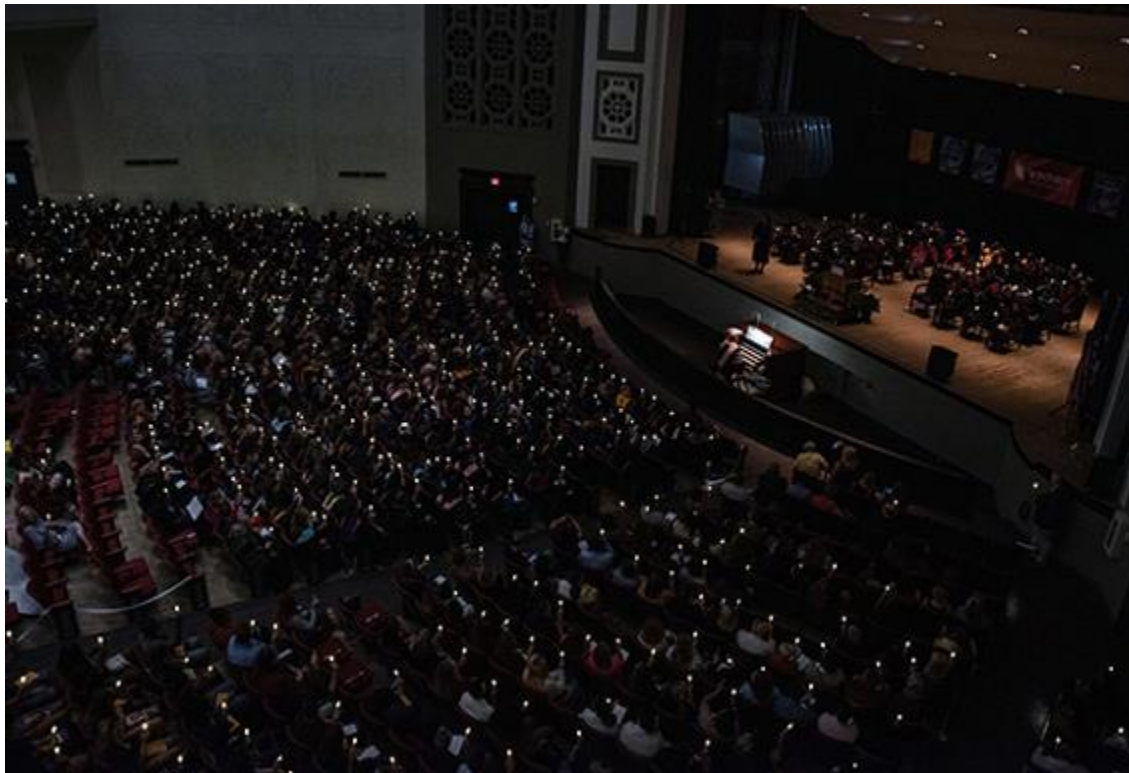




August 2025

TRADITIONS

[Convocation Officially Ushers in 140th Academic Year](#)



More than 1,000 freshmen and 350 new transfer students were officially welcomed into the Winthrop family during the Aug. 25 Convocation ceremony that was held in Byrnes Auditorium for the first time since 2018. The annual ceremony serves as the kick off to the academic year. Attendees received words of welcome from university and student leaders, and participated in a new ceremony component called "Lighting the Winthrop Way." Each person lit a battery operated candle to symbolize the light of learning, shared values, and the connection between past, present and future members of the Winthrop community. After the

ceremony, President Edward Serna '02 and First Lady Lauren Serna led the Blue Line procession past Joynes Hall and the main entrance sign to the Kinard lawn where a picnic lunch was enjoyed. [View photos](#) from the special day!

SPACE DEDICATION

[Ribbon-Cutting Held for New Interior Design Center](#)



The ribbon was officially cut on the J. Robert Bazemore Design Center during an Aug. 20 dedication ceremony coordinated by Winthrop and the York County Regional Chamber of Commerce. The new interior design center is located downtown in [The Thread](#). Named for Bob Bazemore '85, a national leader in commercial interior design, the center features five modern classrooms and is intentionally situated above the renowned Baxter Mill Archive, which houses one of the world's largest and most robust textile collections. [View photos](#) from the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

PHILANTHROPY

[Nearly \\$8 Million Raised to Close Out Fiscal Year 2024-25](#)



Winthrop reported a near record-level year of giving during the 2024-25 fiscal year. Vice President for University Advancement Kevin Hughes said that 2,829 donors gave \$7,957,027 to the institution. That reflects a 73 percent increase in total giving over the 2023-24 fiscal year. The Winthrop Fund saw a 76 percent increase in dollars raised compared to last fiscal year, and the [President's Circle](#) membership grew to 446, the highest number in Winthrop's history. Thank you to all of the donors and supporters who contributed to such a fantastic year of giving.

FACULTY AWARDS

[Long-time Organist David Lowry Receives Order of the Palmetto](#)



S.C. Governor Henry McMaster granted and gifted an influential Winthrop organ professor the state's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto. Supporters

rallied this summer to petition the governor to bestow this coveted recognition to David Lowry, emeritus professor of music. It was presented to Lowry on Aug. 3 with a small group of former students and friends in attendance. Leading the effort were former students Lenora Morrow Jeffcoat '01, who was the last organ performance major taught by Lowry at Winthrop, and Jimmy Herlong, who is the son of the late Ann Herlong of Rock Hill and was a gifted pianist. Those who want to help preserve Lowry's Winthrop legacy can donate to the Dr. David Lowry Endowment Fund for Organ Education, which was set up by Murray and Hazel '69 Somerville. [Donate here](#).

HOMECOMING T-SHIRT

[Order Your 2025 Homecoming T-shirt by Sept. 30](#)



Homecoming T-shirts are [available for purchase](#) for \$20, which includes shipping, through Sept. 30. T-shirts will be mailed 3-4 weeks following the Sept. 30 deadline to the address noted on the order form and shipping confirmations will be e-mailed from the T-shirt vendor. The Homecoming graphic (pictured above) will be printed on the front of a garnet T-shirt.

HOMECOMING TAILGATE

[Purchase Your Homecoming Tailgate Spot Beginning Sept. 4](#)



Homecoming tailgate reservations will be available for purchase starting Sept. 4 [here](#). If you would like to tailgate using tents ahead of the Nov. 15 men's basketball game at 2 p.m. you will need to purchase a 30'x40' tailgate spot for a \$100 nonrefundable fee. This fee includes one parking pass (a \$20 value). Tailgating will be available from 10:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 15. Purchase for the tailgating spots will be on a first come, first served basis. Those who have purchased a tailgate spot will have the opportunity to set up their tailgate on Friday, Nov. 14, from 4-8 p.m. View the map of tailgating areas and [purchase your spot](#) starting Sept. 4. For more information on Homecoming, including answers to FAQs, please visit the [Homecoming website](#).

A Message from the Alumni Director



Fall is a busy time for the Alumni Association, and we love it! We're gearing up to kick off the third year of the [I'm Ready Alumni to Student Mentor Program](#) and put the final touches on a fun [Homecoming and Reunion week](#). There's so much happening, and it feels great to be connecting with so many of our alumni and friends. I hope to see you on campus for Homecoming if not sooner! Check out our [upcoming events calendar](#), and please make plans to get involved!

The mission of the Alumni Association is to honor the traditions and values of Winthrop University through the engagement of alumni worldwide.

[Click here to update your contact information or change your e-mail preferences](#)

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