

- Enjoy your students visit during Thanksgiving Break
- You can have a role in your student's academic success!
- Health and Counseling Services is a great service for your student

Parents' Post

VOLUME 2011, ISSUE III

NOVEMBER 2011

“Wobble at the WU” during Homecoming 2011

A Homecoming banner competition kicks off the 2011 Homecoming week. Student organizations will hang their handmade banners in the Coliseum to be voted on and be seen by everyone that attends the basketball game on Saturday.

Homecoming is a tradition at colleges and universities that is rich in tradition and school spirit. Winthrop's theme this year is “Wobble the WU” (The Wobble is a very popular song and dance). Homecoming weeks always culminate with the men's basketball game, which will be held Saturday, November 12 at 4 pm. Our Eagles will take on the Colonels of Eastern Kentucky University. Winthrop is coming

off of a big win and hopes to make their record 2-0.

The week leading up to the game is filled with activities for faculty, staff, students and alumni. Students may attend Casino Night on Tuesday in the West Center, the talent show on Wednesday night in Tillman Auditorium, or the Lip Sync competition on Thursday. Dining Services will host an excellent Homecoming dinner in Thomson Café on Thursday, complete with games and prizes! Friday is jam packed with events, including the Annual Car Smash and Spirit Gear creation, Volleyball vs. Presbyterian, and the “always a blast” Homecoming party in the Richardson Ballroom. Students will mingle with faculty, staff and alumni

while eating, listening to live music, and having their caricature drawn.

On game day Saturday, tailgating tents will be set up before the game. If you are an alumni or just want to come, bring some hot dogs, a jacket, and your chair! Lloyd Dobler Effect will play live music at 2 pm.



A group of students tailgating at Homecoming 2010

Find more details at www.winthrop.edu/homecoming.

Registration for Spring, 2011 is happening now! All students must meet with their advisor in order to register!

Surviving Thanksgiving with your Student

When it comes to parenting college students, that first trip home can be an emotional one, particularly when expectations collide. You imagined hours of long, lovely talks with your college student, just the two of you. He imagined sleeping away the stress of midterms, hanging with his high school friends till 2 a.m. and oh yeah, there's this giant sack of laundry...

Here are half a dozen tips to make that Thanksgiving break reunion a happy one.

1. Make travel arrangements well ahead of time. Book plane tickets early and encourage your child to line up his ride to the airport and allow plenty of time to get through security. If you're planning to pick up your child on campus instead, allow a little extra time and patience. He may

still be packing when you arrive. The sheer volume of luggage and dirty laundry may be startling. And there are so many good-byes to be said before you can finally hit the road. Pack water and snacks for the road, but also throw in a blanket and pillow. Junior may end up sleeping the entire ride home.

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SMART★STUFF

**Thanksgiving
Break**

November 23-

27. Residence

Halls will close!

**The College
of Visual
and Per-
forming
Arts offers
many
events for
students
and the
community!**

Grades You Can Be Thankful For: Use Thanksgiving Break to Discuss Academic Progress

Conversation Starters from Winthrop's Academic Success Center (ASC)

With the semester over halfway complete and midterm grades posted on Wingspan, now is the perfect time for students to make like a chicken (or should we say turkey) and cross the road to the Academic Success Center. The Academic Success Center (ASC) offers a variety of resources for both groups and individuals, including web-based instruction and resources, action plan development, one-on-one consultation, academic skill development, and subject-specific tutoring. The ASC is located on the first floor of the newly remodeled Dinkins hall, freshly equipped with quiet study

spaces and a computer lab dedicated for online testing. Although tutoring appointments can be made after hours, the ASC office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00 pm.

With your child home for Thanksgiving Break, now is the perfect time to discuss his or her academic progress. Here are some questions to help get the conversation started:

- In what classes are you doing well? What classes are you enjoying the most?
- In what classes are you struggling? Why? Have you sought help?
- Have you checked for midterm grades on Wingspan? Are any posted?
- Are your grades where

you want them to be? Are you on track to retaining your scholarship(s)?

- Do you have any work you should do/catch up on over break?
- When do your finals start? Do you feel prepared?

All of these questions serve as excellent ways to begin a conversation about your child's individual standing. Remember, once your child returns from Thanksgiving, there is only one remaining week of class before finals begin. Help your child finish strong so they return home with high holiday spirits and a successful semester behind them.

College of Visual and Performing Arts

The College of Visual and Performing Arts is a great source of culture, dance, art, and music for all Winthrop students, including:

- More than 100 music performances annually, most of which are free of charge and open to the public
- Regularly produced theatre and dance performances featuring student work, main stage productions, and smaller studio and experimental performances
- Art galleries that regularly present professionally curated exhibitions, student-centered exhibitions, and educational programs that celebrate artistic achievement and creative

excellence.

Our faculty is composed of



working professional artists and scholars who share a passion for teaching and who strongly believe that the arts serve as an expression of our culture's values and heritage. The College of Visual and Per-

forming Arts' long-standing tradition as a center for quality creative expression and Winthrop University's commitment to arts education and outreach combine to create a rich artistic environment that inspires students to achieve their academic and artistic goals

There are many upcoming events, including: the Winthrop Chamber Orchestra on November 10, the Senior Art Exhibition, the Fall One Act Play Festival next weekend, and the Symphonic Band on November 22.

To see all VPA events, check out: <http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/WUcommon/pdf/calendars/CVPA->



**Thanksgiving
Break
November 23-
27. Residence
Halls will
close!**

**You and
your stu-
dent CAN
enjoy
spending
time to-
gether over
the holiday!**

2. Check in with your child before the holidays and find out what plans he may have already made. Let him know about any family commitments on the calendar but understand that he needs time to see his old friends too – they've been separated for months. And talk about any appointments he wants or needs to set up, including trips to the dentist, the eye doctor or hairdresser.

3. Expect major changes. Your child will have grown a great deal since he left you. It's a good idea to check if your child has gone vegan before you carve the roasted turkey or bake his favorite cheese-cake. Similarly, if junior has acquired a full sleeve tattoo or is suddenly sporting a fuchsia Mohawk, your holiday will be more peaceful if grandma gets a heads up beforehand. The same goes for you. If you've made any major changes to the house, his old room or your life, let him know before he arrives.

4. House rules and curfews? Your child has had complete freedom at college. He could go where he wanted, when he wanted, and no one waited up. Enforcing a curfew at home

may not only be impossible, it also sends an unsettling message: that you have so little faith in his ability to take care of himself - even after he has proven himself capable for months without you - that you're going to set his bedtime. It's a message that not only makes for family strife, but fairly guarantees your child won't be coming home too often after this. So think about your goal in suggesting a curfew at all. Are you worried about an exhausted teen driving in the middle of the night? Ask that the car be home by a specific time. Just want to know that he's safe? Discuss what time he plans to be home and ask that he call or text you if there's a change in plan.

5. Expect your child to do a lot of sleeping. He may be coming straight off midterms and an all-nighter or two. Between the intense studying, dorm social life and his own [brain biology](#), his sleeping schedule will have changed dramatically. He's not lazy when he sleeps till noon the first few days of break – he's exhausted.

6. Your child probably brought all his laundry home – and he will love it if you offer to help, especially if he has run out of

detergent! This is a good time to help him re-stock other essentials too, including deodorant, toiletries, vitamins and cleaning supplies. He may have scoffed at the very notion of Windex and Fantastik back in August. Now, a trip to Long's with mom will sound fabulous.

One last note: While some teens can't wait to get back to college after the short Thanksgiving break, others still haven't quite acclimated to campus life. They may have battled homesickness or wept over faraway high school sweethearts. After four days nestled with family and old friends, eating their favorite foods and having someone else do their laundry, they may not want to go back to college. If they drop out now, the entire semester was a waste of time, tuition and credits. Offer love and reassurance, and emphasize how few weeks remain until winter break. Often, the time between Thanksgiving and winter break is a turning point in terms of settling in to the college routine.

<http://youngadults.about.com/od/parentinggrownups/a/Thanksgiving.htm>

SKIP THE WAIT AT HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES

Did you know Winthrop University Health Services offers **call-ahead walk-in appointments** for all your healthcare needs?

Just call **803-323-2206** and a Registered Nurse will return your call to find out what type of appointment you need and schedule an appointment for you.

If you need immunizations, a well exam, lab work, or a sick visit, just call and avoid the wait!

Homecoming 2011 T-Shirt Design Winner
Designed by: Tori McLean



Winthrop
Homecoming 2011
Wobble the WU

Homecoming Shirts
will be available for
purchase from the
WU Bookstore
in DIGS

WOBBLE THE WU



Be sure to get
yours!

**HOMECOMING
2011**