



**December 2023**

**ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

**[Sebastian van Delden Named New Provost](#)**



Sebastian van Delden, dean of the School of Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering at the College of Charleston, was recently announced as Winthrop's new provost and vice president for academic affairs. The provost reports directly to [President Edward A. Serna '02](#) and is a valuable member of Winthrop's [cabinet](#). He will assume his new duties on Jan. 18. He'll replace Interim Provost Peter Judge, who came out of retirement as professor emeritus of religious studies, to lead the division until a permanent provost was named.

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**TEACHING AWARD**

**[Professor Shelley Hamill Earns Top Teaching Award](#)**



Health Professor Shelley Hamill, who also serves as the university's chief faculty marshal, received the James Pinckney Kinard and Lee Wicker Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Dec. 16 Commencement ceremony. The award was established in honor of former president James Pinckney Kinard and his wife, Lee Wicker Kinard, in 1984 by their family. Hamill joined the Winthrop faculty in 1998.

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## COMMENCEMENT

**[300+ Graduates Celebrated, Honorary Degree Awarded Dec. 16](#)**



The Dec. 16 Commencement ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of more than 300 graduates and recognized the philanthropy of John Winthrop, who received an honorary degree during a special portion of the ceremony. Professor of Marketing Jane Thomas, the 2023 Distinguished Professor, delivered the Commencement address. [Take a look at photos](#) from the special ceremony.

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## FACULTY RESEARCH

### [\*\*Brent Woodfill Lends Expertise to Expedition Unknown TV Show\*\*](#)



Professor Brent Woodfill expanded his audience this fall to teach his ground breaking archeology work on an episode of the popular cable show, [“Expedition Unknown.”](#) In the episode entitled “Lost City of the White Jaguar,” Woodfill embarks on a riveting expedition to uncover the secrets of a lost Mayan city, Sak B’alam. The city was founded more than 400 years ago by the Lacandon Maya, one of several Indigenous groups in southern Mexico and Central America who resisted Spanish colonial rule for centuries. The episode, available for streaming on Max and Paramount+, promises viewers an immersive journey into the heart of Mayan civilization as Woodfill seeks to unravel the mysteries surrounding Sak B’alam.

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## [A Message from the Alumni Director](#)



How is 2023 already coming to an end? What a year! The Alumni Association hosted over 30 events both on campus and across the Southeast with over 1,300 alumni attending those events. We love seeing our alumni at events, and we hope to see you in 2024! Need a New Year's resolution? Resolve to get involved with Winthrop! Find out how to do that [here](#).

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*The mission of the Alumni Association is to honor the traditions and values of Winthrop University through the engagement of alumni worldwide.*

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