



Winthrop University

April 10, 2025

Rock Hill, SC

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Winthrop's Model United Nations program finished its 49th annual Model UN Conference, marking another great year for the program

S.O.U.R.C.E. AWARDS

Salvatore Blair, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, discusses the event with the Johnsonian

GREENLAND AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

See news editor Zachary Bell's thoughts and opinion regarding the Trump administration's foreign policy strategy on page 5

Concerts, chalk art and more: Rock Hill rings in the start of spring with the annual Come-See-Me festival



Flag promoting the Come-See-Me festival, featuring the festival's iconic mascot, Glen the Frog

photo by Jackson Stanton

Riley Brodie
AC&T Editor

The Come-See-Me festival is an annual showcase of Rock Hill's highlights. A great deal of events take place with enough variety and engagement for the whole family.

This year, the festival is held from April 3-April 12 across various locations in Rock Hill.

A few of the events that have taken place

so far include; the Come-See-Me parade, "Musical Mania", "Chalk on Main", and a movie night in fountain park. The Rock Hill Symphony orchestra and other local bands/artists have additionally played during the daytime in Glencairn Garden.

C.H. "Icky" Albright, a former Rock Hill Mayor and State Senator, first created Come-See-Me in 1962

as a weekend event. It was developed with the intent of encouraging Rock Hill visitors during the spring. However, over the years Come-See-Me has expanded to include 10 days of festivities, with over 100,000 annual participants.

Multiple attendees of the festival shared a little bit about their unique experiences.

One Rock Hill local, Cindy Grant, has a

particularly significant connection to the festival.

"My husband is Chip Grant, son of Vernon Grant, who created "Snap Crackle and Pop". He also created Glenn and Glinda, the mascots for the Come-See-Me festival. He's been driving them in the red car for probably 40 plus years and they're always the first ones in the parade," Grant said.

Vernon Grant initially developed Glen The Frog in 1964 after visiting Glencairn Gardens and observing a frog atop a lily pad. Since then, he's has remained as the longstanding, iconic mascot ever since.

On April 6, "Sundaes With Glen And Mother Goose" took place from 2:00-5:00PM at Glencairn Garden. The event revolved around free kids' activities

such as story time, face painting, and balloon twisting. This event additionally sold cups of ice cream for \$ 3 each.

Stephanie Duty, a newer resident of Rock Hill, brought her seven year old daughter to this event.

"I think they picked a great venue. The gardens are beautiful and we will definitely come back next year."

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Native communities negatively effected by Trump administration's recent cuts to federal funding

Tribal nations, including the Catawba Indian Nation, begin to feel the effects of recent eliminations of federal grants and layoffs, impacting areas such as food security and health.

Evi Houston
Staff Writer

As President Trump nears his hundredth day in office, federal agencies and employees are making sense of the expansive workforce cuts and proposals to freeze federal funding the administration threatened as part of its initiative to shrink the size of the federal bureaucracy. While not the focus of these cuts, Native programs and grants are highly dependent on federal funding and likely to

suffer the impacts of a variety of the Trump administration's fiscal decisions.

According to the Associated Press, President Trump and Elon Musk intend to eliminate over 25 percent of jobs at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which handles the allocation of critical resources and funding for tribal nations. Multiple representatives of indigenous communities told the press that they felt these cuts were

uninformed and illogical, as the majority of federal funding to tribes consists of less than 1% of the federal budget and provides needed services, not the maintenance of "inefficient" bureaucratic red tape.

Nonetheless, layoffs have been announced by the Trump administration in the Indian Health Service, the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian

Cont. on pg. 2

It's official: Byrnes Auditorium is back in business

Closed since 2018, Byrnes held its grand reopening concerts April 4-6 and April 9 – opening a new chapter in the auditorium's rich history.

Gabriela Griggs
Staff Writer

After six years of repairs and refurbishment, Winthrop University's Byrnes Auditorium officially reopened to the public this past week. To celebrate, the Winthrop College of Visual and Performing Arts' Department of

Music curated multiple musical performances throughout the first and second week of April.

Byrnes Auditorium originally closed in 2018 for a roof replacement project. However, during the renovation, a fire broke out and caused subsequent damage to the auditorium that

led it to be closed for longer than expected.

The auditorium was named after James F. Byrnes, former U.S Secretary of State and South Carolina governor, who allocated funding that led to the construction of three campus buildings: Byrnes Auditorium,

Cont. on pg. 4



Winthrop Chorale & Collegiate Choir Concert on April 5

photo by Jackson Stanton

Police Blotter



Evi Houston
Staff Writer

Parking permit dupe detected

A car parked in the Dinkins Parking Lot on March 27 was observed to have a “suspicious looking” parking permit sitting on the dashboard. The officer noticed that the vehicle was not actually registered under the permit number and determined that the driver had created a fake permit using their friend’s. Both students are required to meet with the Dean.

Battery and assault in East Thomson Hall

Two residents of East Thomson Hall were engaged in assault and battery to the third degree on the night of March 29. An officer met with the victim the following morning and interviewed both parties. The victim later decided to press charges and obtained a warrant, as well as referrals to the Dean.

Chemical smell outside Courtyard

An officer responded to claims of a chemical smell coming from a room in Courtyard on the night of April 2. Upon arriving, the officer did observe there was a plastic burning smell and strange odor of rotten eggs that was lingering in the hall, but didn’t notice anything that could cause it. They were told if the smell got worse to contact Campus Police. The next day, an officer returned regarding a potential water leak in Courtyard, and checked back in with the residents of the room the smell was coming from the night before. The officer was told that facilities management had been there earlier to check the smell and found a blown out light bulb.

Vehicle stolen outside Walk2Campus

On April 4, an officer met with the victim who claimed her vehicle was stolen. The victim already confirmed the vehicle wasn’t towed, and shortly after the officer was able to view video footage of the vehicle heading toward I-77 by an unknown subject on April 1.



Trump administration’s impact on Native communities I Cont. from pg. 1

Education, according to Minnesota Public Radio.

In a written statement from John Echohawk, Executive Director of the Native American Rights Fund, he wrote, “Tribal Nations rely on federal funding to address essential needs, including public safety, healthcare, education, infrastructure, and the basic needs of our most vulnerable citizens.” Echohawk criticized the administration’s widespread attempts to freeze federal funding, noting the likelihood that these will disproportionately affect the Native communities his organization advocates for.

Due to the unique arrangement of tribal governments, federal funding and grants must be used to support basic services which local and state taxes would typically cover in other areas. This includes the salaries of nurses, police officers, professors at tribal colleges and firefighters.

The Catawba Indian Nation, about ten miles east of Winthrop, is not exempt from the recent elimination of federal grants.

Tylee Tracee-Anderson, Chief of Government Affairs at the Nation, shared how the Trump administration’s cuts to the USDA have recently impacted their Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) grant.

“We used grant monies to buy produce from local farmers and ‘sell’ it back to tribal members. Tribal members would sign up for the program and they would be given

vouchers they could exchange for the food. We call it the Black Snake Farm Farmer’s Market. Many of our citizens have food insecurities and this program helped combat some of that,” Tracer-Anderson said.

The Catawba Indian Nation receives a variety of federal grants and funds, with usaspending.gov putting the number at \$16.9 million and TAGGS (Tracking Accountability in



Sign greeting visitors to the reservation

Government Grants System) reporting \$10.7 million in spending for 2024. These address a wide range of tribal issues, including Health and Resiliency Projects, Tribal Opioid Response, Family and Youth Services and domestic violence shelters.

Other specific instances of funding cuts directly affecting tribal nations include the removal of scholarship grants and the jeopardizing of health services.

Since 1994, tribal colleges have received support from the federal government as “land grant” universities, part of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act carried out by the USDA. In March, ProPublica reported that “at least \$7 million in USDA grants to tribal colleges and universities have been suspended.”

These educational institutions are

incredibly dependent on such grants, as they often have low endowment funds and support from the community. The recent cuts have led to halting of needed maintenance and construction projects, freezing of professor’s salaries, and insecurity around student scholarships, causing some to doubt their ability to remain students for the rest of the semester.

Some university representatives



question whether their schools are specifically being targeted compared to non-tribal colleges and universities due to the 1994 act’s use of the word “equity.” This act, although part of a fulfillment of government responsibilities to provide “basic funding” for education, may have been implicated in the slashing of all programs mentioning diversity, equity, inclusion or DEI.

This concern about appearing too progressive or race-centered in their assistive policy has been recognized by those who fear ill-informed cuts to necessary programs. “Native leaders are pushing Trump officials to acknowledge that the feds’ relationship with tribes is based on their status as sovereign nations, not racial preference,” Stateline reported.

Another area of particular concern

is the Indian Health Service, which laid off 950 employees in Feb. – although Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. soon rescinded the action.

IHS is responsible for running tribal clinics and organizations, supplementing the salaries of nurses and practitioners, and supporting plans to build needed medical facilities. These resources are already reported to be highly underfunded, so any threat to freeze federal grants puts the health and wellness of native communities in a delicate position.

While many of DOGE’s initiatives have been questioned for their legality, native issues are especially contentious. The federal funding tribal nations receive are bound by a variety of historical native treaties and trusts that establish the United States as responsible for sustaining basic resources such as infrastructure, education, law enforcement and healthcare.

Director Echohawk reiterated that the United States has a duty to protect native land, resources, and people, saying, “To withhold our money from us without reason or warning is illegal and immoral.”

The federal government is obligated to maintain this funding as part of its “trust responsibility” promise which extends outside of congressional decisions as a part of basic Indian law. Along with this is a requirement to consult Native governments before making any adjustments to funding

that will affect the community, making the administration’s actions illegal, as noted by the Associated Press.

The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act 1975 additionally provides native communities greater autonomy over federal funding, allowing them to allocate and move federal money where they see fit. This enables tribal nations to take control over federal programs and continue to receive funding through reimbursement, which some tribes have recently reported holdups in access.

Those who do not utilize the act but instead receive “direct funding” are at a greater risk for losing basic services due to federal layoff and budget reductions.

Today, tribal communities feel left in the dark about the future of their relationship with the federal government. A lack of communication with federal agencies such as the EPA, little warnings prior to grant eliminations and minor details as to the reasoning and timeline of grants has created great uncertainty for these communities.

As an already underfunded and under-resourced group, tribal nations’ reliance on the federal support they do traditionally receive places them in a vulnerable position to any attempts to reduce government spending. In opposition of centuries old treaties and promises made to native communities, the Trump administration is likely to face legal challenges as its efforts continue.

Winthrop tuition changes to pure credit hour pricing

Winthrop University tuition will become more expensive if you’re taking more than 15 credit hours next semester.

Chase Duncan
Managing Editor

Students enrolled in more than 15 academic credit hours will have to pay tuition at a higher rate beginning in the Fall 2025 semester, according to an announcement from Winthrop’s Finance and Business Affairs CFO and Vice President Kevin Butler.

Butler announced that Winthrop will transition to a pure credit hour pricing model for tuition beginning next semester in an email sent out to students as part of the university’s year two of the Tuition Transparency Initiative.

The email said that tuition and fees for students enrolled in 12-15 hours will remain

at essentially the same rate as last year, but students taking more than 15 hours will be charged at a new rate that will be at a discount compared to last year’s tuition, according to Butler.

“Winthrop has been capping the cost of tuition for students enrolled in 12 credit hours or more per semester as if they were only enrolled in 12 credit hours,” Butler said. “That cap is being removed. The new credit hour-based tuition was constructed using the current full-time academic year tuition which was reduced by 8% from the previous year.”

Butler said the new rates for full time students was created by dividing the

capped rated amount by 15 credit hours, as opposed to 12 in previous years.

“The main reasons for these changes are transparency, comparability and equity,” Butler said. “Winthrop broke out the embedded fees as part of our Tuition Transparency Initiative so that it was clear to the students where their tuition and fee payments are going. This also helps the students to compare pricing at other institutions. In addition, a student who does not have the ability or desire to enroll in more than 15 credit hours should not pay the same as a student enrolled in, say 18 credit hours.”

A student interested

in enrolling in credit hours above 15 hours will pay a rate of \$467 per credit hour above the capped amount in combined tuition, tech and activity fees required to register for a class, according to Butler.

For the past 5 years, Winthrop University did not raise the annual tuition for its students, and was the only public institution in the state of South Carolina to reduce tuition and fees.

“As part of the Tuition Transparency Initiative launched last year, we reduced tuition and mandatory fees for all full-time (12 or more credit hours) undergraduate in-state students by 8.5% and for out-of-state students by 5.5%. These reductions have

provided welcome financial relief to students while also simplifying our tuition and fees structure. Additionally, we reduced the per-credit-hour rate for part-time undergraduate students (fewer than 12 credit hours), lowering rates by 8.8% for in-state students and by 5.7% for out-of-state students.”

Summer 2025 tuition at Winthrop University will stay at the same rates as the 2024-2025 per-credit-hour regular semester tuition rate.



photo of Kevin Butler, via winthrop.edu



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Come-See-Me festival | Cont. from pg. 1

Lindsey Mallard also attended “Sundaes With Glen and Mother Goose” with her family. She has been participating in the Come-See-Me festival throughout her whole life.

“We really like getting to see so many friends and family members getting together as a community,” Mallard said.

Mallard and her husband are excited to pass down the annual tradition to their children. “This is the first year we are bringing our son after both coming here as kids.”

A lifelong Rock Hill local, Renee Bradley, shared her main reason for spending time at the

festival. “My daughter is actually in the parade – she’s representing the Catawba Indians, and so are my two grandchildren.”

Shelley Webb, had a differing reason for attending the festival.

Webb stated, “I live here [a building overseeing the parade] and I saw stuff going on so I thought I’d come downstairs and check it out. I’ve been here for three years, but this is the first time I’ve ever gone to Come-See-Me.”

Come-See-Me will continue until April 12. A few of the upcoming events include “Broadway Night”, “Moonlight Jazz and Blues”, “Barbeque Cook-Off”, and a tailgate party with fireworks.

A great deal of sponsors support Come-See-Me, including Winthrop University. For further information regarding the festival, please visit comesee-me.org.

Come-See-Me photos on pg. 8



Chalk art lining the streets of downtown Rock Hill

photo by Jill Melander



People gathered around Winthrop Lake for Come-See-Me festivities

photo by Jackson Stanton

Byrnes Auditorium grand re-opening | Cont. from pg. 1

Thurmond Building and the Macfeat Nursery School – a building now known simply as Macfeat House.

Starting off the series was the Department of Music’s Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble’s Grand Re-opening Concert on Friday, April 4, as it was the first official public Department of Music performance. These groups both featured a performance by Vince DiMartino, an acclaimed trumpet player well known for his jazz performances.

The Wind Symphony is considered to consist “of 35-45 of the finest wind and percussion players at Winthrop” and the Jazz Ensemble to consist “of trumpets, trombones, saxophones and a rhythm section (piano, guitar, bass and drums).”

Following the Wind Symphony

and Jazz Ensemble, the Winthrop Choirs hosted a performance the evening of the following Saturday, April 5. The performance involved pieces by the Winthrop Chorale, the Winthrop Chamber Choir, the Winthrop Collegiate Choir and from the Winthrop Alumnae Choir.

The Department of Music defines “The Chorale” as “the principal choir among the ensembles in the Department of Music, consisting of outstanding undergraduate and graduate students, more than half of whom are music majors and minors. It is one of the oldest student organizations in Winthrop’s history.”

The Department also defines “The Collegiate Choir” as “open to all interested students and its repertoire is taken

from all periods of musical history.”

Inside the Byrnes Auditorium also lives the David Bancroft Memorial Organ, which is described on the Winthrop Website as “an Æolian-Skinner valued today at \$1,800,000 and containing more than 5,000 pipes in 78 ranks. It is considered one of the largest and finest instruments in the South.” This instrument was featured multiple times throughout the choral performances, as the organ room was one of big renovations during Byrnes’ six year fix-up.

The official re-opening of the Byrnes Auditorium has been greatly anticipated by staff and students alike. Around two graduating classes have passed through their time on campus without even getting the opportunity to

witness or participate in a performance in the space.

“To be able to come back to the space, after only [having had] one concert, feels like music is where it’s supposed to be again and seeing all of the forces come together and to be able to have all these concerts is very moving,” Dr. Jeremy Mims, the Associate Professor of Music and Winthrop’s Director of Choirs, said when asked about what the official re-opening of Byrnes means to him.

Following the choral performances, the Byrnes Auditorium hosted even more music the following Sunday, April 6. That night, the Carolinas Wind Orchestra and Winthrop Alumni Band took the stage under the direction of Dr. Lorrie Crochet, who is the Director of the Department of Music, a

Professor of Music, and the Director of Bands.

The Carolinas Wind Orchestra “is an internationally recognized group dedicated to the performance of advanced wind literature” according to the Winthrop Department of Music’s event website. The group was officially established in 1996 and was originally named the “Olde English Wind Ensemble.”

This performance also marked the first public performance of the Winthrop Alumni Band, with both groups also featuring the David Bancroft Memorial Organ.

To close off the re-opening celebration series, the Winthrop Symphony Orchestra, also known as WSO, made their debut on Wednesday, April 9 in Byrnes Auditorium. This performance also

consisted of the debut of “Mother’s Petunias” which was composed by Winthrop graduate Madison Bush (’22). This performance also featured a solo from Winthrop Sophomore and “WSO Concertmaster” Cece Trower.

The official re-opening of Byrnes Auditorium marks a “coming home” moment for not only Winthrop’s Department of Music, but for Winthrop students and the Rock Hill community, music or other. Now, music once again has a stable and official home on campus in a building freshly renovated to support it.

The Byrnes Auditorium will continue to host music events open to the public as the semester continues. Check out winthrop.edu for cultural events.



Winthrop Chorale and Collegiate Concert on April 5

photo by Jackson Stanton



Members of Winthrop Chorale sing

photo by Jackson Stanton

The SOURCE of Winthrop’s creativity: Undergraduates prepare to showcase their work

A massive student showcase is around the corner this April 11.

Kyan Feser
Staff Writer

Hardworking undergraduates will get their chance to shine on Friday, April 11, for the 11th annual SOURCE awards at Winthrop.

SOURCE (the Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors) highlights undergraduates’ work through a series of presentations, spanning from noon to 4:15 p.m. in the DiGiorgio Campus Center (DIGS) and adjacent buildings.

These students have practiced “experiential learning” throughout the semester and taken their learning outside of the classroom, said Dr. Salvatore Blair, an associate professor of biology and the director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity.

The SOURCE awards are broken into three categories: oral presentation, poster presentation and performance. Due to the “institutional-wide” nature of SOURCE, presentation topics are

very diverse, Blair said.

“In fact, many of these presentations stemmed from research courses,” Blair explained.

While the first two categories are strictly research, the performance category allows for music and dance presentations as well. Theatre productions are not included, however, as they have their own showcases throughout the year, Blair said.

An awards ceremony crowns winners for these categories at 4:30 p.m. in Dina’s Place.

“Registration for this year is closed, but students can apply for the next SOURCE in late fall,” Blair said.

To apply, students must first submit an abstract to the Undergraduate Research web page and decide if they want to present. Professors “play a strong mentoring role” during this time, Blair said.

If a student doesn’t present, works by non-presenting students are still featured in the Scholarship and Creative Activity Compilation Book.

“It’s a compilation of all of the work that students have done,” Blair said. “Our goal is to highlight for everybody all of the interesting and fantastic work that our students are doing outside of the classroom.”

For presenting students, a preliminary judging is held for oral and poster presentations, and students must submit a video detailing their abstract. Selected students will then be eligible for the SOURCE awards

contest. Selected performance students are eligible from the start.

“SOURCE is really a collective endeavor from everyone, especially all of the faculty mentors who allow for these different opportunities for the students to engage in this type of experiential learning.”

Interested students can find the event’s schedule on the SOURCE webpage: <https://www.winthrop.edu/undergradresearch/source-2025.aspx>

Leadership or oppression: Seeing the Trump administration through the lens of an NAACP member

Adriane Alston
Editorial Editor

As both a Diversity Peer Educator and The 24-25 Unit Secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, here at Winthrop, I’ve made it my mission to advocate for representation, equity and justice. These ideals are not abstract, they’re daily necessities for marginalized individuals and communities who constantly find themselves under political intensity. Recent moves have

been made by the Trump administration to counteract the progress made by BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people and other marginalized groups that have been working tirelessly to gain equality for decades.

This administration is not sticking solely to politics, its weaponizing identity. From the restriction of transgender healthcare rights to targeting inclusive educational policies, the goal isn’t just to lead the country but to control it.

As student Candace Dais so passionately

put it, “No one should feel alienated within a society based on their sexual orientation, gender, or sex.”

Under Trump’s administration, alienation seems to be the backbone of his reign. Hiding behind religion as a justification for this harm is not only morally bankrupt, it’s dishonest. The United States was not founded on religious authoritarianism, it was founded on the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness, even if that pursuit has never been equally guaranteed for

all.

Brendon Wilson, freshman and member of NAACP, hit another critical point when it comes to how black people in leadership positions are treated.

“The Trump administration has exposed the double standards in American politics, especially in how Black leadership is held to impossible standards. Had President Obama used the kind of authoritarian tactics Trump wielded, like threatening to defund schools over ideological disagreement, he

would’ve been slandered in the media and by the public.”

Trump’s unchecked power only serves to deepen the illusion of democracy and reinforce the message that only certain people are allowed to lead recklessly without consequence.

This is why organizations like NAACP and other BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ based programs matter. We exist to amplify the voices that are too often silenced, to call out hypocrisy, and to demand better from

those in power.

Our communities are not disposable. We are not chips for political gain. We are students, citizens, and human beings who deserve a government that protects, not persecutes.

So here’s the call, to our peers, our allies, and yes, even those who are just beginning to understand the weight of all this, get involved. Speak up. Organize. Vote. Because silence in the face of oppression is a choice, and it’s one we can no longer afford to make.

Being a bully won’t make America great Trump’s foreign policy threatens to unravel the global order.

Zachary Bell
News Editor

The Second World War brought Europe to its breaking point. Conflict touched nearly every corner on the continent, reducing industries to rubble and killing, wounding, or displacing millions. The fighting bankrupted most nations. Bleak would not begin to describe prospects for the average European.

The United States, spared from the carnage, refused to sit idly on its hands. \$13.3 billion dollars flowed into Western and Southern Europe, roughly equivalent to \$133 billion in today’s world.

Then President Harry Truman said the Marshall Plan “will go down in history as one of America’s greatest contributions to the peace of the world.”

Truman did not lie. As a result of American investments, European industries flourished. Trade barriers collapsed. Hostility

gave way to diplomacy and, eventually, camaraderie among nations who, only a decade prior, waged total war.

I write this because President Trump has evidently forgotten that America’s strength doesn’t lie solely in its weapons or technology. When the United States came to Europe’s rescue, the world witnessed America’s commitment to freedom, prosperity, and justice.

The United States didn’t just export cash—we sold the world an ideal. An image of American leadership. Now, I am afraid that Trump’s behavior threatens a reputation that took 80 careful years to cultivate.

Considering Trump’s history with casinos, it shouldn’t surprise anyone that he treats diplomacy like a game of poker. For Trump, you’re either the winner who takes it all, or the out-of-luck loser, and anyone who has ever

listened to Trump knows just how much the guy likes to win.

But it’s exactly that mindset which threatens America’s reputation. Our closest allies are frightened. From Canada to Denmark and Japan, close friends of the U.S. worry about what Trump will do next. Meanwhile, enemies leap with joy as Trump’s erratic behavior corrodes the nation’s standing.

How can the United States claim to uphold freedom when it aggressively pursues Greenland? What is just about imposing a 32% tariff on Taiwan, the lynchpin of our defense against China? At a time when the United States should be standing with its allies against Russian warmongering, it retreats.

Anyone who has worked in public relations will agree: It’s much easier to ruin an image than to build one. And with Trump

in the White House, we are witnessing the most goodwill that has ever been burned before.

This isn’t to say the United States hasn’t been taken advantage of. Europe, the frontline in a hypothetical Russian conflict, shelters itself underneath America’s defense-umbrella. There is also reason to decouple from China and its unfair trade practices. But settling these issues requires productive conversations and intelligent policy.

What Trump is doing is essentially taking a sledgehammer to the rule-of-law which has benefitted every generation of American since the Second World War. This wild behavior makes the United States look vindictive and not worthy of trust.

Late in March, the new Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, said “The old relationship we had with the United States...is over.” This

view is not exclusively Canadian, either. While Secretary of State Marco Rubio touted the “strong” relationship the U.S. has with Denmark, the Danish Prime Minister bluntly rebuked Trump’s imperialist ambitions: “You cannot annex another country.”

That a NATO ally even needs to challenge the American President on such matters as annexation boggles my mind. What happened to the America that funded the Marshall Plan? Today, millions of people around the world depend on U.S. foreign aid. They look for the red, white, and blue stickered crates that declare: “USAID from the American People.”

But Trump shuttered USAID. As a result, 95 million people will lose healthcare access. 30 million children will go without an education. According to the Institute for Development Impact, 800 million people will

experience increased food insecurity.

Trump hurts our allies and empowers our enemies. He imposes tariffs on uninhabited islands, and the U.S. looks cruel and stupid as a result. He coddles Russia and punishes Ukraine.

I’m afraid that the United States that rebuilt Europe is gone. The rules-based order born from the horrors of the Second World War is unraveling. In place of leadership, the President throws tantrums.

“The old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born.” Antonio Gramsci wrote those words inside a fascist prison. A century later, the world America helped build is being replaced by something dangerous and erratic. If the U.S. continues to abandon the ideals that held the postwar order together, Gramsci’s warning will come to pass: “Now is the time of monsters.”



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (left) and President Trump (right) at their meeting from Feb. 28, 2025

AP Photo/Mystyslav Chernov

Sports attendance is on it’s way up following the 2024-2025 school year

After the devastation the COVID-19 pandemic brought to sporting events, Winthrop sports sees its highest attendance since pre-COVID.

Omar Woods
Staff Writer

Attendance at sporting events here at Winthrop took a noticeable dive after the devastating effects of COVID 19. Each sport at Winthrop since then has seen their fair share of a below average crowds at their home games.

However, recently, this trend has not been the case.

Attendance at Winthrop’s sporting events has been at its highest since before the 2020s. Many credit this sudden

change in trajectory to a few factors like more promotions and free attendance for students.

It was common for attendance at Winthrop’s sports events to be relatively high. The coliseum saw a lot of activity through the sports Men’s and Women’s Basketball, and Volleyball.

The record attendance for these sports goes as follows: Men’s Basketball featured 6,250 attendees on March 3rd, 2007, Women’s Basketball had 1,276

attendees on November 15, 2014, and Volleyball had 678 attendees on September 25, 2015 – all before the 2020s.

Prior to 2022, students at Winthrop need to pay for admission into these games. This change came about in the months after president Edward Serna joined Winthrop in July of 2022, as it was one of his first major initiatives on campus.

Current students now have free entrance into all of Winthrop’s sport events. Some have again credited this

change with students being more inclined to attend a sports game without the thought of having to spend money to do so.

Charles Archuleta, the ticket and events operations manager for Winthrop, joined Winthrop around two years ago and has noticed a positive change in attendance.

“I do not have the longest tenure here, but what I will say is that when you look into the crowds, there are completely different crowds.” Archuleta explained. “Come to

our games from two years ago to today, it will not even look like it’s the same place anymore.”

Being the ticket and events operations manager, Archuleta has had the ability to see and track the attendance of Winthrop’s sporting events. This knowledge has allowed him to garner reasons for the lack of attendance previously at Winthrop’s sporting events.

“I think distance plays a big factor.” Archuleta elaborated.

“A lot of students do not know they get free admission and it’s also a commuter school. Those are the three biggest reasons.”

Even though there have been a few factors that have hindered peoples attendance to Winthrop’s sporting events, students and residents in Rock Hill alike are increasingly showing up to support our Winthrop Eagles and their sporting endeavors.

Students are encouraged to use their free admission and support Winthrop.

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Winthrop’s Model United Nations program’s strong year concludes with 49th Annual Winthrop University Model UN Conference

After winning big at the Southern Regional Model United Nations in Charlotte, Winthrop hosted high schools across the south from April 2-4.

Clark Vilardebo
Editor-in-Chief

Winthrop is known for being a politically active campus, bringing in many politicians to speak throughout the years and being heavily engaged in getting students registered to vote. So it’s no surprise that Winthrop’s Model United Nations program is revered across the country, particularly the South.

Recently, Winthrop hosted their 49th Annual Model UN Conference, where high schools from Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina came out to hear speakers and earn awards.

The conference is organized by a group of student leaders in Model UN called the Secretariat. Donald Horack, T.J. Carbon, Caden Johnson and Stormy Brown, made

up the team responsible for reaching out to high schools and planning out the event.

The theme for this year’s conference was “Parting Ways With Neo-Colonialism: Ensuring Global Achievement through Development for All.” Jennifer Leigh Disney, Chair of the Department of Political Science, directs the Model United Nations program and hosted the collegiate debate on April 2.

That same day, Winthrop hosted Princeton University Political Science professor Arthur Spirling as a keynote speaker for the conference. Spirling’s speech focused primarily on A.I. and its impact on the political landscape.

On April 3, the Model UN Luncheon took

place, which featured over 450 high school students, advisors and Winthrop collegiate delegates and chairs.

Finally, the conference concluded with the General Assembly Plenary on April 4. There, high schools found out who won individual and group awards.

John Holder, adjunct professor in Political Science and an educator at Winthrop since 1995, participated in the conference as a judge. He spoke on how Winthrop has been able to maintain its success with the Model UN program.

“I think the long success of Winthrop’s program is due primarily to the fact that it’s had three outstanding program directors in its history: Dr. Melford Wilson, the founder; Dr. Chris

Van Aller; and now Dr. Jennifer Leigh Disney. They’ve all been dedicated to keeping the program going year after year,” Holder said.

Holder continued, “And, of course, there have been 50 years of dedicated, hardworking students who’ve participated in it and taught their successors how to do it. The program has been successful for 50 years because there have always been people who were committed to its success, and to passing that commitment along.”

Holder also found his experience judging to be very rewarding, especially when it came to seeing how the college and high school students interacted with each other.

“I love watching the students debate and interact with each

other. I really enjoy watching college students mentor high school students, and it’s very gratifying to be able to watch my students do something other than what I see them do in an American Government class. I learn more about the skills and capabilities of the people I teach. And every year, I learn something new about the world,” Holder said.

Winthrop’s Model UN Conference is not the only big success for the program this year, as they won two outstanding delegation awards back in March at the SRMUN for representing Tonga and Morocco. Winthrop was also the only university to achieve this award.

Winthrop’s Model UN is not just a great program to join due to

its rich history, but also because of the skills it gives students.

“Model UN is important because it develops a wide range of skills. Participants learn about the world. Having to represent a country you might not know anything at all about to start with means learning something important and widening your base of knowledge. You learn public speaking skills and negotiating skills, among others. The high school students get a glimpse of what college is like, and hopefully some of the smartest and hardest-working high school students in South Carolina (and elsewhere) will like what they see here, and they’ll decide to come to Winthrop themselves,” Holder said.



Professor Disney (middle-right) and Provost Van Delden (middle-left) posing with Winthrop Model UN members via Instagram/@winthropucas



Keynote speaker Arthur Spirling speaking on April 2 via Instagram/@winthropucas



(From left to right) Mckenzie Unamboowe, Nevaeh Babb, Maegan McLaurin and David Ibragimov posing with their Best Delegate awards photo via SRMUN



Asheville Mountain Boys performing at Winthrop Lake for “Hops in the Park” on April 5

photo by Jackson Stanton



Mother Goose reading to children at “Sundaes with Glen and Mother Goose” on April 6

photo by Evi Houston



Glen and Glinda preparing for the parade on April 3

photo by Clark Vilardebo



Concert at the Veterans Wall in Glencairn Garden on April 8

photo by Clark Vilardebo