

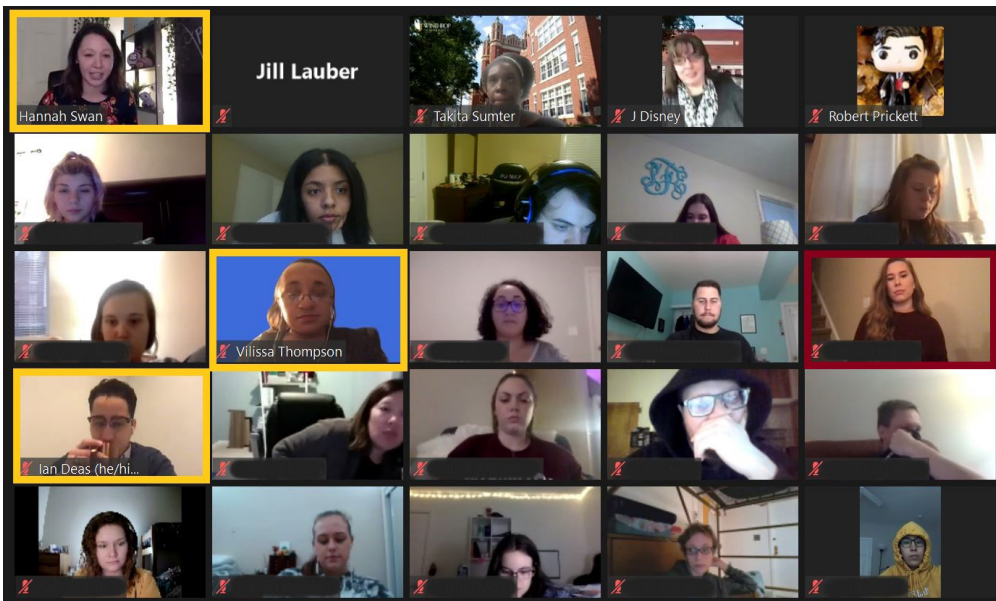
C.A.S.E. STUDIES

Be a gold star! Donate today!



Life After WU: Alumni Spotlight

On March 16, more than 90 students, faculty, staff, and alumni came together via Zoom to hear from three CAS alumni about their post-graduation experiences and how they navigated their careers during the global pandemic. The panelists shared information about their current jobs, the steps they took to get there, the people and experiences that inspired and supported them, and the ways that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted both their current jobs and their overall career paths. *See page 2 for more about this event!*



Dual Credit Partnership with Rock Hill Schools

On June 16, Winthrop Interim President George Hynd and Rock Hill Schools Superintendent Bill Cook signed a Memorandum of Agreement that will allow high school students to take advanced courses in Spanish and French while simultaneously earning high school and college credit. The signing event was held at the Little Chapel on Winthrop's campus, and featured remarks from students who intend to enroll in the program.

See a video about the event [here](#), and learn more about dual credit and dual enrollment [here](#).



Life After WU: Panelist Bios



Vilissa Thompson '08, '12

*B.A. Psychology, Winthrop
M.S.W., Winthrop University
Founder and CEO, Ramp Your Voice!*

Vilissa Thompson is a licensed master social worker from Winnsboro, South Carolina. Vilissa is the Founder & CEO of Ramp Your Voice!, an organization focused on promoting self-advocacy and strengthening empowerment among disabled people.



Hannah Swan '14

*B.S. Mathematics, Winthrop
M.S., University of Utah
Software Engineer, Walt Disney Animation Studios*

Hannah Swan is a software engineer at Walt Disney Animation Studios, working with the Character Performance and Authoring team on developing tools for the animators. She has worked on “Ralph Breaks the Internet,” “Frozen 2,” and “Raya and the Last Dragon.” *Hannah’s comments represented herself; she is not a Disney spokesperson.*



Ian Deas '15

*B.S. Biology, Winthrop
M.S.Ed., University of Pennsylvania
Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Princeton University*

Ian Deas is a native of Charleston, South Carolina. He graduated from Winthrop University with a B.S. in biology and served as the student trustee and student body president. In his current role at Princeton University, he oversees the development, implementation, and assessment of policies and systems that guide student organizations.

Here’s what students said they liked about the event...

“Hearing about how alumni have used their degrees has helped me see that you do not have to do one specific thing to match your degree.”

“{I enjoyed} learning about how they got into the jobs they are in today and what they were doing at WU to get there.”

“I enjoyed hearing more from Winthrop graduates, specifically on how to navigate through difficult times such as a pandemic.”

“{It was interesting} to see how the speakers’ lives were impacted by Winthrop and how it led them to follow their dream careers.”

“I love the advice about learning to fail to succeed. Not everything has to be so fast paced, it is okay to slow down and enjoy the things that you deal with, but also letting things happen as they come.”

“They seemed very relatable in that they’ve been through tough times and great times in college and that the path you think you’re on will change ... it gave me lots of hope about the future after college.”

Are you interested in participating in a future alumni panel, or do you know someone else who might be?

Let us know!

Students and Faculty in the News

McKenzie Bennett has been selected as the recipient of a [2021 National Science Foundation \(NSF\) Graduate Research Fellowship Program \(GRFP\) fellowship](#) to continue her studies surrounding voting rights for marginalized groups. Bennett is from Rock Hill, South Carolina, and is one of only six social science – public policy recipients chosen in the country for the prestigious fellowship. Bennett graduated in May with a political science major and a psychology minor and will seek a Ph.D. in political science at the University of Notre Dame.



See the full press release [here](#).

Clara Benson, a psychology major from Charleston, South Carolina, created the nonprofit [Community Resources for Enduring Wellness \(CREW\)](#) in June 2020 out of a need for accessible, equitable and welcoming public health resources within underserved communities in South Carolina. Shortly after founding the nonprofit, Benson received a \$40,000 grant from the Southern Power Fund through the Highlander Research and Education Center. CREW’s first major and ongoing initiative is the [Black Wellness Project](#), an online resource for people to find Black health and wellness professionals across the state.



See the full press release [here](#).

Katrina Gainey, a senior social work major, was named the BSW Student of the Year by the [South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers \(SC-NASW\)](#). After completing her undergraduate degree this spring, Gainey plans to earn an M.S.W. In addition, SC-NASW named **Anthony Hill**, chair of the Department of Social Work, as their Social Worker of the Year. Hill joined the Winthrop community in 2018, and his research areas include adolescent risk and resilience and financial social work.

See the full press release [here](#).

Wanda Koszewski, chair of the Department of Human Nutrition, was named S.C. Outstanding Dietitian of the Year by the South Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Dr. Koszewski joined the Winthrop community in 2015. Her research areas include nutritional resiliency and food insecurity.



See the full press release [here](#).

Takita Sumter, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, was named a fellow of the [American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology \(ASBMB\)](#). The ASBMB Fellows Program is intended to recognize members who have made outstanding contributions to the field through their research, teaching and mentoring, or other forms of service. Sumter joined the Winthrop community in 2004.



See the full press release [here](#).

Elizabeth Weikle, adjunct faculty in the Department of Human Nutrition, was confirmed this spring by the S.C. Medical Affairs Committee as a member of the [S.C. Panel for Dietetics](#). This panel licenses and regulates licensed individuals engaged in the practice of dietetics, investigates complaints, and conducts hearings.



Weikle was also selected as the 2021 Outstanding Dietetics Educator. She has been teaching at Winthrop since 1992.

See the full press release [here](#).

In a recent article about Purdue University’s Minority Engineering Program, *Chemical & Engineering News (C&EN)* cited **Winthrop’s Eagle STEM Scholars Program** as being “among the most notable” for supporting underrepresented minorities in STEM, helping students both to graduate and to continue into successful science careers.

Read the full article [here](#).