

# September 2023 Staff Stuff

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The next Staff Conference Meeting is on Friday, September 29 at 2:30 p.m. in Owens G02.



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

## Welcome Back!

President Serna held a Welcome Back event on August 14 for faculty and staff to get everyone excited for the upcoming 2023-2024 Academic Year. See more photos from the event on page 6.



Right: President Serna addressing staff at the Welcome Back event.

Below: Staff members listen to President Serna's Welcome Back address.



## Mark Your Calendars

### Garnet and Gold Fridays

Every Friday

Show your Winthrop pride by wearing Garnet and Gold on Fridays! If you need Winthrop apparel, check out the bookstore.

### Campus Master Plan

September 5 & 14

Hear the latest on the Campus Master Plan during these sessions in Dina's Place.

### Strategic Plan Town Halls

September 19

Faculty/Staff Town Halls from the Strategic Planning Committee will be held in Dina's Place at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. More info on page 4.



# Nancy White

## User Services Manager

### Dacus Library

**How many years have you been at Winthrop?**

I have been at Winthrop since 1995, when my husband, dogs and I moved from Indianapolis. I worked in Government Information for five years before moving to the Circulation Dept. in 2000.

**What makes Winthrop special to you?**

I have met some of my favorite people in the world here at Winthrop, including colleagues, students, and student employees. Our students are campus and community-minded and care for each other, and our faculty work hard to do the best for our students.

**What drives you to make a difference?**

I think it's the same for everyone who works in public education—you want to help students make the most of their opportunities, which can be a struggle for students and their families. If we can help them gain the knowledge

and experience they need to graduate and define what equals success for them, everyone benefits. Most often, we don't know whether we have made a difference until well after the fact, if ever. Seeing our students get comfortable with who they are and with helping their fellow Eagles learn and succeed is a real pleasure.

**What is your favorite part of Winthrop?**

After so many years, Winthrop feels like home. I think so many of our students, faculty and staff feel the same, and that is very special!

**What do you do in your spare time? Hobbies?**

My husband and I enjoy watching sports together, and I enjoy running, shopping, eating, and spoiling our dog, Tyson!

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

Everyone here wants you to succeed. Never be afraid to ask for help!

# Nominees

## for Staff Member of the Month

**Kevin Amaro** – HVAC Supervisor, Facilities

**Jack Boggs** – User Support Technician, IT

**Fatima Castro** – Recruiter, Admissions

**Kyle Conrad** – Counselor, Admissions

**Maria D'Agostino** – Associate Registrar, Records and Registration

**Preston Elwell** – Facilities

**Paula Garofalo** – Arts Recruitment Coord., Admissions

**James Grigg** – Associate VP, Facilities

**Miranda Knight** – Asst. Dean of Students, Student Life

**Kelly Shelton** – Admin. Asst, Office of the President

**Lionel Todman** – Admin. Asst., Biology

**Vanessa Valdez** – Dir. of Grad Student Services, CBA

**Nancy White** – User Services Manager, Dacus Library

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](mailto: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: **Kimberly Painter**, laboratory chemist, Department of Chemistry, Physics, Geology & the Environment.

# A Winthrop Welcome

## to our newest hires!

**Eberechi Asoluka**, Phlebotomist, Health Services

**Tyler Cooper**, Residential Success Coordinator,  
Residence Life

**Kendall Fuller**, Head Softball Coach, Athletics

**Morgan Hair**, Program Assistant, Office of Financial Aid

**Matthew Haney**, Library Specialist, Technical and Digital  
Initiatives

**Julia Hinton**, Custodial Worker, Facilities Management

**Kathryn Hughes**, Nurse Mgr/Nurse Practitioner, Health  
Services

**Michelle Hyatt**, Student Advocacy Trauma Support  
Counselor, Counseling Services

**Amanda Janke**, Library Specialist, Dacus Library  
**Michaela Kelly**, Instructor, Clinical Director CSDV, Counseling  
Leadership and Ed Studies

**Briana Maund**, Executive Assistant to the VP for Student  
Affairs, Office of VP Student Affairs

**Anna Rau**, Residential Success Coordinator, Residence  
Life

**Richard Robbins**, Groundskeeper, Facilities Management

**Kanisha Rollings**, Asst. Dir for Student Org & Leadership  
Development, Dean of Students

**Malik Smith**, Degree Audit Coordinator, Records And  
Registration

**James Travis**, Asst. Women's Basketball Coach, Athletics

**Cara Wilkins**, Program Assistant, Records And  
Registration

## Staff Conference Highlights

A big thank you to everyone who served on Staff Assembly for 2022-23 and a big welcome to everyone who was elected to serve in 2023-24!

Staff Assembly honored Debbie Garricks's service as chair this past year with a personalized Yeti.

### New Staff Assembly Council members for 2023-2024

Chair: Leah Simmonds

Vice Chair: Katie Price

Secretary: Halle Thompson

Treasurer: Amanda Hackney

Parliamentarian: Craig Gero

Historian: Dawn Sayer

Fall Semester Staff Conference Meetings:

Friday, September 29

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



Hi! My name is Jessica and I serve as the Cultural Events/Degree Progress Coordinator in the Office of Records & Registration. I am new to Staff Assembly this year and represent the Division of Academic Affairs.

I am a foodie, a dog-lover, and a washed up soccer player. I am excited to serve on Staff Assembly!

**Jessica Farmer**

**Cultural Events/Degree Progress Coordinator**

**Records and Registration**

# Staff Conference Theme for 2023-24



Support  
Positivity  
Advocacy  
Collaboration  
Empowerment

## Staff Professional Development

The Staff Conference Professional Development Committee provided all staff with a fantastic two half-days of free professional development sessions in July. Presentations included Technology Tips, How to help with Winthrop Retention, Conflict Resolution, Document Retention, UCM-Social Media Tips and Tricks, and Winthrop Traditions. Thank you to everyone who organized and participated!



## 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](mailto:staffassembly@winthrop.edu).

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

# Welcoming Students to Campus: Move-In and Orientation

A new academic year has started and we are all excited to see a busy campus this year. Staff from across campus volunteered their time in August to help students move in. We have a big increase in Freshman enrollment this year (over last year) so all the extra hands were greatly appreciated. Thanks to all the staff one who helped our new and returning students, and their families, feel welcome to the Winthrop Campus.



Above: Faculty, Staff, and BOT volunteers for move in.

Right: men's basketball staff helping with move-in: Ben Betts, assistant coach; Mark Prosser, head coach; Matt Erps, video coordinator.



Photos from Left to Right: Lisa Cowart and Gary Simrill helping with move-in; Michael Szeman welcoming families; Chuck Rey helping with move-in; admissions recruitment staff Abigail Catoe, Paula Garofalo, Fatima Castro and Kyle Conrad taking a quick break; Amber Slack and Miranda Knight posing at orientation.



## Strategic Planning Town Halls

The Strategic Planning Committee, with partners Berkley Research Group (BRG), welcome all faculty and staff to participate in one of two faculty/staff-focused town halls on **Tuesday, Sept. 19, in Dina's Place**. The first is during common time, **11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**, and the second is from **3:00-4:15 p.m.** There will be an email closer to the date to provide information on a zoom option and a recording of the sessions if you are unable to attend.

These town halls will update faculty and staff on all the great work accomplished to date, share findings from the data collection phase, present the direction of our strategic plan, and solicit your feedback. **Questions can be shared with BRG in advance by noon on Friday, Sept. 15**, so they may be addressed during the presentations, or asked/answered live toward the end of the town halls if there is time. The confidential e-mail to use for question submission is [strategy@winthrop.edu](mailto:strategy@winthrop.edu); this address goes directly to BRG and nowhere else. Visit the [Strategic Plan web page](#) for more information on the process and committee.

# Welcome Back (cont.)

At the President's Welcome Back event on August 14, faculty and staff brought around 10 pounds of plastic bags to be recycled and filled four containers with food and hygiene products for the Food Shelf. Staff who still wish to donate can drop off shelf-stable food and hygiene products to the Dean of Students Office in Digs 246, Empty plastic bags can be placed in the collection bins located outside Tillman 102, the Cashier's Office, the Dacus lobby, or the Facilities Management lobby.



Above left: One of the plastic bag collection boxes. Above right: The food and hygiene products collected on August 14. Below: President Serna poses with the faculty and staff attendees of the Welcome Back event.



## 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.
- **Rock Hill Walk to End Alzheimer's:** Saturday 9/23, 9:00am-11:00am at the Winthrop Lake. Fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support, and research.
- **Benefits and Wellness Fair:** Wednesday 9/27, 10:00am-1:00pm in McBryde Hall. Learn about mental, physical, and financial wellness from local vendors.
- **Winthrop Eagle Club 5K Run:** Saturday 9/9 at 8:00 am, followed by a Meet the Eagles (student-athletes) pancake breakfast. [register here](#)
- **Upcoming Games at Winthrop Lake** (Admission is free for WU employees and their immediate family members.)
  - **Volleyball games:** At the Coliseum on Friday 9/15 at 6pm; Saturday 9/16 at 6pm; Friday 9/29 at 6pm; Saturday 9/30 at 2pm.
  - **Women's Soccer game:** At Eagle Field on Saturday 9/2 at 7pm.
  - **Men's Soccer games:** At Eagle Field on Saturday 9/16 at 4pm; Saturday 9/30 at 7pm.

Oct 7th @ 9 am Cherry Park  
**Join us to help end the stigma**  
Winthrop Eagles Walk Team  
#Together4MH

For more information about these and other events, go to [Winthrop Events on Course Dog](#).

## For October...

There are so many events happening this Fall all over campus and in our community. Sends us info and pics to highlight your event in Staff Stuff!

Send your submissions to [staffstuff@winthrop.edu](mailto:staffstuff@winthrop.edu) to be included in the next issue.