



Winthrop University

## SOFTBALL SEASON SUCCESS

Head Coach Kendall Fuller discusses the changes made from last season that have led to them being 2nd place in the Big South

March 27, 2025

## GETTYS CENTER FOLLOW-UP

After the lease was suddenly terminated, Rock Hill Mayor John Gettys spoke with us about the matter on page 7

Rock Hill, SC

## SPRING BREAK MAN ON THE STREET

View the editorial section on page 5 to see what Winthrop faculty and students were doing over the break

## Their dream is to be the first mobile tattoo parlor in South Carolina – but York County has gone radio silent

Eike and Sophia Schumacher created Carolina Icon Ink LLC. with the intention of traveling the East coast and giving out tattoos at events like festivals and car meets.

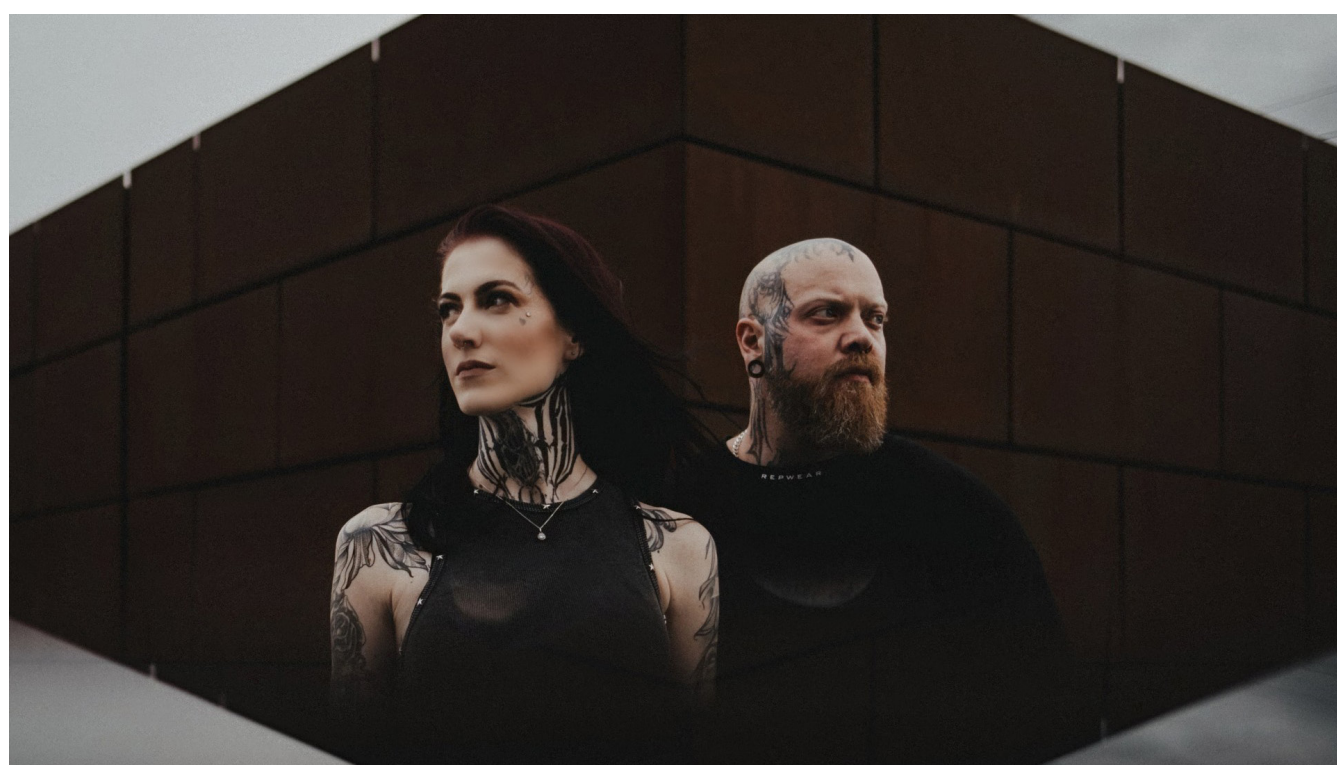


Photo of Carolina Icon Ink owners, Eike (right) and Sophia Schumacher (left) photo via Eike Schumacher

**Clark Vilardebo**  
Editor-in-Chief

Couple Eike and Sophia Schumacher traveled over 4,000 miles to see their dream become a reality – and then York County pulled the rug out from under them.

Originally from Germany, Eike and Sophia Schumacher spent the last three years creating their Carolina Icon Ink LLC. and filing paperwork so they could gain

their visa and start up their business here in America. During that time, they were also coming over to the states to transform their RV into a mobile tattoo parlor.

Luckily, with the help of a lawyer who works between D.C. and Berlin and friends from Germany who are now living in the states, the process was fairly simple.

It seemed like everything was good

to go and the couple was going to be not just the first mobile tattoo parlor in South Carolina – but the entire East coast.

“The state law of South Carolina said it’s totally fine to open the tattoo studio, even if it’s mobile. You just have to have to make sure everything’s up to par –so that’s what we actually did,” Eike Schumacher said.

However, when the time came to

get the business up and running, York County stopped communicating.

“I go to the zoning department, to the health department, and ask them what I have to do next, but I never get a reply,” Eike Schumacher said.

Zoning rules in York County are especially strict for tattoo parlors, as they have to be a certain amount of feet away from places like

**Cont. on pg. 4**

## South Carolina’s abortion debate heats up

New legislation that would effectively end abortion in the state has lawmakers divided, as the South Carolina Supreme Court prepares to rule on current abortion law.

**Zachary Bell**  
News Editor

House legislators in South Carolina introduced a controversial bill earlier this year that would dramatically limit South Carolinians’ access to abortion, sparking intense debates between legislators and advocacy groups.

H. 3457, or the Human Life Protection Act, would make it a felony to provide any means of abortion to a pregnant woman, except when necessary to save the mother’s life. Violators would be fined \$10,000 or

imprisoned for up to two years.

In its current form, the bill makes no exception for rape or incest.

South Carolina already has some of the strictest abortion laws in the nation. Following the overturn of Roe v. Wade, Republican lawmakers passed the Fetal Heartbeat and Protection from Abortion Act. Under this current law, abortion is banned after cardiac activity is detected in the fetus, which typically occurs six weeks after conception.

Several South Carolina doctors filed

a federal lawsuit over the state’s current abortion law earlier this year, citing its unconstitutionally vague language. Members of Planned Parenthood also spoke before the South Carolina Supreme Court in February.

While legal battles heat up over existing rules, Republican lawmakers continue to push legislation that would effectively eliminate abortion in the state.

Over three dozen Republicans sponsored the bill, although Majority Leader Davey Hiott urged his caucus to wait on any new

legislation while the State Supreme Court hears a legal challenge against current abortion law.

“While my steadfast pro-life view is unwavering, and while the vast majority of members of our Republican caucus share this same commitment, I believe we should consider the importance of waiting for any guidance that may be forthcoming from the Supreme Court,” Hiott said in a statement.

Despite Rep. Hiott’s urging caution, State Republicans have

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## Winthrop theater’s “Antigone” play begins rehearsals

Director Brandon Dawson sits down to discuss adapting the classic Greek tragedy that will be gracing Winthrop’s Johnson stage this spring.

**Gabriela Griggs**  
Staff Writer

The seventh piece in Winthrop University’s 2024-2025 performance cycle has recently begun rehearsals. “Antigone,” an Athenian tragedy by Sophocles, will be running performances from April 9 through 13 in Johnson Theatre.

While rehearsals begin, many aspects of the production will

especially because it is a part of a series. It is the third installment of the Oedipus Cycle: a series centered around the Greek character Oedipus and his rise and fall as the King of Thebes. Antigone, his daughter, is the titular character of the third work and thus experiences the actions of the play contextualized after the Oedipus works.



Brandon Dawson (right) directing Destiny Gore (left) and Aspen Beeman (middle-right) photo by Mars Baldoni

remain hidden until the curtains draw on opening night. However, director and Winthrop faculty Brandon Dawson was open to answering some questions around his vision for the production and the challenges that often arise.

As a piece, “Antigone” can be particularly challenging to direct, especially because it is

When asked about this challenge, Dawson said, “When we look at the whole War of the Roses cycle that Shakespeare dramatizes from Richard II thru Henry IV, V, & VI and ending with Richard III, he does a pretty good job of reminding the audience through the dialogue of where we came from in the

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## Police Blotter



Evi Houston  
Staff Writer

### Softball player injured

During a Winthrop softball game at Terry Field on March 15, a player from the opposing team hit her head on a fence while diving for the ball. This action hurt the player's back and resulted in two lacerations. Police responded and provided transport to Piedmont Medical for care.

### Sword on Winthrop property

An officer was providing security at a wedding held at McBryde Hall on March 15 when he noticed the groom wearing a sword. The husband-to-be was informed that this weapon was not allowed on school property and should be put away, which he complied with.

### Group swims in Winthrop lake

A call was made regarding a group of people swimming in the Winthrop lake on the afternoon of March 14. An officer met with the group and instructed them to get out of the lake, as this is prohibited.

### Gun in Winthrop Coliseum

A man at the Winthrop Coliseum was seen with a gun holstered at his side on March 12. WUPD required the gun be removed and cleared through the NCIC database. The subject also was examined for further weapons. He explained that he was under the impression he could carry his weapon anywhere and was not aware of the university policy. The gun was unloaded and stowed in the subject's trunk, who was later placed on a one-year trespass notice.

### Marijuana use at Winthrop lake

On Mar. 21, an officer received a notice of subjects potentially smoking marijuana at Winthrop lake. When the officer arrived, five subjects were present, along with the odor of marijuana. All five admitted to smoking in the car, and they were all placed on trespass notice for a year.



### South Carolina abortion bill | Cont. from pg. 1

have pushed forward aggressive legislation. Earlier in December, State Republicans in the House introduced legislation that would classify abortion as homicide.

State Democrats have attacked these recent bills. In a statement published online, Democratic Reps. Spencer Wetmore and Justin Bamberg blasted the Human Life Protection Act for limiting women's freedom to choose.

"This is a bill that goes too far for some South Carolinians, and not far enough for others," Rep. Wetmore said about an individual who urged the state to ban contraceptives next.

Rep. Bamberg delivered an especially fiery remark, saying, "This bill is an endorsement of rape and incest in South Carolina. Not just for women, but for children. It's terrible."

Addressing his Republican colleagues directly, Rep. Bamberg said, "Mind your own business. It's that simple."

State Democrats aren't just fighting online. On the same day Republicans introduced the Human Life Protection Act, Senate Minority Leader Brad Hutto introduced his own healthcare legislation.

S. 27 would expand reproductive rights in the state while ensuring access to

assistive reproductive technologies like IVF treatment. However, it's unlikely Sen. Hutto's bill will be brought to the chamber for a vote.

Republicans hold a supermajority in both chambers of the State Assembly, making it easier for Republicans to pass their agenda. The Human Life Protection Act is currently sitting in the House Judicial Committee for review, and no timeline has been put forward.

Because the bill remains in committee, its final form could differ significantly from its current version. In a statement provided to the Johnsonian, the Winthrop College

Republicans expressed their support for the bill, and said it affirms what they see as a fundamental constitutional principle:

"The Winthrop College Republicans value the constitution of this country, and in that document, all humans are defined by the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Much debate circles around whether unborn children should be included. We believe they should. An abortion is the intentional ending of the life of an unborn child, a human. Therefore, we support the penalties in this bill and think it is fair that mothers do not

face repercussions."

Regardless of the bill's fate, the Winthrop College Republicans argue that more work needs to be done to support South Carolina parents.

"Currently, there is no law that requires private employers to give maternity leave to their employees, making it very difficult for mothers to have children and continue to be financially stable."

Although the bill sits in committee, it's clear that abortion will remain a defining issue in South Carolina politics. Winthrop students are encouraged to participate no matter where they stand on the issue.

## Winthrop unveils four new degree programs, three concentrations for Fall 2025 semester

Additions to all four colleges reflect the growing technology industry and pressure on student career readiness and workforce integration.

Evi Houston  
Staff Writer

Winthrop will introduce a variety of new degree programs and concentrations for the Fall 2025 semester.

These include the following: B.A. in Sociology with a concentration in pre-law, B.A. in Sociology with a concentration in user experience, B.S. in Applied Software Engineering, B.S. in Artificial Intelligence, B.S. in Financial Technology, B.A. in Game Design and B.S. in Educational Studies with a concentration in youth impact.

For the College of Arts and Sciences, two new concentration paths in pre-law and user experience will be added to the already existing Sociology program.

B.A. Chair of the Sociology, Criminology, & Anthropology Department, Brad Tripp, discussed the intentions behind the addition of these

concentrations.

"Both pre-law and user experience concentrations will ideally refine the major and better prepare students for their life after Winthrop. "The big part of these two concentrations is to provide specific career readiness for students," Tripp said.

While equipping students for law school and a future legal career has already been a goal of Winthrop sociology students, the concentration creates a particular set of required courses that ensures their preparation.

One of the concentrations also equips students for professions requiring skill in social research and analysis of human behavior.

"The goal is to provide students with the skill set to go out and find jobs and be successful in all sorts of research fields," Tripp said.

For students, work in user experience allows for an entrance into the industry without requiring a programming background.

Within the College of Business and Technology, three new degree programs are expected to be introduced for the Fall 2025 semester, including: Applied Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence and Financial Technology.

Adriana Cordis, Chair of Accounting, Finance, and Economics within the college, commented on Winthrop's Bachelor of Science in Financial Technology program, notably the first in the state of South Carolina.

In differentiating Financial Technology from existing degree offerings, Cordis said, "[It] builds on traditional finance and equips students with knowledge of data-driven financial modeling and cutting

edge tools such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain, algorithmic trading, robo-advising and others." These tools are increasingly popular within financial institutions, making an academic background with new technology highly valuable.

She continued, "Winthrop's B.S. in [Financial Technology] distinguishes itself from other finance programs in the state and region by requiring students to complete a mix of coursework in finance, computer sciences, and analytics."

Cordis also highlighted the importance of financial technology in the near future.

"Financial technology is pushing the field of traditional finance to rethink the way it conducts business to create value for individuals and organizations by delivering services

more securely, cheaper, and faster," Cordis said.

The College of Visual and Performing Arts is also focusing on new technology, with the introduction of a Bachelor of Arts in Game Design.

Brad Young, associate professor of game design at the college, spoke on the program and its relevance to today's booming gaming industry.

He advertised access to gaming research groups, collaboration with Winthrop's Esports team and new gaming technology for students in the program. While student interest has already been identified, it is likely that the program will grow in tandem with the industry.

"If you actually look at the statistics for the entertainment and gaming industry, it's a massive industry and worth a lot of money, not only globally, but locally in South Carolina," Young said.

## Winthrop prepares to outsource Facilities Management

How this decision can affect staff and students as we wrap up the semester.

Kyan Feser  
Staff Writer

President Edward Serna announced plans to outsource Winthrop's Facilities Management department, according to a press release sent out to faculty and staff on March 19.

"Rock Hill's labor market has rendered long-term maintenance positions volatile, as competition and high employee turnover has made hiring difficult," Serna said in the email. "This environment has led to maintenance understaffing, leaving one-third of maintenance positions

vacant."

In the email, president Serna mentioned that this would not be cost saving move.

Soon to be posted, Winthrop filed an RFP (Request for Proposal) with the state alongside Kevin Butler, the chief financial officer and vice president for Finance and Business Affairs at the university.

An RFP is a document announcing interest in services, often integrating a bidding process. In the case of Winthrop's document, it aims to secure a single vendor for

employee outsourcing. This RFP is expected to run until the end of the fiscal year, Serna said.

The Facilities Management department will undergo massive changes if a vendor is secured, primarily a reduction in force (RIF).

While this RIF (Reduction in Force) would lay off Winthrop employees, the university aims to secure them positions at the new, outsourced organization. Additionally, Winthrop positions such as "campus planning, capital

projects management, environmental health and safety, and sustainability," will be maintained in limited amounts, Serna said. Other positions may be saved if negotiated with a vendor, he added.

Human resources will discuss benefits with current employees. "Employees close to retirement can retire if eligible, but plans cannot be established until a vendor is chosen," Serna added. Current employees were notified of these outcomes on the same day as the press release.

While the news may come as a surprise,

the idea to outsource facilities has actually been in the works for almost a year.

"While the project was only drafted this year, the idea had existed since last summer," Butler said.

The change will impact several services, however, "those in higher-up positions at Facilities Management are not impacted," Butler said.

During the RFP process some Winthrop services may be diminished, Butler said. If the RFP process fails though, Winthrop's Facilities department will continue as before.



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#### FOUR SESSIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

**A: MAY 19 - JUNE 6**

**C: JUNE 9 - JULY 9**

**B: JUNE 9 - AUG. 8**

**D: JULY 14 - AUG. 13**

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**Carolina Icon Ink | Cont. from pg. 1**

churches or schools. “You have to stay at least [a] 1000 ft. from a church, school, playground, or park – then at least 200 ft. from a residential [neighborhood],” Eike and Sophia Schumacher said. While the zoning ordinance is a major headache for the couple, they said they’re really more upset over the lack of communication and transparency from York County. “We wrote emails, we

called them, he went in person to talk with them – and nothing. It feels impossible,” Sophia Schumacher said. York County has faced scrutiny over the past few years due to their lack of transparency for business owners, with the decision to terminate the lease for the Tom S. Gettys center being a recent example. “That’s what we heard from the people here, that York County doesn’t want new

things for some reason. Only restaurants, and you see nail salons and smoke shops everywhere – in every strip mall,” Sophia Schumacher said. These restrictions are not a problem for North Carolina, as Charlotte alone has over 100 tattoo parlors, according to an Axios report from 2023. This has allowed Eike and Sophia Schumacher to rent space in a hair salon in Mount Holly, North Carolina. Before they found the

hair salon in Mount Holly, Sink or Swim Tattoo in Fort Mill worked with the couple and gave them a place to work on their craft. Sink or Swim is also currently the only tattoo parlor in York County. Despite all these challenges for the couple, they have no intentions of giving up on the mobile tattoo parlor. “We will keep trying it, even if it takes us a year or two, it doesn’t matter,” Eike

Schumacher said. “It was actually our plan to open a couple [of] studios, not just in South Carolina, maybe one or two in North Carolina.” The couple also has no desire to move back to Germany, saying how much they love “the weather, mountains and people here in South Carolina and America.” They also highlighted how difficult it is to start a business in Germany, as “self-employed people pay 70% in

taxes” over there. However, Sophia Schumacher did mention how much she misses the bread in Germany. If you’re looking for a first or new tattoo, you can find Eike and Sophia Schumacher at Sink or Swim in Fort Mill in the meantime, and eventually Salon RebelRebel in Mount Holly. For more information regarding the mobile tattoo parlor, visit their website [www.carolinaiconink.com](http://www.carolinaiconink.com).



Inside of the mobile tattoo parlor photo by Eike Schumacher



Outside of the mobile tattoo parlor, unfinished at the moment due to lack of communication from York County photo by Eike Schumacher



Second tattooing chair in the mobile tattoo parlor photo by Eike Schumacher

**“Antigone” play rehearsals | Cont. from pg. 1**

previous play to where we are now. With Antigone, Sophocles seems to be relying much more on the audience’s understanding of the mythology behind the play, so while there are references to the previous plays in the Theban Cycle, those references are not constant.” Dawson continued, “For this production, our focus is primarily on the actions of the characters in the moment, regardless of the weight they bring with them from the previous plays. In this

way, we aim to lay the consequences of each character’s actions at their own feet, rather than allowing the actions of characters in a previous play to be a potential scapegoat. That being said, it isn’t really possible to explore this play without the constant weight of Oedipus’ actions weighing upon the story. He is not present in this play, but for those audience members that are familiar with the Theban Cycle, they will surely sense that presence and catch the references to him in the

dialogue of Antigone.” ‘Antigone’ is attributed to being written in 441 B.C. and has existed in the literary realm as an extremely vital and popular piece of Greek literature. Similar to Shakespeare pieces, ‘Antigone’ requires special attention and care to ensure that the actors understand not just what they’re saying, but what those words express to an audience. Previously, Dawson directed a production of “Romeo and Juliet” at Winthrop in the 2023-2024 academic

year. Evidently, he is no stranger to adapting older pieces with new aged casts. When asked about how he approaches Grecian work in today’s world, Dawson said, “I will share with you the same thing I shared with the cast of both productions early on in the rehearsal process: the difference between classic and contemporary is explored in a classroom, but it has little to no bearing on our work in the rehearsal room. Meaning, the language that we get from Sophocles or Shakespeare or Shaw or Shephard all comes from the same place: truth. There are some structural differences in how the language should be approached, but at the end of the day, the characters written by any playwright are using language to pursue their desires. When we approach the script with that in mind, we find that the scripts written by Sophocles and Shakespeare are remarkably similar to how we express ourselves today.” With a work as long standing as “Antigone”, one can’t help but wonder what inspired the Winthrop Department of Theatre and Dance to select such a work for their season. Winthrop as an institution is not unfamiliar with these types of pieces on their stages, but the student audience they’re performing for may be.

the student body we have. For this year, an Ancient Greek work fit the bill because it has been a while since the department has explored a work of this nature, and Antigone is a deeply relevant, accessible show for the students we have. Our goal is primarily to serve the education of the students in the shows we select, and it was the right time for Antigone to join the season,” Dawson said. The Winthrop Department of Theatre and Dance evidently holds their students in mind when selecting exactly what pieces to perform. This year, “Antigone” fits the bill perfectly. The themes presented and explored in the piece remain extremely relevant despite the piece’s age. “The works of the Ancient Greek playwrights have continued to remain relevant in a way that many plays have not. Yes, the Greek playwrights frequently wrote about the gods and rituals that we no longer incorporate into our everyday lives, but they also wrote deeply and critically on family, love, and the nature of power, morality, and responsibility. In Antigone, the characters spend the play exploring the extent of one person’s power and how it clashes with established norms and cultural expectations. Very timely, indeed,” Dawson said. A lot of Greek plays hold many themes on humanity at their core, which is exactly what has kept them very integral to the theatrical and literary realm today. Many are even taught in South Carolina high schools

today, including “Antigone.” Besides directorial challenges, Dawson was also pleased to share some insight on the production, which included information about the text and visuals “Antigone” will hold in store for audiences. “We are working from a version of the text that has been adapted by myself and our student Assistant Director, Jasmine Diaz. Our goal was to introduce more dialogue into a play that is full of one character speaking while everyone else listens. For those that are familiar with the play, that may be the most immediately identifiable difference in terms of the language,” Dawson said. “As for the appearance of the play, our team of designers has been working from Classic Greek art, architecture, and clothing as their inspiration for their work, but we are readily moving beyond that so we are not tied down to the ritual and rigidity of the traditional “Greek look.” There will be combat with spears and swords, aggressive and heightened physicality from the Chorus, and powerful language that drives towards the inevitable end of the play. ‘Antigone’ provides an opportunity to explore the bounds of one person’s power when that power is set against the institutions they are sworn to defend. The Chorus reminds us that the challenges faced in the play are the same challenges we still face today.”



Aspen Beeman and Kyran Anderson (left/facing camera) rehearsing photo by Mars Baldoni



Winthrop students practicing for “Antigone” on a set photo by Mars Baldoni

## Business or pleasure: Will Winthrop students ever be able to differentiate between the two?

**Adriane Alston**  
Editorial Editor

While many students choose their college based on academics and professional opportunities, ignoring the social component would be dishonest. When prospective students visit numerous campuses, they don't just ask about class sizes and programs they want to know about what life outside of the classroom looks like.

However, recent student government campaigns have highlighted a growing

dissatisfaction with Winthrop's social climate. This amplifies an important question... Has the inability to balance business and pleasure led to a decline in social life on campus?

A lot of students argue that Winthrop lacks a social component altogether, but I would argue that the real issue is the failure to separate professional from social. Given that our campus is student driven, student leaders try to appeal to the social side of campus

life to remain relatable.

While this may seem like a positive thing, it results in students only engaging in events if there is some type of social experience or capital associated with it. This results in unauthentic participation that diminishes not on social life but the development of leaders on campus.

My solution to this issue is further supporting organizations that exist for solely social reasoning or engagement. With the

return of the Digiorno Student Union, students have an organization dedicated to expanding their social lives in a positive manner. How can we complain about the lack of social experiences if we aren't actively engaging with the opportunities that are already available to us?

Instead of infiltrating advocacy or arts based organizations with an overwhelming dedication to strictly social purposes, invest in the opportunities that are already available to us.

Reinvesting in these spaces instead of expecting professional organizations to feel this void or gap.

Another contributing factor is the difficulty to connect with students outside of your immediate circle or friend group. As a sophomore, I've noticed the shift away from the concept of a close-knit community that once was the defining point of Winthrop.

Many students hesitate to engage socially due to the fear of being perceived or

judged by others. Social life can not flourish in environments where individuals feel afraid to be themselves. If we don't address this divide we continue to see a divide in genuine social connections.

Social life is not just about events or parties, it's about creating an environment where students want to connect with others. If we are proactive not reactive, we can rebuild a campus that balances both business and pleasure, ensuring that Winthrop doesn't just survive but thrives.

## Man on the street: What did Winthrop Eagles do for Spring Break?

Winthrop students and staff share how they spent their time over the seasonal break.

**Chase Duncan**  
Managing Editor

Spring Break 2025 bloomed and withered for Winthrop students, faculty and staff last week, with many Eagles taking time to visit friends and family as well as travel to new places.

Winthrop history department chair, Gregory Bell, said that he helped chaperone and guide a African American history class's trip to Charleston, South Carolina, over break that visited significant Black historical sites and museums in the area.

"I got to move the vans and move students from place to place," Bell said.

"Students loved it, faculty enjoyed it as well. It was a wonderful experience.

Bell said the group got the opportunity to visit places like the African American History Museum and the Mother Emanuel AME Church.

Winthrop English professor Jo Koster said she took the week-long break to travel to Florence, South Carolina, to participate in a workshop that helped participants make their own medieval manuscripts.

"They had beautifully printed out pictures of manuscripts along with markers, pens and pencils," Koster said. "They gave us all

blank books and we got to make our very own manuscripts."

Other Winthrop faculty and staff took time to work on catching up on grading papers and filling out paperwork for future research purposes.

"Over spring break, I was working on a grant that I am hoping to get that would look at how international students use AI to help them with language in their classes, and how faculty can support them," said mass communication professor Katharine Hubbard.

"I got to grade my students' midterms," said Associate Vice President for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions Amanda

James.

For a few, spring break was a time to book important medical appointments so that they'd have time to recover after.

"I got my wisdom teeth removed - [a] very fancy, \$2,000 vacation," said sophomore and French major Hugo Buchanan. "And I started 'Ted Lasso.'"

As is customary for most students during breaks, many used their break to spend time with family and reconnect with friends, as well as catch up on their favorite television shows and movies. Studying was a priority as well.

"Over spring break, I went to Virginia to

see my brother and his family," said Winthrop sophomore and exercise science major Sophia Cardin. "I have two small nephews, and then I went to the beach. I live right outside of Hilton Head. It was a lot of fun."

"I was studying over some spring break, and I went back home for a little bit in Lancaster," said Winthrop freshman and pre-med biology major Ethan Bell. "I watched 'The Pitt,' it's like the most accurate medical show ever."

"I watched four seasons of 'It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia,'" said psychology major and senior Mackenzie Luchowski. "My mom

was in the hospital for a regular surgery, and my dad was with her. So I was just chilling at home."

Winthrop senior and graphic design major Cameron Williams said he watched a lot of new animation on streaming services, like the newest season of "Invincible" and rewatched some of his favorite shows like "Interstellar" and "Friday."

Winthrop biology major and junior Elinor Owenby said she got to ride on a plane for this time this past break.

"I went to Sarasota, Florida, to visit my sister," Owenby said. "We went to the aquarium and the beach. It was nice."



photo by Chase Duncan

Professor Jo Koster



photo by Chase Duncan

Sophomore Sophia Cardin



photo by Chase Duncan

Professor Gregory Bell



photo by Chase Duncan

Senior Cameron Williams



photo by Chase Duncan

Sophomore Hugo Buchanan



photo by Chase Duncan

Associate VP for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions, Amanda James

March 27, 2025

## Winthrop softball remains red hot as Big South play begins

After a 5-1 start to conference play, Winthrop softball looks to continue their inter-conference success at home this weekend against Charleston Southern.

**Clark Vilardebo**  
Editor-in-Chief

2024-2025 has been a huge year for Winthrop sports, with eSports and cornhole continuing their dominance, and basketball and volleyball improving mightily from 2023-2024.

Winthrop softball has been no exception to this.

Following a 26-29 season in 2024, Winthrop softball is already five wins away from tying their win total from last season. Second year head coach Kendall Fuller attributes part of this success to having a team with more power.

"I think it's just a little bit of a different lineup. Last year, we were a really fast team. This year, we're a more powerful team," coach Fuller said. "So I think we're hitting [about] one home run per game right now, and I think that's helping us out in the win column."

Winthrop softball currently leads the Big South in home runs with 32. The next closest team, USC Upstate, has 25.

The Eagles currently have four players on the team with 6 or more home runs: Emma Jackson, Katie Beck, Megan Powell and Tia Beckham. The Eagles are the only team in the Big South with multiple hitters with 6+ home runs.

Jackson and Powell, who came over from Lees-McRae College with coach Fuller, also spoke about what's led to the success this season. Both of them highlight how young the team is this year.

"What I really like about our freshmen is they're very resilient. They take notes, like they look at what's happening around them, and they kind of adapt quickly," Jackson said. "Sometimes you don't see as much resilience in freshmen, some just kind of chug

along. But they've done a really good job, I think, of just kind of getting with it and realizing that it's hard, but they know how to figure it out."

Jackson and Powell are also the only seniors on the team.

Fuller, Jackson and Powell also spoke about an opening season road trip to San Diego as a great bonding experience for the team, which has contributed to their success.

"We started the season out in San Diego, California, which was a huge trip, but everybody really just kind of gelled out there. So it was a good team bonding experience for us, and that kicked things off and gave us a good momentum," said coach Fuller.

"We got to do a bunch of stuff. We had practice in the morning of our first day, and then we went to the zoo. Then, on our day

off, we just explored San Diego. We checked out La Jolla [and] we got to see seals and stuff. It was really fun," Jackson and Powell said.

Winthrop's power has not been its only strength, especially for Powell, who not only has 6 home runs but is the team's star pitcher.

With an 11-5 record and 2.00 ERA, Powell's numbers jump off the stat sheet. However, Powell herself tries not to focus on it too much, and really focus on the now.

"I try not to think too much about my competitors or anything. I try to just have the mindset of you're better and you're gonna go out there and you're gonna perform," Powell said.

That mindset seems to have paid off for Powell.

Coach Fuller also discussed how impressive the pitching this season has been, both from Powell and

Lonna Addison.

"Megan Powell is our senior leader in the circle, and she's at the top of the conference right now for the lowest ERA and most strikeouts. So pitching [is] super solid for us. We have transfer pitcher Lonna Addison who's doing awesome as well. So that really sets the tone," coach Fuller said.

Despite leading the conference in home runs by a sizable margin, when asked what aspect of the team Fuller wants to see improve as the season wraps up, she mentioned hitting.

"I think we're still building on the hitting part of things – we're still getting there. You know, we've hit [about] one [home run] for every game, but we can hit more than that. So just some consistency throughout the lineup," coach Fuller said.

The players also want to see more people come out and support,

especially with how successful the season's been so far. Jackson said the high pace environment of softball should convince people to come out.

"It's so fast, anything can change in an instant. Like a four run game, you would think, 'that's a game, someone's losing,' but it can change in an instant," Jackson said. "I would say it's really exciting. It keeps you on your toes. There's always something new. You would think one team's better than another, they're gonna blow them out of the water, but anyone really can win on any given day."

Winthrop softball will aim to bounce back from a road loss against East Tennessee University on March 25, as Charleston Southern comes to Terry Field this Friday and Saturday, March 28-29. Each game will also be broadcast on ESPN+.



Big South Pitcher of the Week graphic for Megan Powell

via Instagram/@winthropsoftball



Emma Jackson (#17) high fiving coach Fuller as she rounds third base

via Instagram/@winthropsoftball

## Showing tenacity and grit for Women's History Month: Winthrop's lacrosse team

**Omar Woods**  
Staff Writer

Since its inaugural season in 2013, Lacrosse has been a staple sport here at Winthrop University. Every year during the spring semester, teams of ten go out onto the field to put in their best efforts in order to come out victorious.

Most sports teams on Winthrop's lineup have both a men's and women's division. Lacrosse here at Winthrop is special in this regard as the only division that currently exists is the women's

division.

The women of the Lacrosse team practice vigorously throughout the week. Players train Monday through Friday in order to put on their best performance when on the field. Practices can start as early as 7 a.m., and players are used to putting in at least twenty hours of practice a week.

Chloe Patterson is a junior and one of the four team captains. Coming from humble beginnings, she explained her encounter with getting into lacrosse.

"I started playing in second grade," Patterson said. "I was in the car with my dad and he saw sign that said to sign up for a lacrosse league and said 'I think you would be good at that,' and I was like cool. So I signed up for it and really loved it and here I am now."

Lacrosse is a very physical demanding sport as it is a full-contact sport. But along with the physical aspect of the game comes the mental aspect.

Seasoned lacrosse players learn to develop a strong mentality

to aid them in their matches.

"I would say grit," Patterson explained. "If you get knocked down, you get back up and you keep trying. You do the hard way when you could do it easier way. You go out of your way to do the hard way because you know it will make you better."

For a lot of Lacrosse players, the competitive nature of the game is what draws them back to playing. The exact factor of why the competitive nature of lacrosse is so attractive is the lessons learned

from competition.

Reese MacDiarmid, a freshman and member of the lacrosse team, has played lacrosse for six years and discussed a few of the lessons lacrosse has taught her.

"A big thing is just working with others. You have to work with your teammates," MacDiarmid said. "I can even notice when I work on a group project, I know how to work with others and adapt."

Lacrosse has brought together many young women to work together and strive

on the field. Through this sport, many have learned how to work together, grow their mentalities, and find a sense of community.

"It gives me an outlet, teaches me to work with others, and my teammates are honestly the best people," MacDiarmid explained. "Just having relationships with people, learning problem-solving, and becoming more athletic has helped me become a better person and it adds into who I am. It's my passion and I just love playing it."

**Sports Editor: Now hiring!**  
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## Club spotlight: Psi Chi and Psych club

Bringing Winthrop's Psi Chi and Psychology club back to life this semester.

Riley Brodie  
AC&T Editor

Since electing new officers, Winthrop's Psi Chi chapter and Psychology club have reactivated and rejuvenated their organizations this past semester.

They have recently hosted a "welcome back" pizza party, a bake sale fundraiser and a presentation regarding mental health led by Samsara Soto, who has a doctorate in Counseling Psychology.

Psi Chi was initially founded in 1929, and stands as the International Honor Society for Psychology. Individuals may join local chapters as both professionals and college students.

To become a member of Psi Chi or the psychology club, there is a one-time \$15 chapter fee. To become a just member of Psi Chi, there is an additional one-time \$55 national fee.

While all Winthrop students are welcome to join the psychology club, there are specific qualifications that must be met in order to become a member of Psi Chi – students are required to have a minimum of 9 hours in psychology credits and to fall within the top 35% of their class.

The advisor and student presidents have taken the time to share their experiences leading the organizations.

Darren Ritzer, a professor of psychology and the department chair with a doctorate in industrial/organizational psychology, serves as

the advisor for both organizations.

Regarding the recent increased interest in the organizations, Ritzer said, "I have been the advisor for the psychology club on and off for most of my 22 years at Winthrop and the club is very much dependent upon the enthusiasm and work of the clubs' officers. Sometimes, as is the case currently, there are officers that take initiative and energize the entire process with their efforts. We are currently in an upswing of the club's energy due to the current presidents."

He additionally added, "Since the current group of officers are underclassmen, they will be around for a few years. That is exciting since they are setting the expectations for the groups."

Dr. Ritzer shared a general word of advice to students about the importance of clubs. "Involvement in clubs, especially as an officer, is a great thing to put on your resume or CV. It shows that you are multidimensional and get involved above and beyond those that aren't in clubs."

Daniel Escobar, a senior psychology major, currently serves as the president of Winthrop's psychology club.

Escobar commented on a few of the organization's biggest accomplishments this semester, "We raised a lot of money from our bake sale, so that gives us room to provide better events in the future. I also think our event with Dr. Soto was

a good opportunity for everyone to learn how to do something that many people become psych majors for-supporting the people around them."

Samantha Willis, a junior psychology major with a social science major, currently serves as the president of Winthrop's Psi Chi chapter.

Willis has demonstrated a clear passion for the field of psychology.

"I love how psychology helps us understand people-their thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. I find it fascinating how individual experiences, personalities, and environments shape who we are. I really enjoy applying psychological concepts to everyday interactions and seeing how they play out in real life," Willis said.

In regards to reactivating Psi Chi, Willis stated, "When I took on this role, the organization had been inactive, so it was a challenge to bring it back to life. I focused on recruiting members, planning engaging events, and strengthening our presence on campus. It's been a learning process, but seeing students get involved and passionate about psychology has made it all worth it."

She continued, "We successfully hosted an interest meeting that had a great turnout, which showed that there is enthusiasm for psychology on campus. We've also established a strong foundation for events



Psych members tabling and selling baked goods for upcoming events

via Instagram/@wuppsychclub

and collaborations that will continue to grow. At first there were only three officers, and now we have seven amazing and hard working officers."

For the members of Psi Chi and the psychology club, Willis hopes they "find a sense of belonging and passion for psychology. Whether they're looking for mentorship, research opportunities, or just a fun way to engage with psychology outside the classroom, I want them to leave feeling inspired and

connected."

While Willis is mainly appreciative of the turnout for events and members joining, she also appreciates the benefits being a part of Psi Chi have given her.

"Being involved has strengthened my leadership skills, expanded my network, and given me a deeper appreciation for collaboration," Willis said.

For those interested in joining Psi Chi or the psychology club, multiple events will be taking place

during the remainder of the semester. The organizations have a service event planned with Pilgrim's Inn on April 4. They additionally have a de-stress event planned on April 17, which will include stress balls, calming music, and group breathing exercises led by professor Soto.

For any inquiries, please contact Dr. Ritzer, at [ritzer@winthrop.edu](mailto:ritzer@winthrop.edu) or message the club on Instagram, [@wuppsychclub](https://www.instagram.com/wuppsychclub).

## Tom S. Gettys Center lease terminated by City of Rock Hill

Tenants have been given until August 31, 2025 to vacate their spaces in the building.

Mia Molfetta  
Staff Writer

On March 10, Rock Hill City Council held a citizens hearing for the community of Rock Hill. The artists and the arts community went to the meeting to provide their voices and speak up for the Tom S. Gettys Center.

Just a few days before, the community found out that Rock Hill's City Leaders terminated the lease for the Tom S. Gettys Center, giving the artists six months to depart from the building – still without an alternative place to go.

A lot of support was given by the community, and a few artists and regular attendees of the center were vocal towards the

council.

Artists and supporters of the center speaking at the hearing included Dylan Bannister, Michael J. Simpson, Fred Shope, Brandi Fox, Alba Hutchinson, Mimi Irwin and Winthrop student, Kit Crosby.

With his statement, Bannister reminded the council that the Center has been home to arts for 40 years, and ending its service to the city of Rock Hill will deteriorate support and service of the arts, for Winthrop students and the community itself, as well as smaller businesses from the Pottery Center to artist's personal businesses.

Others shared their personal experiences, sharing how effective the loss of the building

is personally, and as a community.

Kit Crosby, a junior here at Winthrop, shared her thoughts on what will happen to Rock Hill without the arts.

"Another student said to me, 'great cities have great art communities' [...] If the arts deplete, so will the city," Crosby said.

With the news of the Tom S. Gettys Center evolving, Rock Hill Mayor John Gettys talked to The Johnsonian regarding the building's future.

Gettys mentioned that there were conversations held with the previous director and current director of the York County Arts Council (YCAC) about a year or more prior, stating "I let them know that the building

would be listed for sale in the future, because of the cost of upkeep of the building."

He stated that it came before the city council considering listing it towards the end of 2024, beginning of 2025.

When asked if the council and himself have any potential plans for the building, Gettys essentially said no.

He mentioned that the building is up for sale not knowing of the future, and went over the what-ifs:

whether they receive an offer they would want to entertain, or the possibility of not receiving one, or even one that would allow the present uses to continue at the center.

When talking about the conversations

Gettys said, "It is premature in that regard, The Arts Council is a tenant in that property and they sublease the property to the artists, that is the council - not us."

Gettys claimed that since it is listed for sale, they will not get profits from the use of the property and that the council will sell it to another person or party and would be where the income would benefit the use of the property.

"What we would look for is a buyer that would bring some economic vitality to downtown – whatever that may be," Gettys said.

He continued by mentioning that if they receive multiple offers against the present, they will make a choice towards whether it is

good to continue with what is present or to sell it and let the profit law statement work.

When asked if there have been recent discussion with the YCAC, Gettys gave a blunt "yes," saying there have been multiple conversations. He explained that he understands that the artists are concerned of the unknown future, but that is not who they hold business with.

We reached out to the York County Arts Council for comment, but did not hear back from them.

The future of the Tom S. Gettys Center is still unknown, but the arts community will keep fighting. For more information, visit [Keep Rock Hill Creative](https://www.KeepRockHillCreative.com) on Instagram and Facebook.

March 27, 2025



Have a story idea or suggestion for us? Tear this out and leave it in the box/drawer outside the Student Publications office (DiGS 104).

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