



Winthrop University

November 14, 2024

Rock Hill, SC

## RECENT ROCK HILL SHOOTINGS

After two recent drug-related shootings, hear from RHPD regarding the recent incidents

## HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Lanie Cauthen catches up with students and staff to talk about memorable holiday traditions

## FAVORITE SPOT IN ROCK HILL

Find out what spot was chosen for this week's local spotlight on page 4



President-elect Donald Trump at his rally at Winthrop Coliseum on Feb. 23rd, 2024

photo by Alex Hicks

## Donald Trump elected as the 47th President of the United States in a sweeping victory

Students, faculty and alumni react to the former President's return to power.

**Zachary Bell**  
News Editor

Donald Trump will be the 47th President of the United States. Trump has been re-elected to office after an eventful four years, during which he was subject to thirty-four felony counts, two impeachments, two assassination attempts, accusations of insurrection, and a slew of scandals and charges.

After his victory, Trump said he is "committed to unifying the nation and bringing forward a 'Golden Age of America.'" Many of Winthrop's students, faculty, and alumni spoke to the Johnsonian about their expectations, and their concerns.

"I feel like the country has only become more divided and people have adopted a more 'Us vs. Them' ideology, which will only get worse," said Will Moore, a junior. "As far as unifying the nation goes, I'm skeptical."

Another student,

Camille Bailey, expressed disappointment in the reactions she has seen online. "The lack of diversity in political opinions has stunted our tolerance for those who believe differently."

In the days immediately following the election, social media platforms like Yik Yak and Instagram became outlets for people to express their feelings.

One anonymous post said, "At this point, if you are not enraged by the outcome of this election, I do not trust you."

Another user said, "If you are voting for Trump, just know you are on the wrong side of history."

Speaking about these comments, Bailey said, "This approach we're taking is going to further radicalize both sides. If we continue, we'll never have a candidate that can represent what we believe as a nation."

Some are afraid that

Trump will follow through on his promises of "retribution" against what the President-elect dubbed "the enemy within," vowing to use the military and government against his perceived enemies. He campaigned on a controversial policy of mass deportation for undocumented immigrants, restrictive trade policies, and tax-cuts.

A group of Winthrop alumni spoke to the Johnsonian, worried about the future. "I think the reason people are so stressed and so anxious and so upset is because we're living in such deep uncertainty. To wake up everyday and have no idea what's going to happen—I mean, businesses alone don't know what's going to happen next year." During his campaign, Trump regularly talked about placing enormous tariffs on imports, a plan that economists have railed against for being inflationary.

"[Businesses] are having to completely change their business models right now. Do they need to buy a bunch of materials ahead of time? Do they need to be careful with their payroll? What should they invest in? What should they not? I think everybody wakes up not knowing."

Trump successfully flipped all seven battleground states and won the popular vote — which had not been done by a Republican since George W. Bush in 2004.

In 2016, Trump notably won the Electoral College, but lost the popular vote to then Democrat nominee, Hillary Clinton. The unexpected result in 2024 has prompted many to reflect on the Harris campaign, and to wonder where it went wrong.

Dr. Scott Huffmon, the Executive Director for the Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research at

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## Winthrop Council of Student Leaders to revert back to the Student Government Association

The SGA will return to Winthrop's campus for the first time since 2002.

**Gabriela Griggs**  
Staff Writer

The Council of Student Leaders, an active campus group, had their request accepted from the Winthrop Board of Trustees to revert back to the Student Government Association on Oct. 25.

In 2002, the Council of Student Leaders, or the CSL, was established by the Student Government Association, also known as the SGA. Due to a lack of participation, the SGA was turned into the CSL as an effort to utilize already established leaders on campus while still remaining a separate university leadership group.

"The purpose of [the] CSL is simple: to serve

as the vehicle through which the student body's collective voice can be heard, their ideals represented, and their opinions validated. Our first priority is student representation," Sean Pennington, the current CSL president, said on the CSL page of the Winthrop University's website. "CSL boasts a diversified group of young professionals from all walks of life that make up the organization, which include faces which range from annual members, to representatives from various campus organizations and even university colleges."

The SGA, before 2002, had an active presence on Winthrop's

Cont. on pg. 2

## Recap of Homecoming week

**Omar Woods**  
Staff Writer

Homecoming is a highly anticipated event at colleges every year, and Winthrop is no different. This year's Homecoming hosted a variety of activities that rivals the amount that was hosted last year. From Trap Bingo, to sporting events, and to the Homecoming Tailgate finale, there was a little something for everyone to enjoy during homecoming week.

The week started off with Winthrop's Men's basketball team playing their first game

this season against Piedmont. Winthrop won by a score of 125 to 65.

Later in the week, the Trap Bingo event hosted by DiGiorgio Student Union, or DSU, took place. Students across campus could play a unique version of bingo where there is trap music playing in the background, creating a fun environment.

"There's been a lot of events. I think the one that was on my radar was Trap Bingo," Chloe Myers, a senior

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Winthrop Men's basketball before their game against Piedmont

photo by Jackson Stanton

## Police Blotter



Evi Houston  
Staff Writer

### Woman found passed out near Winthrop Lake

On Nov. 9, officers were on foot patrol near Winthrop Lake when they came across a woman who appeared to be passed out. The victim was transported to Piedmont Medical Center to receive further evaluation and treatment.

### Assault at Dank Burrito

A WUPD officer assisted RHPD when they received a call about an assault happening at Dank Burrito on Nov. 8. RHPD took a suspect into custody and proceeded with handling the rest of the situation.

### Students followed around DiGiorgio Campus Center

Police were called on the night of Nov. 6 regarding a suspicious individual in the DiGiorgio Campus Center. The unidentified man had approached multiple students outside of the building and proceeded to enter the center and follow the individuals around. WUPD was unable to locate the subject.

### Car break-in at the Dalton Hall parking lot

A man's vehicle, which had been parked in the Dalton Hall parking lot, was reportedly broken into on the night of Nov. 5. The victim noticed a tampering of his steering wheel and glove box, with its contents thrown all across the car. The perpetrator of the break-in is unknown and the case is currently under investigation.

### Car damaged out of revenge

Damage to a vehicle in the Johnson Hall parking lot was documented on the morning of Nov. 1. The victim suspects that a woman in his life had seen "something on his phone that she didn't like" and decided to enact revenge by harming the vehicle. Over \$11,000 worth of damage was estimated. The case is still ongoing.



### Presidential Election results | Cont. from pg. 1

Winthrop University, offered his explanation for Trump's victory.

"This was a pocketbook election," he said. For millions of voters, inflation decided how they would cast their ballot. Baseless conspiracies about migrants and threats of political retribution mattered less than the price of eggs and bread.

"There's just no way to explain to the public the nuances [of the economy]. People are just patting their wallet and feeling that it's thinner. If you're explaining, you're losing." Trump campaigned on the cost of living, and often pointed a finger at the now-cooled effects of inflation.

The Winthrop alumni offered their explanation: "The United States is just not ready to have a woman as an American President. She was a woman. And of color. I think it really went against her, but there will be another time."

### Student Government Association | Cont. from pg. 1

The aftermath of campus since 1912. It consisted of 19 elected positions alongside 15 other elected members appointed to represent other campus groups.

As an organization, the SGA was originally established "to control quiet and promptness of students, student compliance with College regulations, and honesty in the classroom among students" according to the 1912 publication of Winthrop University's "Tatler": a yearbook published from 1898 to 2002.

Due to the high amount of required membership, the SGA had trouble in 2001 – when only two students were running for 2 of the 19 positions.

The Board of Trustees' resolution allocating the original transition states, "[The] Council shall [serve] as the official student

a disastrous debate between then nominee President Biden and Trump thrust Vice-President Kamala Harris into the spotlight. After Biden bowed out of the race, Harris quickly secured enough Democrat electors to become the Party nominee. It fell onto her to accomplish in four months what most candidates have two years to do.

"She ran a two-year campaign in four months. We've never seen anything like this. She also raised a billion dollars in three months. They had to do a lot of really difficult work in a short period of time," said Adolphus Belk, a Professor of Political Science and African American History.

Belk, who has a doctorate in government and politics, also highlights Trump's strong performance with minority groups. Much of Trump's success could be explained by an uncanny ability to tap into the electorate's anger.

voice to the Winthrop University Board of Trustees and administration on appropriate matters; and...the Council shall be to oversee the distribution of student activity funds to all eligible campus clubs and organizations through the actions and guidelines of the Student Allocations Committee."

The CSL was officially established on Nov. 1, 2002. Students were allowed to vote for only two positions: Chair and Vice-Chair.

Some notable work from the CSL are their resolutions regarding voter I.D. laws, smoking, grading policies and even an attempt to rename Tillman Auditorium to the "Bessy Moody-Lawrence Auditorium" in honor of Dr. Bessie Moody-Lawrence.

She was "the second

"White guys can't be the only people who are angry about the economy, immigration, crime and drugs. They were able to siphon off enough support from those black voters, particularly black men, in the right places. They did well with Latino men nationally. And there is nothing inherent about being a woman that makes it a liberal cause, or being a black person, or a Latina, that makes it a liberal cause."

It remains to be seen whether the 'Politics of Rage' that propelled Trump to another term indicates new battlelines in the electorate or is further evidence of Trump's unique appeal.

"If I am a Democrat Party strategist, I'm concerned, because you're showing some slippage here," Belk said. "As much as you talk about the Republican Party being the party of Reagan, right now it's not."

The idea that the Republican Party had become the 'Party of

Trump' was not unique to Belk. Huffman shared a similar sentiment.

"Ronald Reagan would not have imagined a Republican ever conceiving of pulling out of NATO or helping Russia take land from another country. He would be spinning in his grave over that," Huffman said.

The promises that Trump made on the campaign trail have left many bracing for what is to be one of the nation's most divisive and uncertain periods in its history. Trump will command the Senate, and Republicans are poised to flip the House of Representatives – although the Democrats still have a chance there. Protected from the legal troubles following his efforts to overturn the 2020 Presidential Election by a Republican majority Supreme Court, Trump will be in a position of massive, unchecked power. With victories in the Electoral College

and the popular vote, he will have the authority to carry out his vision for America.

Despite the unprecedented nature of the election, it is more important than ever for students to stay involved in the democratic system.

"An election is a point in time," Belk said. "Politics doesn't end with the election. There are other ways to remain involved. If you're upset about it and you want to make some change; dry your tears, take a moment to be upset, and start to figure out what you can do now to fight for the country you believe in."

The Winthrop alumni who spoke to the Johnsonian, who had come to campus to celebrate Homecoming and their 60th reunion, had something to say to the student body. "We believe in the youth to change the future," they said. "Maybe that's what we need to say more often to them: Rather than saying we're worried, to say we believe in you."

student government on campus to reflect a similar model to that of other high schools, universities, and state governing bodies.

It is unclear exactly what sparked the change to happen

now, or what the CSL hopes to achieve with the new structure in regard to the campus community.

The Johnsonian reached out to CSL for a comment, but they did not respond.

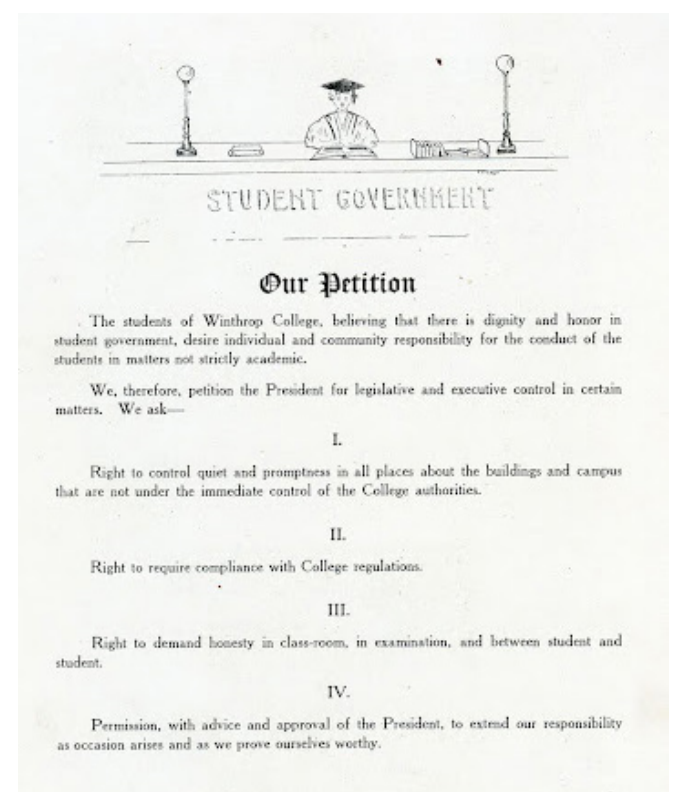


Image from the 1912 Tatler establishing the original SGA Photo credit/Louise Pettus Archives

## Two shootings in one week: Rock Hill incidents involving drug-related violence leave two dead

Lieutenant Chavis of RHPD speaks on the shootings of Nov. 3 and Nov. 6 and what they mean for Rock Hill.

Evi Houston  
Staff Writer

The Rock Hill Police Department responded to two separate shooting incidents last week, collectively resulting in two men dead and one woman severely injured by gunshot wounds. The shootings, which took place on Nov. 3 and Nov. 6, both revolved around drug deals. This pattern was evident in a previous shooting on Oct. 18 but unrelated to the Aug. 25 shooting at the McDonald's on South Cherry Road.

RHPD's Public Information Officer Lieutenant Michael Chavis did not see the aforementioned shootings as irregular for the city but instead said, "There has not been an uptick when it comes to these types of incidents. Nationwide there is a direct correlation with drug sales and guns being involved as you have people using firearms to protect themselves from being robbed of their money or their activity."

Chavis explained that drug-related violence may seem more prevalent lately due to a higher rate of reporting.

"Often, when people engage in criminal activity and get victimized during it, they do not report it. When it's a shooting, it's hard for law enforcement not to be notified. Therefore, it will get reported."

The Nov. 3 shooting took place early in the day in a parking lot on Saluda Street, less than ten minutes from

Winthrop University. Three men were initially meeting to sell marijuana when things took a turn for the worse.

The two individuals dealing marijuana, Demetris Franklin and Christopher Boyd, were meeting with an unidentified 21-year-old man in a black pickup truck when he unexpectedly pulled out a gun in an attempt to rob them.

Out of self-defense, Franklin shot the man in the head, wounding him. Police found the

individual alive but lying on the ground when they arrived. Though he was taken to the hospital, Chavis noted that the victim of the shooting passed away.

Franklin, aged 19, and Boyd, aged 21, were arrested and taken to the county jail following the incident.

According to Rock Hill's The Herald, Franklin was charged with "assault and battery of a high and aggravated

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## Homecoming week I Cont. from pg. 1

and member of DSU, explained. “We had a really good turnout from that and I think the last one was a year or two ago so they brought it back again.”

At the end of the week was the highly anticipated homecoming tailgate. During this event, current Winthrop students and alumni who have long since graduated can come together to converse amongst one another. Spread across the field outside of the Winthrop

Coliseum were a number of vendors from different groups and organizations at Winthrop.

“I was really looking forward to tailgating this year after hearing all the fun stories about it,” Marcus Gonzalez, a junior and member of DSU said. “It’s really a privilege to be out here and an event I was really looking forward to was Trap Bingo after hearing about it for the first time as a student on campus.”

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forward to tailgating this year after hearing all the fun stories about it,” Marcus Gonzalez, a junior and member of DSU, said. “It’s really a privilege to be out here and an event I was really looking forward to was Trap Bingo after hearing about it for the first time as a student on campus.”

Fraternities and sororities of Winthrop were also present at the tailgate and Greek life members new and old could meet each other. Members who pledged

as far back as the 90s returned to Winthrop to reconnect with old classmates, talk to the younger members of their chapters and simply have a good time.

“I pledged here at Winthrop in the Fall of ‘96 with the Xi Beta Chapter,” Tasha Williams, alumni and Delta Sigma Theta sorority member, explained the reason why she made her return for another Winthrop homecoming tailgate.

“I love homecoming, I love Winthrop and I just like being out here seeing people I went to school with so I come back to almost every homecoming. I put it on my calendar every year and I know I’m going to be there.”

During the tailgate, the Men’s basketball team took on Little Rock, a team from Arkansas. Many students looked forward to the match.

“We’re playing Little Rock, if we can’t beat Little Rock then I don’t

know, but I got high hopes for our team,” senior Jacob Dunhen explained. “I feel like we can do pretty good this year. We are very good at developing talents.”

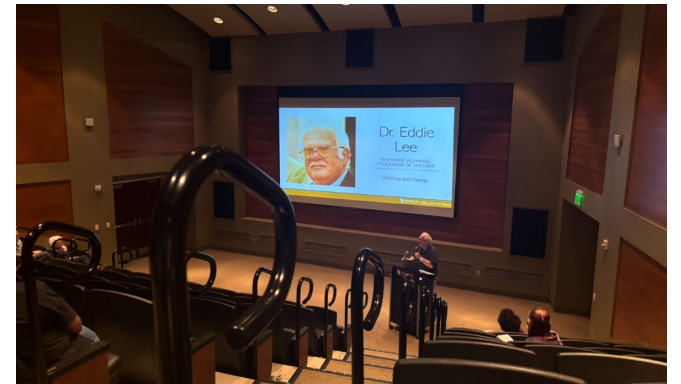
Winthrop secured a win against Little Rock with a score of 82 to 67. A few hours after the basketball game, Winthrop’s volleyball team went against UNC Asheville and was able to also secure a 3-0 victory, concluding the tailgate with two wins for the day.



Freshman Elijah Shanks performing at the student talent show photo by Abby Ezzell



Group of students dancing during the homecoming tailgate via Instagram/@winthropu



Professor Eddie Lee speaking at a homecoming week event photo by Clark Vilardebo

## Rock Hill spotlight: Fountain Park

**Mia Molfetta**  
Staff Writer

Walking around the city of Rock Hill, one can plainly see the number of destination spots available to the city’s diverse population.

With the diversity of the Rock Hill area, there are a variety of parks, restaurants, mom and pop locations, shops and more to visit.

Rock Hill is not lacking in nature, but it is more city-like compared to Winthrop’s campus.

One of Rock Hill’s most popular areas is Main Street - known for its delicious food, outgoing community and art scene.

Further down Main Street is Fountain Park, a small nature park, with a gorgeous fountain right in the center of it. The park is open from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. every day.

Beside the fountain is a large grassy area

to sit and relax - perfect for a picnic or community-run movie night.

You can definitely make a whole day out of the park, as it is about a 5-10 minute walk back to downtown - with plenty to do and to enjoy what downtown Rock Hill has to offer.

In the heart of downtown are popular locations like Elk Ave Tavern, Player 1 Up Bar, Green Space Plant Co., Ramble On Records, as well as the Courtroom and York County Library.

If you’re feeling tacos for lunch, you can head to Rock Taco, a small-owned restaurant on Main Street that serves a wide variety of tacos, nachos, burritos, and more. Or you can stop by Aye Papi Tacos & Tequila, as they also offer similar items.

If you’re looking for a good sandwich, fried foods, or delicious meat, you can try

Kounter - also located on Main Street and loved for its delicious cuisine.

If you’re looking for a good appetizer, handcrafted cocktails or delicious seafood, you can try Kounter - also located on Main Street and loved for its delicious cuisine.

After all of that, you may want a coffee and a pastry somewhere you can sit and relax, you can head to Amelie’s French bakery, which is also on Main Street - they offer a huge variety of french pastries, and many different kinds of macarons - and there is plenty of Parisian decor that you’ll think you’re in Paris.

After all that food, you can walk across the street from Amelie’s, and find Ramble on Records for possibly new records, or CDs, or maybe you want to look around and see the physical copies of music.

After all that food, you can walk across the street from Amelie’s, and find Ramble on Records for possibly new records, or CDs, or maybe you want to look around and see the physical copies of music.

Then, you can almost end your day with a trip to the library to pick up a book or two - the York County Library has many books to offer, and plenty of space to enjoy it. You could also admire the huge murals that hug the building - expressing different kinds of art from children’s classics we all know.

Finally, end the day enjoying some reading and relaxing by the fountain and reflecting on the very eventful day.

There are plenty of options of things to do in Downtown Rock Hill, and there is plenty to love as well. Go out and explore what it has to offer!



Fountain Park on a sunny afternoon photo by Jackson Stanton



Fountain Park, with downtown Rock Hill looming in the background photo by Jackson Stanton

## Winthrop professor profile: Mark Nortz

**Kyan Feser**  
Staff Writer

Mark Nortz is the senior instructor of Winthrop’s Department of Mass Communication and is currently enjoying his last semester at the college. After 20 years of instruction, Nortz is retiring at the end of the fall semester.

Nortz recognized his calling at a young age. Throughout high school, he worked in the audiovisual room and was noticed by the school’s basketball coach. The coach offered him a job announcing basketball games, and the football coach soon followed.

Jobs like these led to Herkimer County

Community College, where Nortz majored in radio and television broadcasting. Despite his focus on radio, he realized the airways weren’t for him after an unsatisfactory internship. Instead, Nortz fell in love with broadcasting, as his class’ television unit “just made sense,” he explained. “Everything clicked.”

This love continued to the State University of New York at Fredonia, where Nortz completed his education and still worked for the radio, even if his goal was broadcasting.

Before Winthrop, Nortz was in broadcasting for 13 years. He worked for

WWNY-TV Channel 7 in Watertown, NY, and held several positions during his time at the station. Ranging from news editor to chief photographer, Nortz saw every aspect of broadcasting, even editing a morning show. WWNY-TV promoted Nortz for his last years at the station, managing stories at the assignment desk.

Eventually, Nortz needed a change of pace. Newscasting demanded all of his time, as his station often called him throughout the night. Because of his wife and young kids, he was ready to pivot his career.

Nortz accepted a

position at Jefferson Technical Center, a school in Watertown, NY that needed a broadcasting instructor. He taught a program similar to Winthrop’s, allowing students to simulate broadcasting while learning. After teaching the class for six years, he decided to leave the cold of New York and discovered an opening at Winthrop University.

Reflecting on Winthrop has become bittersweet, Nortz said. Looking back, teaching video production was his favorite part, he explained.

“I know I made them crazy when I would give them a video assignment because I

gave very vague and kinda wide parameters and they kept saying ‘What do you want to see, what do you want to see?’ No, it’s not what I want, I already know what my video looks like, I’ve been doing this for a long time. I know what my shooting looks like, I know what my editing looks like. You need to show me what you know. I want to see what you can do, and I found that exciting because students would look at things differently.”

Many of these broadcasting students are successful, which is “phenomenal,” Nortz said. “I always tell them when they’re

here, you know, we’re not trying to make you fail, we want to see you succeed.”

Nortz feels that one of Winthrop’s strengths is the small size, which allowed him to be one-on-one with students, he explained. “They may have a question. ‘How do I do this?’ I can answer it right then and there.”

In his absence, Nortz hopes that class sizes get slightly bigger, as more students allow for bigger productions, he explained. He also hopes his department embraces media changes, he added.

“Try to keep up with the changes, ‘cause this is always going to be changing.”

# Student-led organizations: A Winthrop success story or a recurrent stage for disaster?

Adriane and other students involved in organizations share their opinions on what it's like being involved in one.

**Adriane Alston**  
Editorial Editor

Winthrop University prides itself on being a “student-led campus,” a phrase frequently echoed in our community and a central component of our identity. With over 130 student organizations, the university offers an impressive array of opportunities for students to engage, lead, and shape the culture of our campus.

While student-led organizations are often celebrated, they are not without their challenges. The question that looms large, then, is whether Winthrop's student-led model is truly a success or a recurrent stage for disaster.

## The Joys and Challenges of Student Leadership

Being a student leader is an inherently rewarding experience. It opens doors to personal growth, professional development, and the chance to meet like-minded individuals who share a passion for making a difference. Many have been

fortunate enough to be part of organizations that allow them to support their peers, organize events, and contribute to the university's mission.

Yet, with the privilege of leadership comes responsibility and the weight of it can be overwhelming. Leadership isn't just about taking charge; it's about listening, empathizing, and ensuring that all voices are heard. While certain student organizations at Winthrop are thriving, there is a pervasive issue: not all perspectives are represented equally. Some voices remain unheard or sidelined in the decision-making process.

A truly successful student-led campus must be more than just a space for a few vocal groups to thrive, it must be an inclusive community where every student feels seen and valued. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

The risk of exclusion, whether intentional or not, is an inherent danger of the student-led model. When

some voices dominate the narrative, it undermines the fundamental principle of inclusivity that we strive for.

## The Personal vs. the Collective

Some students from different areas of campus involvement have commented on how student leadership is experienced across different groups.

Tuesday Lewis Phillips and Kenetra Washington highlighted both the benefits and the dangers of a student-led environment. While they both value the opportunity to meet new people, develop new perspectives and push for meaningful change, they also pointed out the risks of power dynamics - the potential for abuse of power or leaders focused on personal gain, undermining the goals of the entire organization.

On the other hand, Diego Rodriguez and Jabari Simmons, who are also deeply involved in student leadership, stressed the importance of professional development and skill-building through

involvement.

They both pointed out that being involved in student organizations opens up a network of opportunities and fosters personal growth. However, they acknowledged the challenge of balancing academic and personal responsibilities, one often amplified in a student-led environment where leadership roles are filled by students without extensive professional experience.

## Advice for Future Leaders

As we look to the future of student leadership at Winthrop, there are valuable lessons to be learned from the experiences of current leaders.

Phillips, Washington, Rodriguez and Simmons shared valuable advice for the next generation of student leaders. Kenetra emphasized the importance of an open mind and the idea that “experience is what you make it.” She encouraged future leaders to challenge themselves, to step outside their comfort zones, and to lead with

empathy.

Diego, echoing these sentiments, suggested that leaders must lead with integrity, build genuine connections, and always remain open to learning from others.

For student organizations at Winthrop to truly thrive, future leaders must commit to a deeper level of self-awareness and inclusivity. The ability to listen to truly hear the diverse voices of our peers should be a core tenet of student leadership. Leaders should not only be committed to advocating their own ideas, but actively working to ensure that every student feels they have a stake in the decisions being made, regardless of their identity or background.

## A Work in Progress

Winthrop University's commitment to student-led organizations is undoubtedly a strength. Many students have benefited greatly from the abundant opportunities for personal development, networking, and leadership. However,

as we continue to build upon this model, it is crucial that we recognize the inherent challenges that accompany it.

Student leadership is not without its pitfalls, the risk of exclusion, the abuse of power, and the failure to represent the full spectrum of student voices. Yet, if we can learn from our experiences, strive for true inclusivity, and listen actively to those who are often left out of the conversation, we can turn Winthrop into a model of student leadership that is truly representative of the diverse community we aim to create.

Together, we can enhance our Winthrop experience and make our campus a truly inclusive environment for all. However, that work requires commitment, empathy, and a willingness to embrace perspectives that may challenge the status quo. Only then will we be able to answer the question: is Winthrop a success story in student leadership, or a recurrent stage for disaster? The answer is in our hands.



Members of the Student Alumni Council

photo by Claire Meuret



Student leaders posing for a photo

via Instagram/@wucsl

# Man on the street: Holiday traditions

**Lanie Cauthen**  
Staff Writer

With the holiday season fast approaching, Winthrop students are preparing for their annual traditions at home and around campus.

Spending time with family and friends is common among Winthrop students. Whether it's Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah or other holidays around this time of year, students take part in many activities revolving around bonding with their loved ones.

“We used to go up to a cabin for a weekend, cook Thanksgiving dinner and just spend time together,” sophomore Kya Spurgeon said.

“I'm half Vietnamese, so we celebrate with the Black side of my family in Georgia and then we go to my grandmother's house in Charlotte,” fifth year

senior Astro Phoenix said. “A tradition has always been celebrating two Christmases – it's a part of being multiracial and it's a part of the experience.”

“It was definitely more real as kids, but we would all sleep on the coach just so we could catch Santa,” freshman Abby Ezzell said. “We still do it.”



photo of Abby Ezzell, by Lanie Cauthen

“It's really nice for everyone around the holidays to come down,” senior Matt Brunet said.

“I'm a Christian, so we believe in giving thanks to God and being thankful for our family and friends,” said junior Jaron Levi. “For Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ. It's just a time for us to get

together – we laugh, we sing, we watch tv, we eat good food, and we can just sit and talk for hours.”



photo of Jaron Levi, by Lanie Cauthen

“We go around and say what we're thankful for and everybody gets the chance to speak,” sophomore Shane King said. “It used to be annoying to me when I was younger, but it's important to hear.”

Food is a central part of the holiday season for many – from staples of the holiday season to unique dishes.

“We have a big gumbo cook-out at my grandparents' house with their family and the extended family,” junior Bryson Vaughan said. “It's always good to see everybody.”

“My mom always used to make fruit

cake – either cookies or cake,” University Communications and Marketing news and media services manager Judy Longshaw said. “I always had to tell her I don't like it. And she would give me cookies to take back to college. I still don't like them.”



photo of Judy Longshaw, by Lanie Cauthen

“At Christmas, my grandma would usually bring somewhere around 300 to 400 sugar cookies that my sister and I – and all the youngest of the family – would get together and make really weird things,” senior Archie Walker said.

“We have traditional Thanksgiving food, but there have been talks that this year, since we have so many people coming from

Jersey, that we will just do Italian style food,” freshman Marshall Forero said. “Even though we are not Italian.”

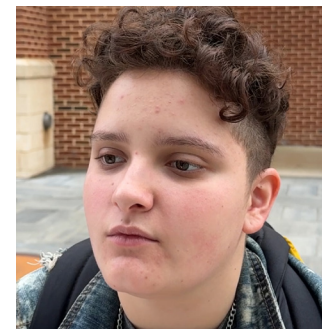


photo of Marshall Forero, by Lanie Cauthen

Winthrop and Rock Hill play host to annual traditions for students – including the Holiday Delights Concert and the ChristmasVille celebration.

The annual Holiday Delights Concert will feature performances from the Winthrop Choirs. The event is Monday, Dec. 2 in Richardson Ballroom.

This year, the annual tree lighting ceremony held on Friday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. as a part of Rock Hill's ChristmasVille celebration, will be

different. Instead of lighting a tree, the flagpole in front of Tillman Hall will be lit up. The ceremony will feature performances by the Rock Hill Rockettes, Winthrop Chorale and Collegiate Choir.

ChristmasVille events are held from Dec. 5-8 in various locations across Rock Hill. The celebration will feature 70 events around town – including craft markets, food vendors and the Jingle Bells Parade.

For more information about holiday events at Winthrop, visit <https://winthrophevents.coursedog.com/>.



photo of Kya Spurgeon, by Lanie Cauthen

### Rock Hill shootings | Cont. from pg. 2

nature, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.” Boyd was additionally charged with “assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.”

Three days later, on Nov. 6, the city experienced another shooting, this time in broad daylight on Amelia Avenue - about five minutes from campus. A man, Lawrence Howard, and an unidentified woman were sitting in their car ready to engage in an illegal narcotics sale when shots were fired.

An unidentified man is thought to have shot into the vehicle, shooting Howard

multiple times and killing him. The woman in the vehicle was shot in the head and hand. She was taken to the hospital after police arrived at the scene and is “still recovering but doing better,” according to Chavis.

While the incident has been classified as purely drug-related, its close proximity to Richmond Drive Elementary School led to a school lockdown that afternoon to ensure the safety of all students.

The perpetrator of the shooting fled the scene before police arrived, so no arrests could be made. Chavis said, “This case is still under investigation as we are committed to getting justice for our victims in this case.”

Along with these recent incidents come two other shootings. The illegal sale of THC vapes turned into an attempted robbery on Oct. 18 on Patriot Parkway and resulted in the wounding of two young men.

The notable Aug. 25 shooting in the McDonald’s parking lot adjoining campus on South Cherry Road in which an individual was shot in the head following a gun sale also comes to mind.

When asked if he saw a pattern between these cases, Chavis responded, “There has been a pattern with three shootings involving illegal drug sales. However, they are random. The people are not the same across the incidents nor does

it involve the same drugs being sold.”

Chavis elaborated that the Rock Hill Police Department seeks to mitigate shootings by “continuing [their] efforts in the enforcement of laws targeting the distribution of illegal narcotics and the unlawful possession of firearms. [They] do this in several ways including working with local and federal agencies as well as having a Multijurisdictional Drug Unit in this county.”

Winthrop University’s campus police chief Charles Yearata additionally commented on the Nov. 6 incident saying, “We did monitor the

incident in order to send out an alert if needed, but since the suspect was reported to be moving away from campus an alert was not issued. Obviously, any violent activity resulting from any crime, including drug deals, is horrific. The impact to the victims and their families cannot be comprehended and law enforcement seeks to do everything and anything possible to make sure individuals and families never have to go through that.”

When asked whether students should be concerned about drug-related violence and shootings near the university, Chavis said, “These incidents have no direct link to the campus affecting

the overall safety of the university. Only one was in the vicinity of campus but was not a public safety issue because it was an isolated crime. As students, it is best to avoid situations that increase danger. Be aware of your surroundings and if something does not feel safe, report it immediately to [the] university police.”

The lieutenant concluded with the following message: “The bigger picture for anyone is the lessons learned. These shootings all revolve around activity that put the participants in situations for increased potential harm. They all could have been avoidable.”

*The Anthology*

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