

CASE STUDIES

The College of Arts and Sciences E-Newsletter



Sue Frances Meriwether Steed, Delores Johnson Hurt, Cynthia Plair Roddey, and Gene Mackey

60 Years of Integration

In 2024, the Winthrop University community commemorates the institution's 60th anniversary of integration. The trailblazers behind this change, Delores Johnson Hurt '68, the late Arnetta Gladden Mackey '67, Sue Frances Meriwether Steed '67, and Cynthia Plair Roddey '67, were honored in April with a banquet and program, *Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: 60th Anniversary of Integration*, and an accompanying exhibit by the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections.

The celebration was co-sponsored by Winthrop University Black Alumni Council, the Association of Ebonites, and the African American Studies minor, with support from the Winthrop Alumni Association and the Council of Student Leaders. You can learn more about integration at Winthrop, the history of integration locally and nationally, other university firsts, and current projects in African American Studies by exploring the [website](#).

Our BSW Program Turned 50 this Year!

During National Social Work Month, we celebrated 50 years of the Bachelor of Social Work degree program, preparing and empowering students to become advocates and navigators for social work. Several events throughout the month celebrated this milestone while connecting to the broader themes such as helping clients with housing insecurity or advocating for policies and services on multiple levels.

The BSW program boasted nearly a hundred majors and 26 graduates in the 2023-24 academic year. It is rigorous and skill-based, requiring 450 hours of practicum/field work in an approved field agency during the student's final semester. They also have active, civic-minded student organizations. Learn more about the history and success of this thriving program in the "[Celebrating Excellence](#)" online magazine.



New Majors and Face-lifts



The Department of Sociology, Criminology, & Anthropology is excited to offer a B.A. in **criminal justice** in the fall of 2024, with two tracks:

- **General**
- **Cyber and Corporate Crimes**

This expansion of the department offers more "real world" elements to courses in criminology. Winthrop will be a regional leader in providing concentrations that address these fast-evolving social problems.



Winthrop offers **microcertificates** to expand one's professional skillset. Students choose courses that align with a specific skill related to theme. CAS offerings include:

- **Global Citizenship Institute**
- **Social Justice and Equity Institute**
- **Technical Writing**

Explore the 10 different kinds of microcertificate programs, [here](#).

Academic Honors



Cynthia Roddey, '67 was presented an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree and gave the Commencement speeches at the May 2024 Undergraduate Commencement ceremonies (see Integration, on Page 1) who has since been an educator for 55 years: 23 as faculty and chair at neighboring Clinton College. She received the Alumni Distinguished Service Award from Winthrop in 2017. We celebrate Dr. Roddey as an iconic and generous supporter of student opportunities and scholarship. More information [here](#).

John Winthrop was presented an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the December Commencement ceremony, A longtime supporter of the Winthrop community and activities, Dr. Winthrop's ancestor provided seed money to start the university. He holds an M.B.A. from Columbia University and established an endowed scholarship to assist qualifying full-time students majoring in history.



Three graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences received the **President's Award for Academic Excellence** at the 2024 Commencement ceremony:

- **Vianna Rodriguez**, B.S. in human nutrition. will begin the master's program in human nutrition at Winthrop this fall.
- **Hanna Switzer**, B.A. in political science and women's and gender studies will enter into law school at Georgia State University.
- **Catherine Windham**, B.A. in psychology and philosophy and religious studies will return to Winthrop this fall as a student in the school psychology program.

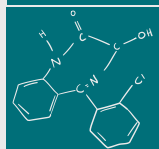


Bright Stars in CAS

- Alli Brophy (MATH/CSCI)** completed an REU at Brown University
- Lydia Coffey (ENGL)** received a funded MFA program offer to study at NYU.
- Ariannah Johnson (MCOM)** was awarded an ETV Endowment Summer Internship
- De'Ja Young (SCWK)** was selected for the 2024 NASW-SC BSW Student of the Year!
- Eight PLSC students** won awards at the Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference
- Breanna Stevens '22 (SOCL)** was chosen for an internship at the FBI

Inez Bell Caskey Student Scholars

Undergraduate researchers in the College of Arts and Sciences compete for the Inez Bell Caskey Student Scholar Awards. Winners are chosen based on the quality of their scholarship and the significance of the work to the students' disciplines.



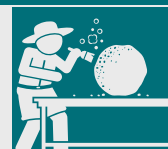
Science & Mathematics

**Ryan Wernsman,
Chemistry**



Humanities & Arts

**Paige Lillibridge,
English**



Social Science

**Lauren Norton,
Anthropology**

CAS Faculty & Staff Achievements



Kori Bloomquist
Associate Professor
Department of Social Work
**Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award
& Robert and Norma Thompson Scholar**

Jennifer Disney
Professor and Chair,
Dept. of Political Science, Philosophy,
Religion & Legal Studies
**Lynn Harand Outstanding
Advisor Award**



Bryan Ghent
Instructor
Department of English
CAS Outstanding Instructor Award

Amanda Hiner
Professor and Chair,
Department of English
Faculty Student Affairs Award



Hope Lima
Assistant Professor
Department of Human Nutrition
Outstanding Junior Professor

Donna Nelson
Professor
Department of Psychology
**CAS Outstanding Undergraduate
Research Mentor Award**



Adria Belk
Director of Student Services
**Winthrop University Staff Member
of the Year Award**

Bringing Research to Television

Brent Woodfill, professor of anthropology, conducts research deep in the woods of Central America. Specifically, for more than a decade, Dr. Woodfill has been working on the site of Salinas de los Nueve Cerros, which was a part of the Mayan lowlands. As a scholar and author on Mayan civilization, he was invited to join the cable television program "Expedition Unknown" for an episode entitled "*Lost City of the White Jaguar*," which aired in November of 2023. The program takes an immersive look into the site of the lost Mayan city, Sak B'alam, and discusses the culture, history and lore of the area and its people. In early February, the Department of Sociology, Criminology, & Anthropology hosted a watch party for the program at Dina's Place, bringing in an audience of more than 100 from the campus community and beyond. The program is now available on streaming services Max and Paramount+.



BRENT WOODFILL
PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY, WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
[Photo from IMDB.com](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1045844/)

Woodfill will be re-joining the program in the upcoming year to explore and discuss the Mayan creation story, which will film in Guatemala. More information about his research and publications is available [here](#). Woodfill is also the 2024 recipient of the Mary Spann Richardson Award, which "honors a faculty or staff member for exceptional service, professional excellence and the ability to provide Winthrop with positive visibility throughout the region."

New Partnership

This year, Winthrop entered into an exciting partnership with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions to provide paid internships in the areas of information technology; cybersecurity; business operations; and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This past spring, a group of faculty and administration from Winthrop visited the site to discuss the new memorandum of understanding and were impressed by the facilities and grounds, as well as the great potential the new relationship holds to create real-world experience, networking, job leads, a "talent pipeline," and intellectual inspiration.



Located in South-Central South Carolina, SRNS is a scientific and ecological organization whose goal is "[protecting nuclear materials for our nation's security, promoting global nuclear deterrence, and protecting the environment for future generations.](#)" Beyond providing internships, the group is supporting Eagle-STEM Scholars program and working with the Center of Career Development and Internships to provide resume writing and interview preparation workshops for interested students.



Students in the SEA-Phages Program engaged in sophisticated research: isolating, analyzing and sequencing genomes under the direction of Victoria Frost.

The Department of Mathematics had a strong showing at the Mathematical Assoc. of America Southeastern Section Meeting held this March in Knoxville, Tennessee. Jessie Hamm and Duha Hamed led the trip and gave presentations.

Our students were "Sipping Anthropology" at Knowledge Perk in February with Richard Chacon who shared details of the collaborative fieldwork between himself, students, and colleagues with the community.



English students and faculty traveled to the American Shakespeare Center in Virginia for a weekend of educational workshops during Spring Break.

Please join us for events this fall.

August

- Aug. 16 - 25: Welcome Week
- Aug. 19: Convocation: Monday, 11-11:45 a.m. | West Center

September

- Sept. 17: West Forum's Constitution Day Event, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Dina's Place
- Sept. 19: International Peace Day Lecture: The US-Mexican Border and Immigration, 7 p.m. | Dina's Place

October

- Oct. 17-18: South Carolina Council for Social Studies Annual Conference
- Oct. 4: Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Poster Session, 3-5 p.m. | Richardson Ballroom

November

- Nov. 8: Encore Lecture Series 1 p.m. | Dina's Place

The Day of Giving 2024 was a SUCCESS!



Total Giving
\$19,792

Total Donors
113

Total Gifts
135

Funds go toward: Scholarships Student Opportunities Research

**THANK
YOU!**

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[News and Event Calendar](#)

