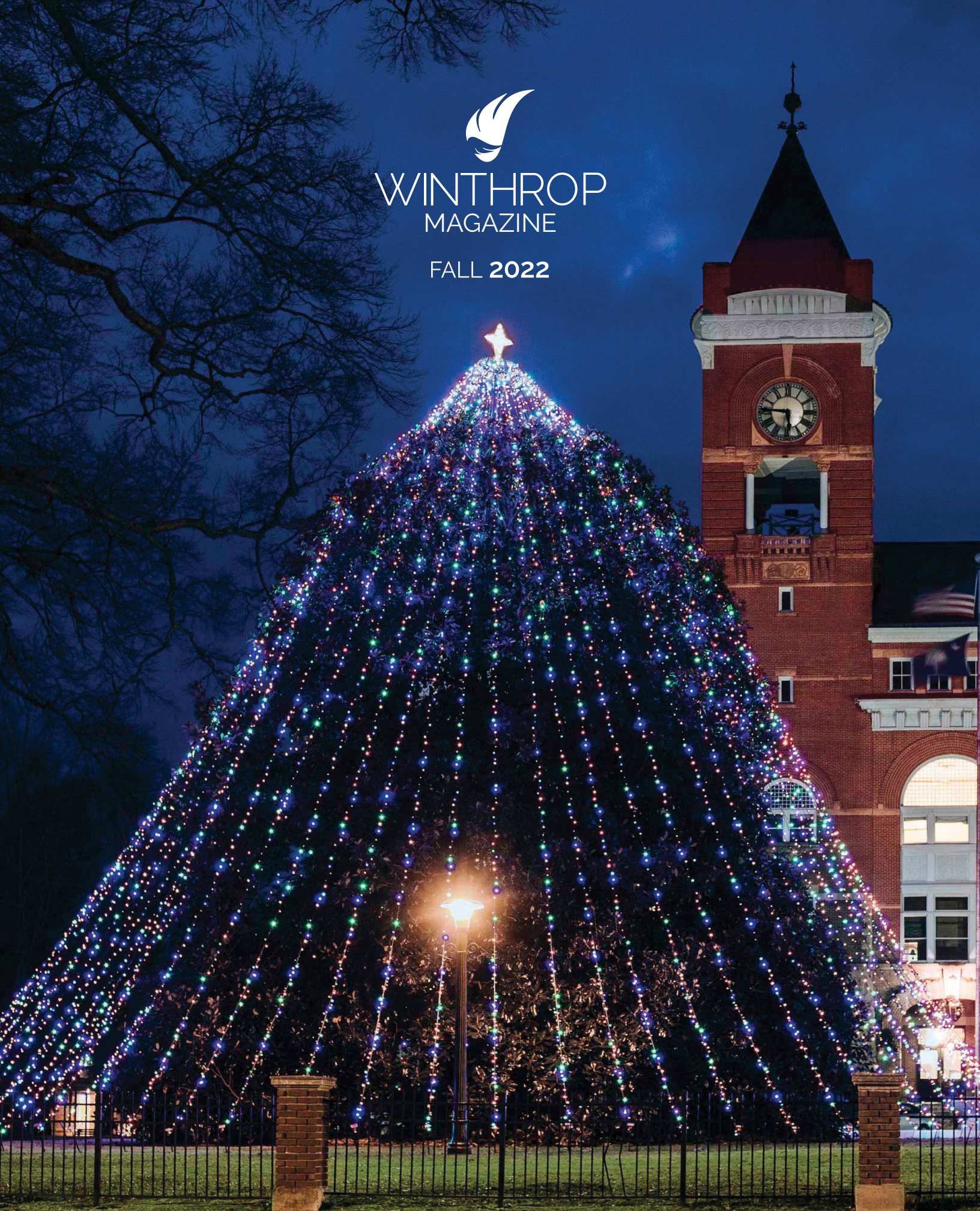




WINTHROP  
MAGAZINE

FALL 2022



message from the **PRESIDENT**



As the fall semester winds down, I find myself reflecting on how these last few months have been memorable and productive.

I had the pleasure of meeting many of you at Homecoming and Reunion weekend events in November. It was fantastic to celebrate my 20-year Winthrop reunion with you. It was such a great time, and I'm looking forward to seeing more of you at upcoming Winthrop events on campus and around the state.

So much happens daily on this campus, and we've received special third-party accolades recently that reward that hard work (read about

those on p. 18). I'm proud to share with you these accomplishments and other exciting news in this edition of the *Winthrop Magazine*. I encourage you to read about:

- The university's bachelor's degree in cybersecurity, which is preparing students for high-demand jobs;
- Winthrop's historic and beautiful tree landscape, which reflects a rich history as well as current preservation efforts;
- The U.S. Disc Golf Championship, a fall event that has been held at Winthrop's acclaimed disc golf course for 24 years;
- Freshman legacy student Kayleigh Moses, who is involved with Future Farmers of America and works at the local Penland Tree Farm alongside her grandparents, Steve '71 and Judy '70 Penland;
- Notable alumni like Gary Simrill '91, who retired from the S.C. General Assembly and now serves his alma mater as special assistant to the president for community engagement, and Alrinthea Carter '02, who was nominated for a 2022 Primetime Emmy Award for her writing on the HBO comedy "A Black Lady Sketch Show;" and
- The latest campus happenings, alumni news and university advancement updates.

As we close out 2022 and focus on a new year, I look forward to the opportunity to meet more of you, to listen, learn and grow. Let's continue working together to transform lives for years to come.

Always an Eagle,

Edward A. Serna  
President



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EDITORIAL STAFF

**MONICA BENNETT**, editor  
**PETER AIRHEART**, senior designer  
*contributing writers:*  
**NICOLE CHISARI '09, '16**  
**JUDY LONGSHAW**

NOTES

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*About the cover: The Southern magnolia tree on the front lawn is the most iconic tree on campus. It has been the focal point of the annual tree lighting tradition since 1969. Read more about the university's notable trees on pages 4-7.*

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# CYBER SECURITY PROGRAM PREPARES STUDENTS *for* HIGH-DEMAND JOBS

Cybersecurity, the field where technology workers safeguard their employer's data and information, now ranks as one of the fastest growing careers in business and government. Recent high-profile hacking and ransomware attacks across the country reveal how necessary it is for governments, businesses and organizations to improve their cybersecurity efforts.

To help meet the high demand for cybersecurity expertise, Winthrop added a Bachelor of Science in cybersecurity in fall 2021 and recently hired a second faculty member to assist with the new program.

David Scibelli joined the faculty in August and possesses a wealth of industry and higher education experience. He previously worked at AOL and then helped establish two cybersecurity programs at both Shenandoah and Mount Saint Mary's universities.



Scibelli and Associate Professor Andrew Besmer said the Russian conflict currently happening in Ukraine serves as a good example of how

technology affects current events. "Today's technology is a part of modern day warfare," Besmer said. "We see Fortune 500 companies helping shield the Ukrainian government during Distributed Denial of Service attacks so citizens can access government services and others providing broadband connectivity in the war efforts."



Other cyberattacks stopped operations at a community college and, last year, hackers targeted the Colonial Pipeline, the largest fuel pipeline in the U.S.

## Combining the Best of Two Fields

To prepare students for the field, Winthrop's degree contains computer science courses and a core of specialized cybersecurity courses. "We're not just repackaging courses, we are looking at the knowledge units and requirements established by the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) for National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity and further incorporating what we hear from regional contacts," Besmer said. "Our strategy is to have secondary alignment with industry certifications

that will be useful to our students in their careers."

The two added that it is unique for a computer science department to be located in a business college, which is the case at Winthrop. "We embrace the College of Business Administration. This opens us up to partnerships within the business community," Scibelli said. "Our students will have business savvy in addition to technical skills – the two complement each other."

Scibelli teaches an entry-level course describing the principles of cybersecurity while more advanced courses cover ethical hacking and cyber forensics. A special topics course will be offered periodically to cover evolving security and privacy issues.

The core of the degree consists of cybersecurity courses including Cyber Forensics, Enterprise Security and Ethical Hacking. Students will complete several computer science courses such as Programming 1, 2 and Database Processing as well.

Careers for graduates involve a variety of fields such as banking, risk management and fintech in roles such as:

- security administrator
- information security engineer
- incident responder
- security auditor
- penetration tester
- vulnerability analyst

## Changing with the Times

Besmer said the region and nation feel the short-



age of cybersecurity workers. "Charlotte is one of the nation's largest financial centers and with Rock Hill ranking as one of the largest cities in South Carolina, there should be a good demand for students graduating with this degree," he said.

As the cybersecurity program evolves, Scibelli hopes to gain an NSA designation, to be nimble with the curriculum as the field changes, to reach out to industry to help create a cybersecurity laboratory and to partner with law enforcement or industry for training.

"In thinking of our future cyber practitioners, technology keeps charging forward at blinding speeds, in most cases cyber protections tends to lag behind these new unforeseen challenges," Scibelli said. "The hope is that our students will land with a solid foundation and have the agility to adapt and the foresight to take on the new problems ahead of them."

For more information, [visit the cybersecurity website](#) or e-mail [Besmer](#) or [Scibelli](#).



*The*  
**MAJESTIC TREES**  
*of* **WINTHROP**

*The trees of Winthrop know how to stand out and show off. In the fall, the leaves' colors turn burnt orange and vibrant yellow as they shine fiery and bright among the oaks and ginkgos. In the spring, it's time for the dogwoods and cherry trees to present their fragrant and muted blooms of pure white and light pink.*

No matter the season, Winthrop's trees serve as a visual reminder of the campus' majestic charm and stunning beauty. And, a lot of work and long-term planning ensures that the health and longevity of one of Winthrop's most distinctive campus features – its magnificent tree canopy – will be around for decades to come.

### **Enjoying the Present While Planning for the Future**

Winthrop's campus boasts hundreds of trees in more than 25 varieties. But over the years, trees have been removed due to rot, age and damage caused to buildings. That has led many campus community members to ask: "What is Winthrop doing to protect its trees?"

Enter the **Campus Tree Plan**. In 2017, Winthrop's Board of Trustees approved a Campus Tree Plan, developed by facilities management staff, to serve as a long-range plan that strategically develops policies, procedures and practices for the planting, protecting, maintaining and removing of trees.

"The Campus Tree Plan is important because it serves as our road map of how and when to replace trees as we lose them. It also helps educate staff on how to trim and mulch our trees in order to keep them healthy and thriving," said Chris Johnson '99, Winthrop's sustainability coordinator.

The plan also helps Johnson and staff keep track of the campus' tree species. "Knowing our trees' species is critical so we do not plant the same type of trees over and over. Diversifying the species of trees on campus helps keep the tree canopy healthy and deters pests."

Johnson noted that the plan contains a recommended tree species list that can

be used when a tree needs replacing as well as a prohibited tree species list, the latter of which keeps non-native tree species from being planted on campus.

### Tapping into Power of Community

Johnson has enlisted students, faculty, staff, community members and Scouts to help with tree conservation. From October 2021-March 2022 more than 75 trees have been planted at the Farm, on the main campus and along Constitution Avenue.

In addition, Johnson noted that there have been large turnouts at Winthrop's recent Arbor Day celebrations, the most recent of which was held on Dec. 1, as the university has partnered with Bartlett Tree Experts to give out free trees to those in attendance. Johnson credits this renewed interest in trees and conservation as an outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"People spent a lot of time safely outdoors during the pandemic, which helped spark an interest in trees, plants and flowers. I think folks enjoyed having something to care for during those difficult times, and we're now, thankfully, seeing that interest in conservation spill over during more

normal times," said Johnson.

### Recognizing Effort with Distinction

In 2021, Winthrop earned a Tree Campus Higher Education Distinction by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to promoting healthy trees and fostering conservation.

Johnson said that this commitment dovetails with the city of Rock Hill's priorities and its decades-long history of being a Tree City USA. "It is important for us to participate in this mission of conservation when the city is recognized as well," he said.

The Princeton Review also recognized Winthrop in its 2023 Guide to Green Colleges. Johnson noted that Winthrop's tree recognition and conservation efforts are something that visitors and prospective students and their families can notice immediately when they step onto campus. "While a lot of other conservation efforts, like recycling and energy reduction, are important to campus and happen daily, our trees that make Winthrop uniquely Winthrop have an immediate and long-lasting impression on anyone that visits."

### Did you know?

The trees of Winthrop also are part of the learning experience for students in biology courses. Faculty members take students on hikes around the campus to see the trees in order to get a better understanding of plant diversity, form and function. Depending on the season, students are taught about the leaves, flowers and fruits of these different trees. Some turn their class hikes into scavenger hunts. With such a variety of trees, students go out and find certain structures, take pictures and come back to class to report their findings. One of the most popular trees for students is the fig tree between Tillman Hall

and McLaurin Hall. Students love to eat the fruit when it is ripe in the fall. When biology students have families coming to campus for graduation or other events, they enjoy sharing what they have learned about the campus trees.



Boy Scout Patrick Keller installed 30 signs around campus to identify tree species as part of his Eagle Scout project.

## Notable Trees of Winthrop

### Southern Magnolia

Location: Front Lawn

Perhaps the most iconic tree at Winthrop, the Southern magnolia serves as the main focal point for the university's beloved annual tree lighting ceremony each holiday season. In 2010, the Trees S.C. organization designated it as one of its Heritage Trees, which honors trees that "evoke great community spirit."



### Ginkgo

Location: Margaret Nance Hall

At approximately 50-75 years old, this tree has unique, fan-shaped leaves that turn a stunning yellow color in the fall.



### Live Oak

Location: Margaret Nance Hall

This sprawling tree provides plentiful shade to students who want to hang their hammocks from the new hammock stand that sits underneath the tree.



### Deodar Cedar

Location: Byrnes Auditorium and Rutledge Building

At more than 100 years old, these two evergreens are favorites of Johnson: "they're massive, elegant and handsome trees. I just love the bluish tint of the needles." Johnson was able to dig up saplings from the one at Rutledge and grow them so that the university has descendants of these trees.



### Willow Oak

Location: along Oakland Avenue

Many of these trees are more than 100 years old, according to Johnson, and provide a stately and grand appearance along the main entrance onto campus.





SETTING THE  
GOLD STANDARD  
*in*  
**disc golf**

*For two weeks each fall a national championship transforms the historic Winthrop farm area into a signature event for the U.S. Disc Golf Championship (USDGC).*

This year's event at the Winthrop disc golf course marked its 24th year at Winthrop. Nearly 100 disc golfers from around the world competed in the singles and doubles men's competitions and another 40 in the women's competition.

Thousands of spectators turned out to watch 17-year-old Gannon Buhr win the title, while up to 50,000 streamed the tournament held Oct. 6-9.

"Some tournaments jump from city to city, but we wanted to grow the tournament at the same place," said director Jonathan Poole. "We've not wanted to go anywhere else and lose the incredible history we've built here."

Disc golfers and officials refer to the USDGC at Winthrop as the "Masters of Disc Golf" or the "Super Bowl." Organizers have invested in the grounds for years with Winthrop's blessing.

**Continued Tweaks Keep Event Fresh**

This year's tweaks involved holding the final day of play on Sunday, Oct. 9, so that spectators and fans could take in two weekend days of disc golf action. Boulders placed on the course helped mark the fairways. And with growing technology needs, local carrier Comporium ran a fiber line to help satisfy the increased cell phone usage by fans and participants.

The additional Wi-Fi helped boost accessibility for the championship's thrilling conclusion: Buhr, a high school senior and the youngest competitor to win the championship, birdied the last five holes to beat Niklas Anttila by a stroke.

Another improvement included the expansion of Championship Village, which was established last year to create a fan friendly environment to "eat, shop and play." Located in the heart of the course, the village featured vendors and food trucks to help people enjoy the experience.

"Lots of families and kids come to this event and it created an atmosphere for all types of people," Poole said.

Player Nate Sexton of Oregon, who won the championship in 2017, returned for his 15th tournament. "It is always great to see the team that puts on the event and see the new changes to the course which makes it a little more difficult every year," Sexton said.

The Winthrop course is heavy on its out-of-bounds areas, he observed. "It forces the players to be very careful about what angle and speed they use when landing their shots, as it is very easy to make a small mistake and skip or roll out of bounds," Sexton said.

“

*We've not wanted to go anywhere else and lose the incredible history we've built here.*

- USDGC director Jonathan Poole

”



Players love that the course is accessible to the fans and has a “galley feel” at many holes, said Harold Duvall, whose company, INNOVA, helps run the tournament and has been in the disc golf equipment business since 1983.

### Tournament Experiences Good Weather, Great Turnout

This year, the tournament enjoyed good weather though in the past there has been the occasional rain, cold or record-breaking heat.

“

*This year alone was one of our biggest in terms of attendance and media coverage*

- Genevieve Young

”

“People know that Winthrop is super nice in the fall,” Duval said.

Genevieve Young '20 handled the media for the championship. She learned about the tournament while working in special events at Winthrop. Now the event manager at Durham Convention Center, she returned to coordinate media for the event. For this tournament she worked with 75 media crews that attended.

Young said she was honored to have been brought back for the 24th USDGC.

“This is a transformative time for the championships with disc golf growing at an exponential rate, and it's important we leverage our storytelling,” she said.

“This year alone was one of our biggest in terms of attendance and media coverage. Next year will be the 25th anniversary and I know we're going to ace every part.”

#### Fun Facts:

- INNOVA created the first disc golf disc. The company holds a patent for it.
- There were no aces during this year's championship.
- The most distinctive hole is hole 7, also known as the bamboo hole.





Not your typical Winthrop freshman, **Kayleigh Moses** enjoys a life that has revolved around family, the farm and adventure for as long as she can remember.

“I absolutely loved my childhood, which was full of playing outside and going on adventures!” said Moses, of Clover. “My siblings and I are close in age and were always busy with different activities. We were very active in 4-H and started showing animals at a young age, and that filled many of our weekends.”

Moses embarked on a new adventure this fall: pursuing an early childhood education degree at Winthrop, where she continues the legacy of grandparents Barbara Shuler Moses '73 and Steve '71 and Judy Penland '70.

### Cultivating a Passion for Agriculture and Animals

Moses traces her interest in and love for agriculture to both sides of the family.

“My dad’s family raised beef cows, and my mom’s family grew Christmas trees, so those hobbies just came naturally,” she explained.

She put her passion to work through service with the Clover High School chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the York County 4-H Club (which she joined in the second grade). She volunteered at animal shelter food drives, barn clean-ups and a swine show clinic, worked at the elementary school farm animal stations, judged livestock competitions, and participated in agricultural education.

“Raising animals is rewarding because you can see how they grow and how each has their own personality,” Moses noted.

South Carolina 4-H recognized her with an award for her work on the Meat Goat Project, in which she was tasked with the care, maintenance and exhibition of meat goats.

At Winthrop, like most of her peers, Moses balances classroom work with extracurricular activities (so far, she’s enjoying Baptist Campus Ministry and Winthrop’s chapter of the South Carolina Early Childhood Association). But unlike her peers, her weekends hold different tasks: she continues to raise animals and grow Christmas trees!

“*I specifically chose early childhood education because I love working with younger children and seeing their eyes light up when they learn new things.*”

- Kayleigh Moses

### Creating Family Holiday Traditions

Moses’ grandfather, Steve, established the **Penland Tree Farm** in 1966 and grew the business with wife Judy for decades. The farm’s Christmas trees are known throughout the region as families visit in droves to pick out and cut their perfect tree each year.

Moses’ parents, Allison and Martin Moses, took over the operation in 2018. During the off-season (which is most of the year!), Moses mows grass, plants trees, handles weed control, restocks the Treasure Barn, creates ornaments and maintains the farm’s social media; during the holiday season, she runs the farm’s Snack Shack.

She finds reward in the hard work, especially on the farm’s opening day, the Friday after Thanksgiving.

“It’s so stressful and busy on that opening day, but when you see all the people and know that your family provided them with a Christmas tree for that year and that brings them joy, I find joy as well,” she said.

### Incorporating Her Passions into a Career

Moses hopes she can combine her passions for animals and agriculture into her future career as a first-grade teacher. “I specifically chose early childhood education because I love working with younger

children and seeing their eyes light up when they learn new things,” she said. “I always wanted to be a teacher....I was the type of child that lined my stuffed animals up so I could read them a book.”

“After I have some experience in the classroom, I want to become an elementary school agricultural teacher or someone who prepares agricultural lesson plans for teachers to use,” she said. “I just think this would be such a fun way to teach children important concepts.”

With her strong work ethic, commitment to family, and love for the life she’s known, this farmer’s daughter is ready to tackle whatever adventures the future holds.





# SIMRILL BACK HOME

Following Long Career  
in General Assembly



Since starting his new Winthrop position this summer, **Gary Simrill '91** discovered that people's passion runs deep for the university.

"There is an excitement about Winthrop on and off campus as we embrace the future," said the Rock Hill native, who retired from the S.C. General Assembly and his S.C. House 46 seat this fall after 30 years in office.

In his role as special assistant to the president for community engagement, Simrill helps introduce President Edward Serna to movers and shakers around the community and the Palmetto State. Serna enjoys working with Simrill, who dedicated his career to helping South Carolina and its citizens.

"We are thrilled to have him at Winthrop because he understands how building partnerships across the community helps Winthrop contribute to a better quality of life in our region," Serna said. "He values all perspectives and appreciates the connections that Winthrop can make around the state to help provide a better experience for our students. I look forward to the great things all of us at Winthrop can accomplish together."

### Reflecting on a Career of Service

As Simrill wrapped up his legislative career, the awards poured in for his exceptional service. On Oct. 4, S.C. Governor Henry McMaster presented him with the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian award given to a S.C. citizen.

Winthrop also honored him on Nov. 10 with the Algernon Sydney Sullivan award, Winthrop's highest award given to an alumnus for selfless dedication of time, energy and talent in service to others.

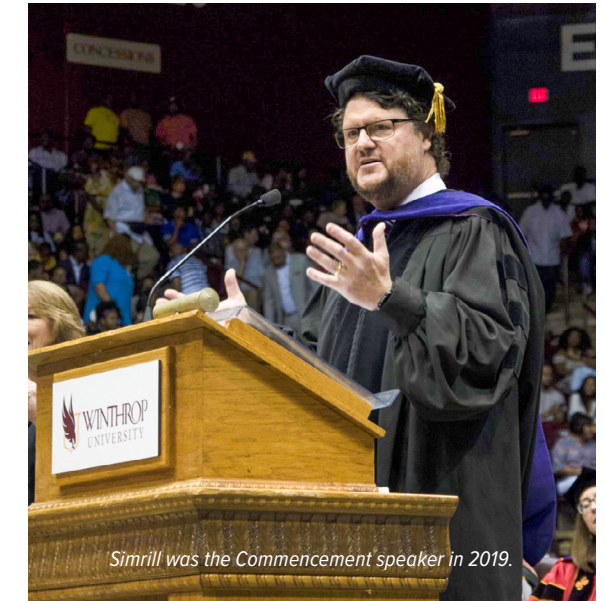
While reflecting on his career, Simrill said he enjoyed his three decades in the S.C. General Assembly. "As the longest serving Republican in the House, I learned what approaches worked to accomplish needed improvements for our state," Simrill said. "Serving the citizens of York County and South Carolina has been one of the greatest honors of my life."

So why retire now from politics? Simrill said 30 years was a good marker, and he is disappointed with the toxic nature of today's politics. "I had a calling to run for office and a calling to leave," he said. "It's nice to go out on top."

Although he never sought leadership positions in the S.C. General Assembly, others encouraged him to offer his talents. He served an unprecedented three terms as Majority Leader of the S.C. House, as chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, and chair of the Ways and Means budget subcommittee on higher education.

Colleagues praised Simrill for his institutional knowledge of the General Assembly, his persistence and his consensus-building.

Just a few of Simrill's high-profile achievements include: serving as the primary sponsor of the Infrastructure and Economic Development Act of 2017 that increased the gas tax to pay for much-needed road widening and repaving projects; working on a bi-partisan initiative to give colleges and universities more money for technology, deferred maintenance and capital needs if the institutions keep tuition low; and, most recently, fighting for and winning \$26 million for Winthrop in that endeavor.



Simrill was the Commencement speaker in 2019.

### Plans for Winthrop's Future

Simrill listed specific areas he will address at Winthrop, such as reaching out to business partners, employers and entrepreneurs in York County, political leaders and those at other higher education institutions to work on new degree programs and cost saving measures.

Simrill, who put himself through college and earned a business degree, believes he understands the many facets of Winthrop and its alumni. He thinks the university can further tap into the family members of Winthrop alumni to increase legacy students on campus. "We need to keep dialing into those legacies," said Simrill, who has family members that attended Winthrop.

In addition, Winthrop needs to capitalize on programs such as the Small Business Development Center and continually update its degree programs to stay abreast of the times, Simrill further noted.

"Winthrop has a huge footprint in this community and is part of its vibrancy," Simrill said. "We look forward to building on that connectivity."

*There is an excitement about Winthrop on and off campus as we embrace the future.*

- Gary Simrill

# EMMY-NOMINATED CARTER FLIPS SCRIPT *on* CAREER

For years after she left her regular day job, **Alrinthea Carter '02** burned the midnight oil: performing improv comedy, teaching herself screenwriting and writing scripts late into the night.

“Think about every TV show you love. Every one involves writers and artists that put in thousands of hours to create something that makes you happy, makes you think or inspires you in some way,” said Carter. “One of my favorite quotes comes from comedian Leslie Jones: ‘People think that I am an overnight success. No, it’s just that you found me overnight.’”

And yet, one night can change everything. Earlier this year, the Television Academy nominated

Carter for an Emmy for Outstanding Writing for a Variety Series alongside her fellow season three writers of HBO’s “A Black Lady Sketch Show.”

“I’m still wrapping my head around it, but it was one of the most affirming moments of my life,” she said.

## Inspired by Many at Winthrop

Another life-changing moment for Carter? Choosing Winthrop for her undergraduate career.

Originally from Charleston, Carter grew up in Germany as part of a military family (her father served in the U.S. Army), an experience for which she feels lucky.

“My parents (Alexander Carter '76 and Amarintha Carter '76) both attended Winthrop and were both part of the earliest integrated classes at the time,” she said. “I only applied to one school, Winthrop, and it changed my life!”

“

*So many people [at Winthrop] inspired me and made me who I am today.*

- Alrinthea Carter

”



Carter, right, was joined by her fellow co-writers at the 2022 Emmy Awards ceremony.

Hoping to mirror the success of A-listers Oprah Winfrey, Carter majored in communications, performed in pageants and joined the DiGiorgio Student Union (DSU), the university’s campus programming board, a move she said “set the stage for her future career of working with college students.”

“So many people [at Winthrop] inspired me and made me who I am today,” she said. “Joelle Davis [former director of multicultural activities] was the first to see my leadership potential. She took an awkward freshman living in the U.S. for the first time and gave me the tools and support to direct Winthrop’s Women of Color Conference, the first of its type on a college campus.”

Other inspiration sources were the late Dorothy Perry Thompson, English professor and founder of the African American Studies program (“She taught me to use my voice as a writer”); former DSU Director Boyd Jones (“He taught me everything about managing entertainment organizations and advising students with kindness, humor, and lots and lots of excitement”); and the late Haney Howell, mass communication professor (“He was my advisor and a huge support system for me”).

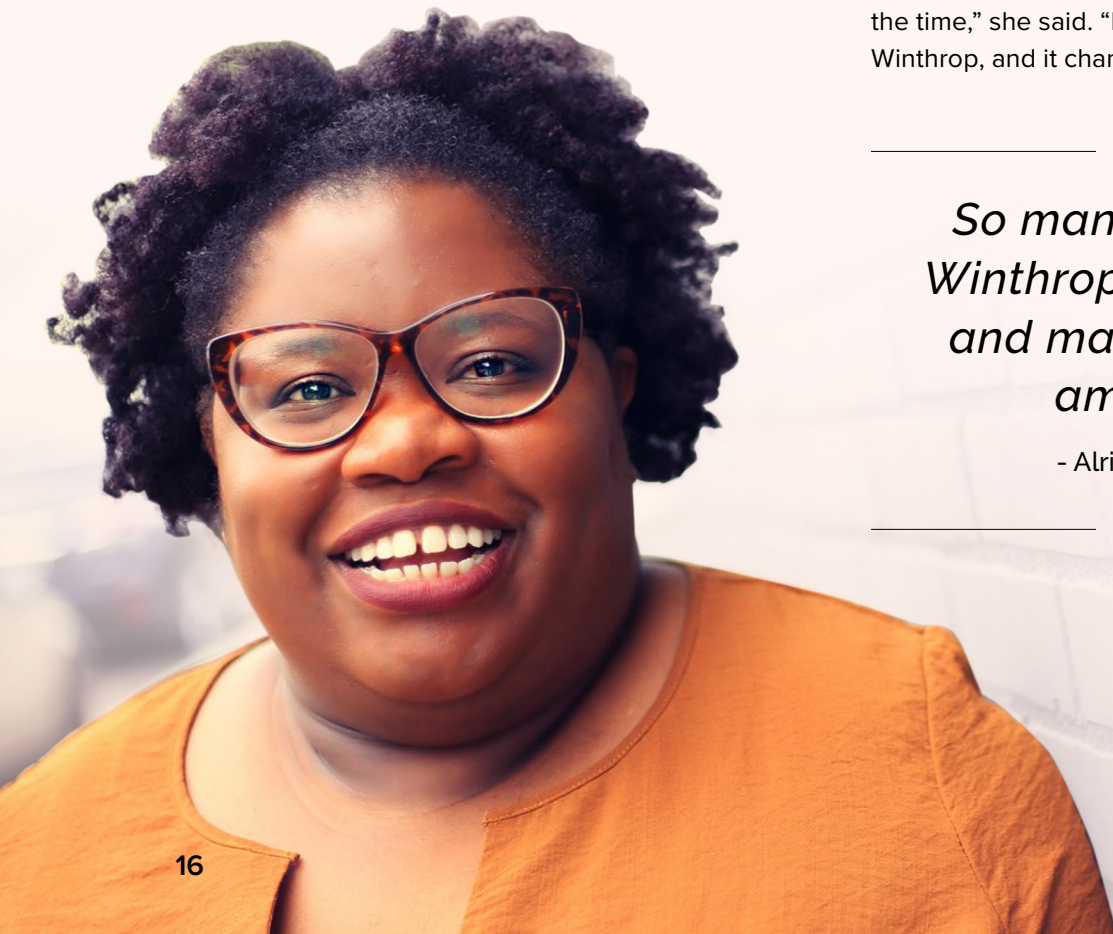
## ‘Your voice is needed in this world’

After graduation, Carter moved to South Korea, where she served as a preschool teacher on an Air Force base. Ready to work with college students, she returned to South Carolina and earned a graduate degree in counselor education with a focus on student affairs administration from Clemson University. She then worked at Clemson for 16 years – first as an admissions counselor, then an academic advisor for engineering students, then as an academic advisor for M.B.A. students in Greenville.

“I started studying and performing improv comedy, fell in love with it, and grew that love into teaching and coaching improvisers,” she said. “I was performing across the country and decided that I loved comedy so much that I wanted it to be my career.”

Carter’s first professional comedy writing job? The one that led to her Emmy nomination!

“My advice for anyone who wants to pursue this path is to settle in for a marathon, not a sprint,” she said. “Write what you love, what reflects your point of view. Your voice is needed in this world, even if it takes a while for someone to hear it and want to share it with others.”



## Winthrop Retains National Rankings with U.S. News, Washington Monthly



For the third year in a row, Winthrop ranked sixth overall among public universities in the South,

according to U.S. News & World Report's 2022-23 edition of "Best Colleges."

The continued high ranking, along with appearances in subcategories for best undergraduate teaching, best value, best for veterans and for social mobility, reflects the university's demonstrated commitment to providing a quality, and affordable, education for its students. Winthrop was listed as 18th among regional public and private universities in the South.

Additionally, Winthrop was included, for the fifth year in a row, among the top 230 colleges/universities in the Student Voting category of the 2022 Washington Monthly College Rankings.

At Winthrop, 75 percent of the student body voted in the 2020 presidential election, up 17.8 percent from the 2016 presidential election. In 2020, Winthrop's voter registration rate was 89.5 percent, up from 81 percent in 2016.

## International Student Selected for Future Nobel Laureate

Bautista Vivanco, a political science and economics double major and track and field student-athlete from Parana, Argentina, received a Future Nobel Laureate Scholarship. He is one of only nine students worldwide to earn the prestigious scholarship.

The program involves working on a semester-long course this fall. Vivanco and the other scholars also will meet Dec. 5-11 in Stockholm, Sweden. During the Stockholm visit, the scholars will discuss the intersection of science and global communities as well as explore their collective

impact on the future. They also will hear a lecture from new Nobel Laureates and will visit Stockholm City Hall, the Nobel Prize Museum and the Bergh School of Communication.



Vivanco spoke to trustees at an October board meeting.

## Coliseum Hosts Statewide Esports Event



The esports team and Winthrop Competitive Gaming Club teamed up on Sept. 17 to offer Rock the Hill, a regional esports gaming event held at the Winthrop Coliseum. The event attracted more than 200 gamers.

Winthrop Esports Coach Josh Sides said the event was one of the largest Super Smash Brothers game competitions in state history. Other games included Guilty Gear Strive, Rivals of Aether and DNF Duel.

"We recognize the importance of engaging with our community, and events like the one we hosted let us showcase why esports at Winthrop is so special," he said.

## S.C. Supreme Court Holds Public Session at Coliseum

The S.C. Supreme Court heard oral arguments regarding two criminal cases and two insurance cases at the coliseum Oct. 25-26 in an effort to provide local citizens with a glimpse of how the state's highest court works.

The court's visit to college campuses is part of an initiative to increase the visibility and accessibility of the state's judicial branch. Attendees included hundreds of Winthrop and local high school students, those in the legal profession and members of the community.

## Choirs Place Third in National Music Competition

The American Prize, an organization that recognizes the best in music across the nation, recently recognized two Winthrop-affiliated groups.

The Winthrop Chamber Singers won 3rd place in the Choral Performance – College/University Smaller Program Division. The Chamber Singers is a 24-student ensemble specializing in a cappella and chamber music from Renaissance music to selections from the 20th century.

Inspirar, made up of mainly Winthrop alumni and others affiliated with the university, won 3rd



place in the Community Division. Inspirar is relatively new, having formed in 2021.

Both groups are directed by Jeremy Mims, associate professor of music and director of choral activities.

## Still's Commitment to Education Remembered through Gift to Teaching Fellows



No one doubted how much Betty Lou Weeks Still '66 loved children. Anyone in the school districts of Greenville, Charleston and Lancaster, who crossed paths with her during her 25-year teaching career, could testify to that. Her passion for teaching was matched only by her desire to instill in children the importance of compassion and self-worth, and those values often overflowed beyond her classroom.

She was a fierce advocate for literacy. No one was surprised when she implemented an after-school reading program for children in the community who needed extra help. As a doting "Granna," she often created centers around her grandchildren's chosen birthday party themes mirroring the creative teaching methods she employed in her classroom. Even while teaching Sunday school or leading mission organizations at her local church, she demonstrated the same level of care for her students. Family members recall how she endeared herself to others through her loving personality, quick wit and charming Southern accent.

When her courageous battle with cancer ended, her family wanted to continue her passion for educating the children of South Carolina. Roy A. Still, her husband of 51 years, thought his wife's alma mater would be the perfect place to continue that legacy. Providing support to the Winthrop

Teaching Fellows program, which requires graduates to begin their teaching careers in South Carolina, seemed the perfect fit.

This year, the family endowed the Betty Lou Weeks Still Leadership Experience Activity Fund (LEAF) to support leadership and development activities for the Winthrop Teaching Fellows program. Because Teaching Fellows often take an additional year to graduate due to the extensive community service and professional development activities associated with the program, they often lack the additional funds needed for off-campus, high-level leadership experience the program offers. "The Still family's gift is filling that gap in a way that will serve the students of South Carolina well into the future, and we are deeply appreciative to her and her family," said Beth Costner, dean of the Richard W. Riley College of Education.



## Springs Close Archives and Close Family Partner with Archives to Digitize Historical Documents

The Springs Close Archives and Close family have partnered with Winthrop's Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections to make available online 40 years of a local textile company's in-house publication.

The project involves digitizing Springs Industries' Springs Bulletin from 1943-1983.

This will be an important learning tool for students researching Southern mill village culture and history, said Ann Y. Evans, archivist for the Springs Close Family Archives at the White

Homestead. "The bulletins are an important resource for family history research as well as a rich resource on the history of Springs Industries. The Springs Bulletin was a very important part of the mill workers' lives."

Work on the digitization is funded with a Springs Close Archives gift to the Pettus Archives' Historical Preservation Fund. It pays for a student to scan microfilmed and original copies of the Springs Bulletin and prepare the digitized files for inclusion on **Digital Commons, which is found online.**

"The partnership will ease the burden for local researchers and families of former Springs employees who have had no other option but to go through boxes of paper files and microfilm," said Gina Price White '83, director of the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections.

## Join a Giving Society to Foster Excellence at Winthrop

Winthrop recognizes its donors' generosity through various recognition societies. These societies not only honor the university's donors but also illustrate how their support fosters excellence at Winthrop.

### The President's Circle

Recognizes annual donors giving \$1,000 or more each fiscal year. Members lead the Winthrop community in promoting a culture of giving to have a profound impact on the university and its students.



### Winthrop Loyal

Celebrates donors who have given any amount for the previous three consecutive years or more. Gifts of any amount, to any area of Winthrop, count toward memberships and is based on qualifying gifts to the Winthrop University Foundation between July 1 and June 30.



WINTHROP LOYAL

### D.B. Johnson Society

Honors D.B. Johnson, Winthrop's founding president, and consists of a loyal group of individuals who have included Winthrop in their estate plans. Members know that the plans they make today will provide perpetual support to Winthrop and its mission.



For more information on giving to Winthrop, please contact the Division of University Advancement at 803/323-2275 or visit [www.winthrop.edu/give](http://www.winthrop.edu/give).

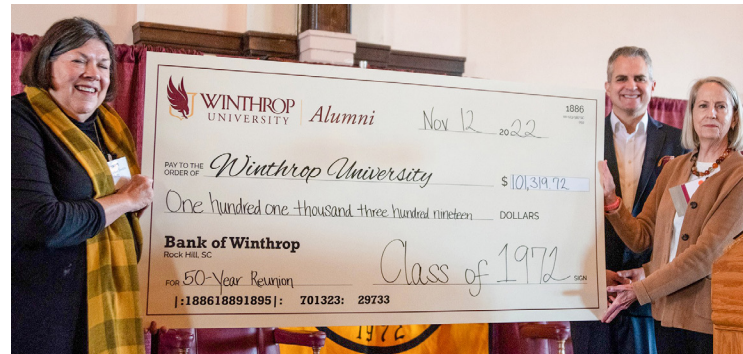
## A Look Back at Homecoming and Reunion 2022



The Alumni Association presented its annual Alumni Awards on Nov. 10. The recipients, with President Serna, from left: Gary Simrill '91; Jane LaRoche '69, '70; Ashlye Rumph-Geddis Wilkerson '05; Punam Patel '12; and Cecily Truett Lancit '71. [Read more](#) about the recipients and their awards.



The men's basketball team had plenty of support in the stands during its victory over Middle Tennessee State University.



The Class of 1972 raised \$101,319.72 for the Fountain Restoration Project. This is the most ever raised by a reunioning class! The check was presented at the Nov. 12 Alumni Reunion Brunch.



Did you know that more than 200 Winthrop employees are alumni? Alumni faculty and staff were treated to lunch on Nov. 8.

## Fountain Restoration Project Fundraising Continues



The fountain holds a special place in the hearts of alumni. Alumni remember fondly the fountain on the front lawn, as it has served as the place where many Winthrop traditions have been held over the years.

The historic campus fountain stopped working in 2018, nearly a century after its installation. The fountain cannot be restored, but rather must be replaced to fully

function again. Construction will begin early spring.

Classes celebrating their 50-year Winthrop reunions have led the charge on fundraising. The Classes of 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974 are all actively fundraising for the Fountain Restoration Project. The fundraising efforts are not exclusive to the 50-year reunion classes. Alumni outside of these classes and community members have also supported the fundraising effort. Thank you to all of the donors who have generously supported the Fountain Restoration Project! Fundraising efforts continue, so please [learn more](#) about the Fountain Restoration Project and [make your gift](#).

## Alumni Chapters Welcome President Serna

The Alumni Association and alumni chapters welcomed President Edward Serna '02 with three alumni receptions this fall in **Rock Hill**, **Myrtle Beach** and **Charlotte**. Alumni receptions are planned for Atlanta, Charleston, Columbia, D.C, the Triangle and Upstate in 2023. As events are planned, details will be shared via the **Winthrop Insider**, social media (@winthropalumni) and e-mail.



**1977**

**Dwight Watt** of Swainsboro, Georgia, was elected governor of the Kentucky Tennessee District of Kiwanis International for 2022-23.

**1983**

**Tim Hopkins**, a Lugoff resident and member of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees, was one of four S.C. school leaders selected by the S.C. Association of School Administrators as a 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

**1988**

Rock Hill resident **Frankie Kellum** was one of four artists whose artwork was selected to be placed in N.C. State Senator Vickie Sawyer's Raleigh office.

**1992**

**Ed Driggers**, a Greer resident and member of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the S.C. City and County Management Association.

**1993**

**Ron Taylor** of Rome, Georgia, won the Mathematical Association of America's Beckenbach Book Prize and co-authored "A TeXas Style Introduction to Proof."

**Dee Ann Eargle Tickner** of Fincastle, Virginia, was appointed assistant principal at Jeter Watson Elementary School.

**1994**

President Joe Biden nominated **DeAndrea Gist Benjamin** of Elgin to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

**1996**

**Alicia Picaro Hughes** of Daniel Island was appointed executive director of South Carolina Connections Academy in Columbia.

**Holly Morgan** of Monroe, North Carolina, joined the Washington Daily News as a general assignment reporter.

**1997**

**Caroline Rust Ward** of Rock Hill showcased her work entitled "Human Connections" in Upstairs Artspace located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**1998**

**Shanola Hampton** of Canyon Country, California, earned the lead role in the NBC drama series "Found."

**Fabby Williams** of Greensboro, North Carolina, was named deputy superintendent of schools for Winston Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

**1999**

Rockville Presbyterian Fellowship hosted a piano performance by **Staff Sgt. Robert Barnes**, a member of the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West.

**2000**

**Robert Shell** of Gastonia, North Carolina, joined ServisFirst Bank Piedmont as executive vice president, chief credit officer.

**2001**

**Celeste Plyler Tiller** of Rock Hill joined the York County Regional Chamber as vice president of talent and workforce development.

**2002**

Irmo resident **Len Lawson** is a recipient of the 2022 Fresh Voices in the Humanities Award, presented by S.C. Humanities.

**Andrew Morgan** of St. Augustine, Florida, was reappointed to the Seventh Judicial Circuit by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

**2004**

**Chris Miller** of Rock Hill was named Sportscaster of the Year for the 12th consecutive year by the S.C. Broadcasters Association.

Oakdale Elementary School teacher **Suzanne Moore** of Rock Hill was named Rock Hill Schools' 2022 District Teacher of the Year.

**Jeffery (Jeff) Wicker** of Newberry was promoted to assistant city manager for the city of Newberry.

**2005**

**Raven Bennett Jones** of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, was named principal at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church, Virginia.

**Kathryn McClary Lawrie** is the president of Bode & Well at TRIO Interior Design in Denver, Colorado.

**Erin Robinson Smith** of Greenville has been named the community partners manager for OnTrack Greenville at United Way of Greenville County.

Winthrop's new chief of police is **Charles Yeara** of Rock Hill.

**2007**

**Jessica Hare** of McDonough, Georgia, presented at the National Citizen Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

**2008**

**Angelo Geter** of Rock Hill

published a debut poetry collection entitled "More God Than Dead."

Charlotte, North Carolina, resident **Michael Jenkins** joined Queens University as director of basketball operations.

**James Long** of Simpsonville published a new book, "Making Her Mark: A Study of Eleanor Roosevelt and the First Ladies of South Carolina."

**2009**

Myrtle Beach resident **Chris Ariail** was inducted into the Mid Carolina High School Wall of Fame.

**2010**

Charlotte, North Carolina, native **Mantoris Robinson** joined the Youngstown State basketball team as an assistant basketball coach.

**2011**

**Ashley McKinley** of Matthews, North Carolina, has been appointed head of school at Friendship Day School for the Sciences and the Arts.

**Jessica Pickens** of Shelby, North Carolina, was named the press officer for BF Goodrich at Michelin in Greenville.

**2012**

**Punam Patel** of Columbia was promoted to director of external affairs for the Regional Health Network at MUSC Health.

**2013**

**Kambrell Garvin** of Blythewood established the Kambrell Garvin Law Firm, LLC.

**2014**

**Anastasia (Ana) Montjoy** of Round O joined the College of Charleston's Office of Financial Assistance and Veterans Affairs as the program coordinator for alternative loans and outside scholarships.

**2015**

**Abigail (Abby) Axelrod-Wunderman** of Greenwich, Connecticut, joined Fiduciary Trust International as philanthropic director for family office services, foundations and endowments.

Blythewood native **Julius Davis** has been hired as the rehab director for Broad River Rehab in Arden, North Carolina.



**Mark Lowrie** of Charlotte, North Carolina, was named vice president of human resources analytics and reporting consultant for Bank of America.

**Morgen Stroud Sightler** of West Columbia was named principal at Congaree Elementary.

**2016**  
**Erin Alessi Barie** of Olean, New York, was named principal at Seneca Intermediate School in Seneca, Missouri.

**Gaston (Trey) King** of Gainesville, Florida, joined Michael Lovchuck State Farm in Panama City.

**Keith Mushonga** from Marondera, Zimbabwe, joined Audi in Beijing, China.

**2017**  
Lexington, Kentucky, resident **Chris Eller** joined McBrayer law firm as an attorney.

Charlotte, North Carolina, native **Marquise Jones** was promoted to account executive for Goosehead Insurance Agency in Houston, Texas.

**Emily Joyce Turner** of Tarboro, North Carolina, was named the Imperial Centre's arts curator in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

**Luis Valle-Burguete** from New York City, New York, was hired by Bloomberg LP as the company's diversity and inclusion talent coordinator.

**2018**  
**Nicholas McFarland** from Tega Cay joined the University of Iowa as a linguistics graduate teaching assistant.

**2019**  
Charleston native **Lydia Robinson** earned a 2022 Southeast Emmy for the Morning Newscast with WXIA/WATL TV in Atlanta, Georgia.

**2020**  
**Tea Franco** of Summerville has been named communications manager for the Indiana Arts Commission in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**2021**  
**Evan Santiago** of Rock Hill joined the service journalism desk as a reporter at The Charlotte Observer.

**Chandler Vaudrin** of Uniontown, Ohio, signed training camp deals with the Cleveland Cavaliers for the 2022-23 season.

**Ashley Westbrook** of Chesnee was named the Spartanburg County School District Two Rookie Teacher of the Year.

**2022**  
**Francesca Crovetto** of Clover has been hired as an elementary school teacher in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic.

**Alessandro Perri** of Columbia is a visiting assistant professor of management at Elon University.

## BIRTHS

Elizabeth Floyd Schumann '09,  
a girl, Winnie Grace Schumann

Brittany Williams Moses '10, a  
boy, Ellis Moses

Whitney Kyara Mims '12, a boy,  
Holden Mims

Hailey Martin Smith '18 and  
Layne Brodie Smith '18, a boy,  
Brodie Rhett Smith

Samantha Serviss Kroft '19  
and John D. Kroft '18, a girl,  
Valkyrie Kroft

## IN MEMORIAM

## 1930s

Harriett (Hallie) Stone Maxon  
'38

## 1940s

Elizabeth (Betty) Richardson  
McCants '40

Elizabeth Miles Simons '43

Ella Mae Hudson Harding '44

Charlotte Hanckel Hay '44

Carol Lynne Williams '44

Janet Sauls McMurray '45

Angeline Freeman Sturgis '45

Olive McIntosh Toy '45

Carolyn Tatum Bethea '46

Mary Frances Austell Smith '46

Betty Jo Armstrong Carruthers  
'47

Mildred (Whitney) Lawrence  
Hammett '47

Gladys League Henry '47

Virginia Laney Walters '47

Virginia Glasgow Watson '47

Marie Sullenger Ellis '48

Erma Williams Faircloth '48

Frances Collier Rishell '48

Jean Stender Swicord '48

Vera Riser Ford '49

Ann Hudson Henson '49

Ernestine (Tina) Hill Paul '49

## 1950s

Wilma (Joan) Sloan Beck '50

Betty Jean Campbell '50

Eleanor (Kit) Lewis Corley '50

Lillian Watts Cunningham '50

Gwendolyn Cudd Duarte '50

Ina Bell Oates '50

Mary (Carolyn) Jordan Phifer  
'50

Cleo Lybrand Wilson '50

Sarah (Myrtice) Taylor

Boazman '51

Jenny Sullivan Farmer '51

Juanita Pulley Hammett '51

Betty Blanchard Imsande '51

Jane Bell Jowers '51

Mary Ann (Mimi) McCall

McKinney '51

Elizabeth (Betty Jo) Josephine

Rhea '51

Ann Hartigan Szumowski '51

Eddie Mildred Jackson Warren  
'51

Dorothy Porter Fulk '52

Dorothy Royall Ariail '53

Mary Whitaker DuBard '53

Nancy Sturgis Philips '53

Theodora (Dora) Gregory Bell  
'54

Mildred Dunlap Brockenbrough  
'54

Jo Anne Collins Dickson '54

Betty Smith Franklin '54

Barbara Ann Smoak Martin '54

Adella (Patsy) Dunning Stalvey  
'54

Jane Weeks Pond '56

Doris McMeekin Cromartie '57

Ann Compton Medlin '57

Carolyn Wallace Luker '58

## 1960s

Ruth Robbins Botzis '61

Evelyn Fowler Costanza '62

Eva (Connie) Barker Folk '62

Annette Thomas Mole '62

Carolyn Vick Reavis '62

## MARRIAGES

June Patrice League '87 to  
Michael W. Smith '86

Portia Cierra Fowler '08 to  
Justin Kelly

Meghan Gabrielle Jones '15 to  
Daniel Randy Sanders '17

Allison Victoria Riffe '15 to  
Jeffrey R. Hilton '17

Esther (Jerri) Roberts Sanders  
'62

Martha McCleave Wallace '62

Sylvia Epps Baker '63

Sarah Reid Crow '63

Martha Smith Garrick '63

Rachel Livingstone Sterrett '63

Kay Boyette Willingham '63

Gloria Munn Garrison '64

Leslie (Keenan) Ezzell Kizer '64

Norma Odom Simpson '64

Rebecca Bowen Strickland '64

Bette Biediger Auslander '65

Loretta Faye Burch '65

Randy Kennington Conley '65

Mary Jane Atkins Crabill '66

Rhonda Kay Fleming '66

Shirley Childers Harris '67

Lynda Coles Kirkland '67

Ann Goodyear Smith '67

Dorothy Shedd Taber '67

Shirley Smith Watson '67

Mary Jean McNabb Stovall '68

Carolyn Sailors '69

Mary Ellen Tharin

Scherkenbach '69

## 1970s

Irene Blanche Cannon '70

Bronwyn McMillan Cox '70

Susan Cooper Gobbel '70

Katherine Elaine Jenkins '71

Betty Louise Stroud '71

Betty (Shelley) Foster Crow '72

Linda Lorraine Keene '72

Cheryl Platt Hoffman '75

Johanna Young Mann '75

Martha Stroup McCraw '75

Dorothy (Dot) Morgan

Shoemaker '76

Walton (Donnie) Adonis Smoak  
'76

Teresa Marie Williams '76

Linda Bankhead Wray '76

Miriam Sue Chappell '77

Elizabeth Schrader Johns '78

Dana Jordan Kumerow '78

Elizabeth Smith Terry '78

Carol Girard Mundt '79

Kathy Stiles Roberson '79

## 1980s

Lawrence Carl Kirkland '82

Louise Shook Nezelek '83  
Mark Alexander Rodman '87  
Charles Steven White '88

## 1990s

Brandon Scott Binns '90

Pamela Smith Wells '92

Stacy Faile Crump '94

Edward (Ed) Charles Riley '99





When Eagles soar together, we can fill the sky.

To learn more about how to engage, or to make a gift, visit: [www.winthrop.edu/advancement](http://www.winthrop.edu/advancement),  
e-mail [giving@winthrop.edu](mailto:giving@winthrop.edu) or call 803/323-2275.