

# STAFF stuff

Volume 7 Issue 3  
October 2020



## HALLOWEEN PHOTO CONTEST

It's time for our annual staff Halloween costume/ decorations photo contest (for bragging rights)! There are two ways to enter this year: send a photo of your costume or home/office decorations to [cauthenk@winthrop.edu](mailto:cauthenk@winthrop.edu), or post your photo to the [Staff Conference Facebook page](#). Submissions must be received by **November 2** in order to be featured in the next newsletter!



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# New Hires

Welcome to the newest members of our Winthrop family:

Calvin Joyner, *assistant director of student activities, Student Life*

Matthew Ostrega, *police officer, Campus Police*

## SPOTLIGHT

### on Staff Assembly

John Kroft

*registration and readmission coordinator, Records & Registration*



In 2009, I graduated high school and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Army. After having served my initial five-year contract as Military Police, I decided not to re-up. Instead, I moved back to Florida where I attended Pasco-Hernando State College prior to transferring to Rock Hill and Winthrop University as an English literature and language major. Shortly after graduation, I picked up a job as a temporary employee in Records and Registration before landing a permanent position in the same office. As of July 16, 2020, I've been the registration and readmission coordinator for a full calendar year.

Outside of work, I enjoy gardening (or attempting to) with my wife, Samantha, as well as 3D printing, random craft projects, and home improvement projects. We have one black cat, Jacqueline Onassis Lantern, who showed up around Halloween '18 and just hasn't left.

# Pumpkin Carving Contest!



Dr. Hynd and the First Lady are hosting a Faculty/Staff Pumpkin Carving Contest! Faculty and staff who are interested in participating should complete the registration form before Wednesday, October 21 at 5 p.m. Pumpkins will be judged by Dr. Hynd and Mrs. Hynd (the First Dog may also make a costumed

appearance!). After registration closes, participants will be assigned a numbered table slot where they will drop off their entry. Participants should pick their pumpkins up at the end of the event, and any pumpkins left behind will be disposed of. Pumpkins should be carved ahead of time (there will be no carving on site). Prizes will be awarded for first place and two runners up.

**Registration Link:** [https://winthrop.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8IbTP7u5Xp9d2zH](https://winthrop.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8IbTP7u5Xp9d2zH)

**Registration Deadline:** October 21 at 5 p.m.

**Event Date:** Thursday, October 29

**Location:** Campus Green

**Rain Location:** McBryde

**Entry Drop-Off Time:** 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Judging:** 1-1:30 p.m.

**Entry Pick-Up Time:** 2-2:30 p.m. (Any pumpkins left over will be disposed of)

## 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:

Teri Haddaway, *administrative specialist, Mathematics*.

# STAFF MEMBER of the month



Anna Fredericks,  
student services director  
College of Visual & Performing Arts

**How many years have you been at Winthrop?**  
I have been at Winthrop for 11 years.

**What makes Winthrop special to you?**  
There are so many things that make Winthrop special. I love how we strive to make our students feel at home here, how we teach critical thinking skills and expose students to different cultures and perspectives through classes, the common book, cultural events and much more. I cherish our diversity and commitment to improving access and the overall experience for everyone. All in all, I love how student centered we are. Everyone is caring and wants to help students succeed.

**What drives you to make such a difference?**  
I just hope to add value to our Winthrop team. My goal is to help however-wherever-whoever I can. I try to give students the information or encouragement needed to reach their goals and to help faculty and staff with anything that will lighten their load and make their jobs easier. Even if I can only be a listening ear, I want to be a soft place to land for others. These last few months have been exceptionally difficult, and my coworkers within CVPA and across campus have continually supported, encouraged and lifted me up when I needed it. I hope to do the same for them.

**What is your favorite part of Winthrop?**  
My favorite part of Winthrop is definitely the people! The faculty, staff and students make it a special place. The way we all work together in good times and bad makes me feel like I'm part of an amazing team with

the same goal in mind. I can be myself here and feel supported in my efforts to put the students first.

**What do you do in your spare time? Hobbies?**  
In my home life, I am raising four boys while caring for two sets of aging parents (mine and my husband's) so between the pediatrics and geriatrics there isn't much spare time. My husband and I are from Illinois originally, and we were born into a long line of diehard Cubs fans. Every summer, we try to catch as many games as we can. This season was definitely like no other, being condensed and with no fans in the stands, but we were grateful to have any baseball season and enjoyed the family time cheering on our Cubbies. We are also a family that loves all things Disney. Mostly, I love Disney, and my family comes along for the ride. My favorite part is the planning process, so even though we have not been able to travel for a long time, I keep dreaming about our next trip whenever that will be. My happy place is thinking about ideas for vacation or helping friends plan their trip, which is the most fun!

**If you had to tell an incoming student one thing about Winthrop, what would it be?**  
I would tell an incoming student to have an open heart and mind, and get involved! There are so many incredible, varying experiences and opportunities here. You just have to communicate and get engaged. Be open to try new things and truly take advantage of your time here as it will go by so fast. That is a lot more than one thing! In a nutshell, be open and present; you never know what will spark your interest!

# SMOTM Nominees

Bert Daniels, *program assistant, Mass Communication*; Barbara Mayes, *procurement specialist, Purchasing*; Duncan McMaster, *postal assistant, Post Office*; Kathie Park, *budget analyst and facilities manager, College of Education*; Jamie Ray, *web developer, University Communications & Marketing*; and Jessica VanCleave, *digital content specialist, Admissions*.

Do you work with someone who consistently goes above and beyond in displaying Winthrop's values? Have a colleague who really shined while tackling a tough project? Nominate them for Staff Member of the Month! Anyone can submit a nomination, and individuals can be nominated more than once!

## Nomination Form

# Committee Corner

Each month, we'll be highlighting a different staff committee to show the ways that staff can get involved. This month's focus is on **Campus & Community Involvement**.



The Campus & Community Involvement committee was established in 2014 to coordinate social and volunteer activities that give staff the opportunity to interact outside of their normal job roles and make a difference in our local community. Past events have included:

- Food Truck Fridays in downtown Rock Hill
- Canned food and pet food drives
- Pink Out Day to raise awareness for breast cancer
- Holiday cookie exchanges
- The City of Rock Hill's annual Come-See-Me Festival
- and more!

For more information or to learn how you can get involved, contact Judy Longshaw or Chris Johnson!

# Who are WU?

## Office of Online Learning

Winthrop's Office of Online Learning (WOOL) is responsible for training and technical support for the Blackboard learning management system (LMS), as well as instructional design support for faculty. Behind the scenes, the office has played a huge role in Winthrop's ability to successfully shift to remote learning over the past year. The WOOL team has been providing training and support to ensure that faculty can create the best possible online and hybrid courses. Read on to get to know the members of the team!

### **Kim Brazzell**, *instructional technologist*

Kim has been at Winthrop since April of 2005. In her role, she assists instructional designers and faculty with building and maintaining courses and organizations within Blackboard. She also facilitates professional development workshops, provides technical support, and curates support documentation for the LMS and integrated software. Kim will be graduating from Winthrop with her master's degree in learning design and technology in 2021. She is originally from Charleston, South Carolina, and her hobbies include exercising, cooking, and reading.

### **Lee Clark**, *online learning technician*

Lee has been at Winthrop since September of 2017. In her role, she provides professional development workshops, technical support, and support documentation for the LMS. Lee is originally from Fairfax, Virginia (near Washington D.C.). She is currently working on her master's degree in learning design and technology here at Winthrop. In her free time, she loves hiking with her dog, visiting local breweries, and traveling as much as possible.

### **Thomas Cornelius**, *instructional designer*

Thomas has been working at Winthrop since January of 2016. His focus is on assisting faculty with online

and hybrid course designs, and supporting them throughout the delivery (teaching) process. He does trainings and workshops, and facilitates some of the Winthrop Online Teaching Certification (WOTC) courses. Thomas is originally from Greer, South Carolina, and has graduated from Winthrop twice: first with a B.A. in English with a concentration in literature and language in 2011, and then with a Master of Education degree in educational technology in 2016. Outside of work, he tries to spend as much time outside as possible, and keeps up with new music as best he can.

### **Jane Eckert**, *Blackboard administrator*

Jane joined the Winthrop family in February of 2019. She is originally from York, Pennsylvania, and earned an A.S. in computer systems from York College. In her role, Jane manages and maintains the Blackboard LMS, provides tier II technical support, facilitates workshops, creates support documentation, and communicates maintenance and downtime to the campus community. In her free time, Jane enjoys crocheting and walking.

### **Belle Gironda**, *senior instructional designer*

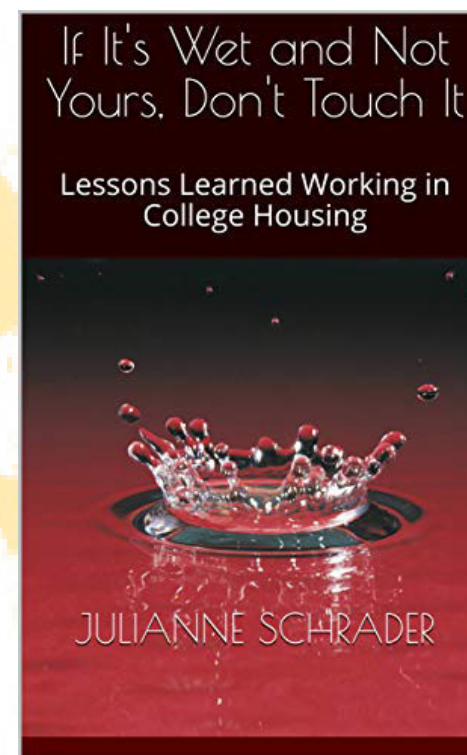
Belle has been at Winthrop since November of 2018. She grew up in New York and North Carolina, and

currently lives in Swannanoa, North Carolina. She has a Ph.D. in English from the State University of New York at Albany, and is a published poet and critic. Prior to coming to Winthrop, Belle worked in a variety of roles including senior instructional designer and faculty development specialist at Adelphi University, director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning at Queensborough Community College, and as a faculty member at the City University of New York. Here at Winthrop, Belle assists faculty with online and hybrid course design, provides pedagogical support for online instruction, and recommends technology-integrated instructional strategies. She also provides individual and group consultations and professional development workshops, including the WOTC courses. In her free time, she enjoys yoga, gardening, and poetry (reading it, writing it, and thinking/talking about it).

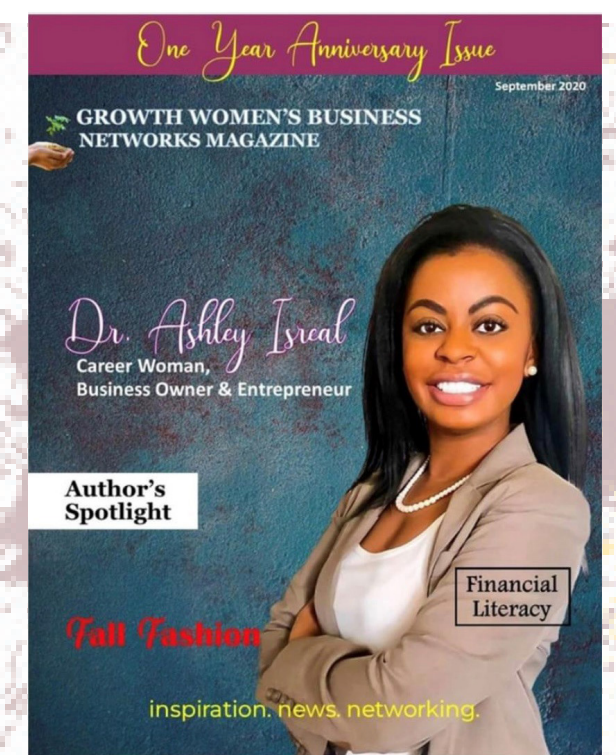
### **Kimarie Whetstone**, *director of online learning*

Kimarie has worked at Winthrop since February of 2010. In her role, she works with the WOOL team to support faculty in the effective design and facilitation of online, hybrid, and web-enhanced courses. She plans and delivers initiatives, training opportunities, and resources for faculty in the areas of instructional design, online pedagogy, and the Blackboard LMS. She works with faculty, staff, and deans to develop, monitor, and disseminate standards, policies, and procedures related to online learning. Kimarie earned her Ph.D. in education online from Capella University. Her specialization is instructional design for online learning, and she has been working in higher education since 1996. Her areas of interest include accessibility in online learning, learning design, and technology. Kimarie is originally from Queens, New York, and her hobbies include mentoring, singing, and volunteering with church activities.

## Milestones

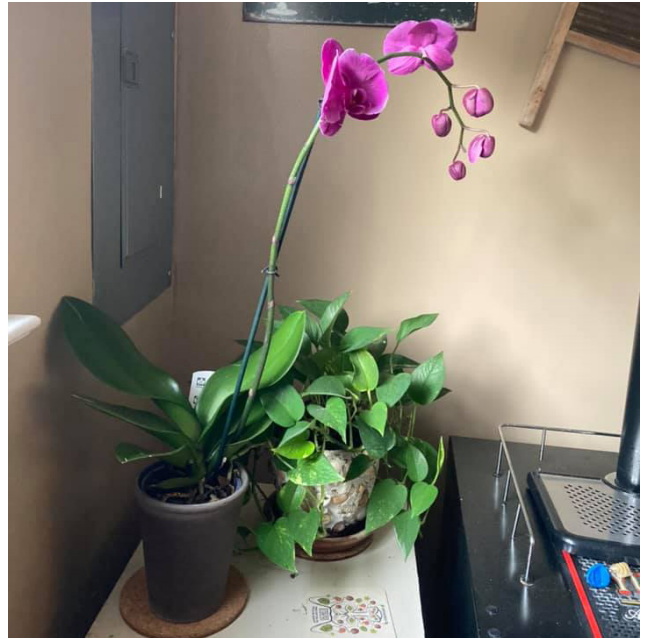


Julianne Schrader, *assistant director, Residence Life*, has written a book of life lessons learned from working in college housing!



Ashley Isreal, *special assistant to the vice president, Student Affairs*, was featured on the cover of the September 2020 issue of Growth Women's Business Networks Magazine!

# Staff Gardens



Kelly Scott, *decision support coordinator, Accreditation, Accountability, and Academic Services*, and her husband built this cedar garden box together and planted fall veggies and herbs.

April Hershey, *assistant to the dean, Graduate School*, shared these two lovely houseplants, including a birthday orchid!

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## Staff Conference Highlights

The most recent Staff Conference PowerPoint included an introduction of the new Staff Council leadership team, a presentation of the annual report, staff questions related to furloughs and diversity, and tech tips from IT on creating an out-of-office notification for email. To view the complete PowerPoint or review the minutes, visit the [Staff Conference SharePoint Site!](#)

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**Story or content ideas? Contact a member of the Media & Communications Committee:**  
Kara Cauthen, Jayme Charles, Maria D'Agostino, Kaye Hayes, Shea Maple, Kat Wilson.