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WINTHROP FAMILY: William "Billy" Davis



Alumni Association

Charles Davis and Barbara Davis, husband and wife, pose in the DiGiorgio Center in front of a Christmas tree dressed as Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Remembering Charles William 'Billy' Davis, a.k.a. Santa Claus as 'part of the Winthrop family'

Winthrop University Santa Claus passes away at 79.

Sam Hyatt / Johnsonian staff writer

Charles William Davis, also known as Santa Claus by many in the Rock Hill and Winthrop community passed away at age 79 on Sept. 1.

Davis' role as Santa Claus began at Winthrop's annual campus tree lighting ceremony many years ago. He would also go to Dinkins and Digs where students and faculty would have time with Santa.

"This was great because families could take their own photos and not have to worry about standing in a long time at the mall," Garrick said. "When Bill put on that Santa suit, he was Santa. The twinkle in his eye, his white beard, and a laugh that bellowed through the building were all 100% authentic."

Davis' wife, Barbara Davis, a long time Winthrop employee, would also play the role as Mrs. Claus alongside Davis.

"Santa and Mrs. Claus were so gracious and genuine in their love for children and Winthrop students," Garrick said.

Davis was involved in the community. While he took part in the community theater for many years and was active at Grace Lutheran Church, Davis sang in the choir and helped with the Boy Scouts and Lutheran campus ministry.

"He did all the good stuff, you know? Kind of like the real Santa would do," Debbie Garrick, Senior Development Officer at Winthrop University said.

Winthrop used to hold an event called "Festival of Carols" which took place many years before Rock Hill's "Christmas-Ville" festival began. At

this event, student brass ensembles would perform on the porches of Margaret Nance, Bancroft, and the Byrnes Auditorium. Local school groups, the Winthrop Chorale, and the Ebonite choir would be a part of these performances.

"Bill, as Santa, would often stun the audience with his amazing voice as he sang along with some of Winthrop's most talented music and theater students and faculty during the medley of carols that was always the finale," Garrick said.

Aside from playing the role of Santa Claus in the community, Garrick said, "he was smart, talented, funny, had a sharp wit and wonderful bass voice with a laugh that did indeed sound like it belonged to Santa."

Both of Davis' children, Heather Litzinger and Gregg Davis were Winthrop alumni. And,

his son, Gregg Davis '92 was the recipient of Winthrop's 2021 Alumni Professional Achievement Award.

"He loved his family and was very proud of them," Garrick said. "He adored his grandsons."

"Winthrop students frequently lived at the Davis home (myself included back in the 80s) for a semester or a summer," Garrick said. "The family pool was a site of many Residence Life or Orientation Leaders summer party, and there was a Christmas party for many Winthrop students who were considered extended family through the years."

Davis' funeral on Sept. 7, 2022. And, as everyone exited the ceremony, a Winthrop faculty member played "Here Comes Santa Claus" on the piano.

"I think that speaks to how much he was considered a part of the Winthrop family," Garrick

News:

Driver of stolen car shot, killed after car chase to Cherry Road CVS

The pursuit lasted 24 minutes.

Chase Duncan / Editor-in-Chief

Winthrop students received a WU ALERT on Sept. 13 at 5:12 p.m. stating that there was a "shooting incident in the vicinity of campus at CVS on Cherry Road."

The message said there were no subjects being pursued. It also advised students to avoid the scene while the investigation was ongoing.

Sheriff Kevin Tolson with the York County Sheriff's Office posted a press release on Sept. 16 regarding the incident, which identifies Tyshawn Malik Benjamin as the offender.

He was driving a stolen car from Charlotte, NC which prompted a car chase that resolved at the CVS Pharmacy on Cherry Rd.

The dash cam footage issued with the press release shows Benjamin weaving in and out of traffic throughout Rock Hill, and cutting through medians to avoid police.

Senior Deputy Corey Wedow fired at Benjamin three times after he crashed the stolen Hyundai into Wedow's squad car several times while trying to leave the CVS parking lot.

Wedow was standing behind the open door of the police cruiser, preparing to confront Benjamin at the time.

Sabrina Cast, Coroner for York County, concluded that Benjamin died at the hospital as a result of his injuries.

Historically, South Carolina has had little to

no state-wide policy on vehicle and foot pursuit situations.

The Department of Public Safety implemented a seven year plan back in 2015 that includes an early warning system and updated recordkeeping of documented policies and procedures pertaining to vehicle and foot pursuits.

The state of South Carolina does outline when these pursuits may be appropriate.

The policy as of July, asks officers to consider, "if the pursuit could have resulted in injury, death, or significant property damage, would a reasonable person understand why the pursuit occurred or was necessary?"

Expectations for how officers must conduct high-speed chases varies by county in South Carolina. However, York County's vehicle and foot pursuit policy is not publicly available.

The State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) investigates officer involved shootings (OIS) when requested by the agency involved. Agents gather forensic evidence and first hand accounts from the scene that may be used by prosecutors to find if the officer is at fault.

It is currently unclear whether an investigation will occur.

This incident was the first reported OIS in the York County Sheriff's office this year, and the 24th OIS in SC this year.

News:

Former Johnson & Wales Dean named new Winthrop Dean of Students

Slack also upheld roles at Queens University in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Marley Bassett / Managing Editor

Amber Slack is slated to move into a new role on Oct. 3 as Winthrop University's newest Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

Prior to her coming to Winthrop, Slack served as the dean of students for Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte and in a variety of roles at Queens University.

She received her bachelor and master's degrees in government from Campbell University and her doctorate in educational leadership from UNC Charlotte.

"I look forward to working with the strong team of faculty and staff I met throughout the [interview] process to help

further student success. I particularly look forward to working with students and engaging in the various campus programs, arts activities, and athletic events," she said in a statement to students.

Slack has professed an interest in having her main focus being on communication and transparency with students.

"Particularly as it comes to conduct and Title IX, I want students to know they can trust me to help them, but also to ensure that the process is fair and equitable within the guidelines of the policies. I hope that this will give students a sense of trust in the process, and they will feel comfortable coming forward with concerns," Slack said.

She plans to do this by

connecting with students in spaces such as the residence halls and campus center.

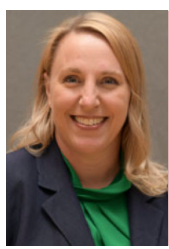
"I want students to feel that I am here for them and that I'm someone they see around campus. I plan to connect with students by being in their spaces (residence halls, dining halls, student center, club meetings, etc.) and at campus events and programs. This helps me to hear from students about their experiences and allows me to connect with them one-on-one," she said.

Other staff members are excited to have a new

dean of students.

"Since the Dean of Students Office is such a vital and integral part of the university, Dr. Slack will be able to provide strategic direction for the DOSO. She will have new, creative ideas which students will benefit from," assistant dean of students Miranda Knight said.

"I think students will find Dr. Slack to be someone they can speak to, someone who will be engaged, someone who is knowledgeable, and someone who is warm and inviting, yet has high expectations for our community. I am really looking forward to the Dean starting and having the opportunity to plan, be proactive, and be strategic."



Amber Slack



York County Sheriff's Office

Screenshot of dash cam footage from the York County Sheriff's Office shows a sheriff's vehicle and the suspect's vehicle in the CVS parking lot moments before the fatal crash.



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News:



Ainsley McCarthy / The Johnsonian

A Winthrop University student identification card is scanned as a form of payment for dining options provided on the first floor of the DiGiorgio Center.

Sodexo to offer free meal swipes to students in need

Swipe Out Hunger, a non-profit, is making the initiative possible

Ainsley McCarthy / News Editor

Winthrop's food services and facilities management company is partnered with a non-profit organization called Swipe Out Hunger, through which they donate a free meal swipe in exchange for each meal plan sold. The program was launched in 2019, but this is the first full year that it is active at Winthrop University.

Swipe Out Hunger advocates for ending food insecurity among college students, and does so through several initiatives. According to their website, "The Sodexo and Swipe Out Hunger pilot program launched on 12 campuses across the U.S., including Seattle Pacific University and San Francisco State University. As a result of the pilot, 80 percent of participating students felt less stress and 44 percent performed better in their classes."

Dining Services hopes bringing the collaboration to Winthrop will promote similar outcomes for its students, especially given that the program was more limited last academic year than it is now.

Candidates are advised to contact Assistant Dean of Students, Miranda Knight to disclose their personal circumstances that help determine their level of need. She and general manager for Sodexo, Helen Hoban mutually decide on the number of Eagle Meals that should be applied to student's IDs on a case-by-case basis.

Knight and Hoban are the only people who know the participant's identity throughout the

application process, and the only record of affiliation with the program is the WUID associated with the student's meal plan.

The meal swipes allotted from Sodexo's virtual bank are converted into Eagle Meals to use at Markley's Food Court and Eagle Eatery alike, though these meals cannot be converted into Cafe Cash.

Neither Eagle Meals nor Eagle Bucks or Cafe Cash are redeemable off campus.

Wanda Koszewski, Chair of the Human Nutrition Department, says that she encourages students to look into the program, and to take advantage of additional resources like the Food Box in 308 Dalton Hall, or the weekly farmer's market held every Wednesday on Scholar's Walk.

The Food Box and farmer's market are hosted by the Human Nutrition Department. Both have a "no questions asked" policy if students feel uncomfortable talking about their reasons for seeking out assistance.

"Anything that students can use to get access to food, I highly recommend," Koszewski says. "The body needs food to function, especially the brain. If somebody doesn't have access to food, they're not able to eat—they're not getting the calories and the energy they need to perform their strongest in the classroom. The brain is like any other organ or muscle, it's got to have fuel; also I think just the stress of trying to handle things financially starts to impact relationships, their academic performance, how they're feeling, their mental health, their physical health, so it does have a cascade effect."

AROUND TOWN: Gray's Anatomy Med Spa



Jada Strong / The Johnsonian

Gray's Anatomy Med Spa, pictured on the top floor, is located at 502 Cherry Road in Rock Hill, SC.

Gray's Anatomy Med Spa set to open on Cherry Road

This holistic treatment spa is said to change lives

Jada Strong / Johnsonian staff writer

On Cherry Road, across the street from the Walgreens near Winthrop's campus, is an ongoing construction. Now that the lot have gone on to be filled, one of the new businesses that have been added is the Gray's Anatomy Spa, a holistic spa treatment center that primarily focuses on helping people who have medical surgeries or health problems.

Tara Gray, the owner of the spa, currently owns a clinic but is opening Gray's Anatomy to make a difference and provide more room and a more beneficial experience for her clients.

"I wanted to have bigger rooms, I wanted it to be huge because I wanted people to feel like they were not having a doctor's office visit, you know, I want them to feel warm and just feel like we're kind of hugging you when you come in," Gray said. "Because these are folks that are coming right out of surgery, they've had hip replacements, shoul-

der surgeries and knee replacements. And so they're in pain, you know, and they don't want to go into a sterile environment. So it's important to me to help them heal, while we just kind of love them and wrap our arms around them."

Gray has made sure that her spa has various rooms that include key components of space and privacy and that the aesthetic will keep the patients' minds off of their current hardships and give them moments of peace and relaxation. Gray is also excited about the type of technology that will be in use to treat patients. This technology, according to Gray, will not feel clinical.

"I've worked with NFL players for our rehab and maintenance, they don't have to worry about being disturbed or their privacy," Gray said. "For example, if someone comes in and they've had a full knee replacement and I'm doing a post-surgical rehab on the medical side, they can at some point come on the spa side, see the esthetician with the virtue RF and get that scar tissue reduced to a minimum, completely."

Gray also hopes with her expansion that clients will also help break the

stigma around holistic healing and that methods like her spa are given a fair chance.

Gray said she got into holistic healing after going through recovery from a car wreck.

"Medication may help with the pain but it doesn't solve what's causing the pain. Our bodies are tremendous healers, just by themselves and if you have the proper education and tools, which is why we want to change that narrative that I'm talking about, you have the ability," Gray said. "There's going to be a point in time for some folks where surgery is necessary. You know, like me, I've had multiple from my wreck, and I've been put back together, so that part was necessary. But, post that necessary surgical part, just popping an opioid, which is part of the problem, the opioid crisis is going on, currently, you know, it is addictive. And it's easy for someone to pop a pill and be numb. But, that doesn't address the issue that's causing it. So, if you address that issue, and you can do it without say, opioids, which affect your abilities, your insides, your liver, I mean, there's so much damage

that it causes. So, for me, hands-on therapy, specifically pain management, neuromuscular therapy is my specialty."

Gray's mission is to give back to people in need and pay it forward from when she was in physical pain. Some of her patients that come to see her live with cystic fibrosis. Gray has been working for the Graphym Plan Foundation to raise awareness and money for cystic fibrosis research.

"Our products and logos will all have G's on them for the Graphym foundation," Gray said. "They'll also be a big G, an inspiration wall, hung up here in my practice as well."

Gray plans on having the store fully open for customers sometime this upcoming November.

"We hope to begin in the second or third week of October, seeing folks. And then if all that goes well, that's when I'll coordinate with the city and the chamber to do a ribbon cutting and grand opening, which will probably be around the first week of November," Gray said. "When we do that, that's when our inspiration wall is going to feature the Graphym plan."



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Let's highlight some of Winthrop's nice hammock spots!

Campus Green

Perks
- Warmth & SUN!
- Social Space

Oakland Avenue Location

Perks:
- Shade
- TREES
- Quiet

Little Chapel

Perks
- Secluded
- Shade
- Beautiful Trees!
- Chapel View

Hardin Garden

Perks
- GARDEN!
- Shade & Trees
- Listen to that soothing fountain/waterfall!

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- WU AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE WINTHROP POLL

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October 18-19

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Email Leah McMillan for more info at mcmillanL@winthrop.edu or visit <https://winthrop.peopleadmin.com/postings/11491>

NEWS

AROUND WINTHROP: Insect Museum

Insect Museum at Winthrop is a hidden gem

The museum in the biology department is taking donations

Sam Hyatt / Johnsonian staff writer

An Insect Museum in the biology department is managed by Dr. Paula Mitchell. The professor has been managing the existing insect collection at Winthrop since 1995. “When I arrived, I inherited a small insect collection (3 cabinets)

from my predecessor, Dr. Lockett Davis, who had started the collection in the 1970s,” the Museum Collections Manager Dr. Paula Mitchell said.

While her teaching at Winthrop began with instruction in Entomology, she is now retired and continues to manage the collection in a part time position as the Museum Collections Manager.

“If no one cares for a collection it ends up being destroyed by dermestid beetles,” Mitchell said. “Dermestid beetles are

the curse of an insect collection. The larvae burrow into the dried pinned specimens and eat them from the inside out, leaving piles of dermestid poop that look like dust piles. Once you see one of those piles, the specimen is usually damaged beyond repair.”

Mitchell has added to the collection over the years by doing her own field work and by having students from classes such as BIOL 520: Entomology and BIOL 304: Insect Field Studies turn in insects as part of the class.

There are two methods in which people can catch and donate insects to the department.

“Small insects can go directly into a small container of over the counter rubbing alcohol. This kills them and preserves them” Mitchell said.

“Larger insects can be put in a plastic container or Ziploc bag and put in the freezer for 48 hours, then brought to me within 25 hours of defrosting.”

In addition to bringing in a specimen for donation, Mitchell will need information such as the date of the collection, geographic location including state, county and town and the collectors full name.

One of the most valuable specimens in the collection is the African Goliath beetle.

“This species is one of the most massive beetles in the world,” Mitchell said.

One of the best backstories of a specimen is connected to a mole cricket that was donated by two young brothers. The two brothers found the cricket near the Catawba Nuclear

Station.

“Mole crickets are so weird looking that they were absolutely convinced it was a mutant cricket caused by exposure to radiation,” Mitchell said. “I hated to disappoint them, but they were somewhat consoled by the fact that the specimen would permanently bear their names as collectors.”

One area of the collection that Mitchell would like to expand is the collection of Lace bugs.

“I am presently co-authoring a book on the lace bugs of South Carolina,” Mitchell said. “Lace bugs are poorly represented in the Winthrop collection because they are tiny, 2-5 mm in length, and most students prefer to collect large insects.”

In addition to the insect collection, the museum also contains plants,

vertebrates, and shells. Dr. Kunsiri Grubbs is in charge of managing the plants and Dr. William Rogers, an emeritus professor manages the vertebrates.

Currently no one is looking over the shell collection since dermestid beetles do not eat shells.

“There is something nice about knowing that an insect you’ve collected will be preserved in perpetuity with your name on it,” Mitchell said. “I think of it as a tiny bit of immortality.”

If students are interested in an individual tour or would like to donate to the collection email Dr. Paula Mitchell at mitchellp@winthrop.edu.

OBITUARY: John William Click

Retired Winthrop department chair dies at 86

Dr. Click held tenure at WU from 1987 to 2013.

Marley Bassett / Managing Editor

John William Click, or Bill as he was known to family and friends, passed away after a brief illness at the age of 86.

Click was the longtime chair of the mass communication department at Winthrop University and helped revolutionize the department during his tenure from 1987 to 2013.

He led the department to its first national accreditation in 1997 and through several re-accreditations since until his retirement in 2013.

Click also led the department through several important curriculum changes including creating the integrated marketing communication major which was first offered in 1999.

Click taught at the E.W Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University and the Manship School of Journalism at Louisiana State University before coming to Winthrop in 1987.

Click received a bachelor of arts degree from Ball State University, a master of science degree from Ohio University and a doctor of philosophy degree from Ohio State University.

Click received many honors throughout his storied career including being the third inductee in the Bell State University Hall of Fame in 1987.

He was also an inductee for the College Media Ad-

visor Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Central Michigan University Journalism Hall of Fame in 2005. Click was also a member of the journalism honor society, Kappa Tau Alpha since 1959.

Click was known around Winthrop as a professor of media ethics and his classes were well lauded.

Winthrop faculty remember Click fondly.

“Dr. Click was a guiding force behind the mass communication department. He was a great communicator and made sure everyone knew what was going on, from curriculum changes to department activities. He also made sure everyone had the opportunity to voice their opinions and he made us feel that our opinions were valued,” instructor Bonnye Stuart said.

“Dr. Click cared for students and was an advocate for journalism education. I considered him a mentor and I learned a lot about being a professor by observing him. He had an outstanding memory and great attention to detail,” associate professor Nathaniel Frederick said.

To me he will always be the guy who showed unshakable faith in me to be a valuable part of this department. That meant a lot to me when I was a new faculty member and trying to navigate the unique culture of academia. I’m eternally grateful to Bill,” associate professor Willam Schulte said.



Winthrop University Department of Biology

A collection of preserved insects such as butterflies and beetles.

POLICE BLOTTER

Inappropriate drug disposal, bicycle theft, sexual misconduct

She' Franklin / Johnsonian Staff Writer

Man facing charges after throwing drugs out car window

A man is facing several charges after allegedly throwing drugs out of a car during a traffic stop, according to the Reporting Officer (R/O).

On Sept. 13, around 11:00 p.m., an R/O on patrol near Cherry Road and Myrtle Drive observed a vehicle speeding 52 mph in a 40 mph zone with a defective tail light. The R/O immediately initiated blue lights to conduct a traffic stop.

While closely approaching behind the vehicle, the R/O spotted the driver tossing a bag containing pill-like substances out of his window near Cherry Rd and Richmond Rd. The R/O immediately contacts an additional officer for assistance in locating the bag before pulling over the driver.

Following the traffic stop, the driver was immediately patted down before the bag was recovered. The R/O concluded that the bag thrown from the vehicle window were edibles containing THC.

According to the R/O, a probable cause search was determined to be necessary due to the strong smell of marijuana coming from the vehicle.

During the search, the R/O also spotted a blue book bag containing a container of marijuana inside the vehicle.

The driver was issued a SC Uniform Traffic Ticket for VDL possession of marijuana 1st offense and a verbal warning for a defective headlight and speeding.

According to the R/O, all items on the scene were confiscated for testing and were found to contain 22.2 grams of marijuana.

Bicycle theft

Winthrop University Police Department is currently investigating a theft incident reported on Sept. 11. The incident involved a bicycle stolen from the front area of East Thompson between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:30 a.m..

According to the owner of the bicycle, identified as a Winthrop Affiliate, It is believed that the suspect cut the lock from the bicycle and stole it.

The bicycle is described as a cream color, women's style Schwinn 700c Ad-

miral. The cyclist's owner also states that they do not wish to press charges if the bicycle is returned.

Sexual misconduct

Winthrop University Police Department has issued an investigation into a sexual conduct case that occurred on Sept 10.

According to the Reporting Officer(R/O), he met with the victim near Good Building located on Winthrop University campus. The victim stated to the R/O that she was accompanied by the suspect in her room when the sexual assault occurred.

According to the victim, the suspect approached her and expressed a desire to have sexual relations with her without her consent. In an attempt to push the suspect away, he began to pull the victim's clothes off and sexually assault her. Several times, the victim asked the suspect to stop, and he eventually complied.

The next day, the victim stated that the suspect contacted her multiple times seeking to discuss the matter, but she immediately blocked his number after insisting that she did not want any

contact with him.

After making the police statement, the R/O advised the victim to avoid contact with the suspect and provided her with a Victim Notification Information form. The R/O also informed the victim to contact Winthrop Police Department immediately if the suspect attempts to contact her again or is seen on Winthrop campus.

Further investigations is still pending. The victim has made the R/O aware that she does not wish to press charges. Currently, criminal sexual conduct (1st degree) is being considered as a possible charge against the suspect.

If you or anyone may have experience sexual assault or misconduct, please contact Winthrop University Police Department



Click



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- WU AFFAIRS REPORTER

SPORTS

Competitors travel to Winthrop Coliseum to attend largest Ultimate Event in SC history

200+ people attend esports event titled, "Rock The Hill", hosted by Winthrop Competitive Gaming Club and Winthrop Esports



While cost of entry ranged from \$5 to \$10, there were discounts for driving upwards of two hours and carpooling with three or more people.



Mari Pressley / Copy Editor

Despite a "minimal marketing" effort, 225 people attended the Winthrop's first esports event on Sept. 17. In what was meant to be a test event "to learn if the Coliseum could handle the capacity (bandwidth and power - which I'm still anxious about)," Division of Student Affairs Vice President, Sheila Burkhalter said.

However, the event has now become the largest Ultimate Event in South

Carolina history.

According to Winthrop Esports on Twitter, Winthrop student, Matthew Scott a.k.a. "NoTag" placed first in the competition, taking home "the inaugural Rock The Hill title after an incredible three sets" against Christian Londono a.k.a. "Peabnut".

"Rock The Hill" included events where players could compete in Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Super Smash Bros. Melee, Guilty Gear: Strive, Rivals of Aether, and DNF Duel. Many of the event's



players came from Clemson University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of South Carolina, College of Charleston, Lander University, and many other various locations throughout Carolinas.

Business administration major Chadric Wiley said, "So we have setups around the entire octagon, . . . And we also have set ups down here [court] and then round inside [coliseum hallways]. We have a lot of setups."



Winthrop Alumnus and Competitive gaming club founder, Jahiym Staten, is one of the leaders of the Winthrop Competitive gaming club. He helped implement initiatives to acquire the space, set the rules, meet with the athletic department and partner with the Winthrop athletics and esports team.

Staten said, "What makes a gaming tournament is that anyone can join. There's no requirements, you got to be part of a team, anything like that, you register for the event, you pay a registration fee, you enter. So it's kinda like a sports tourna-

ment, like March Madness and things that . . . except for you're pretty much paying for your registration for your team, you're representing yourself, as a chance to win."

As the player amount grows, "the more money, you're going to have a chance to win, but you're betting on yourself," Staten said.

While players are betting on their skills against other people, there is a double elimination structure which means players lose twice in order to be eliminated. Players were able to progress further until they were the last

person standing.

Anyone is allowed to play as long as you bring your own controller, show up and register to play. Many esports events like Rock The Hill have attendance numbers that reach thousands.

"So that's how the structure, those things generally work. And this has been in the works for months. So we had 200 plus people signed up today. And it's just been a really good vibe, a lot of people, a lot of matches, they're still going to go on all day," Staten said.



Pictured from right to left: Rafael Alfaro and Jonathan Lopez.

Two competitors, Rafael Alfaro and Johnathan Lopez from Triad, NC heard about the tournament.. So, they decided to travel to Rock Hill and compete.

Alfaro said, "Specifically with Smash, it started for me back when I was a kid, I played brawl. I didn't do too much with that, because I was like a baby. In high school, my friends, and I used to bring our 3DS's and play Smash

4, and then eventually, the new Smash came out from the switch and I just had a lot of fun with it, saw that there was a scene and just went from there."

After just competing in Smash Ultimate tournaments, the two sat in the seats of the coliseum, chatted, and observed competition goers.

"I understand that in some aspects, people take it very seriously like



it is a daytime job. For me, however, I just enjoy competing just for the fun of it, just interacting with people who have the same interest as me and [being] able to grow a pretty strong relationship with them. Overall, I just really enjoy competing and just really enjoy playing the game." Lopez said.



Pictured from top to bottom: Brooke Bordner, Sleeve and Makky Kalaser.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Alumna Makky Kalaser from Charlotte plays Smash Ultimate. And, she brought her hamster, Sleeve to the tournament.

"So, I started going to tournaments in 2019 when I was still a UNC student. And I had gotten interested in the game after my brother had already become a PR

(Power Ranking) player and was like, beyond practicing with me for fun because the skill gap was too big and I was determined to become as good as him." Kalaser went on to say, "So I had a previous hamster named Pants. When I started competing it was 2019. . . . And, UNC had Smashfest which was like a free bracket that was like casual and low stakes

in the student union. . . . So, I started going to the Smash brother events. And, I had a hamster and I was like,

"I could bring my hamster. Nobody would stop me. I could just show my hamster to people at the low stakes Smashfest." So I started doing that. And, my hamsters are always really calm and well behaved."



"I used to work full time. I needed a hobby. This is my hobby. I have ADHD. So, I work really fast. And this keeps me busy," Kayla Hieser said.

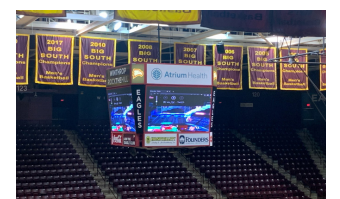
In the Coliseum's hallway, you can find Perler beads seller Kayla Hieser at her booth pressing her designs.

"So you take the bead, and you have pegboards to have the little pegs on them. And that's where the round little piece goes.

And then after you're done with everything, you take a piece of parchment paper, put it on top and you melt them together."

At approximately 5 p.m. that evening, Hieser said she'd been working the stand since 9 a.m. that morning.

"Most of the time, it's a 12-hour shift, depending on how long the tournament goes and kind of how big the event is. But I've done two-day events, I've done this event. So it varies on what you can take and how long you can take it," Hieser said.



While the tournament went on at the Winthrop Coliseum starting at 9:00 a.m., viewers were able to stream some of the events at home.

Pictured left to right are Commentators Pochu and Dux.

ALUMNI ALLEY

Former WU Volleyball player shares college experience

Kelley Taylor, now an elementary school teacher, shares about her time at Winthrop as a student athlete

Sam Hyatt/
Johnsonian guest writer

Former Winthrop Volleyball player and Alumna, Kelley Taylor '10 and '12 spent her time as a student preparing to become a teacher.

"When I did my field experience, there were times that I would wake up at 5am to go to the school and then have an away game in the evening and not get back to my dorm until midnight or later," Taylor said.

Taylor completed her field experience at Erwin Elementary in Lancaster and a full-time internship at Jefferson Elementary in York.

"I truly had the best teammates," Taylor said. "We spent time on the

court together, traveling together and even just being regular college students."

During Taylor's freshman year in 2006, her and the team won the Big South Championship.

"I actually did not play much being a freshman, but I just remember being so excited," Taylor said. "We had a ring ceremony and I remember it being really special."

Taylor was mentored by former Winthrop Volleyball coaches, Joel McCartney and Sally Polhamus.

"Polhamus, Shannon Wells and Chuck Rey definitely made a huge impact on me as a player and person," Taylor said. "They were more than coaches. They coached hard but they also mentored me to just be a good person."

Between volleyball practice and class, Taylor progressed towards her

degree by being in the classroom doing field experience and internships.

"I think the College of Education did a great job preparing me," Taylor said. "However, I don't think you can ever be truly prepared to be by yourself on the first day of teaching in your own classroom. So much of what I have learned about teaching has been through teaching and having my own classroom."

While being a part of the College of Education, professor emeriti Linda Pickett who specialized in elementary science education and Mary Watson who instructed at Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School made an impact on Taylor.

"Linda Pickett was truly my hero. So many times, I wanted to leave Winthrop because I missed home or just struggled with a class and she was always so

supportive," Taylor said. "Mary Watson also played a huge role in who I am as a teacher. While I was in graduate school I worked as her graduate assistant in Macfeat Kindergarten. I learned so many things about good teaching and building relationships."

Aside from volleyball and schoolwork, Taylor was involved in the academic chapter Kappa Delta Pi and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

"My faith is a huge part of who I am so that's why I joined FCA," Taylor said.

Taylor graduated with a Bachelor of Science in elementary education in 2010 and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction.

After graduating Taylor began teaching fourth grade and later, third grade. Now she is currently working as an elementary technology teacher. "I try to go to a volley-

ball game or two each season, but I have three kids under 5 which has kept me incredibly busy," Taylor said. "I am hoping as my kids get older, I will be able to be more involved since we live in the area."

"Winthrop was a major part of who I am today," Taylor said. "Once I made friends I really felt at home at Winthrop," Taylor said.



Taylor hitting a spike

OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THIS IS A LIST OF EVENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

9/29/2022- Study Abroad Fair- 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

10/03/2022- 2022 US Disc Golf Championship- 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM

10/03/2022- Council of Student Leaders- 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

10/04/2022- 2022 US Disc Golf Championship- 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM

10/05/2022- 2022 US Disc Golf Championship- 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM

10/06/2022- 2022 US Disc Golf Championship- 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM

10/07/2022- 2022 US Disc Golf Championship- 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM

10/07/2022- Make-A-Wish Event- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

10/08/2022- 2022 US Disc Golf Championship- 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM

10/09/2022- 2022 US Disc Golf Championship- 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM

10/10/2022- Council of Student Leaders- 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

10/11/2022- Wellness Screening- 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

10/11/2022- CDI Fair- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

10/12/2022- CDI Fair- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Alumni Spotlight: April Hershey wishes she had 'worked less and enjoyed more' at WU

Winthrop alumna and donor shares advice based on her time as a student

Sam Hyatt /
Johnsonian Staff Writer

April Hershey, an alumna from the classes of 1999 and 2011, talks about her time as a Winthrop student.

Hershey is currently working on an MBA and is working as the Executive Assistant for the CEO of a company in Charlotte. Before that, Hershey worked at Winthrop University as an administrator for 20 years and worked with the Lutheran Campus Ministry.

During her time at Winthrop, Hershey was involved in Model United Nations and its annual conference.

"My favorite memo-

ries from college usually center around the annual Model United Nations conference, as I was heavily involved in that all four years, as well as the time spent with the friends that I made through those annual conference experiences," Hershey said. "I even got to be on CN2 to talk about the conference my junior year."

Before coming to Winthrop between high school and college, Hershey spent one year overseas working.

"Because of my recent stint living in Germany before coming to Winthrop, I immediately got involved with the then International Club, Model United Nations, and Lutheran Campus Ministry," Hershey said. "I loved getting to know the international students

[and] all about their home countries and culture."

While being a part of Model UN, Hershey had the opportunity to visit New York City with a fellow classmate and friend.

"We took the Amtrak from Charlotte to Penn Station and traipsed all over lower Manhattan for three days while gathering information, ideas, and inspiration on how to improve and grow Winthrop's Model UN," Hershey said.

Hersey wishes that she did not work as much and had taken advantage of on campus housing longer while being a student at Winthrop.

"I wished I had worked less and enjoyed more of the freedom that being in college full time allows some students," Hershey said. "Instead of being

so anxious to be on my own, I wish I had lived on campus longer and taken advantage of a more care-free lifestyle rather than being saddled with rent and utilities once I moved off campus."

One thing that Hershey wishes she had done before graduating was taking a financial literacy class.

"It was something that could have helped prepare me for how to understand job benefits, income taxes, deductions from my paycheck, and what a 401K is," Hershey said.

Hershey believes that current Winthrop students should take advantage of the Rock Hill area while they are students.

"Get off campus every now and then and get to know your surroundings," Hershey said. "Investigate

the history. Just because Rock Hill is not Charleston does not mean that it does not have a rich history as does the low country. 20 years from now, people will ask you questions about Winthrop, Rock Hill, Charlotte, and this time. Cultivate some stories and memories to share."

Hershey graduated with a Bachelor of Science in political science in 1999 and obtained her Master of Liberal Arts in 2011.

As a Winthrop alumna, Hershey continues to stay involved by attending Homecoming events and donating to Winthrop.

"I am in touch with other alumni on almost a daily basis," Hershey said.



Orientation Group from 1995



Friends and fellow alumni hold going away for hershey party after 20 working at Winthrop

WRITE FOR The Roddey McMillan Record

The Roddey McMillan Record (RMR) is Winthrop's monthly multicultural student publication.

The RMR has been a significant voice of the minority population of the Winthrop community since its creation by Gail Harris in April 1986.

It promotes awareness and understanding of issues concerning minorities for the prosperity of the entire Winthrop community.

The purpose of the RMR is to shine light on the many diverse cultures at Winthrop, focusing on issues, concerns and happenings of those who represent the multicultural community on campus.

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