

est. 1923

THE JOHNSONIAN

Winthrop University

October 31, 2024

Rock Hill, SC

WINTHROP'S HALLOWEEN SPIRIT

Jackson Stanton shows how students and staff celebrate Halloween around campus

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL ELECTIONS

With election season in the end stages, find out about York County's local candidates

"GROWIN' UP AND MOVIN' OUT" REVIEW

Highlighting the themes and messages of the fully student directed and created play

DSU halts all student union led events over budgetary concerns

DSU President, Ethel Sakyi, discusses the events that led up to the decision to pause all programming.



Outside of DSU's office in DiGS

photo by Clark Vilardebo

Clark Vilardebo
Editor-in-Chief

Student unions play a large role in the college experience, especially at Winthrop, which is why students were sent into a frenzy over DSU's decision to cancel all of their activities for the time being.

On Wednesday, Oct. 23, DSU released a statement on their Instagram announcing that the student union would be entering a period of hiatus. The post includes multiple reasons behind the decision, with budget cuts being the primary one.

"This summer, the DSU Executive Board was informed by the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs that a decision had been made to significantly cut our budget. The cuts were attributed to deficits caused by WuChella and have drastically impacted our operations. In August, we formally requested an action plan to address the cuts and mitigate their effects. However, despite our repeated efforts to engage in meaningful dialogue, we have yet to receive a response, creating a challenging and, at times, hostile

working environment," the post reads.

The news came as a shock to the student body here at Winthrop, especially since DSU just hosted DragWu on Oct. 18.

Since the announcement, most students and alumni are supportive of DSU's decision. However, a good portion of students also expressed their disappointment in the announcement.

Due to the confusion surrounding DSU's hiatus, DSU President Ethel Sakyi decided to sit down with Student Publications and provide more in depth information regarding

the decision.

Ethel said the rift between DSU and the Student Affairs office "started over the summer [while] I was away on vacation, and I got an email telling me that there's going to be some changes with the board, and our budget has been severely cut."

Like the Instagram post said, the cuts were largely attributed to WuChella.

WuChella was a DSU hosted event during the second semester of the 2023-24 school year to celebrate the end of the year. The event featured food vendors, novelties and musical performances, with the

most notable one being rapper DDG.

Many students, including Sakyi, saw WuChella as a disappointment due to the high prices and DDG's performance.

"I was informed that we had gone over budget with WuChella [and] seeing that we put a lot of investment into it, and the outcome wasn't really the best or what we hoped for, so that caused a very huge deficit on our account," Sakyi said.

Despite all this, Sakyi was not even mad about the budget cuts. In fact, she completely understood why the cuts needed to happen.

"Initially, we thought, okay, so they're cutting our budget. Fair enough. If you go over budget and they're trying to bring you back to balance then of course there's going to be some changes. So fair enough," Sakyi said.

One of the major reasons for the budget cuts was the cost for DDG to perform on campus. Sakyi claimed that "DSU cannot operate without [Burkhalter's] approval on events and on artists or anything, essentially. So we sent it for approval, and the

Cont. on pg. 2

Planning begins for the renovation of Winthrop's Ida Jane Dacus Library

Dacus Library Dean Jackie McFadden speaks of her hopes for the library, along with the requests of student patrons, including new study spaces, a cafe and an updated entrance.

Evi Houston
Staff Writer

The Ida Jane Dacus Library has recently joined the many ongoing projects outlined in Winthrop University's Campus Master Plan, beginning its planning stage this October by collaborating with students and the library's staff.

Jackie McFadden, dean of Dacus Library and staff member since 2002, commented on the upcoming project with hope, saying "We want to create a dynamic and inviting library that brings students in but also

has areas for quiet study and collaborative learning."

The university is just beginning this renovation, dedicating time to combine the efforts and voices of library staff, students, and experienced architects to create an ideal space on campus and bring renewal to the 1969 building.

McFadden explained that through their communication with students and staff via focus groups and open houses, the architects on the project are designing a diagram for the building which will transfer back and forth between the dean,

her staff and Facilities Management until a satisfactory plan is finalized. There is no definite timeline for the project yet, with McFadden saying "it's not going to start right away."

In noting the basic premise of the project, McFadden said "Our building does have some maintenance needs that need to be addressed [...] we also want to create better spaces for students for studying and collaboration." In reference to the project's funding the Dean said that "the state is giving us some money for

renovations."

Similar to the preparation process for the Campus Master Plan as a whole, an open house for the library was held on Oct. 17 where students could speak with the architects of the project, leave suggestions on post-it notes and view photos of other university libraries that the designated architects had previously completed.

Anne Macklin, a Sophomore business major at Winthrop who frequents the Dacus Library, provided some suggestions for the

Cont. on pg. 2

Inclusivity during Halloween weekend

Riley Brodie
AC&T Editor

While Halloween is meant to be a celebratory and exciting time for children every year—the holiday often fails to accommodate the experience for children with disabilities and/or allergies. Trick or treating traditionally follows a "one size fits all" model, making it inaccessible for children with additional needs.

This can be seen in a variety of circumstances.

Buckets full of exclusively candy can be disappointing for children with allergies. Excessive flashing lights outside of houses can be triggering for neurodivergent

children. Children with mobility disabilities may be unable or struggle to get to houses with inaccessible entrances.

With this in mind, people facilitating trick or treating events have multiple ways in which they can make Halloween more accessible and exciting for children with different needs.

The Teal Pumpkin Project, developed by FARE (Food Allergy Research Education), has encouraged people to provide non-food items for trick-or-treaters with food allergies. By putting a Teal Pumpkin by one's door, candy givers indicate that there are additional options available. People are

Cont. on pg. 4

Police Blotter



Evi Houston
Staff Writer

Dog feces found in Thomson Hall

A resident of East Thompson Hall found dog feces on the first floor and inside the stairwell during the afternoon of Oct. 24. WUPD responded to the call and contacted Facilities Management to clean the area.

Two students followed by a vehicle on Cherry Road

Two students were walking outside of Sub Station II on the night of Oct. 21 when they realized they were being followed by a man in his vehicle. WUPD was unable to locate the man and provided the students with an escort back to their residence hall for safety.

Student's ID found in the site of a break-in

On Oct. 21, WUPD received information from the Rock Hill Police Department that they found a student's ID card, inside a backpack, at a vacant residence that was the site of a break in. The office provided information and the case was deemed complete.

Mold found under student's bed in Phelps Hall

A student residing in Phelps reported that they found mold under their bed on the night of Oct. 20. An officer responded to the report and arrangements were made for the student to stay somewhere else until the problem was resolved.

Winthrop athletic complex left unlocked

A WUPD officer patrolling on the night of Oct. 17 noticed the gate to the university's track and soccer complex was left open after hours. Upon investigation, the officer found that the lock was missing from the gate. A work request has been completed for facilities to resolve the issue.



www.mytjnow.com

DSU Hiatus | Cont. from pg. 1

contract was signed. So we assumed it was approved."

DDG was scheduled to perform an hour-long set, but only performed for around 15-25 minutes.

The decision to announce the budget cuts over email frustrated Sakyi and the other leaders at DSU, as they wanted to have an in person meeting with the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs. They felt blindsided by the email, especially since it came in over the summer.

Despite all this, Sakyi and the rest of DSU kept pushing and hosting events for students, including cooking meals for volunteers with DSU Vice President Ayden Lowman and hosting Welcome Week.

Welcome Week is Winthrop's official "kick-off to the academic year" according to the Winthrop website. The week includes Convocation, the Blue Line and the overall start of classes.

However, when it

came to Welcome Week this year, Sakyi described it as "in shambles."

"Two events, when Welcome Week is usually nine, was very crazy. They're telling us Winthrop traditions that we can't keep up with anymore and we might have to see some of our events that have become Winthrop traditions go because we can't afford them anymore," said Sakyi.

The recent DragWU turned out to be the last straw for DSU.

Sakyi claimed they did not think that DSU would be able to host DragWU this year because they did not get the approval for DragWU until it was in the "very late stages."

The lack of communication from their superiors and the people who supply their budget became too much for DSU leadership, thus leading them to halt all activities for the time being.

Sakyi maintains that all DSU hosted events must be approved by their higher ups: the Office of the Vice

President of Student Affairs and the Dean of Students.

"So again, like I said, we cannot approve anything, so we usually have to go to the Dean of Students for them to sign off on stuff. And so sometimes, when we're getting an act, we need, like a contract, and we need them to sign it for us," Sakyi said. "We go, and it's one story after the other, a new policy every day why they can't sign your contract. I would appreciate [it] if they could be more honest with us concerning this event – maybe just be honest with us."

After the announcement, students took to the social media app YikYak to express their displeasure, which especially frustrated Sakyi.

"It's important that I am able to stand up for my people because Winthrop belongs to the students, and this whole YikYak thing, it's disappointing – very, very disappointing," said Sakyi.

She continued, "We're the ones working with

them. We know what we're going through. So when we're telling you that these are the things that we're going through, you need to believe us, or you need to come to us, talk to us, ask us questions, and you're going to understand that, okay, these people are actually dealing with things."

YikYak is a social media app that allows people to post anonymously, which can lead to particularly nasty and inflammatory comments.

One user said in regards to the decision, "WuChella was such a bust last year. I'd cut their budget too."

Another anonymous user said, "They wasted their budget on an event that hasn't been successful in the past and got upset when they couldn't get more money and are now throwing a fit and taking away all their homecoming events."

Katherine Light, a senior social work major at Winthrop, was kind enough to share her thoughts on the matter – without

remaining anonymous.

"It is really unfortunate that funding for DSU was cut, but considering they've known about it since the start of the semester, I would assume they would have spaced out the budget they had to last through the fall semester. I am not sure why the student body is just now getting a statement about it," Light said.

She continued with, "However, I do recognize that there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes of any organization, and it isn't always feasible or efficient for everyone to know all the minute details. While it's sad that this has happened, I appreciate their transparency. I know so many students are upset by this news and are wanting to know how they can help support DSU."

Sakyi said a meeting is scheduled for DSU leadership and the Office of Student Affairs to resolve this, but this is after multiple attempts fell through, according to her.

Dacus Library renovations | Cont. from pg. 1

for the upcoming renovation.

Her first recommendation involved "bigger whiteboards on the wall or whiteboard tables to write on." Continuing, "There's nowhere to study that is conducive to practicing things like math or bigger problems."

While Macklin understands how the library can be helpful for writing essays and performing research, she has a harder time preparing for math and science classes in the spaces Dacus provides.

Dean McFadden also had some notes on suggestions from students, saying, "Students want a cafe [. . .] there's no food on this side of Oakland Avenue. When they're in the library and they're studying in their favorite space they don't want to leave the library to get something

and lose their spot."

This is not an uncommon addition, alluding that "the one at the University of South Carolina is very popular."

Students also expressed a desire for "cozy spaces to study and more group spaces." These would be "like little reading nook that are contained but not in rooms, to make it [the library] feel more comfortable."

McFadden continued, "Students talked about installing better lights, potentially on desks, instead of the overhead fluorescent lights."

Aside from these aesthetic changes, both Macklin and Dean McFadden identified some problem areas of the Dacus Library they would like renovations to address.

Macklin said, "They should start with the bathroom. I've seen roaches in there [. . .]

it's really gross."

Macklin additionally noted the tables in the individual study rooms on the upstairs floor, which she finds to be in poor condition, "making people not want to use them as much." She would also like to see updates to the current A/C system, a large wall unit that can be loud at times. Macklin would like Facilities to "fix the weird sound it makes which can be very disruptive when I am trying to study."

Dean McFadden seconded these complaints about the study rooms, saying that she is focused on "creating additional student spaces [. . .] Our study rooms are often full, and we could use more group study rooms and individual study rooms."

Another area of Dacus Library slated for potential improvement

is the front entrance "to make it more appealing and welcoming."

When asked about their interest in new technology for the Dacus Library, both individuals responded with enthusiasm.

Macklin expressed interest in lendable iPads or tablets which students could use to study with or check out for their classes.

The dean said, "I would like to include new technology. We do have a limited budget, and we have to work within that budget [but] I would like for us to have technology that students can use and just experiment with." This technology would allow for exploration and creativity without academic pressure or stress.

Centering students and actual patrons of the library seems to be a primary concern in this planning process.

Macklin said that while she hoped student opinion would be taken into account for the renovation, in her experience, "the school thinks it knows what's best and it often does not."

McFadden had an opposing perspective saying, "We haven't had a lot of interaction with the architects yet [but] they met with everyone, they talked about our concerns and our wishes and they did seem very inclusive and very concerned about how we work." The dean stressed the collaborative spirit of the chosen architects and that she "felt good about it" so far.

Time will tell how this project goes, but given the current preparations, it seems most students should have an addition to look forward to in Winthrop's historic study space.

Election season spotlight: Local candidates

Get some background on the local candidates running for office in York County.

With the 2024 presidential election soon coming to a close, it can be easy to focus on only deciding who we want to lead our country for the next four years. After all, most media coverage at election time focuses primarily on the presidential candidates, their running vice presidents, and their policies, since it would be impossible to cover every state and their district's candidates.

However, Donald Trump and Kamala

Harris are not the only names local voters will see on their ballots.

An often-overlooked aspect of the general election are the candidates running for local positions, such as representatives for the State House, County Council, Coroner, and others. Often these positions are run unopposed, but it is still vital as a voter to understand who these candidates are before a vote is officially cast for them.

Currently, Wes

Climer and Sarah Work are running against each other for the District 15 York Senate seat.

Wes Climer, Republican, has held this position since 2016. As an experienced Senator, Climer's website holds information regarding his opinions on the major issues and topics arising throughout York County. He describes himself as Conservative and expresses that "[as] the father of

five young children, [he] is committed to protecting traditional conservative values and pushing back against the liberal social agenda." His website also states that he is "pro-life, pro-law enforcement, against liberal indoctrination in our schools, and will always defend our 2nd Amendment rights."

Sarah Work, Alliance, has further aspirations to be the South Carolina Treasurer. On her website, she expresses that "[she

has] worked in public accounting and [has] seen firsthand the challenges and rewards of proper planning." She also writes that "[she wants] to work hard to prepare South Carolina for a financially stable future." As a certified public accountant, Work aims to use her professional experience to make South Carolina "ready for anything, so that our future, our children can thrive."

Another two

Cont. on pg. 4

Yes today doesn't mean yes tomorrow, even with a partner.



Visit sccadvasa.org to find

help for sexual assault survivors.



Inclusivity during Halloween I Cont. from pg. 2

also able to add their location on the Teal Pumpkin Project Map, alerting families of children with allergies to stop by their homes. [FoodAllergy.org]

There are many non-food items that people can choose from. Some options include, but are not limited to; glow sticks, bubbles, spider rings, playing cards, stickers, slinkies,

kazoos, and coins.

Some neurodivergent children may find Halloween night particularly overstimulating, between flashing lights, itchy costumes, and large groups of high energy people. There are different considerations individuals who are handing out treats can keep in mind.

It is important to still be inclusive to children participating in trick or treating, who are not wearing costumes, and do not directly say “trick or treat”. Costumes can be triggering to individuals with sensory sensitivities and not all children have the same level of verbal comfortability or skills.

It is also helpful to designate an amount of time to make the house more “sensory friendly”. This could include, but is not limited to, turning off lights and music, and making candy/ additional treats easily accessible. [MOTHERLY]

Children with mobility related disabilities may find

that Halloween presents accessibility issues. People who are passing out treats, should evaluate how easily a child with a disability may be able to access their doors.

For example, people who have homes with front porch steps and no ramps should consider passing out treats near their sidewalk, to make it

more accessible for trick-or-treaters with disabilities. [Clock Mobility]

There are many ways to facilitate inclusivity during Halloween. It only takes a little extra planning and consideration, to greatly improve the experience for all trick-or-treaters and make sure they have a happy Halloween.

Local Candidates I Cont. from pg. 2

representatives running head-to-head are Matt Vilardebo and David Martin for the York District 26 State House in Fort Mill.

Matt Vilardebo, Democrat, writes on his website that he is “committed to bringing progressive leadership to South Carolina—focused on improving infrastructure, investing in public education, and ensuring access to healthcare for all.” He also states that he “believes in the potential of South Carolina to thrive under new, forward-thinking leadership, and he’s ready to fight

for that future.” While this is Vilardebo’s second political venture in York County, he aims to be dedicated to “building a better, safer, and more inclusive community” in Fort Mill.

David Martin, Republican, has run his law firm in Rock Hill since 2018 that was listed in the Inc. 5000 list of Fastest Growing Private Companies in the United States. He’s decided to shift his focus from firm to State due to his “deep love for his community.” His website expresses that he aims to “protect South Carolina’s conservative values by

reducing government restrictions on business, reducing taxes and lowering inflation for businesses and individuals, advocating for our public schools, and protecting individual freedoms across the state.”

For the 5th District Congress in South Carolina, Evangeline Hundley and Ralph Norman are two major representatives this election season.

Evangeline Hundley, Democrat, also a graduate of Winthrop University, has decided to run for Congress “because we need real, lasting change in S.C.’s

District 5 and in my state” as she writes on her site. She also states that “[her] vision is to see the people of South Carolina be healthier, wealthier, and wiser... [by] running to serve the people, not corporations.” She also values the addition of “diversity of culture and gender to S.C.’s US Congressional Representative body.” As a representative, Hundley states that she is “willing, ready, and able to be that leadership and go to work for [her] constituents” should she be elected.

Ralph Norman, Republican, has held

this position since 2017. Describing himself as “a South Carolinian for Life,” Norman “has served with a number of organizations dedicated to improving the community, including the York County Home Builders Association, the Children’s Attention Home, the Salvation Army, and the Medical University of South Carolina Board of Visitors” as he writes on his website. He describes his time and efforts as having “consistently voted in favor of limited government, individual liberties, and sound financial policies” and

done his utmost to uphold the values of his party and represent that of his state.

It is vital to know all the names on the upcoming ballot instead of just the presidential candidates. It is not called a “general election” for nothing.

Early voting in South Carolina began on Monday, Oct. 21, and runs until Saturday, Nov. 2. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

It is vital to go out and participate in voting to enact the change one wishes to see in their government: locally and nationally.



Picture of Matt Vilardebo

via <https://mattv4sc.com/>



Picture of Evangeline Hundley

via <https://ehundleyforcongress.com>



Picture of Ralph Norman

via <https://norman.house.gov/meet-ralph/>

Winthrop Professor spotlight: William Kiblinger

Omar Woods
Staff Writer

Winthrop professor William Kiblinger teaches Political Science, Philosophy, Religion and Legal Studies. He is particularly involved in the Philosophy and Legal Studies area on campus.

Kiblinger’s tenure at Winthrop started in 2005, in which it’s almost been twenty years since his arrival. Outside of teaching duties, Kiblinger enjoys partaking in more outdoorsy and analytical events such as Racquetball and Chess, respectively.

During his time at school, Kiblinger majored in Math and Religion, leading him to become a high school math teacher for around four years.

Kiblinger has also taught in countries outside the United States, including Switzerland and

Austria. Though he loved teaching, his passions lay more in Religion and Philosophy.

These passions led Kiblinger to attend Graduate School at the University of Chicago. There, he earned his PhD and ended up teaching at a small college in Pennsylvania for three years. Afterward, he began teaching at Winthrop University.

He believes what led him here were the inspiring teachers he had along the way. Professor Kiblinger credits the teachers for helping him realize the passion he had for the areas of History, Philosophy and Theology. Recently, he has had an interest in studying Ancient/ Biblical Greek and has been teaching the subject as a class at Winthrop.

With one word, Kiblinger described teaching as

“enthusiastic.” He believes that if someone is teaching a specific topic, the instructor must first ensure that the student cares about the topic. He recommends everyone be enthusiastic about the topic they are teaching.

“There is an energy that has to be there to make anything else happen there afterwards.” Professor Kiblinger explained. “I try to be enthusiastic and I try to exert and generate that in other people around me.” Kiblinger believes that is the ultimate goal an instructor should strive for when in the pursuit of teaching.

The pieces of advice Professor Kiblinger would give to incoming freshmen or transfers are very helpful. He recommends they pursue their interest and under no circumstance limit themselves or “put boundaries around



Picture of William Kiblinger, via Winthrop’s website

what you could do.” By preventing yourself from boxing yourself into one field or career early on, Professor Kiblinger believes that students can lead themselves on a path that takes them farther than they could ever imagine.

“Study widely and do lots of activities.” Professor Kiblinger said. “Broaden yourself and all those things. It might be tempting to come in and try to figure it all out and get it settled with where I’m going and what I’m trying to do. I’d say resist that, try to do different things and make sure to take advantage of different opportunities you have while you’re in college because you will not get the chance to do the same things later on.”



Election season profile: Winthrop's College Democrats

College Democrats President and Vice President offer advice for voters ahead of Election Day.

Lanie Cauthen
Staff Writer

With the presidential election on the way, Winthrop's College Democrats gear up for the Nov. 5 event.

The College Democrats are one of the many groups on campus that offer an outlet for students interested in the Democratic Party.

"We offer a voice for Democrats on campus and a way to get our voices out there to encourage others to get out there and vote," group President Caden Johnson said. "We offer fun and enjoyable experiences blended together with serious conversation topics. We also offer an outlet for students to get their voices out there."

The group, along with the College Republicans, have hosted events throughout the semester to prepare for the upcoming election – including a debate watch party and a bi-partisan panel. Most recently, the groups hosted a debate between them.

"We facilitate room for discussion of ideas while encouraging our members to talk with each other to foster political participation and a greater understanding of modern politics," Johnson said. "We often discuss modern topics within our events, and highlight struggles that exist around the world, and plan to create events about them. We encourage political efficacy and voting to achieve everybody's political goals, and we create numerous events around the year to get people registered to vote, understand how to vote, and encourage people to get out to vote."

Johnson recommends for students interested in being politically involved on campus get involved with the clubs and classes offered at Winthrop.

"The College Republicans, the Socialist Student Union, and the NAACP are all organizations that people should be participating more in

if they aim to be more politically active on campus," Johnson said.

"Further, students should take some of the political science classes that are offered that focus more on political theory or practical applications of modern politics. There are many opportunities for students to get involved on campus. If students have a desire to be politically active, they should always be on the lookout for events that are happening."

College Democrats Vice President, Ollie Whitfield, advises new voters to remain informed about the candidates through research.

"Students can stay informed about the election and candidates through their own efforts and research online but also by looking to political student leaders on campus, such as the College Democrats, College Republicans, and more," Whitfield said. "Further, there are plenty of events that have been and continue to be hosted



College Democrats President Caden Johnson (left) and Vice President Ollie Whitfield (right) at the debate on Oct. 28

via Instagram/@winthrop_votes

revolving around the campaign. Do your research, your vote matters and you should take it very seriously, you should be proud of the preparation you have done to ensure you are confident in your vote."

As the College Democrats prepare for the election, Johnson advises the importance of this election.

"I think it's one of the most vital elections America has seen, and I

think it is quite embarrassing that this is where our country has come to in terms of candidates," Johnson said. "It pains me to see that this is how far our country has dragged itself backward. As a Democrat, I don't agree with everything Harris has said, but I can't imagine standing for an ill-willed candidate such as Trump."

College Democrats offer weekly meetings on Thursdays at 5:30

p.m. in Owens 103. For more information about the College Democrats, email collegedemocrats@mailbox.winthrop.edu or visit their Facebook at Winthrop University College Democrats or their Instagram at [wu_democrats](https://www.instagram.com/wu_democrats).

Early voting for South Carolina begins Oct. 21 and ends on Nov. 2. Requests for absentee ballots need to be received by Oct. 25. and returned by Nov. 5.

'Growin' up and Movin' Out': A Unique Coming of Age Story

Mia Molfetta
Staff Writer

"Growin' up and Movin' Out" was nothing short of amazing. You may have seen the posters for it all over campus, but seeing the show was an incredible experience.

The show was raw and deeply emotional, and it raised topics people should discuss but often don't.

Winthrop's students praised the play, from the singing, to the song choices, to the choreography and the most important part: the emotions the cast put into their characters.

Amid the profound themes of harm, suicide, mental struggles, grief, and friendship during life's toughest challenges, we witness it all unfold within a circle of friends.

We first meet Jrue, played by Josiah Johnson. Jrue is the perspective we see throughout the show. When we meet Jrue, we quickly learn he recently lost his brother from murder, and we

can see how his home life is in shambles.

We quickly learn that he relies on who he has left, Alexander or Xander (Justin Stone).

As we meet Xander, we meet the rest of the friend group. There's Axel (Sara Montreuil), Fallon (Mckenzy Harrison), Ty (Seyven Schlueter), Angie/Mom (Zoe Hartsfield), Becca (Emily Camp), Alice (Makayla Hines), and Harper (Dane Jones).

Throughout the play, the group together deals with death, and grief within the group itself. Each character is developed brick-by-brick and has their own story which is shown through their actions.

Quickly, we learned that the show wasn't as light and bubbly as we thought. Things quickly get dark when one of the friends, Ty ends up killing Xander, and it leads not just Jrue – but the whole group down a hole of grief and guilt.

Things truly begin to unravel when Jrue wants revenge but is still unsure and gets into a disagreement

about revenge towards the person who hurt Xander, and they sadly both get hurt.

In the end, the group grieves in their own emotional ways, while still being their teenage selves – but they also find themselves through the grief, which we see by the encore. We also see how Becca, Axel, and Alice decide they're going to go on a road trip, Harper is going to join a teaching program, and Fallon becomes Axel's roommate.

I had the luxury of speaking with Emily Camp, who plays Becca.

When it came to Emily's favorite experience during this whole process, she said, "I think building my character was the best part because this show is a divide piece - I got to build my character from the bottom up."

She continued with, "I wanted to relate to the story, as well as other people because I couldn't relate to the topics exactly, I did the best with what I could and empathized as

such."

Camp, a theater major, is no stranger to acting in plays, so how did this experience shape up compared to her past performances?

"This was my first experience with something like this, meaning working fully with improv. It was different to get the name and plot for the character but having to create the character instead of just receiving it all was very different from what I was used to," Camp said.

She continued, "I almost felt inexperienced but I knew I could do it. Thanks to the amazing actors, directors, and team behind the scenes I felt supported in everything I not only did - but also created. It was such a luxury to get to create Becca how I saw her, and how others appreciated."

When it came to the question of what message from the show resonates with you the most, Camp provided me with a profound response that led us to a deep conversation about growing older.

She said, "I think for me, the message of growing up is inevitable. For me and my character, I play growing up as something that cannot be avoided, and as something you're going to adapt to and figure out."

She continued, "A big

thing for me when it comes to portraying Becca, is showing mental health, and how it truly shows others through actions, and especially through emotions, but I think that for me the message that sticks is that growing up is inevitable and you just have to go with it."

I couldn't agree any more with Emily, and overhearing the reviews of the show from other people warmed my heart because of the rawness the show gave.

Other audience members said how they cried through the show, others said it tugged at their heartstrings, and my opinion is right along with them.

"Growin' Up and Movin' Out" was an absolute masterpiece and is what we need in today's society. It is a show that is beautifully written, from the story, to the improv of the actors, to the creative writers and people working behind the scenes.



Cast of "Growin' Up and Movin' Out"

via Instagram/@winthroptheatre



Cast members acting out a scene

via Instagram/@winthroptheatre

PHOTO STORY

October 31, 2024

Halloween spirit around Winthrop

Jackson Stanton
Photographer



"Scream" decoration outside a orm

photo by Jackson Stanton



Dean of Students Office decked out in "Hocus Pocus" gear

photo by Jackson Stanton



Student Publications local office skeleton, Boney Baloney

photo by Jackson Stanton



Pair of pumpkins on a window sill on campus

photo by Jackson Stanton

WE'RE HIRING



- Section Editors
- Copy Editor
- Photographer
- Ad. reps/ Delivery people
- Managing Editor
- Advertising manager

Build your resume and portfolio!

if interested, contact



vilardeboc2@mailbox.winthrop.edu



October 31, 2024



Have a story idea or suggestion for us? Tear this out and leave it in the box outside the student publications office.
