WINTHROP Insider

YOUR MONTHLY UNIVERSITY UPDATE

October 2026 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Five Alumni to Receive Awards for Service and Accomplishments



Five outstanding alumni will be honored for their service and professional achievements at the Nov. 12 Alumni Awards Celebration. Recipients are: Vivian Moore Carroll '73, Mary Mildred Sullivan Award; Tim Sease ’83, Algernon Sydney

Sullivan Award; Mike Smiley ’92, Alumni Distinguished Service Award; Marsha Ford ’71, Alumni Professional Achievement Award; and Jordan Lewis ’17, Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

HOMECOMING AND REUNION

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend Is Nov. 13-14



The Alumni Association is excited to offer a variety of events in which alumni may participate during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, Nov. 13-14. Check out the schedule of events. Make plans to cheer on the Eagles over the weekend. On Saturday, Nov. 14, the women’s basketball team will host Clinton College at noon followed by the men's basketball team taking on Jackson State at 2:30 p.m. Game tickets can be purchased beginning Nov. 1, and tailgating spots are available for purchase through Nov. 1.

ENROLLMENT

Total Enrollment Hits Milestone of 5,500 Students



Student enrollment has continued to climb over the past five years and has now crossed a significant milestone as final fall enrollment numbers report that 5,500 undergraduate and graduate students attend the institution. This is the first time since 2020 that Winthrop has reached this total enrollment figure. The fall enrollment total is an increase of 212 students (+4 percent) from fall 2025. Since fall 2023, total enrollment has increased by 806 students (+17.2 percent) and since fall 2021, total enrollment has increased by 326 students (+6.3 percent).

ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITMENT

New Scholarship Guarantees Admission for Top S.C. Students



Do you know a South Carolina high school student in the top 15 percent of his or her class? If so, please encourage the student to apply to Winthrop for guaranteed admission and a merit scholarship of at least $5,000 as part of the Winthrop Scholars Guarantee. There is no income or adjusted gross income restriction, so every South Carolina high school student in the top 15 percent of their graduating class will receive guaranteed admission to Winthrop and scholarship money. The Winthrop Scholars Guarantee joins several other scholarship opportunities available at the institution.

FACILITIES NEWS

Winthrop Lake Dam to Undergo Modernization



Later this fall, the Winthrop Lake water level will be reduced to allow for an extensive dam renovation and modernization on the decades-old infrastructure at the Winthrop Athletics, Recreational and Research Complex. Work will begin in late October and is expected to be completed by April 2027. The renovation project will reduce the roadway width along the top of the dam, during the construction activity, to about one lane. Biology faculty members worked earlier this fall with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources to relocate bluegill and bass from the Winthrop Lake to nearby ponds.

ATHLETICS

Men's Basketball Takes National Stage in Opening Day Field of 68



Set your alarms and grab your coffee because the men's basketball team is kicking off the season with a one-of-a-kind opener on Nov. 2. The team is participating in the Field of 68 Opening Day Marathon and will play Queens University at 9 a.m. (yes, you read that right!) at the Rock Hill Sports and Event Center (it's a neutral site game).
Five additional games will be played that day at the venue, including High Point vs. Liberty at midnight, Grambling vs. Northern Illinois at 3 a.m., App State vs. Merrimack at 6 a.m., and more! Show up in your garnet and gold to cheer on the Eagles on the national stage! Buy tickets now.

TREASURES AND TRADITIONS

Save the Date for the 91st Annual Tree Lighting



The Alumni Association and Student Alumni Council will host the 91st Annual Tree Lighting on Friday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. on the front lawn of Tillman Hall. The annual event will feature performances by the Winthrop RockHettes and the Winthrop Chorale and Collegiate Choir. The event ends with a countdown to the main attraction: the lighting of the flagpole at the fountain plaza. The Student Alumni Council will sell luminaries for $5 before the tree lighting to add to the holiday glow around Tillman. Proceeds from the luminaries will support the Winthrop Fund. If you can't attend the tree lighting in person, tune in to the Alumni Association's Facebook Live stream of the event!

A Message from the Alumni Director



The countdown to Homecoming and Reunion is on! We're about two weeks away from welcoming our alumni back home to Winthrop. There will be something for everyone! Check out the 2026 schedule of events here. Registration is still open for many events, so it is not too late to make plans. We've been hard at work to ensure a fun, educational and memorable Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, and we can't wait to see you on campus. As always, please check out our upcoming events calendar for other opportunities to connect and get involved.

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

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