



# BATTLER

# COLUMNS

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ALDERSON BROADDUS UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER, 2018



PHOTOGRAPH BY KASHAWN SHIFFLETT FOR THE BATTLER COLUMNS

## WB Building Construction Continues Into Spring

University yet to announce an estimate or a set completion date for renovations to Withers-Brandon.

### Dr. Tim Barry named as AB's next president

Official Release  
ALDERSON BROADDUS

The AB Board of Trustees and Governors is pleased to announce the naming of Dr. James “Tim” Barry as the official 10th president of Alderson Broaddus University. Dr. Barry has served as interim president since December 2015, and in his three years of service has garnered the trust and support of all campus constituencies with a solid track record of leadership. His impact is felt not just by faculty, staff, students, and alumni, but also by fellow college and university presidents and higher education organizations throughout the state.

“We were fortunate that Dr. Barry was in the pool of presidential candidates brought to us by The Registry in December 2015. He’s a perfect fit for AB at this point in time as we stabilize and position ourselves for continued success and future growth,” wrote Dr. Becky Hooman ’81, ’17 (honorary), chair of the Alderson Broaddus University Board of Trustees, in a message to the AB community.

PRESIDENT >> P6

## Alderson Broaddus receives \$27.7 million loan from USDA

Official Release  
ALDERSON BROADDUS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$27,755,000 in Alderson Broaddus University through the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program.

“We are pleased to be able to provide assistance to the Alderson Broaddus Endowment Corporation through the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program,” said USDA Rural Development West Virginia State Director

Kris Warner. “We know that the University is an economic driver throughout north-central West Virginia. This funding award will support job creation, retention, and economic vitality to help ensure the long-term sustainability of this institution in Barbour County.”

The USDA Rural Development investment will be used for the Endowment Corporation to acquire certain assets of the Alderson Broaddus University campus, which will then be leased back to the University. This will enable AB to develop new program

offerings to meet needs in the surrounding area.

“Despite the challenges facing West Virginia and higher education in general, AB continues to move forward to provide the highest quality education and deliver innovative programs to meet students where they are in a contemporary society,” Alderson Broaddus University President Tim Barry said. “This funding will assist in the implementation of our Strategic Decision-Making Model which includes increasing adult education and expanding degree programs.”

USDA LOAN >> P7

## Coping with mental health at university

### One in 2 AB students face anxiety issues; one in 3 depression

By Talia Kotz  
BATTLER COLUMNS

Amorette Hughes’ four years at Alderson Broaddus University were an emotional roller coaster from struggling with severe anxiety and depression. Seeing a therapist and the support of friends and teammates on the ac-

robatic and tumbling team helped Hughes make it through her time here as a student. She now works a communications job in Morgantown.

Many students may be able to relate to Hughes. One in two AB students - 54 percent - have felt overwhelming anxiety in the past 12 months. How-

ever, only four percent of students seek help, according to the National Collegiate Health Behavior survey administered to students at AB during the spring 2018 semester.

The same survey also revealed that 35 percent of AB students have felt so depressed that it was diffi-

cult to function in the last 12 months, with only six percent seeking help.

Chad Hostetler, director of personal counseling services at AB, says that if a friend is experiencing a panic attack to do slow grounding activities to get them in touch with their five senses. Getting in touch with your five senses

during a panic can help ground you to your current surroundings and calm your breathing.

Signs and symptoms for generalized anxiety and panic disorder include increased heart rate, trembling or shaking, chest pain, shortness of breath, feeling detached or fear of losing control and dying.

MENTAL HEALTH >> P7



PHOTOGRAPH BY LORA OWSTON FOR THE BATTLER COLUMNS

The senate of Alderson Broaddus’ SGA discuss the evening’s agenda at their Nov. 7 meeting in Burbick.

## SGA wraps up semester

By Lora Owston  
BATTLER COLUMNS

After a semester wrought with change, Alderson Broaddus University’s Student Government Association will continue the trend in the spring 2019 semester with fundamental overhauls.

Although initial plans began during the fall, the

organization intends to fully redevelop its constitution and bylaws this spring. According to SGA President Jeremy Linaburg, both documents have gone years without modifications and are extensively outdated.

“They’re pretty old, and our senate thinks so as well,” Linaburg said. “We

gave [the senate] a copy of our constitution to evaluate and analyze, and to markup things they felt were unnecessary.”

After compiling the information, SGA’s executive team will meet amongst themselves and with Associate Provost Andrea Bucklew to begin the rewriting process.

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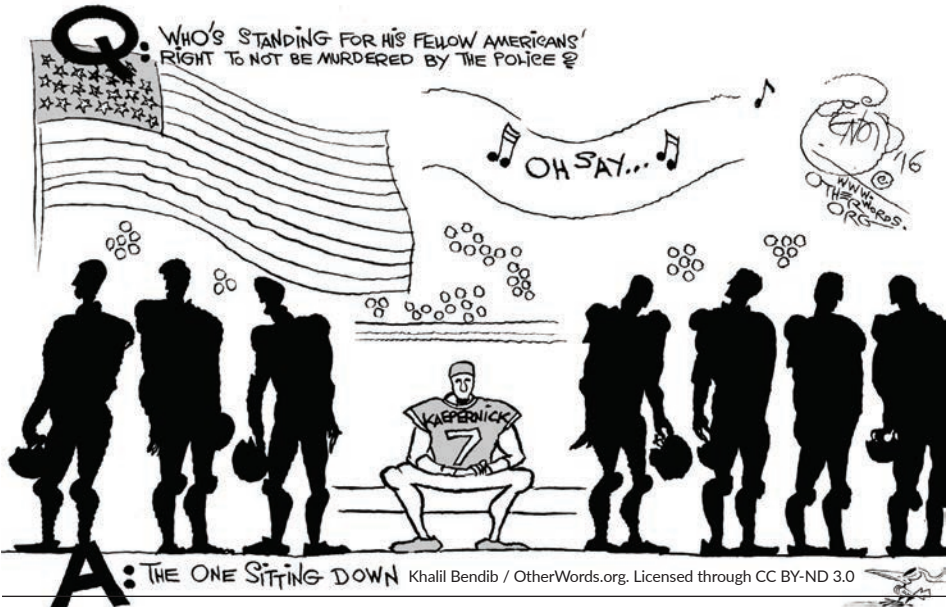
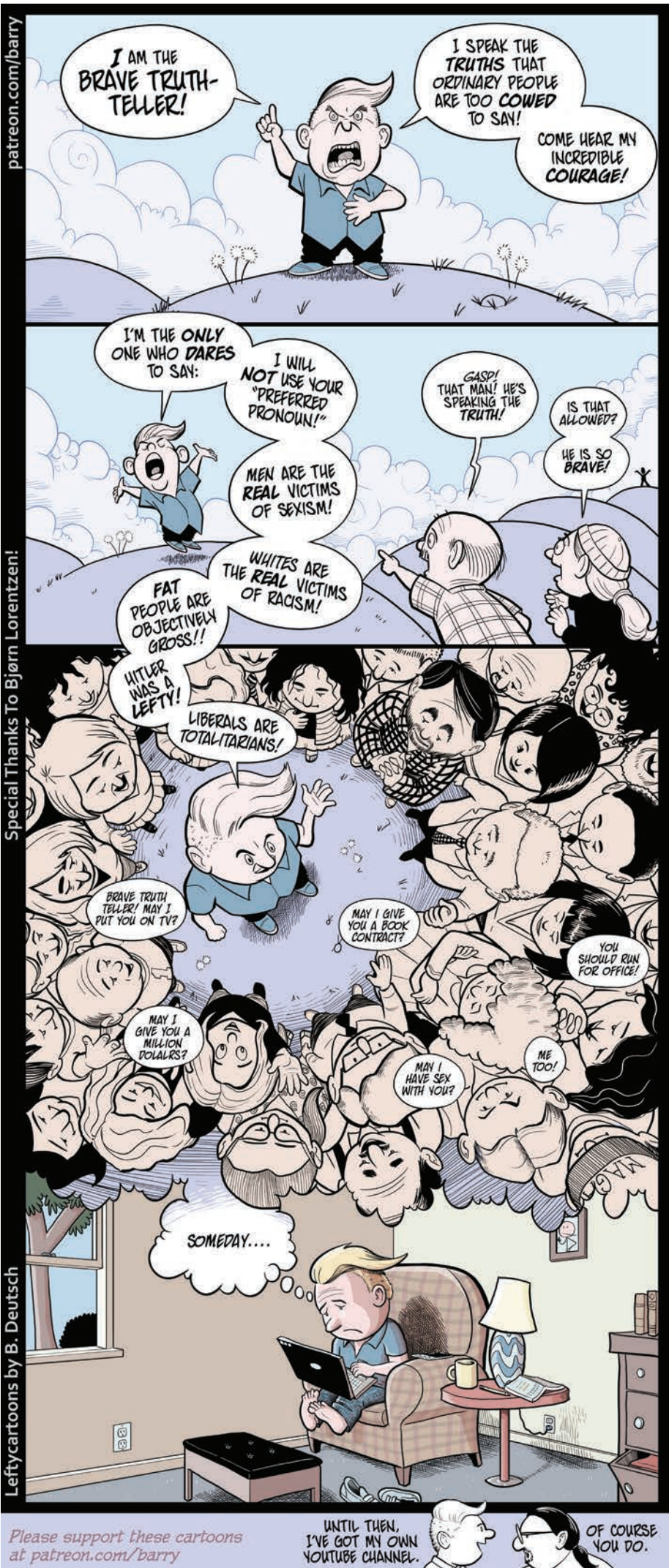
Inside this edition

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# Opinion

Views expressed in this publication are solely those of Battler Columns staff and do not reflect any official position held by Alderson Broaddus University.



## Speaking your mind

By Celeste Walters  
BATTLER COLUMNS

In 2016, Colin Kaepernick, the quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, silently protested racial injustices against African Americans and minorities in America by kneeling during the national anthem. Although Kaepernick opted to kneel at the suggestion of former Green Beret Nate Boyer, many felt that this act disrespected the national anthem, the United States flag and veterans; that it mocked those who risked their lives fighting for American freedoms and rights.

If the soldiers who risk their lives everyday are fighting for our rights, then isn't it within Kaepernick's First Amendment rights to kneel if he believes what he is doing is right? By supporting Kaepernick, it does not mean we agree with the way he chose to protest. It means we can put aside our biases and agree with why he chose to protest.

Two years later, the issue resurfaced when Nike released an ad starring Kaepernick for the NFL season opener this September. The ad features Kaepernick saying Nike's slogan "Just Do It," then adds "Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything." Kaepernick sacrificed his career in the NFL to stand up for his beliefs. The ad received backlash, leading some customers to even

start burning their Nike products.

While Kaepernick's protest drew public attention, protests against racial injustices were already occurring in the Women's National Basketball Association. It started when four Minnesota Lynx starters wore black t-shirts saying "Change Starts With Us" on the front. Like with Kaepernick, these athletes were punished for speaking their mind. So what happens when Alderson Broaddus basketball players decide to just do it?

As young athletes, we often look up to professional athletes. They're our role models, and many of us started playing sports because of our favorite athlete. If professionals like Colin Kaepernick are reprimanded for standing up for what they believe in, what makes you think an athlete at AB will stand up for their beliefs? It shows us that we can't speak up without fear of being punished.

Would Kaepernick receive so much criticism if he was New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady instead? At AB, women's basketball coaches Roy "Bogie" Boggess and Oterrious Diggins believe that race could play a factor in how much hate Kaepernick is receiving, but the disrespect people feel is a stronger factor.

"Is he kneeling just to kneel or is he trying to use his platform as an NFL quarterback to bring awareness to his cause?" Boggess asked.

Boggess wanted to know the deeper meaning behind

Kaepernick kneeling. He felt that if someone is so passionate about a certain subject, they would find other ways to focus attention on said cause.

Both Kaepernick and the WNBA members were punished for speaking out. At the university Boggess worked at prior to AB, the athletic director informed him that any player kneeling during the national anthem would be kicked off of the team.

"Instead of kicking the player off of the team, if she felt so strongly opposed to the anthem then I would ask her to wait in the locker room during the playing of the national anthem," Boggess said.

Diggins believed the punishment for the professional athletes was too harsh. These athletes are given a role and placed on a pedestal, but are punished when they use that platform for their own beliefs.

"Why give them a voice to begin with if they aren't allowed to express every thought?" Diggins asked. "No one should be penalized based on their view."

No matter what you do or believe, there will always be someone who judges and criticizes you. However, there will also be people who agree with you but just could not find the strength or courage to speak their mind. Everyone has a voice. No matter if you're former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, a WNBA player or just an athlete at AB, you deserve to make your voice heard.

DEAR Miss BATTLERETTE

**Q** Dear Miss Battlerette, I'm a transfer student and I've already made more friends my first semester here at AB than I did a whole year at my last college. My friends here like to go out every weekend to party and drink. Don't get me wrong I love going out with them, but I also like staying in and watching movies sometimes.

I'm scared to say how I feel because what if they think I'm lame or something and don't want to be friends anymore. How do I tell them I don't want to go out without risking our friendship?

— Anonymous

**A** Honesty is a key factor to great relationships. Tell your friends how you really feel about going out every weekend and they just might understand. There's a chance that your friends only go out every weekend because you agree to it. They might not want to go out either, but since you say yes, they don't want to let you down.

Compromising with them may also work. One weekend you all can go out and have the time of your lives, but the next weekend you can stay in, order pizza and binge-watch Netflix. But if they're really your friends, they wouldn't stop being friends with you just because you're not the partying type. Real friends accept you for who you are.

**Need advice?**

Send in your questions to Miss Battlerette at [battlercolumns@ab.edu](mailto:battlercolumns@ab.edu)

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# ATHLETICS

## JANUARY 2019 HOME SCHEDULE

.....WBB VS HILLSDALE COLLEGE	THURSDAY, JAN 3	5:15 P.M.
.....MBB VS HILLSDALE COLLEGE.	THURSDAY, JAN 3	7:30 P.M.
.....WBB VS UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY	SATURDAY, JAN 5	2:00 P.M.
.....MBB VS UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY	SATURDAY, JAN 5	4:00 P.M.
.....MSWIM VS WVU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	WEDNESDAY, JAN 9	6:00 P.M.
.....WBB VS TREVECCA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY	THURSDAY, JAN 10	5:15 P.M.
.....WBB VS KENTUCKY WESLEYAN COLLEGE	SATURDAY, JAN 13	2:00 P.M.
.....MBB VS KENTUCKY WESLEYAN COLLEGE	SATURDAY, JAN 13	4:00 P.M.
.....MVB VS COKER COLLEGE	SATURDAY, JAN 19	1:00 P.M.
.....MBB VS BLUEFIELD STATE COLLEGE	WEDNESDAY, JAN 30	7:30 P.M.

PHOTOGRAPH / ABU

### Alderson Broaddus adds sprint football

Official Release  
ALDERSON BROADDUS

Alderson Broaddus University Athletic Director Dennis Creehan announced that the Battlers will add Sprint football to its varsity sports offerings and join the Collegiate Sprint Football League as a full-time member.

“We’re thrilled to announce the addition of Alderson Broaddus for 2019,” said CSFL commissioner Matt Munnelly. “This will expand the reach of our league into West Virginia, will balance us with five teams in each division and will lead to new opportunities for the student-athletes in our league.”

The Battlers will continue to field their Division II football team that competes in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference and will add sprint football as its 25th varsity sport.

“We are honored to join the CSFL,” said Alderson Broaddus president Dr. James Barry. “We are excited for not only for the high level of competition on the field, but to be joined with like-minded institutions of higher education off the field.”

Joining the CSFL will give Alderson Broaddus a larger reach into the mid-Atlantic region as the Battlers currently play the majority of their competitions in West Virginia and Ohio. All of the other teams in the CSFL are located northeast of Philippi, with the exception of Navy, which is slightly southeast.

“We are excited to add sprint football to our varsity sport offerings,” said Creehan. “Sprint football will continue to add to the vibrancy and excitement on our campus. We look forward to joining the current members of the CSFL in competition next fall and are honored to join this prestigious league.”

Earlier this fall, the CSFL announced that Franklin Pierce would be leaving the league at the end of the 2018 season as the Ravens pursue a move to NCAA Division II football.

That departure would have left the league with nine teams, but Alderson Broaddus will fill that void and keep the league balanced with 10 teams in 2019.

Final decisions regarding the divisional alignment and scheduling for 2019 will be made at the annual CSFL meeting in December.

## Creehan takes leave

Official Release  
ALDERSON BROADDUS

Alderson Broaddus University Athletic Director Dennis Creehan will be taking a leave of absence beginning Jan. 1, 2019 and running through April. Senior Associate Athletic Director Carrie Bodkins has been named the acting Athletic Director.

Creehan will be stepping away from the University to join the coaching staff of the Salt Lake City Stallions of the newly formed Alliance of American Football league.

“This is an outstanding opportunity for Dennis [Creehan] and we wish him the best during his time away from AB,” said Alderson Broaddus President Dr. Tim Barry. “We feel that we have a strong leader in Carrie Bodkins to step in and serve as the acting Athletic Director.”

Bodkins has served as the Senior Associate Athletic Director since 2015 when she moved to athletic administration full-time after 11 years as the head coach of the AB women’s volleyball team.

Bodkins also serves as the Senior Woman Administrator and Compliance Director at AB.

An Alderson Broaddus alum, Bodkins was a two-sport athlete playing both volleyball and basketball. She was inducted into the Battler Hall of Fame in 2018 for her accolades as a student-athlete and coach.

“I am extremely honored to accept the responsibilities of Director of Athletics at Alderson Broaddus University. I have spent the greater part of my life at this institution; first as a student-athlete and then as a coach and administrator,” Bodkins said. “I am fully equipped to traverse the challenging yet rewarding road ahead of me. I am more than ready to “do battle” for my Alma mater and extremely excited to continue moving the department and institution forward. Thank you to President Barry and the Board of Trustees for this amazing opportunity.”



PHOTOGRAPH / ABU

# AB WINS 88-63

First-half surge leads to victory against Salem International University



PHOTOGRAPH BY KASHAWN SHIFFLETT FOR THE BATTLER COLUMNS

Alderson Broaddus University men’s basketball player Malik Bocook prepares to shoot the ball during AB’s match against Salem International University on Dec. 4.

By Joseph Varela  
BATTLER COLUMNS

The Alderson Broaddus men’s basketball team jumped out to an early lead over Salem International University on Dec. 4 and never let up. The Battlers (3-4) controlled the tempo from the first whistle and beat Salem International University (6-3) by a score of 88-63.

A commanding first-half performance had the Battlers sitting comfortable going into the locker room by dominating the Tigers 40-27. Playing with a relentless

attitude, the Battlers continued to knock down shot after shot, outscoring the Tigers 48-36 in the second half.

David Shriver, a local product from Philip Barbour High school, led the Battlers with 23 points. Twenty-one of those came from beyond the three-point arc where he went 7-14. Shriver also finished three rebounds and one steal in 32 minutes of play.

Players Malik Bocook and Brandon Simmons both finished with double-doubles. Bocook scored 18 points and collected 20 rebounds to record the dou-

ble-double. He also added four assists and two blocks to his stat sheet. Simmons, on the other hand, finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds to complete the double-double. Simmons also added two assists, two blocks and a steal to his stat sheet.

Strong defense on the perimeter was the key to winning the game by such a large margin, which forced the Tigers to shoot a mere 8-28 from the three-point arc. On the other end of the floor, the Battlers sunk 12 three-pointers and went 12-27 beyond the arc.

## Ex-battler returns as first AB rugby recruit

By Hadassah Curry  
BATTLER COLUMNS

When former Alderson Broaddus student Devin Andres heard rugby was coming to AB, he knew it would change his life.

Andres left the university following the end of his freshman year in 2017. He transferred to Grove City College in Pennsylvania after his spring semester, but the experience caused him to feel sadly estranged.

However, AB still held a special place in life for Andres. When the news of the upcoming rugby program broke, he immediately reached out to coach Lauren Miller to express his interest. Now, Andres is back to play rugby at AB.

“I found it to be a great opportunity, especially in the first season since the program is new,” Andres said.

Andres was a former safety on the AB football team during the fall of 2016, but an injury left him unable to play the rest of the year. After transferring to Grove City, Andres joined the college’s football team before switching to their rugby program. Miller believes that this prior experience with football at AB and Grove City will assist him.

“As an athlete, I know that he has field vision from his experience playing at Grove City,” Miller said. “His skill set will back him up with contact sports since he played football at AB.”

Rugby isn’t completely new to Andres – he began playing in his junior year of high school. However, he was initially unsettled

when he signed up due to the stories about injuries he’d heard from other students.

“I was hesitant to join at the time,” Andres said. “But at the first practice, I fell in love with it.”

According to Miller, AB’s rugby program is one of the few in the country to be fully supported by their university, and offers rugby-specific scholarships to students. Miller believes that Andres will be a great asset to this program at AB, and will also serve as its ambassador due to his familiarity with both the sport and the university.

“We are incredibly excited to have Devin on campus,” Miller said. “We couldn’t ask for a better first recruit.”

Miller explains that having a first ever recruit in a program built from scratch helps attract other athletes, which will make a huge impact.

“The athletes we bring in this year will set the tone for every year going forward,” Miller said. “He is the person who is going to set the attitude, expectations, and behavior for the program.”

Andres stated that he wants to make the program special because he feels it can help students make a name for themselves.

“Friendships you make out of the sport will last a long time,” Andres said. “You build a family and a way to succeed in games.”

### AB introduces new women’s wrestling

Official Release  
ALDERSON BROADDUS

Alderson Broaddus University announced the addition of women’s wrestling to its varsity athletic programs effective for the 2019-20 academic year.

“Alderson Broaddus University wants to continue to be responsive to changes in the athletic landscape,” said Athletic Director Dennis Creehan. “We want to be on the forefront of this rapidly growing sport and are excited to begin women’s wrestling.”

Head wrestling coach Sam Gardner will begin recruiting immediately for a team to compete in an abbreviated schedule in 2019-20 and then a full schedule in 2020-21.

“The plan currently is to recruit enough women to wrestle an abbreviated schedule next year, focusing on the individual development of the student-athletes and getting them competing for spots on different age group teams,” said Gardner. “The second year we’ll have had two recruiting classes and ideally have recruited enough depth to hit the ground running in 2020-21.”

There are currently 38 schools offering women’s wrestling. Women’s wrestling is freestyle wrestling and there are 10 weight classes.

“I think that adding another women’s program will help strengthen and grow wrestling as a whole,” Gardner said. “The sport’s growing at the small school level, and I felt the time was right to propose that we adopt women’s wrestling now rather than later. We want to be early adopters of women’s wrestling and be on the ground floor of this trend. I believe this will help set AB up to be one of the premier locations for wrestling in the state and hopefully nationally in years to come.”



# ABFEATURE

## Capturing the man behind the camera

A snapshot of Quentin Murphy, Alderson Broaddus’ assistant marketing director for social and digital media

By Joseph Varela  
BATTLER COLUMNS

In the distance, on Alderson Broaddus’ turf field, a camera shutter clicks and a man behind his favorite camera, a Canon Mark 2, moves up the sideline towards the AB football team late in the 4th quarter. As he moves closer, the camera shutters again and again, seeking that perfect picture; that perfect moment in time.

The man behind the camera is Quentin Murphy, AB’s assistant marketing director for social and digital media. AB has seen a dramatic change in its brand awareness throughout the community and in West Virginia over the past few years, and Murphy’s influence on social media has helped push AB against its competition. With digital influences continuously increasing, Murphy recognized a need for a stronger online presence at AB. Yet, the path leading to where he is today possessed many winding turns.

### Following his Father’s Footsteps

Murphy remembers the younger days when his father, who was the first person to ever introduce him to art, would paint landscapes inspired by his love for Bob Ross.

“When I was little, one of the earliest memories I have of him is picking up the cup of water that you wash your paintbrush in,” Murphy said. “He had a cup of coffee on one side and the other cup on the other and he drank the wrong one. And, he sat back down about a couple seconds later and realized what he did. I thought it was one of the most hilarious things I ever saw.”

In addition to art, his father played a key role in developing Murphy’s personality and instilling core values. These include honesty, integrity and connecting with people to build strong relationships throughout his life.

“He taught me everything you need to know about being a good person,” Murphy said. “Just saying something nice to somebody every day. I like to have my art be that conversation starter for a lot of people, because a lot of people ask the same questions like ‘How are you doing?’ or ‘Where are you from?’ and things like that. But when someone comes up to you and says, ‘I saw what you posted last night’ and they start talking about your creative thoughts, it becomes much more of a connection.”

### Humble Beginnings

Soon after Murphy graduated from Glenville State College, he started as an admissions counselor for AB and wanted to inject himself right into the campus’ culture. When students returned

to campus in the fall, he began taking pictures of athletic events, created an Instagram page and used his passion of photography for AB.

“I like to look at things in a different perspective,” Murphy said. “[It helps you] see the problems that arise and you can adapt and change. I think a lot of people want to fix the problem, but they don’t want to adapt. If you adapt, you grow as a person, and you learn from your mistakes and go on.”

However, after two years of being an admissions counselor, he wanted something more. As much as he loved AB, he wanted to pursue his passions for marketing. Murphy then applied to over 20 different jobs, but only received a call-back from Ohio State University. Although Murphy met all other qualifications for the job, he didn’t have the marketing experience they wanted and they didn’t offer him the job. Murphy then brought up the idea of moving to the marketing department – a position that the university would have to create and restructure for him to be able to fully utilize his passions and talents.

“About a year ago, I told my boss that I didn’t want to go on travel season,” Murphy said. “It’s not what I want to accomplish here. I want to do marketing – I want to learn more about that.”

From there, the process began. Murphy, still working as an admission counselor, began developing a 20 page marketing plan to present to the vice president of enrollment management. The process seemed ceaseless for Murphy, who waited another six months before assuming his new role in the marketing department. However, Murphy feels he has found his niche here. Although Murphy has only worked at AB for three years, his experiences and the small-campus atmosphere have given him a place in which he feels fully connected.

“I feel like I’ve been here 10 full years,” Murphy said. “I feel like I have a family; like I can talk to students.”

### Challenges and Success

In his small hometown of Grantsville, West Virginia, Murphy explained that it was difficult to even get out of his town and make an impact.

“In my hometown, you either become a pipeliner or didn’t do anything, and I didn’t want to be that stat,” Murphy said. “I said, ‘Screw that, I’m better than that.’ I knew I had a better outlook on life than that.”

In college, he changed his major four times before finally de-



PHOTOGRAPH / ALDERSON BROADDUS UNIVERSITY

Quentin Murphy operates a drone as he stands on one of Alderson Broaddus University’s grass fields.

ciding on studio arts. Although the road sometimes went in different directions, Murphy stayed true to his values and finished his degree.

“I came in as a history education major, and I enjoyed history, but I didn’t want to teach,” Murphy said. “Then I changed it to general studies, and then to psychology because I thought that was interesting, but then I switched to studio art. I switched because honestly they were the only classes I was passing and passionate about, and it fit my schedule better than most other classes. To know I didn’t have to be stressed about a lab, or I could just go and put all my

frustrations out into a project helped me grow a lot more as a person.”

His challenges didn’t end there. Currently, he is only one of two people working in the marketing department. Murphy takes pictures and videos of events all around campus, then edits them and posts them to social media. This is normally a task spread out among multiple people at other institutions, and Murphy explains that it can be stressful to work on so many different projects.

“I want more video content, I want more student spotlights, I want more faculty spotlights, I just want more, more, more,”

Murphy said. “It’s hard when you’re trying to catch up from 20 plus years of history.

### The Future

Murphy plans to attend West Virginia University to pursue a master’s degree in integrated marketing communications during the summer of 2019. He has big goals for the future, but credits his continued success and talent to AB.

“AB, from the start, has given me the opportunity to continue to grow,” Murphy said. “My end goal in higher education is to become a president of a university at some point.”

## Alumni perspective brings relatability to admissions



PHOTOGRAPH / ALDERSON BROADDUS UNIVERSITY

Admissions counselor Brittany Pace greets prospective students at Alderson Broaddus during the final open house of the semester on Nov. 10.

By Edonnya Alvarez  
BATTLER COLUMNS

After graduating from Alderson Broaddus University, Brittany Pace never planned to stay in Philippi. However, when the opportunity to work at her alma mater arose, she knew it would be the perfect way to launch her adult lifestyle and live closer to her fiancé.

At AB, it is not unusual for graduates to return as employees. These individuals remain for a variety of reasons, but some

continue because it is a stepping stone to bigger things. For those in the admissions department, their unique experiences as former students can color their employment in positive ways.

“It makes me even more approachable for the position because I can talk about all the different aspects that AB has to offer,” Pace said. “It is a great first job where I am able to learn customer service, sales, marketing and much more.”

Pace, an admissions counselor and former communications student, began

full-time employment at AB in October. She decided to return because her fiancé, Quade Raley, is still enrolled at the university.

Although Pace hails from Boston, she felt finding a local job made sense in order to stay close to Raley during his senior year. After four years of work-study, Pace was offered the position when a counselor suddenly left in October.

“I was in the office at the right time and already knew how the admissions process worked,” Pace said.

Molly Henderson, director of admissions, explains that employing alumni is easier because they can showcase their experiences to new students. Hiring former students has not been a problem for AB. This position provides experience with a real job and prepares them for future employment opportunities if they decide to leave.

“I have worked at the college I graduated from,” Henderson said. “So I understand what the process is like.”

Transitioning from a student to an employee has its own challenges. To Pace, the most difficult is determining where to draw the line between friendship and professionalism. Despite being a former student-athlete on the acrobatics and tumbling team and keeping established friendships, Pace must distance herself from current students to uphold boundaries.

Another hard transition for her is simply moving far away from home. While the admissions counselor position allows her to travel regularly, living in Philippi is a harsh

change. Pace sees her fiancé frequently, but the majority of her family and friends still reside in Boston.

Pace, however, is not the only former AB student currently situated in admissions. Two other recent AB graduates, Ciera Nestor and Brandon Rockwell, were also hired by Henderson for the department.

Like Pace, Nestor graduated from AB in 2017. AB offered her the admissions counselor job before her graduation, and she stayed to work close to home and save money. Nestor also wanted experience outside of a college environment to prepare her for future jobs, but found she loves the ability to travel often and assist students through the process of entering college.

Rockwell, a dual major in legal studies and history, started in admissions in April. He feels that his majors prepared him to speak in front of people without hesitation, which is an important aspect of his job. Rockwell interned in admissions as a student, and since he chose to take some time off before pursuing graduate school, he accepted when AB offered him a full-time job. Although Rockwell is unsure how long he will continue working here, the outcome will likely be determined by when he decides to obtain his master’s degree.

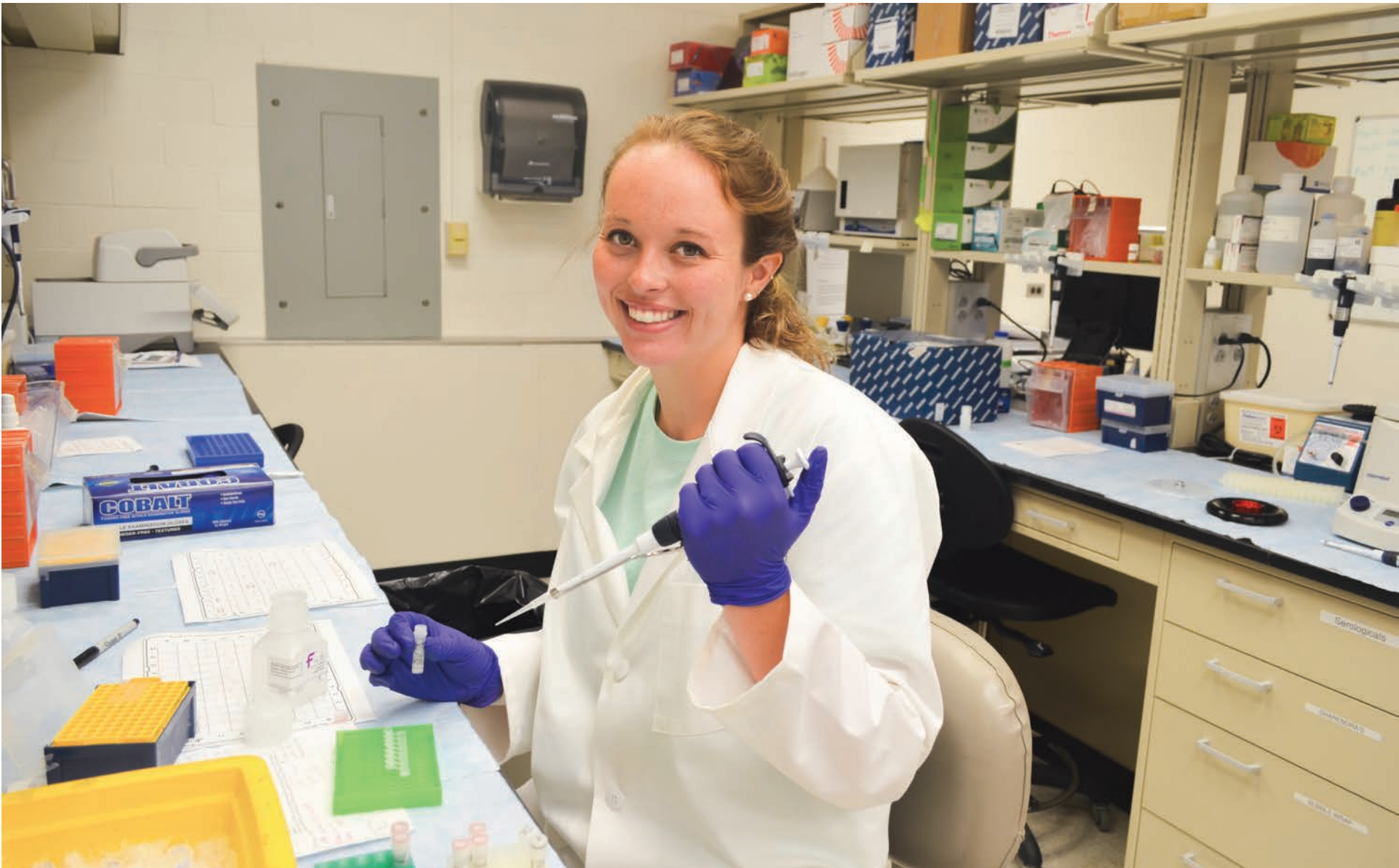
For Pace, this journey is also temporary, but she loves working at AB and is grateful for this opportunity. However, she wants to seek more challenges and test her capabilities. Pace tentatively plans to return to Boston in May of 2019 and start a career in real estate.



ABFEATURE

# Heartfelt research

## Connecting to the community through science



PHOTOGRAPH / MORGAN WINTERBOTTOM

Alderson Broaddus University biology student Morgan Winterbottom works on her research project, Epigenetic Regulation of the Nuclear Genome in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, in the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center of West Virginia University during her summer internship.

By Lora Owston  
BATTLE COLUMNS

From a young age, Morgan Winterbottom found herself enamored with science. She knew the biology program perfectly suited her goals when she enrolled at Alderson Broaddus, and eventually she set her career goals on healthcare. However, Winterbottom’s interest had been piqued in another area during her time at AB.

“I wanted to see the research side of things,” Winterbottom said. “It’s kind of behind the scenes, but research leads a lot into the pharmaceutical aspect of medicine.”

This past summer, Winterbottom participated in a nine-week internship through WV-INBRE that allowed her to complete graduate-level diabetes research. WV-INBRE, short for West Virginia IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence, is a federally funded program that provides opportunities for biomedical research with an emphasis on chronic diseases. The program consists of a consortium between Marshall University, West Virginia University and an additional 14 partner institutions.

“I’m really appreciative of going to AB in general because I feel like I wouldn’t have had this opportunity anywhere else,” Winterbottom said. “It was cool to be at the small school that I love and get a big school research opportunity.”

Winterbottom conducted her internship at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center of West Virginia University under the guidance of John Hollander, professor and vice chair of exercise physiology. Hollander’s laboratory specializes in cardiovascular research, which heavily impacts the region.

“West Virginia and, in general, Appalachia have amongst the highest rates of diabetes incidents,” Hollander said. “As researchers at an institution of higher education and part of the Health Sciences Center, it’s incumbent on us to be not only treating the population

globally but to really be thinking about our local constituent.”

According to the most recent data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, West Virginia possesses the highest adult rate of diabetes in the United States. Winterbottom’s research examined type 2 diabetic patients to see how epigenetic changes, which alter gene expression due to lifestyle and environmental factors, were occurring in their DNA. Through analyzing heart tissue samples from patients, they gained insight into how epigenetic signals relating to diabetes affected the heart’s genetic code. Understanding these changes and what they are could help in diagnosing diabetic patients, and potentially help discover targets for treating the disease in the future.

“In a lot of research, you use mice or other lab animals,” Winterbottom said. “The real interesting thing we did was use human heart tissue samples. Ruby Memorial Hospital was right next door to the lab, so we could collect samples from right atrial appendage tissue.”

Traditionally, patients undergoing coronary bypass surgery have a piece of their right atrial appendage removed to allow the bypass machine in the heart. This is usually discarded as medical waste. However, for Winterbottom, this novel aspect provided a more personal touch to her research.

“In using tissue from the patients here, I think that our results were influential on the people around us and the people coming to that hospital,” Winterbottom said.

Winterbottom places a heavy emphasis on helping the local population. While her time at Alderson Broaddus University opened her eyes to the unique situation faced by West Virginians, her experience in healthcare allowed her to witness these struggles firsthand.

“I volunteer a lot at United Hospital Center’s labor and delivery section,” Winterbot-

tom said. “I was able to be a baby cuddler for drug-addicted babies, which led me to see the effects of some of these problems.”

According to the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, West Virginia ranks worst in the nation for prevalence of poor physical health. Access to health care coverage is also at an all-time low, with Barbour and Logan counties faring the worst. Recognizing these issues at a local level led Winterbottom to reconsider her initial plans for her senior research project at AB.

“Out of my whole four years of biology, I didn’t want to do something for my capstone project that was so small-scale and just focused on students here,” Winterbottom said. “I wanted to do something that was more meaningful to me and had a bigger impact in the general area of medicine. This was the perfect opportunity to do that.”

Winterbottom’s time in Hollander’s lab gave her a newfound appreciation for research, and she believes studying both the heart and a prominent disease will prove invaluable during her experience with healthcare. She cites that while the internship strengthened her passion for healthcare and allowed her to become surer of her own capabilities, she initially struggled with feeling inadequate. Her participation entailed a steep learning curve, and as the only undergraduate student, comparing herself to other participants was difficult to avoid. However, overcoming these fears left Winterbottom with a tightly-knit network of professionals on which to rely.

“Morgan was very interested in what we were doing and integrated really well with the students and staff in the laboratory,” Hollander said. “She was really reasonable and enthusiastic about anything you threw at her.”

Yi Charlie Chen, professor of biology at AB, works closely with the WV-INBRE

program. He explains that conducting biomedical research can be quite expensive, but this program provides research opportunities for students that cannot be facilitated in the classroom. However, the WV-INBRE internship is highly competitive. For the 2018 summer program, a total of 26 interns from 11 separate institutions were selected from a pool of 54 applicants. Winterbottom was one of two AB students to participate.

“The idea is to encourage undergraduate students from small schools who are interested in biomedical research,” Chen said. “If they like it, it can influence their career decisions or push them to do more research.”

Each year, Chen invites the WV-INBRE internship program director to speak in his classes. Although Winterbottom observed these presentations several times, Chen represented the deciding factor in her participation.

“Dr. Chen really inspired me – he’s super passionate about this and really encourages students to apply,” Winterbottom said. “I actually saw the presentation twice, the first time was during my junior year. I didn’t apply at that time because I thought it was out of my realm.”

Chen’s contributions to cancer research motivated Winterbottom to explore the area, and his guidance pushed her to overcome her initial self-doubt and actively pursue the WV-INBRE internship.

“She’s worked hard,” Chen said. “She’s transformed into an outstanding student.”

Winterbottom is a senior student and will graduate in May of 2019. Following her graduation, she will commence studies in AB’s physician assistant program. However, she hopes that this experience signals the beginning of her research endeavors, not just the end.

“I don’t know whether it’s feasible or not, but I’d really like to pursue research again,” Winterbottom said. “Even in my career as a PA, I want to take time to do this.”

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# CAMPUS NEWS

## President

Continued from P1

Since Barry's arrival, AB has undergone an innovative and creative planning process for the future of the University.

Working alongside faculty, staff, and the AB Board of Trustees, Dr. Barry and his cabinet members drafted a strategic decision-making model to focus on three main areas to ensure AB's excellence for the future: expanding academic programs, expanding enrollment, and increasing organizational efficiency.

"I'm honored and privileged to be the 10th president of Alderson Broaddus University," said Dr. Barry. "These past three years serving as interim have been a wonderful experience for me, and I look forward to this time to continue to move the institution—along with the faculty, staff, and board of trustees—into greater success."

Dr. Barry has extensive experience in higher education in various capacities, including serving as the former president of Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota. He has been affiliated with The Registry of College and University Presidents, serving as vice president of advancement at Elmira College in Elmira, New York.

"We appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with The Registry in extending Dr. Barry's tenure at AB," said Hooman. "He has conducted himself as a permanent president would from the day of his arrival, and we're extremely grateful for his continued service."

Currently, Dr. Barry serves on the following boards: Appalachian College Association, Barbour County Chamber of Commerce (vice president), Barbour County Economic Development Authority, Great Midwest Athletic Conference, Independent College Enterprise (president), and West Virginia Independent Colleges and Universities (president).

Dr. Barry is married to Ronda Barry, and together they have two children, Liz (Eric) Brewer and Matt (Kaci) Barry, who both reside with their families in the Kansas City area. The Barrys are also the proud grandparents of Jack, Molly, and Will Brewer.

## The artistic struggle

### Overcoming setbacks to Apollo



PHOTOGRAPH BY KASHAWN SHIFFLETT FOR THE BATTLER COLUMNS

Mark Warner, former AB student and designer of Apollo, poses for a photo aside the sculpture he spent over five decades creating during homecoming on Oct. 4.

By Hadassah Curry  
BATTLER COLUMNS

The Apollo sculpture is a centerpiece of the Alderson Broaddus community. While you may be unable to picture the campus without it, the statue was not always there. It actually took Apollo's creator three at-

tempts over 50 years to finish the piece.

Mark Warner, a 1968 graduate of AB, detailed its creation and stated that the weather affected earlier versions of the sculpture, which was a donation to AB's administration.

"The first time, I built it in 1970 with fiberglass,"

Warner said. "But when winter came, the sculpture would freeze up. The second time was in 1972 during AB's 100 year anniversary. I used molding plaster that set up real quick but wasn't long lasting."

Warner explained that he built the current version of Apollo

lo during 1998 with polytetrafluoroethylene, a type of synthetic resin capable of withstanding exposure to any type of weather. He claimed it took 20 years to completely switch Apollo from its original fiberglass construction to polytetrafluoroethylene.

The current Apollo is hollow and contains a time capsule from the 1970s - 1990s inside. Alumni letters, calendars and pictures were all placed in the capsule.

Presently, most of Warner's recent masterpieces are built using chestnut and apple tree wood. Across AB's campus are other examples of Warner's art, but the most prominently featured is the central Apollo statue.

Warner received his degree at AB in psychology, but later decided to begin a career as a self-employed craftsman of wooden furniture. This winter, Warner plans to build a piece based on the Easter Island statues in Chile with styrofoam and fiberglass.

## New AB degree to help combat digital dark side

By Agustin Sanchez  
BATTLER COLUMNS

A cybersecurity major debuted this semester and is arming students with tools to combat cyber-terrorism, hacking and phishing scams.

Although the field is unfamiliar to many, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics says it is growing, predicting 25,500 new job openings in 2018 with a median salary of \$90,120.

The cybersecurity program will prepare students in multi-disciplinary aspects of the web, securing software, networks and mobile systems, said Ross Britain, dean of the college of science, technology and mathematics.

Britain said the new program's impetus began when West Virginia Congressman David McKinley reached out to AB President Tim Barry. The program was designed with input from the college of science, technology and mathematics, Congressman McKinley's Office, and industry representatives on the University Alliance Advisory Board.

Ironically, when the University announced the major in February, AB's Office of Information Technology was eradicating a computer virus that infected networks and completely shut down some employees' laptops.

## Student Government (Continued from P1)

However, changes within SGA are not limited to its constitution for the current academic year. The fall semester opened with the newly-elected executive board taking office, and David Falletta, assistant dean of students, assumed a new role as SGA's student advisor.

Alongside the organization's preexisting student advisor and faculty advisor, SGA also added Quentin Murphy, assistant marketing director for social and digital media, to its ranks as a third, unofficial advisor. Murphy was approached about aiding SGA by Linaburg, who sought his prior experience in the field.

"I had three years of executive experience in student government at Glenville," Murphy said. "I wanted to get involved with it here as well."

During his time at Glenville State College, their SGA examined other student governments throughout the state. This process allowed them better insight into assessing the functionality of their own organization, but led them to discover that the same problems plagued many student governments

in the state. Murphy explains that being open to students' concerns is half the problem, but that there are many ways to become involved.

"In the past, AB hasn't been open to some new ideas, but we're getting past that," Murphy said. "This current team has some accomplished, goal-oriented leaders who care about students."

Murphy's influence within SGA has also extended into helping with its social media. As part of a larger push for increased awareness of SGA's goals and student engagement on campus, SGA emphasized its social media presence this fall. The organization introduced several social-media-exclusive features during the semester, including live tweeting meetings and weekly spotlights on senate members.

"We don't want SGA to be viewed as just the money bank," Linaburg said. "We want to be viewed as an organization that you can go to if you have concerns or if you have something you'd like to tell us regarding your organization."

While SGA's influence encompasses a wide range of campus involvement, money still represents one of its largest responsibilities. SGA's starting budget was \$212,000 this year, with unused funds rolling over from the previous year.

Processing budget proposals for student organizations occupied a large part of the fall semester, but also represented a directional change for SGA. In September, Linaburg announced that each organization would receive an advance of \$500 at a meeting attended by student organization presidents and advisors. AB's 33 organizations received \$16,500 total from these pre-approved funds.

"We felt that if we started the year off with something different and new for every student organization, they would feel that we were really trying to help them out and reach out to them," Linaburg said.

SGA is aiming to increase its connection with AB's student body through more engaging events and fostering an environment rooted in open communication. However, SGA also raised worries



PHOTOGRAPH BY LORA OWSTON FOR THE BATTLER COLUMNS

SGA President Jeremy Linaburg discusses concerns on campus mental health during their Nov. 7 meeting.

of heightened mental health issues among AB students following several disturbing incidents in the community. Witnessing this unfold troubled Linaburg, and led him to see a need for increased awareness.

"This is an issue within our university now," Linaburg said. "It was an issue in society and our community as well, but as soon as it steps onto our campus, SGA and our administration need to take it seriously."

Linaburg addressed the senate with his concerns on campus mental health during SGA's Nov. 7 meeting.

ing. He states that SGA will closely cooperate with Chad Hostetler, director of personal counseling services, and the Student Psychology Association in order to determine the best approach to the situation.

SGA's final meeting of the semester took place on Nov. 28, but it continued work into finals week by distributing goodie bags to students and sponsoring Jazzman's Cram Jam. The organization will resume regular activities following the winter break, where it looks forward to big plans for the upcoming Spring Fling.

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## Organization meshes sports with community

By Joseph Varela  
BATTLER COLUMNS

A new organization is making strides in the sports community through its emphasis on volunteer work and local engagement.

Sport Management Student Association is a student-run organization focused on community outreach through the use of sports, and provides students with opportunities to tour professional sports venues throughout Pittsburgh. Through volunteer work, students are able to strengthen their resume and leave a lasting impact.

Although the group is still new, SMSA has already begun to assist the area through volunteer-

ing during a Punt, Pass and Kick competition for elementary-aged children in Harrison County.

"Sport is a unifier," said Philip Fetty, assistant professor of sport management. "It doesn't matter where you come from, how much money you make or anything like that. So, there's always the opportunity, as long as you're involved in sports, to reach so many different people."

Although the sport management major began in 2012, Fetty explained that it quickly grew to become AB's fifth most popular program. Fetty saw this accelerated growth as an opportunity to apply what students learned in the classroom to gain real-world experience while serving their community.

Shea Roblin, the organization's president, is a dual-major in sport management and business administration, and plays on the women's lacrosse team. Fetty approached Roblin after deciding she would be a good fit for the organization's goals.

"My advisor asked me if I thought it would be a good idea," Roblin said. "And I wanted to be able to connect with the community of Philippi more, through the use of sports."

The importance of volunteering and being involved in the community was an aspect emphasized by Fetty, which he argues helps create the foundation for successful students'

futures.

"Experience is everything," Fetty said. "You can read every textbook, every journal...But the idea of getting experience in sports is huge. You can't put textbooks on a resume."

Roblin holds high hopes for both this year and the future of the organization.

"We want to continue to be involved both on and off campus," Roblin said. "And ultimately reach out and connect more with Barbour County to bridge the gap between Alderson Broaddus and the community."

SMSA currently possesses no membership fees this year and encourages any student with an interest to join.



# CAMPUS NEWS

# A glimpse into the later pursuit of higher education Going non-traditional

By Lora Owston  
BATTLER COLUMNS

Your child or your education – this was the dilemma faced by Jack Blackburn, a 23-year-old single parent from Oak Hill, West Virginia. After graduating from high school in 2013, Blackburn initially planned to take classes at a local community college and later transfer to a four-year institution. However, these plans were scrapped when baby Willow unexpectedly entered the picture.

“Being a student was going to impact my relationship with my daughter,” Blackburn said. “I couldn’t afford to lose that bonding time with her.”

To Blackburn, forsaking precious, formative moments in favor of pursuing an education was never an option. But with their daughter Willow now 4-years-old, the possibility of college is slowly exiting the back-burner. Now, Blackburn says the concern is attending college as a non-traditional student.

With the National Center for Education Statistics reporting that only 26.2 percent of all students in the United States

school. Costs are escalating, too – the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission reported average tuition has increased by 61.3 percent since 2007, despite the Census Bureau’s indication that West Virginia is the fourth-most impoverished state. The implication is that despite demand, financial opportunities are limited for older West Virginians seeking higher education.

Blackburn, who is currently unemployed, personally resonates with West Virginia’s downward statistics. Money represents one of the prime obstacles in continuing their education, but an estranged relationship with their parents has led to additional complications with financial aid requirements.

“Even financial aid is difficult,” Blackburn said. “Up until my 24th birthday, I can’t apply for some things because it requires my parents’ information.”

Despite setbacks, West Virginia is making strides to increase its population’s access to post-secondary education. In January, the West Virginia Senate unanimously passed a bill allowing students to attend



PHOTOGRAPH BY LORA OWSTON FOR THE BATTLER COLUMNS

Oak Hill resident Jack Blackburn thoughtfully examines a brochure for Alderson Broaddus University.

but is also pursuing coursework as a full-time student. She notes that people often fail to acknowledge the additional burdens and responsibilities of being a non-traditional student.

“A lot of people really don’t understand that when older people like myself come to school, there’s other things that are involved,” Huffman said. “I’m holding down a full time job, a full time parenting job and trying to take full time classes to get a degree.”

Additional complications in the classroom can make non-traditional students’ educational pursuits remarkably difficult. Joan Propst, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Alderson Broaddus University, witnessed some of these classroom concerns firsthand when working with the university’s nursing program.

“There’s an intimidation factor of returning to school,” Propst said. “They’re afraid they’re going to be sitting next to students of a traditional age in their classes.”

While Alderson Broaddus’ nursing classes do not mix traditional

and non-traditional students, this cannot be said for other courses and campuses. To Blackburn, this potential interaction between themselves and students with a significant age gap represents a key fear.

“Socializing with so many younger people would be awkward,” Blackburn said. “I worry that they might come to me for advice and I’d influence them negatively.”

However, social integration may be a key element for non-traditional students’ success. A recent study published in the Journal of Higher education found that retention for non-traditional students was directly linked to higher levels of perceived social engagement and the use of support facilities on campus. Huffman echoed these sentiments, citing her positive experiences with her advisor and the campus as one of her education’s highlights.

“Being a non-traditional student, sometimes you kinda get pushed to the back,” Huffman said. “So when you get that right professor, it’s amazing.”

In this aspect, ensuring a college is a good fit is potentially more beneficial for non-traditional students than their traditional counterparts. However, an assessment of whether their goals align with a college’s mission can also be critical to the experience. According to Propst, non-traditional students come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but their objectives often coincide in similar ways.

“Their reasons are very altruistic,” Propst said. “They range from ‘I should have done this sooner’ to ‘I’ve always wanted a BA.’ I think those are very noble reasons, don’t you?”

For Blackburn, a degree represents more than better employment prospects – it signifies opportunities for their daughter’s future. They hope that before long, improved education access in West Virginia will allow them to simultaneously raise their daughter and pursue a degree through veterinary school.

“Once it becomes not so stressful; once I’m in a better living and financial situation, I want to go back to school,” Blackburn said.

“I’m holding down a full time job, a full time parenting job and trying to take full time classes to get a degree.”

— Katherine Huffman

is a sport management student at Alderson Broaddus University. Huffman works full-time as a color guard and twirler instructor at West Virginia Wesleyan College,

# USDA Loan

## Continued from P1

The USDA loan will allow for the reallocation of additional resources to cover operating expenses at AB. The immediate effect on the financial position will also result in improved numbers in the University’s Composite Financial Index (CFI), a key indicator used by the Higher Learning Commission in determining financial viability.

“Alderson Broaddus is vital to the community of Philippi and the entire region,” said Congressman David B. McKinley. “This loan will strengthen the University’s mission and benefit the economic-well-being of Barbour County. We are proud to have worked with the leadership of AB and USDA to see this to fruition.”

“AB is a valuable source of higher education in West Virginia and a real asset for our state,” Senator Shelley Moore Capito said. “I’m glad they will be able to continue providing West Virginia students with the knowledge and skills they need to build successful lives.”

Senator Joe Manchin stated, “I am pleased to join Alderson Broaddus University in announcing that the USDA is investing in AB. This will create new economic development in Barbour County that will benefit north-central West Virginia and well beyond. Alderson Broaddus is a high-quality institution that is committed to meeting the ever-changing needs of our state and this investment will enhance their ability to step up to the plate.”

Dr. Tim Barry was recently named the president of AB after serving as interim since 2015. He expressed the importance of this funding and what it means for AB and the surrounding region. “Setting our financial house in order and reassuring our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and our communities that Alderson Broaddus University will always be there for them have been the top priorities of my administration,” said Dr. Barry. “We’re passionate about delivering the best quality education to our students so that they are equipped to work with our communities to solve today’s and tomorrow’s problems.”

“We are so grateful to our partners at the USDA, especially Kris Warner, for recognizing AB’s far-reaching contributions to our state and our region,” said Dr. Barry. “We also want to thank those who have shared in our vision for a better AB, including Congressman David McKinley and Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin.”

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety, and health care; and high-speed Internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov).

# Mental Health

## Continued from P1

According to the American Psychiatric Association, generalized anxiety disorder is defined as an extreme worry or fear that is persistent and interferes with daily activities.

It is also said that this excessive fear can be combined with a number of physical symptoms such as irritability or muscle tension, creating panic attacks.

Hostetler highly recommends any student to receive help not just for complex issues, but also more common ones. Located on the second floor of Burbick, Alderson Broaddus is equipped with a free professional and confidential counseling service open to all students.

“My hope is that anyone seeking counseling knows that it is a privilege for the counselor to be able to be allowed involvement in their lives- not a burden or bother at all,” Hostetler said.

“When students take the chance to come in, the counselor learns from their unique experiences and ways of dealing with things, so while always confidential, others benefit from you taking the chance to come in and share your own ex-

perience. Indirectly, you’re helping others when you help yourself, and they help you.”

By going to counseling, Hughes learned that talking about her problems helped not only herself, but others as well.

“I found that once I was more open about it and dealing with it correctly and safely, I was able to help others who have the same type of feelings,” Hughes said. “It was important for me to let them know they weren’t alone, because I knew that is exactly how they felt.”

For more information on the counseling services provided at AB, you can contact Chad Hostetler by email at [hostetlercs@ab.edu](mailto:hostetlercs@ab.edu), or call at (304) 457-6320. More information is also provided at [ab.edu/current-students/counseling-services](http://ab.edu/current-students/counseling-services).





CAMPUS NEWS

WEST VIRGINIA

Explore how the state serves black students in higher education.

Find out how Alderson Broaddus University compares to other institutions within the region and see demographic changes over time.

By Hadassah Curry  
BATTLER COLUMNS

Which university in West Virginia has the highest percentage of black students? If you thought it was the state's flagship institution, West Virginia University, think again.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics' most recent 2017 data, Alderson Broaddus University ranked first for the highest percentage of black students among West Virginia's four-year institutions, beating out both the state's historically black colleges and the two institutions with the highest enrollment, Marshall University and WVU.

Black students accounted for 23 percent of AB's 952 undergraduates. Four percent of WVU's 28,406 undergraduates were black, while Marshall had 6 percent with an enrollment of 13,246. West Virginia's two historically black institutions, West Virginia State University and Bluefield State College, were 9 percent and 8 percent respectively.

Malik Washington, president of the AB's Black Student Union, was excited to discover AB had the most black students per capita.

"I felt great and proud when I heard the news," Washington said. "I expect AB to continue being on top for diversity in West Virginia."

Washington believes AB prioritizes recruiting more African-American students than other West Virginia colleges, and emphasizes that the university has made many changes during his four years as a student. To him, this has been evident through AB's acceptance of Black Student Union, which strives to strengthen the black image both on campus and throughout Philippi.

However, not all students share Washington's view of the picture. Kashawn Shifflett, a mixed-race student

in his junior year, expressed his sentiment that students attend AB for reasons unrelated to race.

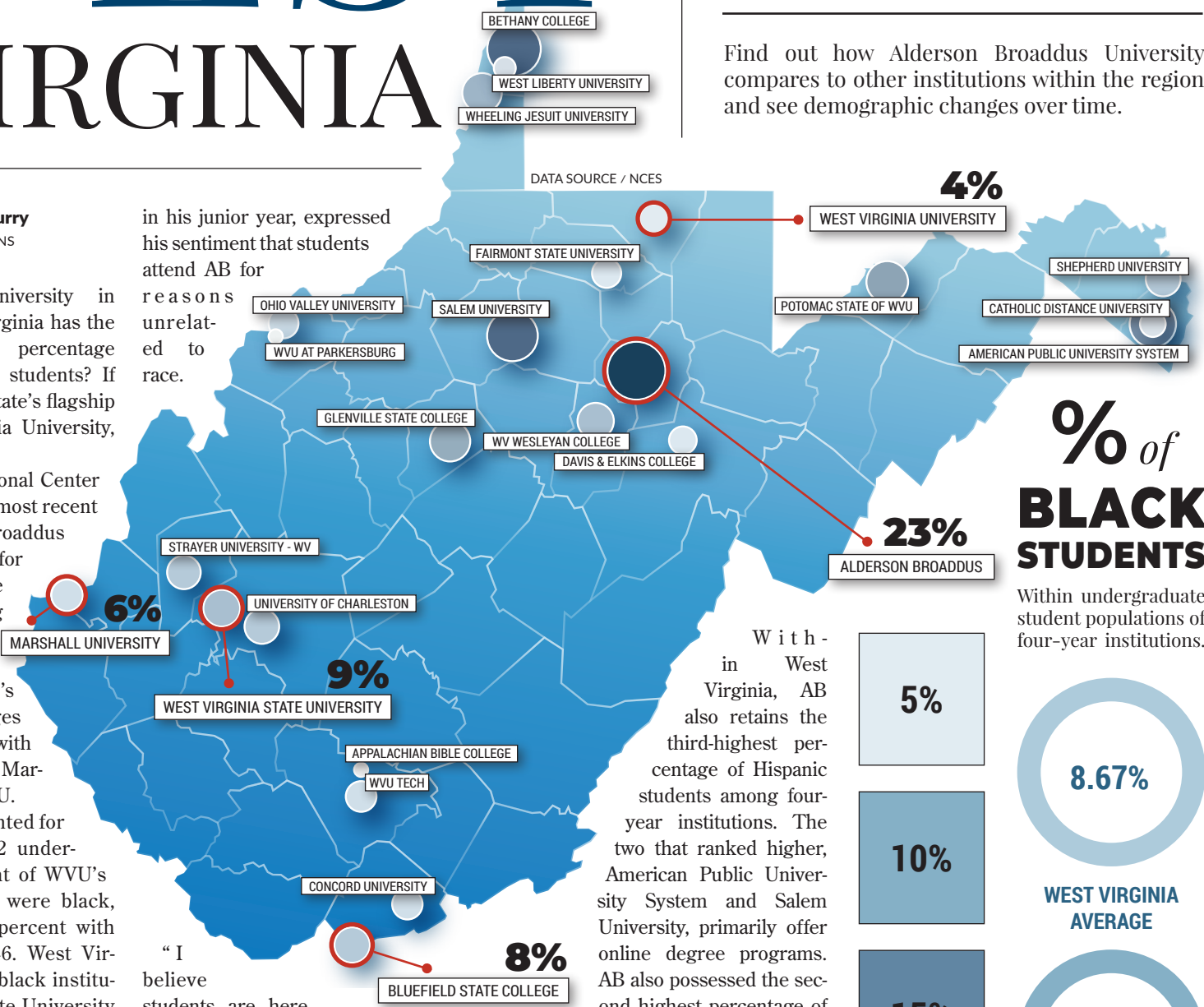
"I believe students are here because of the sports AB provides," Shifflett said.

Fellow black student-athlete Antwon Foster from Chicago, Illinois agrees with Shifflett's sentiment that black students are only here to play a sport.

"It's really hard to find a black student who is not an athlete at AB," Foster said.

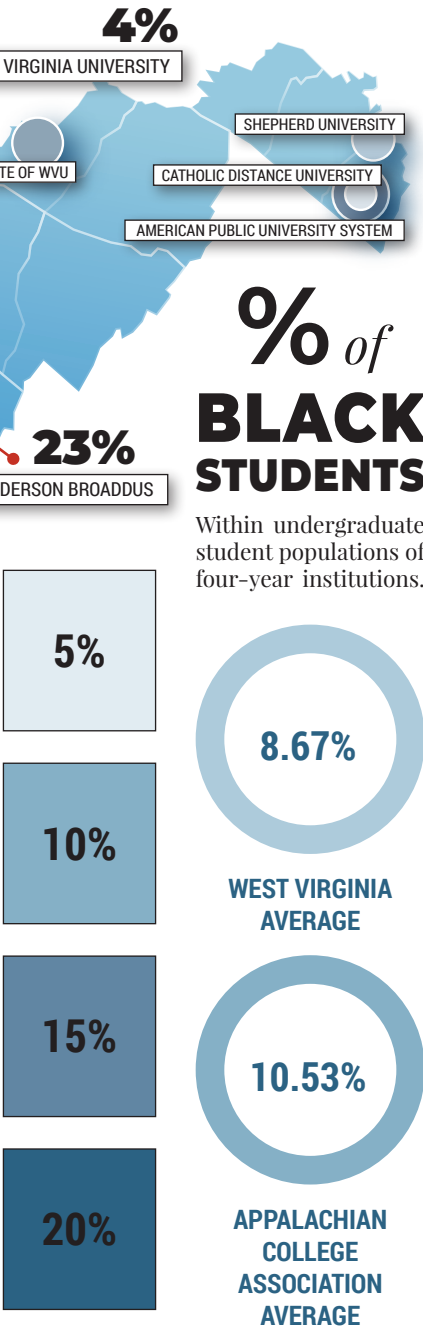
AB men's basketball coach Duncan Williams explains that while his team has a large amount of black players, he does not feel race is a deciding factor. At AB, each coach is required to obtain a certain number of recruits for their sport. With recruitment requirements rising, he feels that it is natural that AB's athletes represent a more diverse population.

"I don't see race, I see talented athletes for our program," Williams said. "Basketball is known to have a higher percentage of African-Americans in the league."

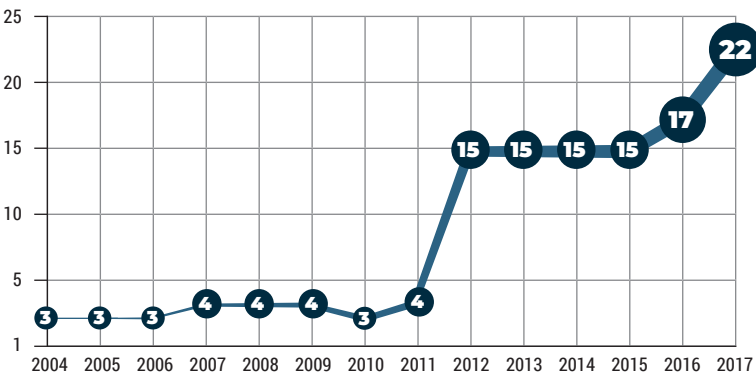


With in West Virginia, AB also retains the third-highest percentage of Hispanic students among four-year institutions. The two that ranked higher, American Public University System and Salem University, primarily offer online degree programs. AB also possessed the second highest percentage of black students within the Appalachian College Association.

AB's entire undergraduate makeup is 64 percent white, 23 percent black, 5 percent Hispanic, 1 percent Asian, 1 percent American Indian or Alaska Native, 1 percent two or more races and 6 percent non-resident alien according to the NCES.

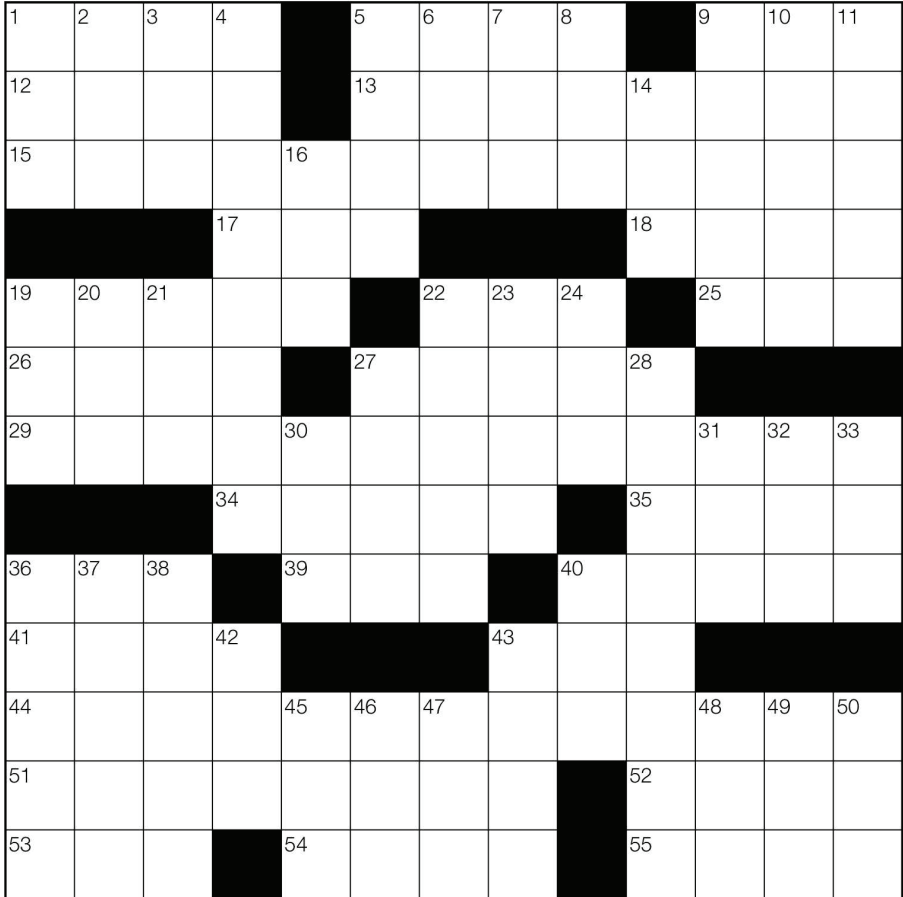


2004 - 2017 Percent of black students at AB within total student enrollment



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

MATHEMATICS THEME



- Across**
- Food Network host \_\_\_\_\_ Summers
  - Balcony feature
  - "Life is \_\_\_\_ a dream"
  - "...happily \_\_\_\_ after"
  - To make comments on a text
  - 1?
  - "How ya doin', bro?"
  - Strike repeatedly
  - Chunk of land
  - "More than I need to know!" (abbr.)
  - \_\_\_\_ Moines
  - Word after bank or musical
  - Member of a trio in "The Lion King"
  - 21?
  - Uses a stopwatch on
  - Swing gently
  - Dusting cloth
  - Conclude
  - Drawn-out assault
  - \_\_\_\_ vera
  - Cranberry patch
  - 36?
  - Warn, in a way
  - Like a 1-1 score
  - Feeling blue
  - "Money \_\_\_\_ everything!"
  - Mountain \_\_\_\_ (sodas)
- Down**
- A month in Madrid
  - Monopoly board spot (abbr.)
  - Test, as an engine
  - Moon shape
  - Highway entrance or exit
  - "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
  - Hotel or motel alternative
  - "The Iron Horse" Gehrig
  - Situated (on)
  - Scrabble vowel pick
  - Sends a message, in a way
  - Recipe amt.
  - Pistachio, for one
  - Demolition initials
  - First word of the song whose lyric is found in 9-across?
  - Anagram of "TEA"
  - Not handwritten
  - Gibson and Brooks
  - Shiba \_\_\_\_ (breed of dog)
  - Church song
  - Like seats in school?
  - Piece of neckwear
  - Be in debt to
  - Complain constantly
  - Needle hole
  - Whitewater transports
  - Hawaiian hello
  - Pumpkin or cucumber
  - A "Help wanted" sign? (abbr.)
  - Before, in poetry
  - Out of alignment
  - \_\_\_\_ chi
  - Part of TGIF
  - Fathers and grandfathers
  - "\_\_\_\_ seen worse"
  - Just off the assembly line
  - A cannon has three, phonetically