

# STAFF STUFF

A publication of the Winthrop University Staff Assembly  
Volume 2, Issue 1  
February 2016



## POLITICAL stuff

## WEATHER stuff



In 1980, Lee Atwater helped to establish South Carolina as the “First in the South” Presidential primary. Since then South Carolina has almost always selected the eventual nominee. In addition to being the first Southern

primary, all candidates that have come to Winthrop are still in the race. We are hoping to say that the road to the White House goes through Winthrop University.

Do not forget the upcoming Presidential Primary dates:

SC REPUBLICAN PRIMARY: February 20, 2016

SC DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY: February 27, 2016

NC PRIMARY: March 15, 2016

From time to time, the Rock Hill area experiences hazardous weather that may result in a decision to close the campus. We wanted to take this opportunity to remind all Winthrop employees of the procedures for reporting to work and accounting for lost work time in the event the university is closed due to hazardous weather.

The safety of Winthrop employees and students is the first priority in the event of hazardous weather. Please remember that the decision to close the university is based on the condition of the county and city roads, the condition of the sidewalks and entryways to campus, and other potential safety hazards. [Winthrop’s Hazardous Weather and Emergency Leave policy](#) states that only “essential” personnel should report to work. Those employees who are considered “essential” for the purposes of this policy include facilities, campus police, and others who have been instructed to report to provide student services. While the campus is closed, essential employees are clearing roadways, sidewalks/entryways, and assessing the campus for safety, including loose or fallen tree limbs. Other employees **should not** report to work until the university has officially reopened unless they have been informed by their supervisor that they should report to work. Additional automobiles and pedestrians can hinder the progress of preparing the campus to reopen. Employees who have not been instructed to report to work while the university is closed due to hazardous weather should obtain prior approval from their supervisor before reporting to work.

Employees can [sign up for WU Alerts](#), an automated system that will alert your phone, via call and text, of campus closings. For instructions to sign up for WU Alerts, please see the [Campus Police website](#). Employees may also visit the [Winthrop home page](#) or call the alert line at 803/323-2222 for announcements regarding campus closings.

According to South Carolina law and [Winthrop’s Hazardous Weather and Emergency Leave policy](#), the Governor may declare a state of emergency due to hazardous weather conditions and allow up to five days of leave with pay for time missed from work due to the hazardous weather conditions. In the event the university is closed due to hazardous weather, employees should watch their e-mail once the university reopens for instructions for reporting time away from work.

## FIND BIG STUFF 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 he is. Those who find to find Big Stuff will be entered into a drawing to win a prize courtesy of the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Congratulations to the December Winner: Zachary Christian of Financial Aid.

## FITNESS stuff

## MUSICAL stuff

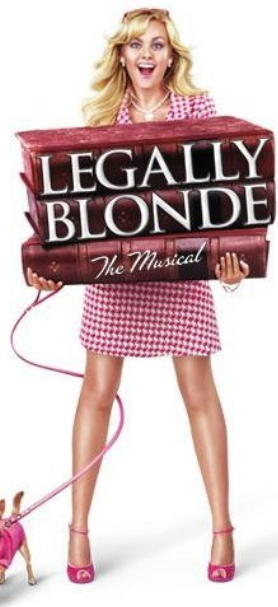
### Krispy Kreme: Run 4 Reading



Get your department in gear and compete in the Krispy Kreme Run 4 Reading in downtown Rock Hill. Proceeds go to The Early Learning Partnership of York County.

There are 3 events: Challenge Run, Casual Run, and Book Relay. They all involve donuts!

To register go to [www.run4reading.racesonline.com](http://www.run4reading.racesonline.com)



The Winthrop Department of Theatre and Dance will put on “Legally Blonde: The Musical,” opening February 17 in Johnson Theatre. Based off the hit movie, the musical will star Winthrop University junior, Hannah Hustad.

Show times for “Legally Blonde” are 8 p.m. Feb. 17-Feb. 20 and 2 p.m. Feb. 21. Tickets are \$10 with a Winthrop ID and \$15 for

the general public. It is a cultural event. Reserved seating is available by calling 803/323-4014 or e-mailing [boxoffice@winthrop.edu](mailto:boxoffice@winthrop.edu).

Tickets can be purchased online or at the box office between 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday the week of the show.

## BASKETBALL stuff

### Women’s Basketball:

Monday, February 1 vs. UNC Asheville 7p.m.  
Pour on the Pink

We invite fans to “pour on the pink” as we raise awareness about breast cancer. Donations will be accepted for the Kay Yow Foundation

The first 50 fans will receive a pair of pink socks.  
Please wear your pink!

Saturday, February 13 vs. Coastal Carolina

Tuesday, February 23 vs. Radford

Tuesday, March 1 vs. Liberty

### Men’s Basketball:

Thursday, February 11 vs. Longwood 7p.m.  
Mardi Gras Night

The Big Easy comes to Winthrop Coliseum that night. We will have beads and masks for fans to wear. The Swingin’ Eagles Jazz Ensemble will perform at halftime

Thursday, February 18 vs. Coastal Carolina

Saturday, February 20 vs. UNC Asheville- Senior Day

## COMMUNITY stuff



City of Rock Hill youth soccer, baseball & softball registration is open now until February 5. For information on registering, please visit this link: <http://www.cityofrockhill.com/home/showdocument?id=3866>

Rock Hill Parks, Recreation and Tourism’s Daddy Daughter Dance: February 19, 2016 from 7-9:30 p.m. Girls ages 4-12 with Dad or Special Adult. \$30 per couple, \$5 for each additional girl. For more information visit: <http://www.cityofrockhill.com/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/12019/453?curm=2&cury=2016>

*Remember, all athletic events are free to staff members and their families.*



families  
jobs  
life  
memorials  
celebrations

# STAFF stuff MILESTONES

## HELLO stuff

(Right) From left to right: Laura Carrell, *clinical education coordinator, athletic training program*; Daniel Allen, *residential learning coordinator*; Amanda Marshall, *residential learning coordinator*.



(left) From left to right: Brittany Moore, *assistant director for fitness and aquatics*; Penny Cotter, *administrative specialist, athletics*

A Warm Welcome to our new hires!

## GOODBYE stuff



Sgt. James Howe (pictured left) of the Winthrop Police Department retired in December after 13 years at Winthrop.

## IN MEMORY

Ernest Roach (Ernie) passed away on Sunday, January 24, 2016 at 88 years old. Ernest, a WWII veteran, worked at Winthrop from 1948 until 1985 and was one of only two electricians on the whole campus when he first arrived. Ernie always took part in lighting the Christmas tree during his time at Winthrop. He will be missed.

## STAFF EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

**JEANNIE MANN**  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT  
NOVEMBER 2015



*How many years have you been at Winthrop?*  
It will be 22 years in October. I started October 17, 1993.

*What makes Winthrop special to you?*  
I love to work here. It is because the people are so nice!

*What drives you every day to make such a big difference?*  
I take pride in my work. The people here appreciate it.

*What is your favorite part of Winthrop?*  
Baseball! I love working at that baseball field. Everybody already knows that. And I love to work up here on the 3rd floor [of Kinard].

*What do you do in your spare time? Hobbies?*  
Swimming and crocheting.

*If you had to tell an incoming student one thing about Winthrop, what would that be?*  
She is lucky to pick Winthrop because Winthrop is a good University!

Congratulations to November's Staff Member of the Month nominees:



Left to right: Hope Williams, *Disability Services*; Karen Trunk, *Athletics*; Jeannie Mann, *Facilities Management*; Shardae Nelson, *Disability Services*; Georgia Ferguson, *Accounts Payable*.

# getting to know



This month's spotlight is on the Winthrop Office of Records and Registration. The team consists of Thea Barnes, Maria D'Agostino, Tammy Gillett, Robbie Hampton, Kara Traverse, and Tina Vinson.



*Top Row (left to right): Maria D'Agostino, Robbie Hampton, Kara Traverse*

*Bottom Row (left to right): Tina Vinson, Tammy Gillett, Thea Barnes*

## **Thea Barnes '02, Degree Progress & Records Coordinator**

Thea has worked at Winthrop for 20 years. In her position she is responsible for transfer work, CLEP/AP/Military and Departmental credit, undergraduate and graduate degree progress, and coordinates the University-Wide Undergraduate Petitions process. Thea was born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina. In her spare time, Thea enjoys reading, shopping, and spending time with her children and grandson.

## **Maria D'Agostino, Assistant Registrar, Records**

Maria has worked at Winthrop for 16 years. She oversees the records area, and is also responsible for certifying athletes' academic eligibility status, degree progress and graduation, grade changes, academic forgiveness, complying with subpoenas regarding student academic records, managing the maintenance of student academic records and ensuring compliance with university policies and FERPA. Maria was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She loves spending time with her husband and two daughters. She also enjoys cooking, reading, volunteering in the community, swimming and traveling.

## **Tammy Gillett, Data Specialist**

Tammy has worked at Winthrop for 10 years. She is responsible for processing all Curriculum Changes (major/minor/catalog) for undergraduate students, maintains student records using the Banner Document Imaging System and is responsible for the data entry and maintenance of all the Undergraduate Graduation Application information. Tammy's hometown is Lancaster, South Carolina. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family, especially her grandson. Tammy also loves to sing and perform with local bands.

## **Robbie Hampton '72, Degree Progress & Graduation Coordinator**

Robbie has been at Winthrop for 22 years. She is responsible for maintaining the graduate records. Robbie works with graduate and undergraduate degree progress, graduate graduation, coordinates graduate commencement activities; and is responsible for graduate petitions, grade changes, enrollment and graduate course overloads. Robbie is originally from Spartanburg, South Carolina. In her spare time, Robbie enjoys reading, drawing and painting.

## **Kara Traverse, Veteran Benefits & Graduation Coordinator**

Kara has been at Winthrop for 4.5 years. She is responsible for the veteran educational benefits certification process, undergraduate and graduate degree progress, and coordinating undergraduate graduation/commencement activities. Kara was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in Greenville, South Carolina. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two children, going on hikes, to the movies or watching sports. She also enjoys running, swimming and biking and has some good friends with whom she participates in running races and triathlons.

## **Tina Vinson, Cultural Events & Degree Progress Coordinator**

Tina joined Winthrop 10 years ago. As the cultural events coordinator, Tina manages the university's Cultural Events calendar, maintains the students' cultural events attendance records and the cultural event petitions. She is also responsible for undergraduate and graduate degree progress, readmission applications, and student worker supervision. Tina is originally from Chester, South Carolina. She enjoys spending time with her family and loves weight training.



# 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 Niki Behr.

Niki Behr is a native South Carolinian and was born and raised right here in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Niki actually started at Winthrop as a student. She graduated from Winthrop University in May of 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in business administration with a concentration in accounting. While completing her undergraduate work, she became a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Demonstrating her passion for educational excellence, Niki continued her graduate work and successfully obtained her Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

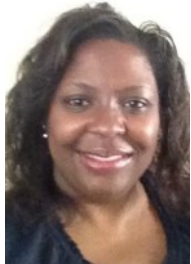
from Winthrop University in December of 1999, and during the first year of her graduate studies, she actually had final exams shortly after giving birth to her first child! She also obtained a third degree in December of 2010 when she completed the requirements for a degree in human resource management.

As the Payroll Manager, Niki and her team are responsible for the accurate

and timely payment of wages and salaries for all staff, faculty, and student employees. Prior to returning to Winthrop in 2007, she worked for several major corporations including Royal & Sun Alliance, Duracell, and Siemens.

Niki continues to be active in the Winthrop University community. She is a member of Staff Assembly, and serves on the Recognition Committee. This committee promotes the recognition and awareness of the outstanding contributions and efforts of staff members. Additionally, she serves as the faculty/staff advisor for three campus organizations; Collegiate Women for Christ, the Black Alumni Student Council Association, and the Lambda Kappa Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Niki volunteers at a number of local charitable organizations and enjoys spending her limited free time with her family and friends. She enjoys helping others, reading novels, and a good day at the shooting range. She has been married to her husband, Tom ('95 M.A.T.) for almost twenty years and they are the proud parents of two beautiful children.



## STAFF ASSEMBLY stuff

Welcome to our new Staff Assembly representatives:

**President's Office:** Lisa Brody

**Human Resources, Employee Diversity, and Wellness:** Pat Blankenship

**Finance and Business:** Barbara Emery

**University Relations:** Nicole Chisari

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 16 at 2p.m. in Whitton Auditorium

### Do you have a question for President Mahony?

You can submit anonymous questions to be asked at our next Staff Assembly meeting to Grant Scurry at [scurry@winthrop.edu](mailto:scurry@winthrop.edu). Dr. Mahony will do his best to address all questions at our next meeting.

## 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!



## 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