



WINTHROP INSIDER

YOUR MONTHLY UNIVERSITY UPDATE

July 2021

CONVOCATION TO KICK OFF 136TH ACADEMIC YEAR



Winthrop's 136th academic year will begin with the Aug. 23 Convocation ceremony. The ceremony serves as the official freshman class welcome into the Winthrop family of learn-

ers. This year's Convocation will be held at the Winthrop Coliseum at 11 a.m. Students will hear greetings and remarks from various campus and community leaders.

\$20M PARTNERSHIP TO EXPAND ARTS LEARNING INITIATIVES

Over the next three years, Winthrop will receive part of \$20 million in funding for arts-based learning programs. The funds will support the university's Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Project, which aims to increase and develop arts education in underserved communities.

Directed by Kim Wilson '92, the ABC Project is housed in the College of Visual and Performing Arts and currently serves about 44,000 students in 74 schools.

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: JENNIFER BELK

Jennifer Belk, a former Winthrop professor, hopes a new coworking community will continue to help connect Winthrop graduates to the local entrepreneurial community. Belk opened LOOM Coworking, Gallery and Event Space in 2016, based on a business incubator concept.



The idea for a coworking space started out in the basement of Dinkins Hall eight years ago as she tasked her class with designing an “adult student union” for local entrepreneurs, students and non-profits. Belk was interested in developing a space where people of all ages could come to seek educational and personal resources, and connect with other individuals with interests like theirs.

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HUMAN NUTRITION DEPT. FINALIST IN NATIONAL COMPETITION



The human nutrition department wants to fight food insecurity and needs your help obtaining a \$20,000 grant through the siggi's starters program. The grant would help the campus

community by providing more opportunities for nutrition and education. [Vote](#) for the department's grant proposal by Aug. 3.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

We are proud to welcome our new officer slate for the Alumni Association Executive Board! Byron Putman '94 will serve a second term as president, Scott Melton '04 will serve a second term as president-elect and Pat Plexico Boutwell '84 will serve a first term



as secretary. Did you know there are still some additional ways for alumni to take on leadership roles with the university?

We are accepting applications for a candidate to serve as an alumni representative to the Board of Trustees. In early 2022, the Alumni Association will hold an election to fill one seat for a six-year term beginning July 1, 2022.

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WINTHROP TO OFFER CYBERSECURITY DEGREE STARTING THIS FALL

With the high demand for cybersecurity expertise, Winthrop has developed a pathway to help meet the demand for more skilled workers

Starting this fall, the Department of Computer Science and Quantitative Methods will begin offering a Bachelor of Science degree in cybersecurity. Department Chair Steve Dannelly said the content of the degree is based on curriculum recommendations from the U.S. National Security Agency. Andrew Besmer, an associate professor of computer science who conducts research on cybersecurity and worked in security at Google, is leading the development of this new degree program.

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FEATURED EVENT: GATHER GREENVILLE

The Upstate Young Alumni Council is ready to take things outside again. The council will host a social gathering Thursday, Aug. 5, at 5:30 p.m. at [Gather Greenville](#) for food and cocktails on behalf of the Winthrop Alumni Association. Join Upstate Young Alumni Council leaders Byron McCall '13, Faith Murray '18 and Breonica Robinson '19. [Register by Tuesday, Aug. 3.](#) Alumni are encouraged to wear masks and practice social distancing. Wear your garnet and gold to show your Winthrop pride.

GATHER
GVL  S.C.



VIRAL SENSATION, ALUMNUS WOWS JUDGES IN TV TALENT COMPETITION



Viral sensation Ray Singleton '11, '14 won over the America's Got Talent judges during his live audition on July 13. Singleton dedicated the performance to his wife, Roslyn, a cancer survivor. So far, the audition has received 5 million views after show host Terry Crews shared it on Facebook. Singleton is moving on to the next round of the competition. [Watch his audition video.](#) America's Got Talent returns with new episodes on Aug. 10 at 8 p.m. (EST) on NBC.