

# STAFF STUFF

A publication of the Winthrop University Staff Assembly  
Volume 1, Issue 11  
December 2015 and January 2016



## NEW STAFF MEMBER stuff



### WELCOME to our newest Staff Members!

*Top Left:* David Lewis (Campus Police)

*Top Right:* (left to right)

Front: Tracie Miller (Financial Services), Angelia McDowell (Facilities)

Back: Angelo Geter (Student Affairs), Jeffrey Williams (Campus Police), Luis Garcia (IT), Kerstin Alston (Financial Aid)

*Right:* Michael Rhoades (Athletics)



## POLITICAL stuff



*Chief of Police Frank Zebedis with presidential candidate Ben Carson during Carson's visit to Winthrop Dec. 2.*

Retired neurosurgeon and Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson held a free campaign event at Winthrop Coliseum on Dec. 2

## FIND BIG STUFF

Can you find Big Stuff? Each issue of Staff Stuff has an illustration of our beloved mascot, Big Stuff, hidden somewhere throughout the pages. If you find Big Stuff, send an e-mail to [staffstuff@winthrop.edu](mailto:staffstuff@winthrop.edu), and tell us where you found him. Those who find Big Stuff will be entered into a drawing to win a prize courtesy of the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Congratulations to the November winner: Sheryl Jordon-Dacus Library.



The latest [Winthrop Poll results](#) are out! The latest findings come from a poll of 828 South Carolina Republican presidential primary likely voters. South Carolina is important in the GOP

process to choose the 45<sup>th</sup> president because it is the first primary in the South.

The poll found that in the crowded Republican field for president, 24 percent of likely Republican voters in South Carolina back real estate tycoon Donald Trump. Seventeen percent remain unsure who they will support.

## HR HEAD'S UP stuff

**Head's Up:** You will receive a new form to file with your 2015 taxes.

The Affordable Care Act requires you submit a form with your income taxes showing you had “minimum essential” coverage. Form 1095 provides information about your health plan, including coverage that was available and who received coverage under your plan (your dependents). To meet this requirement, your employer will send you a Form 1095 by Jan. 31. The statements will also be sent to the Internal Revenue Service.



### Leave Transfer Program

Employees in full-time equivalent (FTE) positions may donate up to one-half of their sick and/or annual leave earned this calendar year to the Leave Transfer Pool. The leave you donate to the pool is used to help your fellow Winthrop employees continue to receive a pay check in a time when they may be out of work due to their own or a family member's serious illness. The availability of leave in the pool does depend on your donations.

You are allowed to carry over up to 45 days of annual leave and 180 days of sick leave from one calendar year to the next. Any leave in excess of these amounts will be “lost” at the end of the calendar year. You can donate this excess leave to the leave pool. However, this does not happen automatically; there is a specific process you must follow. If you are interested in donating, complete the [Leave Donation Request Form](#) and return to Human Resources in Room 303 Tillman Hall before **December 15**. Please visit our website for more information about the [Leave Transfer Program](#).

## CRAFT stuff



### Crafts@lunch at Dacus Library

Would you like to learn a new hobby while enjoying getting to know your fellow staff members?

Where: Dacus Library

When: Thursday, Jan. 14 – 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m

January's theme: Simple crochet stitches

Please notify Sheryl Jordon if you are interested and she will let you know what supplies to bring.



## CONFERENCE stuff

All meeting minutes from both Staff Assembly (elected representative group) and Staff Conference (large group meetings in Whitton Auditorium) are ONLINE. [Click over](#) to see what you might have missed.



We're having all kinds of fun over on Facebook, with photos and updates and even videos. Don't miss out! Like us today or add to the conversation!



families  
jobs  
life  
memorials  
celebrations

# STAFF stuff MILESTONES

## GRADUATION stuff

CONGRATULATIONS  
to our December 2015  
Staff Graduates:

**Lindsey Hill:** Master of  
Liberal Arts

**Vanessa Valdez:** Master of  
Business Administration



## HOLIDAY stuff



Santa Claus visits the DiGiorgio Center.



The Faculty/Staff Holiday Party at the President's House



Annual Holiday Pottery Sale



President Dan Mahony with his wife, Laura, and daughter, Elena, attend the Rock Hill Christmas Parade.



The Rock Hill Christmas Parade lining up in front of Winthrop University.

## STAFF EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

**MICHELLE MITCHAM**

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST  
SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT  
OCTOBER 2015



*How many years have you been at Winthrop?*

I have worked at Winthrop for three years. I started in August 2012.

*What makes Winthrop special to you?*

Our smaller size allows us to develop relationships with our students. It gives us the opportunity to help students pursue their individual interests.

*What drives you every day to make such a big difference?*

The Department of Social Work's motto is "Excellence Matters." I try to embrace this motto in every aspect of my job. I try to remember that I am a part of the experience a student has at Winthrop. I want that experience to be a positive one.

*What is your favorite part of Winthrop?*

My favorite part of Winthrop is the people I work with. They make it easy to love working here.

*What do you do in your spare time? Hobbies?*

I have a two-year-old son, so spare time is a distant memory. I do enjoy photography and cooking, though.

*If you had to tell an incoming student one thing about Winthrop, what would that be?*

We have support systems in place to help you succeed. Please take advantage of them. If you do more than show up for class, you will get so much more out of your time here.



**Congratulations to October's Staff Member of the Month nominees:**

*Back Row:* **Melvin Young**, educational technology coordinator, College of Business Administration; **TJ Hyatt**, academic space/scheduling coordinator

*Front Row:* **Michelle Mitcham**, administrative specialist, Social Work; **Ryan Sheehan**, director-advancement services; **Lee Miller**, administrative specialist, Chemistry, Physics, and Geology; **Nicole Chisari**, communications coordinator, Communications and Marketing.

# getting to know



This month's spotlight is on the Winthrop Administrative Systems and Programming area. The team consists of Warren Byrd, Franca Copeland, Mihail (Misho) Dimitrov, Joe McNamee, Kamal Rai, Johnathan Thomas and Chip Werner. The talented individuals who make up this diversified team come from all parts of the world and collectively have more than 81 years supporting the Winthrop community.



## **Warren Byrd '94, Director of Academic Systems & Programming**

Warren has been employed at Winthrop for almost nine years. He is responsible for the department's personnel, projects, and all systems related to Banner and custom application development. Originally from Ronkonkoma, New York, the best thing that ever happened to him occurred when he was a student—he met his best friend and wife of 20 years. When he isn't at work or working on his honey-do list, he enjoys playing golf.

## **Franca Copeland '87, '92, Application Analyst**

Franca has worked at Winthrop for more than 23 years. In her current position, she provides primary support for Alumni, Development, and the Foundation. Born in Merida, Venezuela, Franca loves spending time with her family and also enjoys traveling and learning about other cultures. In Franca's spare time, she likes cake decorating, cooking and arts and crafts.

## **Mihail (Misho) Dimitrov '02, Programmer Analyst**

Misho has been with Winthrop for five years. He creates and maintains web, desktop and mobile software applications, including the Campus Police violations and mobile ticketing application. Born in Bulgaria, Misho is a weekend adventurer who enjoys hiking, road-

cycling and cross-country running. He is a huge fan of technology and enjoys keeping his skills fresh by taking part in tech conferences and meetings.

## **Joe McNamee '08, Database Administrator**

Joe has worked at Winthrop for seven years. He maintains Oracle databases, Linux servers and Banner applications and security. Currently, Joe is preparing new servers to ensure a good foundation for migrating Winthrop from Banner 8 to Banner 9 (XE). Originally from Maryland, Joe and his wife have two children with whom they love to spend time. He also likes to scuba dive every chance he gets.

## **Kamal Rai, Senior Analyst**

With 16 years at Winthrop, Kamal is a familiar name across campus. She develops and maintains in-house web and Windows applications and serves as technical lead for Recruiter. Kamal was born in Bombay, India, and loves to travel, dance, watch TV and read. She and her husband of 16 years have two children.

## **Jonathan Thomas, Systems Programmer**

Jonathan is another familiar face around Winthrop; he also has been here for almost 16 years. He primarily works on Banner—interfacing it with other systems, modifying delivered code to fit Winthrop's needs and creating custom code to gain additional functionality. Some of his most notable Wingspan projects include the faculty grade upload and student/faculty schedule channels. From Clover, South Carolina, Jonathan and his wife enjoy the company of their new family member, a beagle pup named Jack. In his free time, he enjoys kayaking and playing guitar for his church.

## **Chip Werner, Application Analyst**

Chip joined the Winthrop team more than four years ago. His primary duties include assisting with updates, patches and security for Banner Applications and Windows servers. He provides first-line support for all calls routed from the Service Desk and has worked on several projects to streamline financial aid processing. Originally from Shaeborygan, Wisconsin, Chip and his wife of 30 years have five children. He loves grilling and all other forms of outdoor cooking.



# getting to know



Each month, Staff Stuff will be featuring fellow staff members, in an effort to help us get to know each other. This month, meet Laura Little, secretary for Staff Assembly.

Laura Little, Winthrop's alumni engagement coordinator, serves as secretary on Staff Assembly. She's been working for the Winthrop University Foundation and Winthrop University for a combined six years. Laura manages all alumni events, including regional events throughout the Southeast and Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. She also coordinates Winthrop alums who volunteer for certain aspects of the admissions process. Prior to that, she worked part time for the Winthrop University Foundation, where she wrote copy for solicitation pieces and handled a few data-entry duties. She holds a bachelor's degree from Southeast Missouri State University, where, as a student, she served on the homecoming committee and as an admissions tour guide.

Laura's work prior to Winthrop is varied. She worked as a social work investigator, managed the affiliate-share program for an

online retailer, worked as copy director for a marketing firm and was a stay-at-home mom for a number of years.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, and a die-hard Cardinal baseball fan, Laura also lived in New York, Ohio and North Carolina before settling in Rock Hill almost 20 years ago. She has two children and enjoys volunteering with children's activities at their schools and at church.



When not working, Laura enjoys cooking, reading, music and entertaining.

## STAFF ASSEMBLY stuff

The staff assembly serves as an advisory group that provides staff with a forum for communication and community and provides a voice in matters of importance and concern to staff. The group offers opportunities for staff to support one another, participate as a group in community outreach and engagement, and make recommendations to the university's president and the administration in support of staff needs and the university's mission.

Please e-mail [staffassembly@winthrop.edu](mailto:staffassembly@winthrop.edu) with any questions or suggestions you may have. If you would prefer the option of contacting the assembly anonymously, please complete the online staff feedback form via a non-Winthrop computer.

[www.winthrop.edu/staff](http://www.winthrop.edu/staff)

Story or content ideas? Contact a member of the Media & Communications Committee:

Ann Barrett, T.J. Carney, Chrissy Catoe, Maria D'Agostino, Tracy Holbert, Judy Longshaw, Kelly McGinnis, Arenette McNeil, Summersby Okey-Hamrick, Kayla Davis

# Happy Holidays

SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!



**REMINDER:** Winthrop University offices will be closed from December 24– January 1. We hope everyone has a restful and joyous holiday. See you all back here for 2016!