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Educators Pursue Their Passions Despite Pressures From a Broken System

Nick Wood

December 27, 2021

Karissa Patrick splits her time between lecture halls and elementary school halls, all while risking the health and safety of herself and her loved ones.

“During quarantine, many parents weren’t able to dedicate the time necessary to keep their children’s education on track,” Patrick said. “Now we, the teachers, are working twice as hard to catch these kids up, all while dealing with the risk of COVID on our own health as well as the health and safety of our friends and family.”

Coronavirus complications

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, [over 1,000 American teachers and school staff members have died due to the virus](#). This number reflects the level of dedication those in the K-12 workforce sustain. Through even these unprecedented times, they continue to serve their students and community at whatever cost.

Just as the circumstances of the current pandemic highlight this fact, they have simultaneously shone a light on disparities between this devotion and the average income of teachers.

Educators in the U.S., on average, [make almost 20% less than college graduates working in other fields](#), and this disparity continues to increase over time. Since the mid-1990s, the gap has gone up by roughly 14%.

[According to a 2021 report](#), 18% of public school teachers take on jobs outside of the classroom to support themselves financially and supplement the disparities in their salaries. However, sustaining [that level of work is not plausible for all people](#).

Difficult sacrifices

Karissa Patrick, a senior early childhood education major at WSU, is in her third part-time teaching placement. Although this commitment only requires her to work in a classroom three days a week, she recently had to make the decision to quit her part-time fast-food job due to the intense amount of time and energy required for her to be a successful teacher.

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“When I say it’s a full-time job—it’s your life. You have to dedicate every part of yourself,” Patrick said. “Even just three days a week I feel like I can’t juggle being in school...then trying to do another job plus my college classes.”

She is already making sacrifices for her career without even having a full-time job as a teacher.

“Also, I don’t live near my family so trying to get home to visit them is nearly impossible,” Patrick said, “I don’t get out of school until close to 4:30 on Fridays and I have to be back at 8:15 on Monday morning. It doesn’t leave much time on the weekend to go see my family.”

Catherine Livingston began her first teaching job at Little Miami Elementary in September of 2021. A recent WSU graduate, she is now beginning to experience the realities of the strict time commitment necessary for her career.

“I woke up this morning at 6:00, left my house [at] 6:30, got to school at 7:00, had a meeting before school...then I stayed until 5:00...then I came home and I’m about to do a few more hours of work before bed,” Livingston said, “but, you know, I do it all with a smile on my face.”

This is an example of a typical day-in-the-life for Livingston and [many other teachers](#) around the country: spending at least 10 hours a day in their classroom just to come home and continue working additional hours to prepare for the next day. Yet, this intense level of dedication is not adequately respected and rewarded through sufficient income.

Educator income

One potential link between low-wage earnings and professions in education is the career’s ties to gender.

“I think it’s because it started way back in the day as a position that women did, and...that history and where it comes from echoes in the current educational system,” Livingston said. “Like all systemic inequalities in America, you can still feel that history.”

[Teaching has historically been a job taken on by women](#) in our society. When women were first eligible to enroll in higher education, they were strongly encouraged to study to become teachers. This was due to an increased need for public school teachers as the system expanded and the fact that women were perceived as more nurturing than men.

Now, jobs typically performed by women are [still seen as less valuable](#). Even within the same profession as early childhood educators make less than high school educators.

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	Elementary School Educators	Middle-level Educators	High School Educators
Percentage of Women	74.8%	59.9%	50.4%
Percentage of Men	20.8%	34.1%	44.8%
Median Income	\$61,660	\$60,810	\$62,870

The median income for teachers at three different levels compared to ratios of gender | Zippia.com

Of course, there are some exceptions to this notion. Nursing, for example, has long been a field [dominated by women](#) and it has seen continuous [progress in diminishing disparities](#) between job expectations and income. However, other careers—teaching among them—have failed to fully address the associations between the field’s dominant gender and perceived lesser value.

In recent years, teachers’ unions across the country have expressed their frustrations with their states’ education systems by performing [teacher strikes](#). These demonstrations might be sparked by a number of causes, such as salaries, benefits, or issues with their schools’ infrastructures.

Overall, however, their motivations for demanding change lie in a desire to improve not only the lives of the educators but also those of who they are educating. Because, in spite of all of the issues and progress yet to come, there is still a spirit among teachers, guiding their passion for education.

“I love working with little kids and providing them with comfort and a home within the classroom,” Patrick said. “Whenever you see a kid learn how to read or be proud of themselves because they were able to solve a math problem it’s like, oh, this is why I’m doing this.”

It’s this unrelenting love for the profession that sustains those who take on the responsibility of being an educator as they continue to fight for their due respect.

“I have so much passion for [teaching]. I think about it 24/7,” said Livingston. “I think about my [students] as my own children, I love them so much. They bring me so much joy and I love seeing them grow and become smarter, kinder, and just more complete, fuller kids every single day...it makes me so happy to see them blossom.”

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Hoffman Notches First Wright State Win on Education Day

Noah Kindig

December 27, 2021

In front of a crowd of over 2,700 fans and local school students, Wright State University (WSU) Women's Basketball took its first win of the season over Lake Erie College (LE) 91-60, moving its season record to 1-7.

The win was the first for first-year coach Kari Hoffman and all of her assistant coaches, who are all first-year hires for the Raiders as well.

WSU's play was night-and-day from its previous struggles this year, shooting 26.7% from the field, also hitting an amazing 56% from the three-point line.

The three-week break from play due to COVID-19 seemed to do wonders for the Raider lineup, scoring 33 points in the first quarter alone and hitting six for nine of their three-point attempts.

Starting strong

The Raiders led the Storm by 23 points after just the first quarter, outscoring LE 33-10 on 57% shooting from the field.

Junior guard Jada Roberson dominated play for WSU early, scoring two three-pointers and two shots in the paint for 10 points in just the first four minutes of the game.

Destyne Jackson, Makira Webster and Channing Chappell would also score from beyond the arc in the first quarter, largely able to get wide open and hitting shots that were nothing but net.

Not only were the Raiders incredible in scoring during the first quarter, but they also played tough defense for the Storm. LE shot only 20% from the field, shooting 4-20 to WSU's 12-21, and was unable to make any three-pointers, going 0-4 to WSU's 6-9.

Night-and-day

The Education day performance looked like a completely different team from just a few weeks ago. It looked like the Raiders could not miss if they tried.

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Five Raiders scored double-digit points, with both Jada Wright and K.K. White finishing with a double-double. White had a career game, leading both teams in scoring with 20 points, and barely behind Wright with 13 rebounds.

Their 46.7% shooting from the field is the best the team has shot all year, and no contest this year is even close to their 56% from three, as the Raiders drained shots from range all game.

Before the LE game, WSU was averaging 56.2 PPG, meaning the Raiders scored 35 points more than they have on average throughout the season.

Hopefully, this shooting can continue as the Raiders look towards their upcoming Horizon League games against the UIC Flames and the IUPUI Jaguars.

Watch: Check Out These Three Internet Comedians

Kristina Shue

December 28, 2021

During the cold winter months, there's nothing like curling up on the couch and watching some mood-warming comedy. Here are three internet comedians worth your clicks.

Bo Burnham

The release of his Netflix special "INSIDE" relaunched Bo Burnham into the comedy spotlight. In the early days of YouTube circa 2007, Burnham gained popularity for his musical and comedic talents in numerous songs and sketches uploaded to [his channel](#).

From there he went on to produce comedy albums, live shows and television shows. His latest project, "INSIDE," much of which is also available on his YouTube channel, has won multiple awards. "INSIDE" is a true work of art that offers over an hour of both upbeat and cynical delights.

Chris Fleming

Chris Fleming has been creating comedy [content on YouTube](#) for a decade and continues to enchant audiences with his unique style. Since the success of his YouTube series "Gayle," where he portrayed a middle-aged mom losing her mind in American suburbia, Fleming has gone on to produce multiple live shows and many more comedy videos, including several songs.

His incorporation of wild androgynous fashion and modern dance have made Fleming a popular online presence. In addition to his YouTube, Fleming maintains an [active Twitter profile](#) where he sometimes uploads exclusive content.

Tyler Gaca

Better known by his handle [ghosthoney](#), Tyler Gaca has risen to TikTok fame for his unique comedy sketches. Gaca's videos have been widely shared on other platforms such as Twitter and Tumblr where his LGBTQ+ experience is an important facet of his comedy.

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Based in Los Angeles, Gaca's sketches and vlogs are imbued with a unique blend of artistic, queer and Millennial aesthetics that have found popularity among straight and queer audiences alike.

Best Dayton Destinations For Winter Months

Brendan Blankenship

December 29, 2021

Students often have more free time during winter break, and luckily Dayton features multiple activities that students can try over break. Here are just a few key attractions.

Air Force Museum

Dayton features a museum that showcases some of the most famous aircraft flown throughout United States (U.S) history.

There are multiple hangers that have different aircraft including spacecraft, World War II aircraft, 1800s aircraft and more.

This museum is free to the public. Patrons can also purchase food at the dining area, shop in the gift shop and purchase tickets to their IMAX theater.

Carillon Historical Park

This park is well known for its holiday light display, but there are plenty of things to do year-round.

Carillon Historical Park also features some of Dayton's oldest buildings and homes. Here, you can find the Wright brothers' bicycle shop and the plane they flew.

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum

This cemetery is one of the best places to go if you want to take the perfect picture. You can find one of the nicest views of downtown Dayton at this site.

What makes this place unique is the graves. This cemetery was built in 1842, and you can find some of Dayton's most famous historical figures buried here including Wilbur Wright.

This is a great place to go if you need to go for an outdoor walk with a view.

Local Media Professionals Struggle to Survive Instead of Thrive

Shea Neal

December 29, 2021

Kevin Washington has a deep-rooted love for radio but believes the complications introduced after the global pandemic are restricting him from producing content up to his standards and fulfilling his full potential.

Challenges all around

COVID-19 created numerous challenges and complications within the workforce. The media industry is no exception to these difficulties. Affiliates from across the globe are having to conduct budget cuts, layoff periods, and remote broadcasts just to stay afloat.

“This is a tough door to open man, but it’s 1,000 times tougher to open it back up after you close it,” local DJ Kevin Washington of Alpha Media said.

These were the words of one local media personality in response to the complications that COVID-19 has brought to the field.

“We’ve seen revenue drop as much as 60% in some cases, particularly for the month of April, as this thing really started in Mid-March,” according to Executive Director of the [Indiana Broadcasters Association](#) Dave Arland.

One member of a local media group had to make drastic changes in order to keep their job.

Kevin Washington (DJ name Kev Nash) is one of the most popular and well-known hosts on HOT 102.9 FM, Dayton’s hip-hop station. Nash has a passion for music dating back to his college days at Wright State and WWSU 106.9 FM, and has transformed that passion into a successful career as a DJ, events coordinator, and production director with Alpha Media.

However, when a global pandemic impacted the world in countless ways, Alpha decided that changes needed to be made.

Drastic measures

Alpha Media laid off staff members from across the country, according to [CEO Bob Proffitt](#), although no official number was given.

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Functions such as interviewing, show hosting and sales deals were moved online, and few processes were conducted the same.. Nash was fortunately among the lucky ones who did not lose their job, but that does not mean that he was in the clear.

According to Nash, Alpha Media had a new approach to survive the pandemic, and it was to retain their most valuable and talented staff members and have them fill unassigned roles within the corporation.

“The mentality they were going towards was embracing people with versatility, and almost like swiss army knives of media,” Nash said.

These new values Alpha Media enforced required Nash to become a part-time engineer, as well as fill the role of co-host for the afternoon rush show on Dayton’s ESPN affiliate. Nash says his fear is if he cannot perform these new roles, he will be let go in favor of someone who can.

The pressure to succeed in a new role, along with maintaining a level of excellence in hosting a show with HOT created a lot of stress and anxiety for Nash. It is incredibly difficult to get started in the media field, but even more difficult to re-enter the field after losing a job or changing direction.

The passion of music and content creation still drives Nash to do progressive and unique work within Alpha, but the pandemic and the new roles caused him to question whether his passion was still worth the stress and pressure.

Standing out in the media

Another challenge of the media field is finding a spot and carving out a role, as well as standing out in a crowd of equally talented and hungry individuals.

According to a story done by the [Guardian](#), a typical media graduate opening position receives approximately 250 applicants. From there, only the top 40 or so are seriously considered.

Scotty Kramer, a junior media studies major at Wright State University, is not foreign to the concept of a competitive media field. However, when he arrived at Wright State, the sports director position was already filled at the college radio station.

Looking to still kickstart his media career, Kramer joined the broadcast team and began pursuing his passion by covering Wright State athletics across a variety of sports such as basketball, baseball, soccer, and football.

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Similarly to other career fields, a portion of media revolves around climbing the metaphorical ladder and continuing to improve in the craft. Kramer knew that he had to find a way to progress his blossoming media career, and with the sports director position filled, he applied to be the programming director and treasurer of WWSU.

Kramer has made it known that this was not the path he wanted to take and that he would still rather be heading the sports department.

“This wasn’t what I wanted to do. I wanted to be the sports guy, man. But you know I just kind of lived with it,” Kramer said.

He embraced the opportunity to take a leap of faith, and now is the head of creating the show schedule for WWSU, reaching out to podcasts about potential partnerships, and keeping track of the station’s budget. Kramer made the necessary sacrifices to keep his passion and dream alive, while also combatting the pressure of finding a role in the media industry.

Media personalities are constantly making sacrifices and battling pressure to keep their passions alive. Whether it’s because of self-doubt, bad timing, or a global pandemic, this field, according to Kramer, is one of the most challenging and pressure-filled experiences one can go through.

“You come into this whole experience thinking you’re special and you know your stuff. But you quickly find out there’s hundreds and thousands of people who are just like you. It’s a war every day,” Kramer said.

But, like Nash finding a way to work three jobs at once at a high level with Alpha, or Kramer finding a way to create a strong resume through a different path, the passion shines through for those willing to adapt and chase their dreams.

Take a Trip Around the World With These Five Books

Alexis Wisler

December 29, 2021

Reading is a great way to become exposed to different cultures and broaden one's knowledge of others. Below are five books that take place around the world and explore different cultures.

“The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini

Taking place mostly in Afghanistan, “The Kite Runner” follows Amir as he grows up and learns life lessons. The primary theme for this novel is redemption, as Amir tries to find redemption for an event that took place during his childhood.

This novel also explores family relationships, primarily between Amir, his father, and friendship. Students should look up trigger warnings for this novel before reading.

“Funny Boy” by Shyam Selvadurai

“Funny Boy” is a coming-of-age novel that follows Arjie as he grows up in Sri Lanka and comes to terms with his sexuality, which makes others label him as “funny.” This novel explores sexual identity and also the Tamil-Sinhalese conflict that took place at the time in Sri Lanka.

“White Teeth” by Zadie Smith

Published in 2000, “White Teeth” takes place in London and follows Archie Jones and Samad Iqbal and their families. This novel spans generations and explores what nationality really means.

Samad is from Bangladesh and must make the decision to send one of his sons there. Englishman Archie marries Clara, a Jamaican woman, and suddenly learns about London's attitudes toward immigrants at the time.

“Kim Ji-young, Born 1982” by Cho Nam-ju



Taking place in South Korea, this novel follows Kim Ji-young throughout the majority of her life. Kim is an ordinary woman with an ordinary life and this novel explores what it is like for women living in South Korea today.

While Kim is the main character, the novel explores the lives of other women as well. Students should look up trigger warnings before reading.

“All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr

Following two storylines that ultimately come together, “All the Light We Cannot See” takes place in both France and Germany during World War II.

One storyline follows Marie-Laure Leblanc, a blind girl who joins the French resistance. The other follows Werner Pfenning, a German boy who is orphaned and ultimately joins the Nazi army.

While the primary theme of this novel is war, knowledge plays a huge part as the characters slowly unravel the truth around them.

Entertaining Book Recs for Winter Break

Erika Jones

December 30, 2021

During the holidays it is hard to find time to read or look for books that will entertain long enough to make it worthwhile.

These books may not exactly fit the holiday spirit, but they are entertaining enough to bring smiles, tears, frustration and a whole slew of emotions a really good book is meant to expose.

“What If It’s Us” by Becky Albertalli

Set during summer vacation, Albertalli has two teenage boys who meet from two different ways of life. Arthur is from Atlanta, GA and Ben is from the heart of New York City where the story is told.

Arthur and Ben meet coincidentally in the middle of a flash mob marriage proposal. They do not get the chance to exchange numbers or names before they separate.

This is a story of first love and self-exploration for Arthur. For Ben, it is shortly after a bad breakup and a story finding what he truly wants in himself and his relationships.

“I Hunt Killers” series by Barry Lyga

This trilogy has enough suspense, mystery, romance and humor to pull its readers along with each page while following the son of a notorious serial killer known as Billy Dent. Jasper “Jazz” Dent was taught from a young age to follow his father’s footsteps as the best serial killer America had ever seen.

Jazz, on the other hand, wants nothing to do with his father’s legacy or to continue the family career. Instead, he uses what Billy taught him to help police and FBI hunt serial killers.

“House Arrest” by K.A. Holt

This middle-grade book is an epistolary novel through the eyes of a 12-year-old kid under house arrest from stealing a wallet and using a credit card to buy his baby brother’s medicine.

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All Timothy wanted was to help his struggling mother get his brother's life-saving medicine and keep him alive long enough for life-saving surgery. Yet after being caught, he has to prove he is not the delinquent they claim him to be, and a year of this journal is his hope to prove that.

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New Successes Bring New Stresses Among Local Musicians

Chad Dudash

December 31, 2021

Musical artists Justin Venrick, 23, and Tech Honors, 36, while being in completely different spots in their career, still find common anxieties about stability in the music world.

Both Venrick and Honors are self-described music producers and songwriters. They are [two in an estimated 27 million](#), among those [only 1,800 are full-time and less than 200 are employed by major labels](#).

“The pursuit of music as a career is not advisable. It’s working for me right now and it’s great, and I’m very happy about it,” Honors said, who says that he is financially stable on his music-related income. “I think that luck is just a big component.”

Most musicians are not exactly high-paid; the average income for a full-time musician [in the 18-29-year-old range was found to be only \\$18,000 on average for music-related income](#).

Most income for full-time artists comes from live performances. This can be a struggle for new artists that are still trying to make a name for themselves or have nowhere to perform.

Without anywhere to perform, artists’ primary income is streaming. [Per stream, Spotify pays \\$0.004 to the artist](#). This means it takes 400 listens of the same song to make a single penny.

“It’s kind of a rip-off truly, especially because these streaming services are getting so much money for people to have subscriptions, and then they only go back and pay artists, like a fraction of a cent,” argues Venrick.

Venrick is a full-time student, looking to be a full-time musician in the future, while Honors is already financially stable off the revenue brought in from his music career. Both artists are in different places in their career, yet similar stresses arise from both.

With new successes come different stresses that might not have previously remained unthought of.

Justin Venrick – Violet Temples

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Justin Venrick is an artist of many hats, and he has to be in order to survive. Venrick, a full-time art student at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, also works at a hotel nearly 40 hours a week as a front desk supervisor.

He refers to himself as a D.I.Y. or “Do-it-yourself” musician.

As a DIY musician, Venrick does everything himself, every process from the beginning of writing a song to putting the song on streaming services. Marketing is his newest challenge.

“You are basically just having to send out emails to random playlist curators, like ‘hey, here’s my song, if you like it, put it on your playlist or write about it,” Venrick said. “I would kind of just put things out and be like, Oh, here it is, why isn’t anybody listening? Well, you kind of have to advertise yourself.”

Venrick cites time management as another major problem prohibiting him from making music.

“I’ll spend some time working on some ideas for two to three hours at most. Then if I feel like something’s really going somewhere, I’ll spend a little bit more time on it. Then it will cut into time when I should probably be sleeping,” Venrick said. “I spend a majority of my time doing other things just because I need to keep myself afloat.”

The musician has been producing his own music since 2016. He has devoted more time only recently to harnessing his craft professionally. He previously released several works, but subsequently took them down.

“I shelved a lot of things or took them down, and I wouldn’t say that I’m a perfectionist, but if I have to put it out, I want to make it good,” Venrick said. “I kind of had to pull myself aside and be like, okay, you got to start somewhere.”

It took Venrick roughly a year to produce his debut EP, “Polaris.” The artist made the entire EP in his bedroom with a keyboard connected to his PC, a microphone, and professional audio editing software.

Venrick invested around \$400 in his equipment and tools. Thus far, Venrick has made just over \$10 on streams alone.

“It can be discouraging, but I knew what I was getting myself into with this. I knew it was gonna be crazy, but you know, I can hope,” Venrick said about the future of his career. “So, here’s to the next one being even more successful, maybe I’ll get \$20 off of that one.”

Tech Honors – one-third of Death’s Dynamic Shroud.wmv

Tech Honors is more of an established musician. Honors has a fanbase, set of followers and stable financial income, yet many of his struggles are similar to that of Venrick’s. Honors is a full-time musician living in Miamisburg, Ohio and one of the members of electronic band Death’s Dynamic Shroud.wmv.

Honors and his music partner, James Webster, also from Death’s Dynamic Shroud, release monthly albums through their “Nuwrld Mixtape Club.” Subscribers pay anywhere between \$7 and \$25 monthly and receive the albums digitally and/or on cassette. Right now, there are around 450 subscribers.

“As far as what James and I have always sort of dreamed about is just being able to make music as our job and truly with this club we are able to do that and I’m able to feel financially stable and comfortable,” Honors said.

This stability is still volatile.

“It becomes kind of a weird thing when your financial livelihood is dependent on the whims of people who like you for a certain reason. You testing the waters and being creatively adventurous becomes a business risk,” he said.

Honors argues his music is his business and sometimes the pressures of catering to the audience come up while producing the next album.

“It’s not like we’re totally dictated by that pressure, but it’s just something that can be on your mind,” he clarified. “Instead of having people just not like your album, it’s now people don’t like your album and you make less money.”

Honors began his career in music at the age of 15 after receiving a keyboard for his birthday and joining a band his friends recently created called Fâtum. Webster, joined the group the next year after Honors saw him perform an Oasis medley at a local talent show.

The group stayed together for 10 years, before splitting up to get their associates degrees, Honors in sound recording and music technology and Webster in music composition respectively. Honors and Webster, similar to Venrick, went to school and worked full-time to support themselves, while continuing to record music.

The two musicians started the band Rebecca Peake and recorded a song every day for a whole year while in school. The number of songs totaled at 366 songs, due to the leap year in 2012.

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“The idea was to partially stay in good practice with recording and then partially a sort of a competitive idea,” Honors said about Rebecca Peake. “We’re like, we can make a song every single day and it would be good. It was kind of brash.”

However, this practice was not sustainable.

“It was an insane time because I was in school. I had like 15 credit hours. I worked 35 hours a week and then we were writing songs every day. In retrospect, I had no idea how I was doing it. It was going to bed at four or five in the morning and waking up at eight every day,” Honors said.

This practice with Rebecca Peake led to the artist’s confidence in creating an album every single month, allowing Honors to live off of the mixtape club’s revenue.

This year alone, Honors and Webster invested nearly \$40,000 into their label which includes all of their projects. The group released shirts, physical pressings of their albums, and performed live.

“Our fans have been really willing to indulge us on these creative endeavors,” Honors said. “We’re fortunate to have them be interested in what comes next.”

Different places, different and similar struggles

Both Venrick and Honors need to put in massive amounts of time in order to work on their passion. Even though Honors is financially stable in his music career, there is still this sense of volatility that Venrick also describes as a beginning musician.

“I think you have to adapt, but at the same time, stay true to what you’re doing,” Honors said. “I feel like James and I are plenty capable of adapting to cultural music landscapes, because we’re so involved in keeping up with modern sounds and embracing new technology and new ideas.”

Honors produced music for more than 20 years. The landscape has changed considerably over that time. Honors believes major labels now only invest into a handful of artists.

“I grew up in the 90s, so my idea of what a recording artist is pretty different from what I think a lot of Gen Z might think of a recording artist,” Honors said. “The rock star was still a thing in the 90s and I don’t really think that it’s as much of a thing anymore.”

In 2003, 880 full-time recording artists were employed by major labels in the United States. By 2014, [this number dwindled to 200](#).

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“Now, pop stardom is like sustained success being propped up by a label, that is just investing into a handful of artists, rather than taking lots of chances on smaller artists.”

Honors also believes that because of the rise of the internet there is the possibility for smaller artists to be successful.

“Now I feel like that’s sort of what being successful is like, having this smaller fanbase that you interact with regularly. It’s not about being on a different Echelon,” Honors said.

Venrick also believes that the accessibility of new tools allows smaller musicians to make professional-sounding recordings, which is what pushed him to begin pursuing a career in music.

“With a lot of tools that are coming to home PCs, it’s made it a lot easier for people who are just starting out to actually dip their toes in,” said Venrick.

However, the old idea of the “Popstar” from the 90’s has lingered in Honor’s mind.

“I’m still climbing the ladder as any corporate person might,” Honors said.

Venrick expresses a similar sentiment about continuing to push through to success, “It’s a really good strategy to have constant releases when you can, just because it’s easier to get people’s attention when you’re constantly releasing things.”

Both musicians mention that sometimes, being successful in music is just luck.

“It’s just a matter of being in the right place at the right time,” Venrick said.

Honors echoes this sentiment from a more experienced perspective, “The only piece of encouragement I would say about that is that there is an argument that you make your own luck by constantly creating. If you throw enough darts at the dartboard, maybe one of them hits a bull’s eye.”

Venrick’s music is available on all major streaming platforms under the name Violet Temples and on bandcamp.com.

Honors’s music is available on all major streaming platforms as Death’s Dynamic Shroud.wmv or on bandcamp.com through the Ghost Diamond label.

A Quick Guide to Creating, Following New Year's Resolutions

Emily Mancuso

December 31, 2021

According to the [New York Post](#), 80% of Americans fail to keep their New Year's resolutions, college students being no exceptions. Here are some simple steps and advice on how to keep your New Year's resolution this year.

Pick one or a few goals for your list

Having too many resolutions can make someone feel overwhelmed and disappointed when they do not reach all of their goals. Keeping the list small with goals such as 'get better grades' and 'keep a journal' can help students focus their energy on those certain things.

Be specific

Let's say someone has decided on 'get better grades' as their new year's resolution. This is too general and doesn't provide a concrete end goal. Students can evaluate what specifically they want to reach. For example, the goal 'get better grades' would work better as 'achieve a 3.0 GPA'.

Make a realistic plan

Now that students have a specific goal (achieve a 3.0 GPA) it is time to make a plan on how to achieve this goal. Available time and needs must be taken into consideration. For example, someone might study for two hours after dinner every day and visit the [writing center](#) every month to get help with papers if that is where they are struggling.

Get a journal

Having a journal specifically for this New Year's resolution/s can increase motivation and keep the focus on why someone is trying to achieve these goals in the first place.

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Students can write down their reason for wanting a 3.0 GPA in the first place, such as to qualify for scholarships. Students should periodically write down their progress to show how they are getting closer to their goals.

Make a vision board

Vision boards (also referred to as dream boards) are visual representations of goals/dreams on a board that can be used any time of year but can be especially useful for the new year. Students can put their resolutions list and pictures of what they want their life to look like this year.

Be creative!

Find support

Working on goals alone can be very isolating. Finding a friend or family member to hold one accountable towards New Year's goals will help when motivation gets low.

A friend can make sure a student gets to class and studies when they say they are going to. Offer to help the friend be accountable towards their new year's resolution as well.

A look Back at the Biggest National Events of 2021

Jamie Naylor

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With the ongoing global pandemic, monumental social and political events, and breakthroughs in medicine, 2021 was a year of struggle and strength. With the year coming to a close, here is a look back at some of the biggest national and global events.

Presidential inauguration

The 20th amendment to the United States (U.S) constitution set Jan. 20 as the inauguration day for presidential administrations following an election year.

With 2020 being an [election year](#), the U.S swore in 46th president Joe Biden and 49th vice president Kamala Harris on Jan. 20.

This was historic as it was a transfer of power from the Republican to Democratic party in the White House. Harris also became the first female, first African American and first Asian American to hold the vice president position.

The inaugural ceremony also featured iconic moments like U.S pop star Lady Gaga singing the National Anthem and the meme-worthy Sen-D. Bernie Sanders's mitten moment that went viral on the internet and social media platforms.

Covid Vaccines

2021 saw the continuance of the coronavirus pandemic, with new variants like Delta and Omicron popping up throughout the year all around the world.

The pandemic has caused significant interruption to everyday life around the world. However, with the creation and [approval of COVID-19 vaccines](#), people were able to return to a 'new normal' way of living.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pfizer-BioTech vaccine was first to be approved for emergency use authorization in spring 2021 and was first to be fully approved for those 16 and older on Aug. 23. This approval was soon followed by the Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines.

To date, 205.6 million Americans are fully vaccinated against COVID according to CDC data.

Juneteenth

Another historical moment in the U.S. was the creation of the Juneteenth National Independence Day federal holiday.

Created when U.S. Senate bill 475 was signed into law by President Biden, the new holiday celebrates the emancipation of African American slaves in 1863.

The federal recognition of Juneteenth is seen as a pivotal moment in race relations and recognition of minority [communities in the U.S.](#)

Olympics

Every four years the Olympics, a months-long sporting event where athletes from all around the world compete in various physical activities, are hosted in a major city chosen by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Postponed until 2021 due to the pandemic, the summer games were held in Tokyo, Japan. According to the Olympics website, the games were quite different from previous years with no spectators allowed in the stands to watch the games and extra safety measures to protect players from spreading COVID.

While a popular sporting event with activities like gymnastics and swimming, the Olympics are also seen as an important event to build sportsmanship, relationship and diplomacy among national players.