

# STAFF STUFF

a publication of the Winthrop University staff assembly  
**Volume 1, Issue 9**  
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## BENEFITS stuff



The open enrollment period for benefit changes will take place October 1-31, 2015. Any changes made during the open enrollment period will take effect January 1, 2016. To learn about the changes employees can make during open enrollment, please see the *Benefits Advantage*, a publication from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA).

### MAKE OPEN ENROLLMENT CHANGES WITH MYBENEFITS

The most efficient way to make your coverage changes during Open Enrollment is the online process on the *MyBenefits* website. *MyBenefits* ensures a speedy transmission of information regarding coverage changes. Employees should see page 2 of *Benefits Advantage* for information about creating an account and using your *MyBenefits* account. *MyBenefits* will be available for open enrollment changes beginning Oct. 1, 2015. **\*\*Open Enrollment changes can be made until 11:59 p.m. on October 31, 2015.\*\***

### INFORMATIONAL WEBINARS

A representative from the SC Public Employee Benefit Authority will be conducting webinars over the next few weeks, (see webinar times and location below) to explain the options available during the open enrollment period. During the one-hour webinar, employees will be able to hear more about open enrollment choices in a live presentation, via the internet. This is an interactive webinar and employees will be able to ask questions. All employees are encouraged to attend one of the informational webinars in order to be prepared to make decisions about open enrollment. For supervisors of the employees who may not have regular access to e-mail, please make those employees aware of the informational webinars and encourage them to attend. Reservations are not required.

**Wed., Oct. 7:** 10—11 a.m. and Noon—1 p.m. in Tillman 306  
**Thurs., Oct. 8:** 10—11 a.m. and Noon—1 p.m. in Tillman 306

## GOLF stuff

The Eagle Club is hosting its first scholarship golf tournament on Monday, October 19, at the Rock Hill Country Club. Tournament play will begin at noon with a shotgun start. Jimmy Johns will be providing lunch and Texas Roadhouse will cater dinner. Team registration is \$500. The tournament is limited to 30 teams. Sponsorship opportunities are also available, if you or someone you know would be willing to sponsor the tournament. If you are interested in playing, please register your team as soon as possible by contacting *Karen Trunk* or calling 803/323-2129.



Don't miss the Annual GOLF BALL DROP (*think*: raffle) on Nov. 14. For \$20, you enter a ball. When the balls are dropped, the one that lands closest to the pin wins its owner \$3,000! To make your \$20 donation to the Eagle Club—providing scholarships for student athletes—and get entered to win, contact *Larry McLaine* or *Karen Trunk* in athletics.

## POLITICAL stuff



*Billy Dahlgren, Student Affairs, tests the podium at a recent political campaign stop in Richardson Ballroom.*

*Cheryl Gomez and Pat Blankenship from Human Resources met Governor and Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee during his September visit to campus.*

## PINK OUT stuff

### Our second annual PINK OUT DAY is next Tuesday, October 6.

We are challenging all offices and departments to wear pink to support breast cancer research, fighters, and survivors. Wear your best version of PINK. Members of the Campus and Community Involvement Committee will be coming around to take pictures.

Or you can send your photos to [staffstuff@winthrop.edu](mailto:staffstuff@winthrop.edu).



*Can your office beat Technology Services this year? That's a pretty good showing!*

## MORE PINK stuff

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In observance of this event, Prevention Partners and Wellness Services have partnered to bring *Fit for the Cure* to campus. *Fit for the Cure* is an opportunity for individuals to be fitted for their proper bra size. In turn, a donation will be made to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. There is no cost for the fitting. Appointments are encouraged, but not necessary.

**Tuesday, October 13,**  
**from 10 a.m.—3 p.m.**  
at Macfeat House  
(next to Thurmond Hall).

To make an appointment, *e-mail* Rosie or call her: 803/323-2206. Open to faculty, staff, and students. No purchase necessary.

*Rosie Hopkins-Campbell, Health Services, and Susan Sistar, Counseling Services, braved the rain for the Mobile Mammogram day on campus recently.*



## FAMILY stuff



### HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS...

Winthrop's Halloween event for kids! Sponsored by the Resident Students Association. **Tuesday, October 27, from 5:30—8:30 p.m.** in the Student Activity Center (SAC)—Withers Building. Carnival and costume contest (7:15) in the SAC, and trick-or-treating in the residence halls. Free and open to the community.

## 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!

## FUN stuff

Sherry Jordan, Dacus Library, is hosting **CRAFTS @ LUNCH**. If you'd like to get involved with a Friday craft hour from 12:30—1:30 about once a month, contact Sherry to get on the e-mail list or to RSVP.

The next craft time is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 23. On the agenda: greeting cards



*Steve Workman (left), Facilities Management, gets an up-close and personal look at the old prisoner stocks in the basement of Tillman on a recent Welcome to Winthrop new employee tour. These are left from the time that Tillman Hall (then Main Hall) was built with prison laborers.*

## WELCOME TO WINTHROP



*New staff members at their HR orientation: (l-r)  
Front: Ashley Burnside, Emily Simoneau, Kay Foster, Kenya Williams and  
Calin Burger; Back: Will Pickel, Courtney Nesbitt*

**ASHLEY BURNSIDE**, Associate Director/Data Coordinator of the Academic Success Center, University College

**EMILY SIMONEAU**, Designer, Communications and Marketing

**KAY FOSTER**, Service Desk Manager, Computing and Information Technology

**COURTNEY NESBITT**, Counselor, Counseling Services

**KENYA WILLIAMS**, Library Technical Assistant, Dacus Library

**WILL PICKEL**, Athletic Marketing Assistant, Athletics

**CALIN BURGER**, Student-Athlete Services Coordinator, Athletics

**SARAH STANFIELD**, Academic Coach-Academic Success Center, University College

## BABY stuff

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST EAGLETS!

**Carrie Whiteside**, Student Affairs, gave birth on August 31, at 11:21 a.m. to William Hartwell Whiteside. Hart weighed in at 7 lbs., 10 oz. Mother and son are both doing well. Carrie will have some time at home with Hart and return in November.

**Connie Perryman**, Facilities Management, is the proud grandmother of 7lb., 7 oz., 20 ¼ inch long baby girl, Shaylynn. She was born on Tuesday, September 15, at 1:45 p.m. This is Connie's second grandchild, but her first granddaughter.

## STAFF EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

**TERRY SEXTON**

**PROCUREMENT OFFICER, PURCHASING  
AUGUST 2015**



*How many years have you been at Winthrop?*

In April I began my 18<sup>th</sup> year. I started on April 20, 1998.

*What makes Winthrop special to you?*

Knowing that everyone on campus makes our students, our visitors, and co-workers feel like they are a true member of the Winthrop community.

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

At the end of the work day, I have to know I have completed everything that has been required of me. I never know what will be asked of me on any given day, but it is a high priority for me to complete whatever that may be. I like to solve problems, and make sure that everything I do will benefit the university and everyone involved.

*What is your favorite part of Winthrop?*

My Winthrop family and of course the entire campus—it's beautiful.

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

Taking care of my rescue dog, his name is Quinn. I also enjoy writing poetry, drawing, watching old westerns, reading and gardening.

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

That they are now among the friendliest and most caring people in the state of South Carolina; we are so excited that they are a member of the Winthrop family, and we are here to support them in any way we can.



Congratulations to August's Staff Member of the Month nominees: Amanda McGarity, World Languages and Cultures; Beverly Holbrook, Counseling Services; Christopher Holloman, Office of the Dean-Business Administration; Cinnamon Hairston, Institute for Educational Renewal Partnership; Claire Weikle, Interdisciplinary Studies; Darlene Ledwell, Design; Elizabeth Oswald Sease, Accreditation and Accountability; Eyvette Long, Development; Jamilyn Larsen, College of Visual and Performing Arts; Jessie Williams, Controller's Office; Karen Miller, Office of the Dean-College of Education; Laura Ramsey, Cashiers Office; Pam Gillette, Accounts Payable; Pam Varraso, Student Affairs; Pat Blankenship, Human Resources; Sibbie Lowery, University Printing Services; Summersby Okey-Hamrick, College of Arts and Sciences; Tommy Barnett, Accreditation and Accountability

# getting to know



This month's spotlight is on the Winthrop Men's and Women's Soccer Coaching Staff. The Women's Coaching Staff consists of Head Coach Spencer Smith and Associate Head Coach Johnathan Brabson. The Men's Coaching Staff consists of Head Coach Rich Posipanko and Associate Head Coach Daniel Ridenhour.

## *How long have you been coaching at Winthrop?*

Spencer has been at Winthrop for six years after he coached men's soccer at Radford. Johnathan has been here nine years and he coached at Queens before arriving in Rock Hill.

Rich has been at Winthrop for 27 years, as he coached at Longwood before his stint at Winthrop. Daniel has been at Winthrop for 12 years, after a stint at Georgia State.

## *What is the hardest part about being a Coach?*

The women's soccer staff both agreed it was getting the entire team on the same page on the same day. Daniel said it was recruiting athletes in today's culture. He stated that athletes have been coddled and given recognition without putting in any work. Rich said wearing different hats, such as being an academic coach, a parental figure, and counselor to his athletes.

## *What is the most enjoyable part about being a Coach?*

Johnathan and Spencer stated it was the flexibility, being outside and seeing your team come together and seeing improvement.

The men's soccer staff said teaching their athletes leadership skills, building character and life lessons during their time as their coaches.

## *How do you prepare for the upcoming season?*

The women's soccer staff stated that they talk about the goals for the team in the upcoming season; try to recruit the right players and trying to get the best athletes available. Preparing for the season, Daniel draws up training schedules for his athletes and also what skills to practice. He also takes time to spend with his wife and four children since he knows when the season starts his time will be limited.

"The program and preparation never ends," Rich says, "this is a year-round program. In May and June, you have some downtime, but in July, you start to plan out the upcoming season and in August the athletes return and practices start."

## *Since this is Rich's last season here at Winthrop, we asked Spencer and Daniel for their best "Gaff" story.*

Spencer told a story that happened when he was still coaching at Radford. Radford had just put a new building out at the soccer facility. When Winthrop came to play, he had put a sign on one of the doors that said "Rich Posipanko." He told Rich it was his office to use while he was there. When Rich opened the door, it was the Men's restroom. Spencer added, "There are so many stories, but you can't print all of them."

Daniel shared that when he started his coaching position, Rich had told everyone that the new coach's name is Dan Ridenhour. A few weeks later, another staff member came to Daniel and told him the staff thought he was rude. When he asked why, he was told everyone says, "Hi Dan!" and you never respond. Daniel then stated that he had never been called Dan in his life and he didn't realize people were speaking to him. He also didn't notice that the name plate on his door had Dan Ridenhour; it has since been changed to Daniel.



*We asked Rich what he would miss the most about coaching:* "I will miss the players and the off-field relationships that I have developed with my players." Rich is very well respected by his alumni; many of them come back to visit him when they are in the area and also seek him out for advice. I am sure that his current players and alumni will miss him as much as the Athletic Staff will miss him.



*Soccer coaching staff (l-r): Daniel Ridenhour, Rich Posipanko, Spencer Smith, and Jonathan Brabson*



# 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 Kelly McGinnis, Historian for the Staff Assembly.

I have been working at Winthrop for seven years, as of October 16. I started in Health & Counseling Services and worked there for two and a half years, and then moved to Athletics. My current job consists of the administrative duties for Men's & Women's Cross Country/Track, Men's & Women's Soccer, Lacrosse, Sports Information, Strength & Conditioning and Athletic Training, as well as taking care of all the athletic injury insurance claims.



My son, Brandon, toured four South Carolina Universities in one week and Winthrop was the last one. When we left the campus, he had decided this was his first pick. The campus was beautiful and everyone was so nice; he felt at home here. He was accepted at

Winthrop and as soon as he graduated, our family packed up and moved to Rock Hill. He went on to graduate from Winthrop in 2012 with a degree in Sports Administration.

The first job I had here in Rock Hill was working in a doctor's office doing the medical billing. When I was interviewing to come to Winthrop, I asked for my son's okay, since I was invading his "turf;" he said it was fine, because he would never get sick and use Health Services. He didn't. I was born in West Virginia and my family moved to Ohio when I was 9 1/2 months old, and I grew up in Barberton, Ohio (yes, the same place Frank Zebedis, Campus Police, is from).

Working at Winthrop has given me an extended family, since my family is eight hours away. I have made many good friends here. I enjoy my job, yes I have good days and bad days, but I like working with the athletic staff and students. I have been married for 31 years. My husband, Keith and I, reside in York.

## FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY stuff



Dozens of faculty, staff and students came out to the Rock Hill Fountain Park Food Truck Friday for Winthrop night on Sept. 18. Jesse Williams, Controller's Office; Pam Varraso, Student Affairs, and Kelly Shelton, Enrollment Management greeted folks and handed out some free meal coupons. The Campus and Community Involvement Committee spearheaded the effort to get a Winthrop tie-in. They are looking forward to making this event a regular one with the city.



## 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:

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