



Winthrop University

October 10, 2024

Rock Hill, SC

INSIDE LOOK INTO TRiO

Mia Molfetta provides an insiders perspective as to what the TRiO program does

WINTHROP CORNHOLE SEASON BEGINS

See why Winthrop's cornhole team is viewed as a potential dynasty in their first year

FALL ACTIVITIES AROUND ROCK HILL

Apple farms, pumpkin patches, corn mazes galore! Find out where and when these events are happening

Dorm demolition update: One down, one more to go

James Grigg, Associate Vice President of Winthrop's Facilities Management, speaks on the demolition of Wofford and Richardson Hall and what the univeristy plans to do with the space afterwards.



The remnants of Wofford Hall, with Richardson in the background

photo by Clark Vilardebo

Evi Houston
Staff Writer

Facilities management began tearing down Richardson Hall in late September, allowing the decimation of former student residency Wofford Hall. The removal of these twin eight-story high-rise buildings is

reshaping the view of Winthrop University from Cherry Road and making way for new developments on campus.

Questions regarding this lengthy demolition can be answered by those behind the scenes of the project, including James Grigg, Associate Vice President of Facilities Management

at Winthrop. Grigg told The Johnsonian that: "The demolition is going well, the overall project has taken a little longer than I had originally hoped but I am comfortable with where we are."

The project has been fully approved by state and local government, so Grigg has encountered little

issues with on-campus and off-campus reception, aside from curious onlookers.

The demolition has been saddening for some Winthrop alumni, as these buildings were the home of so many important life moments and memories for former residents. Grigg said, "Alumni have been reminiscing about

their time in the halls and a lot have wanted bricks as mementos."

One of the biggest questions being asked about these former residence halls is what will take their place. Grigg listed the following options which stem from the university's Campus Master Plan: "One is a new residence hall

on the Richardson site, likely a [first] year experience hall. Then a possibly new academic building on the Wofford site." Nothing is set in stone yet, though, as Grigg expressed that the university essentially has "two building pads [and] we can decide

Cont. on pg. 2

SC Superintendent announces controversial partnership with PragerU

Zachary Bell
News Editor

State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver recently announced that teachers in S.C. public schools will have the option to incorporate material from PragerU into their classrooms. The news of this partnership was met with skepticism by many state educators and students.

When asked about this partnership with PragerU, Dr. Beth Costner, Dean of the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences, said, "There is a very specific underlying message in many [videos] that I have seen that families and educators need to be aware of before they are introduced."

On their website, PragerU says they "Promote American values through short educational videos." These educational videos include titles such as "There is No Gender Wage Gap," and "Why the 3/5ths Compromise was Anti-Slavery." South Carolina would not be the first state to invite PragerU into its classrooms. Similar partnerships have been announced in Florida, Arizona, New Hampshire and Oklahoma.

"I am concerned with such a public show of support being made for a resource...that did not go through the typical review process we see for other instructional materials such as

Cont. on pg. 2

Surefire Neighborhood Market aims to return to Sunset Park after kitchen fire

Lanie Cauthen
Staff Writer

After a devastating fire on July 14, Surefire Neighborhood Market has begun their recovery process and hopes to make a strong comeback.

"We're looking forward to being back into the community and contributing to the further growth that we were doing there," Surefire CEO Magloire Lubika said.

Since 2021, Surefire has been focused on redefining traditional

convenience stores

by changing the access to healthy food for the Sunset Park neighborhood – the predominantly Black neighborhood that Lubika and his family spent a lot of time in.

"We wanted to just flip convenience stores and figure out exactly what would be a model convenience store that's focused on food access," Lubika said.

Surefire wants to change the perception of convenience store food – by offering grocery store food

and meals from their kitchen.

"We try to get most of our ingredients from local sources," Lubika said. "We've been known for having some of the best, best hot dogs in the city of Rock Hill. We just introduced chicken sandwiches and hamburgers as well.

Lubika added, "What's convenient for us is making sure that it's as fresh as possible, to ensure it's freshness and how healthy it is and to make sure we prepare it as fast as

possible for our guests. What we call our dining options is fast casual food. And so the same quality of food that you would get from a five-star restaurant, but it comes at you from a small convenience store."

While changing the perception of what a convenience store can be, Surefire hopes to improve the image of the Sunset Park neighborhood.

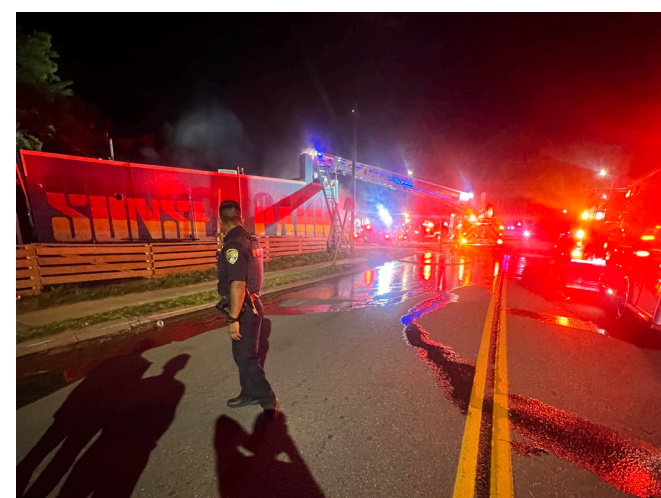
While changing the perception of what a

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Firefighter coming out of Surefire

photo by Magloire Lubika



First responders on the scene

photo by Magloire Lubika

October 10, 2024

Police Blotter



Evi Houston
Staff Writer

Former boyfriend threatens blackmail

A female student notified WUPD on Oct. 2 of a harassment call she had received from an ex-boyfriend. She was especially concerned about his threat to expose videos of the couple publicly, presumably as blackmail. The police advised the student to end communication with the subject and no further action was taken.

Margaret Nance resident evacuates due to steam

A resident of Margaret Nance Hall called WUPD on the night of Sept. 26 regarding steam coming from the outside of her room. The steam made her dorm “unbearable to live in,” so police ensured that she was placed in a new room temporarily.

Slur written on dorm whiteboard

WUPD was made aware of a potential hate crime on West Thompson Hall on the night of Sept. 25. One of the residents had a racial slur written on the white board on the outside of his door. The subject of the crime was never identified, and an email has been sent to residents to address the issue.

Student loses thousands of dollars in scam

A resident of a Walk2Campus apartment reported losing thousands of dollars in card fraud over multiple weeks in Sept. on Oct. 1. She claimed to have been scammed out of her money, with \$14,000 being taken out of her account unlawfully. The case is ongoing.

Student knocked unconscious by loft bed

A resident of West Thompson Hall was getting up from below her loft bed on the night of Sept. 24 when she struck her head on it. This blow made her fall and knocked her unconscious for a few minutes, as reported by her roommate. Police responded but the resident refused medical transport.

Dorm demolition update | Cont. from pg. 1

what we want to build on them,” presumably once the demolition is fully complete.

A second issue which complicates future plans is the possible construction of a road “realigning Alumni Drive so it would not go all the way to Cherry Road by the railroad tracks but be realigned to meet Cherry Road at the Camden Avenue light,” Grigg said. This would be highly invasive on local roads

and traffic patterns and require further approval from the city. Facilities is “currently studying this with a roadway engineering firm and reviewing the concept design with the city and South Carolina Department of Transportation.”

Health and safety concerns must be considered when managing a successful demolition as well. When asked about possible effects of

asbestos (which was used in the construction of the residence halls) polluting the air, Grigg said that “To comply with federal and state regulations, we have had all the building material tested and then [had] any regulated material abated prior to demolition,” including asbestos.

Still, this expansive project creates a good deal of air pollution

and debris, especially for those working on and walking near the site.

Onlookers may have also noticed a crane hosing water at the buildings during active demolition, which Grigg said is being used to “limit the dust produced by the demolition work.” Facilities also seeks to maintain the safety of the community by preventing entrance on to the site. “The site is fenced off and off limits

due to the dangerous activities taking place with large construction equipment moving around.”

Regarding the timing of the project, Grigg said that the demolition of Richardson Hall is expected to take five to six weeks.

Following this, Facilities will “have to remove the foundations and wrap up some utility work.” The project is expected to be complete by early 2025.

PragerU Partnership | Cont. from pg. 1

textbooks,” Dr. Costner said. “That process allows for multiple voices to be considered before decisions for adoption are made.”

Although the use of PragerU material is optional, Superintendent Weaver reiterated her support in a public conversation with PragerU CEO Marissa Streit. “As we celebrate Constitution Day, the South Carolina Department of Education reaffirms its commitment to providing an exceptional education for every child,” said Superintendent Weaver. “We are thrilled to announce the addition of supplemental materials for South Carolina schools through this partnership.” This statement was made

after USNews ranked South Carolina 41st in the nation for Pre-K-12 education.

Some Winthrop students see this partnership as evidence of the growing scrutiny of public schools and educators.

“Being in education, everyone is hyper-aware of every single thing you do,” said Kathryn Kiser, a senior childhood education major. “No matter what you do, there will be criticism...like we go into the field knowing that’s what’s going to happen. I do feel like public education, there’s a lot of attention on it right now, and, in a way, I do kind of see it being attacked.”

Jasmine, a freshman special education major, expressed her concerns for the future

of education in South Carolina. “I think the profession of education is going to be looked at as something that’s scary, and I think it’s kind of sad that people aren’t as enthusiastic about entering the field of education because of such politics,” Jasmine said. “I’m still going to be a teacher, I’m going to be a great teacher, but it’s very unsettling. It’s really about politics.”

One point that was often brought up was the role of the educator when it comes to creating policies.

“I just wish that teachers could be involved in policy more, that they would listen to teachers more,” said Alex Bowers, a senior history student who plans to teach in South Carolina, “because a

lot of these politicians, after they’ve graduated, have never stepped foot in the classroom again, and they don’t know what it’s like.”

However, when asked about PragerU’s influence on student learning outcomes, Bowers said that students could be trusted to form their own conclusions.

“The kids are smarter than we give them credit for. I know in some of the brief internships I’ve had here, there’s some incredibly smart kids who may not even have the resources to do what they want to accomplish, but they are, they are brighter than we think, and I think they can see through this.”

Although the machinations of the

superintendent might be difficult to control, Dr. Costner reiterated the importance of educators and public education while urging Winthrop students to support one another during these uncertain times.

“The work of an educator can be very trying,” said Dr. Costner. “This is particularly true in the current climate. Public schools and well-trained public school educators are immensely important to the success and well-being of individuals, our community, the state, the nation, and yes, the world as a whole. I encourage all to celebrate the work of public-school educators and work to support them and the schools in which they engage.”

Winthrop history professor Eddie Lee receives prestigious award from Governor Henry McMaster

Gabriela Griggs
Staff Writer

Winthrop University professor Edward Lee was presented the Order of the Palmetto on Sept. 18 by South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster.

The presentation was held at the Statehouse in Columbia with many of professor Lee’s friends and family present, such as Winthrop University’s History Department Chair Gregory Bell, S.C. Representative John King, S.C. Senator Mike Fanning and many others.

The Order of the Palmetto is the highest civilian honor achievable in the state of South Carolina. It is presented to South Carolinians in recognition of exceptional service,

state-wide or national attributions, and outstanding service. The award has a long history, having been honoring extraordinary South Carolinians since its creation in 1971.

Professor Lee has been a member of Winthrop faculty on and off since he originally joined in 1994, where he’s directed the graduate studies in history program since. For 22 years, Lee served as the mayor of York and has an admirable dedication to South Carolina.

“Well, you know, I think it was a rewarding experience, and it gave me a real understanding that what local government does, it deals with the basics,” Lee said about his time as mayor. “It deals with water and

sewer and emergencies, which is what we got going on right now with the storm that just came through.”

“Interwoven with teaching is my love of history as well as my affection for Winthrop University,” Lee said. “I appreciate this honor from Governor McMaster, whom I enjoyed working with when I was mayor of the county seat. He and Representative John King, who represents our campus in the state legislature, are excellent public servants.”

This is not the first time Gov. McMaster has presented Prof. Lee with an award for his local efforts. In 2015, professor Lee was given the Palmetto Trust Historic Preservation’s Elected Official Award due to Lee’s work on saving the historic York County Courthouse during his time as York mayor.

When asked about teaching, professor Lee says it is “in his DNA.” With both his grandmother and mother being Winthrop alumni, Lee utilizes his personal attachment to campus to further his commitment to the university and its

students.

“I know Winthrop. I understand Winthrop. I have great affection for Winthrop. And it is in my DNA. Again, use that word again. It’s in my DNA, and has always been in my DNA.”

Lee added, “The highest honor, and this is serious, the highest honor for me is to have students and to awaken them to the joy of history. That’s the honor. It’s not something to hang on the wall – it’s teaching people.”

Professor Lee is known for his love of not just American history, but also South Carolina. He claims this passion was sparked at a young age due to having relatives living in Washington D.C, so he grew up visiting the capital and its many iconic historical buildings and landmarks, such as the Smithsonian, the Capitol Building and the Jefferson Memorial.

Besides national landmarks, Lee has also visited many local historical locations, such as the Pee Dee tobacco farms and the Lowcountry rice plantations.

“I’ve always been able to breathe the history of this nation,” Lee said. “To appreciate Southern history is to appreciate the many stories of colorful characters who have lived in the Palmetto state.”

Outside of his work as mayor and time at Winthrop, Lee has authored or co-authored 15 books. He won an award for his work titled Yorkville to York, a book on the history of his hometown, York. He’s also currently working on a book with former U.S. Representative John Napier titled “Crossing the Aisle” and is focused on bi-partisan legislation.

Later this November, professor Lee will also be awarded the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award at the Winthrop Alumni Awards dinner. This award is the highest achievable honor by a Winthrop University alumnus for dedication of selfless time, energy, service, and talent to others. Lee’s contributions continue to inspire Winthrop’s community as he consistently dedicates himself to the local county.



Photo by Gregory Bell

(From left to right) S.C. Sen. Fanning, Gov. McMaster, professor Lee, Lee’s wife, Ann-Franklin, S.C. Rep. King and former U.S. Rep. John Napier

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Surefire Neighborhood Market update | Cont. from pg. 1

convenience store can be, Surefire hopes to improve the image of the Sunset Park neighborhood.

“We’ve taken the liberty of showcasing that neighborhood through Surefire,” Lubika said. “So when guests who don’t live in that community come to Surefire, they’re building trust with Surefire, which in turn, turns to trust within the community.”

After the fire, Surefire received support from the Sunset Park neighborhood and the rest of the Rock Hill community – including mayor John Gettys.

“To have not only people, what we are, people who live in that neighborhood, but also people who don’t live in the community, also talk about the impact that sure buy has on them, I think it’s a beautiful thing,” Lubika said. “We’re looking forward to being back

into the community and contributing to the further growth that we were doing there.”

Surefire is still working with their insurance company to settle the repair process, but hope to reopen and improve their storefront sometime in 2025.

“When you’re working so hard on building something, you don’t really get to see the benefits of it while you’re working,” Lubika said. “To have that, to have that pause where people are praising you for what you created. It’s like, wow. You know, what we were doing is something major.”

Surefire hopes to hold a clean up day once repairs begin – to reconnect the community with the market.

“So people can see the store for what it was in this last phase before we remodel,”

Lubika said. “And just have everybody out there and have a good time helping us clean the store up and just getting ready to turn to the next chapter of Surefire.”

In the next month, Surefire hopes to move their food trailer from Slow Play Brewing to Sunset Park.

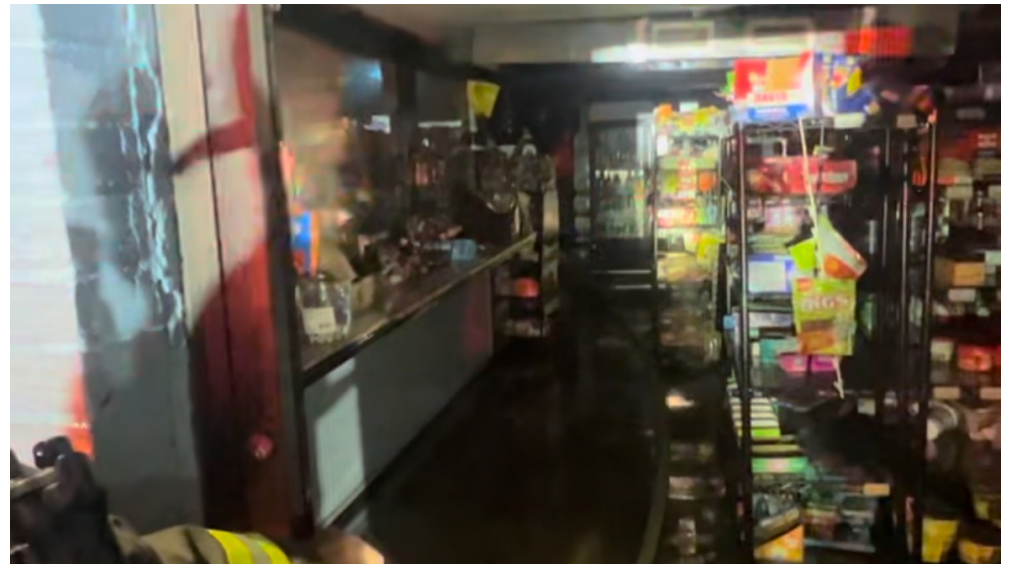
“We’re taking this as an opportunity to learn from any mistakes that we made and figure out how to better serve our customers for food accessibility,” Lubika said. “Making it more of a place where we’re also communities can come and join together and communicate, collaborate and just just redefine what convenience means in underserved communities.”

To support Surefire, visit <https://www.surefiremarketco.com/donate>. You can also visit their food truck at Slow Play Brewing.



Surefire owners and employees watching first responders deal with the fire

photo by Magloire Lubika



Inside of Surefire following the fire

photo by Maglorie Lubika

Fun autumnal activities happening in and around Rock Hill

Gabriela Griggs
Staff Writer

September 22 marked the official start of this year’s fall season. Now that the weather is officially transitioning to cooler temperatures, more local opportunities to get engaged with the Rock Hill and York County farms and orchards are on the rise. This October, there are a wide range of classic fall festivities offered, ensuring there is something for everyone.

Cherry Place Farm in York County hosts a pumpkin patch and corn maze throughout the month of October every Saturday and Sunday, with an extra day offered Monday, Oct. 14, to celebrate the local school’s break. The admission fee of

\$10 covers the corn maze, pumpkin patch, and feeding of the barnyard animals.

Cherry Place farm is located at 1950 Oakdale Road, Rock Hill, SC, with operating hours on their website.

Another local orchard, Windy Hill, has \$3 hayrides on Saturdays and Sundays in October through November with musical performances by local musicians. Later in November, Windy Hill offers fun, hands-on activities such as apple butter and pumpkin donut making. All throughout the season, the orchard is also selling their famous apple cider doughnuts alongside their consistent farm stand to-go offerings of cider and many others.

Windy Hill is located at 1860 Black Highway,

York, SC, with operating hours, sign ups, and more listing of their activities on their website.

Black’s Peaches, located in York, is also a local farm providing hayrides and a corn maze this autumn season. They’re also hosting skee-ball, a hay maze, cow milking, a horse rodeo, and an event they call “pumpkin chunkin.” Titled the Black’s Peaches “Fall Festival,” these events are hosted every Saturday in October from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an entrance fee of \$10 per person.

Black’s Peaches is located at 1800 Black Highway, York, SC. They also sell their farm-fresh produce Monday through Saturday.

Curtin Farms is hosting a festival on

Oct. 12 with over 70 present vendors to gather community around local artisanal, handcrafted works and goods. Hosted on a century old farm, “Curtin Farms Fest” is a beloved event and is eagerly anticipated every year. While it may be a little bit of a drive from campus, about 30 minutes with no traffic, the variety of vendors will make it worth the drive.

Curtin Farms is located at 407 N Paraham Road, Clover, SC, and more information about the vendors and other “Curtin Farms Fest” information can be found on their website.

If hayrides, vendors, and orchards aren’t the vision for this autumn, don’t worry. There are plenty of other events happening locally as

well.

The 4th Annual Catawba Fest in Tega Cay will be hosted Saturday, Oct. 12 this year from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This year’s event lineup will involve performances from local school bands, a pumpkin pie eating contest, with many local vendors selling art, home decor, and jewelry. Local food trucks will also be present.

This event aims to be a celebration of autumn and will be located at Catawba Park in Tega Cay. For more information about the festival, go to the Visit York County website.

“Harvest on the Homestead” is an event focused on Historic Brattonsville’s 19th-century agricultural history and will be hosted every Saturday

in October. Each weekend will focus on a different crop, such as apples, pumpkin, spices, and more. This event is done through the Culture & Heritage museums and aims to be both informative and interactive. Alongside crop activities, Harvest on the Homestead also has events such as 19th century cooking, blacksmithing, a guided tour of Historic Brattonsville, and garden maintenance.

This autumn, the Rock Hill area is full of events and activities centered around enjoying the cool temperatures and all the festivities it brings with it. With such a wide range of classic and artisanal celebrations, there is something for everyone to enjoy this season.



Cider flight and apple cider donuts from Windy Hill

photo by Clark Vilardebo



Crop of collards and other vegetables at Historic Brattonsville

via Instagram/@historicbrattonsville



Pumpkins at Cherry Place Farm

via Instagram/@cherryplacefarm



Aerial shot of last year’s Curtin Farms Fest

via Instagram/@curtinfarms

EDITORIAL

October 10, 2024

Highlighting the TRiO Achievers Program: An essential resource for student success that deserves more attention

Mia Molfetta
Staff Writer

If you have walked through or around Dinkins, you have probably passed or seen an office with a sign that reads “TRiO.” It’s not hard to miss with the bright yellow background and big letters, and the fact that the door is always open. However, TRiO is much more than meets the eye.

While getting to know the advisors, administrators, and other TRiO students, it becomes clear that TRiO is there for you, in a different way than Winthrop itself.

You become a family with TRiO. The program works to encourage not just your schooling but also your career.

Winthrop Alumni Ms. Janell Stevens, the Assistant Director of TRiO and one of the teachers for TRiO ACAD, shared some words about what exactly TRiO is.

“TRiO is a federally funded academic support program by the Department of Education that helps first-generation students, students that meet income guidelines and students that have

a documented disability, that give them the necessary tools for learning and help them to eventually graduate from a four-year institution,” said Stevens.

She continued, “The heart and soul of our program is one-on-one counseling, getting to know the student: their story, hobbies, interests in general, on-campus interests. TRiO provides help for developing and fostering leadership counseling skills, peer tutoring, and cultural events.”

“We’re the moms, aunts, and big sisters for the people whose family are far away or maybe they don’t have here.”

Discussing what she hoped to accomplish with her students in TRiO, Stevens said, “I want them to be successful in their classes, get good grades, and become a great member of society, to get the career they want without struggling.”

When it came to her job as the Assistant Director of TRiO, Stevens said, “It’s a very rewarding job, I like building relationships with the students, I

like chatting, and gaining trust with the students.”

Brandon Proper, a TRiO student and former Orientation Leader for TRiO, answered some questions about his experience.



TRiO student leaders volunteering at a Charlotte FC fundraiser via Instagram/@triowinthrop

When asked to describe his time with TRiO, Proper said, “TRiO has given me opportunities to be a leader and explore opportunities in my development. I have been able to go outside my comfort zone in TRiO and explore what it means to branch out and talk to people, which has really helped me in developing my voice.”

“TRiO was able to help me adjust to college life much easier

than Winthrop did. Thanks to CONNECT and the wonderful staff, I was able to find friends and find people I could connect with and ease my nerves about college.”

When it came to what Proper loved most

about TRiO, he said, “What I love about TRiO is that people are the opportunities I can receive. I love being asked to work at the tabling events TRiO has and being an orientation counselor. Opportunities like that help my personal growth and give [me] the opportunity to develop the skills I need for my future career.”

Naziah Foster, another student who was an Orientation

Leader for TRiO, also spoke about her experience with TRiO.

“I can describe my TRiO experience as eye-opening and a necessity. Since I joined the TRiO in my sophomore year, I gained help with my studies, scheduling for class, and had opportunities to spread my knowledge to incoming students.”

When asked what TRiO has helped her accomplish, Foster said, “TRiO has helped me stay on top of my studies with the help of my advisor and tutoring that they provide. They were able to help me with school papers and provided goals for the semester that the organizations helped me achieve. If I

was not in TRiO I think I would have a harder time with both my studies and my goals.”

It is clear that the TRiO program puts a lot of effort into education, outreach, and career planning for students.

Hearing the perspectives of upperclassmen Proper and Foster gives an insightful look into what it’s like to be a TRiO student and the resources they have access to.

Having these resources is important for students who come from backgrounds where they are not readily available. Students deserve these resources and a future, especially an educated one.





TRiO sign in Dinkins

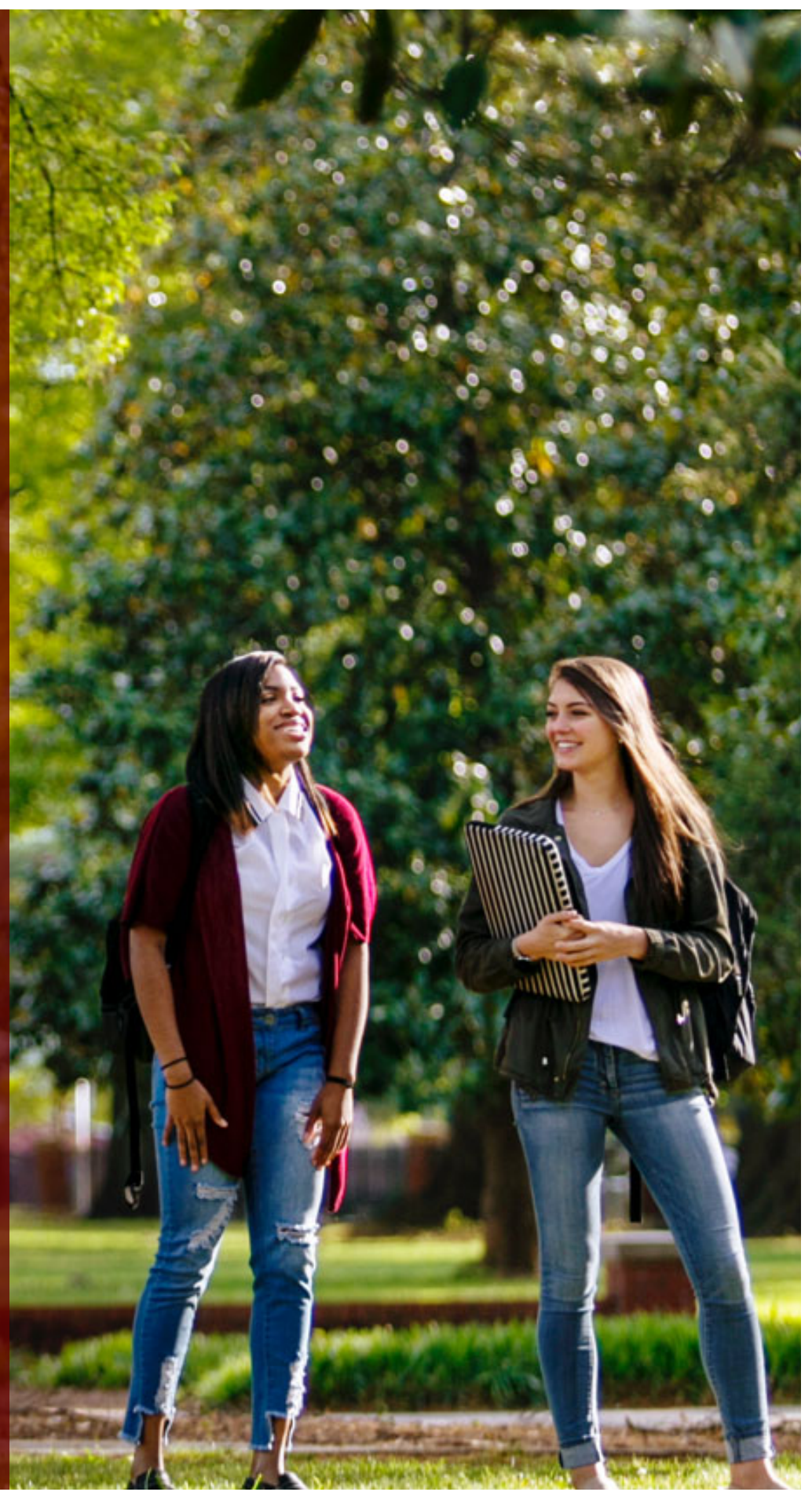
photo by James Molfetta

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SPORTS

October 10, 2024

Winthrop's cornhole team strive to be the greatest in the nation during their inaugural season

Despite it being their first season, Winthrop cornhole has high aspirations and expectations for the year

Clark Vilardebo
Editor-in-Chief

Cornhole is often not the first sport people think of when it comes to college sports – or perhaps the second, third or fourth sport. However, Winthrop wants to be known for its cornhole team, similarly to how people think of Alabama's football program or Duke's basketball program.

Just down the road from Winthrop, inside the Technology Way Center, resides the American Cornhole League (ACL) headquarters. Originally located in Charlotte, NC, the ACL decided to move their headquarters to Rock Hill. This move got the ball rolling on the creation of Winthrop's cornhole team.

Head coach Dusty Thompson said, "It only made sense with the World Championship coming to Rock Hill and the world headquarters being here in Rock Hill that the local school have a college team."

Coach Thompson, a former professional cornhole player, was originally unsure about joining the team.

"I wasn't sure if I wanted to do it or not, honestly. But it worked out that I did it, and obviously made national news like it did," said Thompson.

Winthrop first made national news for its cornhole program in February for offering the first ever athletic scholarships for cornhole. The scholarships were covered by major news companies like NBC and The Washington Post.

The players who were offered the scholarships, Gavin Hamann and Jaxson Remmick, decided to join the team for not just the scholarships – but to potentially pave the way for collegiate cornhole. This sentiment is shared across the board by the team.

Zackary Stickney,

the team's content manager, said, "We are paving the way for collegiate cornhole and we're already role models that young kids are looking up to. The sport of cornhole is still young and I believe that it will continue growing to become a commonly known sport across the world."

Winthrop cornhole player Colson Clary also feels a great sense of pride and responsibility when it comes to helping the sport grow.

"It is a great feeling being a trailblazer in a sport that I love, and to do it with the great personalities and talents that we have got on this team. You cannot ask for much more than that," said Clary.

The opening of the ACL headquarters and potential to be trailblazers for the sport certainly were two big reasons for the creation of the time. However, changes to the National College Cornhole Championship also helped Winthrop.

Originally, players would participate in the championship representing a college by just representing their school – without even having to play. Or they would play and represent for a college without ever playing for it.

Thanks to the sports rise in popularity, the championship will now feature 40 plus teams with players that not just represent the school – but actually go there. This change allowed Winthrop to go all in on cornhole.

Another way Winthrop is banking on cornhole's success is making it available to watch for everyone.

"There's always live streams so they can follow the cornhole [games] on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, we're on all of them," said coach Thompson. "They can watch it anywhere, because we'll be live on these social media platforms, and we have a pro

broadcast going. So basically, I would say, pretty much what you see on TV you will be able to see through Facebook or something like. We will be live streaming from there in case they can't make it."

Creating social media content is a major aspect of the team. Besides working on the main team page, players are also required to put together content at least once a week for their socials.

This emphasis on social media content is partially why Stickney, a current professional cornhole player, was brought aboard.

"I got the opportunity to come to Winthrop to create content for the team. Since I'm ineligible to play at the college level because

Bryant played running back in high school and was a four time state champion. Player Jake Hernandez won two state championships for golf in high school. Bringing in players who have won championships helps build that winning culture that creates dynasties.

Despite all this hype about Winthrop cornhole beyond this season, players are staying focused on this season more than anything.

"We all at the end of the day want to take home a National Championship in teams, doubles, and singles," said Clary.

The division of singles, doubles and teams gives the Winthrop cornhole players the opportunity



Josh Quinn in the motion of throwing a bean bag via Instagram/@winthrop_cornhole



Winthrop cornhole roster via Instagram/@winthrop_cornhole



Gavin Hamann (left) and Jaxson Remmick (right) posing after winning the Colorado Doubles State Championship via Instagram/@winthrop_cornhole

of my pro status, this was a great way to be involved with the team," Stickney said. "I plan to master content creation, specifically video editing and use it with the marketing degree I am pursuing."

Social media is just one way the team plans to grow the game. As previously mentioned, scholarships play a huge role in attracting top players to Winthrop. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that building a team of top recruits through scholarship opportunities is the most significant way coach Thompson plans to become a household name in college athletics.

"Our main goal is to keep these five star recruits rolling in and stay on top of the college scene for as many years as we can do it. That doesn't mean just the next four years, because we got a bunch of players. That means the next 10-15 years," coach Thompson said.

These top recruits also bring in a culture of winning, whether it's in cornhole or another sport.

Cornhole player Luke

to play against one another in the championship – which coach Thompson absolutely wants to see happen.

"My main goal [this season] is probably something crazy that most people wouldn't really think of, but my main goal is to have Winthrop play Winthrop in the championship on singles and doubles on ESPN," said coach Thompson.

Coach Thompson continued, "The way it works is there's four brackets, no matter how many people are there in doubles and singles. So that way they have the semifinals and then the finals all at once on ESPN. So my goal is to have Winthrop play Winthrop on ESPN in singles, doubles, and if all goes well, teams as well."

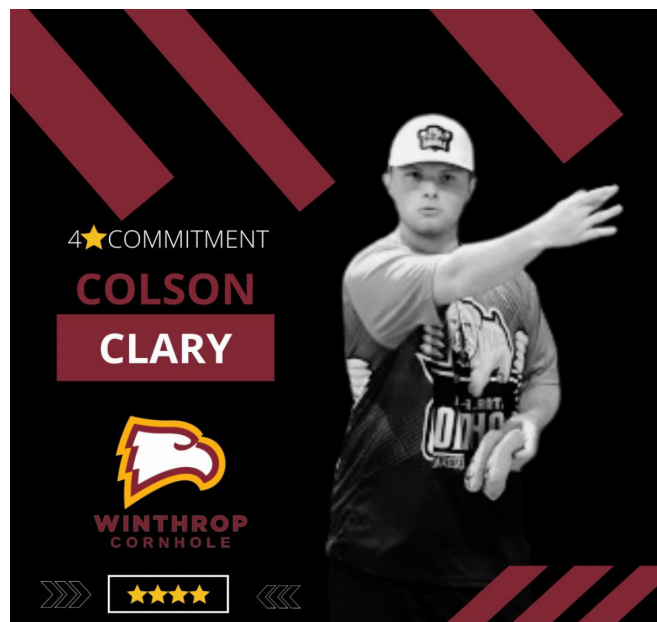
With the ACL headquarters just down the road and the national hype surrounding the team, now is the perfect time to go out to a match and witness a potential dynasty. For match updates, be sure to follow @winthrop_cornhole on Instagram.



ACL Headquarters' interior photo by Fred Boucherle



Sal Sandoval (left) and Spencer Fabionar (right) posing after winning doubles at the ACL College Championship via Instagram/@winthrop_cornhole



Colson Clary's commitment graphic via Instagram/@winthrop_cornhole

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October 10, 2024



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