



# WINTHROP MAGAZINE



SUMMER 2023

message from the **PRESIDENT**



As I near the completion of my first year as president, I have reflected on what a great year it has been.

Most recently, this spring, we were awed by our students' end-of-semester research, held our most successful Giving Day to date, hosted a historic inauguration, launched our strategic planning initiative, celebrated the 30th anniversary of the African American Studies program, saw our esports team win the inaugural Big South Championship, and held alumni events where I was able to meet many of you.

You can read about several of these good news items in this edition of the Winthrop Magazine. I also encourage you to read about:

- *The fascinating research displayed at the Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors. I attended this event and was blown away at the level of research our students and faculty members are conducting;*
- *A field study by biology faculty and students who are tracking Eastern Box Turtles in nearby Chesterfield County thanks to a Carolina Wildlands Foundation grant;*
- *Our esports program's latest championship and new state-of-the-art home;*
- *Compelling profiles on alumni Fabian Broich '16, who is providing esports consulting to the Olympics this summer, and the Honorable DeAndrea Gist Benjamin '94, who was sworn in to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit; as well as*
- *The latest campus happenings, alumni news and university advancement updates.*

There are so many positive things that have happened this year, and I look forward to building upon this momentum and excitement next academic year.

As always, thank you for your continued loyalty as we work together to ensure a bright future for this place that we love.

Always an Eagle,

Edward A. Serna '02  
President



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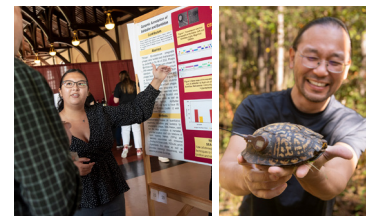
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*About the cover: President Edward Serna '02 and his youngest daughter, Caroline, walked hand in hand before the start of his historic April 14 inauguration. Read more about the inauguration on pages 2-7. Photo courtesy of Suzanne (Sue) Farmer, a human nutrition major/photography minor.*

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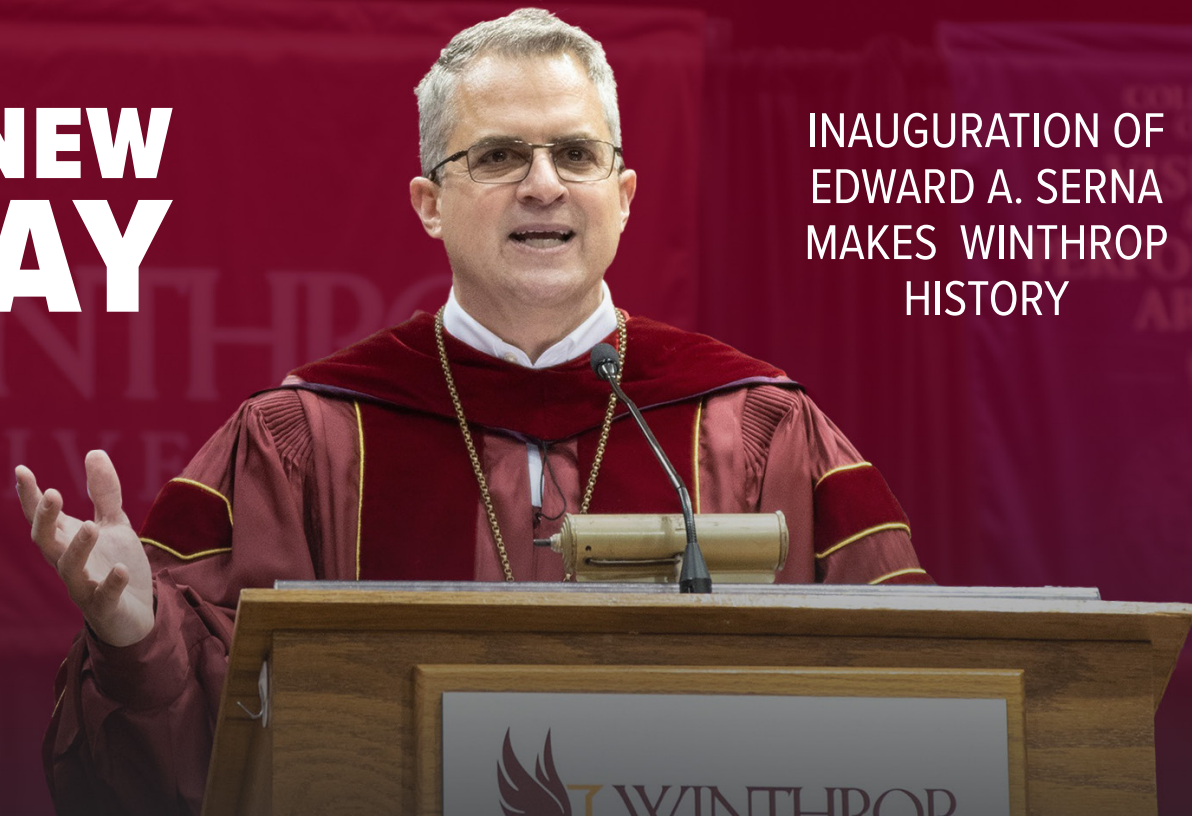
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# A NEW DAY

## INAUGURATION OF EDWARD A. SERNA MAKES WINTHROP HISTORY



On April 14, in front of hundreds of dignitaries, alumni, faculty, staff, students and members of the community, **Edward A. Serna** officially made Winthrop University history.

During the special investiture ceremony at the Winthrop Coliseum, Board of Trustees Vice Chair Kathy Hudson Bigham '73 placed the presidential medallion around Serna's neck, sealing his place as the university's 12th president and the first Winthrop alumnus to hold the prestigious office in the university's nearly 140-year history.

### A Celebration of Winthrop

While customary for a new president to be invested formally through an inauguration, Serna chose to share the spotlight to bring much-deserved attention and focus onto Winthrop's bright students, talented faculty and the beautiful Rock Hill community during the daylong event.

The April 14 date was selected to highlight the university's annual Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors (SOURCE)

offerings across the campus. In addition, inauguration coincided with the beginning of Rock Hill's annual Come-See-Me festival.

The day ended up being a celebration of the academic experience, undergraduate research and this wonderful university and community.

### Ceremony Hits High Notes

Shelley Hamill, chief faculty marshal, signaled the start of the investiture ceremony as she led the procession holding the university mace. The platform party and faculty in their colorful regalia followed, along with special guests and representatives of other colleges and universities.

Highlights from the investiture ceremony included greetings brought on behalf of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees by Chair Glenn McCall; from the city of Rock Hill by Mayor John Gettys; from York County by Christi Cox, chair of the County Council; from the State of South Carolina by Senator Wes Climer; from alumni by Byron Putman '94, president of the Winthrop Alumni

Association; from the Winthrop Foundation by Sue Rex, secretary of the Winthrop Foundation Board; from the student body by Miguel Caldwell, chair of the Council of Student Leaders; from Winthrop staff by Debbie Garrick '87, '89, chair of Staff Conference; and from the Winthrop faculty by Alice McLaine, chair of Faculty Conference.

Following a stirring and powerful performance of "Arise! Shine!" by the Winthrop Chorale and the Faculty Brass Quintet, which brought attendees to their feet for a lengthy standing ovation, Interim President at Western Connecticut State University **Paul Beran** delivered the keynote address.

A former colleague of Serna's from the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith (UAFS) and still significant mentor to the younger president, Beran talked about Serna's rise to leadership and his personal attributes that will hold Winthrop in good stead moving forward.



Hired by Beran as a grant writer for UAFS, Serna worked his way up the ranks and earned the respect of his colleagues and Beran.

"I could see he had vision and drive, with people skills and a data-driven analytical mind," Beran told the crowd.

UAFS appointed Serna interim chancellor when Beran left the chancellor position for a different role in academia. Serna's path to Winthrop would take a few more years to realize, but Beran recalled how Serna felt about the possibility of returning to his alma mater.

"When the Winthrop University president position came open, he called me and asked me if it was too soon for him to apply for another job," said Beran. "By that time, he had been interim



chancellor for a year and had been a university president for three years. He told me his dream job was to be president at Winthrop University, his alma mater, and I encouraged him to apply and again served as a strong reference for him. I was so happy for him and his family when he was chosen."

### Read More of Beran's Remarks:

"He and I have talked much over the years about the magic mix that creates leadership that drives a university forward, and he picked up a lot of what I learned from 44 years of teaching and administration from our evening chats.

But one thing that can't be taught is character. A university president with character makes decisions and manages people authentically and honestly for the good of the institution. A university president with character and conviction of purpose talks to heads of state or prospective students and families with equal respect and consideration.

I know that Winthrop University will flourish from President Serna's leadership, integrity and commitment to do what is right."



Serna was thrilled that his parents, Al (far left) and Dianne (far right), were in attendance. In his speech, Serna thanked his parents for the important life lessons they taught him and for always encouraging him. Also pictured are First Lady Lauren Serna and the Sernas' daughter, Caroline.

### Serna Expresses Gratitude for Opportunity of a Lifetime

Following Beran's remarks, Serna took to the podium to address attendees. During his remarks he stressed that being president at Winthrop was the honor of a lifetime.

"As an alumnus, being your president is the honor of my life and an incredible opportunity. It is the ultimate service I can offer to the place that gave me so much. Winthrop literally changed the trajectory of my life and the life of my family," said Serna.

He vowed to let his actions speak loudly. "I have and will continue to let my actions speak for me – transparency, honesty, inclusivity, and a desire to connect with our partners and friends for a promising future. All of these are incredibly important to me personally," added Serna.

In closing, he stressed that a unified Winthrop is unstoppable, and he noted that the university's future is bright: "When I came to campus 14 months ago, I said that I was a product of your hard work 20 years ago. I still am. And I am working hard every day to make you proud of me

as your president," said Serna. "As I have said before, it's the journey AND the destination for me. I have a great debt to repay to Winthrop. This is a calling for me to pay it forward for our students and for our future. Thank you for being on this journey with me. We will get to our destination. Together."

To close out the investiture ceremony, M.A.T. graduate student Sarah Ochoa '22 led the singing of the alma mater.

Attendees continued the day's celebration at the community picnic in the West Center and attended student research presentations, athletic events and a variety of other happenings on campus and around town.

### What's Next for Winthrop

During his remarks, Serna spoke about the most consequential undertaking of his first year as president: the development of the next strategic initiatives for Winthrop, which will align the university's mission, vision and values to shape a bright future.

"This is some of the most important work we will do, and I am privileged to be working with our board of trustees, our partners at the Berkeley Research Group and the campus leadership and community to shape the Winthrop we want to become – a place where all prospective students can see themselves belonging and thriving and being transformed for success today and beyond," said Serna.

A final strategic plan, which will be unveiled later this year, will chart a clear path forward so that Winthrop can thrive in the competitive landscape of higher education.

Learn more about the process and timeline at [www.winthrop.edu/strategic-plan](http://www.winthrop.edu/strategic-plan).

### Edward A. Serna at a Glance



- Unanimously selected by trustees on Feb. 12, 2022, as Winthrop's 12th president.
- Served for three years as president of the University of Maine at Farmington.
- Served as interim chancellor at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith.
- Entered higher education as an assistant professor of management at Athens State University.
- Worked as a senior business analyst and strategic management consultant in the private sector.
- Entered Winthrop as a non-traditional student.
- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Winthrop; a Master of Science in management information systems from Auburn University; a Master of Science in industrial management from Clemson University; and a doctorate of education in higher education administration from the University of Alabama.
- Member of the Foundation for the Carolinas Governing Board of Directors and the York County Regional Chamber of Commerce.
- Married to wife Lauren, and they have two daughters, Anna Kate and Caroline.



1. Serna attended SOURCE on the afternoon of inauguration to talk with students and faculty members about their research projects. Read more about SOURCE on pages 8-11.

2. Board of Trustees Vice Chair Kathy Hudson Bigham '73 placed the presidential medallion around Serna's neck during the ceremony.

3. Big Stuff and Glen the Frog, the official mascot for Rock Hill's annual Come-See-Me Festival, posed for photos at the inauguration picnic.

4. Pitcher Aaron White and Catcher Ty Hooks shared a smile in between plays during the doubleheader against Presbyterian College over inauguration weekend.

5. Serna was joined by his family as Board of Trustees Chair Glenn McCall and Vice Chair Kathy Hudson Bigham '73 swore him in as the university's 12th president.

6. The African American Studies program celebrated its 30th anniversary with the Sankofa banquet on April 14. Attendees included from left: College of Arts and Sciences Dean Takita Sumter; Political Science Professor Adolphus Belk Jr.; Jacqueline Venning '70, '73, Association of Ebonites (AOE) alumni member; Patricia Ware Brown '70, '72, founding AOE president; Sue Frances Meriwether Steed '67 (seated), the first African-American student to earn a degree; Sheila McMillan '73 (center), the first African-American to serve as a trustee; Byron Putman '94, president of the Alumni Association; Cynthia Plair Roddey '67, the first African-American woman to enroll and the first African-American graduate student; President Edward Serna; and Assistant Professor and African-American Studies Program Director O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight. Not pictured but in attendance: Delores Johnson Hurt '68, the first African-American student accepted and the first African-American undergraduate to graduate with honors.





# THE SOURCE of RESEARCH

If you have a question about something or want to explore a topic, you probably turn to Google.

When academic subjects pique Winthrop students' interest, they take a deeper dive and turn to research. That work culminates each spring in the Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors, known on campus as SOURCE.

Hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Research, the showcase includes work from all five academic colleges. From poster displays and oral presentations to dance and musical performances, SOURCE flips the concept of traditional research.



"SOURCE creates an opportunity for students to engage with their peers and professors on a level unmatched by any other single event on campus," said **Nick Grosseohme**, professor of chemistry and current director of undergraduate research.

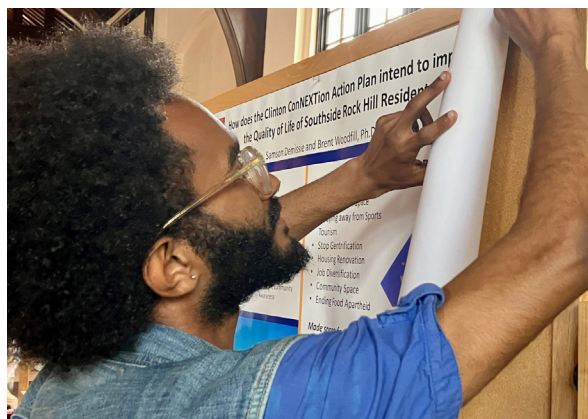
"It brings together students of all disciplines and allows them to see the broad scope of research culture, the finer details of disciplinary research methods and analysis strategies, and clearly demonstrates the similarities and differences in research and intellectual cultures across all disciplines. Attending and engaging in an interdisciplinary research conference—and as broad in scope as SOURCE—is a cultural experience that is hard to match."

## Continuing to Grow

The April 14 SOURCE, which was held on the afternoon of President Edward Serna's inauguration, featured more than 200 projects in the form of performances, oral and poster presentations, workshops and gallery exhibitions.

Grosseohme said that they constantly aim to build on the success of previous years so that they can grow the event.

"We'd like to involve more of the campus community in a variety of ways; we have space to accommodate more students as both presenters, performers and attendees," he explained. "We continue to actively look for ways to get the community and local schools involved in a meaningful way. We're exploring hosting professional development workshops for teachers as part of SOURCE, trying to find ways to bring K-12 students to campus to enjoy the event, and we'd like to create an opportunity for local businesses to attend as a potential recruiting event."



## SOURCE Spotlights

Several 2023 SOURCE award winners were asked what inspired their research and more.



**DAVID URICH,**  
*individualized studies major*

**Research:** "The Effects of Interregional Inequalities in Orchestras"

**Award:** Best in Social Sciences and Humanities, Oral Presentation

**Extracurriculars and Honors:** Honors Program, former president of the Economics Club, piano accompanist

**About the Project:** My project attempts to provide empirical evidence for the anecdotal understanding that wealthier, more educated regions can facilitate higher levels of orchestral revenue. I analyzed the tax returns of 35 Carolinian orchestras over the span of 20 years and regressed this data on socioeconomic variables recommended by the arts administration, economics and sociology literature. Most interestingly, I found that for Carolinian orchestras, a 1 percent increase in the college-educated population relates to a 7.7 percent revenue increase for the local orchestra!

**Most Memorable Winthrop Moment:** Playing my senior recital for my friends, family and professors who greatly impacted my college experience!

**As a Senior, What are Your Post-Graduation Plans?** I'll be working full time in the Rock Hill area while my soon-to-be wife finishes up her bachelor's degree at Winthrop.



**EBONIE WHITE,**  
*psychology*

**Research:** "Adults' Empathy and Experiences With and Perceptions of Imposter Syndrome"

**Award:** Best in Social Sciences, Poster; Inez Bell Caskey Student Scholar

**Extracurriculars and Honors:** McNair Scholar, College of Arts and Sciences ambassador, president of the Psi Chi Honor Society, former peer tutor and intern at the Community Counseling Clinic

**About the Project:** The main focus of this project is the imposter phenomenon, which is a feeling of doubt in one's accomplishments. These feelings are often seen in high achievers. People often place this label of imposter on marginalized groups. This project sought out to look at how participants' own empathy levels and personal experiences with the imposter phenomenon impacted their perception of women of different races in scenarios that are often connected to the phenomenon. We found that participants' views could be modified by the target's race and the personal experiences of the participant.

**Most Memorable Winthrop Moment:** My most memorable collection of moments from Winthrop has been my McNair summer research experience. There were so many bonds created, insights gained and lessons learned that I will treasure forever.



**TREY WINEGLASS,**  
*business  
administration*

**Research:** “Perceptions of the Current Nursing Shortage and Strategies to Increase Staff Retention”

**Award:** Best in SOURCE, Oral Presentation

**Extracurriculars and Honors:** McNair Scholar, Phi Kappa Phi, Winthrop Healthcare Management Student Association, Upsilon Phi Delta, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Beta Gamma Sigma, American Legion Award, Student Marshal, 1st place – MUSC Undergraduate Case Competition for Health Administration Programs

**About the Project:** The healthcare industry has been plagued by the nursing shortage for many years, and the shortage continues to negatively impact the healthcare industry. My research examines what factors influence nurses to leave their job (e.g., work environment, staffing and leadership) and what factors influence them to stay at their job (e.g., competitive wages and benefits and healthy work/life balance); and looks to determine whether burnout plays a role in why nurses leave their job. My study was mixed methods using a concurrent triangulation design that included quantitative and qualitative data.

**Most Memorable Winthrop Moment:** My most memorable Winthrop moment has been being a part of the McNair Scholars Program. This program has provided me with the outlet of being able to conduct and present research. Most of all, I am grateful for the many meaningful relationships that I have been able to form because of the program.

**As a Senior, What are Your Post-Graduation Plans?** I’ll be pursuing a Master of Health Administration degree at Johns Hopkins University.



**DALLAS NIVENS,**  
*biology*

**Research:** “Investigating Protein-Protein Interactions Between Bacteriophage Cain and Its Host Mycobacterium Smegmatis”

**Award:** Best in Healthcare and STEM, Oral Presentation; Inez Bell Caskey Student Scholar

**Extracurriculars and Honors:** Honors Program, INBRE summer research

**About the Project:** My project investigates interactions between bacteriophage Cain and its host Mycobacterium smegmatis. Bacteriophages or phages are viruses that only attack bacteria, so they have the potential to be very useful in treating antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections. In order to effectively use phages as medicine, we need to know more about how they interact with their host, replicate, and lyse or kill their host. My project investigates one phage gene at a time to see which host proteins it may be interacting with. It is a starting point to uncovering the function of each phage gene in this host-phage relationship. For example, one phage gene may produce a protein that inactivates a host protein that is crucial for host growth. We want to know all the details about how a phage works.

**Most Memorable Winthrop Moment:** The most memorable and meaningful part of my Winthrop experience has been the everyday interactions with my peers, lab partners and professors. The relationships and support I have found here have changed my life.

**As a Senior, What are Your Post-Graduation Plans?** I’ll be pursuing a Ph.D. in biology at UNC-Charlotte, where I’ll work on endofungal bacteria.



**KAYLA ALEXANDER,**  
*dance*

**Research:** “Beneath Her Strength: A Choreographic Analysis of Today’s Black Woman”

**Award:** Best in SOURCE, Performance

**Extracurriculars and Honors:** Winthrop Honors College, captain of the Golden Claws Dance team, Xi Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., information services specialist in the campus center

**About the Project:** What inspired me to choose this project were my experiences seeing Black women in my life, such as my mother and grandmother, as well as the personal experience I have had growing into a woman in today’s society. My creative process involved an immense amount of research through several mediums: podcasts, poems, interviews, articles and personal discussion with my cast about their experiences.

**Most Memorable Winthrop Moment:** Winning Best in Show at SOURCE!

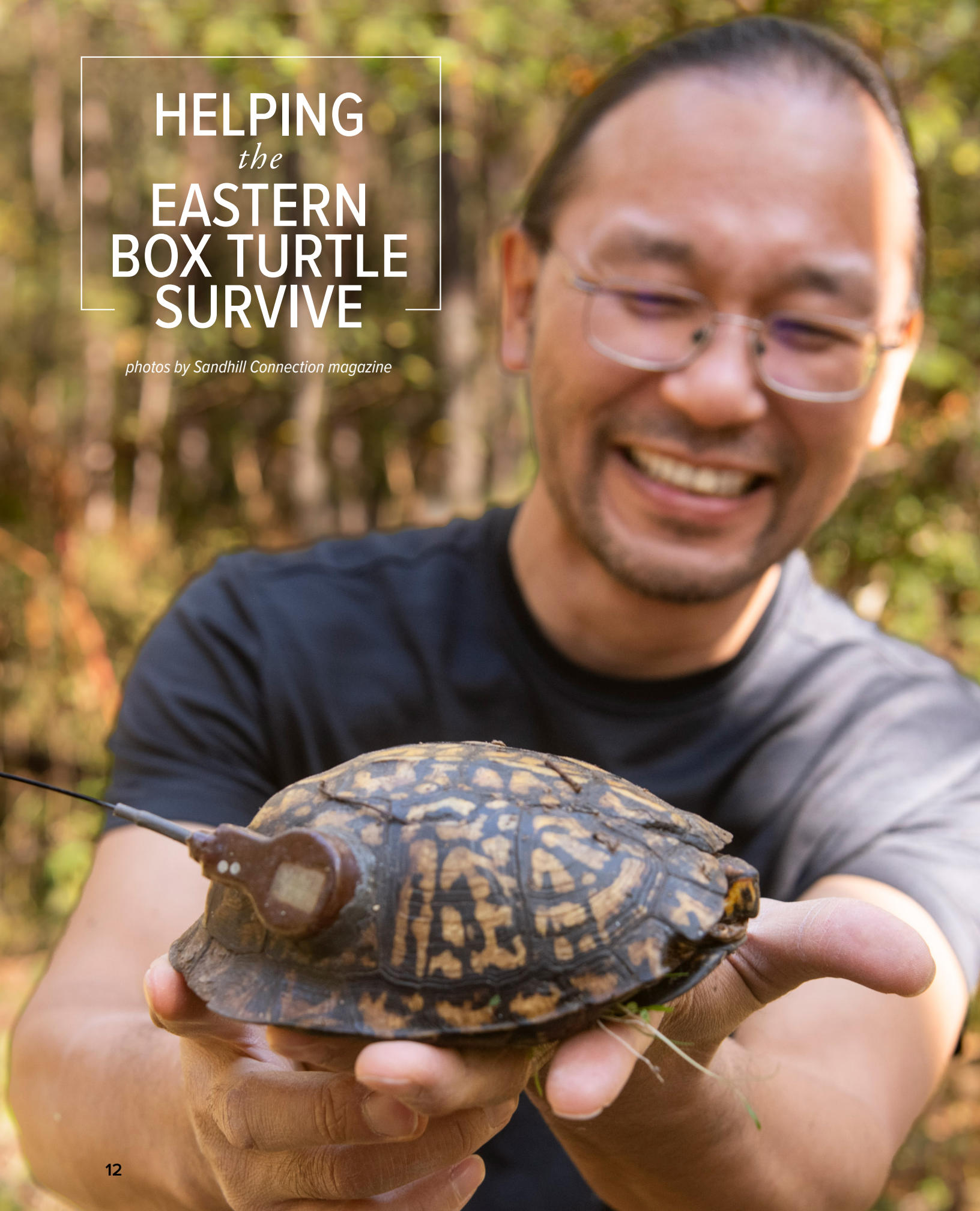
Get more information about **SOURCE** and the **undergraduate research program**.



More than 200 projects were on display and/or performed during SOURCE.

# HELPING *the* EASTERN BOX TURTLE SURVIVE

photos by Sandhill Connection magazine



Winthrop biology graduate student **Sydney Grant** is paid to follow turtles around.

Her work is for a good cause and contributes to understanding the ecosystem in rural Chesterfield, South Carolina.



Grant keeps an eye on about a dozen Eastern Box Turtles, who have tracking devices on them, so she can chart their movements and what habitats they favor. Her tracking takes place at Southern 8ths Farm, which spreads out over 1,400 acres of hardwood trees, planted and native pine trees, reclaimed native grasslands and prairies, and several ponds, wetlands and streams.

Her field research, overseen by her faculty advisor, Kiyoshi Sasaki, an assistant professor of biology, is important in the survival of the turtles. The species was once common throughout the eastern United States but now has undergone declines, even in protected habitats.

“We are looking at what environments the turtles can best survive in,” Sasaki said. “We’re still at the beginning stage.”

Their work, which started in August 2022 when they were awarded a grant from Carolina Wildlands Foundation, will continue for at least another year. Along with the grant comes access for the researchers to use on-site housing equipped with a microwave, refrigerator and shower, which beats staying in a tent, Sasaki said.

## **Turtles More Active in Spring and Summer**

When the turtles hibernated during the winter months, Grant visited the site about twice a month. Now that the temperatures have warmed

up, Grant is in the field almost daily using radio telemetry to track the turtle’s movements.

“Though my analysis is not complete, it appears that the majority of the turtles in my study prefer habitats dominated by pine or hardwood trees and dense understory,” she said. “A few turtles have also been found crossing roads and lingering along roadside ditches.”

Grant will continue her research until she graduates in December, and then will use her experience to become a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services.

Sasaki said that understanding how the turtles’ lives are affected by their habitat is essential in their long-term survival. In South Carolina, the Eastern Box Turtles are considered a moderate priority by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources.

Normally Eastern Box Turtles live in areas with less than a mile radius. The turtles at the Southern 8ths Farm in Chesterfield have plenty of room to roam to look for the wild mushrooms, fallen fruits, slugs and worms on which they feed. Plus, on this particular farm, they live in a protected area that is a wildlife sanctuary.

The 12 turtles that Grant tracks range in size and age. The young turtles can fit in the palms of her hands, while the older adults may measure up to 6 inches in length. They can take up to 10 years to reach breeding age, and they can live to be 100 years old.

Conservationists find that the primary causes of turtle decline are due to several reasons, mainly loss of native forests that the turtles favor. There are also road deaths and the occasional poachers or pet collectors looking to domesticate the turtles.





Assistant Professor Kiyoshi Sasaki and a team of students are conducting field research on Eastern Box Turtles to help the species thrive.

## Carolina Wildlands Foundation's Mission

Funding for the turtle migration work in Chesterfield comes from the Carolina Wildlands Foundation. Its organizer, Southern 8ths Farm owner **Brad Turley**, came down South from Connecticut in 2007 when he bought 77 acres for a horse farm. Since then, he has bought more property – soon to grow to 1,500 acres – and has found a passion in finding experts to study his land and then telling stories about what they've found.



Developing partnerships with area universities to conduct the research on the farm's ecosystem is part of the process.

Turley has observed a gap in the upcoming generation of students. "I found that very few young people want to do outside biology," Turley said. "Most biology majors go into molecular or microbiology."

In the last few years, he has connected with Dwight Dimaculangan, chair of Winthrop's Department of Biology, who helped the foundation create a grant concept to bring college students to the farm to conduct field research. Along with Winthrop, Wingate and Francis Marion universities and Newberry College also participate.

Another Winthrop faculty member, Sal Blair, conducts research at the farm to identify fish species and soon to study white-tailed deer.

Coordinating the foundation's internship and grant program is David Harper. He finds his work fulfilling to see what connections people can make with the land, something he describes as a unique experience.

## Findings Shared at Conference

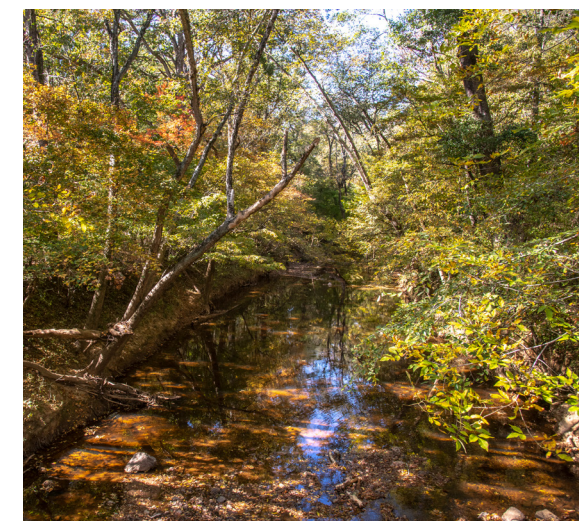
Harper, Winthrop's Sydney Grant and Brianna Bergamini, the prairie keeper at Southern 8ths, presented their findings at the 2023 Southeast Land Conservation Conference on April 27 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. They shared information with conservation professionals about how to create pathways for the next generation of conservationists.

A second goal of the Carolina Wildlands Foundation is to raise awareness among area landowners and agricultural operators about the benefits of restoring and protecting natural land so they can enhance the natural diversity of species on their own property.

The foundation has even bigger goals. **NEON**, which stands for the National Ecological Observatory Network, has shared with the foundation its phenology curriculum, which covers the study of cyclical and seasonal natural phenomena that relates to climate, plant and animal life.

NEON, which is funded in part by the National Science Foundation, is interested in using the foundation's internship program as a feeder group for scientists. Meanwhile, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources also collaborates with the foundation and could connect interns with future job opportunities.

As for Turley, he wants to see the grant-funded student research findings shared more broadly as an inspiration to others. And he wants to impress



upon the students the importance of telling their stories in ways that don't involve a lot of scientific jargon, and instead use language that the average citizen can understand. "It's all about the stories," said Turley.



# ESPORTS PROGRAM LEVELS UP

“Like bringing your Bentley into the garage.”

That’s how Esports Coach Josh Sides described the university’s three esports teams – Valorant, League of Legends and Super Smash Bros. – moving their practice space to the Lowenstein Building in downtown Rock Hill.

The move was announced at an April 28 press conference by Sides, President Edward Serna, Athletics Director Chuck Rey and Board Chair Glenn McCall.

Recognizing its tremendous growth, Winthrop’s esports program will begin leasing space in the Lowenstein Building, located in University Center in the Knowledge Park corridor, this summer. Sides pointed to the expansion of University Cen-

ter, the Thread and other up-and-coming projects in downtown Rock Hill as one of many things students can look forward to.

“Now Winthrop is going to be a key gemstone in that location as well,” he said. “We’re moving into a space where we’ll have more room to host community events, bring in local high schools and recreation leagues, and more. It’s a real statement of intent and lends a lot of legitimacy to what we’re doing here.”

## New Space a Game Changer

Serna noted how Winthrop’s program has soared and become a national contender in the esports field – but the move to Lowenstein will set it apart even further.

“

*Other schools simply do not have what we will have.*

- President Edward Serna

”



“Other schools simply do not have what we will have,” he said, adding that the 6,500-square-foot space will be a “game changer.” “This distinctive space is in a walkable, multi-faceted district of Rock Hill that is contributing to a modern economy and reinventing the original heart of Rock Hill.”

The Lowenstein space will contain five varsity team game room spaces, a large open game room with seating for 56, a conference/team meeting room and four offices.

“Having a new space gives life to us again, especially with it being open to everyone,” said Gabriel Powell, a junior political science major from Quebec. “You’ll have that school spirit where people at Winthrop who don’t even know about us will now be watching us play.”

## Setting the Program Apart

Winthrop’s esports team, which was established in 2019, has made waves in the industry’s 13-year existence with two national titles, one regional title and multiple tournament appearances.

Last fall, the esports team joined with Winthrop’s Competitive Gaming Club to host Rock the Hill, a regional esports gaming event at the Winthrop Coliseum with competitions in Guilty Gear Strive, Rivals of Aether, DNF Fuel and Super Smash Bros. At the time, it was recognized as the largest Super Smash Bros. event in state history.

This past March, Visit York County, Carowinds and Winthrop teamed up for Rock the Winds, which Rey called “the first of its kind as a major esports tournament held at an amusement park.” Hundreds of players across the region signed up to compete in either Super Smash Bros. Ultimate or Rivals of Aether, with a \$10,000 prize on the line.

## Interested in Playing for Winthrop?

Winthrop’s esports team will expand to include JV and club divisions. Available teams and roles include League of Legends, Valorant, Overwatch, video editing, casting, stream production and more. Financial aid assistance is also available.

Visit [www.winthrop.edu/esports](http://www.winthrop.edu/esports).



## WINTHROP ESPORTS ACCOLADES

- 2023 Inaugural Big South Esports Champions
- 2021 Rocket League Champions, Collegiate Esports National Championship
- 2021 League of Legends College Championship



# FABIAN BROICH TAPPED FOR ESPORTS OLYMPICS SERIES

Fabian Broich '16 founded Achieveminds, an esports performance consulting agency, with the ideas of implementing wellbeing, health and performance into a team's infrastructure. Achieveminds' services include representing esports talent, creating performance structures, and improving the wellbeing and performance of players.

Originally from Rommerskirchen, Germany, Broich was recently named one of two esports performance experts for the 2023 Olympics Esports Series' global and virtual competition. He answered a few questions about his time at Winthrop and what inspired his interest in the growing esports industry.

**Q: How did you hear about Winthrop? Why did you ultimately decide to attend?**

A: I transferred to Winthrop as a sophomore to become the goalkeeper for the soccer team.

**Q: What were your original career aspirations? To become a professional soccer player?**

A: Yes, my plan was to play professional soccer. I also started with a business administration degree because I didn't know what else I wanted to do. After taking classes with Dr. Ritzer [Darren Ritzer, professor of psychology and department chair], it became clear to me that I wanted to study psychology. Little did I know, a few years

later, I'd be completing a master's degree of sports psychology in the German Sports University of Cologne in the first cohort of their new program in 2016, and in 2018, starting to work in esports!

**Q: Do you have any fond memories and/or experiences from Winthrop you'd like to talk about?**

A: Yes! My coaches and teammates really made me grow and work hard. I learned to "just do it" and believe in "what you put in, you eventually get out." But my best memories are winning the Big South Championship in 2015, Thanksgiving spent with teammates' families, and traveling the very diverse states in the U.S.

**Q: What inspired your interest in esports?**

A: To be very honest, after realizing playing soccer professionally was becoming more and more difficult to make happen, I did not know what to do. A friend of mine became the chief in a professional football club, Schalke 04, and needed a sports psychologist for his players. I didn't really know if it was a fit, but fairly quickly we could see yes, it was! I could work with young individuals who need help to perform and who go through

the same obstacles and issues as I do.

**Q: Your beliefs are "implementing wellbeing, health and performance into a team's infrastructure" – why do you feel those components are crucial for esports teams?**

A: Regardless of what you do, where you are, in a team, in a company, in a group of people...the more you feel welcomed, respected and appreciated, the better you will do. Role clarification, goals, different tasks all need to be achieved. It's a team effort, but the same with the environment. When we talk about high performance, we talk about high stress; if you can't count on an environment that lets you heal or recover when you're not performing, then it's going to be very toxic on mind and body.

**Q: How were you selected as one of two esports performance experts for the Olympics?**

A: I was approached by a UK company to be in a small circle of candidates. After a few talks and a look into my background, it seemed like a natural fit. I've been able to support the Olympics on the esports performance articles since I come from both worlds: the sports and esports worlds.

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*Regardless of what you do, where you are, in a team, in a company, in a group of people... the more you feel welcomed, respected and appreciated, the better you will do.*

- Fabian Broich

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## GRATITUDE MARKS DEANDREA BENJAMIN'S ASCENT IN JUDICIARY

As **DeAndrea Gist Benjamin '94** continues to take on greater judicial roles, she is quick to thank those who have helped her on her journey to become a U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Almost 20 years ago, Benjamin served as a judge for Columbia's Municipal Court. From there she was elected by the S.C. General Assembly to become a S.C. Circuit Court judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit in 2011, where she oversaw civil and criminal trials in Richland and Kershaw counties.

She recognizes that she has been blessed to have outstanding opportunities. "I think it's important to not shy away from opportunities when they are presented to you but to use them as building blocks," said the Columbia native.

Nominated by President Joe Biden in January to a seat vacated by Judge Henry Floyd, she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate a month later and received her commission on Feb. 21. She received support from key members of South Carolina's delegation, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-SC and U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, R-SC.

Clyburn, who has known Benjamin her whole life, called her an experienced jurist who had the wealth of knowledge and varied life experi-

ence necessary for the job. In addition to being a judge, Benjamin worked for the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office, was an assistant state attorney general under former Attorney General Charlie Condon and served on the South Carolina Board of Juvenile Parole.

### Looking Ahead and Back

In her new role, Benjamin will be based in Columbia. She said she will spend less time in the courtroom and more time reading court documents and writing, as she and her fellow judges have the chance to shape law across the Fourth Circuit, which covers South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

Her mentors include her father, with whom she practiced law from 2001-11. "The advice that I value the most from him is really the same advice that he taught me as a child: 'Treat everyone as you would like to be treated—with compassion, dignity and respect.'"

Another mentor was the late Bessie Moody-Lawrence, who was a Winthrop education professor, S.C. legislator and fellow member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Benjamin recalled that Moody-Lawrence was a trailblazer in the field of education and a wonderful example for African-American female students at Winthrop.

*My time at Winthrop helped me grow and develop a sense of community and my role in the community.*

- DeAndrea Benjamin

"While in law school, I was fortunate to work as her legislative aide in the South Carolina General Assembly, which included the unique opportunity to observe the election of judges," Benjamin said about her time at the University of South Carolina School of Law.

As the second African-American female judge to serve on the Fourth Circuit, Benjamin embraces the idea that diversity of all types, whether it is race, religion, sexual orientation, educational or geographical backgrounds, is invaluable to any organization. As her appointment signals progress for the next generation, the judge understands that she is a model not only for her two daughters, but for other young ladies in the state.

### Committing to Serve

Her husband also has dedicated his life to public service and accepted a high-profile job this spring. A former mayor of Columbia, Steve Benjamin was recently appointed as President Biden's senior advisor and director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.

"Being able to continue our service to the people of South Carolina and the United States is a great honor," Benjamin said. "I think as citizens of this great country that it is our responsibility to make our communities a better place for all."



*Judge J. Michelle Childs, United States Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, swore in Benjamin, who was joined by her husband, The Honorable Stephen K. Benjamin, senior advisor to the President and director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, and their daughters.*

With that mission in mind, Benjamin said she tries to administer justice fairly and impartially.

These are lessons she learned not only from her family and mentors but also during her time in college.

"My time at Winthrop helped me grow and develop a sense of community and my role in the community," Benjamin said. "While I was enrolled at Winthrop, we were required to do community service and attend cultural events. I learned to respect students' different backgrounds, views, and beliefs."

## Strategic Planning Process to Shape Winthrop's Future

Key stakeholders from across campus, including faculty, staff, students and beyond, engaged this spring with Winthrop's partners at Berkeley Research Group (BRG) on the important work of strategic planning. When the process wraps up in the 2023-24 academic year, Winthrop will have a roadmap for the future, including goals and objectives that identify clear outcomes for the next three to five years. The multi-phase planning process includes approach, process and design (largely complete), community engagement (current focus), preliminary planning, and development of the final strategic plan.

Alumnus Gary Simrill '91, assistant to the president for community engagement, is working closely with the Winthrop Board of Trustees, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and BRG on this vital initiative. BRG has completed dozens of interviews, presentations, and focus groups, in addition to receiving stakeholder responses through email, questionnaires and surveys.

President Edward Serna noted the progress made to date is encouraging. "It's exciting to me that common themes are emerging through this work. We will continue to connect throughout the summer with off-campus stakeholders, and BRG will present initial findings through a robust schedule of fall events and activities that will fully engage the campus community," he said.

## Richard Lee Named to Board of Trustees

**Richard V. Lee Jr.** '82 has joined the Winthrop University Board of Trustees as the designee for S.C. Governor Henry McMaster.



Lee, for the past six years, has worked as a consultant specializing in developing operational innovations. He served four years as the Fifth Congressional District representative to the S.C. Board of Health and Environmental Control. He vacated that seat to join the Winthrop board.

Lee also serves as chairman of the S.C. Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council. He served eight years on the York County Council. At Winthrop, Lee earned a bachelor's degree in political science.



## Joel Hamilton Appointed to Winthrop Board

Rock Hill attorney **Joel T. Hamilton** '06 has joined the Winthrop University Board of Trustees as the designee for South Carolina Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver.

A former York County Council representative, Hamilton is co-founder of the Schiller and Hamilton law firm and manages the operations of the statewide firm's office in Rock Hill.

Hamilton earned a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in business/economics from Winthrop. After graduating from Winthrop, Hamilton attended Case Western Reserve School of Law, receiving his Juris Doctor in 2009.

## Five Faculty Members Honored with Awards

Five exceptional faculty members were recently recognized with prestigious awards:

**Jane Thomas**, professor of marketing, received the **Distinguished Professor Award**, the highest award the university bestows upon a faculty member.



**O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight**, assistant professor of history, earned the **Outstanding Junior Professor Award**.



**Tracy Griggs**, associate professor of management, accepted the **Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award**.



**Sara English** '14, assistant professor of social work, was selected as the **2023-24 Thompson Scholar**.



**Adriana Cordis**, an accounting professor, was named the College of Business Administration's **William H. Grier Professor**, an honor bestowed every four years.



COMPLETE THE SURVEY

## College of Education Renamed

Beginning July 1, the Richard W. Riley College of Education will be known as the Richard W. Riley College of Education, Sport and Human Sciences. The Board of Trustees approved the name change at its April 28 meeting.

According to Dean Beth Costner, the renaming better reflects the diversity of the college's programs and provides an opportunity to expand and/or redesign existing programs to meet disciplinary trends and community needs. Additionally, the new name will make it more evident to current and prospective students where programs such as exercise science, human development and family studies are located.



[Read about additional recent board action.](#)

## Hughes Named VP for Advancement

**Kevin Hughes** joined the Division of University Advancement as vice president on Jan. 17.



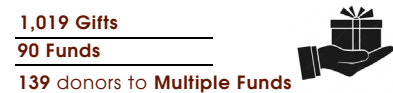
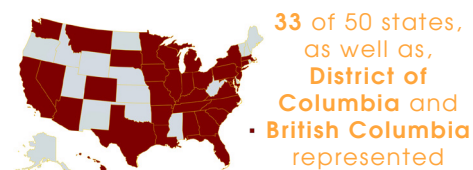
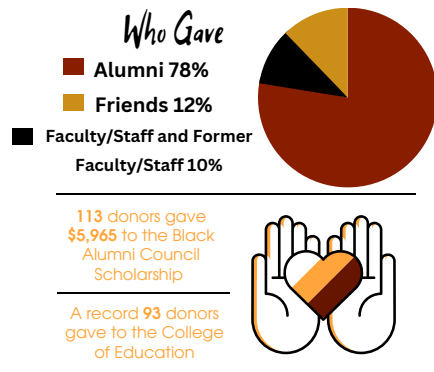
He formerly served as the associate vice president of advancement with the New College Foundation, The Honors College of Florida, where he oversaw major gifts, the annual fund and alumni relations programs. He also previously served for 12 years in roles at both Denison University and Stetson University College of Law.

A first-generation college graduate, he is passionate about providing educational opportunities to students of all backgrounds and experiences. Hughes received his bachelor's degree from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

## Day of Giving Smashes Previous 24-Hour Totals

The third annual Day of Giving, held April 25-26, became the most successful 24 hours of giving to date, thanks to generous alumni, faculty, staff and friends. The 700 donor goal was surpassed, and several giving challenges and matching gifts were unlocked to raise even more financial support.

Take a look at Giving Day numbers:



The Sernas welcomed Lou Ardrey '54 to the April 1 donor brunch at the President's House.

## Philanthropy Weekend Celebrates Power of Giving

During March 31-April 1, donors were welcomed to campus for a variety of events. On Friday evening, endowment and scholarship donors enjoyed dinner with their scholarship recipients and faculty members. A generous gift from Elaine Whitton Davis '73 supported the evening's program and dinner.

On Saturday morning, the Sernas welcomed President's Circle donors into the President's House for a brunch celebrating philanthropy. Later that day, members of the D.B. Johnson Society enjoyed a pre-show reception with student cast members from "Pippin," followed by seating at the show. Saturday was also Winthrop Day for admitted students and their families, and donors had a chance to tour campus and be part of a Winthrop Saturday experience.

Each of these events provided the campus community an opportunity to celebrate the partnerships which contribute to the experience of Winthrop students.

## Roots and Recall Website Gifted to Archives

Wade B. Fairey

Sr. believes in the power of story. The local historic preservationist recently donated Roots and Recall, a web project created with fellow preservationist James I. "Rusty" Robinson III, to the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Dacus Library.



More than a database, Roots and Recall uses location and architecture "to tell a wider story of a family and that location than just a genealogy chart," said Fairey. By examining a physical structure, the larger story is revealed through the architects, builders and owners. According to Fairey, something as simple as a door nail might provide historical context.

Fairey is quick to give credit to others, including his wife, Cathy, and fellow history enthusiast and

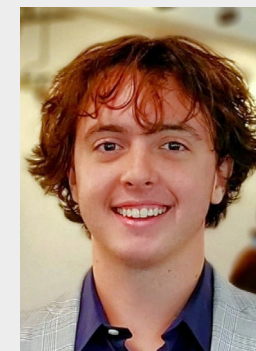
close friend Paul Gettys. They collected data, indexed maps and visited numerous cities in South Carolina to verify and curate the more than 50,000 images and stories contributed. Recently, he approached Gina Price White '83, director of archives, about donating the site to Winthrop.

White recognizes the gift as more than a research tool. "This is a valuable resource for students in nearly every discipline, from history to interior design, and it represents Winthrop as a partner in telling the story of the Rock Hill community."

Fairey hopes bringing Roots and Recall to a wider audience will encourage others to share stories that show the deep relationship between community and history. You can learn more at [www.rootsandrecall.com](http://www.rootsandrecall.com) or by visiting the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections.

Fairey's generous gift was enhanced by an estate gift, one of the many ways to make an impact at Winthrop.

## Here's Why Your Gift Matters!



"I love what I study, and I am incredibly excited for the future. None of that would be possible without the scholarships I have been given."

Isaac Pelletier '24  
 Economics major  
 Greenville

For information on how you can make a difference, visit the Division of University Advancement website at [www.winthrop.edu/advancement](http://www.winthrop.edu/advancement) or call 803/323-2275.

## Alumni Association, Foundation Moving to Historic Stewart House

The Morgan-Holcombe Alumni Center, currently located on the third floor of Tillman Hall, will move to the Stewart House this summer.

The stately white Stewart House is located on the bustling corner of Eden Terrace and Oakland Avenue across from Winthrop's main entrance.

After some renovations, the Alumni Association and the Winthrop Foundation will move in, and an open house will be held at a later date for alumni and



community members to experience the revitalized space.

[Read more about the move.](#)

## Nominations Being Accepted for Board of Trustees Election

The Alumni Association is accepting applications for a candidate to serve as an alumni representative to the Board of Trustees, which includes two elected alumni representatives. In early 2024, the Alumni Association will hold an election to fill one seat for a six-year term beginning July 1, 2024. All members of the Board of Trustees must be primary residents of South Carolina. For more information, please refer to the [bylaws](#) of the Board of Trustees.

If you would like to serve your alma mater in this capacity or wish to nominate a fellow alumnus, **please complete and submit the application form by Friday, Sept. 8.** Candidates will be announced in late fall.

Please visit the [Alumni Association website](#) for more information about alumni representatives to the [Board of Trustees](#).

## Alumni Meet and Greet with Serna a Success!

Alumni have had the opportunity to meet President Serna at regional alumni receptions that began last fall and concluded this summer. Receptions hosted include Rock Hill; Charlotte; Myrtle Beach; Columbia; Charleston; Greenville; and Washington, D.C. More than 400 alumni attended these events. [Learn more](#) about Serna and also connect with him on social media [@winthropupres](#).



## Fountain Restoration Project Approaches Goal



Fundraising efforts continue for the Fountain Restoration Project as it approaches the \$500,000 goal. More than \$480,000 has been raised to date for the project. The contract for the

project has been awarded and work is estimated to begin on the new fountain by late summer.

Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Reunion Giving Lori Tuttle noted that the 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. Alumni outside of these classes and community members have also supported the fundraising effort," she said. "Thank you to all the donors who have generously supported the Fountain Restoration Project!"

To learn more about the Fountain Restoration Project and make your gift, please visit [www.winthrop.edu/fountainproject](http://www.winthrop.edu/fountainproject).

## Save the Date for Homecoming and Reunion

Homecoming and Reunion is Nov. 6-11! Make plans to come home to Winthrop and participate in a variety of Homecoming and Class Reunion activities.

If your class year ends in a '3 or '8 you are celebrating a milestone reunion this year. More details about your Class Reunion will arrive to your mailbox or inbox in August.



Visit [www.winthrop.edu/homecoming](http://www.winthrop.edu/homecoming) for details on Homecoming and Reunion events.

## Call for 2023 Alumni Award Nominations

Each fall, the Alumni Association presents awards to alumni who have demonstrated Winthrop's tradition of excellence. The Honors and Awards Committee of the Alumni Executive Board reviews nominations and selects winners annually.

The 2023 recipients will be recognized at the Alumni Awards Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 9, in Richardson Ballroom.

To nominate a fellow alumnus or self-nominate, **please complete and submit the 2023 Alumni Award nomination form by June 23.**

[Read more](#) about past Alumni Award recipients and information for this year's nomination form.

**1969**

**Diane Shuler** was inducted into the North Augusta Sports Hall of Fame in recognition of her contributions to the North Augusta High School girls' sports program.

**1973**

**Susan Henry-Crowe** of Atlanta, Georgia, retired from the United Methodist Church & Society in January after serving as the general secretary for eight years.

**1976**

**Ronald Layne** of Pinehurst, North Carolina, was named chief operating officer at Sandhills Community College.

**1982**

**Brenda Thompson Billardello** of Lancaster was named Lancaster County's director of marketing and communications.

**Patrick Wechter** of Ravenel was hired as the director of Clemson University's Coastal Research and Education Center.

**1984**

**Don Good** of Kingsport, Tennessee, was named to the Southern Conference's All-Conference Faculty Team for 2022-23.

Community Foundations Leading Change named **Mary Thomas** of Spartanburg as its president and CEO.

**1985**

**Julie Gore Fowler** of Greenville was named superintendent for Spartanburg School District Three.

**1987**

**Scott Grooms** of Walterboro began work as the City of Walterboro's director of tourism and downtown development.

Fort Mill resident **Marc Howie**, vice president of community development at York Electric Cooperative, received the Citizenship & Service Award from the York County Regional Chamber.

**1989**

**Watts Huckabee** of Rock Hill was elected as a member of the York County Council.

**1991**

**Laura Adams Johnson** of Winnsboro was named interim county administrator for Fairfield County.

Wilberforce University named **Vann Newkirk** of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, as the university's 23rd president.

**1993**

**Brice Laughter** of Aiken was appointed principal of Langley-Bath-Clearwater Middle School.

**1995**

**Mike James** of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, published a poetry collection entitled "Back Alley Saints at the Tiki Bar" with Redhawk Publications.

Mission Ministries Alliance named **Lauri SoJourney** of Canton, North Carolina, as its interim executive director.

**1996**

**Jay Karen** of Daniel Island was recognized as one of the country's "Most Powerful People in Golf" by Golf Inc. Magazine.

**William (Bump) Roddey** of Rock Hill was re-elected to the York County Council.

**Rona Williams** of Charlotte, North Carolina, was promoted to associate director of the Congregational Faith and Learning Center at Hood Theological Seminary.

**1997**

Rock Hill resident **Melloney Robinson Cook** was named logistics controller for the U.S. and Canada for Continental Tire.

MUSC Health Lancaster named **Ashley Shannon** of Lancaster as its external affairs manager.

**1998**

**Shanola Hampton** of Canyon County, California, signed with The Gersh Agency for talent representation. She is also starring in and producing "Found" this fall on NBC.

**1999**

**Chris Doehling** of Fort Mill worked as a character designer for the animated series "The Wingfeather Saga."

**April Hershey** of Rock Hill joined Remi, Inc., in Charlotte, North Carolina, as an executive administrative assistant.

**2001**

**Kevin James** of Atlanta, Georgia, was named one of the 2023 Atlanta 500 in Education and Healthcare.

**2002**

**Omoleye Adeyemi Simmons** was named vice president of design for Tarkett North America Commercial in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**2003**

Delaware State University in Dover, Delaware, appointed **Jackie Brockington** as the university's registrar.

Summerville resident **Kevin Morrissey** was named the S.C. Art Educator of the Year by the S.C. Art Education Association.

**2004**

Frederick County Public Schools named **Shane Goodwin** the assistant superintendent for administration.

Charleston native **Jessica Erickson Nagy** was named principal of Hillsborough Elementary School in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

**Veronica Vereen** of Charleston joined the College of Charleston as the director of development for the School of the Arts.

**2005**

Columbia resident **Maggie Hendry** was appointed acting deputy secretary for finance and administration for the S.C. Department of Transportation.

**2006**

**Jamie Baxley Hallman** of Saint Augustine, Florida, published a book entitled "The Expectation Gap."

Rock Hill resident **Bara Bolton Wetherell** was named among the "Ones to Watch" by the York County Regional Chamber.

**2008**

McConnells resident **Stefanie Jenkins Barnette** was named among the "Ones to Watch" by the York County Regional Chamber.

**Stephen Crofts** of Rock Hill performed spirituals at Historic Brattonsville's "By Way of the Back Door" event.

**2009**

Rock Hill resident **Terra Carney** was named Riverwalk Academy's Elementary School Teacher of the Year for the 2022-23 school year.

**Kristen Powell** of Greer was named president and CEO of the Associated Builders and Contractors of the Carolinas.

**Walter Suggs**, a band teacher at Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology in Charlotte, North Carolina, received The Manilow Music Project Award.

**2010**

**Stephanie Burgess** of Lexington was named the 2023 S.C. Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year by the S.C. Association of School Administrators.





**2011**  
**Andrés F. Gil Bustamante** of Greenville returned to Atrium Health as an emergency department physician resident.

**Anna Douglas** of Charlotte, North Carolina, was recognized as one of the “25 Under 35” by Editor & Publisher.

**John Murrian** of Summerville was named hitting coach for the Erie SeaWolves baseball team in Erie, Pennsylvania.

**2013**  
 Rock Hill resident **Kristen Easler** was named among the “Ones to Watch” by the York County Regional Chamber.

**Kristina Johnson** of Fort Mill joined Carolina Kids Child Development Center in Rock Hill as assistant director.

York resident **Priscilla McNulty Martens** was named vice president of delivery lead at Bank of America.

Rock Hill resident **Summersby Okey** was named among the “Ones to Watch” by the York County Regional Chamber.

**Samantha Oliver** of Fort Mill was named a finalist in Ceramics Monthly’s 2023 Emerging Artists.

**2015**  
**Sydney Jacobs Kepple** of Rock Hill joined Chicago Pneumatic as a channel marketing specialist.

Rock Hill resident **Vanessa Valdez** was promoted to graduate program director at Winthrop.

**2016**  
**Kaitlyn O'Brien** of Columbia was named marketing coordinator for SouthState Bank.

**2017**  
 Sunny Days Entertainment LLC in Greenville named **Ben Caron** a sales support specialist.

**Sally Huffman** joined BB+M Architecture in Charlotte, North Carolina, as an interior designer.

Rock Hill resident **Alyssa Danaher Snipes** was named Riverwalk Academy's Middle School Teacher of the Year for the 2022-23 school year.

**2018**  
**David Barnes** of Rock Hill was promoted to vice president of production resources, innovation and technical training at Comporium.

The Washington Wizards signed **Xavier Cooks** to a multi-year contract.

**Taylor Kirby** of Rock Hill was named the director for the Charlotte chapter of the Speedway Children's Charities in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Rock Hill resident **Tadean Page** was named among the “Ones to Watch” by the York County Regional Chamber.

**2019**  
**Megan Kauffman** of Perth, Australia, joined Australia's national semi-professional football league for female players.

**2020**  
**Hannah Huskey** of Greenville was named program coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina.

**2021**  
**Shane McClintock** of Huntersville, North Carolina, was named assistant principal at Roberta Road Middle School.

**Ne'Torrian Patton** of Rock Hill was named the 2022 District Beginning Teacher of the Year by the Lancaster County School District.

Clover resident **Rod Ruth** was named the S.C. Association of School Administrators Secondary Principal of the Year.

**Chandler Vaudrin** of Uniontown, Ohio, made the opening day roster for the Cleveland Charge as an affiliate player.

**BIRTHS**

Mathieu (Mat) Stephen Fretschel '03, a boy, Owen James Fretschel

Brittany Nicole Guilfoyle '11, a girl, Savannah Lillie Lafontaine

Ziiana Sy'mone Garrett '22, a boy, Zy'Aire Garrett Thomason

**MARRIAGES**

Renee Amadi Cave '10 to Joseph Patton

Hannah Elizabeth Buckner '21 to Jacob Leland Mathis '21

Jordan Lynn Drewello '22 to Daimen Joshua Hoover '19

**IN MEMORIAM**

**1940s**

Helen McCuen Bennett '40  
Iris McCaskill Estridge '42  
Mary McIntosh Roach '42  
Ida Crawford Stewart '43  
Daniel Hinson Eaddy '44  
Wynona Weeks Genco '44  
Mary Frances Crawford Fitch '45  
Sarah (Mayrant) Alexander Lojewski '45  
Mary (Opal) Copeland Underwood '45  
Emily Team Whitfield '45  
Wanda English Jeffers '46  
Carolinda McClimon Robison '46  
Hannah Cox Smallwood '46  
Isabelle Ford Brooks '48

**1950s**

Lydia Hay Pedersen '50  
Margaret (Betty) Owen Williamson '50  
Colleen Holland Yates '50  
Elizabeth Brailsford Patterson '51  
Nira Smith Horton '52  
Helen Conrad Deas '53  
Ruth (Ann) Cogdell Tucker '53  
Lillian Jones Gibson '54  
Elizabeth Mills Thomas '54  
Annette Price Gardner '55  
Shirley Slaughter Bledsoe '56

Vivian Loyrea Holliday '57  
Ann Campbell Tennant '57  
Nancy Poarch Ghent '59  
Martha Owens Howe '59

**1960s**

Jacquelin (Allison) Bair Davis '60  
Margaret Anne Dickert '60  
Douglas Abernethy Hollingsworth '61  
Margaret Smith May '61  
Margaret Whaley McCarley '61  
Ruth Abernethy Evans '62  
Janet Lyman Heinhold '63  
Joan Lewis O'Briant '63  
Lillian (Carol) Hallock Gualtieri '64  
Juanita Smith Phillips '64  
Ellen Huffstetler Ringer '64  
Paula Marie Cargill '65  
Donna Pounder Leblanc '67  
Claire Chassereau Smoak '67  
Martha (Becky) Barnes Francis '68  
Mary Morris Kollarik '68  
Jean Parker O'Kelley '69  
Lillian (Suzy) Goodson Taylor '69  
Elizabeth Lucille Tipton '69

**1970s**

Stephanie Blackman Carter '70  
Judith Ann Miller '70  
Julie Anne Armstrong Bivens '71  
Veda Esther Ford '71  
Grady Eugene Ghent '75

**1980s**

Jimmy Donald Hinson '80  
Ronald E. Kelley Jr. '80  
Gladys Stitt Robinson '81  
Arlene Hill Woodruff '81  
Jane Burns Parrish '82  
Roger Ervin Barnes '83  
Anne Smith Pratt '84  
Thomas Michael Lewis '85  
Virginia Lee Borell '87

**1990s**

John (Jack) Stuart Holladay '91  
Theodore Roosevelt Hopper '93  
Abbigail Jefferson Armstrong '95

**2010s**

Gregory Cunningham Dailey '16

**TWO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FACULTY MEMBERS PASS AWAY**

The Richard W. Riley College of Education and the Winthrop community mourned the loss of two faculty members - **Abbigail Armstrong** '95, '02 and **Kristi Schoepfer** - this spring.

Abbigail Armstrong, an associate professor, was a devoted middle-level education advocate who joined the Winthrop faculty in 2005. She passed away May 2.



"Memories of her joyful spirit, infectious smile and abounding energy will remain with us always," said Beth Costner, dean of the Richard W. Riley College of Education.

Stacy Martin and David Vawter, fellow faculty in the middle-level education program, shared that her family and faith were the most important aspects of her life. Professionally she put her students first. "She cared deeply for her students and in turn they cared deeply for her," the colleagues said. She will be remembered for her willingness to help faculty, staff and students however she could.

Armstrong earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in middle-level education from Winthrop, where she also proudly pledged the Xi Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She also earned a Ph.D. from Gardner-Webb University in 2010.

Professor Kristi Schoepfer, chair of the Department of Physical Education, Sport and Human Performance, was remembered as a passionate educator who loved her students. She passed away April 29.



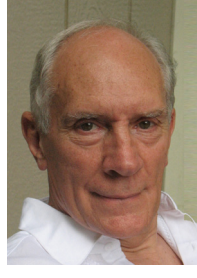
"Kristi was a fervent advocate for our faculty, an engaging teacher, prolific scholar, and compassionate friend to many at our university," said Beth Costner, dean of the college. "The memories of her quick wit, social media memes, dog stories, and love for all things New York City will make us smile again soon, but for now we will grieve her loss collectively."

Lauren McCoy Coffey, an assistant professor of sport management, said Schoepfer was an incredible person who motivated others through her dedication and enthusiasm. "She was a shining example of how a leader should be and an amazing friend," she said. "Personally, she had an incalculable impact on my life, and I'm grateful and better for knowing and working with her."

Schoepfer joined the Winthrop faculty in 2006 and specialized in risk management and sport law.

**CRAFTSMAN AND ARTIST ALF WARD PASSES AWAY**

The College of Visual and Performing Arts and the Winthrop community grieved the May 20 passing of Professor Emeritus **Alfred D. Ward**, a long-time colleague and mentor within the college.



"Alf was generous with his time and expertise, and he relished his work with students. His involvement in the university community and the community at large continued well after his official retirement," CVPA Interim Dean Karen Oremus noted. "His contributions through teaching, financial support and mentorship were significant."

An internationally recognized designer, craftsman, fine artist and design educator, Ward joined the Winthrop community in 1989 as a department chair until he returned to teaching full time in 1996. Even after his appointment as professor emeritus in 2006, he continued to teach and mentor students. He received Winthrop's Distinguished Professor of the Year Award in 1998 and the Medal of Honor in the Arts in 2011. Ward designed the Medal of Honor as well as the Winthrop mace that is displayed at each Commencement ceremony.



# WINTHROP LOYAL

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