

December 2023

Staff Stuff

A Staff Conference Publication | Volume 10, Issue 4

In this issue

New Provost Announced!
Mark Your Calendars
Winthrop Tree Lighting Ceremony
Welcome New Hires
ESports Center Ribbon-Cutting
Staff Conference Updates
Homecoming 2023!
Campus Updates
Upcoming Events

Staff Conference will resume in Spring Semester.
Dates are forthcoming.



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

New Provost Announced!



We would like to join the President in welcoming Dr. Sebastian van Delden as the new provost at Winthrop University. Dr. van Delden will begin his role on January 18, 2024. Be sure to say hello if you see him around campus.

We would also like to echo the President in thanking Dr. Peter Judge for serving as interim provost for the past year and a half, the provost search committee, and everyone who participated in the search (candidate meetings, logistics, and providing feedback).

Mark Your Calendars

Winter Commencement December 16

The combined undergraduate and graduate Winter Commencement Ceremony will take place at the Winthrop Coliseum at 11 a.m.

Winter Break December 23- January 1

Offices are closed for Winter Break!
Offices will re-open on January 2 and
classes will begin on January 8.

MLK Jr. Day January 15

There will be no classes and offices
will be closed in observance of
Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Tree Lighting Ceremony & Christmasville Parade

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony took place on December 1st and was followed by the Christmasville Parade. The ceremony had to be moved inside Tillman due to rain, but everyone brought their holiday cheer! Staff participated in both events to ring in the holiday season.

(Right) Alumni executive board member Scott Melton speaks at the tree lighting ceremony.
(Below) That golf cart in the parade looked great! Thanks to all the staff who volunteered their time to decorate the cart and walk in the parade.



Nominees

for Staff Member of the Month

Nominees from October:

Carol Morgan, Student Financial Services

Kathryn Wilson, Business Intelligence and Data Management

Chris Holloman, College of Business Dean's Office

Anna Triester, Purchasing 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.

A Winthrop Welcome

to our newest hires!

Tommy Henry, Assistant Athletic Director for
External Affairs, Athletics

Aly Johnson, Administrative Coordinator, Dacus
Library

Denise Williams Gaines, Employee Relations
Manager, Office of VP Human Resources

Sean Wilson, Locksmith, Facilities Management



Esports Center Open

The new Winthrop Esports Center is officially open and President Serna was on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 30. The center is 6500 square feet in the Lowenstein Building, including a large game room with seating for 56, team gaming spaces, conference and meeting rooms, and offices. Since it began in 2019, Winthrop's esports program has won two national titles and a regional title.

Staff Conference Updates

Donations of pet food & supplies will be collected through December 15th to benefit York County Council on Aging. As we get closer to the holiday season, donations of pet food or even small supplies are greatly appreciated for the clients at the Council on Aging for their seniors. Bins are located in Dalton, Sims, Music Conservatory, Thurmond, Joynes, Kinard, Bancroft, Tillman, McLaurin, West Center, Campus Center (second floor near elevator), Dinkins, Dacus, and Withers.

November 15 to December 15
Staff Conference Campus and Community Involvement Committee



Holiday Pet Food Drive

Dog & Cat Food, Toys, beds, and other pet supplies accepted.

Benefits the **York County Council on Aging**

Spotlight on Staff Assembly



In the summer of 2023 Halle was promoted to the Assistant Athletic Director for Internal Operations where she has oversight of select sports and all internal operations for the department. She also serves as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Liaison, on Staff Assembly, and the campus United Way Committee. Halle joined Winthrop in January 2022 as the Athletics Operations Coordinator for administration, ESports, Lacrosse and Women's Basketball. Prior to Winthrop, she was the Director of Compliance at Converse University for 3.5 years. Halle had a 1-year stint at Coker University, where she also received her Master of Science Degree in 2018 for College Athletic Administration. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Exercise and Sport Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2017, where she worked with the Women's Basketball team all four years. Halle resides in Rock Hill, SC with her fiancé (engaged Oct. 1, 2023 – woo!) Micah James and their dog Zeke, and she enjoys traveling, botanical gardens, hiking, and spending time with family and friends. She was born and raised in Kershaw, South Carolina by her parents Robert and Stephanie Thompson along with her two siblings Arlivia and Trey.

Hallee Thompson
Asst Athletic Dir. for Internal Operations
Athletics



Homecoming is always an exciting time at Winthrop. Thank you to all those who helped make the event possible. From campus tours for alumni provided by Abigail Catoe (pictured top left), to the arts tour provided by Andrew Davis (pictured right), to the Slow Play Happy Hour (pictured left) and the Upstate Social (pictured top right).



Homecoming 2023



The Faculty/Staff Alumni lunch honors all those who have earned a degree at Winthrop and now work for their alma mater. We loved seeing so many familiar faces in this group, including President Serna!



Campus Updates

You've probably seen a lot of work going on both inside and outside of the buildings on campus. James Grigg, Chris Johnson, and the folks at facilities are keeping us in the loop with all these updates!

The End is in Sight:

- Fountain nearly complete, finalizing the donor recognition
- Oakland fence nearly completed we will be removing the leaning oak tree at the exit gate after exams and also completing the tree trimming on Oakland at Eden Terrace
- Library roof work is complete
- Tillman auditorium repairs nearly complete

Current Work:

- West center roof replacement is going well
- Byrnes auditorium abatement is underway
- Boxing repair contractor is remobilizing after having new trim molding fabricated to match the existing building profiles
- Richardson abatement is in the latter stages, Wofford is still under way. Finalizing design packages for State approval for the demolition/utility relocation phase.

Plans and Upcoming Work

- Stewart House exterior renovation plans are waiting on advertisement by the state.
- Finalizing plans for Joynes roof replacement and McBryde roof replacement.
- Scheduling classroom AV refresh for winter break period – Owens, Withers, and a few other locations. Working with Deans on some new classroom furniture in about 12 spaces.
- Sims & Dalton renovation - the architect have met with building users of their list of needs, contractor selection is underway.
- New Cafeteria – architect has been selected and initial programming is underway, several focus groups were held last week
- Design of a new walkway to go from the side of Johnson to Stewart ave at the railroad track is underway. We are waiting for City input as they are working a project to improve crossing the railroad tracks on Stewart
- Planning Chik-fil-A refresh for summer 2024
- Planning residence hall work for summer 2024



Upcoming Winthrop Events for Staff

- **The Nutcracker:** Wednesday 12/13 through Friday 12/15 at 7pm and Saturday 12/16 through Sunday 12/17 at 3pm in Johnson Theatre. Ballet of York County will perform this classic ballet.
- **President's Holiday Celebration:** Thursday 12/14 between 11am and 1pm at the president's house.

Go to <https://winthropevents.coursedog.com/> for more information about these and other events.

Finding Winthrop Data

Learn the difference between the offices of Institutional Research (IR) and Business Intelligence/Data Management (BIDM) from these cute kittens, then go visit their websites to connect with the research and data you need.

[Institutional Research \(IR\)](#)

[Business Intelligence/Data Management \(BIDM\)](#)

Not sure where to find Winthrop data? These fact-loving felines can help!

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH (IR)

What the office does: Reports and archives frozen, historical data
Go to IR when you need: Official data for completing reports, writing grants, examining trends over time, and/or making comparisons to other institutions or benchmarks

Keep in mind: IR data is always lagging.

Systems IR manages: Online Assessment Reporting System (OARS), Primary Instructor Credentialing System (PICS)

Need something from IR? Please fill out an [IR Data Request Form](#)



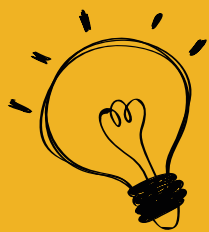
BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE/DATA MANAGEMENT (BIDM)

What the office does: Extracts live, dynamic data from Banner
Go to BIDM when you need: Current, up-to-the-minute information for day-to-day operations, especially if it will be needed on a recurring basis

Keep in mind: Live data may have inconsistencies in coding.

Systems BIDM manages: WebFocus, Qualtrics, Interfolio, Navigate

Need something from BIDM? Please fill out a [BIDM Data Request Form](#)



Tips, Tricks, & Tools from fellow Eagles

Do you have a tip, trick, or tool that helps you during your work day that you think others might also like to know about? Send an e-mail to staffstuff@winthrop.edu and tell us about it!

Office Plants

Plants are a great addition to an office. They can clean the air, look great, and brighten the space in the winter. Many varieties are also super easy to care for. Whether they are real plants or fake plants, try adding a little green to your office. Here are a few of the office plants on campus and some information about them if you are thinking about getting your own.

(Top) ZZ Plant: Low maintenance (I have forgotten to water this for up to a month but it does need some sunlight), Cleans the air (live plant)
(Bottom) Crocheted snake plant: Low maintenance (doesn't require water, sunlight, or even air), small size (can fit anywhere), very cheerful. Highly recommend to others who lack a green thumb and/or work in a windowless space!



For February...

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.

**There will be no January issue of Staff Stuff.*