

# STAFF stuff

Volume 6 Issue 6  
February 2020

Finding Big Stuff

New Hires

Printing Services

Spotlight on Staff  
Assembly

Staff Conference  
Highlights

Staff Member of  
the Month

Staff Sweethearts



# Congrats Grads!

Congratulations to our staff members who completed degrees and graduated this December: Kirk McSwain, *assistant to the chief of staff, Office of the President*; and Janelle Sealy, *scholarship coordinator, Office of Financial Aid!*

# STAFF MEMBER of the month

Charles Yearta, *interim assistant chief, Campus Police*



They do it to make an impact on society and to truly help others. I want to make this campus a safe and welcoming environment for my family, for Winthrop students, staff, and faculty. That thought is what drives me every day.

### What is your favorite part of Winthrop?

The people! Winthrop has allowed me to grow in my career and as a person. One of the most important lessons my dad taught me was, “pick a career that makes you happy and makes you want to come to work, regardless of the monetary benefits of that job. If you do that, you will never ‘work’ a day in your life.” Best piece of advice that I have ever received, and Winthrop has never failed me in that regard.

### How many years have you been at Winthrop?

I have worked at Winthrop University for the past 12 years. However, I have been at Winthrop for the past 16 years, including my time here as a student.

### What makes Winthrop special to you?

Winthrop University is special because to me because it's not just a job. To me, Winthrop is family. I met my wife here while we were in school together. Lindsay and I got engaged on the day of our graduation. My children have attended many events on campus, such as track-and-field competitions, and basketball, soccer, volleyball, baseball, and soccer games. We have attended dance and theatre productions, and my youngest attends Macfeat Laboratory School. When I see Winthrop, I see my family. Winthrop students, staff, and faculty have such a special place in my heart.

### What drives you to make such a difference?

In my opinion, individuals who enter public service do so not for the money and not for the prestige.

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

I enjoy taking trips and visiting new places. On the rare occasion that I get to read for fun, I enjoy it. Although the TV is a close personal friend of mine, I should also mention that my wife takes me on these nature hikes that are supposed to be fun, but they feel like punishment.

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

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT ALL. Get involved and enjoy it! I cannot tell you how many times I hear our students say that they didn't know “this” was an option while they were here, or that they are just hurrying to get done and move on with their chosen career paths. The most enjoyable time in my life was during my college years. However, I was so focused on completing a degree that it all passed me by and I didn't know it until after graduation. I wish I had taken the time to do more things, see more things, and get more involved.

# SMOTM Nominees

from left to right: April Ables, *admissions operations coordinator, Admissions*; Charles Yearta, *interim assistant chief, Campus Police*; Janelle Sealy, *scholarship coordinator, Office of Financial Aid*; and Lee Clark, *administrative assistant, Social Work*.



# New Hires

Welcome to the newest members of our Winthrop family:

Tiffany Alexander, *associate director for employer engagement and internships, Career and Civic Engagement*

Victoria Balberde, *accounts payable technician, Accounts Payable*

James Blanton, *police officer, Campus Police*

Brandon Braswell, *user support technician, Computing & Information Technology*

Deborah Casperson, *accounting technician, Cashiers Office*

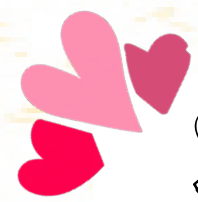
William Cousar, *set-up specialist, Facilities Management*

Jordan Epperson, *financial aid counselor, Office of Financial Aid*

Kelly Heinemann, *assistant manager, Student Financial Services*

## Have you changed roles on campus?

If you've received a promotion or moved to a new department, send an e-mail to [cauthenk@winthrop.edu](mailto:cauthenk@winthrop.edu) so we can celebrate with you!



# Staff Sweethearts

We're celebrating Valentine's Day by shining a spotlight on some of the cutest love stories that have taken place on campus!

**Kelly Scott**, *decision support coordinator, Accreditation, Accountability, and Academic Services*

“Way back when, around 1995, I was working as a textbook manager in the Winthrop Bookstore. My now husband, Brian, worked in the Information Technology department here at Winthrop. We knew each other a little because of attending church together. One day our printer in the bookstore was having problems, so we called IT for help. The IT manager at the time, Merry Smyre, thought it might be fun to send my hubby, Brian Scott (who was currently a single guy), over to the bookstore to help out the textbook manager (who was currently a single girl) with her technology problem. We had a big laugh when he fixed the printer, because Brian determined the problem was caused by pennies that had been inadvertently dropped into the printer. Brian “rescued us” by fixing it and reminding us not to drop pennies in the printer. And since he thought it was funny, and I was kinda cute, let’s just say we got to know each other a little better and were ultimately married 2 years later. Just celebrated 22 years!”



**Samantha Kroft**, *program assistant, University College*; and **John Kroft**, *readmission coordinator, Records & Registration*

“John and I grew up in the same hometown, but we didn’t start talking until 2013 when a mutual friend of ours had connected us. In 2014, John came home from the Army to our small town, and we started dating that May. After we both completed our associate degrees, John was researching schools to attend to continue our education and found Winthrop. In June 2016, we packed our stuff and left our small town for Rock Hill. We settled in nicely and found a vibrant community that we love to call home now. We both graduated from Winthrop with our bachelor’s degrees, making it a wonderful connection we could share, as well. We had already felt like we were married

by then but, to make things easier for the future, we felt it best to make it official. John proposed to me at the Bush-N-Vine strawberry picking event they had on May 25th, 2019 by tying the ring to the stem of a strawberry and making the pun, “I love you berry much.” We had discussed before that it would be fun to get married on Halloween because it is a holiday that we go all out for. To make things better, we knew so much about Winthrop’s history that having the ceremony here was perfect. We had a small ceremony for just us at 10:31am on October 31st, 2019 on the fourth floor of Tillman hall. We then went trick-or-treating in Bancroft, which we have done since we started attending Winthrop. Finally, we went to the Louise Pettus Archives, where we read the courtship letters between James P. Kinard and Lee Wicker Kinard. We wanted to continue to make our mark on a place that has changed our lives for the better and hope to share a wonderful future here at Winthrop.”



# Personal Printing!

Printing Services can help you with the printing for your next personal event, whether it be a child’s birthday party, an HOA event in your neighborhood or a family wedding. Here are a few examples of personal jobs we have done for Winthrop faculty and staff:

- Wedding invites, reply cards, and programs
- Christmas cards
- Galentine’s Day cards
- A banner for a 60th birthday party
- Homeowner’s association newsletters
- Homeowner’s association annual mailings
- Memorial service programs and enlarged portrait of the deceased
- Personal photography enlarged and printed as a poster
- Accessories for Halloween costumes
- 40th birthday invitations
- Baby shower invitations
- Bridal shower invitations
- Children’s birthday party invitations
- Bachelorette party invitations and favors
- Business cards and flyers for side businesses
- Instruction books for personal hobbies
- PTA newsletters
- High school booster club materials and football programs

So, how does it work? Typically people come to Printing Services with the art for their project already ready to print. How do they do that? Some purchase artwork from Etsy or other vendors, some use design sites like Canva, some create it in Microsoft Word or Powerpoint. If you’d rather we handle the artwork, we can certainly do that, though keep in mind that we do charge for our design time.

If you have your art ready to print, email a pdf of it to [printingservices@winthrop.edu](mailto:printingservices@winthrop.edu) along with specifics of the job: what kind of paper, how many you want, when you need it by, etc. and ask for a price estimate. We provide custom quotes as requested because there are so many variables for print jobs. You’ll see our prices are very competitive, and we’re easy to work with! Once the job is complete, we accept credit cards through our Marketplace site and also checks (no cash, please).

So if this email sparked a little creativity in you or you have a big event coming up, and you want to discuss your project with our experienced staff and get preliminary pricing, you have three choices for getting the ball rolling:

1. Come by McBryde 105 to chat (the rust colored stairs on the side of the building facing the West Center visitor parking lot lead directly to our space)
2. E-mail [printingservices@winthrop.edu](mailto:printingservices@winthrop.edu)
3. Call 803/323-2221

# SPOTLIGHT

## on Staff Assembly

Jill Simpson

*family nurse practitioner, Health Services*



Jill Simpson, a family nurse practitioner in Winthrop University's Health Services, will be serving on Staff Assembly for a second time. She has been working as a nurse practitioner at Winthrop University for 13 years (the first five were in a part-time capacity). She holds an R.N. (Registered Nursing) and Master of Science degree in nursing from Vanderbilt University. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Furman University. Jill is a board certified family nurse practitioner through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She enjoys providing health care, patient education, and a listening ear to the students she serves here at Winthrop University.

Prior to working at Winthrop University, Jill worked in North Carolina providing primary healthcare and OB/GYN care to medically underserved populations. She also has worked at a local nonprofit clinic for adolescents and a busy family practice office in Rock Hill. Jill is married to Jonathan Simpson. They have three children: William (16),

Noah (13), and Abby (11) and a Goldendoodle named Charleigh. Jill enjoys baking, walking, watching the Atlanta Braves, volunteering, and traveling.

# Staff Assembly

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.

# Pet Food Drive



Judy Longshaw (left) and Chris Johnson (right) pictured with Lynn Garris of the Council on Aging.

Winthrop faculty, staff and students donated more than 100 pounds of pet food in December to the York County Council on Aging's Pet Buddies Program. The food was sent to homebound seniors who receive Meals on Wheels so their beloved pets could receive adequate nutrition.

"When seniors run low on pet food, many will split their home-delivered meal with their pet. When this happens, neither receives adequate nutrition", said Ashley Bizzell, York County Council on Aging's client services director. "This donation of pet food will help immensely and came at just the right time, as our pet food supply is running very low."

Chris Johnson, *sustainability coordinator, Facilities Management*; Thomas Cornelius, *instructional designer, Accreditation, Accountability, and Academic Services*; and Judy Longshaw, *media services manager, University Communications & Marketing*, delivered the goods to the aging agency. The pet food collection bins were placed

in 12 buildings around campus by Staff Conference members. With more than 100 pounds collected, the Winthrop community quickly rose to the challenge.

The York County Council on Aging prepares between 8,000 and 12,000 meals monthly for seniors in York and Chester counties. The pets of many of these seniors will benefit from Winthrop's kindness.

For anyone who'd like to donate to the York County Council on Aging's Pet Buddies program, you can donate online at [ycco.com](http://ycco.com), or drop food off at their office at 917 Standard Street in Rock Hill.

# Finding Big Stuff



Can you find Big Stuff? Each issue of Staff Stuff has the illustration to the left 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 Big Stuff will be entered into a drawing to win a prize. Congratulations to last month's winner: Deborah Broome, *fiscal analyst, Finance & Business Affairs*.

# Staff Photos!



Jayne Charles, *administrative coordinator, Computing & Information Technology*; and Lee Clark, *administrative assistant, Social Work*, at the Staff Holiday Social.



Jessica Cauthen, *recruiter/communications coordinator, Graduate School*, at the launch of Winthrop's new faculty/staff Affinity Groups.

## Staff Conference Highlights

- Staff questions concerned leave accrual for grant-funded positions, PTO vs. annual leave, centralized training for administrative assistants, the search button on Winthrop's homepage, future plans for the MATS office, retired employees who continue to receive a salary, and ways to help the grounds crew.
- President Mahony shared updates on what we can expect from the state legislature's budget, current enrollment numbers, fundraising and our endowment, and the outlook for next year's operating budget.
- Hank Harrawood, *associate athletic director, Athletics*, shared some information on Athletics including recent successes, community service, free tickets for staff, and how to support student athlete scholarships through the Eagle Club.
- Jill Simpson, *family nurse practitioner, Health Services*, reminded everyone of ways to stay healthy during flu season.
- April Hershey, *assistant to the dean, Graduate School*, announced that Dr. Kimberly Faust and a representative from the Board of Trustees would be at the February Staff Conference to discuss the interim president. A nutritionist from Sodexo is also on the agenda.

For more details, you can view the [PowerPoint presentation](#) or read the [minutes](#) online.

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

Kara Cauthen, Jayme Charles, Maria D'Agostino, Kaye Hayes, Kelly McGinnis, Kat Wilson.