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Serna: A "united Winthrop is an unstoppable Winthrop"

Edward Serna was officially innaugurated as Winthrop University's 12th president last Friday

Marley Bassett Editor-in-Chief

Edward Serna is now the official 12th president of Winthrop University, joining a line of notable leaders such as David Bancroft Johnson, Martha Kime Piper, Anthony DiGiorgio and Dan Manhony.

The ceremony occurred last Friday, April 14 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Winthrop Coliseum.

Serna makes university history by being the first Winthrop alumnus to be selected as president. He graduated in 2002 with a bachelor's of science in business administration.

He has also received two masters degrees; one in industrial management from Clemson University and one in management information systems for Auburn University. He later received a doctoral degree in higher education from the University of Alabama.

The ceremony began with a processional that had representatives from the Council of Student Leaders, Winthrop faculty from all four colleges, upper administration, the Rock Hill community and the Board of Trustees.

Greetings were then given to Serna from Glenn McCall, board of trustees chairman, John Gettys, mayor of Rock Hill, Christi Cox, chair of the York County Council, State Senator Wes Climer, Byron Putman, president of the Winthrop Alumni Association, Sue Rex, secretary of the Winthrop Foundation, Miguel Caldwell, chair of the Council of Student Leaders, Debbie Garrick, chair of the staff conference and Alice McLaine, chair of the faculty conference.

Those who gave greetings represented the university as well as Rock Hill, York County and South Carolina.

The keynote speaker was Serna's mentor, Paul Beran, who is currently the interim president of Western Connecticut State University. Beran originally met Serna when he was hired as a grant writer while Beran was chancellor at the University of Arkansas- Fort Smith.

Beran spoke fondly about his time with Serna, focusing on his hard work, perseverance and drive to want to succeed.

He also focused on their relationship after Serna left the University of Arkansas- Fort Smith to become the president of the University of

Maine- Farmington. Beran noted how Serna grew into his new role with positivity and always was willing to change to help the university succeed.

Following Beran's remarks, Glenn McCall and Kathy Bigham, vice chair of the Board of Trustees, invited Serna's family onto the stage to look on as he was officially invested with the presidential seal of Winthrop University.

After the investiture, Serna gave remarks to the audience about his beliefs on the future of the university.

"If you have any doubts about the future of Winthrop, toss it out the window. Our students are amazing. Our future is bright," he said.

"I'm excited for the future and about what new things Winthrop can do that are true to who we are as an institution but also maybe stretch those boundaries a little bit for us."

He envisions Win-

throp as a "place where all prospective students can see themselves belonging, thriving and being transformed for success today and beyond." Serna ended his remarks with a thank



Marley Bassett/The Johnsonian

Serna makes remarks after officially being innaugurated

you to the Winthrop and surrounding communities.

"Thank you for being on this journey with me. We will get to our destination and we will do it together."

The ceremony then ended with a recessional led by Chief Faculty Marshal, Shelley Hamill and followed by newly invested President Edward Serna.

Attendees were then invited to a picnic inside the West Center immediately following the ceremony and then to attend the interdisciplinary research SOURCE conference.

Music was provided by the Winthrop **Faculty Brass Quintet** and the Winthrop Chorale directed by Elisa Kohler.



Winthrop Chorale performs the piece "Arise, Shine!"

Marley Bassett/The Johnsonian



Winthrop faculty take in the innauguration

What's Inside:



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Police Blotter



Jeremiah Williams Staff Writer

Marijuana possession in **Phelps Hall**

An officer responded to a report of the odor of marijuana in the residence hall, which the officer would confirm the presence of the odor personally. The officer knocked to no one's answer until they were about to enter the room. The room's occupying resident denied any presence of the drug in the room, but the officer observed a cigarette laying on the desk. The subject was issued a state citation and the case was cleared on arrest.

Car crash at the Jersey Mike's parking lot

An officer responded in reference to a Rock Hill Police Department call for service. The officer met with both parties who agreed to complete incident reports and exchange information.

Winthrop policy violated at **Margaret Nance** Hall

An officer responded to a call in response to a trespasser on the 3rd floor of Margaret Nance Hall. The subject had not been signed in at the front desk. Contact was made and the subject was issued a trespass notice. The student will be referred to the Dean's office.

Fourteen traffic stops in one day

On April 13, officers responded to fourteen traffic stops in a single day. Most subjects were cited and given warnings for defective equipment, improper turns or improper lights. One subject was given a state citation for speeding while within university bounds.

CSL election continues into run-off

Two tickets go into the second round of voting

David Ibragimov Staff Writer

At the end of every year, Winthrop's Council of Student Leaders organization holds its annual elections, with Winthrop students having the opportunity to support their favorite candidates. This year, CSL's elections were split three-ways, with all candidates establishing a campaign based on increasing the involvement of students and giving the student body more access to Winthrop leadership.

In the first round of voting, it was revealed that all three candidates were very close, with Dahya-Abtahi receiving 35.31%, Ekundayo-Griffith receiving 34.69% and Smith-Evans ticket receiving 30.00% of the total votes. By the election rules of CSL, a ticket must receive at least 50% of the vote in order to become the next leader, however, since this did not happen, the election moves into a runoff, with the top two tickets continuing on into the next round.

On Tuesday, April 11, Shivania Dahya, Jordan Abtahi, Esther Ekundayo and Rachel Griffith met for the second and final debate between the two remaining tickets. Both tickets discussed how important it was for them to be the voices of the students, bringing up their past leadership experiences and what qualifies them to lead the student body in the upcoming year.

"There's a disconnect within our students and student leadership. We want to be able to unite our students through interactive events. as well as making sure that what student leadership is doing more visible to our regular student body," Shivani Dahya, a candidate for

CSL presidency, said "So another thing with that is trying to think of those demographics that are present on Winthrop, but are smaller, thinking of ethnic groups, because some feel that it's just the majority groups' concerns and wishes that are being met. So

we're trying to make sure we're not having too much of an ivory tower perspective and way that we solve these issues," Jordan Abtahi, the vice presidential candidate of the Dahya-Abtahi ticket, said

why I decided to run for this vision of the CSL was having the opportunity to be a voice for students who may not be heard so like nontraditional students, the commuters, the online students, especially the VA students and military medical students, because for me personally, I probably wouldn't have continued my time here with them if it wasn't for like the VA benefits that I do receive.

These CSL elections have been especially intriguing to many students at Winthrop, being that not only were there three candidates, but also that the remaining two consist of women. When looking at the previous results, it seems that both tickets are closely tied, and the runoffs could go to any side.



It was announced on April 17 by the Vice President of Student Affairs, Sheila Burkhalter, and the CSL **Election Commis**sioners that Esther

Ekundayo and Rachel Griffith won the runoff with 63.2% or 340 votes versus Shivani Dahya and Jordyn Abtahi who received 36.8% or 198 votes.

seminar, discussion group, workshop, or other instructional program, whether provided in-person, online, or by any other means, with a purpose of advising, counseling, demonstrating, explaining, instructing, or teaching participants about diversity, equity, and inclusion."

This bill would not allow training on topics such as systemic oppression, inclusive language, gender theory and allyship, among others.

Winthrop students expressed their displeasure with the proposed bill.

"Obviously this is a huge step backwards not just for inclusion and representation purposes, but also for how unrealistic this is. I think many people often forget that DEI is important for creating real world environments," TJ Carbon, a political science student and member of the LGBTQ community, said.

" People now have the knowledge, power and support to make themselves seen. This is particularly important in higher education. The recognition and acceptance of diverse peoples now will lend itself later to greater diversity in the professional world." Armon Robinson, a sophomore political science student, said.

The Johnsonian recently discovered that one of the newest appointees to the Board of Trustees, Joel Hamilton, who was appointed by current State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver on Feb. 2, had liked tweets that called for the abolition of affirmative action and DEI after his appointment to the Board of Trustees.

Hamilton, whose Twitter handle is @ joelthamilton, liked a tweet from Feb. 21 of this year by Vivek Ramaswamy that said ""Eliminate affirmative action. Dismantle climate religion. 8-year limits for federal bureaucrats. Shut down worthless federal agencies. Declare total independence from China. Annihilate the drug cartels. Make political expression a civil right. No CBDCs. Revive merit & excellence."

Hamilton also liked a tweet from March 19 of this year by Dr Jordan B Peterson that was in response to a tweet from Christopher F. Rufo. Rufo's tweet said "The Wall Street Journal has thrown its support behind our campaign to abolish the DEI bureaucracies in public universities. We are fighting the forces of left-wing racialism and we will not stop until colorblind equality is once again the law of the land."

Peterson's response, which Hamilton liked, said to "Abolish the universities along with the DIE administrators. The cowardice and mendacity of the professoriate enabled the woke authoritarians. And very little has yet been learned in consequence."

" Each student deserves to feel like they belong, that is a part of the higher education experience. Higher education experiences should be enhanced, not limited and this bill only places limits," Ella Miller, a political science student, said.

Bill proposed in SC legislature to ban DEI training and statements

Proposed legislation could potentially ban some diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in SC higher education

Marley Bassett Editor-in-Chief





A bill was proposed in the South Carolina legislature earlier this month that would ban mandatory diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) training at universities and prohibit universities from requiring or asking for diversity statements as part of their application for both education and employment.

The bill would also prohibit universities from giving preference to prospective students and employees based on factors such as race, sex, color, sexual orientation, ethnicity and national origin. This prohibition is subject to exceptions based on current federal requirements.

The bill was referred to the House

Education and Public Works Committee on April 6 of this year where it currently is waiting to be debated

This proposed legislation defines DEI as " a particular, widely contested opinion referencing unconscious or implicit bias, cultural appropriation, allyship, transgender ideology, microaggressions, group marginalization, anti-racism, systemic oppression, social justice, intersectionality, neo-pronouns, heteronormativity, disparate impact, gender theory, racial or sexual privilege, or any related formulation of these concepts."

The bill also defines DEI training as "training, sem-

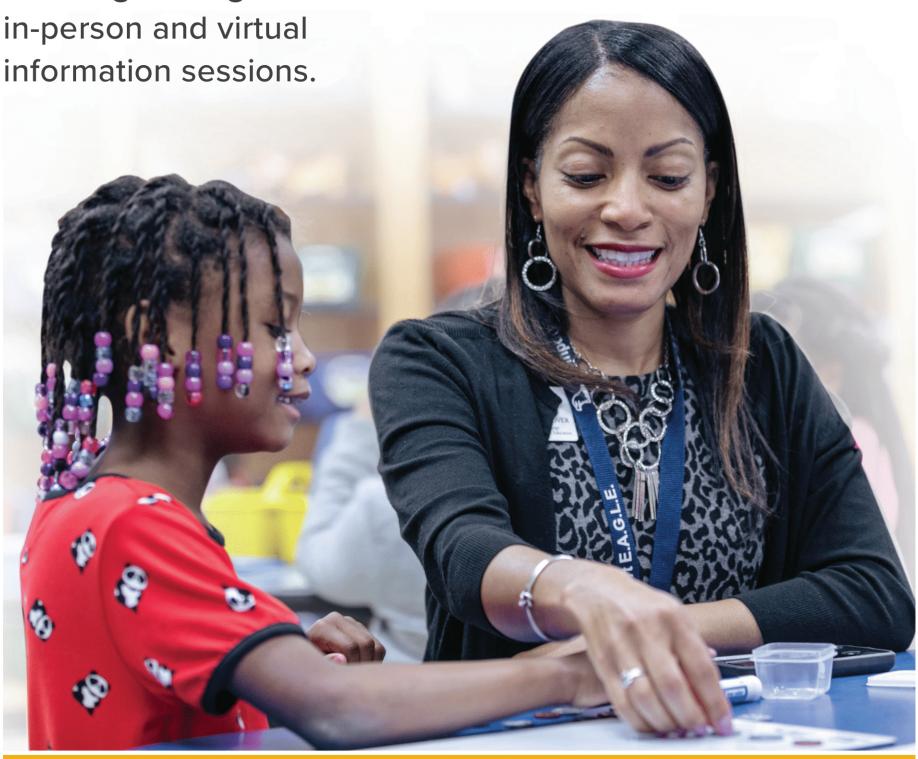
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Arts, Culture, and Tech the Johnsonian

Alumni Spotlight – Michael Covil reflects on his time as WU Athletics fan

The alumnus continues to remain involved in Winthrop athletics

SAM HYATT **VOLUNTEER WRITER**

Michael Covil, an alumni from the class of 2022, spent the majority of his time at Winthrop being involved and a fan of the athletic department at Winthrop.

One of the reasons that Covil decided to attend Winthrop was because of the amazing reputation of the school's athletic department.

"Part of the reason
I even ended up at
Winthrop at all is
because I knew how
good the basketball
program was and
wanted to be a part of
something like that,"
Covil said. "Lucky for
me people were really
supportive, and I was
able to make a few
connections in athletics
before I even stepped
on campus."

After managing a sports social media account for his high school, Byrnes High School, he began running the Winthrop Live page where he reported about the different sports at Winthrop.

"Winthrop Live was just a project but it gave



me the opportunity to do a lot of things," Covil said.

On this account, Covil would post updates and graphics concerning the different sporting events on campus. One of his favorite things about managing the Winthrop Live social media account was being treated like he was a part of the media team and having access to different events.

"I was treated as media essentially, so I always had a free ticket reserved to any road games I made it to, especially for basketball games where it was hard to get a ticket," Covil said. "But access goes back to interacting with the players and coaches too. They all seemed to enjoy Winthrop Live and

would always be willing to support the page, pass along info, let me sit in at practice, and when you post so much about a team, you become good friends with those you are posting about."

Aside from managing Winthrop Live, watching and attending the Winthrop basketball games was always one of Covil's favorite things to do.

"We had some great teams and some huge games," Covil said. "Getting to play on national TV and compete for championships always made it easy to be super involved and I still am even though I've graduated."

For one of the soccer games that Covil attended, he brought a lot of flags and drums



for the student section.

"Soccer was fun too because you could do so many more things as a fan," Covil said. "The NCAA did not have any restrictions on student section noisemakers like indoor sports, so I got to do the whole soccer culture thing with drums and flags. It was super fun even if the results didn't always go our way."

While at Winthrop, Covil was also offered an opportunity to intern with the Winthrop athletic department.

"The job was with the broadcast crew, setting up and running cameras and graphics for our ESPN+ broadcasts and they even had me down to do commentary for one game before it got canceled," Covil said. "But since I was already technically interning too, I got to help run the official social accounts and help with game setup, music and scoreboard, basically anything they needed help with."

Additionally, while working in this internship position, Covil had the opportunity to work on a professional level with other coaches at the university.

"My internship gave me contact with coaches, a little more insider access and access to Photoshop that I kind of taught myself," Covil said. "Doing it in college along with an internship put it on a little bit more of a professional level from what I would post and how I would have to



keep up with it day to day, so it inspired me to maybe take up a career in sport social media and sport creative. It's an industry I'm still trying to/hoping to break into."

Since Covil has graduated, he has remained involved with Winthrop athletics by attending different sporting events and staying up to date with athletes who have transferred or graduated from the university.

He hopes to sometime soon be about to use his degree in sports management and minor in history to work for a creative team for a big athletic program.

Read more at mytjnow.com

Jaiden Mosley incorporates the Black experience into his choreography

Student showcase includes personal stories shared by their choreographers



Jaiden Mosley's Dancers Performing his piece, The Spirit Moves

JADA STRONG,

STAFF WRITER

Jaiden Mosley, a senior dance major with a dance studies minor, was one of the student's who choreographed a piece for the student choreography showcase.

"I feel like as a dance education major, I'm kind of at a benefit of sorts because while our dance program is a good program, it is at times catered toward dance education," Mosley said. "So I feel as a dance major I'm at a benefit at times but building on that I definitely appreciate the opportunities, especially in the state of South Carolina. Dance

education majors are becoming pioneers of sorts."

Mosley describes the junior showcase as a final exam for his course. His showcase was titled "The Spirit Moves". This included songs like "War Baby" by Roddy Rich and "Reflections on the Water" by Spearfisher.

"This work is a part of our curriculum for field experience," Mosley said. "And while this is the junior student showcase, I'm graduating early which is why I'm technically a senior doing this. Choreographing this show has been like our course work and the show is like our final exam."

Mosley's choreography for his piece was inspired by a paper he wrote for a course last year.

"For me as a creative person, growing up I preferred writing. So last spring, for my dance history class we had to write a paper about how something in the past has affected our present," Mosley said. "So I choose to write about the underrepresentation and the lack of recognition for black tap dancers. A lot of people believe tap got started with people like Fred Astaire, when in actuality it began with slaves on plantations, with people like Master Juba."

Mosley focused on how the creativity of black people really shined through in social settings such as church.

"I pulled what I studied for dance history and my knowledge of dance to explore different eras," Mosley said. "For example the great migration era, or the Harlem renaissance. We see the dance is right in the apex of all of that. Especially in

structures like the black church." teared up a little behind stage when the

Mosley was able to lean on his dancers to understand and share his vision. And having all Black performers gave the dancers something they could relate to with this piece.

"As a student-led piece, you have to work with your peers, people I already know and have worked with." Mosley said. "So choreographing them wasn't particularly hard. And something else that helped was that I had all-Black dancers and my piece was related to the Black experience that hopefully everyone involved was able to pull something from the narrative I was trying to tell."

During the show, Mosley and his team faced some technical difficulties when their music wasn't played correctly from the start and had to reset a couple of times.

"I've built such a good rapport with my dancers that we all shared a common goal and understanding," Mosley said. "I would be lying if I didn't say I teared up a little behind stage when the music stopped but I was really proud of my dancers that they kept going when they were supposed to and also stopped when they knew they couldn't dance through a certain part of a song when it wasn't played correct by "

Taking from this experience, Mosley feels

white dance program. So often we're told 'your stories have to be universal' you have to have stories that apply to anybody in the audience," Mosley said.

"But I feel like there

"But I feel like there is unity and strength in doing works that don't center on those who it doesn't apply to. And I felt great knowing that a lot of people really appreciate it."

"Ye built such a good rapport with my dancers that we all shared a common goal and understanding,
- Mosley

that he is allowed to insert more of his blackness into his work.

"I think the biggest thing to take from this experience is the fact that I am allowed to simultaneously be black and be creative because I feel like specifically, in my experience at a PWI or a predominantly





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Former Johnsonian sports editor Matthew Shealy adjusts to his new career post college

Being Methodist University's assistant sports information director has been a crossroads of challenge and opportunity for Shealy

Maliik Cooper Sports Editor

The transition from college to career is a jump every student has to make upon graduating. Matthew Shealy graduated from Winthrop with a degree in mass communication last spring and remembers this not being an easy process.

He worked as an area director for Lutheridge summer camp the summer after graduation. Once the calendar flipped to August, Shealy remembers feeling a new sense of urgency to find work in his field.

"August 1 hit and I was like, all right, I gotta start looking for a job," he said.

"My parents weren't rushing me out or anything. In fact they were encouraging me not to rush and take time. But I didn't want to wait around and miss an opportunity. And all of a sudden here it's been a year and now other qualified students are also trying to enter the workforce."

And so began his search.

"I just started applying for jobs," Shealy said of the

first step he took. "I wasn't just applying to anything and everything. But anything that sounded like something that I would enjoy got my resume."

At the start of the new year his efforts bore fruit. Methodist University hired Shealy as their assistant sports information director.

His original goal was to find work as a reporter for a newspaper. Upon being hired, Shealy chose to look at the similarities this job has to his goal. He's confident this new position aligns with the things he loves about news reporting.

"And so I kinda just had to take a step back and go 'Yeah. That's not too far off from what I'm used to," Shealy said.

"I really enjoy working with college athletes. Talking to college coaches.

Making relationships in college athletics. Where I am now is a good way to do that."

Shealy credits working for Winthrop's student newspaper The Johnsonian as the reason he realized these were the values he prioritizes when looking for work. He even went so far as to call it "the most valuable part of my experience," as a mass communication major.

"The Johnsonian gave me the sports side of media that I kinda wanted to get into," Shealy said.

"I think the relationships I got to make with coaches and players while I was the sports editor of The Johnsonian were invaluable. Having access to those interviews with folks in the athletic department ignited my passion for college athletics and building relationships."

Shealy also credits being heavily involved with Winthrop athletics for his love of college athletics.



Former Johnsonian sports editor Matthew Shealy at a Methodist sports event

"I really did not watch much college basketball growing up as a kid. Being at Winthrop really got me into college basketball and then other kinds of sports too," he said.

"It's fun getting to work in a college athletic department because you get to root for the teams that you're writing about and the teams that you're like helping 'em out with game day operations and stuff."

Shealy continues his work for Methodist as his career post college develops.

Photo Story: WU Zoo

Lily Hayes Photographer



DSU hosted WU Zoo on April 11th, on the campus green for students and general public to come and pet farm animals.



Freshman Athletic Training major, Caralyn Malarkey, cuddles with one of the baby goats at WU zoo.

Students were allowed to walk and interact with the llama around the enclosure.



The best way to say goodbye is through expressing gratefulness

A farewell and thank you to those who have gotten me through my time at Winthrop

Marley Bassett Editor-in-Chief

As I sit here writing this piece as one of my final pieces for The Johnsonian at an unholy hour in the morning while doing layout, it is incredibly hard to begin to craft this farewell letter.

I cannot begin to say how much my past two years at Winthrop have impacted me, but most importantly how my time on The Johnsonian has shaped me into who I am today.

For the longest time, I wished that this day would come quickly so I could have a break from spotting Oxford commas and fighting Adobe InDesign on a weekly basis, but now that it's here I can't help but long for just one more week of doing one of my favorite things in the world.

I would like to take this opportunity now to thank those who have helped me along this road and who are with me 100% as I take a leap of faith and transfer to the University of South Carolina in the fall to finish my bachelor's

in journalism.

I would like to start by thanking my parents, Valerie and Kevin Bassett, and my sister Lily for your continued support, for encouraging me to always follow my passions and to always persevere through every obstacle that comes my way.

Thank you to the rest of my family for being a sounding board for any new ideas that I might have and for giving me wonderful advice whenever I need it.

Thank you to my wonderful boyfriend, Landon, for being my rock throughout this crazy year. You came to me when I wasn't expecting it and I am so thankful that I said yes to going to mini-golf. Thank you for telling me what I needed to hear even if it was not necessarily what I wanted to hear, for letting me rant about anything and everything, for being a shoulder to cry on but most of all for just being an amazing boyfriend. I love you more tnan you know.

Thank you to my boyfriend's family for your endless support and encouragement throughout everything.

To my Model United Nations friends, thank you for being a source of joy and inspiration throughout the year. Y'all made each and every day just a little bit better. Henry, Alyssa, Hannah, Ella, TJ, Zach, Armon, CeCe, Carrie, Carlee, Magda, Terry, Cian, Sequan and Cali, I can't say how much I will miss y'all and all of the joy and laughter that comes with Model UN.

To my advisors Guy Reel and Bill Schulte, I would not have been half as successful without your advice and knowledge. Thank you for making me into the journalist I am today and for making me insanely picky about picas, AP style and breakout quotes.

A special thank you to Jennifer Disney who has always made sure I have been okay throughout these past two years. I would not have made it this far in college without



Me at the beginning of my freshmen year

your love, support, advice and encouragement. Dis, I cannot begin to thank you enough and how much I will miss vou when I leave. You have made each day a little brighter with your relentless positivity and enthusiasm about everything.

To my Johnsonian mentors Bryn Eddy, Chase Duncan, Christian Smith, Mari Pressley, Matthew Shealy, Autumn Hawkins and Taylor Sallenger, thank you for taking a chance on someone who had never worked in print until two years ago. Without your knowledge and unfailing belief in me that I could be successful, I would not have progressed this far with my work on The Johnsonian, it has

Johnsonian.

To my staff, it has been my absolute privilege to be able to work alongside you in many different roles. Watching each and every one of you continuously grow in your roles is an absolute joy. Thank you for putting up with my continuous edits and for being so passionate about your work and providing for the Winthrop community. Mari, Ainsley, Ravyn, Zoe, Maliik, Autumn, James, Desia, Jada, Sam, David, Jeremiah, Sera, Lily, Mariana, Gabe and Taylor, I cannot begin to explain how much I will miss you and how big of an impact v'all have had on me.

And finally to The

been one of the greatest honors and experiences of my life to be able to serve as your centennial editor-in-chief. I feel as if I have grown up these past two years alongside you and I will forever have a place in my heart for you. You gave me a group of friends when I desperately needed it and a purpose when I felt I was lacking one. I hope that your legacy continues to shine and be a cornerstone of Winthrop's past,

May your next editor-in-chief and staff love you even harder than I did, TJ. Thank you for the endless memories and joy that you brought.

present and future.

Reveille: Lucid Dreamer?



