



Winthrop University

September 19, 2024

Rock Hill, SC

SOCCER SPOTLIGHT

Lanie Cauthen catches up with players and coaches to talk about the start of the season

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE WATCH PARTY

Students and professors share their thoughts on the debate and this year's election cycle

9/11 MEMORIALS AROUND CAMPUS

Students and staff pay their respects to the heroes and those lost on September 11, 2001

A/C issues in Rutledge continue to impact the learning environment of its students

Professors have had to move classes to McLaurin Hall due to the hot temperatures, with many still waiting to get back.

Omar Woods
Staff Writer

Winthrop's HVAC system is showing its age as the temperatures in buildings across campus skyrocket, causing health issues for students and leading some professors to change their teaching routine to combat the disorientating heat.

"Rutledge has been a particular challenge for an extended period of time, although the current issue is different from one last summer that also caused significant disruption. We are, indeed, battling an HVAC system near

its end of life," wrote President Edward Serna in an email addressing the ongoing HVAC issues within the Rutledge building. "On the facilities side, with this latest issue, we have not found a solution. We have a comprehensive, step-by-step plan to address the situation, but it is not immediate, so therefore will not see immediate results."

The air conditioning issues in the Rutledge building specifically have been ongoing since the beginning of the school year. Many students have made their grievances with the conditions in Rutledge known by

by taking to social media sites such as Instagram and YikYak.

"It's extremely hot, we had a student pass out maybe a week or two ago. And they had to send out an email apologizing for that," said Carlos Frank, a junior art major. "I get distracted, can't focus sometimes because it's hot and I gotta wipe sweat off my face a lot."

Professor Mark Hamilton, who is also the chair of the Department of Fine Arts, expressed a similar sentiment.

"We started having this problem last spring. It got worse over the summer and when temperatures

were in the 90s, it really became unbearable," said professor Hamilton.

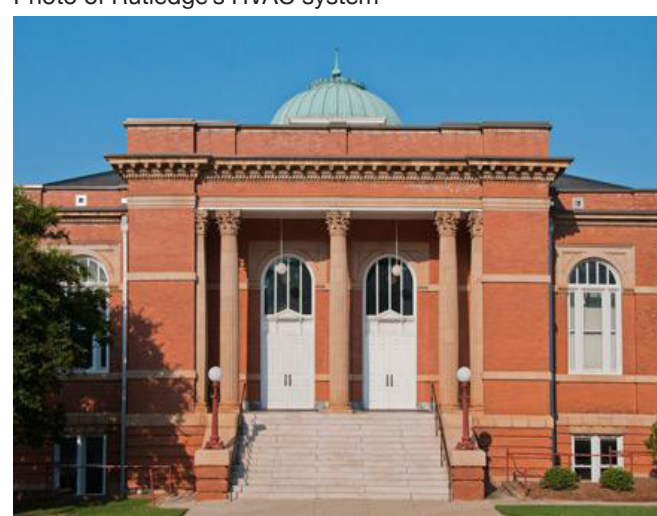
Professors in Rutledge, like Hamilton, had to take matters into their own hands and decided to move their class to an entirely different building to avoid the heat. Carlos was one of the students who had to make the switch. "We had to move classes because just sitting there would make us sweat," Carlos said. "We went from Rutledge to McLaurin."

The air conditioning problems plaguing Rutledge are also

Cont. on pg. 2



Photo of Rutledge's HVAC system photo by Clark Vilardebo



Exterior of Rutledge photo credit/Winthrop University

Rehearsals underway for Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse play

Riley Brodie
AC&T Editor

This October, Winthrop Theater will open up the curtains to introduce their production of "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse". "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" is expected to be lively, whimsical and exciting for all ages.

The adapted play is based on Kevin Henke's 1996 children's book of the same title. Stephen Gundersheim is the director of Winthrop's production.

According to Winthrop University's website, the story centers around, "a young mouse named Lilly learns to deal with the problems that many children face. It is a tale that emphasizes the importance of being

considerate, apologizing when in the wrong and forgiving others when they apologize."

Additionally, there are incorporated elements of Henke's 1990 children's book "Julius, the Baby of the World", which follows the story of Lilly's relationship with her little brother.

The cast, director, and stage crew are currently in the process of preparing for opening. The atmosphere of the rehearsal is evidently energetic and joyful.

They begin practice with a "question of the day" and breathing exercises.

One night, the question was: "What is your favorite computer or board game?" Voices yelled out answers one

after another such as "Minecraft", "Wizard101", and "Animal Jams".

The breathing exercise took place on the floor. Cast members laid down on the stage and attempted to count without interrupting



Cast rehearsals for the play

another. If two individuals called out a number at the same time, they reconvened and started again. After

a few attempts, they made it up to 38.

Members of the cast wear a variety of eccentric shoes, such as bright red cowboy boots, to rehearse in. There's a great deal of laughter and collaboration

throughout practices; some of the cast run in the corners of the stage while others block off scenes and offer advice to each

other. The cast reconvenes throughout rehearsal to run chunks of the production and wait for Gundersheim's expertise. It is evident that the cast members of "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" hold a great deal of love for the production and their roles in bringing it to life.

Lily Moore, a sophomore musical theater major playing the role of Carol and "the Salesperson" said, "This play is just really special because everything about it is just fun and energetic. I know every night when we're going to be doing something that's silly, exciting and that is just going to make me happy. So it just makes

me look forward to rehearsal every single day."

"Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" is a children's play, which offers many members of the cast the unique opportunity to reconnect with their inner child.

Destiny Gore, a senior theater performance major playing the role of Wilson, said, "This play really brings out my inner joy. It's been a summer of me trying to heal my childhood and be free and just let myself do things that make me feel good. This show really gives us that opportunity. Stephen really lets us express ourselves as creatives and take creative liberties and stuff like that and it

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A look behind the curtain of President Serna's "Strategic Plan"

A presentation on Phase One of the university's Strategic Plan defined how President Serna intends to put the college on track for success, with targeted improvements academically, culturally and financially.

Evi Houston
Staff Writer

President Edward Serna's presentation of his Strategic Plan for Winthrop University on Sept. 5 filled the seats of Dina's Place with enthusiastic faculty and professors but had sparse student attendance aside from members of the Council

of Student Leaders. While many students may see this long-term planning as irrelevant to their limited time on campus, the initiatives proposed by Serna and his team will certainly affect the student body and the future of their time on campus, if only tangentially.

Serna is confident

in his proposal for the university, bolstered by years of experience and previous development of varying strategic plans for the past three universities he has worked at.

Serna began his presentation with an emphasis on unity, simplicity and flexibility in his

planning. He seeks to move away from the fear of making mistakes, surprising students and faculty with uncalled-for projects, and a transactional perspective towards growing the university.

While the president wants to see the university grow

flourish, he believes we are moving in the right direction and can improve with gradual additions, saying "there is no reason for a silver bullet" and that we "cannot do everything at once."

On a positive note, Serna noted that Winthrop stands out as a "regional

comprehensive" institution that is on the rise. Improvements in alumni funding are setting the university on track to become "the best version of ourselves."

The plan is based on five pillars which Serna expanded upon: excel, educate, enrich,

Cont. on pg. 2

September 19, 2024

Police Blotter



Evi Houston
Staff Writer

Deer carcass found near Winthrop Lake

A deer carcass was found near the Outdoor Education Center's ropes course on University Lake Drive on the morning of Sept. 6. No reason was given for the death of the deer and officers soon called Animal Control to remove the animal.

Car windshield vandalized

A resident of Walk2Campus called WUPD after detecting vandalism on the windshield of her car on Sept. 6. Officers detected a small number three written on the glass and nothing else. The source of the number is unknown. The rest of the vehicle appeared normal.

Student documents harassment

A resident of Lee Wicker approached an officer on her hall seeking to address previous harassment on the night of Sept. 9. The student's friend had an ex-boyfriend who had harassed her in the past. The two have decided to take steps toward charging him for his harassment and making documentation with the police.

Carroll Hall elevator stuck

A person was stuck in the elevator in Carroll Hall on the evening of Sept. 10. The door eventually opened, and Facilities has been notified of the issue.

Suspicious activity reported outside of Lee Wicker

An officer received information regarding a group of students standing by a parking spot and refusing to let people park in it near Lee Wicker the night of Sept. 12. When the officer arrived, the students stated they told someone they were saving the spot and then left.



www.mytjnow.com

A/C Issues | Cont. from pg. 1

present in Johnson Hall. Going into Johnson, students and faculty can see multiple machines intended to regulate the temperature within the building. Like Rutledge, the air conditioning issues in Johnson have impacted the learning environment.

"I'd say it's harder to have students

department.

"Additionally, we've been told that we don't have to have our office hours in our office if our offices are 90 degrees, so Zoom appointments are the way to go more often. We were really concerned starting this semester about the TV studio because the equipment will break

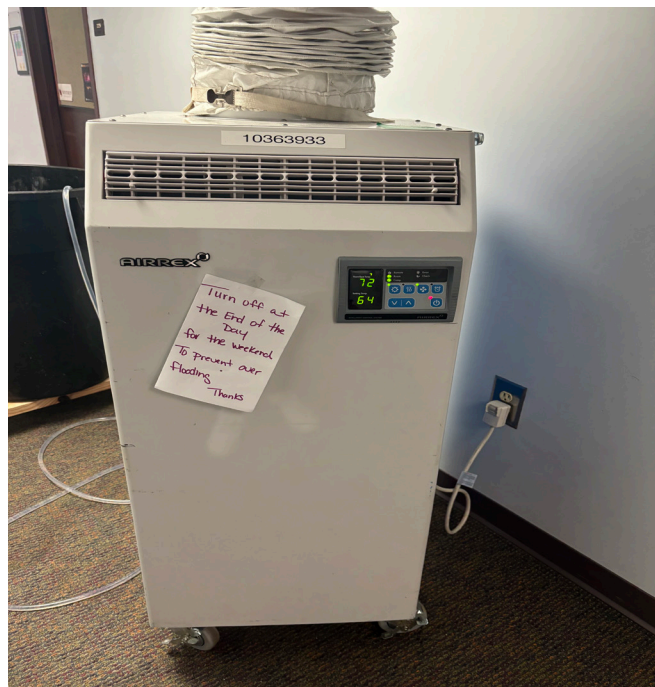


photo by Clark Vilardebo

Machine to help with AC in Johnson

concentrate and focus when it's 90 degrees in the classroom. and it's harder for professors to focus also," said Professor Meader, a faculty member in the Mass Communication

down in the heat, so a special focus is if the heat is going to impact the studio and what does that mean for classes."

Addressing these concerns, President

President Serna's Strategic Plan | Cont. from pg. 1

engage and enhance. These pillars involve goals including increasing state and national recognition, expanding workforce development, creating a true "Winthrop experience," and proactive infrastructure plans. In an aside on infrastructure which will resonate with those who know the university well, Serna said that right now, "We're not picking projects, they're picking us."

These pillars were distinctly developed from the perspective of the board, focusing on timely degree attainment, student retention, ROI to the state of South Carolina, corporate partnerships, budgeting and fundraising.

The Strategic Plan will be rolled out in three phases, beginning with Phase One from July 2024 to June 2025 consisting of 12 projects. The university has been provided \$1.5 million to complete Phase One. Phase One of the strategic plan is certainly a group effort. Various members of the university have been put in charge of these projects, including Provost Sebastian Van Delden, Vice President of Student Affairs Sheila Burkhalter, Vice President of Finance and Business Affairs Kevin Butler and Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing Joseph Miller, who all spoke on Sept. 5.

Academically, the plan seeks to create new programs and concentrations for students (such as a Bachelor's degree in Software Engineering), grow the adult learning program "Winthrop Elevate," and transform the Honors Program into an Honors College focused on leadership.

To attract more students, the administration hopes to fully rebrand the university and "claim our own story," said Joseph Miller, instead of allowing those outside of the university to define Winthrop. Transparency in tuition and the reduction of undergraduate tuition is an additional part of meeting this goal.

Speaking on the growth of the university, Miller cited multiple positive statistics, including 90% overall retention and 73% freshman retention for the last year, bringing us up to 2017 rates. The current freshman class has increased by 4%, and transfers by a staggering 19%. 1,949 students reside in primary residence halls Thompson, Lee Wicker, and Phelps putting university housing at a 98% occupancy rate.

Culturally, the plan intends to promote Greek life, student attendance at athletic games, and curate a student experience that can be easily articulated and stands out from other universities.

Financially, the

Serna wrote a follow-up email about a week later pertaining to the progress of the HVAC issues.

"You may recall that last week I shared a three-step plan to address both short- and long-term solutions for the most recent problems encountered," Serna wrote. "I am pleased to say that the technician has made some progress, and air has been flowing in some areas since last Thursday evening. Not all areas are getting air, however, so his efforts continue. We also are awaiting part availability and pricing to repair both the cooling and heating fans. That said, we are still in step one of our plan."

While many appreciated the initiative taken by Serna to get the AC under control, there are also those who are worried about when the next phase in the plan will go through.

"The president rolled out a what the plan was to be implemented. I think at this point, what our students are

probably the most concerned about is an update on that plan," said Professor Hamilton.

While the high temperatures in Rutledge are certainly the main concern at the moment, professors and students are also concerned about what the coming winter will bring.

"I think people are really concerned about winter is coming. So while we wouldn't have any air conditioning

in the beginning of the semester, we're more concerned at this point whether or not we have heat in the winter," said Professor Hamilton.

So far, there have been notable improvements in the air conditioning across campus buildings. More professors are returning to their regular schedule curriculum and classes are taking place in the rooms they were in originally.



photo by Clark Vilardebo

Photo of Rutledge's HVAC system



Photo credit/Winthrop University

President Serna speaking at the Strategic Plan meeting.



Photo credit/Winthrop University

VP of Student Affairs, Sheila Burkhalter, speaking at the Strategic Plan meeting.

Support is in your neighborhood.



Visit sccadvasa.org for

local resources dedicated to
helping sexual assault survivors.

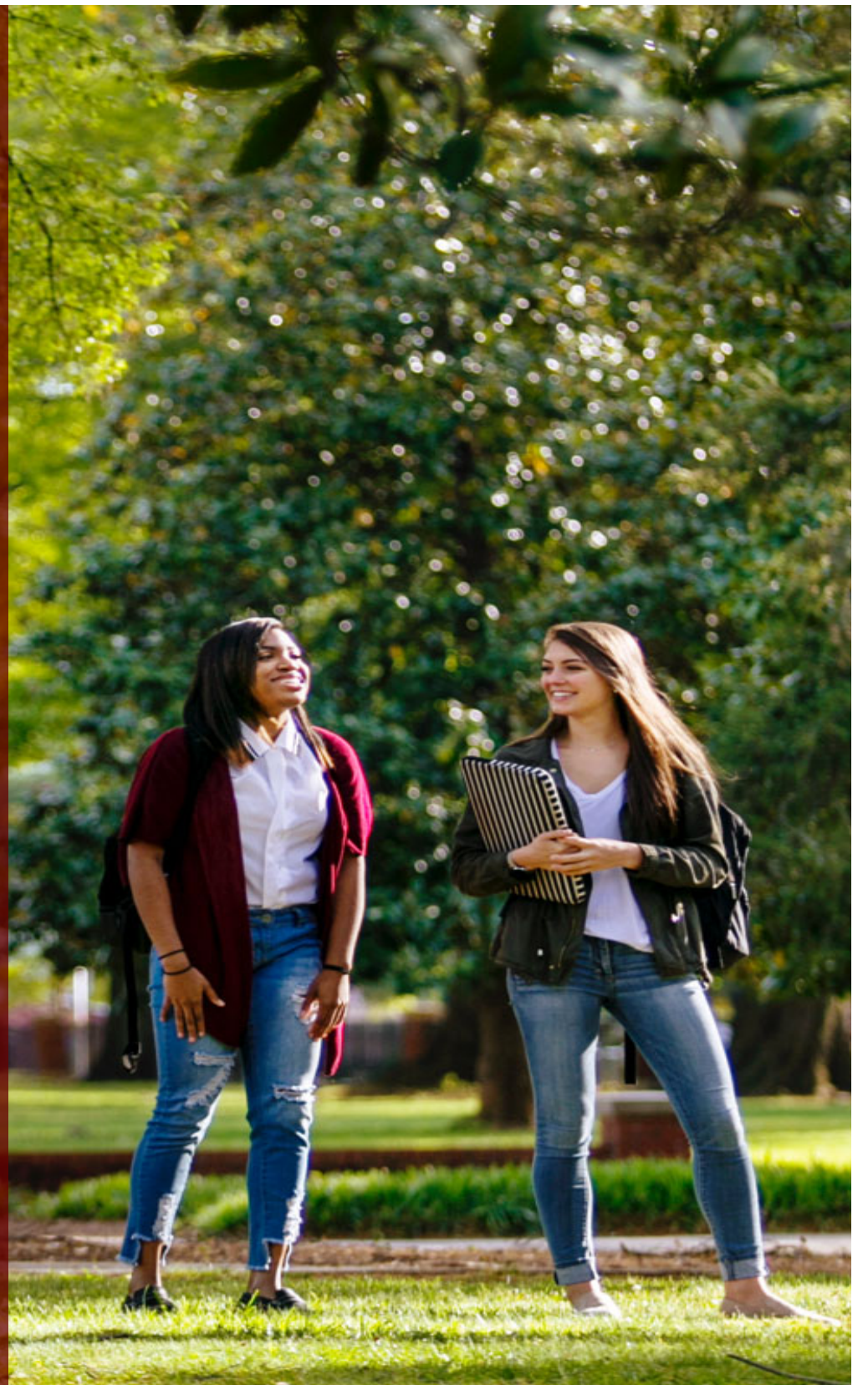


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Lily's Purple Plastic Purse audition | Cont. from pg. 1

really makes me feel safe. It's a really good space to be in."

Devontaye Merrill, a junior musical theater major playing the role of Mr. Slinger, said, "You can see it in their [cast members] eyes that they're actually really happy to be playing these characters – it just unlocks a childhood, when I feel like we kind of lose that innocence eventually."

When asked about this topic, Moore said, "When we were talking about our characters and all that kind of stuff, I was looking at a ton of old tv-shows that I would watch in elementary school. My mom sent me a bunch of pictures of me in like 1st and 2nd grade. I was kind of thinking about trying to imagine my mindset at that time and just channel having those memories in my mind. It really helps me be really into it in rehearsal."

Mason Hall, a junior theater education major playing the role

of Chester, said, "I think it's been difficult tapping back into the inner child at this point. But it's been really fun getting to do that and explore that side of myself again because it's been a while since I've gotten to be a second grader."

The entirety of "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" had been described as whimsical and silly on multiple accounts. However, many cast members still have specific scenes in the production that stand out to them.

Hall said, "My personal favorite part of the show is probably Lily's dream sequence at the end of act one. It's this moment where Lily gets her titular purple plastic purse and she has this giant fun fantasy sequence about telling all her friends and family about it. It's probably my favorite scene to perform- it's just very fun and very cute."

Cristian Concha, a freshman musical theater major playing

the role of Ra said, "My favorite part of "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" has to be the classroom scene. It's so chaotic but it's so not chaotic at the same time – it's just fun all around. It feels like I'm in second grade again, just talking to kids and being kids."

Merrill said that his favorite line in the production is Mr. Slinger's "Howdy". He said, "Because they've [Mr. Slinger's class] always had strict teachers, so for a teacher to walk in and be like "Howdy" or call the students "rodents" - I think that's really funny."

Even though "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" is lighthearted children's theater, morals and depth are still present throughout the production.

When asked what the primary message of the production was, Merrill said, "I would say, for me, it is to not lose innocence. I feel like it is to find joy in the little things. It's like Lilly's Purple Plastic

Purse, she loves it, it's her world, and she wants to share that with everyone else. I think that we all have things that we wanna share with the world but we're just not comfortable to."

Makayla Largent, a senior musical theater major playing the role of "Mom", said, "This is definitely an experience that teaches you to learn to appreciate the little things in life." Largent additionally said, "It's just a very heartwarming story and it's fun for all families and all ages."

The dates will take place Oct. 17 and Oct. 18 at 7:30PM and Oct. 19 and Oct. 20 at 2PM in Johnson Theater.



Christian Inman, playing Dawson/Victor in the play

via Instagram/@winthroptheatre



Photo of the cast for Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse

photo by Riley Brodie

23 years later: What September 11 remembrance on Winthrop University's campus looks like in 2024

After years of holding more private memorials, the university decided to go more public this year.

Gabriela Griggs
Staff Writer

The establishment of three brand new memorial events has brought forth a new air of unity across campus, allowing locals, students, and faculty to join in remembering the lives lost and bravery exalted 23 years ago on September



ROTC members observing the flag at half mast 11, 2001.

photo by Judy Longshaw

Earlier this month, President Edward Serna emailed Winthrop University students encouraging attendance at three new events.

"Let's gather together to remember," President Serna wrote. "I hope you'll take a moment to join me on Wednesday, Sept. 11, to remember and reflect on the thousands of lives lost on that day. Wearing red, white and blue is encouraged."

The first event began that morning at the Tillman Fountain Plaza. This ceremony consisted of a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m.,

the exact time the first plane hit the North Tower, alongside a presentation of colors, a playing of taps by Winthrop faculty Dr. Elisa Koehler, and a performance of the National Anthem by Winthrop senior Lillie Kyger.

From 9-11 a.m. in the Winthrop Coliseum, local first responders

participated in what the university called the "9/11 Memorial Stair Climb" to pay tribute to the firefighters in New York City. Local police and firefighters walked the equivalent of the 110 flights of stairs inside the World Trade Center and Winthrop students were even encouraged to participate.

The last event was held at 6 p.m. on the South Lawn of the Winthrop Coliseum and hosted by the Palmetto Council and Boy Scouts of America. Over 200 American flags were placed to honor and commemorate healthcare workers, first responders,

veterans and other prominent local and national individuals. Students, faculty and locals gathered on the lawn for further moments of remembrance, strawn out on blankets and lawn chairs.

When asked about how these events came to be, Winthrop's Vice President Joseph Miller had plenty to say about the collaboration that led to their establishment.

"Last year, several individuals across campus recognized the need to coordinate a more official event to commemorate the day that would blend participation among faculty, students, and staff," Miller said, "especially as the average age of students indicates that most of our undergraduates were not yet born on or before Sept. 11, 2001. It became abundantly clear that we needed to honor and memorialize the day that would be symbolically, ceremonially, and educationally

meaningful."

One thing has remained consistent as the generations of students on campus continue to grow up in a world after Sept. 11, 2001: the desire to continually honor the lives lost. While most students may not have personally experienced the tragedy like those who witnessed it did, they have grown up with the post-Sept. 11 guidelines and safety regulations.

When asked about living with those regulations, Winthrop freshman Ella Williams said, "People really hate some of those security checks and administrations, and while the people who work there might get on our nerves and the processes feel tedious, they are protecting us within reason and do have a scary job to do. It's honestly harder to imagine a world without these regulations than what it's like living with them now."

President Serna even recognizes this as one

of the main reasons they decided to host these public memorials.

"We discussed that most of our students were not born on September 11, 2001. Yet we recognize the importance of that date, the impact it had on our country and the relevance even today of remembering those who perished," said President Serna.

"The #NeverForget is a vitally important message for our nation and the world. The catastrophic and horrific events of Sept.

"I was traveling to Columbia for a meeting when I heard the news on the radio. By the time I arrived in Columbia, legislative buildings and the Capitol were on lockdown," Simrill said. "Upon [arriving] home later that afternoon, there was very little traffic on I-77 and it was eerie that no planes were flying as I was over the glide path for Charlotte International Airport. Surreal day to say the least."

"I was at the gym, running on a treadmill



Winthrop Lacrosse players and local firefighters walking the steps of the Coliseum

photo by Judy Longshaw

11 should always be honored to pay tribute to those heroes that selflessly sacrificed their lives for others. It shows the greatness of our country and community," said speaker and Winthrop alumni Gary Simrill.

When both were asked, President Serna and former State House Representative Simrill shared their personal stories about where they were on Sept. 11, 2001.

in Atlanta, Georgia. Everyone in the gym stopped what they were doing, watched the screens, and then started leaving. It was so quiet. That's what I remember. It was hard to fathom what was happening," said President Serna.

Uniting in remembrance of Sept. 11 is vital for both the campus and local community. Gathering strengthens us as a nation and community.



Winthrop senior Lillie Kyger singing the national anthem at a memorial

photo by Judy Longshaw

EDITORIAL

September 19, 2024

Winthrop students come out in droves for the 2024 presidential debate watch party in Dina's Place

Mia Molfetta
Staff Writer

On Tuesday night, Sept. 10, hundreds of Winthrop students came out to watch the presidential debate between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris. The watch party was hosted in Dina's Place by College Republicans, College Democrats and the NAACP.

Before the debate, Winthrop professor Dr. Jennifer Disney was asking students what topics they wanted to hear from the candidates. The topics ranged from reproductive rights, immigration, Gaza and health care.

I talked with a select few people about why they chose to attend the watch party, where they stood before the debate, what they hoped to get out of the debate and if any of their opinions changed afterwards.

Winthrop Sophomore Miracle Parker said, "I attended not just because it's a culture event, but also because I want to be more

She went on to say, "My number one policy I'm rooting that will be addressed is our current education system and what will be done with to protect children from gun violence."

Winthrop Junior Abe Malik said, "I wanted to attend the watch party so I could see how the parties would answer the questions on policies and major issues while being face to face." To finish his comments, he said, "The number one policy I'm hoping is discussed is border security, along with inflation."

The candidates discussed a wide range of topics, many of which were ones brought up by students. According to Statista.com, the three most discussed topics of the night were the economy, immigration and abortion.

At the end of the debate, both Harris and Trump delivered their closing remarks in a passionate manner.

Harris started hers off with a very powerful message, "Two very different visions for our country. One in

watch party to being in the room with everyone afterwards, you could feel the emotions change.

Once again, I talked to Wideman and asked what she thought about the debate after and she said, "I do think this pushed me towards a definite choice, but I think there are some things Kamala should have addressed better, and I think she definitely avoided a few things; but overall I think how she'll help the economy will be beneficial."

I also talked to Malik and asked the same question to which he said, "My opinions have shifted a bit, though I was shocked by the amount of questions dodged by Harris, and I felt some could have been answered better by Trump.

Though, I was intrigued by Vice President Harris' statements on healthcare and if she were to be elected and proposed healthcare be as good and beneficial as she says."

Professor John Holder, the former Chair of the Department of Political

get across, even if that wasn't what they were asked. But they're both trying to persuade voters, and sometimes the facts get in the way of that."

He continues, "I think most Americans are most concerned about the economy, and a lot of factual information got lost, or taken out of context, or unexpressed during what was largely an argument between the two of them. I would have been happy to see them cover anything in more detail and more coherence. Both of them were asked specific questions and deflected to the points they wanted to get across, even if that wasn't what they were asked. But they're both trying to persuade voters, and sometimes the facts get in the way of that."

I talked to Dr. Disney, who hosts the John C. West forum of Politics and Policy, about her input on this and future watch parties.

On the topic of this watch party, she said, "It really was a commitment – this commitment to civil engagement, active student clubs and organizations, wanting to make sure Winthrop University campus community is educated, active, registered to vote, and has a voting plan and implements the voice so their democratic voice can be heard to vote in the presidential election. We're committed to try to get active and support civil engagement at all levels."

When asked about the forum hosting future debate watch parties for all levels of politics, Holder and Dr. Disney both said it is more than a possibility.

"I absolutely hope that we can do watch parties for future elections," said Dr. Holder. "The College Democrats and College Republicans are working together a lot more closely than I've seen in some previous election years. It would be great if they keep that up."

Dr. Disney said, "There's so many levels and layers of government within and between that I'd say the department, our ppri department, and also the John C West forum politics and policy are committed to try to get active and support civic engagement at all those levels. So absolutely, especially for partisan races, when the student clubs and orgs are excited, like the college Dems and College Republicans, then it's absolutely something we would continue."

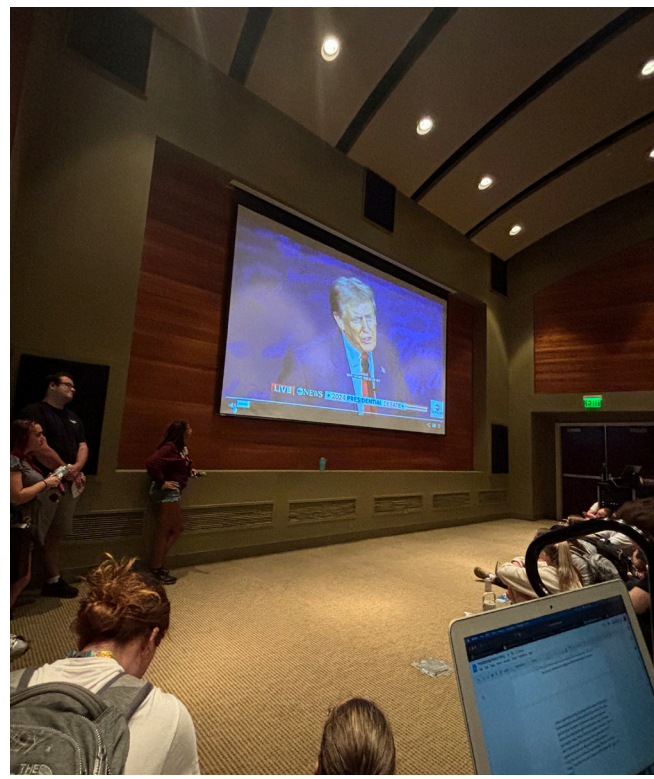
Photos from the debate watch party



Students pack DiGS as they wait for doors to open via Instagram/@wu_collegerepublicans



Students watching the debate in DiGS 114 via Instagram/@wu_collegerepublicans



Students watching former president Donald Trump speak photo by Clark Vilardebo



Dr. Disney poses for a selfie with members of College Dems, Republicans and NAACP via Instagram/@wu_collegerepublicans



A packed Dina's Place waits for the debate to start via Instagram/@wu_collegerepublicans

educated. I feel there is a lot about politics I don't know; that I want to be more educated on – so I felt like today was the perfect opportunity to learn more information."

She continued with, "I'd like all of the policies to be talked about, but specifically Project 2025. I want to hear more about that. It's a big thing on TikTok and everyone keeps talking about it but nobody is really saying what it is about, so I hope it will be a good opportunity for Trump to talk about it or his side of the situation."

Winthrop Freshman Samira Wideman said, "I decided to attend the watch party because I am afraid of making the wrong choice on who I vote for. There is a lot riding on this election and I want to make sure that I have an understanding of each politician's stances before I make such a decision."

the future, one in the past, and an attempt to take us backward. We're not going back. We must have plans to understand the ambitions of the American people." She continued, saying how she will be the leader to hear and care for the people – and gain our respect back as a Nation.

Trump replied, saying, "She's gonna do all these wonderful things. Why hasn't she done it already? They've had three and a half years to do this already. Why haven't they done it? Do the damn thing." He finished his remark by saying how the country is the worst it's been, and how the nation is declining.

From talking to the students before the watch party to being in the room with everyone afterwards; you could feel the emotions change.

From talking to the students before the

Science and a delegate for the Democratic Party, was asked about his thoughts on the debate. He said, "Most media and academic analysts have taken the position that Harris performed better, but of course each side's partisans are going to want to think and argue that their candidate 'won.' I wish the moderators had enforced the stated rule that the mike would be turned off for the candidate whose turn it wasn't."

He continues, "I think most Americans are most concerned about the economy, and a lot of factual information got lost, or taken out of context, or unexpressed during what was largely an argument between the two of them. I would have been happy to see them cover anything in more detail and more coherence. Both of them were asked specific questions and deflected to the points they wanted to

Opinion Editor: Currently hiring!
Contact vilardeboc2@winthrop.edu

2024 Soccer season spotlight

Both Men's and Women's Soccer kicked off last month with both teams working towards the Big South Conference. The next game for both teams will begin conference play – with both teams hopeful for a chance at victory.

Lanie Cauthen
Staff Writer

Women's soccer returns with a hopeful start to the year

Winthrop's women's soccer is 3-4 this season and hopes to improve from last season. The Lady Eagles lost against Western Carolina on Sept. 15, 0-4. Women's soccer earned their third victory of the season on Sept. 12 dominating Virginia Military

"This year we have added an exciting freshmen class which has bolstered our depth in several positions," Smith said. The team is excited to continue their journey together. "Fans can expect to see a team who plays with passion and lots of spirit," Smith said. "It's a close-knit group who will work for each other." The women's team will play at Charleston Southern on Sept. 25. "People can support the

University of Charlotte on Sept. 6, earning 2 goals in the final half to win the game. Freshman midfielder Ryan Armijo scored his first goal as a Winthrop student, earning him the title of "Freshman of the Week". The team hopes to turn their luck around during the Big South Conference. "The conference will be our measuring stick and what we are judged on overall. We have high expectations when conference play starts,"



Allie Bender (#25) going up against a Lancaster player

Photo credit/Winthrop Athletics

Institute – 2-0. The win earned head coach Spencer Smith his 100th win at Winthrop. "We have shown growth and improvement this year," head coach Smith said. "We need to continue to work hard at practices to help with our development along with believing in each other." The Lady Eagles fell to Wofford the previous week in a tough game with a 1-3 loss. However, the team has hopes for future games. "I think we have become stronger and closer as a team and have really enjoyed playing with each other," team captains Jessica Gengler and Lily Meisten said. "We have bought into what our coaches have instilled in us and it's showing." The team has added eight freshmen to the roster this season – adding to the team's strength.

team by coming to home games and cheering us on," Gengler and Meisten said. "We always appreciate the support." **Men's soccer hopes to comeback during conference season** Winthrop's men's soccer team have only scored one victory this season, but they hope to make a turn-around later this season. "We have to, as a group, create more chances and not be afraid to do some of the dirty work," head coach Daniel Ridenhour said. Winthrop lost 0-1 to Wofford in a hard-fought game on Sept. 14. On Sept. 10, the men's team suffered a hard defeat against N.C. State losing 0-7. "We play in difficult environments on the road, and I believe it helped us in our conference the past few years with results," Ridenhour said. The men's team fought a close match against Queens

Ridenhour said. The men's team will play at USC Upstate on Sept. 21. Ridenhour is hopeful students will support all Winthrop teams this year. "Come out to a game. Get out to Eagle Field and support the team," Ridenhour said. "Come watch our Women's Soccer play. Come to a Volleyball match. Be present at other athletic events during the entire year. Students can get in free to all with their student ID. Take advantage of it. Residents of Rock Hill should be supporting our hometown Eagles teams, and our teams and students need to be supporting our residents and citizens of Rock Hill. Be engaged and be proud to be here as a Winthrop Eagle!" As for a late season turnaround, it's more than doable as just last year the volleyball team went on a 14-4 run to close out conference play after an 0-10 start to the season.



Sam Pidgeon (#5) running with an NC State player

Photo credit/Winthrop Athletics

UPCOMING 2024 MEN'S AND WOMEN SOCCER HOME GAMES

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Men's Soccer vs. Gardner-Webb	Sept. 28, 1:00 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs. High Point	Sept. 28, 5:00 p.m.
Men's Soccer vs. Longwood	Oct. 4, 7:00 p.m.
Women's soccer vs. UNC Asheville	Oct. 5, 1:00 p.m.
Men's Soccer vs. ETSU	Oct. 8, 6:00 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs. USC Upstate	Oct. 16, 6:00 p.m.
Men's Soccer vs. High Point	Oct. 18, 7:00 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs. Radford	Oct. 19, 6:00 p.m.
Men's Soccer vs. Presbyterian College	Nov. 2, 7:00 p.m.

graphic by Clark Vilardebo



Women's soccer players stand for the national anthem

photo by Jarod Ty Summers

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September 19, 2024

