

# WINTHROP MAGAZINE

FALL 2019



## MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**



Dear Friends:

As this *Winthrop Magazine* edition goes to press, I have just delivered my fourth State of the University Address to the campus community with updates on the Winthrop Plan, the university's strategic blueprint through 2025. In keeping with my promise to make our results and the process transparent, I encourage you to view my presentation by visiting [www.winthrop.edu/president](http://www.winthrop.edu/president).

One of our Winthrop Plan objectives is to develop new and innovative programs to meet the emerging needs and interests of diverse student populations and the community. On pages 4-5, I encourage you to learn more about two new programs – Bachelor of Professional Studies and esports – that are attracting new students to Winthrop. We are excited about both programs, and we know that they are already putting Winthrop on the college radar of prospective students who otherwise would not consider our university.

Other compelling stories we have included here:

- The fascinating work of Assistant Professor of Anthropology Brent Woodfill who is in a race against time to save and preserve a collection of historic Maya artifacts from more than 1,200 years ago.
- An intriguing profile on Jeuel Bannister Esmacher '44, one of 38 World War II code breakers who graduated from Winthrop. Esmacher is featured in the New York Times Bestselling book, "Code Girls." She will receive this year's Mary Mildred Sullivan Award at the November Alumni Awards Luncheon where she will celebrate her 75th Winthrop reunion.
- An in-depth look at how Christopher M. Tidwell '85 is helping reshape the toy industry by encouraging children's creativity with a focus on STEM-related toys and activities.
- A feel-good feature on junior Justin Rose, who has taken advantage of numerous opportunities to grow as a leader and future business professional.

As you can see, there are many exciting initiatives happening at this university, and we're proud to share them with our alumni.

As always, I want to thank you for your continued support as we ensure Winthrop's tradition of excellence. I hope to see you at Homecoming and Reunion Weekend in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Mahony  
President

## WINTHROP UNIVERSITY **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Glenn McCall**  
*Chair, Rock Hill*

**Kathy Hudson Bigham '73**  
*Vice Chair, Rock Hill*

**Ed Driggers '92**  
*Greer*

**Julie Gore Fowler '85, '88**  
*Simpsonville*

**Donna Glenn Holley**  
*Columbia*

**Timothy L. Hopkins '83, '85, '00**  
*Lugoff*

**Randy Imler '87, '00**  
*Tega Cay*

**Jane Lawton LaRoche '70**  
*Camden*

**Tim Sease '87**  
*Mt. Pleasant*

**Robby Sisco '80**  
*Florence*

**Janet Rice Smalley '72**  
*Walhalla*

**Sandra Stroman '73, '76**  
*Chester*

**Isaiah Venning '95, '00**  
*Rock Hill*

**Ashlye Wilkerson '05**  
*Columbia*

**Gary Williams '11**  
*Rock Hill*

**Adolphus Belk Jr.**  
*Faculty Representative*

**Imani Belton**  
*Student Representative*

**Daniel F. Mahony**  
*President*

**Kimberly Faust**  
*Vice President and Chief of Staff,  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees*

**Ellen Wilder-Byrd '88, '94**  
*Associate Vice President  
for Communications and Marketing*

## Winthrop Magazine FALL 2019



### FEATURES

**2** DIGGING FOR MEANING

**4** DESTINATION WINTHROP

**6** WORLD OF PURE IMAGINATION

**8** CODE BREAKER'S EFFORTS  
RECOGNIZED

**10** UPLIFTING AND SERVING OTHERS

### DEPARTMENTS

- 12** CAMPUS NEWS
- 15** ADVANCEMENT NEWS
- 16** ALUMNI NEWS
- 18** CLASS NOTES
- 20** MILESTONES

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Monica Bennett, editor  
Jill Stuckey '02, '07, director of  
printing and creative services

Contributing writers:  
Nicole Chisari '09, '16  
Kaye Hayes  
Judy Longshaw

### NOTES

*About the Cover*

*This Maya artifact is part of a collection of figurines that is more than 1,200 years old. The collection was unearthed in 2018 by Assistant Professor of Anthropology Brent Woodfill during an archaeological dig in Guatemala. Read more about Woodfill's discovery on pages 2-3.*

*Winthrop Magazine is published for alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends of Winthrop University by University Communications and Marketing.*

*Winthrop University offers equal opportunity in its employment, admissions and educational activities.*

*All cities referenced in editorial content are located in South Carolina unless otherwise indicated.*



Brent Woodfill, standing in front of the ruins of a 150-year-old hacienda in the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve, plans to return to the area as often as he can.



From Science 2019: Vol. 365, pp. 966-970, DOI: 10.1126/science.365.6457.966. Photo credit: Lizzie Wade/Science Reprinted with permission from AAAS.

*Brent Woodfill remembers the first book he read – one about dinosaurs. He thought he would become a paleontologist.*

But sitting in his fourth-grade classroom studying Pompeii, the Roman city that was buried after a volcanic eruption, he had a realization.

“I realized you could actually dig up people, and not just dinosaurs,” said Woodfill, an assistant professor of anthropology.

In 2018, he “dug up” something else: a collection of historic Maya artifacts dating more than 1,200 years old, likely the largest figurine workshop yet encountered in the Maya world.

Woodfill has spent years working on dig sites at the southern edge of the Maya lowlands. An acquaintance who also happens to be the regional inspector of monuments for the city of Coban, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, called Woodfill to examine the giant figurine workshop, which includes hundreds of beautiful molds and figurines featuring an elaborate Maya style believed to have been traded throughout the northern highlands and lowlands.



**These Maya artifacts are part of a collection that Woodfill discovered in 2018.**

“It looks like it was all just a single, relatively short occupation,” Woodfill explained, “but since the occupation spans both sides of the Classic Maya Collapse, it looks like the people from this town continued to be important and might have actually peaked after a lot of the lowland cities.”

The National Science Foundation awarded him a grant to salvage, map and excavate the remaining artifacts.

This past summer, Woodfill returned to the site to oversee the research. He and his wife, Ginny, also made stops at

dig sites in several other Classic cities and saltworks in the Guatemalan Highlands and the Lacandon Forest in Chiapas, Mexico. “Science Magazine” traveled with him and profiled his journey in its fall edition.

## ‘FELL IN LOVE’

Woodfill’s uncle took him on a tour of his first dig site at age 13. At 16, he began participating in field schools, short-term credit programs that provide students with practical archaeological training.

“Archaeology, as a field science, is hard to learn in class,” he explained. “You have to be very meticulous. You have to stop, dig around it, draw it, photograph it. The heat, humidity and acidic soil can mean the bones are so very fragile.”

As a college student, he took a course about the Yucatan Peninsula and traveled there.

“I fell in love with the first dig site that I visited [there],” he said. “I decided I would learn Spanish and stay in the Maya world.”

From there, he spent time networking at a field school in Belize, half the time spent digging up the city of Baking Pot in the Maya River Valley, the other half mapping and studying caves. He then earned a master’s and Ph.D. and moved to Guatemala, where he learned the Q’eqchi’ language, spoken by most of the inhabitants of the research site.

In 2009, he honed in on Salinas de Los Nueve Cerros (“Saltworks of Nine Hills”), a major city and the only non-coastal salt source in the Maya lowlands. It’s one of the few cities to have survived past the Classic Collapse due to the control of this powerful resource.

## ‘ARCHAEOLOGY IS COMMUNITY RELATIONS’

In addition to teaching, Woodfill is contemplating his next book. He’s also researching approximately six dig sites.

“It is actually not the moment of discovery, but the moment of understanding, when things snap together,” he said of his favorite archaeology moment. “...When I’m sitting later in a coffeehouse, trying to figure out what was going on in relation within the cities, how people conceived of the environment.

“...I am an American who brings a fair amount of access, money and resources. I can’t necessarily make the world a better place, but I can make the [local] people’s lives a little bit better. Instead of giving people what I think they need, I can use press and resources, and hopefully funnel it into training for the locals so they have better ways to raise money and gain connections, knowledge and experience. That’s where I get the most meaning.”

# DIGGING FOR MEANING



# DESTINATION WINTHROP

*Students choose to attend Winthrop for its beautiful campus, small class sizes, outstanding faculty, program quality and more. Another reason is that Winthrop has created several “destination programs” that were designed to put the university on the radar of students who may not be as familiar with Winthrop.*

President Dan Mahony has emphasized the importance of Winthrop setting itself apart from other colleges and universities in the region by creating destination programs. “These are those programs that change a student’s choice of higher education institution. The presence of the program at Winthrop will cause them to choose Winthrop and without it, we would not be considered.”

Winthrop’s destination programs include both academic and non-academic offerings. Read more below about two of these new destination programs and how their implementation will attract new students to the university.

## BACHELOR OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES DEGREE LAUNCHES

In spring 2020, the university will launch its first adult completion program that will serve adult learners who have some level of college, such as an associate’s degree or higher.

Recent census data shows that more than 90,000 adults in the five counties surrounding Winthrop have some college experience but did not earn bachelor’s degrees.

According to Jack DeRochi, dean of the Graduate School and associate vice president for academic outreach, the program will allow adult learners to finish their college degrees while delivering specific competencies and professional skill development that they need in their careers.

“This program is designed to help folks who have identified that their lack of advanced academic and skill training is an obstruction they’re experiencing in their professions, careers and lives, and this is a way to help them finish that degree,” DeRochi said.

The program courses will be offered at night, on weekends and in a hybrid mix of on-campus and online options in order to fit the busy schedules of working adults.

For more information on the Bachelor of Professional Studies program, please visit [www.winthrop.edu/cas/professionalstudies](http://www.winthrop.edu/cas/professionalstudies) or call Program Director Scott Amundsen at 803/323-3095 or email [amundsens@winthrop.edu](mailto:amundsens@winthrop.edu).



Head Coach Josh Sides is leading the university’s first esports team.

## ESPORTS TEAM NOW IN ACTION AND READY TO WIN

Winthrop is only the third NCAA Division I school to have a varsity esports program housed within its athletics department. Esports, a booming industry, describes the world of competitive video gaming.

The inaugural esports team, led by Head Coach Josh Sides, consists of 13 players. The team’s season lasts all school year, and players will participate in online and in-person tournaments. The first major event was HUEfest, an invitational tournament for the top esports programs in the country.

According to Sides, esports is exploding in popularity with the 16-22 age group. “According to a recent survey, more 16 to 22 year olds are watching esports than any other sport. If you’re a school or university that focuses on recruiting this age group and you’re not offering esports, then you’re missing out on one of the biggest things that this age group is interested in.”

For prospective students who are interested in competitive gaming, Winthrop is a natural choice.

“We have a highly competitive program on a campus that already has a great, growing esports culture, in a region where other schools have been slower to embrace it,” said Sides. “If a student is passionate about esports, then Winthrop is the place to come to meet those like-minded students.”

Winthrop also has a competitive gaming club that is part of Winthrop’s more than 160 clubs and organizations.

For more information on esports, please visit [www.winthropeagles.com](http://www.winthropeagles.com)

# WORLD OF PURE IMAGINATION



*Christopher Tidwell '85 could be considered the Willy Wonka of the toy world.*

In his toy factory, Tidwell is the heir of an innovative toy brand that inspires children to explore, build and create under the hidden guise of education.

Magformers is a mix of LEGO, Transformers and super-powered magnets. The toy line features colorful and magnetic geometric shapes and accessories that allow kids to build everything from houses to castles to dogs to dinosaurs. Other building sets incorporate moving pieces to design fire trucks, rally karts or even cool alien vehicles. Light, motion and sound sensors add a different level to the magnetic creations.

The possibilities are endless for imaginative learning; that's made Magformers a golden ticket for consumers seeking educational toys.

"In 2012, our company had one brand and 14 items. We now have seven brands and over 600 items. We are nearing the top 100 toy company rankings in North America," said Tidwell, Magformers' CEO. "I believe over the next 10 years this brand should become a top 10 toy company."

One reason Magformers is a standout is because of the brand's interest in developing future creators and scientists. The toy designs – including Clicformers and Tileblox – have a heavy emphasis

on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Magformers' ingenuity has garnered it a number of accolades, including Creative Child Magazine's 2017 "Top Toy of the Year."

Tidwell, who studied communications at Winthrop, believes that problem solving and critical thinking skills should be developed in childhood in order to curtail the shortage of qualified college graduates entering STEM fields. "So for us, we're all about critical thinking, spatial planning... we really make the kid think," he said. "Play can be fun, but play should also be educational."

To further its research, Magformers is developing K-12 education curriculum. On the higher education front, the company is enlisting the expertise of professors and educators from top universities.

Tidwell said the toy industry has changed drastically since the 1980s when he graduated from Winthrop and first began working with LEGO. "I spent nearly 12 years helping build the LEGO company. It was an amazing journey of learning to sell products for the right reasons," he said.

Among the right reasons, Tidwell said, were product quality and safety, which he

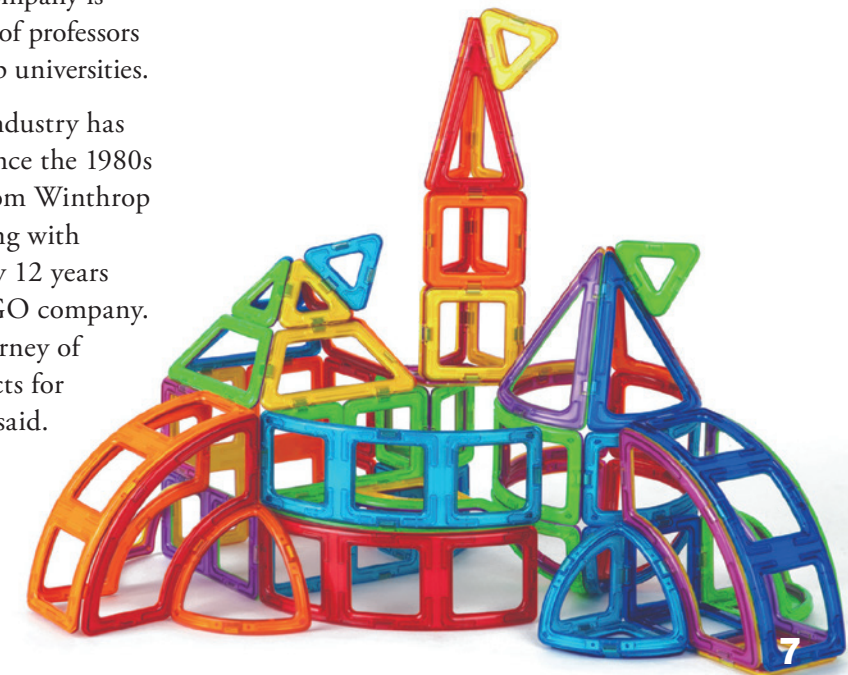
noted have taken a backseat with the advent of online shopping.

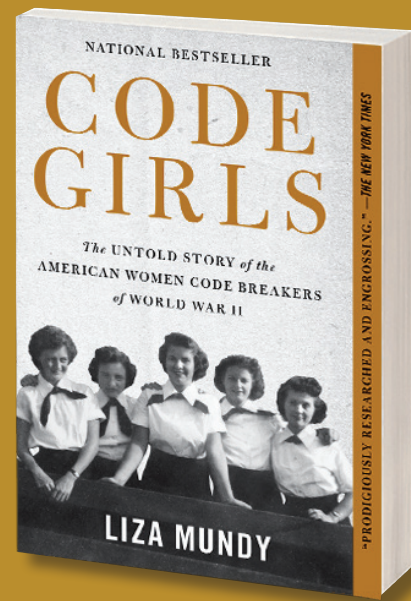
"While we as U.S. consumers think we're getting this great value by shopping online, we really have to be educated consumers and realize that the stuff that we order online isn't always the stuff that we think we're going to get."

Tidwell has done interviews with the Wall Street Journal and CNN regarding concerns in the industry over such things as counterfeits and tariffs. Industry insiders believe in Tidwell's leadership to navigate such challenges, citing him as an inspiration and creative leader.

"He is well respected in our industry, a road warrior and sales genius with a genuine passion for Magformers," said Mary Couzin, founder and president of Chicago Toy & Game Group.

Michigan-based Magformers is available via retailers such as Kohl's, Target, Amazon and at [www.magformers.com](http://www.magformers.com).





- “Code Girls,” published in 2017, tells the story of World War II code breakers.
- Jeuel Bannister Esmacher was recruited by the Department of Defense.
- The book examined the secret work that the women performed during World War II.

# CODE BREAKER'S EFFORTS RECOGNIZED

*A few months after graduating from Winthrop, Jeuel Bannister Esmacher '44 received a mysterious letter from the U.S. Department of Defense.*

She was working in King's Mountain, North Carolina, as the state's first female high school band director. The letter said: “We can use your services in Washington, D.C.”

At the time, World War II was raging on multiple fronts and Americans united with a sense of community and patriotism. Esmacher recalled: “When the government asked you to do something to help, you said ‘yes.’” With the blessing of her parents, the 19-year-old Starr native headed to the nation's capital.

All Esmacher told her relatives was that she was going to work with the Department of Defense, because even she did not know what she would be doing. In fact, the work that she and others performed was not disclosed until the recent publication of the New York



Times bestselling book, “Code Girls: The Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II,” by Liza Mundy.

Esmacher was one of many college-educated women tapped for this war effort, and was among 38 World War II code breakers who graduated from Winthrop. With American men signed up to fight, the U.S. Army and Navy turned to women who had an affinity for puzzles, math and music, and trained them to look for patterns within enemy messages intercepted by U.S. military intelligence. The women were sworn to secrecy as they worked to decode in languages, such as Japanese and Russian, whose alphabets differ

from English. Many women took their code-breaking experiences to their graves.

Mundy, who interviewed Esmacher and named her several times in “Code Girls,” said that the women who worked as code breakers needed intelligence, persistence, grit and loyalty to do their work. She concluded that the military's decision to tap well-educated women was a chief reason that America was able to build an effective code-breaking operation very quickly.

Esmacher believed that the Department of Defense contacted her because she had taken every course in cryptanalysis that the Army offered on Winthrop's campus. Those courses, in conjunction with her music major from Winthrop, made her an ideal candidate for service.

Now retired from banking and living in Anderson, the 95-year-old remembers those times — and the challenging work — very clearly. “It was tedious work,” Esmacher recalled, “I would get to the point where my mind would freeze, and I'd have to take a walk around our building in Arlington to clear my thoughts. I'd have to put aside a problem before I could go back and solve it.”

When the war ended and thousands crossed the river from Arlington to D.C. to celebrate, Esmacher met her future husband for the first time. He was among a group of translators, linking arms and singing to rejoice. She lovingly refers to that well-known V-J Day as “Victory for Jeuel” Day.

Esmacher is credited with intercepting a message that later led to the sinking of a Japanese warship in the Pacific. When she first heard of the sinking, she was pleased to know that she had a part in saving Allied soldiers' lives. However, after she had her own family, she remembered the event and empathized with the Japanese families who had lost their loved ones on that ship. Esmacher spent six years decoding because after World War II, she was among a smaller group of code breakers asked to work on intercepted Russian messages.

For her service to her country and to her alma mater, Esmacher will receive the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award when she returns to campus for her 75th college reunion during Homecoming and Reunion weekend. She continues to be an ambassador for Winthrop, telling others how her Winthrop education influenced her life.

# UPLIFTING AND SERVING OTHERS

Justin Rose and other Leadership exCHANGE participants enjoyed some sightseeing during their time abroad this summer.



*Justin Rose has studied and worked abroad in Europe, participated in community service as a Close Scholar and has two part-time jobs – one coordinating university special events and another at the city of Rock Hill’s Technology Incubator office.*

And he is only a junior.

The business administration major from Columbia has taken advantage of numerous opportunities during his college years to grow as a leader and future business professional. Winthrop staff members describe him as conscientious and approachable with a sweet disposition.

“I started out as a biology major but then decided I wanted to be more involved with people and serve them,” said Rose, who will concentrate his business studies on finance.

For Rose, he has built on experiences each semester and taken on new and more responsibilities. He started out his freshman year as an Emerging Leader to help other students and volunteered as a Martin Luther King Jr. Day service leader.

Last year, he became a Peer Mentor and continued his Close Scholar work, which has a community service component – 112 hours per semester – as part of the scholarship. Rose spent time volunteering as a reading and writing tutor at Oakdale

Elementary. Then, he started a mentoring program with peers at the school where they met with 5th-grade male students each Friday. “It was a great opportunity to walk alongside those young men and support them both academically and personally as well.”

For the second summer in a row, Rose spent a month in Prague, the capital and largest city in the Czech Republic. The first year he took classes within the Leadership exCHANGE: Global Leadership Program and this summer returned to the program as a student development coordinator. He joined students from the United States, Mexico, Nepal, Australia, South Korea, Canada and Belarus.

The classes he took covered social entrepreneurship and the philosophy of leadership. In studying great leaders, Rose particularly admired Malcolm X’s transformation from a black nationalist to his embrace of racial integration.

This academic year, Rose will coordinate logistics for 10 Office of Career & Civic Engagement events such as career fairs, blood drives, etc. He also will intern with the



**JUSTIN ROSE**

city’s Technology Incubator office, which helps entrepreneurs create new businesses.

He has balanced his class load during the fall semester with three on-campus classes and three online classes. Time management is key for him as he balances jobs, class assignments and community service.

When Rose graduates, he would like to continue to meet and connect with different people. “I want to help people who have helped me along the way,” he said. “I want to impact their lives in a positive way. We are better together.”



## Winthrop Achieves Best Overall U.S. News Ranking in 25 Years; Earns Other Third-Party Endorsements

Winthrop continues to round up the accolades.

The university was recognized for its strong commitment to undergraduate teaching, its attention to veterans, the social mobility of its graduates and as an innovative school, according to the U.S. News & World Report's 2020 edition of "Best Colleges." Accomplishments included:

- Moved from 25th to 17th place among regional universities in the south, marking its best overall ranking in 25 years.
- Rose from 17th to 8th place among best colleges for veterans.
- Tied for 10th place among most innovative schools.
- Climbed to 11th place from 15th place for best undergraduate teaching as judged by peers.
- Ranked 22nd for social mobility, a new category that measures how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants.

The Princeton Review praised the university for its diverse student body and beautiful campus in its "Best in the Southeast" rankings, and Money Magazine named the university to its "Best Colleges for Your Money 2019." Finally, for the second consecutive year, the Washington Monthly cited Winthrop for its success in getting students to vote. Fifty-eight percent of students voted in the 2016 presidential election. Winthrop was one of only three schools in the state honored.

## Winthrop Faculty Win Honors

Along with the university, faculty members have rounded up recent accolades as well. A few include:

- Professor of Marketing **Cara Peters** was selected as the William H. Grier Professor for Winthrop's College of Business Administration.
- The Department of Social Work's **ZaDonna Slay** is part of the second class of the United State of Women's Ambassadors who will undergo training to take action toward gender equity in their communities.
- The Scripps Howard Foundation selected Associate Professor of Mass Communication **Nate Frederick** for its Visiting Professors in Social Media program. The highly competitive program pairs educators with media organizations to see how technology is changing the way news is delivered.



Chapter members are pictured with their advisor, **Nate Frederick**, associate professor of mass communication.

## Student Chapter Named Best in the Nation

Winthrop's student chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists was recognized as the best in the nation.

The National Association of Black Journalists noted that Winthrop's chapter "has established a strong presence on campus" and has been a highly visible "advocate for diversity and inclusion in media." The group specifically highlighted the chapter's programming, which included a business etiquette dinner and a panel discussion, "Is It Because I'm Black?," and the chapter's strengthened relationship with the Charlotte Area Association of Black Journalists.

## Rock Hill Named a 2019 All-America City



**Fountain Park**, opened in 2014, is a beautiful addition to Rock Hill's Old Town and offers a scenic space in the heart of downtown.



The National Civic League recognized the city of Rock Hill as one of 10 All-America City Award winners in 2019.

The National Civic League noted Rock Hill's outstanding work in inclusive civic engagement to address critical issues as well as its relationship-building among residents, businesses, nonprofit leaders and government leaders.

Specifically, the league pointed out city partnerships, such as Impact York County, a coalition aiming to increase the effectiveness of county-wide health interventions; Miracle Park, a park designed for people with special needs; and Knowledge Park, a downtown revitalization action plan. Winthrop has been a key player in all three projects.



Due to Hurricane Dorian, the soccer game between Winthrop and the College of Charleston was moved to Rock Hill. The Lady Eagles hosted the Lady Cougars for dinner and fun games.

## Winthrop Extends Helping Hand to College of Charleston

Winthrop hosted 118 College of Charleston students and staff for five days in September as Hurricane Dorian pummeled the Carolina coast, causing College of Charleston students to evacuate.

The "new" students felt at home in Rock Hill, as Winthrop provided them with lodging, meals and on- and off-campus entertainment options.

Women's soccer teams for Winthrop and the College of Charleston faced off in a match that was moved to Eagle Field due to the hurricane. While Winthrop lost the match, the university was still happy to play a gracious host to friends.

This is the second time in two years that Winthrop has helped the College of Charleston. In 2017, Winthrop hosted dozens of Charleston students during Hurricane Irma.





## Meet the Class of 2023

A few facts about our newest Eagles: the Carolinas are well represented; 10 students were their high schools' valedictorians; and two students achieved 12 years of perfect school attendance.

## Winthrop-Coastal Carolina Rivalry Renewed



The men's basketball program announced a four-year series with long-time rival Coastal Carolina University. The series will begin on Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Winthrop Coliseum. Winthrop will travel to Coastal Carolina in 2020, before returning to Rock Hill in 2021, and ending the series back in Conway in 2022.

Coastal Carolina was a long-time member of the Big South Conference before leaving to join the Sun Belt Conference in 2016. The in-state rivals had a number of exciting battles on the hardwood over the years and look to continue that trend over the next four years.

Season tickets are available now at [winthropeagles.com](http://winthropeagles.com).



## Enhance Your Gift Through the 100K Matching Gift Challenge

Winthrop is proud to announce a chance for donors to unlock an amazing opportunity and to make a lasting effect like never before.

For every dollar you give to the Winthrop Fund, an anonymous donor will unlock a dollar-for-dollar matching gift up to \$100,000. The Winthrop Fund is the university's key source for unrestricted annual giving. The funds may be used immediately where they are most needed for student scholarships, student research and other university initiatives. Please make your secure gift today by visiting [www.winthrop.edu/give](http://www.winthrop.edu/give) and learn more about the giving challenge.

## Milestone Generosity

Mary Anne Unger Padget '55 came from a long line of college-educated teachers, and support of education continues her family's legacy. Through her estate plans, Padget contributed to the Winthrop Endowment.

Mary Ann Helton '71, a longtime donor, took advantage of an existing life insurance policy to further support the Jerry L. Helton Voice Scholarship established in honor of her late husband Jerry, emeritus professor of music. Transferring the existing policy to the Winthrop University Foundation will ensure future music students are supported.

Antonia Wagner '64, a longtime educator, lived her dream of teaching and was inspired by her young students. She plans to extend that inspiration to future generations and named Winthrop a beneficiary on her life insurance and retirement plan, allowing the gifts to immediately be passed to university initiatives.

Martha Garmon '54 graduated from Winthrop within three years and credits the scholarship she received for helping her achieve the accomplishment. A rewarding teaching career inspired her to create the Martha Martin Garmon Scholarship, which supports students majoring in early childhood education.



## The Winthrop Endowment Launches with Landmark Gifts

The future of Winthrop is bigger than any one person.

Landmark investments from Edna Hope Gregory and Sarah Law Kennerly '31—among other alumni and friends—created the Winthrop Endowment, a funding initiative to help the university transform bold ideas into reality for students. The endowment ensures long-term financial stability and flexibility through unrestricted and undesignated dollars that support the real needs of students. During summer 2019, the Winthrop Endowment surpassed a milestone \$1 million in assets, while the overall endowment balance held at the Winthrop University Foundation is more than \$50 million.

For more information on giving, or to make a gift, please call the Division of University Advancement at 803/323-2275, toll-free at 800/801-1083 or visit [www.winthrop.edu/give](http://www.winthrop.edu/give).



## Winthrop College Apparel is Back

The Winthrop Bookstore will once again offer a limited edition Winthrop College vintage collection of T-shirts, sweatshirts and more. The collection will be available for purchase this November in conjunction with Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. A few familiar designs from last year's Winthrop College collection will be back to accompany new designs. Stay tuned for more information so you can show your pride Winthrop College style or shop online at <https://winthrop.bncollege.com/shop/winthrop/home>.

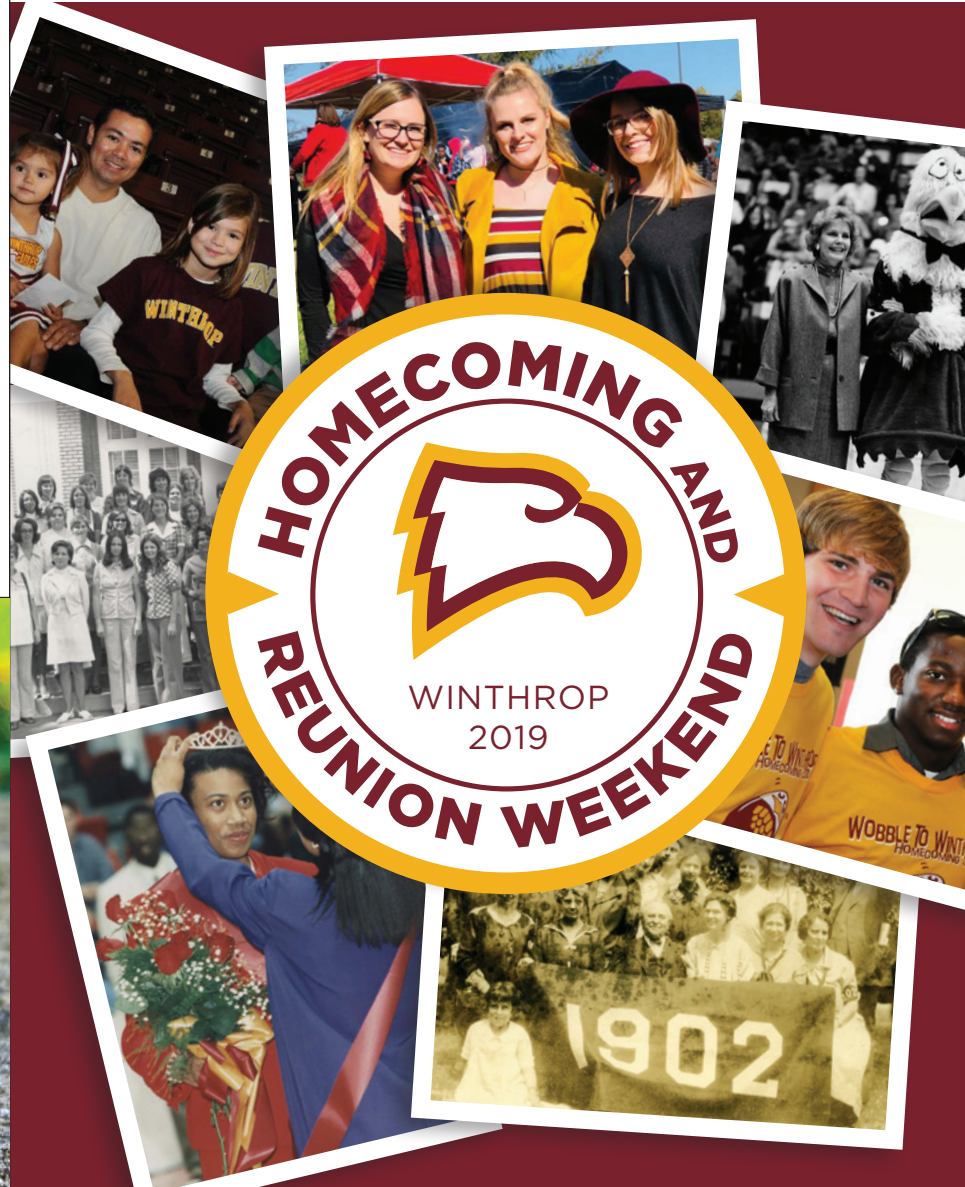
## Winthrop College Ring Available

Winthrop College alumni, Winthrop is excited to announce that you can now show your pride with a Winthrop College ring. Visit [www.jostens.com/winthrop](http://www.jostens.com/winthrop) for more information and pricing.



## Make Plans to Attend Nov. 15-16 Homecoming and Reunion Weekend

Come back home to Winthrop Nov. 15-16 to take part in a fun and memorable Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. Alumni from the classes of 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014 will celebrate milestone reunions throughout the weekend. Highlights for Friday, Nov. 15, include alumni campus tours and Homecoming on the Green. Saturday, Nov. 16, includes the popular Alumni Reunion and Awards luncheon, tailgating, and the men's basketball game. Alumni can also pick up a free Homecoming T-shirt, designed by Brandon McGinnis '12, at the Alumni Association tailgate tent. There's something for everyone, so plan now to take part in the festivities. To view the complete schedule, to register for events and to familiarize yourself with new changes that are being implemented for this year's tailgate, please visit [www.winthrop.edu/homecoming](http://www.winthrop.edu/homecoming).



## Get Connected with an Alumni Chapter or Young Alumni Council

The Alumni Association has nine Alumni Chapters and five Young Alumni Councils across the country that coordinate a variety of events for alumni in specific regions. To connect with a chapter or council leader, email [alumni@winthrop.edu](mailto:alumni@winthrop.edu). Alumni Chapters have been established in Atlanta, Charleston, Charlotte, Columbia, D.C. Metro, Myrtle Beach, Rock Hill, Upstate and Triangle (Raleigh, North Carolina). Young Alumni Councils are present in Charlotte, Charleston, Rock Hill, Upstate and Washington, D.C.



Alumni gathered at Rock Hill Brewing for the official launch of the Rock Hill Alumni Chapter.

## Celebrate the Season

Kick off the holiday season with Winthrop's 84th Annual Tree Lighting — a popular campus tradition — on Friday, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. at the historic magnolia tree on the Winthrop front lawn. Hot cocoa and cookies will be provided, and the Winthrop RockHettes dance troupe will perform. The tree lighting is free and open to the public. Contact the Alumni Association at [alumni@winthrop.edu](mailto:alumni@winthrop.edu) or 803/323-2145 for more information.



Visit [www.winthrop.edu/alumniupdate](http://www.winthrop.edu/alumniupdate) to update your contact information.

# CLASS NOTES

## Let Us Hear from You!

Do you have a new job, recently married, welcomed a baby or another life-changing event that you would like to share with the Winthrop family? If so, please let us know by submitting the alumni update form which can be found at [www.winthrop.edu/alumniupdate](http://www.winthrop.edu/alumniupdate).

### 1974

**Harlain Sligh Ruff** of Little Rock, Arkansas, published work in the books “Penpoint Poems and Prose 2” and “Vault of Terror Vol. 2: Tales to Tell.”

### 1981

Riverbanks Zoo President and CEO **Thomas Stringfellow** was recognized by Greater Columbia Monthly as one of its 50 Most Influential of 2018.

### 1984

**Melody Tankersley** was named interim senior vice president and provost at Kent State University.

### 1985

Walterboro resident **Jessica Fields** is the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for the Colleton County School District. Manning resident **John Tindal** retired after 17 years of service as the Clarendon School District Two superintendent.

### 1988

**Arthur Holmes** won a four-year seat on the Charleston County School District Constituent School Board #23.

Charlotte, North Carolina, resident **Michael Turner** is the interim principal of West Charlotte High School.

### 1990

**Rhonda Short** is the director of music education and graduate studies coordinator in the music department at the University of Mississippi.

### 1993

Clinton resident **Maureen Tiller** is principal of Fountain Inn High School.

### 1996

Author and Historian **Christopher Boyle** of Loris presented a lecture on the Declaration of Independence at the Horry County Museum.

**Sharon Allen Bracey** of Charlotte, North Carolina, is principal of Garinger High School.

Rock Hill resident **Alfred Williams** is principal of Union County High School.

### 1997

**Dy English** of Weddington, North Carolina, retired after 29 years of service to Leslie Elementary School in Rock Hill.

Cayce resident **Martina Mingo Mitchell** is president of the South Carolina Health Association.

**Page Wofford** is the head football coach at Northwestern High School in Rock Hill.

### 1999

**Jennifer Brown** of Jacksonville, Florida, was appointed to the Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees.

**Mark Weisbrod** of Stephens City, Virginia, is the principal of Stonewall Elementary School.

### 2000

**Deronda Washington** of Charleston is the associate director for sorority and fraternity life at the College of Charleston.

### 2001

**Brigham Asbury** of Summerville joined the board of directors for the Charleston County Parks Foundation.

### 2002

Fort Mill resident **Marc Pyrc** is principal of Banks Trail Middle School.

**Edward Serna** is president of the University of Maine at Farmington.

### 2003

Rock Hill resident **Chisa Johnson Putman** was appointed a magistrate judge of York County and was elected to the Charleston

School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**Norris Williams**, a former Rock Hill principal, is now principal of Blue Eagle Academy in Clover.

### 2004

Charleston resident **Wayne L.J. Alston** is the 2019-20 director of athletics for the Colleton County School District.

### 2005

The city of Hutchinson, Minnesota, selected **Ryan Hvitlok** as its planning director.

**Charles Perry** of Conway was honored as the S.C. Weekly Journalist of the Year by the S.C. Press Association.

**Adrian Rhodes** of Hartsville was awarded the S.C. Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship.

**Tracy Spalsbury** is the director of marketing and communications at the Education Foundation of Sarasota County.

### 2008

**Jad Griffith** is the principal of Fort Mill Elementary School.

Greenville resident **Justin Meade** joined the Ronald Blue Trust Company as a private wealth advisor.

**Jimi Thompson** organized Charlotte's 2nd annual Durag Fest.

### 2009

**Mallory Crawford** of Walterboro is the first athletic director for the Polaris Tech Charter School.

### 2010

Charlotte, North Carolina, resident **Terrance Sanders** is an instructional improvement officer for the Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools.

### 2011

**Ren Patel** is director of the Fort Mill High School bands.

Rock Hill resident **Jeremy Whitesell** was nominated and selected by his peers as the 2019 South Carolina Investigator of the Year.

### 2012

**Toniqua Mikell** of Columbia is the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice from the University of South Carolina.

**Enrique Miranda** of Kirkwood, Missouri, is a transactional health care lawyer who joined Carlton Fields as an associate in the health care practice.

Lexington resident **Punam Patel** was recognized as a 2019 Prisma Health-Midlands Woman of Impact.

### 2013

“Lobotomy,” a series of art portraits by Williston, North Dakota, resident **Lino Azevedo**, is on display in the MonDak Heritage Center.

### 2014

**Sharifa Elkady** of Ladson was selected as a 2019 Drama League Directing Fellow.

**Justin Hudson** of Bennettsville created a scholarship in honor of his late classmate, **Christopher J. Aubrie**, a former Winthrop student body president. Two scholarships were awarded this past year to students at their alma mater, Marlboro Academy. The fund plans to award scholarships to students in the Winthrop College of Business Administration starting in fall 2020.

### 2016

Jacksonville, Florida, native **Trey King** is starring in the City Repertory Theatre's production of “Tick, Tick... Boom.”

### 2018

Gastonia, North Carolina, resident **Anastasia Nettekub** won second place at the 2019 ArtFields Festival.

**Jordan Wiley** of Irmo is the operations manager at the Charleston River Dogs.

### 2019

Myrtle Beach resident **Alyssa Gore** is the owner of Stunning & Brilliant Events, a wedding and event planning company.

# Milestones

## BIRTHS

**Christine Gianniny Forrest '01**, a son, Isaac Benjamin Forrest, March 27, 2019

**Ebony Thompson Means '03** and **James Walter Means IV '03**, a daughter, Hannah Brielle Means, Dec. 12, 2018

**Shaneice Cochran Rush '10**, a son, Sean Xavier Rush III, May 22, 2019

**Kayla Peoples Ledford '11**, a daughter, Amelia Paige Ledford, June 2, 2018

## IN MEMORIAM

### 1940s

Lucille (Cile) Heustess Gray '40  
Elizabeth Rogers Reynolds '40  
Martha Whitesell Brock '41  
Alice Blake Ford '41  
Lucy Clements Freeman '41  
Margaret Grace Parshall '41  
Margaret (Peggy) Howell Heath '42  
Nancy Howard McIver '42  
Alice Jordan Nickles '42  
Winifred Losse Woodruff '42  
Marian Warner Eskew '43  
Eleanor Crouch Jaehnig '43  
Mary Gasser Rawl '43  
Jean (Ethelyn) Porter Robinson '43  
Zena Crawford Tholstrop '43  
Barbara Fay Adams '44  
Edith Tribble Chapin '44  
Joan Nix Drew '44  
Mary Craig Dyches '44  
May Wright Hoy '44  
Anne Harvey Rogers '44  
Martha Boyce Rogers '44  
Catherine McFaddin Beaty '45  
Grace Barker Monroe '45  
Sylvia Turbeville Moseley '45  
Willie (Mabel) Williams Nunnery '45  
Nelle Kirby Player '45  
Mary Reeves Cockfield '46  
Mary Kate Bell Glasser '46

Annie (Rae) Connor Maurer '46  
Norma Crutchfield Swinney '46  
Laurene Miller Buist '47  
Anita Wilson King '47  
Sarah (Libba) Belk King '47  
Virginia Newman Waples '47  
Eva Bates Blois '48  
Letha Worsham Freeman '48  
Betty Hood LaPlume '48  
Olive Atkinson Nissen '48  
Beatrice Staton Scruggs '48  
Barbara Spain Stratton '48  
Joan Patterson Strickland '48  
Inez Hyatt Brown '49  
Carolyn Jones Crockett '49  
Dorothy (Dot) Peebles Ford '49  
Ethel Lachicotte Boyle Ripley '49  
Lillis Brown Smith '49  
Geraldine Blankenship Sturgis '49  
Sudie Lou Ingram Taylor '49

### 1950s

Mildred (Margie) Marguerite Ballard '50  
Margaret Ledbetter Cothran '50  
Margaret Mangum Lowdermilk '50  
Harriet Oliver Plowden '50  
Virginia Walker Poston '50  
Thelma Thompson Walker '50  
Jeanette Bazemore Wilson '50  
Betty Garrett Middleton '51  
Anne McDill Roberts '51  
Allison Chestnut Stevens '51  
Mary Stack Dillon '53  
Sara Harper Howard '53  
Nancy Ledbetter Malphrus '53  
Doris Vereen McDaniel '53  
Barbara Robinette Wham '53  
Bette Anne Edwards Atkinson '54  
Lois Thompson Connell '54  
Betty Kelley Gault '54  
Reba Breland McFadden '54  
Virginia Campbell Packard '54  
Joanne Skipper Roney '54  
Barbara Summers Betts '55  
Mary Anne Friday Carpenter '55  
Joy Mungo Richardson '55  
Lois Bailes Simmons '55  
Norma Rachael Nichols Smith '55  
Margaret Murdock Kinard '56  
Sara Gertrude Strait '56

Anne Hendrix Hendricks '57  
Sylvia Hamlett Brantley '58  
Virginia White Rutledge '59

### 1960s

Sonja Lyles Capra '60  
Glynda Miller Fulton '60  
Cornelia Bush Graves '60  
Sarah (Sally) Thrower Hardison '60  
Mary Ann Neighbors Hoffman '60  
Frances Campbell Baker '61  
Nancy Cobb Foster '61  
Margaret Snypp Nottle '61  
Louise Strange Cogdill '62  
Louise Finley Parnelle '62  
Antonia Hunt Wagner '62  
Barbara (Bobbie) Louise Yarborough '62  
Norma Higginbotham Miller '63  
Barbara Hardgrave '64  
Sondra Thompson Welles '64  
Lorela Nichols Wilkins '65  
Priscilla (Polly) Griffith Fuhrer '66  
Mattie Naomi Matthews '66  
Frances Tobias White '66  
Mary (Jean) Franklin Araneo '67  
Carolyn Pape Terry '67  
Cheryl Bradham Whaley '68  
Mary Jane Terry Drott '69  
Joan Lowery Ellison '69, '73  
June Eranda Smith '69

### 1970s

Rosanne Moore Dover '70  
Linda Ann Tedder Jenkins '70  
Priscilla Altman Logan '70  
Donna Elizabeth Greer '72  
Norma Jean Alt '73  
Susan Porter Gelles '73  
Judy Ann McCoy '73  
Carol Murray McGowan '73  
Mazine Myers Mixon '73  
Shirley Teribury Brown '74  
Joseph (Joe) Eugene Counts '74  
Lila (Kakie) Nichols White '74  
Mary Cecelia Alford '75  
George Carlyle Henley '75  
Rebecca Phillips Hughes '75  
Royal Davis Kinion '75  
Ethel Jones McAlhaney '76  
Ann Main Overby '76  
James Edward Tolliver '76

James Richard Fudge '77  
Donald Gaston Williams '77  
Iheanyichukwu Achumba '78  
Jill Clark Green '78  
Phillip David Grant '79  
Gratia Clancy Wiley '79

### 1980s

Terry Grooms Brown '80  
Louise Garfield Clark '80  
Ernest Gabriel D'Agostino '80  
Donna Chapman Marshall '80  
Michael Clifford Sherrod '80  
Sally Banks Meador '81  
Billie Hinson Steele '81  
Pamela Arlene White '81  
Harold William Capps II '83  
Ronald Gene Geddis '83  
Patricia Wilmore Hampton '83  
Patricia Miller Williams '83  
Patricia (Pat) Riley Godley '85  
Littleton Hugh Moore III '85  
John Thomas Mayfield '87  
Kevin Moore '87  
Kim Wood Reed '89

### 1990s

Marvin Odell Rickman '90  
Lorene Rucker Sanders '90  
Ann Lee Froneberger '92  
Scott Snaden '92  
Mary (Cree) Luccrecia Clinton '93  
Mae Fewell Carroll '95  
Ann Laney McWatters '95  
Thomas Mark Hardy Sr. '96  
June Gibson Howell '97  
Aubrey Dennis Flowers '98  
Linda Crowder Kiser '99

### 2000s

Boyd Darby Gilpin '04

### 2010s

James E. Monaghan '14  
Daniel Allen Lee '15

## TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

**Susan (Missy) Stringfellow Whiting '87**  
York Road Elementary  
Rock Hill

**Brian Worrill '93**  
Applied Technology Center  
Rock Hill

**Kristi McGuirt '97**  
Ebinport Elementary School  
Rock Hill

**Melissa Burroughs '00**  
Fort Mill School District  
Fort Mill

**Dena Porter Wade '01**  
Oakdale Elementary School  
Rock Hill

**Courtney Thompson '09**  
Northwestern High School  
Rock Hill

**Brandon Sanders '10**  
Pleasant Knoll Middle School  
Fort Mill

**Brianna Barnette '14**  
Lesslie Elementary School  
Rock Hill

**Dawn Bradley '15**  
Independence Elementary School  
Rock Hill

**Sarah Helms '15**  
Old Pointe Elementary School  
Rock Hill

**Regan Stegall Wright '16**  
Northside Elementary School  
of the Arts  
Rock Hill

## Display Your Eagle Pride



Alumni in South Carolina can support Winthrop wherever they drive with a special state-issued vanity plate from the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles. The redesigned plate incorporates Winthrop's Eagle head logo in the university's signature garnet and gold colors. Winthrop receives \$40 of each registration fee for scholarships.

**Order your new plate now!**



University Communications and Marketing  
200 Tillman Hall  
Rock Hill, SC 29733

If you are a parent of a recent graduate and your son or daughter no longer resides at this address, please call **803/323-2145** or email **[alumni@winthrop.edu](mailto:alumni@winthrop.edu)** so we can update our information.

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLUMBIA, SC  
PERMIT NO. 535

**Address Service Requested**

# Your Savings Can Leave a Legacy

You have worked hard and saved for retirement. Now use your savings to create your legacy by making an IRA planned gift to the Winthrop University Foundation.

Find out how you can:

- Avoid taxes on IRA transfers up to \$100,000;
- Satisfy some or all of your required minimum distribution for the year;
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you don't itemize deductions;
- Make a gift that is not subject to charitable contribution deduction limits; and
- Use your rollover to make payments on an existing pledge to Winthrop.

For more information on supporting Winthrop, contact the Division of University Advancement at **803/323-2275**, toll-free at **800/801-1083** or **[giving@winthrop.edu](mailto:giving@winthrop.edu)**

