

October 2023

Staff Stuff

A Staff Conference Publication | Volume 10, Issue 2

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The next Staff Conference Meeting is on Friday, November 17 at 2:30 p.m. in Owens G02.



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

Positive News on Campus

This month Staff Conference focused on positivity, and we have so much positive news from across campus to share with you!

First, Winthrop has been recognized by two major publications as a great University! In the U.S. News & World Report annual “Best Colleges” guidebook, Winthrop has achieved its highest ranking ever among public universities in the South. In addition, Winthrop was named to *Money Magazine’s* “Best Colleges for Your Money 2023” for the fourth year in a row.



Positive News continued on page 7.

Mark Your Calendars

NAMI Walk

October 7, 9am

Winthrop is hosting a team for the annual NAMI Mental Illness Awareness walk at Cherry Park. More information available at [Winthrop Eagles Walk NAMI](#).

Let Your Voice Be Heard

October 16-27

Fill out the Winthrop Employee Satisfaction Survey to help make Winthrop a better, more effective place to work! More information will be sent out via email.

Staff Fall Fest

October 31

Staff Conference will once again host the Staff Fall Fest on Halloween. More information on page ...



Kara Traverse

Assistant Registrar Records and Registration

How many years have you been at Winthrop?

I have worked at Winthrop for 12 years.

What makes Winthrop special to you?

Three things make Winthrop special to me: the beauty of the campus, the diversity of the student body, and the faculty and staff's commitment to helping students.

What drives you to make such a difference?

When I was in college, I was very fortunate to have a couple people who went to bat for me and made sure I stayed on track. Their influence made a lasting impression on me, and I hope in some small way that I can pay their support forward to students here at Winthrop.

What is your favorite part of Winthrop?

My favorite part about Winthrop by far is the people who work here. Both in Records and Registration and across the University, I feel fortunate to work with so many people who

are not only working hard on our students' behalf, but also are fun to be around.

What do you do in your spare time? Hobbies?

Much of my spare time is happily spent with my husband, two teenage children, and two dogs, often attending either a soccer or volleyball game. When the weather is nice, I enjoy finding a patio to relax and enjoy a beverage.

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

I would tell an incoming student that there are so many people here at Winthrop working hard to make sure that you can be successful, but that is not a substitute for hard work on your behalf. If you put in the work and reach out when you need help, you should put yourself in a great position for success here at Winthrop.

Nominees

for Staff Member of the Month

Niki Behr – Payroll Office

Daniel Charles – Office of Online Learning

Jessica Farmer – Records & Registration

Nicole Ford – Center for Student Wellness

Paula Garofalo – Admissions

Debbie Garrick – University Advancement

Kathryn Hughes – Center for Student Wellness

Katie Price – University Communications & Marketing

Andria Tolbert – Human Resources

Christina Williams – Macfeat Laboratory School

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

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 our last winner: Amanda Janke, Library Specialist, Dacus Library.

A Winthrop Welcome

to our newest hires!

Lea Bailey, Administrative Specialist, Athletics

Meredith Dantzler, Pre-Collegiate Program
Director, CERRA South Carolina

Nikole Kidd, Director of Field Education and
Instruction, Social Work

Gabriel Marz, Affordable Learning & Student
Success Librarian, Dacus Library

Lori Morris, CSW Administrative Specialist, Health
Services

Allison Morton, Development Officer, Office of VP
University Advancement

Jeffery Parker, Boiler Operator, Facilities Management

Anthony Patterson, Athletics Marketing and Media
Services Coordinator, Athletics

Alex Strong, Director of Women's Basketball Ops,
Athletics

Necole Sterling, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach,
Athletics

Andrew Weiss, Business/Office Manager, CERRA
South Carolina

Dorothea White, Custodial Worker, Facilities
Management

Staff Conference Highlights

Staff Conference focused on positivity this month by highlighting many of the great things happening on campus and all the ways that Winthrop has recently been recognized in national rankings.

Staff Feedback from the summer and fall was shared with responses. You can review these on the [Staff Conference website](#). We were also reminded that the Winthrop Ombuds office is available to all staff who would like to share workplace concerns in a confidential manner. You can contact the Winthrop Ombuds, Jackie Concodora, at ombuds@winthrop.edu.

The meeting included presentations from Michelle Hare on FAFSA changes coming in 2024-2025, Nicole Chisari on the upcoming United Way campaign, Ryan Morrison on Winthrop Think College, and Winthrop Athletics.

Fall Semester Staff Conference Meetings:

Friday, November 17

Staff Conference meets at 2:30 p.m. in Owens G02.



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

Spotlight on Staff Assembly

Born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, Charles Archuleta first attended Pima Community College. It was here that he gained his first experience working within athletics when he and his now fiancé started an athlete tutoring center alongside athletics administration, allowing student athletes to have access to one on one academic tutoring suited to their schedules. Charles transferred to Northern Arizona University, where he worked on their ticketing staff gaining valuable experience in ticketing software, promotion, and event management, until he completed his Bachelor's in History, minoring in International Studies. Following graduation, Charles accepted a position as ticketing director for the Gem City Bison, a summer baseball team based in Laramie, Wyoming, building their entire ticketing infrastructure. In the Fall, Charles became a compliance graduate assistant for USC Upstate before being offered and accepting a 2nd Graduate assistanceship in Ticketing a month in to his time there. He was then hired full time as the Ticketing and Event Operations Manager at Winthrop in the Spring. In his free time, Charles enjoys reading historical books and watching at least 30 minutes of historical documentaries a day. His little brother is a 2nd lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps.

Charles Archuleta

**Ticketing and Operations Manager
Athletics**

Staff Fall Fest on October 31!

President Serna and his family have once again offered to host the Staff Fall Fest event at their house. You are welcome to bring your family and encouraged to come in costume. There will be games, a craft for this kids to make, and some great snacks provided by Sodexo. More information about the event and the pumpkin contest will be sent out closer to the date. It'll be a ghoulish good time!

2023 | WINTHROP STAFF CONFERENCE



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31 | 3:30-5:30 P.M.

PRESIDENT'S HOUSE & GARDEN

Refreshments - Games & Activities - Photo Booth

Pumpkin Carving Contest
(Details & contest registration on website)

It's Poppin' Kettle Corn for sale
Gourmet - popped fresh on-site!
(all forms of payment accepted)



All staff & their immediate family members invited!

winthrop.edu/staff/fall-fest.aspx

We Need You!

Join a Staff Conference Committee! Any staff member can join a committee. The committees are all a lot of fun and usually only meet once a month. If you are interested in any committee, please contact staffassembly@winthrop.edu.

- Campus & Community Involvement
- Staff Recognition
- Elections & Nominations
- Professional Development
- Media & Communications
- Staff Feedback

Campus Master Plan

Thank you to the many staff who came to the two Campus Master Plan information sessions on September 5 and 14. In case you were unable to attend, this is a quick summary of what was shared. View the full [Campus Master Plan here](#).

The key themes of the Campus Master Plan include:

- Prioritizing renovation and repurposing of existing buildings with strategic new construction.
- Make campus connections by tying the campus to the community around us.
- Enhance the quality and safety of the pedestrian network, both on campus and in the surrounding area.
- Improve and activate outdoor space.

Keep in mind that the master plan is a long-range, 20-year plan. It includes a lot of “ideas” that the campus will have to work through in conjunction with the other campus plans – strategic, academic, and financial. Any proposals included in the plan will have to be further studied. Campus users and stakeholders who will potentially be affected by the proposed designs will be engaged in the process before designs are finalized and moved forward. The plan is aspirational so that it will stretch us, but it is also practical so that we can achieve it. It is possible that some of the ideas will not become a reality. It will be important that we revisit the master plan regularly over the next 20 years so that we can align the plan with changing needs and priorities.

Even though the BOT adopted the plan in June, several recommendations have been implemented.

Campus Master Plan work that is underway:

- Activate Outdoors Spaces - Hammock frames & Adirondacks, Scholars Walk swings, Hardin Gardens fountains, chairs & landscaping
- Campus Connections - Oakland fence removal, Southwest Gateway
- Prioritize Renovation and Repurposing with Strategic New Construction - Residence Hall lobby refresh, Classroom AV refresh & furniture, Building renovations, New cafeteria
- Enhance the Quality and Safety of the Pedestrian Network - Southwest Gateway

News from Institutional Research

Introducing the IR Data Dog!

Learn more about [Institutional Research](#) with the “[Summer Credit Hour Production Report](#).”



Data Bite
Winthrop faculty delivered over 8,500 credit hours of instruction during summer 2023.

Hungry for more?
Check out the full [Summer Credit Hour Production report](#).



**JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL
TOUR OF THE OFFICE OF
INSTITUTIONAL
RESEARCH'S WEBSITE**

**THURSDAY, OCT. 26
11AM - 12 PM**

Curious about what kinds of Winthrop data are available to you? In this session, we'll guide you through the Office of Institutional Research's newly redesigned website. We'll also demystify the difference between Institutional Research (IR) and the Office of Business Intelligence and Data Management (BIDM) and how to know where to go to find the information you need.



[Click here to register!](#)



Upcoming Winthrop Events for Staff

- **Hidden Nest:** every Friday, 7:00pm-10:30pm in DIGS 220. Play video game tournaments with Winthrop students and community members.
- **Everybody:** Wednesday 10/4 through Saturday 10/7 at 7:30pm and Sunday 10/8 at 2pm in JOHN 117. This modern riff on the 15th Century morality play "Everyman" follows Everybody (chosen from amongst the cast by lottery at each performance) as they travel down a road toward life's greatest mystery. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and seniors.
- **Friday Arts Project Hub:** Monday 10/9 and Monday 10/23 at 7pm in OWEN 203. Meet to create art and build community. No art skills are required, and everyone is welcome.
- **FTK Yoga:** Tuesday 10/10 at 5pm in WEST 206. Professor Rachel Glibbery will lead a yoga class. Tickets are \$5, and all proceeds will support raising awareness of Children's Pediatric Cancer.
- **Rent:** Wednesday 10/25 through Saturday 10/28 at 7:30pm and Sunday 10/29 at 2pm in JOHN 106. Jonathan Larson's iconic Pulitzer Prize-winning musical, based loosely on Puccini's La Boheme, follows a group of impoverished young artists and musicians in New York living under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. Note that the musical contains mature content. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for students and seniors.
- **Ghost Tours:** Friday 10/20 from 7pm-11pm in Tillman Hall. Explores the campus legends and historical figures that have shaped Winthrop. Proceeds support the student giving program associated with the Winthrop Fund.
- **Trunk or Treat:** Sunday 10/29 at 4:30 in the Coliseum Parking Lot. Hosted by the Winthrop Athletics SAAC, there will be candy, a trunk-decorating contest, and a prize-winning competition.
- **Upcoming Games at Winthrop Lake** (Admission is free for WU employees and their immediate family members.)
 - **Women's Soccer game:** At Eagle Field on Wednesday 10/4 at 6pm; Monday 10/9 at 6pm; Saturday 10/21 at 1pm; and Wednesday 10/25 at 6pm.
 - **Men's Soccer game:** At Eagle Field on Saturday 10/7 at 2pm; and Saturday 10/28 at 2pm.
 - **Baseball:** At the Winthrop Ballpark on Friday 10/13 at 2pm; and Saturday 10/28 at 8:30am.
 - **Volleyball:** At the Coliseum on Friday 10/13 at 6pm; Saturday 10/14 at 2pm; Friday 10/20 at 6pm; and Saturday 10/21 at 2pm.
 - **Softball:** At the Terry Field Softball Complex on Friday 10/13 at 6pm; Saturday 10/21 at 1pm; Sunday 10/22 at 1pm; and Friday 10/27 at 6pm.
 - **Lacrosse:** At Eagle Field on Sunday 10/22 from 10am-2:30pm (multiple games).



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!

USING A STAND-UP DESK

@
Work

There are several reasons why I love using a standing desk at work. It helps me to maintain a better posture and avoid the discomfort of sitting for extended periods of time. And, I find that standing while working improves my energy levels and focus, allowing me to be more productive throughout the day.



Kelly Scott
IR Data Analyst



I really wanted to try it so I did a search & purchased this portable stand-up desk on FB marketplace for just \$50!

Standing desks also provide a great way to incorporate light exercise into my workday, as I can easily stretch or move around while remaining at my desk. Overall, using a standing desk has been a positive change for my work routine and has numerous benefits for both my physical and mental health.

Positive News (cont.)



Undergraduate Enrollment

90%
Spring-to-Fall Return Rate

↑17%
New Transfers (268)

73%
Fall-to-Fall Retention
The strongest retention rate since fall '17!

↑22%
New Freshmen (867)

In more positive news, Winthrop's E-Sports teams are continuing their great work by taking the Championship at the HueFest League of Legends tournament. Go Eagles!

Everyone's great work on increasing enrollment is also paying off as we have seen major increases in undergrad enrollment over the last year, including new freshmen, new transfer, and retention rates.



Updates on Work Around Campus

- The Tillman Fountain's last precast sections are set. Brick pavers should start in 2 weeks to form the plaza around the fountain and the sidewalk to Oakland. Project completion is expected later this year.
- The demolition of the brick columns along Oakland Ave. has started at the Cherry Road end and they are just past the Eden Terrace entry. They will continue to near the President's House
- Dacus roof replacement is about 90% complete, they just received some additional material finish up.
- West Center roof replacement work is underway.
- Byrnes full construction fence is being erected. On the inside scaffolding shoring in the auditorium is being erected to access the attic. Current project completion is August 2024.
- Wofford-Richardson site fence in place. They will start removing some furniture this weekend and abatement starts September 28.
- The architectural boxing and cornice detail project (Johnson, Kinard, Bancroft, and Sims) is underway. Pressure washing is wrapping up and continuing select molding removal. The scaffolding at doorways is to protect those existing as people work above.
- McLaurin bathroom renovation is completing plumbing rough in and starting to hang drywall, aim to be complete by the end of the year.
- McLaurin flood repair should start at the beginning of October and be done by the winter break.
- Tillman Auditorium repair of the front ceiling is underway, and expected to be completed by mid-October.
- Four more classrooms will have their AV refresh complete during the fall semester and then planning 10 to be done over the winter break. New glass whiteboards will be installed in the 14 rooms that had the summer AV refresh.
- Coliseum new arena LED lighting has been installed and the sound system repaired.

For November...

We want to see your Halloween costumes and Jack-O-Lanterns!

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