



December 2024

FACILITIES NEWS

[Faculty, Staff, Community Get Sneak Peek at Renovated Byrnes](#)



Faculty, staff and community leaders received a preview of the newly renovated Byrnes Auditorium during recent holiday drop-ins that were hosted by President Edward Serna '02 and First Lady Lauren Serna. Byrnes has been offline since a 2018 roof fire and subsequent insurance settlement claims, and is expected to reopen during the spring semester. Look for more details on programming and events that will soon be offered in the beloved space.

COMMENCEMENT

[Commencement Celebrates Graduates and Award Winners](#)



The Dec. 14 Commencement ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of nearly 350 graduates. Also during the ceremony, three graduates were honored with the [President's Award for Academic Excellence](#) (pictured above with President Serna), and Associate Professor Crystal Glover '97, '99, received the [Kinard Award for Teaching Excellence](#). [Philip Gibson](#), professor of finance and the 2024 Distinguished Professor, delivered the Commencement address. [Take a look at photos](#) from the special ceremony.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

[Kimarie Whetstone Named Interim Dean of the School of Graduate, Continuing, and Online Education](#)



Kimarie Whetstone, Winthrop's director of online learning, has been named the interim dean of the School of Graduate, Continuing, and Online Education, beginning Feb. 16. Whetstone will serve as interim dean through June 30, while a national search for the permanent dean is conducted. She will replace Dean Jack DeRochi who has accepted the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

TREASURES AND TRADITIONS

[Annual Tree Lighting Took a Different, Festive Approach](#)



Winthrop kicked off the holiday season on Dec. 6 with the 89th Annual Tree Lighting. This year's "tree" looked a little different from past years. No longer able to use the Southern magnolia for several reasons, the new flagpole, dedicated this summer in memory of Linda Keene '72, took center stage as lights were strung from it in the shape of a Christmas tree. After a festive program featuring performances by the Winthrop RockHettes, Chorale and Collegiate Choir, the new tree was lit to the delight on the crowd. [View photos](#) of the performances and tree lighting.

HOMECOMING AND REUNION

[Homecoming and Reunion Weekend 2025 is Nov. 14-15](#)



Please save the date for Homecoming and Reunion 2025, Nov. 14-15! If your class year ends in a '0 or '5 then you will be celebrating a milestone reunion. More information will come at a later date, but please mark the weekend on your calendar, and make plans to come home to Winthrop.

[A Message from the Alumni Director](#)




This past Saturday we welcomed nearly 350 graduates into the Alumni Association. It's always such a special time leading up to Commencement as we celebrated our December graduates with a champagne toast and recognized our legacy graduates. We're honored to now call these students Winthrop alumni! Now, as we prepare to wind down the year, please know that we have lots of wonderful events and gatherings planned for 2025, and we hope you can join us at as many events as possible. From our alumni family to yours, please enjoy a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. See you in the new year!



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](#)

Careful, unsubscribing from the email link below will unsubscribe you from ALL official Winthrop University communications.

	<p>MORGAN-HOLCOMBE ALUMNI CENTER STEWART HOUSE ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA 29733</p>	<p>803/323-2145 www.winthrop.edu/alumni</p>
---	--	--



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Winthrop University](#)

701 Oakland Ave Rock Hill, SC 29733