

STAFF stuff

Volume 8 Issue 6
February 2022

Finding Big Stuff

Listen & Learn
Sessions

Meet Your Ombuds

New Hires

Staff Member of the
Month

Staff Photos

Women's
Professional
Development

Congrats Graduates!



DeeDee Cousar, *administrative specialist, Curriculum and Pedagogy*, graduated with an M.B.A. in sports marketing and revenue generation!



Michael Szeman, *cultural events/degree progress coordinator, Records & Registration*, with Dr. Hynd during Commencement. Michael earned an M.B.A.!

Not pictured: Jamie Morgan, *assistant softball coach, Athletics*, earned an M.S. in sports and fitness administration; and **Ana Rodriguez**, *academic coach, TRiO Achiever's Program*, earned a B.A. in psychology with minors in child and youth wellbeing and social sciences.

STAFF MEMBER of the month

December

Brantley Therrell
graduate records coordinator
Graduate School

How many years have you been at Winthrop?

I've worked here for two years, and before that I was a student for four.

What makes Winthrop special to you?

The campus community and the Graduate School staff who have created such an amazing and supportive work environment. I couldn't do it without them.

What drives you to make such a difference?

I just think you never really know what people are going through, and your interactions with people can either make or break their day, so I try to be kind and help in any way I can.

What is your favorite part of Winthrop?

The beautiful campus, of course. I also really love how students and the Winthrop community fight for what's right and aren't afraid to do so.

What do you do in your spare time? Hobbies?

I love going to the movies, listening to podcasts, playing games/trivia, and spending time with family and friends.

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

If you can, study abroad! You won't regret it. Take advantage of everything and just get involved in any way you can because it will make your experience that much better.

Nominees

Marielle Hinson, *administrative coordinator, Biology*; **Sherry Jordan**, *library specialist, Ida Jane Dacus Library*; **Jamie Larsen**, *administrative assistant, Rex Institute for Educational Renewal and Partnerships*; and **Jonathan Thomas**, *computer programmer, Computing & Information Technology*.

Staff Member of the Month

Do you work with someone who consistently goes above and beyond in displaying Winthrop's values? Have a colleague who really shined while tackling a tough project? Nominate them for Staff Member of the Month! Anyone can submit a nomination, and individuals can be nominated more than once!

Nomination Form

New Hires

Welcome to the newest members of our Winthrop family:

Srujana Challa, *programmer analyst, Computing & Information Technology*

Kara Concheck-Vincent, *head lacrosse coach, Athletics*

Nina Grant, *director, Center for Career Development and Internships*

Keenan Grigg, *executive assistant, Student Affairs*

Garian Hardy, *police officer, Campus Police*

Caitlin Kriesel-Bigler, *assistant women's basketball coach, Athletics*

Emily Prado, *ABC district programs specialist, College of Visual & Performing Arts*

Tatinas Smalls, *police officer, Campus Pollice*

Kayla Smith, *telecommunicator, Campus Police*

Doug Stevens, *assistant director of recreational services, Student Affairs*

Halle Thompson, *administrative operations coordinator, Athletics*

Meet Your Ombuds



Jackie Concodora
director, Health & Counseling Services
Faculty/Staff Ombuds

I started at Winthrop in February 2013 as the director of Health and Counseling Services. I have a collateral role as ombuds since I continue to serve as the HCS director. My professional background is a clinical mental health counselor and supervisor where I worked in public mental health and private practice with people who experienced mental health conditions ranging from severe psychiatric symptoms to normal issues affecting one's daily functioning and wellbeing. I thrive on empowering others to accomplish their goals. I enjoy working with people but do enjoy alone time to recharge. Aside from caring for my family, my passions revolve around working with my hands through gardening/growing plants, and other creative activities with a range of mediums.

What is an ombuds?

An ombuds is an institutional resource to campus employees who follows the International Ombuds Association ethical standards of confidentiality, independence, impartiality/neutrality, and informality. The ombuds protects the identity and confidential information shared but is obligated by law to disclose information

if there is an imminent risk of serious harm. The ombuds functions independently of formal channels (like HR) and other campus services. An ombuds will not take sides and is an available resource to all employees. Ombuds do not participate in formal processes like investigations, legal processes, or grievances, nor do they retain permanent records of communications. Speaking with an ombuds is always off the record and does not constitute notice to the institution.

What does the role do?

- Provides active listening to questions and concerns off the record
- Helps identify other university resources to address an issue or concern
- Explore ways to engage with and evaluate a range of options for problem resolution
- Provides information on university processes and policies
- Offers issue, conflict, and negotiation coaching
- Share systemic concerns and trends to the institution in a confidential manner

What does the role not do?

- Receive notice of claims against Winthrop University
- Conduct investigations
- Make management decisions or policy
- Advocate for or take sides for individuals or groups
- Substitute for formal channels
- Testify or produce documents in legal or other proceedings

What can staff expect when meeting with an ombuds?

At the initial meeting before addressing the concern or issue that brought the visitor to me, I will explain my role, including the ethical standards that I follow. I will listen to the visitor and ask clarifying questions to ensure that I understand their situation. Each circumstance is unique and I work to empower the visitor to develop a plan of action as relevant to their circumstance in a safe environment.

Does an ombuds give advice?

No. This is a common misconception of the role, because visitors are often upset and want to be told what to do for quick relief of their distress. I help visitors identify and process through options and which strategies they feel most comfortable using. Telling a visitor what to do undermines their self-determination.

Is the ombuds part of HR?

No. This is an independent role that reports directly to the president. HR does refer employees to the ombuds office.

Will the ombuds share my information?

No. All communications remain confidential unless permission is provided to share specific information, as appropriate. The ombuds is looking for trends to identify areas for systemic change and issue prevention.

Can I e-mail my concerns to the ombuds?

E-mail is not secure so it is not a confidential method of communication. Visitors should restrict use of e-mail to scheduling appointments only.

You can learn more about the ombuds role by visiting winthrop.edu/ombuds, or make an appointment by e-mailing ombuds@winthrop.edu!

Finding Big Stuff



Can you find Big Stuff? Each issue of Staff Stuff has the illustration to the left 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:


Chris Holloman, administrative specialist, College of Business Administration.

Listen & Learn Sessions

The Center for Professional Excellence, in partnership with colleagues across campus, are providing optional 30-min. Listen & Learn virtual sessions this spring for all faculty and staff interested in learning more about services and opportunities at Winthrop.

When you register through the [CPE session registration](#) process, you'll see the Zoom link upon registration. Attend as many (or as few) as you wish, but please take a moment to review your options and mark your calendar now for those you wish to attend!

Questions? Please contact [Dr. Meg Webber](#).



SPR '22 | 11-11:30 AM Tuesdays | via Zoom

CPE SESSIONS FOR WINTHROP BY WINTHROP

30 Min. Listen & Learn Sessions

SPRING '22 SERIES

- FEB 1 OMBUDS OFFICE (JACKIE CONCODORA)
- FEB 8 GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT (L. POOLE & L. LOWREY)
- FEB 15 "WHAT CAN WU DO FOR YOU?" ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (LORI TUTTLE)
- FEB 22 FACULTY & OUR STUDENT ATHLETES (T. KULL & C. MOONEY-MELVIN)
- MAR 8 CENTER OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT & INTERNSHIPS (N. GRANT, T. ALEXANDER, & C. GILL)
- MAR 22 HOW A STUDENT'S COURSES IMPACT FINANCIAL AID, INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS (MICHELLE HARE)
- MAR 29 THE FACULTY ROLE OF STUDENT SUCCESS ('TOURGEE' SIMPSON)
- APR 5 HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS (AMANDA JAMES)
- APR 12 TENURE & PROMOTION, RESOURCES FOR NEW & NEW(ISH) FACULTY (MEG WEBBER)
- APR 19 LEARN YOUR LIBRARY: DACUS BASICS (CODY WALTERS)
- APR 26 WINTHROP THINK COLLEGE: AN INCLUSIVE POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY (L. FISHER & J. JOHNSON)

SIGN UP NOW:
WWW.WINTHROP.EDU/THECPE

Staff Photos!



President George Hynd and First Lady Alison Hynd with **Joseph Miller**, vice president, Enrollment Management & Marketing; and **Amanda James**, director, Office of Admissions; at the faculty/staff holiday lunch on December 8.



Pam Garrison, library specialist, Ida Jane Dacus Library; and **Dot Barber**, executive support specialist, Ida Jane Dacus Library; at the faculty/staff holiday lunch on December 8.



John Kroft, readmission coordinator, Records & Registration, dressed for the occasion at Commencement on December 18.



Jessica Cauthen, recruiter and communications coordinator, Graduate School, working at Commencement on December 18.

Save the Date

Sponsored by Winthrop University's South Carolina Women in Higher Education Campus Group

Human Library



Staff Conference's Professional Development Committee will proudly co-sponsor the "Human Library," an in-person inspirational professional development experience!

Accomplished women from across the university will share life lessons based on their personal experiences navigating the interesting twists and turns along their career paths. These women — the "books" making up this library — include **Adrienne Edwards**, *assistant professor and program director, Human Development and Family Studies*; **Adrienne McCormick**, *provost, Academic Affairs*; **Karen Oremus**, *professor and chair, Department of Fine Arts*; **Takita Sumter**, *dean, College of Arts and Sciences*; **Julia Taggart**, *sergeant, Campus Police*; and **Vanessa Valdez '15**, *graduate student services director and Accounting, Mentorship, and Professional Development program director, College of Business Administration*.

Please join us **Tuesday, March 8**
In Richardson Ballroom from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Register to come together and be inspired by these amazing women's life lessons.

Find us on
Facebook!



Story or content ideas? Contact a member of the Media & Communications Committee:

Kara Cauthen, Jayme Charles, Shea Maple, Kat Wilson