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Dear Friends:

I am excited to share with you that after many months of hard work and valuable input from various constituencies, we are ready to launch our new strategic plan, **Winthrop: United in Excellence**. This new plan will help guide us for the next several years as we set our sights on accomplishing an array of enhancements on campus and beyond. While we have been crafting the plan, we also have been busy making immediate progress on initiatives aligned with it:

- Academic Efficiencies – Data-driven inquiries to achieve cost savings across the colleges;
- New Degree Programs – Market-driven analysis to identify programs of promise and to impact workforce needs;
- Competency-Based Education – Investment in a new modality for online delivery for certificates, credentials and degrees;
- Campus Master Plan – Flexible blueprint for facilities and infrastructure needs for the next decade;
- Campus Beautification Initiative – Plan to ensure Winthrop’s historic campus remains among the most attractive in the region;
- Economic Impact Study – Data on Winthrop as an economic engine in the city, region and state, helping drive growth and vitality;
- Tuition Transparency – Alignment of tuition with peer institutions and clarify direct and out-of-pocket expenses; and
- Employee Satisfaction – Measure contentment level, commitment and motivation of employees to inform future enhancement.

I encourage you to read more about the strategic plan on pages 2-3 of this magazine, as well as the many other interesting and insightful articles showcasing here our students, faculty, and alumni and more. As always, thank you for your support and continued loyalty as we work together to ensure a bright future for this place that we love.

Always an Eagle, **CAMPUS NEWS 16** | **ADVANCEMENT NEWS 18** | **ALUMNI NEWS 20** | **CLASS NOTES 22** | **MILESTONES 24** EDITORIAL STAFF

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NOTES

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

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

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

About the cover: A recent aerial image by Sara McAllister '09 showcases the university's close proximity to Rock Hill's revitalized Knowledge Park corridor.

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

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WHAT'S INSIDE WINTHROP: UNITED IN EXCELLENCE PUBLIC ART PROMPTS CREATIVITY & INNOVATION  
ARCHIVES PRESERVES THE PAST ORIGINS OF THE ALMA MATER FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME SHARING  
STORIES OF THE VOICELESS

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## **WINTHROP UNITED IN EXCELLENCE**

THE VISION We aspire to be a transformational institution providing an excellent and

affordable education within a vibrant and inclusive community offering the gift of learning, the tools for lifelong learning, and the confidence born of a robust and disciplined learning experience.

Tremendous stakeholder feedback and careful study over nine intensive months produced five strategic institutional priorities that will guide Winthrop's collective work over the next three years. This plan, approved by the Board of Trustees on December 1, 2023, and the objectives and key performance indicators being crafted across campus this semester, will constitute Winthrop: United in Excellence, a strategic approach to future success of the university.

## **EXCEL REGIONAL**

& NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- Recognize Winthrop's Unique Distinctiveness
- Broaden Regional Presence
- Elevate Institutional Prominence
- Establish Prestigious Institutes of Excellence

## **!)\*)#! ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

- Advance Comprehensive Student Intellectual Development
- Provide High-Quality Academic Advising and Mentoring
- Innovate Forward- looking Academic Programs
- Re-envision the General Education Curriculum

- Ensure Timely Degree Attainment

#### STUDENT

#### SUPPORT & SUCCESS

- Elevate the Campus Life Experience
- Expand Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Boost Student Retention and Graduation Rates
- Enhance the Residential Student Experience

#### COMMUNITY

#### ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION

- Cultivate Alumni for Life
- Foster Strategic Alliances and Corporate Partnerships
- Winthrop as the Epicenter of Community Engagement & Development
- Bolster Fundraising for Future Growth

#### OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Ensure Financial Resilience
- Develop a Next- Gen Campus
- Foster Collective Excellence
- Forge Strategic Public-Private Partnerships

Objectives and tactics for the priorities listed above will be shared later in the semester. **Thank you to the Strategic Plan Steering Committee and all stakeholders for your thoughtful participation!**

#### OUR MISSION AND VALUES

Along with the vision on p. 2, these Board of Trustee-approved statements will frame the work going forward. MISSION

Winthrop University challenges students of talent, ambition, and intellectual curiosity, equipping them to embrace and lead a world in transition – where change is constant, uncertainty is real, and risk exists – by providing learning experiences and instilling critical thinking skills empowering them to create the future.

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VALUES We are Winthrop, where we value . . .

- A commitment to leadership, service, community, and excellence.

- A culture of belonging, courage, free expression, and open civil engagement.
- Rigorous instruction and experiential learning that prepares our students for success and leadership.
- Rational thought, truth reverence, sound judgment, deep ethics, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

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## **PUBLIC ART** PROMPTS CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Tomato-shaped bike racks in front of Earth Fare. Figurative "Wheels in Motion" at a roundabout on Constitution Boulevard. A dangling, upside-down flower behind McLaurin Hall.

These artworks and many more have emerged from the College of Visual and Performing Arts' longtime emphasis on public art...and more importantly, the opportunities for students to create them.

Professor of Fine Arts **Shaun Cassidy** helps facilitate those opportunities, including a recent series of sculptures at the U.S. headquarters of Atlas Copco in Rock Hill's University Center and four steel panels in Hardin Garden.

As a professional artist, Cassidy never set out to be a teacher – it just happened.

"But I like the idea of students being taught by people who are professionally active in their fields," he said. "That's something that distinguishes our art department."

'...**immensely valuable**' Cassidy and students spent the spring 2023 semester diving into the paid Atlas Copco project.

The process involved visiting the site, researching the company's values, brainstorming, creating a presentation and showing the CEO their ideas.

"Doing these things in the public arena, outside of academia, is very different from working inside of the university because at the university, a

**4** Barkley - "Flow" Genegrasso "Threads" Barkley - "Flow"

"As an educator, that's what makes it immensely valuable," Cassidy noted. "Not only are they getting paid for their skills, ideations and practical- building methods, they're also expanding themselves as artists, which for me is a double-win."

Winthrop Students - "Connecting"

On campus, students drew inspiration from the Four Elements – earth, water, air, fire – to create panels in Hardin Garden. The panels, composed of welded and painted steel, are anchored into existing brick frames, perfect for a "campus that's ripe for public art," according to Cassidy.

"Public art is a very effective way to communicate to the broader community that this institution is really invested in creativity and innovation."

'...**opportunities to be successful**' Public art symbolizes something else for students as well.

Each sculpture student created one wall-mounted piece for Atlas Copco's Rock Hill headquarters.

student can fail," Cassidy said. "When I say 'fail,' I mean that in a positive, trial-and-error way, you learn a lot from it. But in these kinds of projects, you have to produce a product that's on a professional level. It does force the students to raise their game, and they all did."

Each student created one wall-mounted sculpture, and together worked on a larger-scale sculpture, referencing Atlas Copco's industrial nature.

"They see that their skills have value and that there are opportunities to be successful after graduating," Cassidy said. "It's also gratifying building a work and knowing it will be there for a long period of time. It will become part of the history of the building and the company."

**Todd Stewart '06**, vice president of public art for Charlotte's Arts & Science Council, can attest to that.

Stewart always knew he wanted to study art, and after meeting Winthrop fine arts faculty and staff, he knew it was the place for him.

Art major Claire Kirkley posed with her piece in Hardin Garden.

"Art has been a central part of my life from a young age," Stewart said. "I lucked up in that faculty showed me many, many avenues I could take in terms of a career."

As a student, Stewart worked with Cassidy on Stewart's public art piece, "a challenging build" entitled "Vessel," which is located between Kinard Hall and the Leitner Wall.

"It was a huge personal milestone, and I'm thrilled it's still a part of Winthrop's campus," he said.

Stewart and Cassidy recently switched roles when they worked together on "Rivulet" and "Sycamore," two sculptures Cassidy created with landscape designer Laurel Holtzapple for the Cross Charlotte Trail.

"We have a long history of working on projects together. I continue to learn so much from him," Stewart said. "He's my role model."

Learn more about Winthrop's public art at <https://www.winthrop.edu/virtualtour/points-of-interest.aspx> as well as its sculpture program at [www.winthrop.edu/cvpa](http://www.winthrop.edu/cvpa).

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### **Where Do You Find the Past at Winthrop?**

Looking around the historic campus, it can certainly be found in its buildings and through signage describing significant events. But to add meaning and context to those structures, you need to visit the **Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections**.

You might think the Archives would only have information about Winthrop and its community of learners, but that comprises only a portion of what is stored in the building that faces Cherry Road, said Gina Price White '83, director of the Archives. The Archives houses more than six million items, including donated manuscripts, family papers, memorabilia and more than 600,000 photographs.

Class memorabilia

Medieval manuscripts D.B. Johnson's chair

Most downloaded item: photograph of Dorothy Schroeder, an All-American Girls' Professional Baseball League player

### **Did You Know?**

The Archives bears the name of Louise Pettus '46, a historian and Winthrop professor who spent much of her life chronicling this area's rich history before her death in 2021. Pettus was among Winthrop's most generous donors. Throughout her life and after her death, she gave close to \$1.5 million to her alma mater. She told the Fort Mill Lions Club in 1988 about her perspective on the past. "History is the story of people and their lives and there are some exciting times— dramatic times—just waiting to be discovered."

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### **What are Some Archives Treasures?**

**Genealogy research** Genealogists utilize the Archives to trace their ancestors' movements in York County and surrounding areas.

**Works of York County and South Carolina women's history trailblazers** For instance, papers of Sara Vandiver Liverance, a Greenville News journalist who was the driving force in getting the S.C. General Assembly to allow jury service for women in 1967, and papers that belonged to Mary Elizabeth Massey, a Winthrop history professor who was one of the first historians to study the role of women during the Civil War.

### **Civil War diaries and letters from both Union and Confederate soldiers.**

**Sports collections and information** Including information on the All-American Girls' Professional Baseball League, whose story was

made into a 1992 movie "A League of Their Own" and the papers of Matt Christopher, one of the nation's most popular authors of children's sport fiction, who penned more than 100 novels and three times as many short stories.

**Photography** One of the Archives' most sought after photo- graph collections is from John Schorb, one of America's first photographers who operated a studio in nearby York. The Archives also houses 46 years' worth of photographs from Winthrop's late staff photographer, Joel Nichols.

**Oral histories** Visitors can hear firsthand the thoughts of those who lived through the civil rights movement, various wars that America has fought, Sept. 11, 2001, reflections, and recollections from time spent in the Middle East in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the experiences of Catawba Region citizens concerning local and regional events and history.

### **What are Popular Research Topics?**

The Archives has received requests about the contributions of African Americans to York County history, particularly during the civil rights movement. Another popular topic is the history of the Rock Hill Printing and Finishing Company, commonly known as the Bleachery.

*My favorite collection is our enrollment registers, which recorded every student who*

*attended classes at Winthrop. I love them because they are visual proof of every student that attended Winthrop, during the regular school year, from 1895-1950.*

**-Brittany Slagle Pigford '99, Archivist 8**

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Interior view Theses Vestibule sign Trunk

*My favorite item is the steamer trunk that belonged to Annie Davis Epting, a 1909 graduate. The trunk is literally a Winthrop time capsule from when she attended from*

*1905-1909 with artifacts, memorabilia, and papers. It is just so rewarding to be able to comb through collections and artifacts like her trunk and just imagine what it was like to be a student attending Winthrop in the early 1900s.*

**-Andrew Johnston '01, '08, Assistant Director of the Archives**

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**WINTHROP EVER STAND**

You likely know the words by heart and the first notes bring you to your feet. At the end of signature university events, such as Convocation and Commencement, Winthrop's alma mater is proudly sung. Whether you punctuate its ending with an enthusiastic fist bump, as students and newer alumni tend to do, or stand reverent as the last notes ring out, the alma mater remains a piece of Winthrop history that ties together more than 60,000 alumni.

**How the Alma Mater Came About** In 1914, Founding President David Bancroft Johnson proposed a competition among the four classes to prepare a college song. Over the years, the alma mater was adapted to suit the changing character of Winthrop, but the tradition of an official song continues.

Donna C. Durst '83

Two former students – **Donna C. Durst '83** and **Lisa Breland Spangler '87** – created the current two-verse piece. It made its official debut, performed by the Winthrop Glee Club, at Convocation in 1986 in celebration of the university's centennial.

Lisa Breland Spangler '87

Durst, who was not a music major but sang in the chorus, wanted to submit a new alma mater during her time at Winthrop. The first song she submitted was rejected because the music was not

original. So she wrote the music and the first verse, which she said took her only an hour, of the current alma mater. She then received feedback that the song needed a second verse. She recruited her roommate's sister, Lisa, to collaborate with her on the second verse, and she then submitted the new version for consideration.

"I shared my story with [former music department chair] Don Rogers and he had the idea to have the song sung in our winter chorus concert in 1983, knowing that Interim President Glenn Thomas would be in attendance. We hoped this would add some momentum to the effort," said Durst. "The copies of the song



were destroyed after the concert since the song wasn't official. I graduated in 1983 and left Winthrop without accomplishing my goal. I thought it wasn't meant to be."

But President Martha Kime Piper arrived and the initiative picked up steam. "In preparation for the centennial, Dr. Piper asked about an alma mater. Ours was sung for her, along with two older selections, including 'The Winthrop College Hymn,' and during a phone conversation that day with Don Rogers I was told our version became the official alma mater," said Durst.

According to Durst, she's humbled to be a part of Winthrop history. "Lisa and I are forever threaded into the fabric of Winthrop," she said.

Spangler said that being a part of the process brought her joy. "Having a small part of creating a

new alma mater for an institution I love and which offered me not only a solid education but also incredible friendships and lasting memories brings me great joy. One of my favorite memories was accompanying my mom to her 50th Winthrop reunion and hearing it sung right after they sang 'Fairest Flower.' It's a memory I will honestly treasure. I still tear up when I hear it sung."

### **The Alma Mater Over the Years**

**"Lo She Stands, Our Alma Mater"** – Submitted by the Class of 1915

**"Oh Hail Dear Alma Mater"** – Written by Lily Strickland and retired in 1922

**"Fairest Flower"** – First appeared in the 1922-23 student handbooks, officially adopted by the student body in 1936 and later retired due to the arrival of co-education in 1974 – Lyrics by Donnis Martin; music by Hascal Vaughan Stewart, Class of 1919

**"The Winthrop College Hymn"** – Adopted in 1976, sung annually during Commencement – Lyrics by Grace Beacham Freeman; music by John Baker

**Current Alma Mater** – Adopted in 1986, melody by Donna C. Durst '83; lyrics by Donna C. Durst and Lisa Breland Spangler '87

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**Owen Reid '09** grew up in the dugout.

And even though he's travelled the world and currently resides in Singapore with his wife and twins, you could say he's never strayed too far from the dugout. The former Eagles pitcher played for teams in Europe, Australia and New Zealand, and coached throughout the Asia Pacific region, before starting his own business, Reid Baseball, in 2016.

**'Fell in love with the game early'** Reid's earliest memories of baseball center around spending time with his baseball-coaching father, serving as bat boy at practices...and falling asleep to baseball broadcasts on the radio. Living in Moberly, Missouri, provided plenty of chances to watch games and then transition into playing.

"I always went along to his team's practices. I watched, listened and probably got in the way at times, too," Reid laughed. "I fell in love with the game very early and never lost my appetite for it. My father was certainly my biggest influence when it came to baseball, and right alongside him were my grandfather and

my uncle [on my dad's side]. They put in literally thousands of hours working with me to hone my craft as a ballplayer."

While playing at a summer league in Wisconsin, a teammate began talking about Winthrop's baseball program. Reid, looking to transfer, decided to tour the university and Rock Hill. He found a beautiful campus and the Winthrop Ballpark Complex and accompanying resources— "a ballplayer's dream!"

The Department of Mass Communication also sealed the deal, particularly interactions with faculty members Guy Reel, Mark Nortz and the late Haney Howell.

"Winthrop had a renowned mass communication program and had visions of introducing some unique courses that really excited me...and made Winthrop and mass communication a great fit for me," he explained. "It became clear to me that I was not just going to be a number at Winthrop; I would be a valued member of a close-knit team.

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That team eventually became like a family."

**'A far greater impact'** Through his business, Reid travels the world coaching players, coaches and parents while sharing his passion for baseball, leadership and character development. Although he'll be the first to assure you how much he loves playing baseball, coaching may bring even more joy.

"I feel that the impact I can make as a coach leading others is far greater than the impact I ever made as a ballplayer," he said. "As a coach, leader, mentor and role model, living and leading through this lens has been more rewarding than I could have ever imagined. Having the opportunity to support individuals on their journeys is something for which I am very grateful."

Reid employs a coaching style he refers to as 'Beyond the Ballplayer,' in which he prioritizes the person before the athlete: getting to know the individual first, and then using baseball to teach valuable life lessons, build character and instill self-confidence. He acknowledges that this role comes with a lot of responsibility.

"It's such a unique and incredible opportunity to be able to be a positive influence on anyone's journey, but especially individuals who are at a formative stage of their personal and athletic development, and are seeking guidance for self and athletic improvement," he explained. "To be in a position where I can positively support this desire for growth and development is extremely rewarding."

**'The most important hats'** The Reid family recently returned from visiting family and traveling through six countries and four U.S. states. As he prepares for his roster of players, Reid embraces living in the present and enjoying every moment.

"I have worn a lot of hats throughout my life, both literally and figuratively, but the hats I wear as a husband and as a father are the most important hats I will ever put on," he said.

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During the strike, they were viewed as agitators, but they are now revered as heroines who were looking for respect and better pay. Once the women were given back their jobs, they had to focus on taking care of their families and couldn't sustain the push for change in South Carolina in what is considered an anti-union state.

**Discovering Her Passion in College** A native of southeastern North Carolina, Dixon- McKnight entered UNC-Chapel Hill planning to be a pediatrician. When she found out her strengths were not in chemistry and biology, she found her calling elsewhere.

## **SHARING STORIES OF THE VOICELESS**

Dixon-McKnight's research focuses on the Charleston Hospital Workers' strike. Photo courtesy of the Waring Historical Library, MUSC, Charleston, S.C.

In the American history, African history and African- American history classes that **Jennifer Dixon-McKnight** took in college, there were voices she did not hear.

Dixon-McKnight, an assistant professor of history and

African American Studies, wants to discover these voices – the ones of Black women, particularly working class Black women – in order to share their stories.

Dixon-McKnight, Winthrop's 2023 Outstanding Junior Professor, is completing a book, tentatively entitled "We Paved the Way: Black Women and the Charleston Hospital Workers' Campaign," about the 1969 strike at two Charleston hospitals. The two-

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month movement, which was one of the most significant civil rights campaigns in South Carolina, caught the attention of the leadership of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Martin Luther King Jr.'s widow, Coretta Scott King.

Dixon-McKnight grew interested in the strike when she worked as a field researcher while in graduate school at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. It became the focus of her Ph.D. dissertation. Much of the research she found about the strike talked about the role of the charismatic church leaders and the Hospital and Nursing Home Workers Union, but the workers' perspective was often absent.

"They were voiceless and faceless," Dixon- McKnight said. "The workers were lost in the movement."

She holds four history degrees: a bachelor's degree in African and Afro-American Studies from UNC; a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in African-American and U.S. history, both from North Carolina Central University; and a Ph.D. in women's and gender history from UNC.

She credits several teachers along the way who helped give her a good foundation. "I fell in love with the African-American experience and the study of it," she said.

At N.C. Central, she found several role models in a history department of mostly Black faculty members who excelled in their work and were the epitome of professionals.

**Impacting Lives for Generations to Come** In her five years at Winthrop, Dixon-McKnight has been active throughout the university. She serves as program director for the African American Studies Minor (AASM). She brought together local civil rights activists to speak during the 2023 Movement(s) in a Dynamic World: Interdisciplinary Perspectives Conference plenary session, "Jail, No Bail." She also spearheaded a successful celebration last spring of the

AASM program's 30th anniversary and one of its founders, the late Dorothy Perry Thompson of the Department of English.

"I love that I can focus on teaching here and can build real relationships with students," Dixon- McKnight said. "I love the sense of community here."

Her efforts have strengthened the AAMS program and its curriculum offerings. She has taken on the role of advisor for the Association of Ebonites, Winthrop's oldest African-American student organization, to revive it and recharter it as the official student organization of the AAMS minor.

Dixon-McKnight's work doesn't end on the academic side. The Division of Student Affairs presented her its Faculty Student Life Award in spring 2023 for her student-centered work outside of the classroom. Her reaction was gracious: "It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of such an amazing community of educators and learners, and to do work that impacts lives for generations to come."

Dixon-McKnight was recognized at the May Commencement ceremony by Interim Provost Peter Judge, left, and President Edward Serna as the 2023 Outstanding Junior Professor.

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### WINTER 2024 A Look Back at 2023

What a year 2023 turned out to be for Winthrop! The university spent most of the year developing a new strategic plan, celebrated several milestone anniversaries and events, and so much more. Below, in no particular order, are 10 highlights from 2023.

Winthrop held a historic **investiture ceremony** to officially welcome Edward A. Serna as the university's 12th president. Serna made Winthrop history by becoming the first alumnus to serve as president. Additional milestone commemorations included the 30th anniversary of the **African American Studies**

program and the 25th anniversary of Winthrop hosting the **U.S. Disc Golf Championship**.

The campus community, with valuable feedback from various constituencies including friends and alumni, spent three-quarters of the year working on and creating a new **strategic plan** that trustees approved in December. Read more about Winthrop: United in Excellence on pages 2-3.

On the facilities side, an open house was held for the newly relocated **Morgan-Holcombe Alumni Center**. The center moved from Tillman Hall to the

Stewart House. Additionally, the **Tillman fountain** had water flowing from it once again (read more on p. 21) and the **Esports** program moved into its new home at the Lowenstein Building.

Other special moments included receiving a **\$500,000 grant** as part of a project to modernize statewide health care diagnostics and treatment with the use of artificial intelligence; reviving the **Presidential Elections Initiative** that welcomed five candidates to campus; celebrating more than **1,250 graduates** during May and December Commencement ceremonies; and earning our

highest ranking ever – **fifth place** – among public universities in the South, according to U.S. News & World Report's edition of "Best Colleges."

2023 was a fantastic year, and 2024 is looking bright!

### CAMPUS NEWS

To read about these achievements, and more, please visit [www.winthrop.edu/news-events](http://www.winthrop.edu/news-events).

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## WINTER 2024

### ADVANCEMENT NEWS

#### Patels' Gift Celebrates Winthrop's Role in Their Lives

When asked why they made a challenge gift for the 2023 Bleed Garnet, Give Gold Day of Giving, Erin '07, '09 and Arpit Patel '07 wanted to emphasize the gift was not about them. The couple, who has enjoyed successful careers in data analytics and accounting, said, "This was all about Winthrop."

Erin spoke about the impact Winthrop has made. "Winthrop changed our lives entirely. Arpit got out of poverty, and I got the support to grow into who I could be instead of who everyone thought I was. Making this gift was about extending our Winthrop experience into the future for others.

"I had a lot of struggles in high school, but my life really blossomed in college. That had everything to do with being in a place where faculty focus on students first. When I wanted an opportunity to stretch and grow, whether that be an opportunity to participate in research with faculty, lead a project or do an internship, Winthrop had space for me to do those things. Because of the size of Winthrop, I was able to figure things out without the pressure of competing against thousands of other students. Plus, my faculty

*When I wanted an opportunity to stretch and grow, whether that be an opportunity to participate in research with faculty, lead a project or do an internship, Winthrop had space for me to do those things. – Erin Patel*

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were, and still are, a strong contributor to my success."

Erin also discussed the impact Winthrop had on her husband, who typically doesn't want focus on himself. "As an immigrant from India, Winthrop also gave Arpit opportunities he had never experienced. His parents were working labor jobs and struggling a bit. A lot of their focus was on surviving through the day, because their jobs were subject to layoffs at any time. Arpit sought a career where he could settle and be secure. What he found at Winthrop was more than security. He found a way to grow and be the best version of himself."

When asked what they would say to motivate others to give, Erin said, "The best part of my life began the first day I set foot on this campus. I grew here. I met my husband here. I chose my career path here, and I now teach here as an adjunct member of the faculty. I think if Winthrop has made your life better, giving back so others can experience that same kind of impact should be something you want to do. Changing lives for the better is at the heart of education."

#### Faculty Members Establish Endowed Fellowship

When a group of five biology faculty members, Cassandra Bell, Janice Chism, Dwight Dimaculangan, Jim Johnston and Bill Rogers, teamed up more than a decade ago to co-author a textbook, there was no hesitation about what to do with royalties. "We knew from the start we wanted any money we received to benefit students," said Chism.

The group directed the publisher to send all royalties to the Winthrop Foundation, where they were held until a decision could be made on how to use it. When the book was no longer being published, they were pleased to learn the amount was nearly enough to create a permanent endowment.

After adding the additional funds needed to reach an endowment level, they established The Bell, Chism, Dimaculangan, Johnston and Rogers Endowed Fellowship.

The fellowship supports Winthrop students who participate in field travel courses in foreign countries or at distant locations in the United States. First preference is given to students enrolled in the M.S. in Biology program or undergraduate biology majors who demonstrate financial need. One unique condition of the fund is that it is designed to support the travel costs for the students rather than their research.

#### Schwab Gift to Establish Professional Development Program for Finance Students

Schwab Advisor Services, in partnership with the Charles Schwab Foundation, will provide a multi-year grant to Winthrop to prepare business majors for a financial planning career.

The four-year gift will create, develop and launch the Charles Schwab Foundation Professional Development Program. The new initiative will provide scholarships, mentorship,

professional development, and additional support for finance students on the financial planning track, a Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) Board Registered Program.

Prospective students for the program will be those with strong academic potential who are traditionally underrepresented in the field. Over the next four years, the goal is to have 40 students complete the program.

The Charles Schwab Foundation has supported Winthrop's financial planning program for several years and this new initiative will further strengthen the partnership.

If the gifts described here inspire you to give or pique your curiosity about giving, please contact the Division of University Advancement at **803/323-2275** or visit [www.winthrop.edu/give](http://www.winthrop.edu/give).

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### WINTER 2024

#### ALUMNI NEWS

##### Two Alumni Running for Trustees Seat

The Alumni Association holds two alumni-elected seats on Winthrop's Board of Trustees. There are two candidates – **Hardy Paschal Jr.** '90 and **Isaiah Venning** '95, '00 – for the 2024-30 Winthrop Alumni Association seat. Mac McDougal '05, '06, removed his name from consideration. Voting will be held Jan. 22-Feb. 23. All alumni may learn more about the candidates and may vote online for their candidate of choice at [www.winthrop.edu/alumni/alumni-vote.aspx](http://www.winthrop.edu/alumni/alumni-vote.aspx). If you prefer a paper ballot, you can request one by calling the Alumni Association at **803/323-2145** or e-mail [alumni@winthrop.edu](mailto:alumni@winthrop.edu). Alumni must provide their seven-digit alumni ID

##### Fountain Flows Again!

The Fountain Restoration Project wrapped up this fall, and Winthrop once again has a flowing fountain on the front of campus!

An informal ceremony was held on Nov. 8, during Homecoming and Reunion week, to officially get the water flowing.

Hardy Paschal Jr. '90 Isaiah Venning '95, '00

number to vote, located above your address on the back of this magazine. Alumni also should have received their alumni ID via a postcard.

Classes celebrating their 50-year Winthrop reunions led the fundraising charge to help make this project possible. The Classes of 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974 all fundraised for the project. Alumni outside of these classes and community members also supported the fundraising initiative. Thank you to all of the donors who have generously supported the Fountain Restoration Project.

All donors to the project will be invited to campus this spring for a special event.

Congratulations to the 2023 Alumni Award Winners!

Mentoring Program Launched This Fall

The I'm Ready alumni mentor program launched in fall 2023. I'm Ready is the experiential part of Winthrop's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Flight Ready, which is directly tied to the university's academic accrediting.

I'm Ready consists of four micro-mentoring sessions. Each session has an intentional theme centered on career and self-development.

Micro-session topics and schedule for the academic year are: Discover your Direction: Introductions & Professional Skills Self-Assessment; Explore the World of Work: Career Exploration & Pathways; Communicate your Brand: Networking & Professional Branding; and Create your Opportunities: Interview Skills & Personal Growth.

If you are interested in serving as an alumni mentor, contact Leah Simmonds '23, director of alumni career programs and Flight Ready QEP, at [simmondsl@winthrop.edu](mailto:simmondsl@winthrop.edu). Read more about I'm Ready at <https://www.winthrop.edu/alumni/alumni-mentoring-program.aspx>.

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Each year, the Alumni Association presents awards to those who have demonstrated Winthrop's tradition of excellence. These 2023 Alumni Award recipients were recognized at a Nov. 9 dinner: Virginia Hart '45, seated, Mary Mildred Sullivan; from left: President Edward Serna '02; Len Lawson '02, Alumni Professional Achievement; Brandon Sanders '10, Outstanding Young Alumni; David Vehaun '86, Algernon Sydney Sullivan; and Tim Hopkins '83, Alumni Distinguished Service.

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WINTER 2024

CLASS NOTES

1971 "Elsewhere," an exhibit by Roebuck resident **Beth Pullman Regula**, was shown at Tryon Painters and Sculptors.

1980 **Jimmie Williamson** '80, '85, '21 of Cheraw was appointed Pee Dee Unit representative to the National Association of Social Workers-South Carolina Chapter Board of Directors.

1981 **Terry Norton** of Rock Hill published "Trickster Tales of Southeastern Native Americans: Stories from the Creek, Natchez, Seminole, Catawba, Cherokee, and Other Nations."

1983 **Stephen Laws** '83, '91 of Gastonia, North Carolina, is interim superintendent of Gaston County Schools.

1984 **Lisa Blackstone Allred** of Mauldin hosted seven professional teacher trainings and cotaught a course at Notre Dame of Marbel University in Koronadal, South Cotabato, Philippines.

1985 **Terry Grayson-Caprio** of Greer was appointed to the Caldwell Partners International Inc. Board of Directors.

1989 **Everett Sesker** of Tracys Landing, Maryland, was named the 121st sheriff for Anne Arundel County. Sesker also became the county's first African-American sheriff.

1991 Friends of South Carolina Libraries awarded **Gary Simrill** of Rock Hill with the 2022-23 Outstanding Public Official Award.

1992 Ceramic pieces by **Celena Hudgens Burnett** of Charlotte, North Carolina, were showcased at Wendy Wrenn Werstlein's studio on the 16 Hands Studio Tour.

**Ed Driggers** of Greer is the interim city manager for Newberry.

1995 **Eric Rollings** of Rock Hill is the athletic director for Rock Hill High School.

1996 **Uirica Campbell Bodison** of Walterboro is the principal at Colleton County High School.

1998 **John Poss Jr.** of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, is the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the University of Maryland's baseball program.

2001 **Dave Singletery** of Houston, Texas, is the assistant band director at James E. Taylor High School in Katy, Texas.

2005 **Maurice Johnson** of Charlotte, North Carolina, is the principal at Clover Middle School.

2006 **Clayton Almeida** '06, '09 of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, will be inducted into the 2024 class of the Big South Conference Hall of Fame.

**Calub Courtwright** of York is the principal of Clover High School's ninth-grade campus.

2008

**Michael Abraham** of Rock Hill is the principal at Northwestern High School.

**Mike Gentry** of Rock Hill is the director of the Winthrop University Galleries.

2010 **Jimmy Duncan** '10, '12 of York is the Rock Hill School District athletic director.

2014

**Chelsea Brown** of Baltimore, Maryland, who serves as cofounder and director of strategic partnerships for the Black Greek Festival, brought the festival to Charlotte, North Carolina, in July.

**Tony Moten Jr.** of Pflugerville, Texas, was appointed executive director of All Points North Foundation.



**Angela Farlow Rumball** of Greensboro was recently an artist-in-residence with Creative Greensboro's Greensboro Residency for Original Works (GROW) program.

2016 **Hannah Strong Oskin** of Pawley's Island is the executive editor of Waccamaw Publishers' My Horry News.

2017 **Kaala Maple** of Summerville was appointed to the board of South Carolina's Commission for Minority Affairs.

2020 **Ashley Lumpkin Estes** of Rock Hill was selected as Hunt Meadows Elementary School Teacher of the Year for 2022-23.

2022 **Bryn Eddy** of Fort Mill is a reporter and newsletter editor for The Sumter Item.

**Ali Pizza** of Cornelius, North Carolina, is the director of the Gaston County Museum of Art and History.

Alumni and students enjoyed catching up at tailgating during Homecoming and Reunion in November. Scan the QR code to see more photos from Homecoming and Reunion week.

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WINTER **2024**

MILESTONES

MARRIAGES

**Tonisha Pearson Vanderhorst '06** and **Derrick Vanderhorst '06**, a boy, Khi Jair Vanderhorst

**Amanda Graves Carroll '09**, a girl, Josephine Carroll

**Rachel Phillips Simpson '13**, a girl, Emma Simpson

IN MEMORIAM

1940s **Caroline Marion Dawson '42 Mary Hambright Wise '42 Mary Wood Meynardie '44 Alice Bradshaw Cole '45 Mary Elizabeth Anderson Martin '45**

**Mildred Kneece Suter '45 Martha Denny Wilkins '45 Carolyn Ables Leonard '47 Iris Fouché Sturgis '47 Dorethea Martin Long '49 Dorothy Bailes Price '49**

1950s

**Phyllis Collinge Bowden '50 Elizabeth Carter Coon '50 Sarah (Ruby) Kay Elrod '50 Polly Robertson Brown '51 Sara (Angell) Wofford Pettit '51 Margaret Wolfe Edens '53 Nancy Kirby Arulf '54 Margaret Sledge Neely '54 Frances (Carolyn) Crooks Bishop '56**

**24**

**Mahala (Anne) Whitlock Holmes '56**

**Shirley Bates Seawright '56 Grace Foster Dennis '57 Martha Robinson Leonard '57 Hilda Mixon Reese '57**

1960s

**Elizabeth (Betty) King Garvin '60**

**Anne Dukes Puckett '60 Patricia (Patty) Roehl DuPre '62 Frances Darnell Robertson '62 Maeberta (Bert) Bobb '63 Chao Min Ting '63 Linda Ashley Boling '64 Martha Dunaway Clark '64 Nettie (Victoria) Seigler Knox '65**

**Sandra (Sandi) Sutphin Gain '68**

**Eloise Oates Todd '69** 1970s

**Martha Cauthen Gribble '70**

**Phyllis Carol Moore '70 Myre Dale Fowler '71 Alice Stewart Grimsley '71 Ann Burris Hawley '71 Frances Virginia Siau '71 Mildred (Emalin) Burckhalter Campbell '72**

**Evelyn Humphries Hughes '72 Phoebe Brown de Aragon '73 Ruth Keil Webb '73 Susan Ashworth '74 Donna Hurley Curley '74 Shelby Reid Puckett '74 Lynn Lyles Wallace '74 Diane Neil Carpenter '78 Deborah Grant Barwick '79**

1980s

**Harry Cosgrove III '80 Robert Hamiter Hopkins '80 Mary Cone Tolar '80 James Phil Land '81 Howard Oliver Worrell Jr. '81 Billy Austin Shepherd '82 Hilda Maness Shope '82**

2010s **Richard (Dick) Crist Davis '10**

2020s **Tyesha Wilson '20**

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Visit <https://www.freewill.com/> winthropuniversity

**Todd Taylor '83 Twanda Johnson Garvin '84 Scott Sadler '84 Dale Palmer Huffman '86 Evonne Costner Walters '86 Susan Russell Hollister '89**

1990s

**William (Bill) Francis Lamb III '97 Betty Alsept Bohmer '98 Eleanor Weiler Lightsey Okey '98 Terry Linda Quarles '98 Harold Troy Phillips '99**

2000s

**Melissa Helen Smith '01 Jackie Brockington Jr. '03, '08**

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**Brittany Phillips Neely '14**, a boy, Noah Franklin Neely

**Krystal Thomas Gonzales '15**, a boy, Torryn Amri Springs

**Melinda Brouwer Watkins '15**, a girl, Avery Watkins

**Hannah McMillan Dutton '16**, a boy, Jacob Shea Dutton

**LaRaven Abriana Temoney '18** to **Robens Michel Louis**

**Brianna Nicole Temple '18** to **Anthony Tyrone Davis Jr. '14**

**Winthrop University has partnered with FreeWill to offer our supporters a free online will-writing tool.**

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

Electronic Service Requested

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

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