provide insight into the perspectives of the students in the program.

Abranna Romero-Rocha, who served as a fellow

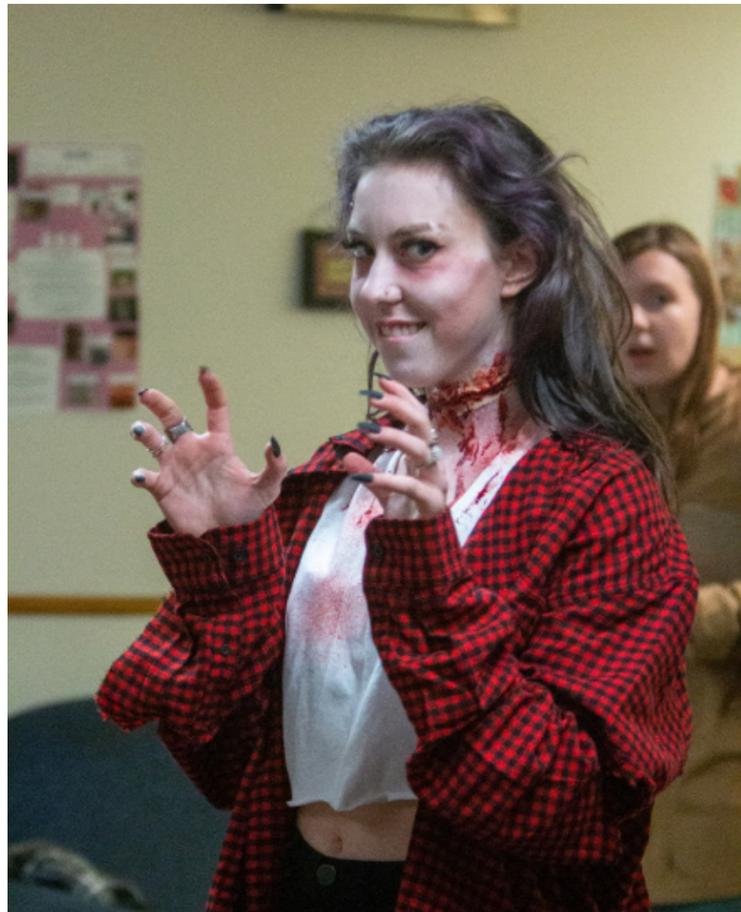
last summer, as well as an ambassador for the 2020-2021 school year, said, "Now we have a form of accountability to the communities of color that we serve on campus."

Representatives from the OCE, USAS and past fellows all expressed gratitude for and optimism about the effect these changes will have on the program. Vigil said these changes "just go to show they're listening to students and are working hard to address those needs."

McGuckin said, "Not only did [the OCE] implement the changes we wanted, but they went above and beyond what we had asked for." Overall, he said the changes "show that students can generate change in and beyond their university."

Zach McGuckin is club coordinator for United Students Against Sweatshops. USAS played a key part in the changes made to the summer fellowship program. Photo by Juan Rodriguez.





Photos by Ben Gallaway and Juan Rodriguez.



Live theater at Whitworth makes a comeback with “Men on Boats”

Hannah Foster | Staff Writer

Over the past year and a half, live theater, like so much else, was put on hold. Directors, performers and crew members showed resilience in finding ways to develop and display their art despite the pandemic. However, putting on zoom performances and taking classes without any promise of being able to use what one has learned simply does not feel the same as the thrill of a live show. Performers and audience members alike sorely felt the difference.

After over a year of adapting performances to virtual mediums, Whitworth has made its much-anticipated return to live theater. On Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m., the Whitworth Theatre Department held opening night for “Men on Boats”, its first in-person production since 2019. “Men on Boats” is a modern retelling of John Wesley Powell’s Grand Canyon expedition of 1869. The production also places heavy emphasis on traits of masculinity and

of men down the Green and Colorado rivers from Green River, Wyoming to St. Thomas, Nevada. They were the first people to traverse

“We have more tools to create a show that’s as impactful as possible.”

the entirety of the Green and Colorado River canyons twice. In “Men on Boats”, the cast is made up of individuals identifying as female that strike out on a journey that was originally taken by men. According to an article from the Los Angeles Times, playwright Jaclyn Backhaus studied the historical context of the play by reading Powell’s journals recounting the expedition. “Men on Boats” explores the voyage and powerful dynamics between the characters using wit and humor. The production also places heavy emphasis on traits of masculinity and

gives the women in the production a chance to interpret these themes in their own manner. It offers important commentary on gender roles and colonialism, while also showcasing the genuine and heartfelt bonds between characters as they take on the voyage. “By casting an all-female-identifying cast, the playwright is giving women a chance to play roles that they are normally excluded from,” Naphtali Fields-Forbes, the casting director of “Men on Boats”, said.

The cast of Men on Boats taking a break after rowing all day | Photo by Westley Hackler.



“I think it’s really neat to be able to put women in roles that they wouldn’t have been able to be in during the time this play is set,” cast member Lindi Cornett said. “There was no way a woman would be able to go on an expedition like this back then, and so it’s very empowering to see women take on these roles and be as strong and powerful as the men these characters are based on probably felt.” Cornett said her first experience in a Whitworth production has been incredible. Although the

actors were unmasked during the show’s live performances, the cast and crew took precautions by practicing with masks, working around quarantines and holding virtual rehearsals. The

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small ensemble size – only 11 people – also helped make rehearsals safer.

As Whitworth returns to live productions, so does the rest of the world. According to an article from the New York Times, on Sept. 2, Tony Award-winning musical “Waitress” came back to Broadway after shutting down in March 2020. This return was a massive step for Broadway after COVID-19 caused lower show attendance, loss of jobs and reduced revenue.

To comply with state guidelines and keep audiences safe, many theaters are requiring audience members

to show proof of vaccination or exemption. Those with exemptions and children under the age of 12 must display negative COVID-19 test results in order to attend shows. Overall, theaters are trying to ensure audiences can enjoy productions while remaining safe. Student performers are ecstatic about the return of live productions. “I can’t even describe how thrilling acting on the Cowles mainstage is. I feel like I finally get to tell huge stories to huge audiences again,” senior cast member Rachel Wilson said. “I will miss the accessibility of virtual theater, but being live again has given us all an opportunity to spend time together as a cast and drill down on the intense preparation and bonding required for a show like this, which helps us tell an important story with energy, empathy and intimacy to our audiences. We have more tools to create a show that’s as impactful as possible.”

Both Cornett and Wilson expressed excitement about the bonds they have formed within this smaller cast. “We’ve genuinely become like a family, always laughing together, lifting each other up and gassing

careers and show attendees missing the thrill of Broadway performances. Whitworth’s production of “Men on Boats” ran for two weekends, as part of the university’s return to in-person activities this semester giving not



The cast of men on boats rejoices after finding whiskey they thought they had lost | Photo by Westley Hackler.

each other up,” Wilson said. The return of live theater holds promising outcomes for those aspiring to acting

only average theater-goers, but students as well an opportunity to return to some semblance of normalcy.

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Whitworth University is ready to deal with The Hidden Opponent

Filip Timotija | Staff Writer

Warning: This article contains content that may be sensitive for some readers.

When an athlete breaks a bone or sprains an ankle, nobody doubts the validity of their pain. Injuries like these are visible to the human eye and their victims receive unanimous approval for increased recovery time, support and self-care. What happens when an athlete must pause their physical activities in order to properly address their mental health needs?

Issues like depression and anxiety are not discoverable through X-rays and MRIs, but they can be just as destructive as those that are. Often these invisible issues go unnoticed - thanks in part to the idea of "mental toughness."

College athletes are held to an incredibly high standard, but they are facing the same issues as the rest of the student body. A 2016 study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine found that athletes faced depression in similar percentages

to the rest of the student population. One-quarter of college athletes reported depressive symptoms.

Not only are mental health issues prevalent in athletics, but sports culture cultivates

"A healthy balance of involvement in sports and adequate self-care time becomes harder as athletes compete at higher levels."

a specific environment where locker room pressure, natural competitiveness and the unsatisfactory feeling after a bad performance converge to produce a psychological timebomb that can detonate at any moment.

A healthy balance of involvement in sports and adequate self-care time becomes harder as athletes compete at higher levels. A lot of athletes hesitate to ask for help when dealing with

mental health issues. Most of the time, coaches are the ones to notice that something is not right with their athletes.

Indications that an athlete might be dealing with mental health issues include changes in eating habits, low energy throughout the day, trouble sleeping and consistent irritability. Mental health can tremendously affect an athlete's performance. For starters, it can be a distraction, which can exponentially grow as the competition rises and as matches and games start carrying more weight.

In some instances, poor mental health can be dangerous for the athlete. One example is gymnasts who regularly perform challenging, acrobatic movements that take a great deal of mental clarity and attention. Absence of focus, which is one of the symptoms of depression, can be a catalyst for a season or career-ending injury.

Here at Whitworth University, there are plans

to assist student-athletes who are dealing with mental health issues by incorporating help from non-profit organizations and clubs such as Minding Your Mind, Morgan's Message and The Hidden Opponent.

Andrew Onimus, director of corporate programs at Minding Your Mind, spoke to Whitworth's student-athletes over Zoom on Oct. 14, 2021. Onimus, a former Muhlenberg College football and track athlete, shared his advice on recognizing signs and symptoms of players who are struggling.

Onimus offered suggestions on how to talk to friends who are dealing with mental health issues. "Don't just ask them open-ended questions like, 'How are you?'" Onimus said. "You have to be specific with your questions because you want them to engage in a conversation where they can open up about their issues."

Onimus also emphasized how important it is to find the right counselor who can make

the athlete feel comfortable on their path to recovery. Onimus himself went through seven counselors until he found the expert that helped him recover from depression, which at times led to suicidal thoughts. Minding Your Mind provides workshops to people of all ages. The organization is available to help others at mindingyourmind.org.

Kylee Walker is an ambassador for Morgan's Message, a non-profit organization that provides stories, resources and expertise to combat mental health issues that student-athletes are dealing with. Walker spoke about her duties as the founder of the organization on Whitworth's

campus. Walker's job is to provide resources to those in need and hold monthly meetings to talk about mental health. She also shared plans on how she expects to emphasize the organization's values on Whitworth's campus, including having members

from each team become advocates or ambassadors for their squads. "I will provide resources through Morgan's Message and create a safe space to discuss these important topics," said Walker.

The newest extension of a non-profit organization that has been added to Whitworth's campus is The Hidden Opponent. The ambassador for The Hidden Opponent at Whitworth will be Jessica Rusconi, a member of Whitworth's softball team. Rusconi said that one in five youths in the United States experience mental illness and that it is the second leading cause of death in people ages 10-34.

The Hidden Opponent advocates for student-athletes' freedom to speak openly about their mental health experiences without being judged or perceived as weak. The organization brings a spotlight to issues that student-athletes deal with in order to shatter the stigma of mental health within sports.

"We both want to create a safe and supportive space for student-athletes while providing resources for whatever they're going through."



Joial Griffith and Katie Jo Van Den Bogaert | Photo by Caleb Flegel.

"From my own experience, I have learned that by ignoring the issue, the problem does not go away, unfortunately," Rusconi said. "Sometimes it seems like it goes away, but it can come back out of nowhere."

"This is what I'm trying to do as the founder of The Hidden Opponent here at Whitworth and I know Kylee is trying to do it as the founder of Morgan's Message," Rusconi said. "We both want to create a safe and supportive space for student-athletes while providing resources for whatever they're going through."

Dealing with mental health is a process that will require multiple years of consistent effort to see drastic improvement, but Whitworth University has certainly taken

steps in the right direction to ensure that its athletes get the support needed to overcome this invisible issue that affects so many in our world.





Photos by Mario Gonzalez, Caleb Flegel, Ben Gallaway, Thomas Peach, and Juan Rodriguez.





Photo by Juan Rodriguez.



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