



## What happened to the 2021 Campus Climate Survey?

The survey, which evaluates sexual misconduct on campus, never happened.

Ainsley McCarthy  
 News Editor

Former interim president George Hynd announced a follow-up Campus Climate Survey in 2021 in response to previous results from 2017, which sparked a string of student-led protests addressing sexual misconduct at Winthrop; however, this plan never came to fruition.

Hynd's original press release said, "we are committed to issuing another Campus Climate Survey for next academic year so we can compare the current climate against 2017 and determine our next steps as part of our continuing efforts to adhere

appropriately to the provisions of Title IX and cases of possible sexual harassment or assault on campus. We will be intentional about sharing the results of that survey with the entirety of our community."

The Johnsonian has since received a response to a FOIA request for its results, as they could not be located online. According to Winthrop's general counsel and FOIA officer Todd Hagins, no Campus Climate Survey was conducted in 2021-2022 due to COVID-19.

Seeing as COVID-19 restrictions were pulled back in March of 2022—the campus' mask mandate was repealed on March

14— The Johnsonian also reached out to President Serna for comment.

He said in a correspondence with The Johnsonian that plans for a 2021 Campus Climate Survey were "put on hold for updated federal guidance related to Title IX policy and the federal 2022 Appropriations Act."

He also said, "I anticipate Winthrop being able to survey in spring 2024 as provided in federal law.

The law Serna is referencing is the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which was reauthorized by the Biden administration on March 15, 2022.

The legislation



Courtesy of Winthrop University

requires that institutions of higher learning receiving federal funding must administer Campus Climate Surveys every two years to examine student's experiences with stalking, sexual assault and domestic violence, among other crimes of that nature.

The university's Title IX Coordinator, Kevin Sheppard, has not yet responded to The Johnsonian's

request for comment.

It is currently unclear who might manage the team of administrators in charge of the next Campus Climate Survey, primarily because of vice president Kimberly Faust's departure.

The Johnsonian is reaching out to administrators who were involved in the 2017 process to determine what might be the next course of

action.

Winthrop Police did not have access to previous plans or results pertaining to these surveys, per an email from police chief Charles Yearta on March 6.

More updates will be published as more information is discovered.

## Serna announces new strategic initiative

Plans for Winthrop and its future are taking shape, and Serna invites students to contribute.

David Ibragimov  
 Staff Writer

An email from president Serna included a link to a new strategic planning website that will track the progress of ongoing projects and initiatives.

The message to students was titled, "Strategic Planning at Winthrop". The email began with a quote from Leo Tolstoy, "Spring is the time of plans and projects."

"Looking back on the institution's history, we must admit that each time period shaped the Winthrop experience. While our spirit and values may have remained

constant, what we look like, the product we offer, and who we serve changed with the times. Clearly, we are not the same institution from 50, 30, even 10 years ago," Serna said.

"Students like you, with varied life experiences, reflect today's realities. You bring different perspectives, and you expect—even demand—a lot from higher education, which requires us to be nimble and responsive in new ways," he said.

Serna went on to say, "As we undertake our strategic planning process with our

partners at Berkeley Research Group, I challenge you to be open to shaping the Winthrop we want to become: a place where all prospective students can see themselves belonging and thriving and being transformed for success today and beyond. Strategic planning will help us get to that place."

Although President Serna has been at Winthrop for less than a year, this is not his first time reaching out to the Winthrop community. Throughout his first year, Serna has made it known that he is willing to listen

to the students of Winthrop and attempt to address any concerns within the Winthrop community, hosting events by The Edge in DIGS, where students can sit down not only to talk with Serna about their concerns at Winthrop, but to also get to know the president and his goals for our university.

The Johnsonian reached out to President Serna's office to get more information on the upcoming plans, and what Winthrop students should anticipate. "Winthrop's presidents have a long history in developing plans to help guide the university's direction. The most recent five-year strategic



Courtesy of Winthrop University

plan, called the Winthrop Plan, concluded in 2022 and has offered insight on some areas we can continue to improve."

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## What's Inside:



Student Spotlight: Alyssa Angelo

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Spring has sprung at Winthrop!

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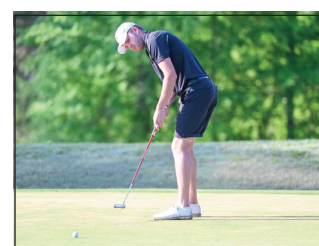
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## Police Blotter



Marley Bassett  
Editor-in-Chief

### Suspicious person in Tillman Hall parking lot

An office responded to a call that a subject was using a slim jim device in order to get into a vehicle. It was later found out that he locked the keys inside the car and that the vehicle was his mother's. The subject then called AAA to get the vehicle unlocked on April 4.

### Stray dog found in College Ave. parking lot.

A student caught a stray, healthy non-aggressive dog in the parking lot and then called the police on April 5. The responding officer contacted animal control but they were unable to respond due to a current lack of personnel. The dog then went to a house that they did not belong to but the resident said they would take temporary custody and knew it belonged to someone on the street.

### Subject found with marijuana at Winthrop's President's Circle

An officer was on patrol and detected the odor of marijuana coming from a vehicle at President's Circle. The officer made contact with the subjects in the vehicle. The driver then stated that they had a small amount of marijuana in their pocket. They were then issued both a state citation and a trespass warning. This occurred on April 9.

## cont. from pg. 1: Serna announces strategic plan initiative

"At the encouragement of the Board of Trustees, I have made a new strategic planning process a priority. With feedback from university faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, partners and the community, I anticipate announcing a roadmap for Winthrop's future this fall to address

academics, enrollment, development, facilities, technology and more. With our partner, the Berkeley Research Group, and with input from our stakeholders, we can shape Winthrop to become a place where all prospective students can see themselves belonging and being transformed

for success for the future," Serna said.

A Strategic Plan Steering Committee is being led by Gary Simrill, the special assistant to the president for community engagement. They are collaborating with BRG to finalize details for events held in April.

Sheila Burkhalter,

who is the vice president for student affairs and also a member of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, will likely release the official dates and times of these events once they are prepared.

As of now, the plans for how this strategic plan will come to fruition are held

under wraps, but if you are interested in participating, make sure to keep a lookout for potential emails, surveys and event news posted by the university.

These resources can be found at [strategicplanning.winthrop.edu](http://strategicplanning.winthrop.edu)," Serna said.

## Student Spotlight – Alyssa Angelo shoots photography and videography for universities around the country

Senior lacrosse player shoots media content for Winthrop's women's lacrosse team

Sam Hyatt  
Guest Correspondent

Alyssa Angelo, a senior lacrosse player, continues to secure major opportunities to showcase her photography and videography skills.

Angelo became involved in this field by making videos and graphics for her high school lacrosse team during her senior year.

"I started and ran our team Instagram and Twitter and fell in love with how the recognition made my team feel," Angelo said. "They were not good or at least when I look back on them, and I laugh a little bit, but at the time it felt pretty cool."

Once she got to Winthrop, Angelo started doing some small media opportunities for the lacrosse team while playing for the team. Because of that opportunity, she began getting more opportunities to work creatively with other teams.

"I got into Photo-shop halfway through my sophomore year and was pretty bad at it to start," Angelo said. "But my coaches at the time really believed in me and allowed me to take creative control of our social media content so I worked hard to make good content for the team."

Angelo grew up playing and watching sports and has found that she loves working and shooting for athletic teams.

"Football and baseball are two of my favorites but not limited to! I have grown to know the sports very well, so it makes knowing what's going on and anticipating what's going to happen a lot easier," Angelo said.

"The knowledge I have for the sports allows me to put my camera in the right place at the right time by anticipating what's going to happen. I



Alyssa Angelo, a senior lacrosse player, works for the team and other teams to shoot footage of their games.

Courtesy of Alyssa Angelo

also just think they are two sports that show a lot of emotion that's easy and fun to capture."

Because of her interest in video editing, graphic design and social media, Angelo changed her major from education to mass communication.

"Mass communication has definitely helped me a lot even more so outside of the skill and creativity part but just learning how to talk to people, network, be professional and make a portfolio," Angelo said. "Those are all things that have set me up for success that my major has done a good job teaching me."

One of the biggest opportunities for Angelo has been getting to work for the UCLA women's basketball team, who made it to the sweet sixteen run in this year's NCAA

march madness tournament.

"For them, I work directly with and for their director of creative content, Caren Nicdao, who has been nothing but wonderful to me," Angelo said. "I do a lot of graphic design for them working to make graphics for recruits and have had the opportunity to edit multiple videos for their Instagram as well as recruits."

One opportunity that Angelo would love to get is working with UGA's football team.

"UGA because both my parents went to UGA and I grew up a huge fan," Angelo said. "They are one of the best football teams in the nation and in the best conference in my opinion. But other than that, I've just really liked seeing their work and would love to help continue what

they are doing there for sports media. I love shooting football and being at a school in the SEC would be so cool and exciting!"

On top of managing this job, Angelo is also a student athlete here at Winthrop University.

"Honestly it's challenging to balance sometimes however it is a part time (18 hour) work week with a lot of flexibility from my boss," Angelo said. "School and lacrosse come first, it's been nice this year being a senior having a lighter schedule and it's definitely helped with the demand of it all. Although it's hard sometimes I wouldn't change a thing!"

Angelo will graduate this May with a degree in mass communication, and plans to start her masters degree in sports administration in the fall.



Courtesy of Alyssa Angelo



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# Inside look on competitors of Project Midi musical crafts

Rapper and Netflix star, Londynn B was a judge at the music production competition held in Dina's Place

JADA STRONG  
STAFF WRITER



Jada Strong/The Johnsonian  
Audience and Competitors of Project Midi listening to their music in Dina's Place

Project Midi, a music competition held by DSU took place on Friday, April 7, where six student music producers shared their beats with the audience and guest judges. One of the judges included Londynn B, a rapper and former contestant on the Netflix show, "Rhythm + Flow," starring Cardi B, Chance the Rapper and T.I.

Kobe Banks, a senior business administration major, won the competition and took home the winning prize of an Akai MPD218 and the phone number of Londynn B's manager.

"It's been like since 2015, (since starting music production) I was listening to Logic's album 'The Incredible True Story' and the production on that was what made me want to get into making my own beats," Banks said. "I made beats on my phone and then I got a MacBook and Ga-

rageBand on that, and then afterward I got FL Studio. I've been using that ever since. If it wasn't for that, I don't even know what I'd be doing."

Although the quality of his music has improved over time and Banks has been able to purchase more expensive software, he is still proud of some of his earlier work.

"The quality is crazy to think about too, because you don't think about that at the moment. It's just something that happens over time. I still think some of my old beats are better than some beats I make now," Banks said. "But I'm proud of the path I've carved for myself. I like how my beats sound and the music I put out. And I think it's only going to get better from here."

Banks aspires to be able to do music full time and has recently dropped an album.

"I want to be able to do music full time and just make beats live off of streaming income and publishing income," Banks said. "I've just released an album on Spotify, titled 'The Love Tape.'"

Jaylin Brown, another competitor, is a junior music technology major with a minor in creative writing. He found his love of music production when he was young through his father.

"My dad did music production. My dad did it for a long time. I used to sit in the studio with him for hours. We made a song when I was a kid, but I was a kid at the time. I didn't really care about anything else. I wasn't trying to play music, I wanted to play video games and all that good stuff," Brown said. "But I continued to make these little beats and in middle school I made beats on a Phantom 61 before taking a

break from music."

Brown took a six year break from focusing on music until he came to college and refocused his energy on making beats. While Brown didn't see college as a necessity to have a career, he figured college would help improve his music technology skills.

"The only reason I came to college was for music. Because my people and I, we have businesses at home. So it's not like I need college necessarily," Brown said. "But I came to college so I can get that leg up or that push so I can get more knowledge and more understanding of music. So far as steering and so far as course structure so I can take my music career to the next level."

Another competitor of Project Midi was Autumn Christy, a freshman psychology major

that was surprised that she was contacted for the competition due to her age.

"During winter break I got a text on Instagram from one of the event coordinators asking if I would be interested in this event in April and asked if I wanted to be a part of it," Christy said. "At first I was confused because I was like, I don't know how you found my music page out of all the students on campus to choose from but I was like hey I'm here so why not?"

As for what makes Christy's music unique, she says that her experience in band helps her define her music style.

"I try to take what I learned from band and put it in my music. So I use a lot of horns, sometimes I use strings, I like to make it orchestral and make it big at the end of a song," Christy said. "And I just take sounds that aren't

typically used in music and I make it into my beats. But I just think my music has a unique sound."

Christy shares how the work she and fellow music producers like Banks and Brown is overlooked from a listener's perspective.

"I think sometimes when people hear a song they just hear like the artists on the song they don't think about how much the composition of the song went into the song, even songwriting is also underrated," Christy said.

"Music production takes a lot of work, because you have to pick the right sound, the right drums and making sure everything is lined up in the correct bar. So it's very meticulous. But I think when people think of music production, they're like 'Oh, you just press a couple of buttons and then record' but no that's not what it is."

# YikYak leaves Android Devices

Winthrop's most popular anonymous app discontinues service for Android users

DAVID IBRAGIMOV  
STAFF WRITER

Students at Winthrop have found themselves unable to access the popular anonymous communications app, YikYak. The app and its users are no strangers to various bugs and glitches within the system, but this was something unexpected: YikYak is leaving Android.

"Yik Yak for Android has been shut down," read the notification for any users trying to access the app on Android. "To the Yik Yak family, Today is a sad day. Over the last few months, we've been hard at work redesigning Yik Yak from the ground up. Our biggest update ever has been released for IOS. Unfortunately, we are not able to support this

new update for Android. Yik Yak Android has been disabled," continued the official message from the Yik Yak team.

Yik Yak expanded to the Android platform on Dec. 5th, 2022. Now, with the app being used for only a few months, it is being closed once again to Android users.

"The new Yik Yak update makes me unhappy because I'm no longer in the loop on what's happening on campus. I used it to ask things and it made me feel safe to know that the community didn't know it was me asking. Also, it doesn't help that I feel excluded just because of the type of phone I use," Rosalyn Blondo, a Winthrop

student affected by the new changes, said.

"It just sucks because I downloaded Yik Yak two weeks ago because a friend recommended it. It was a fun time, especially when I encountered characters like the Pink Chicken. Seeing everyone from our university go on Yik Yak to talk about their day, post a joke or discuss what is happening in their life was something I enjoyed, and now I don't have that experience anymore," a student that wished to remain anonymous said.

The main reason for such radical change for Yik Yak is it was ac-

quired by a rival anonymous chat company, Side Chat. Although both apps are very similar in their premise, Yik Yakkers have complained



about the changes from all sides, with Android users being kicked from the app, while IOS users argue that YikYak under Side Chat is much

more restrictive in freedom and in letting users be anonymous.

"YikYak merging with SideChat is the worst decision ever," a review on the IOS store page for the remodeled app said. "Several reviews also complain that Yik Yak was anonymous, but was soliciting students' school emails in order to participate in SideChat," Shawn Johnson, from Business News said. Other users also say that YikYak was unique, but because of the new update, it has become very generic and doesn't fulfill its initial purpose.

As Yik Yak user Aaron Payment, a student at St. John Fisher University, told The Johnso-

nian, the updated Yik Yak app is just "Sidechat reskinned now."

They also noted that if you sign up for Sidechat, you'll see everything on your local Yik Yak because both apps appear to now be running on the same servers.

"Not only did they change everything good about the app, but they made it so you have to use your college email to prove that you're in college. That way, they can easily track you and share your data for marketing purposes," Payment said to TechCrunch. wusers are still in the dark about the app's potential return, Yik Yak has left many with a thank you for supporting them, and

[Read more at mytjnow.com](https://www.mytjnow.com)



## Alumni Spotlight – Jamodd Jenkins’ “college experience was none like no other”

Jenkins became involved on campus early in his time at Winthrop



SAM HYATT  
VOLUNTEER WRITER

Jamodd Jenkins, an alumni from the class of 2019, was a first-generation student from Charleston, South Carolina, and found himself immersed in Winthrop’s education and campus organizations.

As a first-generation college student, Jenkins said he did not know what he was getting himself into.

“I faced many challenges that were unexpected, but I was able to preserve and continue to move towards my goal as a first-generation college graduate,” Jenkins said.

While at Winthrop, Jenkins majored in middle-level education and spent a lot of time in the college of education learning from professors and his peers.

“With being education majors, the students in the College of Education were close-knit,” Jenkins



said. “We all supported each other, and the faculty and staff do a wonderful job of pouring into you and lifting you up.”

Stacey Martin and Abigail Armstrong were two professors that positively impacted Jenkins’ education while in the college of education.

“Those two amazing professors held me and my cohort down as middle-level majors,” Jenkins said. “They gave us everything they have for all of us to be successful, and also, they cared about all of us!”

Early in his college career, Jenkins became involved on campus

and in the spring of 2016, he became a member of the SC Sigma Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE).

“I got involved with SAE because of my RA at the time, Steadman Boston,” Jenkins said. “I saw the happiness and excitement he had when hanging out with the brothers. Once I joined, he became a lifelong friend and mentor to me.”

While a member of SAE, Jenkins held positions such as Member Educator, Brotherhood and Social Chairman, IFC Chairman, Greek Relations, President and Chapter Advisor.



“The philanthropy of SAE is supporting education,” Jenkins said. “We have a lot of brothers that are education majors and providing school supplies and donating to schools was a major philanthropy event we hosted.”

In the fall of 2016, Jenkins began one of his favorite journeys while at Winthrop by becoming a Resident Assistant (RA) in Richardson Hall. He held that position for three years and was awarded the Cynthia A. Cassens Resident Assistant of the Year Award.

“My favorite part of being an RA was

honestly meeting so many different students at Winthrop,” Jenkins said. “Whether I met the students on my floor or worked the front desk, I was able to make valuable connections with students. Also, working with the RA Staff and RLC was fun. We were a family and knew how to have fun.”

One fun thing he remembers doing in Richardson Hall was helping set up a haunted house in the building’s main floor and basement and getting to dress up as a clown.

“I had too much fun with that,” Jenkins said.



With the soon destruction of Richardson Hall and Wofford Hall, Jenkins cannot help but to think about the memories he made.

“With Richardson and Wofford being torn down soon, I cannot help to think about all the memories that were made in those buildings,” ..“When I visit the campus one of the first places I pass by is Richardson. Richardson and Wofford were home to many people, however, it is time to continue to push the residence life experience forward and provide new residence halls for current and future students.”

## Building coffee and community, one cup at a time

Hosted at The Mercantile, the Bloom Coffee Festival hosts various local vendors of coffee and teas



Zoe Jenkins/The Johnsonian

Hosted at the Mercantile, guests of the Bloom Coffee Festival discuss and sample coffee with local shops

ZOE JENKINS  
AC&T EDITOR

Supporting Rock Hill’s growing coffee and tea scene, the Bloom Coffee Festival was held by The Mercantile HQ on April 8, 2023.

The event ran from 10 a.m. through 3 p.m. and was Rock Hill’s first community event that focused on specialty coffee and tea tasting.

Upstairs at The Mercantile HQ, the smell of fresh coffee and tea welcomed the guests to visit each booth held by a local coffee roaster, tea herbalist, food artisans and creative crafters.

and the farms, which are important, but also the stories of inspiration, stories of struggle, stories of the ups and downs of everyday life that everyone can relate to.”

According to Cheza Roastworks’ website, most of their coffee and other products are sourced from women-owned farms, local contractors, print shops and graphic designers. The site also says that the name of the business comes from Kirk’s dog and the Japanese word for “moonflower.”

“Just as a company, we focus on diversity and we focus on inclusion and equity,” Kirk said.

Another roasting company that held a booth at the Bloom Coffee Festival was Forte Legato Coffee.

“If you are looking for coffee, we have a coffee shop in Rock Hill on Anderson Road; we have been importing coffee for 12 years now,” said Nick Peñaloza, founder of Forte Legato.

For over 10 years, Forte Legato has served with roasting in Fort

“  
Just as a company, we focus on diversity and we focus on inclusion and equity

- Kirk

”

Mill, spreading to Lancaster and opening a coffee shop in Rock Hill. Forte Legato also showcases their producers from around the world.

“We’ve got coffee from Cameroon. Matti Foncha has been a farmer that we’ve worked with for over seven years. He’s got over 150 farmers total and they focus on multi-crop, so what they do is in between each coffee bush or plant, everybody plants their own vegetables that they will eat and black tea, so they sell crops and eat their own food. This coffee is our biggest selling coffee because of the notes you get, which is more like coffee and a little bit of black tea, so almost sweet tea,” said

Peñaloza.

Foncha will be visiting the Forte Legato coffee shop in May, where he will be presenting information regarding what his farmers have been growing. Peñaloza will also discuss the importing and roasting processes. This event is free and open to the public.

Along with coffee from Cameroon, Forte Legato also sources their coffee from the Philippines.

“So we’ve started picking up coffee from the Philippines, my dad’s side of the family is from Metro Manila, this one [coffee beans] is from Benquet and the producer, Carmel (Laurino), she has been farming since 2014 and she has about 100

mostly-women producers. It’s one of the first coffee that is specialty coffee and it is a light roast that has notes of citrus, really smooth, awesome,” said Peñaloza.

According to Peñaloza, Forte Legato is focused on good coffee, the people of Rock Hill and sharing good coffee.

Local treats such as K&M Sweet Treats, Sweets by Chaz and Cibi Cibi Food Truck were present.

Local shops and activities were also advertised on The Mercantile website, listing Malaysian Lights, Beary Sensitive, Black Crow Pottery, The Kiwi Forest and Purrfect Pair Cat Cafe.

A local tea herbalist Barbara Denny also attended the Bloom Coffee Festival, representing her business Serenity Acres Farm.

“I make a whole line of herbal teas, mushroom mixes and other herbal products. Everything is all-natural. I grow a lot of the herbs myself and harvest them,” said Denny.

Read more at [mytjnow.com](http://mytjnow.com)



Visit our website, [mytjnow.com](http://mytjnow.com), to listen to our podcast, “On Air: The Johnsonian.” Also on Spotify.





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# Talk About It.

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*This project was supported by Grant No. 15J0VW-22-GG-00926 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication / program / exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.*





## In my opinion...

A letter from the opinion editor regarding the end of the academic year.

**Autumn Hawkins**  
Opinion Editor

With two issues of The Johnsonian left before we close for the semester, it is only appropriate to reflect on this publication's impact.

I have been with The Johnsonian for three years of its service to both Winthrop and the greater Rock Hill community. In these three years, I have served under four editors-in-chief, been promoted and written hundreds of articles. I have made friends, grown as a writer and built a legacy at Winthrop University as a student journalist.

Three years ago, I began as a staff writer at The Johnsonian as a way to work from home while Winthrop's campus was still largely shut down due to COVID-19.

Savannah Scott, our then editor-in-chief, took a risk hiring me, as I had never written professionally before and had very little knowledge of what being a student journalist would entail. While I was a staff writer, I wrote almost exclusively for the opinion section; I loved the creative liberty that it allowed me to take while still presenting factual information for our readers.

At the end of the 2020-2021 publication year, Savannah's successor -- Bryn Eddy -- took another risk by promoting me to opinion editor. While I now knew what life as a student journalist was like, I had never managed an entire section by myself. I was about to enter my senior year, so I was worried that my duties as an editor and my duties as an education major

would clash.

Thankfully, it was a smooth transition from staff writer to editor. I won The Johnsonian Award for Excellence that year for an article I wrote regarding collegiate students' food insecurity. When I made the difficult decision to stay at Winthrop for a fifth year, The Johnsonian was there to support me.

Both years that I served as an editor, I was so lucky to serve under people that I called my friends. Chase Duncan and Marley Bassett both served as editor-in-chief during the 2022-2023 publication year, and I could not have picked two better people to split the year between. Their senses of humor and passion for journalism allowed this unprecedented co-leading to work seamlessly.



My time as opinion editor has been a whirlwind of interviews, staff meetings and learning Adobe InDesign in order to help with our print layout. My fifth year at Winthrop meant this past year was full of grading my students' papers while simultaneously writing editorials for The Johnsonian. Both my job as a journalist and as an educator kept me on my toes at all times, and I can safely say that I

would not change a thing about this experience.

I am so thankful to have served The Johnsonian for as long as I have. I have grown as a writer, an advocate and professional. This publication has taught me so much about myself and about what it means to serve a larger audience that I ever thought was possible.

This is one of my final compositions as The Johnsonian's

centennial opinion editor. The gravity of that statement is not lost on me; I am in awe of how this publication has persisted for a century, despite countless wars, national stock market crashes and university budget cuts.

It is my most heartfelt desire that this publication survives another century. I cannot wait to see editorials looking back through the decades at this volume's content.

## Reveille: A Surprise





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