



June 2022



Welcome, President Edward Serna and Family

On July 1, Edward Serna will become Winthrop's 12th president. A member of the Winthrop Class of 2002, Serna most recently served as president of the University of Maine Farmington. He and his wife, Lauren, along with daughters Caroline and Anna Kate, and dog Cooper, have spent time settling into the President's House on campus. Serna noted that he is excited to be back on campus after 20 years. "The opportunity to return to a campus community that made me feel I belonged, set me on a course for success, and made a profound difference in my life is truly a blessing. I am eager to work alongside the Winthrop community to set a strong course for Winthrop's future, and I look forward to

engaging with the surrounding communities to tell the Winthrop story,” he said.
[Get to know Serna and his family.](#)



Chuck Rey Named Athletic Director

During a June 24 meeting, the Winthrop Board of Trustees approved Interim President George Hynd’s recommendation to appoint Chuck Rey as the university’s athletic director. Rey has been serving in the interim athletic director role since December 2021. Rey will continue to oversee 17 Division I sports and a department that has set new records for departmental cumulative grade point average (GPA) each year since 2016-17, including a record-high 3.35 mark by the student-athlete population for the 2020-21 academic year. [Read More>>](#)



Peter Judge Selected as Interim Provost

Peter Judge, a professor emeritus of religious studies, will return to Winthrop as interim provost. He will begin his appointment on July 1 when current Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Adrienne McCormick departs for a new job as provost at the University of Redlands in California. He will remain in

the position for a year or until a permanent successor is named. Judge joined the Winthrop faculty in 1999 and served as chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, 2006-21, interim chair of the Department of Mass Communication, 2015-16, and as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 2011-13. [Read More>>](#)



Karen Oremus Named Interim Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts

Karen Oremus, chair of the [Department of Fine Arts](#), has been named interim dean of the university's [College of Visual and Performing Arts](#), effective July 1. Former College Dean Jeff Bellantoni accepted the position of dean of the School of Media, Culture, and Design at Woodbury University in Burbank, California.

Oremus was selected for the interim role based on her leadership qualities, involvement in international education and accreditation, experience with program building and assessment, fundraising, and community engagement.

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Andrew Besmer Chosen as 2022-23 Thompson Scholar

Andrew Besmer, an associate professor of computer science, has been chosen as the 2022-23 Thompson Scholar. The monetary award, generated through the Robert and Norma Thompson Endowment, which was established during the university's first capital campaign, is given to support work on projects that strengthen the academic, intellectual and co-curricular life of the university. Besmer plans to use this time to restart the hack-a-thon computing competitions that he coordinated before the COVID pandemic started. [Read More>>](#)



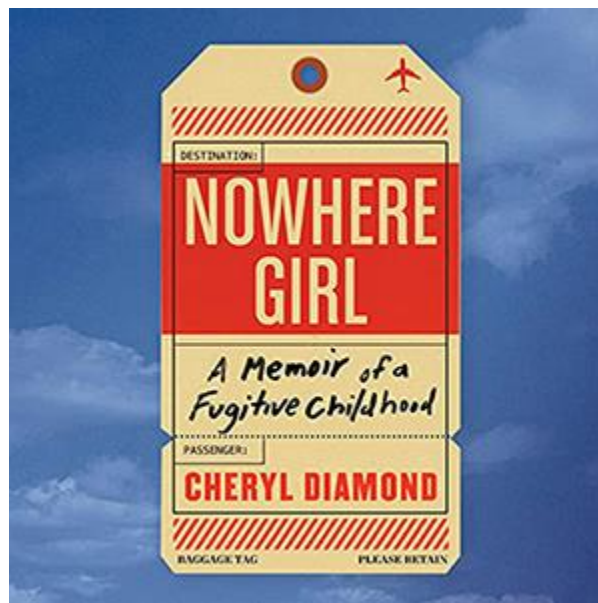
Winning Homecoming 2022 T-shirt Design Revealed

Congratulations to Adrienne Houston Bryson '16, '17, who designed the winning entry for this year's Homecoming T-shirt. Homecoming T-shirts are \$20 and will be available for purchase Aug. 1-Oct. 10 via the [Homecoming website](#) so that alumni can wear the shirts on campus during Homecoming and Reunion events, Nov. 7-12. Homecoming T-shirts purchased after Oct. 10 will be received after Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. Please purchase your shirt and plan to wear it to Homecoming and Reunion this November!



A Message from the Alumni Director

We want to celebrate our alumni! Let us know what's been happening in your life. Share your news, events and personal milestones by [submitting a class note](#). Also, are you looking to get involved as an alumni volunteer? The Alumni Association has several opportunities available! [Learn More>>](#)



Featured Event: Virtual Book Club Live Author Talk

Join the [Virtual Alumni Book Club](#) for a Live Author Talk with Cheryl Diamond, author of the current Virtual Alumni Book Club book, "Nowhere Girl: A Memoir of a Fugitive Childhood," on Thursday, July 21, at 2 p.m. EDT. In what is sure to be a fascinating conversation, Diamond will provide unique insights into her compelling memoir, writing process and atypical life story. To submit specific questions you would like to ask her, share them in the [online forum](#). [Register](#) to watch the event live or receive a unique link to access the recording after the

event. If you have any questions about the Author Talk, please e-mail info@pbc.guru.



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