

WINTHROP MAGAZINE

Spring
— 2026 —



Bring
the You

Bring
the You

message from the **PRESIDENT**



Dear Friends:

I am excited to share with you the incredible outcomes from our year-long branding and marketing initiative. Included as a major priority in our strategic plan, *Winthrop: United in Excellence*, this rebranding project will strengthen our brand and create a comprehensive strategy that will unify marketing efforts university-wide, boost our reputation, set us apart from our competitors and more effectively tell the Winthrop story.

We held a brand launch event on March 25 where we debuted our new tagline, "Bring the You," and displayed examples of new marketing pieces. Our partner agency was on hand to explain the creative process that ultimately captured what makes us, us. Please read more about this new look on pages 2-3.

I also encourage you to read other content in this edition as well, including:

- A look at some of Winthrop's most unique course offerings. Did you know we offer a class on "The Lord of the Rings" book trilogy?;
- Alumni who are taking the social media world by storm;
- The single largest cash gift - \$2.5 million - received in Winthrop history given in honor of retired educator Virginia Bellune Collier '30;
- Compelling profiles on students Tim Speaks and Itala Flores; and
- The latest campus happenings, alumni news and university advancement updates.

Please enjoy this magazine edition. I hope you are as thrilled with all that is happening here as I am. As always, your support is deeply appreciated. If you're near campus this spring, I encourage you to stop by and see how beautiful Winthrop is this time of year and check out the new branding popping up.

Winthrop Ever Stand,

Edward A. Serna '02
President



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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: President Edward Serna '02 posed with the new Eagle wings on March 25. Read more about the branding on pages 2-3.



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Bring the You

New Branding Celebrates Individuality

An exciting new era in Winthrop's identity began on March 25 at a launch event to unveil the university's new branding.

Senior leaders prioritized the need for the overhaul as an initiative in the university's strategic plan, *Winthrop: United in Excellence*.

In 2025, work began with agency partner 160over90, recognized for its bold, highly creative work in higher education marketing.

The goal? To create a bold, creative and unifying brand platform and strategy that would heighten awareness of Winthrop with key audiences, elevate Winthrop's reputation in the higher education landscape, and set the university apart from its competitors.

Through an in-depth, multi-phase process, including focus groups with key stakeholders, "Bring the You" came to life.



"The new branding speaks to every prospective student wondering if Winthrop is for them. We are telling them to bring exactly who they are to

Winthrop. We are not asking anyone to fit a mold. We are asking students to show up fully, with all of their questions and all their potential. 'Bring the You' welcomes students to Winthrop in a way that makes them feel seen, heard and supported," said Amanda James, vice president for enrollment management and marketing.

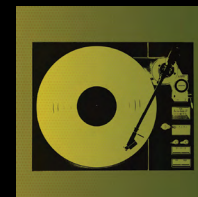
In addition to new brand messaging, the project includes new visual identities that include new fonts, colors and styles to give the brand messaging a bold, inspiring feel.

During the launch event, attendees heard from 160over90 about the creative process and saw examples implemented in banners, swag and more.

Enjoy this look at photos from the event and examples of the new brand in action!



Clockwise: Launch attendees picked up swag; Admissions staff David Rollings '03, Meredith Hastings '18 and Kyle Conrad '20, '25 posed with the new Big Stuff; student Sabr Lateefuddin, who was prominently displayed in the branding, took a photo along Scholars Walk; wall art was placed in the Jean Richards Roddey lobby of newly renovated Joynes Hall; graduate student Sean Pennington '25 stood beside his banner; and students wrote what they bring to Winthrop on posters.



UNIQUE, QUIRKY & FOCUSED: CLASSES THAT GO BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL



Winthrop faculty look for ways to bring their subjects to life in ways that students may not have conceived. They juxtapose subjects from different disciplines or take a deep dive into an interesting topic as they seek to teach beyond lectures.

These teaching styles sometimes develop into specific courses that hit on pop culture, embrace the latest gadgets that immerse students in the course content, and even take the learning outside of the classroom.

Take a look at a few of these unique classes that can spark students' interest or give new perspective or insight:



ENG 200: Mystery and Detective Fiction

English Professor Casey Cothran's course focuses on the mystery/detective fiction genre, exploring how past

and present authors have struggled to write stories that address the chaotic and frightening conditions of death and loss.

The class is asked to ponder questions such as: Does solving a murder mystery make a death seem more acceptable and understandable? How has the detective novel changed over the past 160 years? Do we still believe in the existence of a Sherlock Holmes – a brilliant detective who can solve any problem and discover any wickedness? How have advances in modern science affected the content and structure of the detective novel? How does a novel about crime address the strengths and weaknesses of society? Can all crimes be solved?



Cothran introduces novels, novellas or films that arise from different cultures and from different historical periods. In the course evaluations, her students said they enjoyed writing a research paper for the class where they picked a mystery story, novel, comic book, film or video game of their choice and wrote about how it fit into the mystery and detective genre.



BIO 307: Human Anatomy

Assistant Biology Professor Jena Chojnowski leads students through a tour of the human body by giving an overview of its organ systems and how they integrate with each other.

Students study the body's complicated connections among the muscular, skeletal, circulatory, respiratory, integumentary, nervous, endocrine, urinary, digestive and reproductive systems.

The star of the course is a piece of equipment purchased in the past decade, called the Anatomage Table (pictured top left), which helps complement lectures and shows students how the different systems are overlaid. It has a life-size interactive touchscreen that allows students to virtually dissect, manipulate, and explore highly accurate real human and animal cadavers.

In lab, the students have full access to the table for completing directed assignments and for studying on their own. Students find the table helps them visualize what's inside the body. And it gives them a view of what doctors may see when conducting procedures.

Faculty members also use the table in BIOL 213 and 214, which are anatomy and physiology classes for non-biology majors, such as exercise science and nutrition.



Special Topics PLSC 390: Ethics and the Good Society in The Lord of the Rings

Author J.R.R. Tolkien created an epic fantasy world called Middle-Earth and captured its inhabitants'

adventures in a trilogy known as "The Lord of the Rings." Released in the mid-1950s, the books were influenced by Catholicism.

Political Science Professor Scott Huffmon analyzes the books through the lens of St. Thomas Aquinas' "Cardinal Vices and Virtues," where the Italian Dominican friar adapted the traditional list of vices and their opposite virtues to show how to build moral and intellectual habits. The class examines philosophical arguments about how a good society is created and governed, considering the ideas of the Greek philosopher Plato, especially from "Republic," with those of St. Augustine, especially "City of God."

One student wrote that the course didn't feel like a class. "It felt like a group of people discussing something we were all passionately reading about." Another said: "It led us to discussions I never thought we would talk about. We went into stuff that was insightful, such as Tolkien's view of environmentalism and race."





Students get an immersive virtual reality experience in ARTH 341. They can digitally explore ancient Greek and Roman art and architecture.



ARTH 341: Art History

Associate Professor of Fine Arts Kyle Sweeney teaches an art history course that invites students to explore ancient Greek and Roman art and architecture from the Bronze

Age through the Late Roman Empire. They focus on sculpture, painting, and public and private architecture.

Along with lectures, Sweeney incorporates immersive virtual reality experiences that allow students to explore digitally reconstructed ancient sites at full scale, including iconic spaces such as the Athenian Acropolis and Roman Forum. By virtually moving through these spaces using virtual reality headsets, students gain a clearer understanding of architectural scale, spatial

relationships and decorative elements in ways that go beyond static images.

Sweeney said the integration of the virtual reality technology enhances visual learning and critical analysis, making the ancient world more immediate and accessible while offering students a compelling new way to engage with the material.

Students who are visual learners said the technology allowed them to immerse themselves in the locations, adding a layer of depth to their understanding and learning. One student felt as though the class had been transported back in time. “This was a major improvement compared to just trying to understand the size and scope based off sketches and photographs of the buildings,” one student wrote in the course evaluation.



PESH 172: Outdoor Education

Senior Instructor Geoff Morrow '07, '09, teaches a class that develops the foundational skills for trip planning, preparation and environmental ethics for

backcountry travel, including whitewater rafting, camping and backpacking.

Students learn basic trip planning, gear selection, risk management and Leave No Trace principles through hands-on instruction. The course culminates in a three-day expedition featuring whitewater rafting, backpacking and primitive camping.

His students like the attention to detail and getting out of their comfort zone to spend time in the outdoors with other students. Many found it fun and thought provoking.

“The reflections and discussions following the trip helped to gather different perspectives about the trip and allowed us, as students, to find more in common,” wrote one student. It also helped them reconnect with the outdoors and moved them away from the fast-paced, high stress typical college life.



PESH 172 students take learning outdoors. The class culminates in a three-day camping trip that includes whitewater rafting.



BADM 571: M.B.A., Advanced Analytics and Visualization

Adjunct Professor Erin Patel '07, '09, decided after touring an exhibit by graphic designer and art director Alexey Brodovitch in the Philadelphia Barnes Museum that she needed to do more to teach her students about the principles of design.



Often in analytics and data visualization, she felt that users may want to combine and synthesize data from multiple sources and build a story or dashboard around one idea.

So, she helped create a joint experience for the graphic design club and M.B.A. students.

She asked the design students to critique one of her visualizations, looking at color choices, fonts, how the visualizations were interpreted, and how to make the visualization better. She shared how the feedback from the art students improved her work and discussed how to give and receive constructive feedback.

Partnering with the Barnes Museum’s education department, the M.B.A. class evolved again. Now students learn from a docent on an interactive field trip that highlights how the Barnes Method builds a strong foundation in visual storytelling.

One student learned that storytelling transcends data presentation. “I now view effective visualization as less about selecting the right chart type and more about crafting a message that moves the audience from passive observation to actionable understanding.”

TAKING FLIGHT: ALUMNI BECOME SOCIAL MEDIA STARS

Who would have thought Winthrop alumni have spread their wings on social media, racking up millions of followers and views on popular platforms such as Instagram and Tik Tok?

- *A hooper explores the different stages of a baller's life.*
- *A doctor pulls back the curtain on neurosurgery.*
- *A baker proves that vegan food can be decadent and save the world.*
- *A former Eagle takes the mound for a team that's the hottest ticket around.*

Let's meet these influencers and see how they're uplifting others while building their brands.

BJORN BROMAN '17, '19

Basketball player, coach, Broman Academy
Tik Tok: @bjornbroman, 1.5 million followers
Instagram: @bjornbroman13, 381K+ followers

Minnesota native Bjorn Broman believes that every basketball-loving kid's dream is stepping onto the NBA All-Star court.

Broman lived that dream in 2025, when he was invited to the NBA All-Star Weekend festivities in California. He interviewed fellow content creators, met basketball stars, watched the game from prime seats and even participated on the court, winning one of the three-point shooting contests.

The dream can be traced back to kindergarten, when he and his brother, Anders Broman '17, '19, started playing the game. The pair played together from elementary school to the Winthrop Eagles basketball team. While playing in the NCAA tournament was certainly a highlight, "Just being able to do the whole basketball journey together as brothers was special," Anders said.

After earning degrees in exercise science, the duo couldn't decide what they wanted to do professionally. Anders entertained becoming a strength and conditioning coach; Bjorn, coaching. They offered their expertise at a basketball company, learned a lot and then thought, why not start our own?

They established Broman Academy in 2020 and make it a point to establish a relationship with every player.

"When you have a good relationship with your players, they are so much more open and willing to work hard and try new things," Bjorn explained. "After that, we emphasize making practice harder than a game – overloading movements, so that when you get into a team practice or game, everything almost slows down and seems easier than training. Also, faith is very important to us, and we try to emphasize that with our players as well."

Bjorn also builds those connections through his social media presence and laughed when asked if he ever thought he'd have 1.5 million followers and counting, calling it "a blessing."



"I started social media at the beginning of COVID [2020], as there was nothing else to do, and it has blown up," he said. "I'm constantly looking for new ideas and fun ways to entertain basketball players. It is a great challenge, and I really enjoy it!"

Bjorn's content includes a series of skits chronicling a basketball player in his college years, moments from his pick-up games, and more.

As the audience grows, the brothers hope Broman Academy will grow too.

"We would love to keep expanding," Anders said. "We have some great business mentors that pour into us as we are still learning so much every single day."

ZAYED ALMADIDY '12

Neurosurgeon, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

Tik Tok: @dr.z_neurosurgery, 760K+ followers
Instagram: @dr.z_neurosurgery, 625K+ followers

Zayed Almadidy considered neurosurgery one of the most complex topics he studied in medical school – which led to his desire to demystify it.

"I was drawn by the idea that we know so little about the nervous system," he said. "I wanted to explore it further and master the brain and spine to the best of my ability. I am drawn by the uncertainty and the complexity."

Originally from Fort Mill, Almadidy chose Winthrop for his undergraduate career for several reasons, including the campus, the social life, the extracurricular activities, cultural events and the robust STEM program "with strong chemistry and biology courses that are perfect for those interested in medicine."

"All of that led me to my career as a neurosurgeon," he said.

While at Winthrop, Almadidy earned a research fellowship and presented his work, "In Vitro Generation of Cu1+ Through Spontaneous Aqueous Processes," at the Southeastern regional meeting of the American Chemical Society with faculty mentor Nick Grosseohme,



now dean of the Honors College. His work explored how metal toxicity in biological systems stems from the innate ability of some metal ions to cycle between multiple oxidation states, leading to cellular damage and potentially death.

Post-Winthrop, Almadidy earned his M.D. from the Medical University of South Carolina and completed his neurosurgery residency at the University of Illinois Chicago, where he also served as a resident doctor and Spine Deformity Fellow. He now works as a neurosurgeon at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois.

He chronicles his professional life, mainly through Day in the Life-style (DITL) content. One of his most recent DITL vlogs tracks his day(s), beginning with an emergency call at 9:30 p.m. about a patient facing paralysis; followed by a brief moment preparing for the operating room at midnight; to the surgery's completion at 6 a.m. (Yes, the surgery was a success!)...while still on call for the entire next day.

Other content includes hacks for reducing migraine pain, explaining cranial nerves in 60

seconds, why you should stop cracking your spine, and more.

With more than 1.5 million followers collectively, Almadidy's content clearly resonates with his audience.

"There are 3,000 neurosurgeons in the country, and there is a curtain hiding what we do," he explained. "I want to open the curtain and show people the reality: explaining complex medical topics for everyone to understand; sharing my expertise with the world by being a translator from the world of complex medicine to the public; and being a conduit to bridge the gap between the two. ...The explanations I deliver are about conditions that impact the viewer or their loved ones. They just want to understand it better and have someone explain it properly."

ERIN IRELAND '05

Bakery owner, blogger, To Live For Bakery Instagram: @erinireland, 195K+ followers

Food surrounds Erin Ireland every day – and that's just fine with her, because it's her calling and passion.

She feeds that passion daily as a food blogger, recipe creator and owner of To Live For Bakery, which she opened more than a decade ago, in Vancouver, Canada. Originally named To Die For Fine Foods, she began exploring where ingredients came from and the process of producing those ingredients. That inspired her professional and personal vegan journey. She also donates part of the profits to animal rights organizations and charities each month.

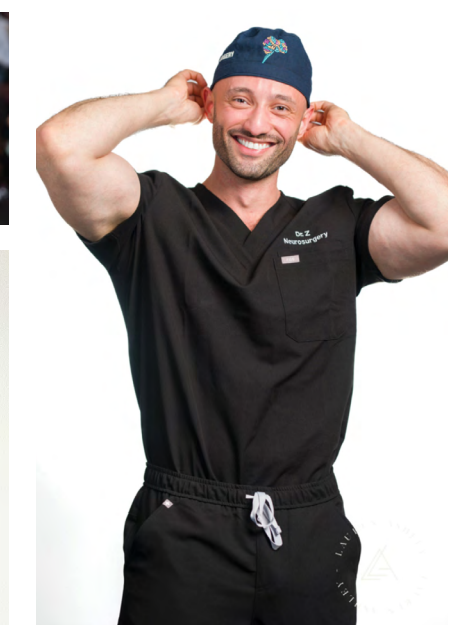
"Growing up and during my university years at Winthrop, the concept of veganism had never been introduced to me," Ireland explained. "There are many influencers out there who show graphic content, and while I think this is extremely important to share, my content is geared towards warming people up to the idea of plant-based food by showing delicious looking, easy-to-make meals and snacks. My goal is to raise awareness of the importance of plant-based eating (for our environment, the

animals and our own health) and prove that it's so much easier and more delicious than people think."

Ireland attended Winthrop on a volleyball scholarship, "a major defining moment in my life." She earned a degree in mass communication and appreciated the real-world applications. As she worked up the ranks at CTV, Canada's top news station, her interests pivoted to food. Before she knew it, she was giving a TEDx Talk on the bias in food media.

Her content includes photos of food like gooey birthday cake-style croissants and vegan chicken Caesar sammies (followed by a reel of people lining up around the block to try this offering) and reels showcasing her food-related travels, fitness journey and snuggling animals.

While she's received a thumbs-up from the Vancouver Canucks ice hockey team and a Michelin-starred chef, the most recent shoutout came from award-winning singer/songwriter Billie Eilish, who included To Live For in her list of '120 Favorite Vegan Restaurants' while on her tour – which was "thrilling."



"It definitely brought in some new customers!" Ireland said. "...Social media is like word of mouth on steroids. It's absolutely changed the game for my business...On day one, we had a

After reading about these social media stars, follow them on social media to get to know them better, see how they spend their days, and learn how they educate and entertain their fan bases.

two-block lineup throughout the day, and I'm sure that the word got out largely because of that original account [@erinireland]. I love being able to post a picture of a delicious pastry and then see how many people have been able to share this with a friend."

CONNOR HARRIS '25

Baseball player, Savannah Bananas Ball

Tik Tok: @connorharris_30, 22K+ followers

Instagram: @connorharris30, 23K+ followers

Connor Harris swore that one day, he'd return to his Avon, Connecticut, hometown wearing a New York Yankees jersey, his dream team.

The dream will come true in a way he could never have imagined: Harris will play baseball in Yankee Stadium this year but actually clad in Savannah Bananas bright yellow.

Harris played baseball for George Washington University, where he earned a communications degree and played in more than 30 games before tearing his ulnar collateral ligament that ended his senior season.

"I was faced with a choice," he said, "Do I start working or do I use this setback to create a comeback? I wanted to continue challenging myself academically and professionally."

After Tommy John surgery, Harris heard about Winthrop through a former assistant baseball coach.

Harris began the M.B.A. program and recovered from surgery in 11 months, adding that his Winthrop coaches and teammates were vital in the process.

"The only game Winthrop played anywhere near Connecticut was against St. John's, and that is where I made my first start with over 60 family members and friends in attendance," he said. "It was a special moment and a testament to everyone who helped me."

Harris was also a finalist for the inaugural Tony Gwynn Community Service Trophy for his work with the Rock Hill Miracle League and other initiatives.



He had just pitched a successful game when a Savannah Bananas scout called. Harris spent the summer in Savannah playing for the developmental team and was drafted.

Before that day, he didn't have a Tik Tok and rarely posted on Instagram. Now, he posts about his family (especially his sweet Nana), takes his audience along to games, jumps into social trends, and...dances to Justin Bieber songs on cruise ships!

"It's all part of the job, and it keeps me on my toes while giving fans content that is unforgettable," he said.

Harris hopes that his content will inspire, motivate or simply bring joy to someone's day.

"Whether a video gets three views or three million, if it helps one person, it's worth it," he said. "Initially, it felt like I was giving up my MLB dream, but then I realized I was now chasing a dream I never knew I had."

SINGLE LARGEST CASH GIFT Honors Collier's Life

Virginia Bellune Collier '30 had long held the dream of becoming a doctor.

As a student at Winthrop College, The South Carolina College for Women, pre-Great Depression, she showed an abiding interest in biology, serving as president of the Forceps and Scalpel Club and a member of Beta Beta Beta, a professional society for students of the biological sciences. Due to the era in which she lived, Collier pivoted to teaching, and she taught biology and chemistry at Andrews High School until retirement. Her passion for biology and medicine never wavered, and she found many outlets, including owning a flower shop, working in the local drugstore with her husband and tending to her half-acre vegetable garden.

Collier's dream will live on through many others: her family recently made in her honor the largest cash gift in the institution's history, ensuring \$2 million for teacher education scholarships, preferably in STEM disciplines, and \$500,000 set aside for a professorship in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"This remarkable gift affirms the power of investing in those who choose to teach," said Beth Costner, dean of the Richard W. Riley College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences. "By supporting future educators — particularly in high-need STEM disciplines — we are not only changing the lives of Winthrop students today, but also strengthening schools and communities for years to come. The legacy of this generosity will be felt in every student our graduates inspire."

Takita Sumter, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said the college deeply appreciates the

gift as there is a key goal of expanding the number of professorships.

"Professorships allow faculty to be more creative in their teaching and research endeavors and ultimately expose students to cutting-edge practices," she said. "We are thrilled about the benefit that this donation will offer to faculty and students."



ABOUT VIRGINIA BELLUNE COLLIER '30

Virginia Bellune Collier was born in Georgetown in 1909. In addition to her scholarly interests at Winthrop, she participated in the Young Women's Christian Association, the Athletic Association, the Choral Society, the International Relations Club, Girl Scouts, the clubs known as Masquers and Journeyman, and served as a Commencement Marshal. She also graduated with honors, and the Tatler described her as "A modern Portia — A queen of beauty — 'The Rosary.'"

She was active in her church, Trinity United Methodist Church, having served on its board of trustees, as a choir member, former schoolteacher and Daisy Watson Bible class member, as well as a member of the Anna Hannah Circle of the United Methodist Women.

She was a member of the Georgetown County Retired Teachers Association, the S.C. Retired Teachers Association and the National Retired Teachers Association. She was a member of the S.C. Huguenot Society and a former member of the Rosemary Garden Club.

TIM SPEAKS

MAKING THE MOST OF HIS WINTHROP EXPERIENCE



Once he took his first health care management class, Tim Speaks knew it was the major for him.

Now a senior graduating in May, the Columbia native will head in the fall to graduate school at Emory University to continue a project that has captured his passion.

The McNair Scholar started his sophomore year studying how children who grow up in poverty are at high risk of suffering from depression. He would like to continue learning more about this topic to help improve marginalized communities.

Through the McNair program, which helps first generation and low-income students conduct research and find a pathway to graduate school, Speaks made connections for summer work. He spent 10 weeks at Emory University's AI Data Lab in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2024 where he mapped out high-density poverty areas in Fulton County.

Knowing where low-income communities are located can be used by policy makers, government officials and others to provide help or mental health counseling to children found to be suffering from depression.

"You need to have facts and data to back up

what we assume to be true," Speaks said.

McNair Scholars Program Director Cheryl Fortner said Speaks is a great example of a student who took advantage of McNair support to develop and present high quality research. "McNair has provided travel support for Tim to present research at national conferences, travel to visit graduate programs, support in preparing graduate admissions and graduate funding applications, and paying fees for graduate applications and tests," Fortner said.

One of the most important resources for McNair Scholars, she said, is mentoring, which Speaks found in Associate Professor Joanna Jackson and Assistant Professor Larry Stevens.

Getting the Full Experience

Speaks has loved his time at Winthrop and immersed himself in all that he could. He was a walk-on his freshman year on the track and field team. He threw the hammer, shotput and weight throw. On the heels of earning a scholarship his sophomore year, Speaks had his best year, placing second in the weight throw competition at the Big South Conference and making All-Conference.

As one of the upperclassmen on the track and field team, he loves mentoring younger athletes in how to acclimate to college life and manage their time.

His other activities included volunteering as an ambassador with the admissions office, as a peer mentor, a peer coach and as president for the Health Care Managers' Association.



His involvement paid off this past November when students voted to crown Speaks as Homecoming royalty during the men's basketball game.

Looking back on his four years at Winthrop, Speaks said he loved the individual attention he and others received from their business professors. They encouraged him to develop his leadership skills, as well as his marketing, operations management, finance and communications talents. "They were always willing to help us and give us plenty of experiences," he said.

Once he finishes his master's degree, Speaks hopes to earn a Ph.D. so he can teach or head up a research laboratory to work with data and health policy that will benefit lower income families and marginalized communities.

Did You Know?

The health care management program is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Program highlights include:

- One of only 50 programs in the country that is Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) certified and the only one in South Carolina.
- Produced 503 graduates and offers a 95 percent placement rate in either graduate school or a career.



ITALA FLORES

CRAFTING HER OWN PATH



**This article was written by mass communication student Dakota Gold for The Johnsonian student newspaper and is reprinted with permission.*

At 51 years old, non-traditional student Itala Flores has a special story that brought her to Winthrop, where she's currently an honors student working on her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

"I chose Winthrop because of its strong fine arts program and the opportunities offered through the Honors College. As a non-traditional student, I was looking for a place where I could continue to grow artistically while also being a part of a supportive academic community," Flores said.

Previously, Flores attended Central Piedmont Community College as part of the Truist honors program and graduated with her associate's degree. She is a full-time artist and mother of two who moved from Venezuela to the United States in 2004 and moved to the Charlotte area in 2017.

When she moved to Charlotte, her artist career greatly expanded. After she won a competition at the Art Pop Street Gallery, Charlotte Fashion Week called inviting her to showcase her work in sustainable fashion on its runway.

From there, opportunities came flooding in, including one to have her designs featured in New York and Paris Fashion Weeks, and published in Harper's Bazaar magazine. Additionally, she has been involved with I'mPossible Inclusive Fashion shows that raise money for kids with disabilities.

Flores was named Emerging Artist of the Year in 2020 by Art SI and was the recipient of the Orgullo Hispano Award in 2021. She was also nominated as Designer of the Year by Level 21 Magazine.

Flores' work ranges from fashion and ceramics to paintings and photography. Intriguingly, she created her own medium called drypott, a mix of dry wall material and water that is malleable enough to form pieces of art.

"I've been into art since I was a child. I love to work with my hands," Flores said.

Some of her drypott work is showcased in a permanent exhibition at Central Piedmont Community College, where her first solo exhibition was held.

As of today, Flores has around five permanent exhibitions in the area including at ImaginOn in Charlotte. Her work also was included in a March student exhibition at the Pop Gallery inside Blue Goose Studios, which is owned by Andrew Lazenby '06, '08, and Mary Sanders Lazenby '04.

Flores' work demonstrates a theme of sustainability and recycling of materials, including the incorporation of her husband's old painted canvases into wearable masterpieces. In every work, her passion is on full display.

Her unique approach to creativity and sustainability won her second place for Best Oral Presentation at the North Carolina Honors Association Conference last year at Queens University. Her talk, "The Art of Circular Fashion: Creativity, Identity, and Sustainability," showcased her enthusiasm for turning discarded materials into wearable art.

After she graduates this fall, Flores plans to get her master's degree and dreams of opening her own gallery and studio. Looking at her natural talent, her dreams are more than achievable.

As her artistic and

educational journeys progress, Flores will continue to be an inspiration for other students. Her non-traditional student experience shows that your story is not over here – it is just beginning.

Bottom left: Flores designed this dress using LEGO pieces for the bodice. Below: Models were photographed in Flores' wearable art (top) and Flores proudly displayed her work entitled "Honorable Elegance," a stunning dress crafted entirely from repurposed marketing materials (bottom).



Amanda James Named Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing



Amanda James, formerly the associate vice president for enrollment and dean of admissions, has been named the university's vice president for enrollment management and marketing.

Under her leadership in the Office of Admissions,

Winthrop has achieved historic enrollment milestones - including record-setting numbers of applications and admitted students - as well as substantial gains in both new freshman and transfer enrollment.

James, who joined Winthrop in 2017, now leads the offices of admissions, financial aid, and communications and marketing.

Six Inducted in 2026 Hall of Fame Class

Five former student-athletes and one former head coach were inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame on Jan. 30. This year's inductees were (seated from left) Emily Heckl '07 (volleyball); Kim Segars '89 (women's basketball); (standing from left) Kandrick Cooper '08 (men's track & field); Jeremy Keller '96 (baseball); Gary Baker '95, '98 (men's soccer); and Ben Paxton, former head men's and women's cross country/track & field coach.



Emmy Winner Molly Grantham Headlines Whitton Series

Molly Grantham, a "TV News Reporter of the Year" award recipient, four-time Emmy winner, three-time author, national speaker and charity auctioneer was the headliner for the March 26 Whitton Series. She spoke on "Practice Makes Progress" to a wide-ranging audience in Whitton Auditorium.

The Whitton Series was established by Elaine Whitton Davis '73 and the College of Business and Technology to offer a series of training seminars for area business leaders. Sponsored by Davis, the Whitton Series was developed to provide free or low-cost access to current state-of-the-art knowledge relevant to business practice.



Molly Grantham and Elaine Whitton Davis

Alumni Celebrate Model UN's 50th Anniversary

The 50th anniversary Model United Nations Conference and Celebration was held March 25-27. The celebration included tours of Model UN Committee meetings and a reception. In honor of the 50th anniversary, gifts are still being accepted to the endowed scholarship in honor of Chris Van Aller, the 24-year Model UN program director. If you would like to make a gift in honor of his long-standing dedication, please visit www.winthrop.edu/advancement/model-un.aspx.



Karl Folkens '78 and Jody Guy Gaulin '78 served as the student coordinators for the first Model UN Conference.

Cornhole Takes Back-to-Back National Titles

Competing for only the second year, Winthrop's cornhole players reclaimed coveted national titles during the January American Cornhole League National Competition.

The Eagles once again captured the team title and the doubles title. Students Gavin Hamann and Jaxson Remmick captured the doubles title, while the team title went to (pictured below) students Hayden Gonzales, Dylan Graham, Sal Sandoval and Mikayla Calvey, who is Winthrop's first female cornhole winner.



Basketball Has Stellar Season; Reaps Awards

Men's basketball compiled an impressive season, finishing with an overall 23-11 record, marking the 10th 23-win season in program history. The Eagles advanced to the Big South Conference Championship for the 20th time but came up short against High Point.

The Big South Conference bestowed several honors upon the program. Head Coach Mark Prosser was named Co-Coach of the Year, senior Logan Duncomb was named the Player of the Year and First-Team All-Conference, graduate student Kody Clouet earned Scholar-Athlete of the Year recognition, and senior Kareem Rozier was named Second-Team All-Conference. Congratulations on an incredible season. Go, Eagles!

Holcombes' Latest Gift to Upfit Kinard Classroom

The Milton W. & Betty M. Holcombe Foundation made a \$100,000 gift to support the upfit and renovation of a classroom within Kinard Hall.

In making this gift, Betty Morgan Holcombe '56, the 2025 Mary Mildred Sullivan Award recipient, wished to have a tangible impact on a space at Winthrop where she spent time as a student.

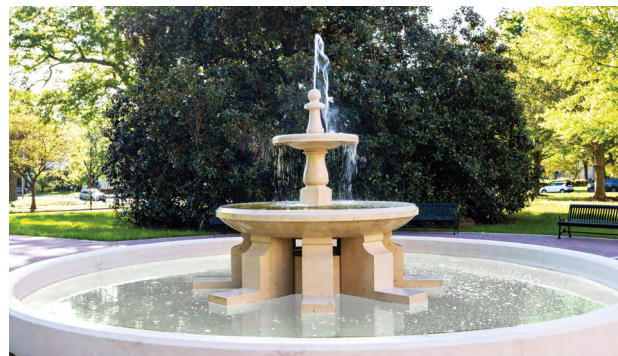
As an English major, she took many of her classes in Kinard Hall, which is what drew her to this particular project. It is anticipated that the renovations, which will include new furniture and audio-visual technology, will take place this summer.

This latest gift is one of several that the Holcombes have given to Winthrop. They have established three endowed scholarships as well as a leadership gift to *Distinction: The Campaign for Winthrop* that established the Morgan-Holcombe Alumni Center at the Stewart House.



Milton W. and Betty M. Holcombe

Leave Your Legacy and Support Winthrop's Future



A legacy gift is more than a financial decision — it is a powerful statement of belief in Winthrop's future.

Winthrop's new planned giving website offers alumni and friends an inspiring, easy-to-navigate resource for shaping a legacy that reflects their values and love for Winthrop.

Designed to demystify estate and charitable planning, the site provides clear, practical guidance

for those interested in making a lasting difference for students, faculty and programs. Whether you are just beginning to consider your plans or revisiting them, the website serves as a welcoming starting point for thoughtful reflection and meaningful action.

There are several easy ways to make an impactful gift. Supporters may choose to remember Winthrop in their will or trust, ensuring future generations benefit from their generosity. Others may designate Winthrop as a beneficiary of retirement assets — such as retirement plans, life insurance policies, bank accounts, or investment accounts — often with significant tax advantages. Donors age 70½ and older may also consider a tax-free IRA Charitable Rollover Contribution, a simple way to support Winthrop while satisfying required minimum distributions.

Visit the new planned giving site at <https://giftplanning.winthrop.edu>.

Top-Flight Scholars Program Helps Honors Students Soar

To attract the best and brightest students, you have to offer them an exceptional, and exclusive, educational opportunity.



That's exactly what the Honors College's Top-Flight Scholars program aims to do. With generous support from members of the Honors College Leadership Council and with Elaine Whitton Davis '73 serving as an early champion and angel investor in the initiative — the top 10 percent of Honors College students are accepted into the Top-Flight Scholars program to serve as ambassadors of the college, attend recruitment events, and represent the college in a positive and meaningful way.

"Our Top-Flight Scholars represent some of the

best that the Honors College has to offer. They are a group of very talented students that are responsibility-driven, natural leaders,

and highly respected amongst their peers," said Honors College Dean Nick Grossoehme. "They are my go-to students to get feedback on what is working and what can be improved upon to make us the best and most competitive Honors College in the state."

Grossoehme noted that during the program's inaugural fall semester, Top-Flight Scholars earned an average GPA of 3.81 and seven of the 19 scholars made a perfect 4.0.

Financial support remains a need to attract these bright students. "Support to these committed scholarships helps us compete for the best students in the state."

Athletics Launches Elite Philanthropic Giving Society

Winthrop Athletics recently launched the Winthrop Impact Network (WIN), a distinguished philanthropic giving society established to support and elevate Winthrop's 16 NCAA Division I programs and nearly 300 student-athletes.

Membership in WIN starts at \$25,000 and can be pledged over a period of up to five years. Gifts may be directed to specific priorities such as capital projects and facility improvements, sport-specific funds, scholarships, revenue sharing and Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) initiatives and more.



Brad Kopp, a volunteer assistant coach with women's golf and scorekeeper for the baseball team, was the first Eagles supporter to join WIN. "There's a lot of competing interest for

charitable dollars, and all are really worthy, but as I became closer with athletics department employees and got to know some of the incredible student-athletes and see how hard they work, it just made sense to help in this way," said Kopp, who retired from corporate finance and has taught as an adjunct professor in the College of Business and Technology since 2018.



For more information on giving opportunities, please visit www.winthrop.edu/give or call 803/323-2275.

Alumni Cheer on Eagles at Area Socials



Alumni and Eagle fans gathered at pregame socials before a basketball game in Charleston (top) and a baseball game in Greenville (bottom).

Alumni recently gathered for pregame socials to cheer on the Eagles! There were two pregame socials in the upstate, on Saturday, Jan. 10, at Rockers Brewing Co. before the men's basketball team beat USC Upstate and on Tuesday, March 3, at Lefty's West End Tavern before the baseball team upset Michigan State at Fluor Field! On Thursday, Feb. 26, alumni gathered at Stones Throw Brewing for the last game on the road when the men's basketball team faced Charleston Southern. Thanks for showing up, Eagle fans!



Eagles Helping Eagles: Alumni Can Mentor Students Through I'm Ready Program

Now in its third year, the I'm Ready alumni-to-student mentor program continues to grow, reaching record-breaking student participation and reinforcing the power of the Winthrop community. Created as part of the university's Flight Ready Quality Enhancement Plan but rooted in the idea of "Eagles Helping Eagles," the program connects students with alumni mentors to support career readiness, professional growth and confidence building. Through guided topic micro-sessions and meaningful one-on-one conversations, students gain real professional insight from their mentors.

Meet Mentor Bryan Martin '97, '02



Why did you choose to become an alumni mentor?

"Having grown up, settled down, raised a family and served my entire career in the Rock Hill community, I wanted to capitalize on the opportunity to engage and influence students at Winthrop to realize their

full potential as future leaders in their respective fields and communities."

Homecoming and Reunion Set for Nov. 13-14

Calling all alumni! Plan to come home to Winthrop Nov. 13-14 for Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. There will be a full weekend of events planned, including the Alumni Reunion Brunch, athletics events and class reunion gatherings. If your class year ends in '6 and '1 you are celebrating a milestone reunion. Registration will open in August. Be on the lookout for more information to soon hit your e-mail inbox and mailbox.

1984

Michelle Goodwin-Calwile of Greenville was elected to the inaugural South Carolina Hunt State Policy Fellows program.

1995

Carolina Barbosa Blouin of Augusta, Georgia, competed in the International Tennis Federation Masters World Team Championships.

Jennifer Jenkins Butler of Columbia was recognized as the 2025 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers – South Carolina Chapter.

2001

Rachel Young Fields of Savannah, Georgia, was recognized as a 2025 Legal Elite by Georgia Trend.

Rinice Sauls of Rock Hill was named chief human resources and strategic planning officer for the Clover School District.

2008

Erica McCray of Rock Hill, principal at Riverwalk Academy, received a Milken Educator Award. She joined a nationwide network of over 3,000 Milken Educator Award recipients who are shaping the future of education.

2009

Allison Rouse of Mount Pleasant is the assistant principal at Mitchell Elementary School in Charleston.

2015

Kaitlin Ellenburg Palm of Vacaville, California, was promoted to major in the United States Air Force.

2018

Josh Mangle of Simpsonville joined the Converse University faculty as an instructor of English.

Hailey Martin Smith of Lexington published her first book, "Let Me Be Brave."

2019

Layne Smith of Lexington was named Sigma Alpha Epsilon's director of accountability.

Allison Snipes Welte of Rock Hill was named the 2025–26 District Teacher of the Year by the Limestone Charter Association.

2020

Norah Mendoza of Saint Petersburg, Florida, was featured on Forbes.com in the article, "Meet the Woman Who's Making Shark Science Inclusive and Revolutionary."

2022

Anna Conlon of Fort Mill is a case manager for the S.C. Department of Social Services Midlands Adoptions.

2023

Jacelyn Forst of Charlotte, North Carolina, oversaw the successful run of The Conjuring: Beyond Fear, Carowinds amusement park's new attraction for the SCarowinds season.

2024

Rock Hill native **Logan Pender** was selected as a speaker for the 2025 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. He also was chosen to present the Fritz Kaufmann Award to Faith Colvin, vice president of global public policy and international affairs for Marriott International, at the 2025 Fund for Education Abroad Gala.

2025

Kason Harrison of Beaumont, Texas, joined Apollon Limassol Basketball Club in Cyprus.

BIRTHS

Fatina Lorick Allen '07 and Brandon Allen '07, a boy, Braelon Louis Allen

Hallie Farmer '07, '09, a boy, Phoenix McDuffie Manasseh Farmer

Amy Buckmaster Barrett '10, twin boys, Henry and Hunter Barrett

Fatima Castro Blair '13, a boy, Matias Edward Blair

Tyler Jennings '13 and Jessica Chavis Jennings '14, a boy, Brendan Douglas Jennings

Eboni Ford Rayer '15, a girl, Naomi Rayer

Alex Pinto Munding '16 and Michael Hunter Munding '16, a boy, Hayden Michael Munding

William Frank Reeves '16 and Cori Maness-Mulder Reeves '17, a girl, Catie Reeves

Abigail (Abby) Miles Miller '17, a boy, Miles Aaron Miller

Hailey Martin Smith '18 and Layne Brodie Smith '19, a girl, Piper Smith

Lilia (Lily) Gomez-Castro '20, a boy, Jose Damian Castro

Chanel Solomon Linnen '20 and Jordan Markel Linnen '21, a girl, Drew Amira Linnen

Kendall Lahr Martin '20 and Jonathan Lee Martin '20, a girl, Millie Laine Martin

Megan Olbeter Atkins '21, a girl, Raelynn Grace Atkins

Courtney Smith Bex '21, a boy, Austin Bex Jr.

MARRIAGES

Fatima Castro '13 to Benjamín Blair

Bryant Timothy Cannon '16 to Shelleah Jackson

Katie Miller Yon '18 to Chris Yon

AG Baechel-Williams '20 to Lauren Baechel-Williams '22

Victoria Marie Howard '20 to Alex Donald Romano '22

Chanel Solomon '20 to Jordan Markel Linnen '21

Hannah Lucille Mullinax '20 to Clayton Scott

Tarin Dawson Arledge '21 to Hank Arledge

Resa Allen Webb '21 to Dustin Webb

Allyson Hailey Baumgartner '22 to Chandler Joseph Moore '22

Taylor Belue '23 to Ronald Dalton Mims '23

Chandler Blake Bowers '24 to Lily Flynn Doyle '25

IN MEMORIAM

1940s

Elizabeth Beaman Taylor '43
Caroline Brunson Ward '45
Ruby Hollis Whisonant '45
Dorothy Riddle Carson '46
Roslyn Cason Martin '46
Jacqueline (Jackie) Edwards Wallace '46
Welthy Verdin Senn '47

Theodosia Norris Mims '48
Lillian Dukes Gamble '49
Mary Black Lewis '49
Ramona Harris Settle '49
Alice Park Walkup '49
1950s
Rowena Keck Cupp '50
Jean Hope Johnson '50
Frances Holtzclaw Lockaby '50

Doris Jean Stroman Murray '50
Mattie Wallace Strickland '50
Mary Paschal Frick '51
Geraldine (Gerry) Sloan Killian '51
Elizabeth (Fay) Reed McLaurin '51
Jane Theresa Sowell Sox '51
Martha Simpson Simmons '52
Shirley Imogene Blanton Gibson '53

IN MEMORIAM

Sara (Jane) Orr Hinchey '53
Frances (Gerry) Trammell Hurley '53
Eleanor Sumarel Lowrance '53
Willie (Esther) Ratcliff McCaskill '53, '77
Virginia Anderson Nix '53
Shirley Beeson Berry '54
Julia Genoble Boyter '54
Patricia (Pat) Hutto Dukes '54
Wesley Smith Poe '54
Mary (Caroline) Reames Tolbert '54
Rozanne Ayers Campbell '55
Doris Miller Hipp '55
Etta (Merle) Hicks Holmes '55
Ila Powell Kimbrell '55
Mary (Louise) Gray Smoak '55
Ruth Garrett Cason '56
Pauline (Betty) Brunson Loadholdt '57
Joyce Bowen Nunnery '57
Alice Brunson Coleman '58
Joanne Jones Kassis '58
Margaret Craven Poteat '58
Elizabeth (Betty) Anne Hoffman Simpson '58
Eleanor Bradley Brown '59
Janet Collins Mayers '59
Martha Rambo McQuerns '59
1960s
Erma (Erma Jean) Tisdale Brown '60
Patricia (Patsy) Ann Bryant Hoffmeyer '60
Myra Hagins Marshall '60, '73
Carolyn Penny Anderson Pullum '60
Elizabeth Ann Proctor Reeves '60
Mary Jo Fayssoux Garner '61
Marcia Lundy Hamilton '61
Vivian Booth Harris '61
Judith (Rosemary) Anderson Johnson '61
Laura (Ann) Kizer Kirby '61
Lena McNeill Phillips '61
Sarah (Sally) Cope Baumeister '62
Elizabeth (Rose) Jones Davis '62
Joyce Estelle Long Smith '62
Dolores (Janice) Frady Henson '63

Phyllis Nunnery Jennings '63
Mary Sue Baker Jones '63
Patricia Wilburn Payne '63
Brenda Janice Gardner Adams '64
Martha Hill McLure '64
Patricia King Blackmon '65
Loraine (Louise) Turner Brown '65
Marjorie Phipps Tucker '65
Ann (Eloise) Jackson Bartle '66
Rebecca (Elaine) Boyce League '66
Alice Evans Tennant '66
Linda Williams Trethewey '66
Carol Ann Matthews Truluck '66
Sylvia (Elaine) Greene Zehntbauer '66
Gayle Garrett Brice '67
Marcia Jane Darnell Hayes '68
Edna Snipes Kirksey '68
Emily Shirley McAlister '68
Reba Gregory Bogan '69
Anne Kornahrens '69, '75
Phyllis Culbreth Steadman '69
1970s
Martha Manley Long '70
Marilyn (Sue) Wendt Dempsey '71
Kathlyn (Ann) Vaughn Mayfield '71
Marcia Boykin Spainhour '71
Marlene Hodge '72, '73
Kay Poole Stock '72
Martha (Elizabeth) Edwards Harris '73
Susan Keitt Moss '73
David Allen Williams '73
Patricia Armstrong Hovis '74
Linda Melton West '74
Donne Alewine White '74
Bettina Cline '75
Joseph (Joe) Gerrald '75
Joseph Grant Jr. '75
Mary Alice Bleakley Jacobs '75
Deborah Ramey Jennings '75
Jean Appleby Johnson '75
Sherry Causey Johnson '75
Mary (Jean) Schwartz '75
Elisa (Misa) McMillan Moskovitz '76

Stephen (Steve) Gillen '78
Karen Elizabeth Moreau '78
Cheryl Ann Byrdic '79
Carol Marbert '79
Pamela (Pam) Mullinax Whitlock '79
1980s
George Searle '80
Paula Woodard '80
Charlene Plyler Lowery-Shock '81
Whitt Harper '83
Sally Hudson Marchbank '83
Vivian Moose '83
Edward Beaver '85
Elizabeth Hawfield '85
Donna Knowles '86
Sarah (Muff) Monica McFaddin '86
Judith Ashby Steed '86
Patricia Blaney Bright '87
Kristy Byers '87
Karl Geliske '89
Timothy (Tim) Hicks '89
Greg Washington '89
1990s
Sharon Butler Jones '90
Richard Ouzts '90
Catherine Ivester '91
Travis Lee Anderson '94
Elsa Heckendorf Turner '94
Mark Sweetman '94
Judith Clark Barban '95
Mary Elizabeth Wall '95
Gracia Dyrud Bles '96
Edgar (Eddie) William Gay Jr. '96
James Randolph Tolley '97
Evadne Sue Veer '97
Gail Toffey '98
Quan'Drico (Drico) Rutledge-Wade '98
2000s
Scotia Burrell '02
Robert Moak '08
2020s
Camryn (Cam) Alverson '25



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

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APRIL 21-22

BLEED GARNET, GIVE GOLD

Bleed Garnet Give Gold is back! And for 24 hours, Winthrop alumni and friends will come together to help today's students thrive.

On April 21-22 from noon to noon, we're aiming for 1,200 donors. Every gift counts – and matching gifts and donor challenges can help unlock additional funding to maximize your impact.

Support the fund, program, or student experience that matters most to you! Give at winthrop.edu/bg3 or scan the QR code.



To learn more visit www.winthrop.edu/advancement or contact us at giving@winthrop.edu or 803/323-2275.