

May 2024 Staff Stuff

A Staff Conference Publication | Volume 10, Issue 8

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Staff Conference will resume in August.



Missed the last meeting?
View the presentation on
the [Staff Conference
webpage](#).

Congratulations and Appreciation

With the end of the 2023-2024 academic year, we want to pause to give congratulations and appreciation to our amazing staff. Our wonderful staff have been recognized at the Annual Faculty, Staff, and Retirees Ceremony at the end of April, plus we have several staff to congratulate on completing a degree at Winthrop this Spring. If you see any of these folks, please join us in recognizing their hard work and commitment!

continued on page 2



Adria Belk, winner of the Staff Member of the Year Award, pictured above with colleagues and Staff Recognition committee members.

Mark Your Calendars

Summer Hours May 6 - Aug 9

Winthrop will observe summer work hours. All offices (except facilities, campus police, and Dacus Library) should follow the summer schedule posted [here](#).

Memorial Day May 27

All offices are closed and classes are canceled in observance of Memorial Day. Staff who work a normal 37.5 hour work week will work until 12:30 on Friday, May 31 to ensure they meet their required hours.

Independence Day July 4

All offices are closed and classes are canceled in observance of Independence Day. Staff who work a normal 37.5 hour work week will work until 12:30 on Friday, July 5 to ensure they meet their required hours.

Congratulations and Appreciation (continued from page 1)



Staff recognized with awards at the Award Ceremony, including Ben Paxton earning the 30 years of state service award (bottom right) and Lee Clark earning the first Flight Ready award (top right). Also recognized were faculty and staff who had served 10 years (top left) and 20 years (bottom left).



Staff walking at the Spring 2024 Commencement. Sav Siegfried is pictured at left with Beth Costner (Dean of CESHS) and Lisa Harris (faculty in CESHS). Amy Gonzalez is pictured at right with degree.



And a final congratulations to President Serna who earned a contract extension from the Winthrop Board of Trustees.

Staff Member of the Month

March 2024



Ramona Kundl

Administrative Assistant
Department of Theatre and Dance

How many years have you been at Winthrop?
I will have been at Winthrop 16 years this June.

What makes Winthrop special to you?
The people, faculty, staff and students make Winthrop special.

What drives you to make such a difference?
I was raised with a strong work ethic by my parents and I truly care about people.

What is your favorite part of Winthrop?
My favorite thing about Winthrop is the feeling of family within the department, not just with the faculty but also with many of the students.

What do you do in your spare time? Hobbies?
My husband and I love to camp in our little travel trailer. I love being outside in nature as often as possible.

If you had to tell an incoming student one thing about Winthrop, what would it be?
When talking to prospective students I always tell them they will not just be a number or a face in a class here, but will truly be known and know their instructors.

April 2024



Paula Garofalo

**Senior Arts Recruitment
Coordinator**
Office of Admissions

How many years have you been at Winthrop?
Six years.

What makes Winthrop special to you?
The Winthrop community of student, faculty and staff.

What drives you to make such a difference?
I believe in education.

What is your favorite part of Winthrop?
Our students!

What do you do in your spare time? Hobbies?
Gardening and thrifting.

If you had to tell an incoming student one thing about Winthrop, what would it be?
You will find *your people* here!

Nominees

for Staff Member of the Month

March Nominees:

Aerial Craig, Instructional Technology Center

Cheryl Gomez, Human Resources

Julia Hinton, Facilities Management

Katie Hughes, Health Services

Leah McMillan, Political Science, Philosophy,
Religion & Legal Studies

Ramona Kundl, Theatre and Dance

Zan Jones, Human Resources

April Nominees:

Andria Tolbert, Human Resources

Angela Conner, Printing Services

David Rollings, Admissions

Debbie Garrick, Advancement

Jennifer Alayon, Physical Education, Sport &
Human Performance

Jess Peeples, University College

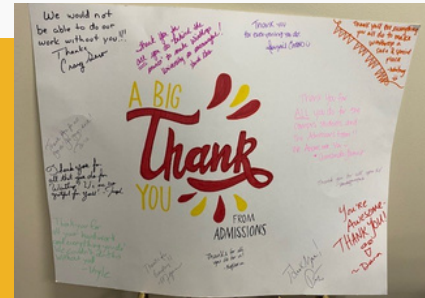
Paula Garofalo, Admissions

Thea Barnes, Records and Registration

Have an awesome coworker? Use the
[nomination form](#) to submit their name for
Staff Member of the Month.

Appreciation Breakfast for Facilities Staff

Winthrop held an appreciation breakfast for the Facilities staff this spring to thank them for all the amazing work they do throughout our campus. Many faculty and staff wrote letters of appreciation and the admissions staff created a Big Thank You poster. If you see any facilities staff around campus this summer, be sure to show your appreciation.



Staff Conference Highlights

The last Staff Conference of AY 23-24 was held in Whitton Auditorium on April 26th. Out-going co-chairs Katie Price and Leah Simmonds passed the baton to new leaders Taylor Degen (Chair) and Amanda Hackney (co-chair). They will inherit an active group as it focuses on maintaining a pipeline of multi-level activities to staff, our civic contributions, and attending to the diverse and changing needs of the staff experience.

Dr. Serna gave the great news that the Board approved the Strategic Plan. He thanked everyone for their input in this multi-faceted task. Next, Maria Linn gave an informative (and entertaining) talk about the role of Institutional Research at Winthrop, introducing the staff and showing their attractive and efficient website. The third speaker was fan-favorite Patrice Bruneau, who discussed the future look of Wingspan and reviewed the phishing threats and what we can do to keep our equipment and accounts safe.

Brittany Neely gave us a peek at the many events already planned for Homecoming 2024 on Nov 4-9, such as a campus art tour, reunion events, and emeriti faculty presentations. Please let her know of related events by May 31st so they can be included in Homecoming and Reunion brochures.

Katie Price reminded everyone that Winthrop promotional items must be ordered through licensed vendors. Check with UCM if you are not sure about that.

Campus and Community Involvement reported on the success of WU Cycle and Bags for Benches.

And last but not least we highlighted the Staff Members of the Month for March and April: **Ramona Kundl** and **Paula Garofalo**, and the Staff Member of the Year.....**Dr. Adria Belk**, CAS Director of Student Services! Congrats!!



Staff Conference meetings will resume
in the Fall.

Missed the last meeting?

View the presentation on the [Staff Conference webpage](#).

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society



Congratulations
2024 SPRING INITIATES

THE HONOR SOCIETY OF
PHI KAPPA PHI

UNDERGRADUATES	GRADUATE STUDENTS	William Rice
Morgan Baxter	Todd Bernson	Jessica Rodman
Erin Dinlocker	Veronika Butler	Megan Szalwinski
Deanna Gerszewski	Amy Cogan	Faith Watson
Avery Jolley	Jalen Conyers	Jennifer White
Mackenzie Luschkowski	Kendra Cox	He Zhu
Abigail McCrea	Hakim Diaz	
Lily Meisten	Jasmin Foxworth	FACULTY
Morgan Moore	Steven Gileta	Amanda Hiner
Malgorzata Radziszewska-Petros	Rhonda Goodale	Peter Judge
Gabrielle Walker	Anne Hill	Jeremy Mims
Ebonie White	Arismel Perez	Minnie Mize
Julia Wyatt	La J'ai Reed	Yi Shen

WINTHROP CHAPTER

Winthrop University's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi inducted new members, and you might see some familiar faces among their officers. Winthrop Staff who currently serve as officers of Phi Kappa Phi include Maria Linn, Heather Carter, and Leah Simmonds. The society is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Winthrop is one of only six chapters in South Carolina. Membership in the Society provides access to exclusive resources, benefits, and networking opportunities designed to serve each member's academic and professional needs.

A Winthrop Welcome to our newest hires!

- Dewayne Bunch**, Police Officer, Campus Police
- Thomas Carver**, Campus Safety Officer, Campus Police
- Egi Oakman**, Business Consultant, Business Administration
- Evan Schmitt**, Sergeant, Campus Police
- Trey Woodring**, User Services Manager, Dacus Library



Finding Big Stuff

Can you find Big Stuff? Each issue of Staff Stuff has the illustration above of our beloved mascot, Big Stuff, hidden somewhere throughout the pages. If you find him, 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.

Spotlight on Staff Assembly



Collectively, but with a little break, I have worked at Winthrop for 18 years. I currently serve as the institution's IPEDS key holder, assist with state and other compliance reporting, develop data visualizations, maintain the department's website, and manage institutional databases related to faculty credentials and assessment. I have a B.S. in Business Administration (Marketing option) from Winthrop University, class of 1990, and a Paralegal Certificate. Outside of work I love watching tv shows with my husband, walking & playing with our 2 dogs, being at the beach, and volunteering. My husband, Brian, and I have 2 sons who are young adults and one daughter who is a junior at RHHS and attends Winthrop for Spanish classes. One of my two sons works here at Winthrop in the I.T. department. I like my job here at Winthrop and appreciate my awesome co-workers who make coming to work enjoyable!

Kelly Scott
Senior Data Analyst
Institutional Effectiveness

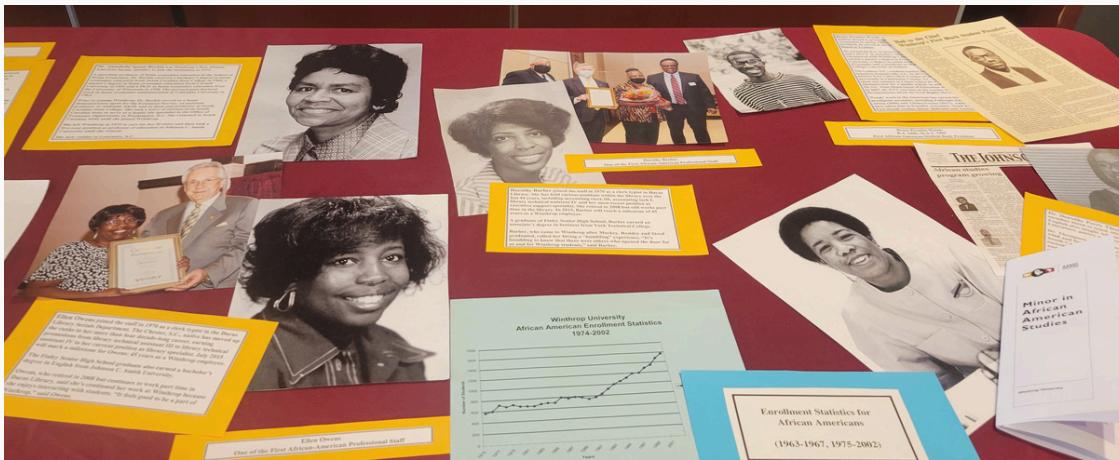
Momentous Anniversaries at Winthrop:

50th Anniversary of Co-Education & 60th Anniversary of Integration

This year commemorates the 60th anniversary of integration at Winthrop. In honor of the anniversary, the Black Alumni Council, the Association of Ebonites, and the African American Studies minor hosted a celebration of Black pioneers who broke barriers that led to integration at Winthrop in the 1960s.

The event honored Delores Johnson Hurt '68, the late Arnetta Gladden Mackey '67, Cynthia Plair Roddey '67 and Sue Frances Meriwether Steed '67, and was led by keynote speaker Kambrell Garvin '13, owner of Kambrell Garvin Law Firm and a current member of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

Visit the [integration website](#) for more information on these women and other pioneers.



This year also marks the 50th anniversary of coeducation at Winthrop. To celebrate, the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections has created the exhibit, "Redefining Winthrop: The South Carolina College for Women Confronts Coeducation" highlighting historic photographs, newsprints, documents and artifacts from Winthrop's 20-year journey toward coeducation. The Archives held a special reception to the exhibit and honor the first male graduates.

Gayle Slagle '69, Dennis Stamper '72, and Brittany Pigford '99 (above) and Cynthia Roddey (right) were among those celebrating the anniversary of the move to co-education at Winthrop.



Upcoming Events

Want to know what's happening around campus?

Go to <https://winthrovevents.coursedog.com/> for more information about Winthrop events.

Events Around Campus

Solar Eclipse

On April 8, 2024, many staff took a break in the early afternoon to step outside with their eclipse glasses and experience a partial solar eclipse. In Rock Hill, the eclipse covered about 75% of the sun. Did you see it?



WUCycle

WUCycle was a great success! Thank you to all those who volunteered at the event, dropped off items, and came to shop. And special thanks to Julie Schrader who has been organizing the event every year!



Staff & Faculty Social

Staff and Faculty Conference leadership worked together this year to host a Social at Middle James to celebrate the closing of a successful academic year!



Bleed Garnet Give Gold

University Advancement hosted a Happy Hour for Staff and Faculty at Slow Play to celebrate the success of this year's Day of Giving: Bleed Garnet, Give Gold. 21% of donors this year were Staff or Faculty at Winthrop. You can view donors, matching grants, and this year's [projects and causes](#) to support.



Winthrop Out of Darkness Campus Walk



Top Right: Walkers are encouraged to wear beads representing their connection to suicide prevention and to place names and memories on the memorial walk in honour of those who died by suicide.

Top Center: The end of the bead ceremony, which honours the campus's varying connections to the walk, whether it is a personal struggle or loss of someone close to them. The "HOPE" sign they hang from was a collaborative art piece that was created at the walk itself.

Top Left: The highest fundraising team leads the walk each year - this year, that team was Sexuality and Gender Equality, raising nearly \$1200 for suicide prevention.

Below: A picture of all those who walked (but certainly not all those who were present), standing in front of Margaret Nance.



Mental Health Awareness

Thank you to all who donned their green on April 23. Mental Health Awareness month is in May, but we started a little early. The CCIC partnered with Winthrop's Center for Student Wellness and NAMI to bring awareness to mental health issues and education by tying green ribbons on trees around campus.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), each year, 1 in 5 US adults experience mental illness, which not only affects the person, but also their family, community, and world. For more information about resources in our area, go to the [NAMI Tri-County Piedmont website](#).

MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS



Campus Updates

Major Renovations!

Sims and Dalton Renovations - we are finalizing the funding scope of work and asking the state to release the remaining funds (\$9 mil). The construction management firm has been selected and we will start the design phase later this summer.

New Cafeteria - currently in schematic design phase.

Dacus and Dinkins Renovations - we are about to start selection of the architectural firm for the project.

Wofford and Richardson Demolition - bid opened April 23 and we hope to start work by late May.

The abatement phase is complete and elevators are decommissioned.

Wifi Upgrades - working on Byrnes, Music Conservatory, Dacus, Johnson, and McLaurin.

Southwest Gateway - currently in schematic design phase.

Projects Planned for Summer:

- Joynes - roof replacement
- Lee Wicker - roof replacement, repair/reinsulate hallway heating and cooling piping
- Stewart House - building envelope renovation
- Bancroft - fire alarm replacement
- Kinard - first floor hallway carpet replacement and repaint several classrooms
- Thurmond - fourth floor hallway carpet replacement
- Johnson - replace dance hall studio flooring
- Conservatory of Music - replace recital hall flooring
- West Center - renovate flooring, AV, and furniture in classrooms/labs 210, 212, 214, and 118
- Courtyard - HVAC and water heater replacement started. Replacing hallway floor tiles and repainting hallway walls.
- Margaret Nance - replacing a section of first floor carpet and repainting first floor hallway. Replacing 160 beds.
- East Thomson - renovating first floor hallway from lobby to Thurmond exit.

Current Projects

- **Byrnes** – Starting to remove main auditorium scaffolding following ceiling palter repair and painting. Framing under balcony for the new bathrooms and ADA seating. Framing underway for the new elevator. Organ removal starts mid-June. Aiming to be using Byrnes for Convocation August 19, 2024.
- **Architectural boxing** – Still working Kinard and Bancroft fascia and soffit repair. Johnson column repairs. Kinard front porch new columns should be delivered late May
- **Withers Substation replacement** - At the Chiller Plant preparing to set the new medium voltage switch and complete the associated wiring. The Withers substation is isolated and demolition of the old substation is starting. Aiming to be complete with both phases in July. Project funded by a federal grant and the state
- **Classroom AV Refresh** - Working the last 6 rooms of phase 1 starting May 1 (Sims 113C, 209; Withers 113, 209, 305; and Dinkins 103) The first groups of the phase 2 rooms will also start this summer: Carroll trading room matrix board, 9 rooms in Thurmond and Carroll (Carroll 200, Thurmond 101, 306, 308, 312, 412, 413, 415 and 408), Starting the AV design for McLaurin 349, 359, Rutledge 222, and Johnson 117.
- **New Classroom Furniture** - Planning new classroom furniture for new Choral risers & shells, McLaurin 349 & 359, Johnson 103 & 201, Kinard 201, Rutledge 126 & 222, Sims 105, Thurmond 100, West 217 & 219, and Withers 147. Owens G04 will be renovated to create a virtual reality / augmented reality (VR-AR) lab. Thank you for the ad-hoc faculty groups input in the design of the space. We are aiming for it to be open for August classes (new furniture, technology & AV equipment)

Work is complete on McLaurin! We are just waiting for state approval to open the new bathrooms.

For August...

Do you have a story idea or an upcoming event you want to see in the Newsletter?

Send your submissions to staffstuff@winthrop.edu to be included in the next issue.