

December 2022

Staff Stuff

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Spring Staff Conference meetings will be at 2pm in Owens G02 on Feb. 10, Apr. 14, and May 19. All staff are encouraged to attend!



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

Mark Your Calendars

Back to Work

Jan. 2

Just a reminder that offices are open on Monday, January 2. See you all in the new year!

First Day of Classes

Jan. 9

Campus is just too quiet without the students around, but they'll be back in time for classes to begin on January 9.

MLK Jr. Day

Jan. 16

Offices will be closed on January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Keep an eye out for community service opportunities during the week of Jan. 13-20.

Give Back for MLK Day of Service

While classes will be cancelled and offices will be closed on January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we hope you will support our students as they participate in several community service projects on campus and in the community. Plans for this year are still being finalized, but keep an eye out for more details from **Kinyata Brown** and **Jessica Martin**.

Some of the student organizations sponsoring service projects from Jan. 13 to Jan. 20 are CSL, Gamma Beta Phi, Alpha Phi Alpha, WUSHRM, SOAR, and WUABJ.

Students who log their hours will be invited to a reflection luncheon on January 20.



Students working in the community garden last year



Erica Panton

pre-college programs coordinator
CAS Dean's Office

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

What makes Winthrop special to you?
The students, faculty and staff. My role gives me the unique privilege to work with every college, every department, and multiple offices that play a vital role in providing academic excellence and supporting our students from application to graduation.

What drives you to make such a difference?

I believe in educational equality and excellence. I work in the community to provide hundreds of students annually with the opportunity to transition seamlessly from secondary to postsecondary education (and I always remind them, whether they are with us for one semester or earn a Bachelor's degree, they will forever be a part of the WU Fam). Our Teacher Cadets Program is part of a national model to encourage academically talented high school students with exemplary interpersonal skills to pursue a career in teaching/educational leadership. WU was the first college in 1985 to offer transferrable college credit for students taking this course, and what an honor it is to support the instructors and students who are the next generation of educators! Our Bridge Program is a partnership with York Technical College for students to earn their associate's degree prior to transferring to WU to earn their bachelor's degree. This past spring, I had the opportunity of cheering on my first

Bridge cohort as they graduated from Winthrop—that moment is why I do this work. Lastly, our Dual Enrollment Program has a special place in my heart. We provide high school students with the opportunity to get a jump-start on their college degrees, identify areas of interest, and increase the likelihood of graduating from high school and enrolling in college.

What is your favorite part of Winthrop?

I love cheering on the WU Eagles; attending cultural events, guest lectures, and the Rock Hill Christmas Parade; and my latest obsession is the smoothies in the Eagle Eatery.

What do you do in your spare time? Hobbies?

I like to spend time with my family hiking, cooking, and adventuring across the Carolinas. We are new to the south, and always looking for new activities and sites to see.

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

At Winthrop, you aren't just a number—you are a member of the inclusive Eagle Family dedicated to supporting you as you receive an exceptional education and innovative overall experience. When I welcome our Dual Enrollment, Teacher Cadets, and Bridge students to campus, I challenge them to think about how being on the campus makes them feel—it's special here, and you can feel it as soon as you step foot on campus.

Nominees

for Staff Member of the Month

- Dot Barber, exec support specialist, Dacus Library
- Jayne Charles, administrative coordinator, Info Technology
- Debbie Cook, housekeeper, Facilities Management
- Amy Gonzalez, admin specialist, Mass Comm & Human Nutrition
- Chris Holloman, admin specialist, CBA Dean's Office
- Erica Panton, pre-college programs coord., CAS Dean's Office

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



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.

Congratulations to last month's winner: **Michele Brodict**, registered nurse, Health & Wellness.

Staff Member of the Month

Sharing Holiday Cheer

with those in need

There's no place like home for the holidays, and that includes our furry family members, too. The Campus & Community Involvement Committee (CCIC) is holding their annual Holiday Pet Food Drive benefiting the York County Council on Aging.

How can you get involved? Bring your donations to one of the collection boxes around campus between now and December 15.

Accepted items include:

- cat and dog food (canned or bagged)
- cat or dog beds
- pet toys
- additional pet supplies (e.g. leashes, brushes, etc.)

Contact **Chris Johnson** for more information.

Staff Conference Highlights

The snack wagon may have taken a holiday-hiatus, but the December Staff Conference meeting still had plenty to offer!

Peter Judge offered a brief statement of thanks to all staff and encouraged us to reach out with any concerns. **Chris Johnson** and CCIC reminded us to donate to the Pet Food Drive and announced that we collected enough plastic bags for another bench already!

James Grigg ended the meeting with an update on

current and future facilities projects. Some highlights include about 30-35 classroom upgrades next year, metal swings and other seating along Scholars Walk, funding for Campus Beautification, and an aspirational reopening date for Byrnes Auditorium.



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

Spotlight on Staff Assembly



With 14 years and multiple positions under her belt, Winthrop is Amanda's home. It's a great honor to be back on Staff Assembly, and she only hopes to be a positive influence for change.

Spare time may be rare, as she currently has a large garden that needs a lot of attention. During the harvesting season, Amanda will spend many, many hours canning and preserving her harvest for months of enjoyment.

Once we have cooler weather, you can guarantee Amanda will travel somewhere for relaxation, as she lives for travel. But for now, she will see you at Staff Conference!

Amanda Hackney
Manager
Student Financial Services

Honoring a Winthrop Icon

Dorothy "Dot" Barber has been a Winthrop icon since she stepped foot on campus 52 years ago. Based on Archives' records, she is the longest serving employee in Winthrop's history and one of the first full time African American employees at the university.

As she prepares to enjoy her retirement this month, Dot graciously took a few moments to reminisce with us about her Winthrop experience.

How did you come to work and be involved with Winthrop?

I obtained the job through a job finding service. I was to start another job on the same day I was called for an interview at Winthrop, but, thankfully, chose Winthrop.

What are some of the biggest changes or events you've seen at Winthrop over the years?

Technology. We went from no computers where we communicated directly with each other to now, communicating mostly by computers; the interaction and communication directly with the students; new and improved buildings on and around campus. Fashion has also changed—in the beginning females were restricted to wearing dresses and skirts.

What was it like to be one of the first African Americans to hold a professional position at Winthrop?

I didn't think about it as being one of the first African Americans. I don't recall any negative comments or gestures. Everyone seemed to be very accepting but a little curious as to how we would fit in.

The other first African American was Ellen Owens who started work the same day I did. We worked in different departments, but we were always together and supported each other. We didn't consider ourselves as being the first African Americans to hold a professional position at Winthrop, but we were just thankful to have a job.

How have you seen things change since then?

There's been some improvements and changes in many areas. Each year and each generation brings a different and unique experience and change.

What made you want to stay with Winthrop for so long?

Winthrop has been like a second home. I am truly thankful for having had the opportunity to work, communicate, and interact with so many wonderful students and employees. Winthrop gave me a purpose, a job I loved learning and doing, and a sense of belonging.

What are some of your favorite Winthrop memories?

One of my favorite Winthrop memories was the Fulfilling the Promise celebration where we were recognized with the first African American Students to attend and to graduate from Winthrop. My most favorite memories were spent with my Dacus Library family. We had some of the most amazing student and staff gatherings and activities that I will always treasure.

Brittany Pigford says you hired her in the library when she was a freshman 17 years ago. What do you remember from her early days at Winthrop?

I didn't actually interview her, but I did her hiring paperwork, etc. She was very polite and had a million-dollar smile. I also noticed she had what I call a "frisky" and unique walk.

(continued on next page)



Dot Barber in 1987

A Winthrop Welcome

to our newest hires!

Jetina Brown, registered nurse, health services

Kara Cauthen, web developer, communications & marketing

Adreanna LeMasters, academic advisor, college of business

Vladimir Markarov, administrative assistant, university college

Jeremy McDaniel, senior procurement officer, purchasing

Hailey Patrick, development coordinator, univ. advancement

Casey Smith, administrative specialist, college of arts & sciences

Happy Holidays!

The Media & Communications Committee would like to take a quick moment to wish you a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year! We will be taking a brief hiatus in January but you can expect the next issue in your inbox come February. In the meantime, join our Staff Conference Facebook group for updates on campus happenings. See you in 2023!



Please join Dacus Library & Pettus Archives

AS WE CELEBRATE

Mrs. Dorothy Barber

52

Years of Service

Tuttle Dining Room
Winthrop University

HORS D'OEUVRES WILL BE SERVED

DROP-IN
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022
11A - 1P

Honoring a Winthrop Icon (cont.)

What are you looking forward to in retirement?

Training myself to not come to Winthrop almost every day; being able to spend quality time in and around my home; reading; trying new recipes; spending quality time with my children, grandchildren, and other family and friends; and helping my husband on the farm.



The Board celebrating Dot's 50th work anniversary

What do you hope to see in Winthrop's next 50 years?

To see Winthrop continue to educate students in a way that will make a difference in the community and world. To see a campus that exhibits a standard of beauty, care, accountability, and unity.

What will you miss most about Winthrop?

Winthrop has been a blessing and life-learning experience for me. I will treasure the many people I've called my Winthrop and my Dacus Library family. For almost fifty-two and a half years I've enjoyed coming to work at Winthrop. It's a wonderful place to work and an excellent educational institution. I will miss everything I've experienced at Winthrop. I would tell a new staff member to take advantage of all that Winthrop has to offer.

Sending Well Wishes

On December 5, Dacus Library and the Louise Pettus Archives are hosting a drop-in reception from 11am - 1pm in Tuttle Dining Hall to celebrate Dot Barber's dedicated service to Winthrop. Be sure to stop by to send Dot your best wishes as she embarks on her next chapter.

Getting in the Holiday Spirit

The **87th Annual Tree Lighting** was a successful kickoff to the holiday season! Facilities staff were hard at work stringing lights on the historic magnolia tree and making sure campus was looking festive for all of the Rock Hill community to see.

The event, hosted by the **Alumni Association** and **Student Alumni Council** included music and performances from the **Winthrop Chorale** and the **RockHettes**.

Our staff then hopped in line to walk and ride in style in the **Rock Hill Christmas Parade**. Special thanks goes to our Staff Assembly leadership team for coordinating the parade entry and getting the Winthrop golf cart ready to ring in the holiday season!

Do you have photos of the tree lighting or parade (or just your own kickoff to the season)? Post them in the [Staff Conference Facebook Group](#)!

Staff spread holiday cheer for all to hear in the parade



The **RockHettes & Winthrop Chorale** rang in the holiday season with their performances



The **Admissions** team caught this beautiful photo of the lit up tree

For next month...

Tell us what you're looking forward to in 2023!

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



The **Sodexo** team won first place in the professional category of the ChristmasVille gingerbread house contest!