

YEAR IN REVIEW

RICHARD W. RILEY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,
SPORT, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

2023



DEAN'S WELCOME

DR. BETH GREENE COSTNER, DEAN
RICHARD W. RILEY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,
SPORT, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

The rhythms of higher education provide natural opportunities to reflect on our work as one term ends and another begins. This is especially true this time of the year as we look back, consider our individual and shared experiences, and plan for next steps. As 2024 arrives, we begin anew by exploring new ways to learn and grow. I personally welcome you to the Richard W. Riley College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences Year in Review!



Our students reached beyond Winthrop's campus to impact communities near and far. Through intentional support of multiple and diverse initiatives, our staff was again foundational to the college's success. Faculty members used their expertise to influence positive change in the lives of others and within their disciplines. A glance back at 2023 will show we engaged, we made meaningful connections, we experienced a number of highs, and we endured some difficult times. We take this time to highlight just a few of the accomplishments and individuals that make our college exceptional.

On behalf of the college, thank you for your participation in a partnership that is more effective due to the multiple voices involved. Our collective focus this academic year is unity. This is apparent in some of our recent accomplishments such as renaming the college to represent the diversity of disciplines in which we engage. However, there is more work to do as we — students, staff, faculty and partners — intentionally consider how to come together and achieve our goals in 2024.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Costner".

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

AMANI TOWNES, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Prior to her arrival to Winthrop, special education student Amani Townes had one goal: make her Winthrop experience count. Not content with simply attending classes, Townes is deeply involved in community service, research, and assisting as an academic mentor for WinthropLIFE, making her a standout member of the university community.

Special Education Program Director April Mustian shared, "She's a rare gem in that I honestly am not sure how she takes on so much from a student leadership standpoint on top of a rigorous course load without letting anyone see her sweat!"

Graduating in 2025, Townes is already looking ahead, aspiring to one day teach on a collegiate level.



GABE HALKA, EXERCISE SCIENCE

"When looking at colleges, I knew Winthrop was it when I saw how tight the community was," shared exercise science student Gabe Halka when asked to reflect on his college selection process. As Halka has progressed through the program, he attributes several classes to his academic success: "I loved the challenge and the satisfaction of the hard work I put into my Anatomy class. Health 300 caused me to completely change my perspective on health. And Exercise and Sport Psychology were amazing – I learned so much!"

An aspiring pediatric physical therapist, Halka has sought out opportunities to expand his knowledge including conducting summer research, finding mentors in faculty members like Outdoor Education Center Director Geoff Morrow and Exercise Science Associate Professor David Schary, as well as getting involved on campus as president of the Rock Climbing Club and a member of the DiGiorgio Student Union.



SPORT & FITNESS ADMINISTRATION

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The Master of Science in sport and fitness administration has been offered by Winthrop University's College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences for many years. As the industry has grown and developed, the institution and program faculty have continued to adjust to reflect the changes and advancements in the field. One of those adjustments has been to offer two differing tracks of study to best align with students' needs and areas of interest. One track focuses on sport management and is provided fully online while the second track is campus-based and focuses on the fitness administration side of the industry.

Both tracks have students complete core courses covering foundational industry knowledge followed by courses in their specified concentration. Graduates praise the program's flexibility and its

ability to prepare for a variety of advanced careers in facility/event management, strength and conditioning, marketing coaching, and personal or athletic training as well as positions like athletic director, wellness coordinator, and player agent. In addition, class sizes allow students to build strong working relationships with faculty like Professor Dan Drane and Program Director Lauren Coffey who have direct experiences and expertise in the industry.

As the sport and fitness administration field grows and evolves, program faculty continually incorporate industry advancements into the curriculum as well as experiences for students, which ensure graduates leave with the ability to lead and continue development in the field.





COMMUNITY COUNSELING CLINIC

GROUP HIGHLIGHT

The counseling and development program has been a constant in the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences for decades. As the needs of students and the local community have shifted and changed over time, the program has undergone revisions to meet those changes. An important component of the counseling and development program is the Winthrop Community Counseling Clinic located in the Withers building. For the past decade, the clinic has been a resource to students in the program as well as the community members it has served.

The purpose of the Community Counseling Clinic is to provide quality, affordable counseling services to children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families residing in York County and the surrounding communities.

Current Winthrop University students enrolled in the counseling and development program assist in providing mental health counseling services under the supervision of licensed faculty members. Individual and group counseling is provided as well as parenting and anger management classes.

The clinic has day and evening appointments available and serves not just Winthrop community members but the local York County community as well. Providing these services free of charge gives the Community Counseling Clinic an immeasurable impact on our area.

If you or someone you know would benefit from the services available at the Community Counseling Clinic, you are encouraged to contact the clinic by calling 803/323-4783.





AN INSPIRING SUMMER

GRANTS & RESEARCH

Summer is not merely a break from textbooks and classrooms; it's an opportunity for exploration, growth, and unforgettable experiences with multiple summer camp opportunities within the Richard W. Riley College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences.

In its fourth year, Camp Somos hosted children who are still developing their home language (mostly Spanish) while learning English. Campers, ages four through eight, gathered in the Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School to read, write, play, and engage in art projects. The last day included a family celebration that incorporated a bilingual book fair with the support of Winthrop donors Nancy Jones and the Williams Family.

The college also offered a nature camp to students in grades 2-5. Hosted in the Williams Family Multicultural Children's Literacy Collaborative space, campers had the chance to work with Winthrop undergraduate teacher candidates to explore the outdoors through project-based, hands-on and minds-on experiences.

Winthrop students participating with the camp used their camp experience as a practicum to earn a Project-Based Learning endorsement.

The Instructional Technology Center was brimming with the energy of young learners during three weeks of summer camps. The first week saw 24 students from grades 2-5 engage in the STEAM with LEGO camp, where they utilized LEGO bricks and technology to construct innovative robots. Additionally, the Scratch Coding Camp: Gaming and Animation introduced 24 campers in grades 4-6 to the world of digital storytelling and game design, allowing them to express their creativity through coding. Also introduced was Python Coding 101, with 16 eager campers in grades 6-8 delving into text-based coding and creating their own applications with Python.

As the summer ended, each participant took home not only their unique projects but also memories of a journey that instilled confidence, fostered teamwork, and sparked a lasting interest in the ever-evolving world of education and technology.



DR. SHELLEY HAMILL

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Commencement exercises are some of the most joyful events on Winthrop's campus. Kicking off the event, you will find the University's chief faculty marshal carrying the university mace. That responsibility and honor is designated to Professor Shelley Hamill.

Hamill came to Winthrop in 1998 as an assistant professor of physical education and moved through the ranks, receiving professor rank in 2013. Throughout her 30-plus years of teaching, she has worked at the elementary, middle and collegiate levels, serving in many roles. However, Hamill's favorite role remains teaching. As a health professor, she has taught more than 15 unique courses specializing in pedagogy and human sexuality. When asked if she had a favorite course, she said she couldn't choose one but rather enjoys the challenges and different energies that each course provides.

Hamill's joy of teaching is evident and has been rewarded as she was selected as the 2023 recipient of the Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching. When reflecting on this last year, Hamill stated that with the perspective gained that "life is short", she has been able to enjoy teaching even more and has had her most fun yet this semester.

While Hamill's teaching has made a great impact on her students over the years, her care and compassion for others is what she is known for most on campus. Hamill is not just sought out as a mentor by students but also by faculty and staff.



LEADING EDGE

As of July 1, the college name was officially changed to the **Richard W. Riley College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences** to reflect the diverse program offerings in our college. In an effort toward a more inclusive experience, all fall 2023 undergraduate completers received a college cord, and convocation-like celebrations for all programs (including graduate-level programs) are planned for next year.

Physical education students Garrett Bowers and Lynde Beaver represented Winthrop at the SHAPE National Physical Education Conference in Seattle, Washington. At the conference, Garrett was recognized as the Physical Education Major of the Year.

Marshall Jones, program director of learning design & technology, was invited to lead professional development abroad in Vietnam and South Korea this summer. In South Korea, **Sport Management Associate Professor Jason Chung** hosted Jones and his wife, **Adjunct Professor Mary O'Grady-Jones**, for a baseball game where the Doosan Bears beat the NC Dinos 3-2.

The Winthrop University Board of Trustees approved emeritus status – a designation given to those who have taught at Winthrop for a decade – for the **late Abbigail Armstrong, associate professor of middle level education, and the late Kristi Schoepfer, professor of sport management**. Their plaques were added to the board in the Withers building's main hall recognizing emeriti faculty of the college.

Winthrop's SC PALMETTO project, helmed by **Associate Professor Kelly Costner**, offered courses for an endorsement in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). The SC PALMETTO project was funded by a US Department of Education grant.



Cameron Hilburn, a first-year WinthropLIFE student, took home the silver medal at the Special Olympics North Carolina Golf Championship in October. He qualified for the championship after winning silver at the organization's state games last fall.

Athletic Training Assistant Professor Martha Rivera partnered with Atrium Health to lead Mental Health First Aid courses for Winthrop faculty and staff. The course teaches adults how to recognize signs of mental health or substance use challenges in adults 18 and older, offer and provide initial help, and guide a person toward appropriate care if necessary. Topics covered included anxiety, depression, psychosis, and addictions.

NetAPT (Network for Alternative Preparation in Teaching) debuted in the fall as a certification-only program aimed to support beginning classroom teachers who have demonstrated content knowledge and are working towards professional licensure. **Lisa Johnson, Bettie Parsons Barger, and Lisa Harris** led the efforts and have served as the voice of NetAPT on and off campus.

Human Development and Family Studies students presented their work at the Institute for Child Success. Their research was completed in their HDF5 350: Parenting Through the Lifespan course.

Athletic Training Program Director Alice McLaine and Exercise Science Professor Joni Boyd received national recognitions from their professional organizations this past summer. Boyd was recognized with the State/Provincial Director of the Year Award by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), and McLaine was recognized by the National Athletic Trainers Association as the Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer.

Elementary Education Program Director Joy Stapleton and Health Professor Shelley Hamill joined with junior elementary education students to decorate spooky rocks later used for the Halloween Painted Rock Hunt at A.H. Stephens Historic State Park in Crawfordville, Georgia. The service opportunity allowed young children to celebrate the holiday outdoors and make new friends.





JAMODD
JENKINS '19

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jamodd Jenkins '19 embarked on the first year of his teaching career with a passion for education and a determination to make a difference. Fresh out of college and armed with his middle level education teaching credentials, he found himself facing unprecedented challenges as schools worldwide grappled with the complexities of remote learning and changing educational landscapes.

It was through this experience that Jenkins began standing out in his field, particularly to the team at Oakridge Elementary. "Leadership [roles] were barely on my radar, but to hear that people believed in me to be an assistant principal...it's the biggest compliment," shared Jenkins on his most recent position, assistant principal at Oakridge Elementary School.

In his role, Jenkins continued to address the challenges posed by the pandemic, now from an administrative standpoint. Focused on fostering a supportive and collaborative environment among teachers, Jenkins thinks back to his Winthrop experience and how it shaped him.

"There were times I could have failed or should have failed [at Winthrop], but I had faculty and staff that believed in me, pushed me, advocated for me, and always supported me. I see that now with my students – I know they can achieve anything."



T O W A R D B E L O N G I N G

O P P O R T U N I T I E S O U T S I D E T H E C L A S S R O O M

In March 2023, more than 250 students, faculty, classroom teachers, school administrators and community members gathered to celebrate the College of Education's Diversity conference. The conference theme, Toward Belonging: Moving Beyond Diversity Buzzwords, provided unique opportunities for attendees to learn, grow, and begin to create transformative spaces that affirm belonging for all members of an interdependent community. Lester McCorn, president of Clinton College, began the day with an informative keynote address.

The day continued with 28 engaging presentations. College spaces were abuzz with deep conversations, thought-provoking questions, and a communal commitment to exploring possibilities that create a sense of belonging for all. The interdisciplinary event also included an interactive art installation as well as student performances and several collaborative community building engagements. We are grateful to all who participated and are thrilled to be planning the next conference in 2024.

CALL ME MISTER

GROUP HIGHLIGHT

Call Me MISTER, an acronym for Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models, aims to increase the pool of available male teachers of color in the country's classrooms. In 2000, Clemson University was the founding institution for the Call Me MISTER program, serving students attending Claflin University, Benedict, and Morris College. The Call Me MISTER network now consists of 28 partner institutions in South Carolina as well as 11 additional states.

"Call Me MISTER is where I know I'm supported. Where I have friends that have become brothers, and where I know that I can make an impact as an educator," says AJ Jacobs, senior elementary education student. MISTERS are students who are largely, but not exclusively, selected from among

underserved, socioeconomically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities with the goal of giving back by serving as teachers in public schools.

Program Director Jeremy Lopuch shared, "Here's a group of individuals that understand the importance of education and representation, and it is so fulfilling to see these students cross the finish line and contribute to their communities." MISTERS receive tuition assistance, an academic support system, and assistance with job placement upon graduation.

Call Me MISTER is now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 academic year. To learn more, visit <https://www.winthrop.edu/ceshs/call-me-mister>.





KATHIE PARK '23

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Kathie Park '23, budget analyst in the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences, wears many hats. She also serves as the facilities manager for the Withers building which is home to Plowden Auditorium and Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School. Founded in 1891 and completed in 1912, Withers is also one of two Winthrop buildings on the National Register of Historic places, the other being Tillman Hall. As you can imagine, this keeps Park busy with many facilities projects for these important spaces.

Park notes that navigating a pandemic and its aftermath was challenging as she worked to find funding for projects while managing university funds responsibly. Those in positions like Park's must be equitable with how they spend state and donor monies, a task made more difficult by strains of the pandemic.

Park joined Winthrop in September 2017 as the administrative assistant in the Rex Institute for Educational Renewal and Partnerships and, after two years, transitioned to her current role. In spring 2020, Park joined the Bachelor of Professional Studies' first cohort – an interesting time to go back to school as a non-traditional student, she admits. "It required sacrifice on my part and my family's part, but I've always felt a person's education is invaluable because once you get it, no one can take it away from you." Park lives in a multi-generational household. She's a single mom to daughter Megan, and they live with Park's father.

Now a Winthrop graduate, Park continues her work on projects like remodeling the student lounge as a collaborative space, updating the WinthropLIFE spaces, and making better use of the Withers lawn for faculty, staff, and students by adding picnic tables, hammock stands, and Adirondack chairs.

THE WILLIAMS FAMILY MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN'S LITERACY COLLABORATIVE

The Williams Family Multicultural Children's Literacy Collaborative (WLC) provides a unique opportunity to promote literacy to PreK-12 students from our diverse community. The WLC offers our college opportunities to host a variety of literacy engagements for children and families throughout the year, including bookmaking, author studies, digital literacy projects, and storytelling dramatizations.

The WLC was the site for several impactful events this year including two summer camps, Camp Somos and Assistant Professor Richard Cox's nature-focused camp for grades 2-5. Additionally, community members across the state explored the space as part of the college's Diversity in Education Conference, with students in ECED 395 and READ 290 utilizing the multicultural children's library to make practical applications of theories discussed in class.



JESSIE WILLIAMS LITTLE "LEADING THE WAY" AWARD

Educators from around the state gathered in April to see Ryan Norton, a self-contained special education teacher at Powdersville High School in Anderson School District 1, selected as the 2023 recipient of the Jessie Williams Little "Leading the Way" Award. He received a banner to display at Powdersville High School and a gift of \$2,500. Nine other teachers were recognized as finalists or semifinalists.

The "Leading the Way" Award has been given annually since 2018 to recognize teachers who help uplift their profession by mentoring new and other teachers. It was created as a partnership between John and Jessie Williams Little '73 and the James and Susan Rex Institute for Educational Renewal and Partnership, based at Winthrop. Additional financial contribution was provided this year by The Riley Institute at Furman University.





A LIVING LEGACY

As the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences reflects on the past year, it is important to reflect on two difficult losses we shared as a college family. Within a four-day span at the end of the spring term, two of our beloved colleagues passed away: Associate Professor of Middle Level Education Abbigail Armstrong and Professor of Sport Management Kristi Schoepfer. Both made a significant impression during their time at Winthrop, holding different roles in their lives – colleague, teacher, mentor, family member, and friend. In recognition of their impact on the university, college, and us as individuals, two funds were established to celebrate their lasting legacy. Additionally, two trees – a live oak and a ginkgo – can now be found outside of the Withers building as a place for reflection and remembrance.



The Dr. Abbigail Armstrong Middle Level Excellence Fund, with the assistance of middle level education alumni, will provide critical support for professional development activities for students studying middle level education. The Kristi Schoepfer Memorial Endowed Scholarship will support students by enabling them to attend professional conferences. Donations to this fund may also be used to provide scholarships to students within the college, ensuring that Schoepfer's commitment to education and growth continues to impact lives.



Support the Dr. Abbigail Armstrong Middle Level Excellence Fund and Kristi Schoepfer Memorial Endowed Scholarship by visiting www.winthrop.edu/advancement/make-a-gift.aspx.

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