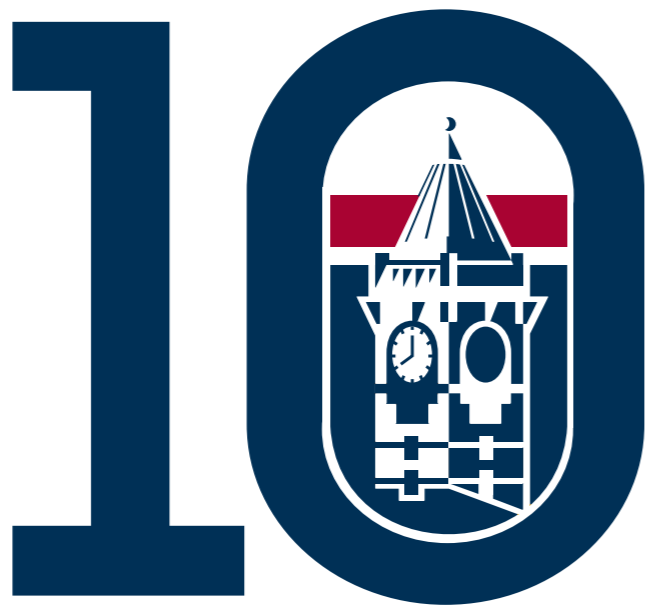




SOCIAL WORK

E-NEWSLETTER
Fall 2016
Issue 10



Years of Excellence

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK



Message from the Department Chair

Deana F. Morrow, Ph.D., LPC, LCSW, LISW-CP, ACSW



Greetings students, faculty, alumni, and friends of Winthrop Social Work! Winthrop University has offered nationally accredited social work education since 1974 when our BSW program was initially accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. That program continues to thrive today with its largest enrollment in more than a decade. We added an accredited MSW program in 2006 and this edition of our newsletter is dedicated to celebrating our first decade of MSW education.

Under the leadership of former President Anthony DiGiorgio, former Dean (now Provost) Debra Boyd, and former Department Chair Ron Green, Winthrop launched an MSW program in August of 2006. Over the course of our first decade of graduate social work education, MSW student enrollment has grown by more than 800%. The MSW program is now among the largest graduate programs at Winthrop University. The Department consisted of seven faculty members when we welcomed our inaugural MSW full-time and weekend cohorts in fall 2006. Our faculty size has increased to eleven today, and we are presently recruiting for our twelfth new faculty position.

We have significantly revised the original empowerment specialization curricula in order to position the program at the cutting edge of social work education and professional practice. The superb academic quality of the MSW program has been affirmed and validated by our national ranking in GraduatePrograms.com for the past two years. This year's ranking highlighted quality of instruction, degree satisfaction among alumni, career advising, student diversity, and networking opportunities as strengths of the Winthrop MSW program.

The success of the MSW program—and all of Winthrop Social Work—is because of the shared passion and commitment of highly talented faculty, students, alumni, and friends within a vibrant University community that values professional programs, service to others, and civic engagement. We are also supported by a Community Advisory Committee of social work leaders who guide us in continually integrating social work education and real world practice. We are further galvanized by a social work practice community that provides us with more than 300 field internship sites for students. We take great pride in the

achievements of our graduates, some of whom have gone on to doctoral study and others who are facilitating positive change in the lives of clients and communities in the Carolinas and across the United States.

Excellence matters here at Winthrop Social Work. Please spread the word as we continue to build on this enduring tradition. Welcome to our fall 2016 newsletter. Enjoy.

Deana F. Morrow



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MSW Program Timeline

August 2006

The MSW program begins with professors **Brent Cagle, Ph.D.**; **Sue Lyman, Ph.D.**; **Ameda Manetta, Ph.D.**; **Wilhelmina Rembert, Ph.D.**; **Wendy Sellers, Ph.D.**; **Linda Ashley, MSW**, field director; **Deana Morrow, Ph.D.**, weekend program director; and **Ron Green, J.D.**, department chair.

The MSW program welcomes the first full-time and weekend traditional program cohorts.

January 2007

The Department of Social Work welcomes Assistant Field Director & Instructor **Jackie Jones-Nickens, MSW**.

May 2007

Wilhelmina Rembert, Ph.D. retires after more than 27 years of service at Winthrop University.

August 2007

The MSW program welcomes the first full-time advanced standing cohort.

Deana Morrow, Ph.D., becomes graduate program director.

The Department of Social Work welcomes Assistant Professor **Cynthia Forrest, Ph.D.**

May 2008

The inaugural full-time MSW cohort graduates!

May 2009

The inaugural weekend MSW program cohort graduates!

August 2009

The Department of Social Work welcomes Assistant Professor **Kareema Gray, Ph.D.**

August 2010

The Department of Social Work welcomes Assistant Field Director **Jennifer McDaniel, LMSW**.

August 2011

Professor Ron Green, J.D., retires as department chair.
Deana Morrow, Ph.D., becomes the department chair.
Sue Lyman, Ph.D., becomes graduate program director.

August 2013

The Department of Social Work welcomes Assistant Professors **Monique Constance-Huggins, Ph.D.**, and **Duane Neff, Ph.D.**

May 2014

Linda Ashley, LMSW, retires after eight years of service at Winthrop.
Sue Lyman, Ph.D., retires after 16 years of service at Winthrop.
Ameda Manetta, Ph.D., retires after 16 years of service at Winthrop.
Kareema Gray, Ph.D., becomes graduate program director.

August 2014

Jennifer McDaniel, LMSW, becomes field director.
The Department of Social Work welcomes Associate Field Director **Perry Owen, MSW**.
The Department of Social Work welcomes Assistant Professor **Allison Gibson, Ph.D.**
The MSW program welcomes the first Weekend Advanced Standing cohort.

August 2015

The Department of Social Work welcomes Assistant Professor **Kori Bloomquist, Ph.D.**

August 2016

The Department of Social Work welcomes MSW Admissions Coordinator & Instructor **ZaDonna Slay, MSW**

What do you recall as the best part or fondest memory from your time in the Winthrop MSW program?

“The privilege walk was the fondest memory that I have as a student. I believe that the walk helped unite individuals based on shared privilege and/or shared oppression. One thing that I learned about that exercise is that even within the same race, people can have very different experiences as it relates to privilege and oppression. As a society, it is not the job of others to argue about whether or not it exists. The point is to acknowledge even the perception of “oppression” and seek to change it.”

- **Marika Dillard, MSW '15**

“The friendships made during my time in the MSW is my fondest memory. Going through the weekend program with a group of wonderful women really made my time at Winthrop enjoyable and worthwhile. I also remember the caring faculty of the program and how they spent their weekends helping us succeed. Another memory I’ll never forget is going to Nicaragua with Dr. Campbell and some classmates. The experience changed my life and opened my eyes to a whole new world.”

- **Ashley Baker, MSW '11**

“I have a lot of good memories from Winthrop, but one image that comes to mind is the first day I walked to class. I was making the INCREDIBLY LONG trek from the parking lot and it gave me time to think about what I wanted and what I had done before I made the leap of faith to apply for the MSW program. I am an older student (ahem, post-traditional) and it was a risky thing for me to go back to school... yet, the minute I walked past the front doors, I knew I was supposed to be there. I knew I would succeed. I knew I was in the exact place I was supposed to “be.” That is my fondest remembrance: the way I was allowed to “be” and “become.”

- **Sara J. English, MSW '14**

“The internships. Being able to work in the community while still in school. Putting book knowledge to work.”

- **Lauri Kaufman, MSW '15**

Catching Up with Friends

In celebrating 10 years of the MSW program, we thought it would be nice to catch up with three of our retired faculty who played a key role in the program's development and success: Sue Lyman, Ph.D.; Ameda Manetta, Ph.D.; and Linda Ashley, LMSW.

How and when did the conversation start regarding the establishment of an MSW program at Winthrop? What were some of your initial feelings around starting an MSW program?

Sue Lyman, Ph.D., joined the social work faculty in 1998. Lyman recalled that former Department Chair Ron Green, J.D., had established an initial plan for an MSW program at Winthrop before she was even hired, and Lyman was specifically recruited to join the faculty because of her previous experience with SUNY Albany's MSW program. A lot of hard work was shared between a small, five person faculty between 1998 and 2003 when it finally looked as if the MSW program would become a reality. Lyman shared "it was long and diligent work to get State, University, and CSWE approval for the program. There were times when we weren't sure and it was challenging, but we also had a lot of encouragement and support from key administrators such as former Winthrop President Anthony DiGiorgio, and former Vice President Tom Moore, Ph.D."

Ameda Manetta, Ph.D., also came to Winthrop in 1998. Manetta had been a part of the MSW accreditation process at a university in Texas, so she, too, was sought out by Green for the purpose of helping bring an MSW program to Winthrop. Manetta recalled that "an MSW program at Winthrop was part of their conversations on day one." Manetta shared that "there was a lot of 'behind the scenes work' for many years to develop the program." This included attending graduate faculty meetings to help them gain insight about graduate curriculum development, and conducting research on empowerment theory to help prove its credibility as a concentration. Manetta stated that she was "always positive and supportive of the plan to start an MSW program at Winthrop."

Linda Ashley, LMSW, was hired in 2006 to serve as the department's first MSW field director. Having been a long-time supporter of an MSW program being established at Winthrop, Ashley heard the news of the program's approval directly from former Winthrop President Anthony DiGiorgio, Ph.D., while attending an athletic event. At the time of Ashley's

hire, all of the preliminary work to start the MSW program had been completed, and she was brought in to develop the field program. Ashley recalled that she initially oversaw both the BSW and MSW field programs, and she had to establish field policies, develop field manuals, and create internships for the first MSW cohort.

How did the empowerment perspective come about? What do you think about it in today's practice world?

Lyman explained that the perspective was around from the very beginning stages of the program's development. She described that empowerment "is embedded in social work history, and a part of social work's values, and that allows for it to still be relevant to social work practice today." And while the empowerment perspective did not change, Lyman states that the program's "willingness to be flexible and adjust programming to best meet students' needs and the needs of the practice community is one reason the program has been so successful."

Manetta described the shift that was happening in the late 1990s towards more strengths-based social work practice. During that time, social work practitioners were being trained to no longer start with problem identification, but instead work with clients to set goals, focusing on strengths and abilities versus deficits and barriers to overcome. Manetta explained that this shift in practice "definitely had an influence in their creation of the empowerment concentration at Winthrop, and it continues to be very relevant today."

Ashley shared that the empowerment perspective was written in the original accreditation proposal to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), so it always guided the work she did in field. According to Ashley, "that was an easy idea to buy into since I believe it is the basis of really good social work practice, and I believe it is a viable theory in today's practice."

Continued on page 3



FIRST MSW full-time cohort class of 2008



**MSW full-time cohort class of 2012
(with faculty)**



MSW weekend cohort class of 2013

Catching Up with Friends (continued)

What were some of your most memorable moments from your time with Winthrop's MSW program?

It was easy to know that Lyman was smiling on the other end of the phone as she gave me her quick reply to this question: "graduations and hugging the students as they came down the line." And yes, our department continues to be well-known for slowing down the graduation recessional thanks to this tradition promoted by Lyman. Lyman shared that she "loved seeing the growth in students from their admission to graduation; they would exceed her expectations and step up to accomplish more than they even knew they could."

Manetta also recalled the graduation ceremonies as her most memorable moments from Winthrop. Manetta stated, "I always liked watching the students walk across the stage." During her 16 years at Winthrop, Manetta only missed one graduation ceremony when she attended her daughter's own MSW graduation, and she never missed an MSW graduation ceremony during the eight years she taught in the program.

"One of my most stand-out memories was my first trip down the Coliseum halls to hug that first class of MSW students just before graduation," Ashley shared. She also recalled how "brave" those first MSW students were to enter into the program with accreditation pending, and how excited they all were when full accreditation was approved. However, Ashley described her "crowning moment" as the creation of the [Linda Ashley scholarship](#) for non-traditional students, which will become endowed upon her death. Ashley explained that "getting to help others, even in a small way, fills my heart with



Left: Sue Lyman, Ph.D.

Right: Linda Ashley, LMSW (right) with her mother Harriet (left)

joy and will in perpetuity; what more can a person ask of her life."

What are you doing now that you've retired from Winthrop?

"Living the dream" was Lyman's simple reply. Lyman, her husband, Scott, and their beloved fur babies spend their time traveling in their motor home between their beach houses in Canada and North Carolina, visiting family and friends along the way.

Manetta is still reading and editing academic papers on a regular basis! She reviews article and journal entries for former colleagues, offering editing suggestions and overall feedback to assist them with their publication efforts. In addition, she enjoys spending her days outside gardening in her backyard.

Ashley has moved to Florida to be closer to her family, including her 96-year-old mother who she describes as "sharp as a tack and always ready to go." Forever a social worker, Ashley is volunteering with a program called Honoring Choices to assist seniors with stating their final wishes and get their legal documents in order. She will begin volunteering with hospice soon and has joined a committee within her retirement community to oversee the building of a new rehab-nursing facility, with the goal to make it a more home-like environment, something that "makes my heart sing," said Ashley.



How has your Winthrop MSW education benefitted you?

"My social work education has given me the tools and ability to provide diagnostic and clinical therapy, a dream I've always held. A part from being able to act as a clinician, the social work program instilled in me a passion for social justice that I had only begun to explore before I entered into the program. I find myself consistently advocating not only in my work life but in my personal as well."

- Cody Weaver, LCSW '12

"I notice now that a lot of trainings/ conferences that I attend reference cases, examples, lessons that we learned at Winthrop and I often feel ahead of the game compared to other attendees."

- Celia Walpole, MSW '16

"I have really shifted my thinking on some long-ago learned beliefs and opinions I've held, and it was the challenge of this program that really shaped me into a different person than when I started."

- Melinda Plue, LCSW-A '15

"It really pushed me out of my comfort zone. Made me into a very well-rounded social worker, able to work with diverse populations rather than limiting my focus."

- Mary Stevenson, LMSW '15

"It allowed me a wider range of professional opportunities and experiences, but also gave me a solid basis in social work practice both on the micro and macro level, the elements of which I use daily even in the higher education setting!"

- Kristine Jones, MSW '13

"My professional and personal developments has been astounding. I have grown leaps and bounds and acquire the skills to consider all factors contributing to a situation and how to accurately assess and recommend appropriate interventions for meaningful outcomes. The empowerment focus throughout the program has influenced my overall approach to all situations, personally and professionally."

- Heather Chavis, LCSW-A '15

Alumni Spotlight: Alyssa Muskovin, BSW '13



By: Jennifer McDaniel

Walking into the York County office of South Carolina Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole Services doesn't quite feel the same as when I enter into most of the social service agencies we work with to provide internships for our students. I have to pass through a metal detector and most of the employees there have a gun holstered on their side; one would think that this agency might be best suited for a student getting a degree in criminal justice instead of social work, but that is simply not the case with Bachelor of Social Work alumna Alyssa Muskovin working as an agent. Alyssa graduated from Winthrop's BSW program in May 2013. A young mother, standing just above five feet tall with a very soft-spoken demeanor and having a social work degree, a career in law enforcement did not seem like an obvious choice at first, but it has certainly proven to be an excellent fit for Muskovin. Of course, one of the reasons this career has been a great fit, is Dwight Burns, Muskovin's supervisor and the Agent in charge of York County's office. Burns and Muskovin are quite the pair, drawing attention wherever they go with the obvious height difference among them (Burns is well over six feet and was a former college football player). However, they have a very important thing in common – they are both committed to making a difference in the lives of those they serve. Burns was extremely supportive when Muskovin agreed to serve as a field instructor. He attended the field orientation to learn more about social work education, and he continues to provide support to both Muskovin and our students – allowing them to be social workers within the criminal justice system, not just probation and parole officers.

One of the main reasons Burns hired Muskovin right after she completed her BSW degree was because of her evident passion to advocate for those in need. He was impressed with how she talked about serving homeless children while completing her internship with Clover School District. Burns shared, "I had lived in Clover for years and never even knew this homeless population existed until Muskovin brought it to my attention. I knew that she could use those skills of working to reach a challenging population and be effective in the work we do." In fact, within a month of being hired, Muskovin implemented the first community service project for the York County office. Muskovin explained that clients on probation or parole must show proof of their residency, an often challenging requirement for the clients who may not have employment or housing. However, clients can provide a receipt of a recent purchase to help prove their residency, so Muskovin decided to use that requirement to encourage clients to purchase a school item for local children in need. The project was a huge success! Clients were able to easily prove their residency, and they also felt good about giving to those in need, and of course, those who received the school supplies were very grateful for the help. The community service project Muskovin developed within one month of employment has been ongoing. It has brought the office state and national attention, and Burns shared that he gets calls all the time from other county directors wanting to know how to replicate such a program within their jurisdiction. For Muskovin, it was simply doing what she had been taught to do as a social worker – use critical thinking to address community needs and serve others.

Muskovin explained that "social work is in everything that I do; I start where my clients are and work to assist them in reaching their goals and improving their lives." Burns described Muskovin as a "change agent and community servant who wants to make a lasting positive impact on the community". He further explained that she "embodies the vision he has for his agency," and that is why she has been promoted to a supervisor role where she will now assist and train other agents to work with clients in the manner she does – with the respect and values held by a social worker.

Community Projects

Students Participate in University-Reservation Partnership with Catawba Indian Nation

Allison Gibson, Ph.D.

While classroom learning on cultural competence can prepare students for working with populations outside of their own cultural identity, research has demonstrated that immersion experiences can lead to enhanced professional learning. Student learning outcomes improve significantly when students are given the chance to interact with diverse populations in field settings. Further, such research activities have shown data collection projects enhance students' interpersonal skills.

This past summer 15 Winthrop University students partnered with Catawba Indian Nation to conduct a needs assessment evaluation with the Catawba Senior Center and Dr. Allison Gibson. During an in-depth training provided by the Department of Social Work and Catawba Senior Center, students learned about culturally-sensitive data collection, the Catawba Indian Nation culture and history, tribal government, and how to conduct biopsychosocial interviews. Students also had the opportunity to tour the Catawba Cultural Center.

Over the course of three weeks, student researchers went door-to-door across the reservation and surrounding York County community to interview senior tribal members about their health, well-being and social engagement to better understand their needs. Four-hundred total Catawba Indian Nation seniors were contacted during data collection by student researchers.

Upon completion of the project, students participated in an exit interview. Students stated that the experience enhanced their understanding of issues related to aging, furthered their understanding of research and program evaluation, improved their self-confidence in their ability to conduct home visits and facilitate biopsychosocial interviews, and challenged

some of their initial preconceptions about the Native American community prior to data collection. Student involvement in the project was possible due to funding support from the Catawba Senior Center, Winthrop University's Research Council, and Winthrop University's Graduate School.



“Champions for Children” Project A Family for EVERY child!

Marika' Dillard, MSW

The “Champions for Children” Project is a state-wide initiative spearheaded by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) that seeks to increase the number of foster and adoptive families across South Carolina. Under the leadership of Deana Morrow, Ph.D., and Kori Bloomquist, Ph.D., Winthrop University's Department of Social Work partnered with SCDSS to focus on planning and facilitating community-based events within Region II which includes York, Union, Lancaster, Fairfield, Kershaw, Richland, Lexington, and Chester counties. During the term of the project, Winthrop hosted and assisted with more than 40 recruitment and retention events. There are more than 4,000 children in South Carolina who are in foster care. Recent data shows that there is a need for at least 382 additional homes in just Region II. Studies have shown that children in foster care have experienced trauma and need support to heal. Being able to find a foster home in their community helps reduce the stress a child might experience with relocation. Individuals or couples can become licensed as foster parents and/or adoptive families. If you are interested in becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent, please visit www.scfamilies.org.

The Scoop on Your BSW Club

By: Yomira Rodriguez

The Winthrop Social Work Club has been busy this semester trying to fulfill its mission of helping the Winthrop and Rock Hill communities, providing volunteering opportunities to students, and connecting students across majors. In addition to volunteering twice a month at the Rock Hill Adult Enrichment Center, the Social Work Club also held special events each month.

In September, the Social Work Club enjoyed visits from the Social Work faculty. The Club appreciated spending time with the faculty of the Department of Social Work, and its new organizational advisor and Undergraduate Program Director Monique Constance-Huggins, Ph.D.

One of our most stimulating events in October was a discussion hosted in partnership with [WU Visible](#). Guest speakers Ross Chandler and Anthony Mims spoke about their experiences with police brutality in South Carolina.

In November, the Club partnered with York County Veterans Affairs and ReNu Housing to hold two events during National Homeless Awareness Week. The first event was a movie on homelessness, and the second was a community panel discussion. These events were intended to raise awareness about poverty and homelessness in our communities.

The Social Work Club is looking forward to the spring semester when it would continue to engage in projects that will help to address the needs in and around Rock Hill. The club will also be embarking on a project selling social work T-shirts. The club hopes that this project would not only allow it to raise funds to carry out its project but, more importantly, would demonstrate the strong pride in our beloved Social Work department.

Left: The Department of Social Work would like to offer congratulations to TyQuan Butler, BSW student, and Janay Reese, mass communication student, for being named 2016 Homecoming King & Queen. Pictured here with President and First Lady Mahony.

It's PB&J Time!

The Winthrop Master of Social Work Association (WMSWA) is currently collecting peanut butter and jelly for Guardian ad Litem of Gaston County. To promote the project, some of our MSW students (and faculty) completed a [mannequin challenge](#). If you wish to contribute to the collection, please deliver your PB&J donation to the collection box outside of Bancroft 136-A before January 12, 2017.

Winthrop Master of Social Work Association

**Elected Officers
for 2016-2017**

President- Virginia Link
Vice President- Elena Eckert
Secretary- Brittany Brown
Treasurer- Elizabeth Cline

#Up4theChallenge

The Department of Social Work is [#Up4theChallenge](#) to address the American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare's ([AASWSW](#)) [Grand Challenges for Social Work!](#) To promote awareness of the Grand Challenges, some of our students under the leadership of ZaDonna Slay, MSW, completed a [mannequin challenge](#).

BSW Club Officers Fall 2016

President- Yomira Rodriguez
Vice President- Sharon Cruz
Secretary- Lily Carter
Treasurer- Betty Green
Public Relations chair- Erica Johnson
Fundraiser Committttee Chair- Grace Holtzclaw
Connections Committee Chair- Shelby Anderson
Historian Committee Chair- Moyawna Olden

Congratulations to our BSW graduates!



Department News

Monique Constance-Huggins, Ph.D. BSW Program Director

The Department of Social Work is proud to announce Monique Constance-Huggins, Ph.D., has been named BSW program director. Since joining with the department in fall 2013, she has overseen several projects including partnering with assistant professor Duane Neff, Ph.D. and United Way of York County for a Community Needs Assessment. She has also established the department's Research & Practice (RAP) sessions where faculty and members of the community discuss their research and current events with students. Constance-Huggins will lead a study abroad trip this summer to St. Vincent where students will learn about social work in a developing country, community development, and poverty related issues. The department congratulates Constance-Huggins on her new appointment and looks forward to seeing the BSW program grow under her leadership.

ZaDonna Slay, MSW MSW Admissions Coordinator & Instructor

ZaDonna Slay joined the Department of Social Work as full-time MSW admissions coordinator and instructor in July. Slay earned her B.S.W. degree from Savannah State University and M.S.W degree from the University of South Carolina. Slay had recently worked as a temporary instructor and field liaison at Savannah State University. She has nearly 10 years experience in the field including working as a program & evaluation manager at Savannah Youth Futures Authority and executive director of Savannah/Chatham Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. She was selected for the Savannah State University Women's Leadership Conference Trailblazer Award in 2015 and was named in Generation Next: Savannah's under-40 Top 21 Rising Leaders in Savannah Magazine and Business in Savannah. We look forward to seeing how her knowledge and expertise will benefit our students and community!



Research and Practice (RAP) Sessions Spring 2017

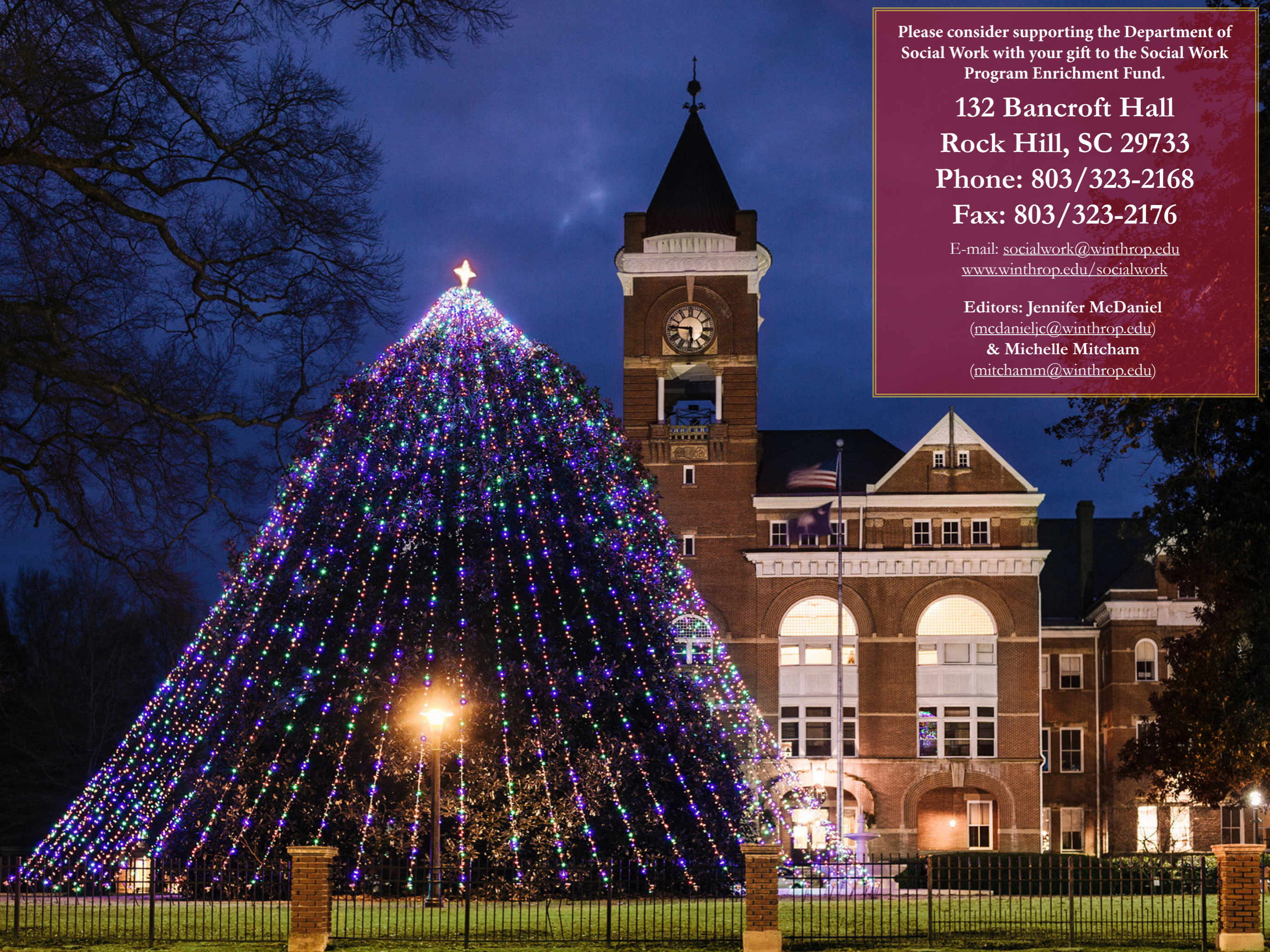
Join us for the Spring 2017 RAP sessions. These sessions provide a stimulating environment for you to learn about, and support faculty and student research. The research topics are exciting and draw attention to critical social issues. The next RAP sessions will be **February 2 in Owens 102** and **March 9 in Owens G01**.

Morrow appointed to CSWE Commission on Accreditation

The Department of Social Work congratulates department chair, Deana Morrow, Ph.D., on her appointment to the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Commission on Accreditation. The commission is responsible for ensuring quality in social work education through accreditation of more than 750 social work programs in the United States.

Winthrop MSW Program Ranked Nationally





Please consider supporting the Department of
Social Work with your gift to the Social Work
Program Enrichment Fund.

132 Bancroft Hall

Rock Hill, SC 29733

Phone: 803/323-2168

Fax: 803/323-2176

E-mail: socialwork@winthrop.edu
www.winthrop.edu/socialwork

Editors: Jennifer McDaniel

(mcdanieljc@winthrop.edu)

& Michelle Mitcham

(mitchamm@winthrop.edu)