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We want to connect with you! The Staff Conference Facebook group is a great place to share updates, announcements, and event information throughout the year. Click the link below to join!

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Greeting

from the new Staff Conference Chair

Nicole Chisari, *communications coordinator, University Communications & Marketing.*



Twelve years ago, I sat at a table in Johnson Hall for my summer Orientation session at Winthrop University—sweaty, hair frizzing out beyond belief, and determined. I knew I wanted to major in journalism and write happy stories about people doing good things, and I made that clear as my future advisor walked around the room asking us questions. And that’s just what I did.

But what I didn’t and couldn’t know at the time was how much Winthrop University, and especially the people, would come to mean to me, first as a student, and now as an employee.

There’s something special about Winthrop that pulls you in and won’t let you go. Maybe it’s the joy of watching students laugh and make life-long friends in the DGs. Or the charm of discovering the little pieces of the university’s history across campus. Or the beautiful campus during fall, when you feel the nip in the air as the leaves change, the sunlight filters through the trees, and a faint campfire scent lingers in the air.

But more than likely, it’s the wonderful people who work here, the people who make up the Winthrop family. I’m honored to serve as the chair of the staff side of that family for the 2018-19 academic year.

While I graduated in 2009, I returned “home” in 2012 as communications coordinator for the Office of Communications and Marketing in Tillman. Because our office does work for all areas of campus, I’ve had the chance to connect with so many people from other departments. I truly value and respect the work Winthrop staff members do, and I hope that will become ever more apparent as I and my fellow Staff Assembly members strive to fulfill our ultimate mission. This is a job we take very seriously.

My hair may be slightly less frizzy than it was 12 years ago, but I am still determined – this time, to make sure you know you are appreciated; and to find and implement initiatives, suggestions, ideas, and more that will make your Winthrop experience even better. Here’s to a great year!

Fast facts: I hold a bachelor’s in mass communication and a master’s in liberal arts, both from Winthrop. I enjoy reading, eating fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies, and spending time with my adorable son, Eddie Dean, and my husband, Jason.

Meet Brittany!

Brittany Cromedy, *benefits administrator, Human Resources*

Back in mid-winter 2018, Brittany Cromedy joined Winthrop’s Human Resources Division as a benefits administrator coordinating both Family Medical (FMLA) Leave and Winthrop’s Wellness Plan offerings. Those of you who have had the opportunity to cross paths with Brittany probably did so at a wellness event, New Hire Orientation, or in a one-on-one enrollment meeting where new hires select insurance benefits and retirement options.

Brittany is an alum of Winthrop’s College of Business Administration, and relocated from Georgetown, South Carolina, in February of 2018. She quickly acclimated to being back on campus in her new role as a valued HR staff member, and has enjoyed assisting others in the Winthrop family. Just as Brittany was nearing the end of a multi-part training in Columbia on the complexities of state insurance benefits and PEBA’s (Public Employee Benefits Authority) regulations and procedures, she became Winthrop’s only benefits administrator due to the resignation of a co-worker.

Currently, Brittany serves as Winthrop’s one-stop shop for all things related to benefits, FMLA, and retirement. In addition, she assists employees, other campus departments, and the PEBA people with daily issues that arise and require support from the Benefits area. While HR is working to fill the vacant benefits administrator position, Brittany has risen to the occasion to provide employees with a high-quality level of service and is always happy to be of assistance in any way possible.

Brittany was born in Charleston, South Carolina, as the youngest of five. Her family members consider her the comical jokester of the group. Brittany moved from Charleston to nearby Georgetown at the age of three, and remained there until she came to Rock Hill to attend Winthrop. While a full-time student at Winthrop, Brittany also worked full time in Loan Collections at CitiFinancial. Brittany loves the Rock Hill area and its close proximity to Charlotte, North Carolina.

Brittany chose to study Human Resources at Winthrop as a student because she likes the idea of being involved in helping an organization determine the makeup of its workforce. Later when she began working as a HR professional, she decided she was interested in benefits because she liked the idea of helping to provide compensation to employees: “Even the hardest days working with benefits are much more fulfilling than my days as a loan collector,” said Brittany. Brittany came to work at Winthrop from Strovis, a company where she served as an outsourced HR representative for fifty different companies with many different benefit plans. Brittany feels like working for her alma mater is pretty cool and allows her to help those who helped her. She likes to bake (especially red velvet cake) and spend time with her 10-year-old daughter, Madison, when away from work. Brittany’s dream destination would be Dubai, due to its beauty.

For all of your HR benefits needs, contact Brittany at cromedyb@winthrop.edu.



STAFF MEMBER of the month - April

Charlene Drummond, *archivist, Louise Pettus Archives.*



How many years have you been at Winthrop? I have been at Winthrop for 29 years.

What makes Winthrop special to you? When I started working at Winthrop, my husband, Michael, worked here. Then when I became a student, meeting the professors and other students, and getting involved in different activities made my time here very special.

What drives you to make such a difference? The thing that drives me to make a difference is knowing that life is short, but we have so many chances to get it right.

What is your favorite part of Winthrop? My favorite thing about Winthrop is that there are so many opportunities to get involved.

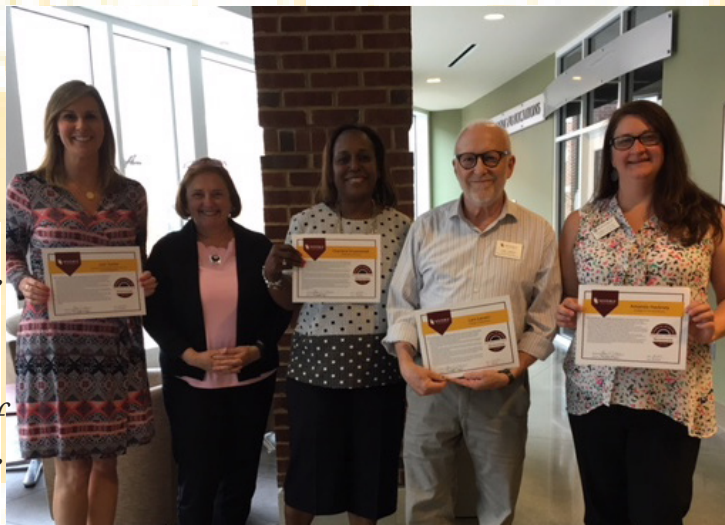
What do you do in your spare time? In my spare time, I love being involved in my church; spending time with my husband and grandchildren; traveling; and reading Christian romances, biographies, and mysteries.

If you had to tell an incoming student one thing about Winthrop, what would it be? One thing I would tell an incoming freshman is to take advantage of all the things Winthrop has to offer.

S.M.O.T.M. nominees

from left to right: Lori Tuttle, executive director, Alumni Relations; Pam Varraso, administrative specialist, Student Life; Charlene Drummond, archivist, Louise Pettus Archives; Lars Larsen, director of AV Services, Richard W. Riley College of Education; and Amanda Hackney, assistant to the dean, College of Arts and Sciences.

not pictured: Stephanie Coyle, administrative assistant, Fine Arts; Kim Foster, admissions counselor, Admissions; Joan Harris, coordinator of victims' services, Counseling Services; Linda Mason, administrative specialist, Department of Psychology; and Susan Sistar, coordinator for testing program, Office of Accessibility.



STAFF MEMBER of the month - May

Ginger Crocker, *custodian, Facilities Management.*



from left to right: Katie Price, director of marketing, University Communications and Marketing; Ginger Crocker, custodian, Facilities Management; and Tina Vires, program director, Office of Accessibility.

not pictured: Kara Cauthen, administrative specialist, Department of English; Maria D'Agostino, associate registrar, Records and Registration; Tesia Harris, assistant women's basketball coach, Athletics; and Linda Mason, administrative specialist, Department of Psychology.

Nominations for Staff Member of the Month are due at the end of each month and can be submitted below!

<https://www.winthrop.edu/staff/employeeofmonth/>

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 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: Alexis Roy, administrative assistant, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Summer on campus



Bethany Marlowe, *assistant vice president and dean of students, Student Affairs*, at the annual Late Night Breakfast for students during exam week in April.



Angelo Geter, *director of campus programming, Student Affairs*; and Goldie Gildehaus, *career consultant, Center for Career and Civic Engagement*.



Sharina Salter, *user support manager, Computing and Information Technology*, taking ID photos during Orientation.



Ann Barrett, *administrative coordinator, University College*, at the ice cream social where parents wrote notes to their children during Orientation I.



Grant Scurry, *assistant dean of students and director of the West Center, Student Affairs*, knows how to celebrate in style!



Joan Weir, *assistant to the vice president, Student Affairs*; and Chelsea Havner, *bookstore manager, Student Affairs*, at the retirement party for Frank Ardaiole.



Pam Varraso, *administrative specialist, Student Life*; Debra Boyd, *provost and vice president, Academic Affairs*; and Laura Foster, *director of volunteer and community service, Center for Career and Civic Engagement*.



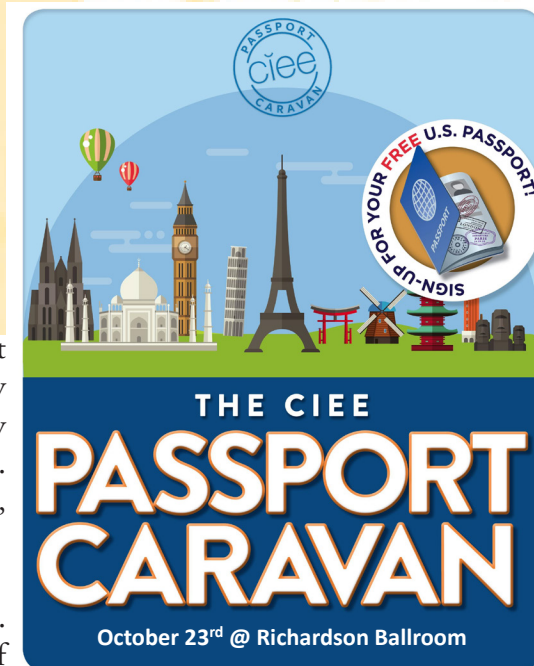
Joanna Harris, *education services coordinator, Richard W. Riley College of Education*, helping a student during Orientation.

Passport Caravan

Winthrop University has been selected to host one-day passport event with CIEE, offering 120 free passports to encourage students to study abroad. This event is part of CIEE's support of Generation Study Abroad™, an initiative to make study abroad possible for more U.S. students by breaking down the three major barriers to study abroad: cost, curriculum, and culture.

At the event, CIEE will help students apply for passports for free. Once issued, U.S. passports last for ten years, opening up a decade of possibilities for individuals to study, live, work, and travel outside of the United States.

The event will take place on Tuesday, October 23rd in Richardson Ballroom, but students will need to apply for this opportunity by August 27th using the link on the flyer. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to studyabroad@winthrop.edu.



Accessibility

Advocate of the month April - May - June

Thank you to these staff superheros for all their hard work and dedication to making Winthrop an accessible campus!

Julia Fockler

financial aid counselor, Office of Financial Aid

Kinyata Brown

assistant dean for diversity, engagement, and inclusive excellence, Student Affairs

Callie Smith

director of new student and family programs, Student Affairs

New Hires

Welcome to the newest members of our Winthrop Family:

Becca Acevedo, *assistant volleyball coach, Athletics*

Jackie Alexander, *assistant women's basketball coach, Athletics*

Alexa Allen, *administrative specialist, Department of Human Nutrition*

Shannon Brown, *annual philanthropy manager, University Advancement*

Sheila Burkhalter, *vice president, Student Affairs*

Chris Carter, *residential life coordinator - Lee Wicker, Student Affairs*

Heather Carter, *administrative specialist, Department of Psychology*

Jessica Cauthen, *recruiter and communications coordinator, Graduate School*

Michael Civitello, *groundskeeper, Facilities Management*

James Clarkson, *fleet and motor pool manager, Facilities Management*

Jeremiah Dahl, *library specialist, Ida Jane Dacus Library*

Glen Evans, *boiler operator, Facilities Management*

Paula Garofalo, *arts recruitment coordinator, Admissions*

Jayson Gee, *associate head men's basketball coach, Athletics*

Erin Harwood, *stewardship and events coordinator, Athletics*

Kaye Hayes, *communications coordinator, Office of Communications & Marketing*

Tommy Henry, *development coordinator, Athletics*

Emma Orr, *police officer, Campus Police*

Jill Parker, *donor relations coordinator, University Advancement*

LeeAnza Perrin, *police officer, Campus Police*

John Pierce, *police officer, Campus Police*

Lewis Shine, *associate head women's basketball coach, Athletics*

Diann Smothers, *head of content services, Ida Jane Dacus Library*

Cathy Sprowls, *director of procurement and risk management, Purchasing*

Windy Thees, *head softball coach, Athletics*

Holly Truluck, *laboratory chemist, Department of Chemistry, Physics, and Geology*

Cody Walters, *information literacy librarian, Ida Jane Dacus Library*

Claire Weikle, *business analyst, Office of the VP of Academic Affairs*

Walk 2018

Walk 2018 is a yearlong walking/running program designed to help and encourage current Faculty/Staff and West Center members to keep moving all year long. From January 1-July 1, the 93 participants have walked/run a total of 28,661.93 miles. Great job, everyone!



Staff Conference

Highlights May

- Staff questions concerned technology upgrades on campus, vending machines, and TERI employees.
- Callie Smith, *director of new student and family programs, Student Affairs*, gave a presentation on Summer Orientation, including details about the events, introducing the student orientation leaders, the number of new students who are registered, and how we can all help to make campus a welcoming place.
- Nicole Chisari, *communications coordinator, University Communications & Marketing*, announced details about the Professional Development Conference taking place in June.
- The new Staff Feedback committee has been holding meetings to discuss the most frequent questions and concerns that staff have. They will have a write-up for the website soon.

June

- Staff questions concerned working summer hours all year, Dr. DiGiorgio's old office space, having potholes repaired, ensuring that knowledge is passed down when staff members retire, and creating a forum for staff to communicate best practices across departments.
- Chelsi Colleton, *study abroad coordinator, International Center*, presented information on Winthrop's Study Abroad programs available to students.
- Kelly McGinnis, *administrative specialist, Athletics*, gave a presentation on the Staff Media & Communications Committee.
- Maria D'Agostino, *associate registrar, Records & Registration* presented certificates to the outgoing members of Staff Assembly and thanked them for their service. New Staff Assembly members were introduced.

July

- Staff questions concerned the new logo on university vehicles, maintenance on Scholar's Walk, drivers going the wrong way on Alumni Drive, and details regarding the new food service contract.
- President Mahony provided an update on the university budget.
- The new staff assembly members who were present were introduced.
- Nicole Chisari, *communications coordinator, University Communications & Marketing*, spoke about Staff Assembly's mission statement and what it can and cannot do for staff members.
- The next Staff Conference will be **Tuesday, August 28, 2018** in Dina's Place.

For more details, view the Staff Conference minutes available on our webpage

Staff Assembly



Thank you to our outgoing Staff Assembly representatives:

Becky Best, *groundskeeper supervisor, Facilities Management*

Jackie Concodora, *director, Health & Counseling Services*

Penny Cotter, *administrative specialist, Athletics*

Maria D'Agostino, *associate registrar, Records & Registration*

Amanda Hackney, *budget analyst, Budget Office*

Susan Sauvigne, *administrative specialist, College of Visual & Performing Arts*

Lori Tuttle, *executive director, Alumni Relations*

And Congratulations to the newly elected Staff Assembly representatives:

Jonathan Brabson, *assistant women's soccer coach, Athletics*

Rachel Glover, *administrative coordinator, Computing & Information Technology*

Cheryl Gomez, *office coordinator, Human Resources*

Laura Johnson, *associate director of West Center operations, Student Affairs*

Lydia Johnson, *administrative assistant, Office of the VP of Finance & Business*

Brittany Neely, *alumni engagement coordinator, Alumni Relations*

We appreciate all of your service to our campus!

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 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.

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

Kara Cauthen, Maria D'Agostino, Judy Longshaw, Kelly McGinnis, Summersby Okey, Kat Wilson.