

[CASE STUDIES]

The College of Arts and Sciences E-Newsletter

Winthrop African American Studies Minor Celebrates 30th Anniversary



Dr Dorothy Perry Thompson

Created in 1992 by the late Dr. Dorothy Perry Thompson, the Winthrop African American Studies Program celebrated its 30th anniversary this February.

The minor allows students to familiarize themselves with the African-American experience and the accomplishments of African Americans from multiple perspectives, including historical, scientific, literary, and social. The program's path was first paved by Dr. Cynthia Roddey — Winthrop's first African American student— and as part of the celebration, three of Winthrop's first four African American students, including Dr. Cynthia Roddey, Delores Johnson Hurt, and Sue Frances Meriwether Steed, returned to the college and spoke to current students. Winthrop's oldest African-American student organization, the Association of Ebonites, also celebrated the 30th anniversary by co-hosting the Sankofa banquet in April in conjunction with the African-American Studies Program.

"Considering the vast contributions of African Americans in this country is really important for us as Citizens to understand the African American experience as a part of the American experience."

-Dr Jennifer Dixon-McKnight

More information in [Winthrop News](#)

World's Hottest Pepper Confirmed in Winthrop Labs

After nearly ten years, countless cross breeding efforts, and specimen testing in Winthrop chemistry labs, *Pepper X* has been declared the world's hottest chili pepper!



The pepper is grown locally by Ed Currie, owner of Puckerbutt Pepper Company in Fort Mill. Dr. Cliff Calloway, professor of chemistry, and his team of students generated the experimental HPLC data needed to offer a standard measure of Pepper X's spiciness. They determined that Pepper X is "hotter" than the previous world record holder, the Carolina Reaper. The heat of the pepper is measured in its SHU: Scoville Heat Unit; Dr. Calloway and his students obtained chromatography (HPLC) results that yielded a reading of about 2.7 million Scoville heat units for Pepper X.

The previous world record holder, The Carolina Reaper, was also grown by Currie and examined by Dr. Calloway and his team. By contrast, it yielded 1.64 million SHUs, far more than a jalapeno, which is no more than 8000 SHUs. Guinness World Records officially declared Pepper X as "World's Hottest."

Dr. Calloway is an active, published researcher who has earned the Winthrop Distinguished Professor Award and been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation among others and collaborates with researchers at Wake Forest University, Western Carolina University, and the University of So Paulo, Brazil.

You can buy Pepper X products [here](#):

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Rachel Richardson '15
BA, Mass Communication

Multi-Media Journalist and Weekend Anchor at LEX18 in Lexington, KY

Rachel has fond memories of her time at Winthrop and as a mass communication major. She feels her college experience prepared her for her career by creating an immersive environment that extended beyond the classroom and taught her skills she'd use in the field and as a producer. She gained a comprehensive understanding of how a newsroom works and its many working parts and responsibilities.

She remembers faculty being accessible and inviting. She particularly appreciated the guidance of Mark Nortz who was frank and honest about the profession and its realities. The department and college as a whole felt like a supportive, tight-knit environment with opportunities for one-on-one interactions. Rachel is also happy to see how her peers have progressed.

Beyond her major, Winthrop provided opportunities to learn leadership skills and time management which is crucial in her field. A newsroom is a competitive environment that requires the skills of organized time, a clear confident voice, and a strong mindset. She applied many skills from successfully navigating college life.

Rachel can be seen on WLEX-18: www.lex18.com/

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Adolphus Belk, Jr.
New Director of
John C. West Forum
on Politics and Policy

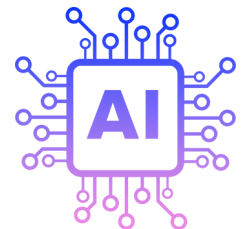
The John C. West Forum on Politics and Policy at Winthrop empowers the campus community and the region at large by hosting lectures and events that inform the public and encourage civic participation.

Dr. Belk, professor of political science, takes the lead this election year as director of the West Forum as the University maintains its status as a "Voter Friendly Campus." The forum is further tasked with hosting candidates and talks on topics that are related to this year's election. Their presidential elections initiative engages students and the larger community by promoting voter engagement. The forum will be particularly busy this election year.

Professor Belk adds this appointment to his faculty achievements at Winthrop: The James Pinckney Kinard Award in Teaching, Thompson Scholar, Outstanding Junior Professor, and Distinguished Professor, as well as an author whose work is respected in his discipline and well beyond.

Press release [here!](#)

Hot Topic: Artificial Intelligence at WU



AI is, according to Dr. Kristin Abernathy, chair of the Department of Mathematics, relevant to nearly every field, and essentially means use of the data gathered over the past several decades to make decisions. The decisions are made by computers and programs designed to take in and make use of the data—and Winthrop's data science program allows students to effectively take on this field. Winthrop has recently received the ADAPT-SC grant from the National Science Foundation to further education in AI. The grant, which is a collaboration between faculty in chemistry, math, biology and computer science, helps fund scholarship opportunities to prospective students and promotes the impact that data science (DSCI) has on other disciplines.

Classes in this new data science program include classes on machine learning, and an introduction to data science, both of which are relevant to AI. Students can also join the interest organization created for those interested in data science, currently known as DSML (data science and machine learning group) and shortly to be re-christened SMCS (seminar on mathematics and computer science).

Regional Medievalist Conference Impresses Scholars

As the leaves began to turn along Alumni Drive, medieval scholars from throughout the region gathered at Winthrop for the 2023 Southeastern Medieval Association (SEMA) conference held Oct.12-14. The broad central theme of "Construction and Reconstruction" allowed for participants from a variety of humanities-based disciplines to present their work in literature, hagiography, architecture, and also social race and gender studies.

More than 200 participants joined Winthrop faculty, students, and staff who since spring had carefully planned the activities, space logistics, and itinerary that made the conference a success. Highlighted speakers include: Dr. Jehangir Malegam, associate professor of history at Duke University giving a plenary presentation, "Medieval Sound Worlds: What Acoustic Communities Can Teach Us." and Dr. Jaqueline Jung, professor of history of art from Yale University gave a talk on "Constructions of Race in the Gothic Arts of France and Germany: Cases of Complexity and Paradox."

Several sources reported that visitors were impressed by the beauty of the campus and it exceeded expectations. The SEMA conference elevated the profile of the college and Winthrop as a whole as an academic hub for excellence and scholarly inquiry.

More information [here](#).

Thank You Emeriti Scholars

Keep up with CAS!



2023
HOMECOMING

Join us for a colloquium
celebrating three outstanding
Emeritus faculty.

Encore

**DISTINGUISHED
LECTURES**

NOV. 10, 2023
KINARD AUDITORIUM
KINARD HALL 018

GUY REEL

Professor Emeritus
of Mass Communication
2:15 p.m.

JANICE CHISM

Professor Emeritus
of Biology
3 p.m.

DONALD RAKESTRAW

Professor Emeritus of
History
3:45 p.m.



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