



Winthrop University

April 24, 2025

Rock Hill, SC

SGA PRESIDENT OP-ED

Newly elected SGA president Victoria Williams and vice president Emany Roach share their goals and values for 2025-26

PROFESSOR PROFILE

Professor profile's are back! See which professor staff writer Mia Molfetta sat down and talked with on page 4

LIMESTONE CLOSING ITS DOORS?

The historic South Carolina college is at risk of shutting down, but how could this affect Winthrop? See how on page 6



Sign outside of the Sellers House, which is now being used by U.S. Representative Ralph Norman

photo by Zachary Bell

Winthrop's Student-Made shop opens in downtown Rock Hill

Located inside the Hickory Post shop on Main St., Winthrop student artists and creatives participate in selling their work and establishing their own businesses.



Outside of the Student-Made booth inside the Hickory Post

photo by Jackson Stanton

Winthrop for rent? U.S. Representative Ralph Norman's new office is in the Sellers House

Norman is currently a sitting politician as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and represents South Carolina's 5th district – which includes Rock Hill.

Zachary Bell
News Editor

In a first for Winthrop, the university is leasing out one of its properties to a sitting Congressman. On March 1, the office of Congressman Ralph Norman moved into the Sellers House. In an email sent out to university administrators, President Serna justified the move as a financial opportunity for the university:

"This is an opportunity for Winthrop to bring in revenue on a property in the periphery of campus," Serna wrote.

The Sellers House, located on Oakland Avenue, was originally the Office of University Events. With Norman moving in, the Office has been relocated to Tillman Hall. According to Serna, this was a necessary move that will bring Winthrop employees closer to the heart of campus.

The relationship between Winthrop and the Congressman is a Governmental Lease. It began on March 1, 2025, and extends through December 31, 2026, according to a statement provided to the Johnsonian

from Kevin Butler, Winthrop's vice president for finance and business affairs. Winthrop will collect \$3,200 in rent each month. In return, the Congressman and his staff will conduct official duties.

Congressman Ralph Norman expressed his excitement about the new office in an official communication shared on his website. However, there was no explanation for his choice in location.

When asked why the Congressman moved into the Sellers House, Sophie Lyczek, the Congressman's press

secretary, said there was "no particular reason."

According to Lyczek, Winthrop was eager to rent to the Congressman, saying, "Winthrop was very happy to work with us."

Light renovations have been made to the Sellers House since the Congressman moved in, including an all new wooden back deck. Asked about the renter-relationship between a public university and politician, Lyczek reiterated Winthrop's history of leasing out

Cont. on pg. 2

Returning Winthrop students share their grievances with housing for the upcoming school year

Many upperclassmen are disappointed over Winthrop's recent residence life drama, which includes a system software failure and a controversial decision for freshmen living on campus.

Omar Woods
Staff Writer

As the semester draws to a close, housing selections for students for the upcoming school year are opening up. The process to choose housing has been relatively simple in previous years: go into Wingspan, click on Eaglenest Housing, and continue the housing selection process from

there.

This year, however, the housing process has faced numerous changes. Returning students have been heavily critical in voicing their complaints about the problems plaguing the housing process, many of which have left students scrambling to fix their housing assignments for the next school year. One of the main

complaints students had was regarding the lottery process and how it affected upperclassmen.

"The situation is a lot and I think it was very unfair, especially with the lottery, and it did a lot of students dirty," Zoe Hartsfield, a sophomore, said. "They used to not have a lottery for a reason. It gives you a slot and automatically that ruins it for people, especially

for third years."

Many upperclassmen who hoped for an apartment-style room in Walk2Campus were unable to receive the room assignments due to two of the floors being reserved for the incoming freshmen. Some returning students found themselves back in residential halls such as Lee Wicker and

Cont. on pg. 2

Gabriela Griggs
Staff Writer

Student-Made, a program created to help university artists flourish and establish their own student business, has officially been established at Winthrop University. The Student-Made mission is "to partner with colleges and universities in providing an effective and entirely student-run platform for entrepreneurial students to reach supporters on their campus, and our growing network of campuses."

Officially, 12 Winthrop students are currently involved with the local Student-Made program. The program highlights those proficient in illustration, digital art, apparel, fiber arts, and even services, with Winthrop freshman Morgan Henderson partnering with Student-Made and offering creative hair styling services.

Students participating in creating shops through Student-Made started out with "pop-up shops" – small, temporary market

stands on campus, downtown or both.

While Student-Made Rock Hill offers an online shop, these pop-ups made it possible for students and customers to have a more tangible shopping experience before they made decisions.

On April 15, Student-Made Rock Hill opened a storefront downtown at The Hickory Post on 202 East Main St. Now, students offering physical products and services have a permanent building they can operate and sell from, instead of strictly relying on small pop-up opportunities for the community to see their businesses.

Highlighting student artists and providing them with an environment to have their work seen and sold is an extremely valuable opportunity for students looking to establish themselves as creators before they graduate.

One student creator in particular, Natalie Staub, is a Winthrop senior and Illustration major with a shop called "Star of Seadust Art." The name comes

Cont. on pg. 4

Police Blotter



Evi Houston
Staff Writer

Roommate feels threatened by taser

A resident of Phelps Hall called WUPD on April 20 regarding her roommate using a taser in the room. The caller felt threatened by the event, although her roommate claimed she had asked first to get permission to “check her taser” and thought it would be okay. The subject has been referred to meet with the Dean.

Shoplifting at Oakland Ave. 7/11

WUPD was called to respond to a shoplifting incident at the 7/11 on Oakland Ave. early on April 18. The subject left the gas station with three cases of Modelo beer and a hat without paying. The case is being handled by RHPD.

Former track player tresspasses

After being kicked off the Winthrop track and field team, a former player showed up to practice on the morning of April 16. The coach demanded they leave the Track and Soccer Complex and reported the incident to police, who issued a trespass warning and set up a meeting with the Dean.

Personal information posted on Fizz

A resident of Lee Wicker Hall reported to police her fears of being threatened on the social media app Fizz on April 15. An anonymous user had posted information about her vehicle, permit and license plate number. No action was taken but the student was advised to contact WUPD if things escalated.

Underage drinking at prom

Police were given tips about possible underage drinking happening at a prom held on campus on April 12. Students were found and identified in a car in the Cherry Road parking lot. Parents later arrived and took control of the vehicle.



mytjnow.com

Ralph Norman renting out Sellers I Cont. from pg. 1

properties, such as sporting venues and event spaces. This justification is not unlike Butler’s answer.

Although Winthrop has engaged in many short-term leases, Winthrop has not engaged in many long-term leases. According to Butler, Winthrop is actively searching for similarly profitable relationships.

“Winthrop will continue to explore ways to monetize the real property assets of

the institution,” Butler said.

Not long after the Congressman moved in, protesters began gathering outside the new office. According to Thomas McDow, who runs an attorney’s office next door to the Sellers House, there have been protests every single Monday outside Sellers on the corner of Oakland Ave. and Stewart Ave.

Congressman Ralph Norman’s arrival

comes two years after Winthrop hired former Republican State Representative, Gary Simrill. Simrill, a Winthrop alumnus, serves as the special assistant to the president for community engagement.

During his time in the State House, Simrill represented South Carolina’s 46th District, which overlaps with Congressman Ralph Norman’s 5th Congressional

District.

When Simrill came to Winthrop in 2022, he shared his vision for Winthrop. He imagined bringing together business partners, employers and entrepreneurs in York County, as well as political leaders and other higher education institutions.

According to an article published by Winthrop in 2022, Simrill emphasized bringing community leaders to campus:

“He looks forward to bringing politicians, community leaders, college presidents and others to visit the campus to collaborate on partnerships or to participate in a speaker series with the university-based John C. West Forum on Politics and Policy.”

The Johnsonian contacted Simrill about Congressman Norman’s office but received no answer at the time of publication.



Sign placed on the back entrance of the Sellers House, indicating it’s now being used by Rep. Norman

photo by Zachary Bell



Back entrance of the Sellers House, with the all new wooden back deck in view

photo by Zachary Bell

Residence Life situation I Cont. from pg. 1

Thomson Hall because of this arrangement.

“It’s really sad for upperclassmen to stay in dorm style when we already stayed in dorms for two years, like we were supposed to,” junior Paris Johnson said. “The upcoming sophomore and freshman now have apartment style, so I feel that really does suck for us.”

When some students

found out that their room assignment was not what they had applied for and took to Residence Life about the issue, they were informed about a glitch in the system that resulted in the botched housing assignments.

“I heard a lot of people’s housing got messed up,” Johnson said. “Some people in CampusWalk could not

rechoose their room like we could last year. Those same people ended up in Lee Wicker or Thomson.”

Apart from concerns about issues with choosing housing, countless students felt that Residence Life was not treating these issues with enough urgency. Some students believed that there was little to no communication about

the glitch within the housing selection system.

“I do not think it’s fair that people are getting their room assignments messed up, and they [Residence Life] are like, ‘This is perfectly fine, it’ll get fixed,’” said Nicholas Sharp, a senior. “But when is it getting fixed, though? There is little to no communication on that part.”

So far, some students have been able to get the housing they desired, while others are still dealing with the aftereffects of the housing crisis.

The Johnsonian reached out to Residence Life for more information about these current issues with the housing process, but received no answer at the time of publication.



Outside the entrance to Courtyard

photo by Jackson Stanton

South Carolina state solicitor and former Democrat David Pascoe joins the GOP

Many believe the move was made to prepare for the attorney general race in 2026.

Evi Houston
Staff Writer

South Carolina solicitor and longtime Democrat David Pascoe announced on April 10 that he will be changing party affiliation to join the GOP. This coincides with the solicitor’s interest to desert his long-held position and potentially run for the statewide attorney heneral office in 2026.

Pascoe has served as solicitor for South Carolina’s first judicial circuit for over twenty years, representing Orangeburg, Calhoun, and Dorchester counties. All throughout this position Pascoe has identified as a Democrat, notably endorsing Joe Biden for president in 2020.

The solicitor also has a history

of investigating corruption within the GOP, overseeing the conviction of multiple influential Republicans in the South Carolina General Assembly.

Despite these affiliations, Pascoe explained in a press release to announce his move to the Republican party that the Democrat Party no longer aligned with his personal values. These

include views against illegal immigration, abortion and gun control.

“I could no longer in good conscience wear the label Democrat,” Pascoe said, adding that, “I am not changing my principles for a party or a person.”

Pascoe’s character as a solicitor and approach to law enforcement may better suit current Republican

stances, as he considers himself tough on crime and endorses the death penalty. He has also previously supported Republican candidates for law enforcement positions, saying, “Public safety should transcend party and partisan lines.”

The solicitor’s identification with the GOP was welcomed

Cont. on pg. 6



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Student-Made shop | Cont. from pg. 1

from the meanings of her middle and last name, with Marie meaning “star of the sea” and Staub being the German word for “dust.”

“[Student-Made] reached out to me through Instagram, and I decided to join because it seemed like a good opportunity to get my art out there a little bit more and practice running a business in a supportive community,” Staub said when asked about what inspired her to join.

Landon Lucero, a Winthrop sophomore Accounting major, operates his own secondhand clothing business with Student-Made. Called “LandoLakes Vintage,” his business mission is “to provide fashionable secondhand clothing to people in order to reduce clothing waste and provide clothing for cheap.”

“I got involved with Student-Made just by scrolling through

Instagram and finding their posts,” Lucero said. “They seemed like something that could benefit not only my school life but also my personal life so I took that opportunity and ran.”

This attention to student creators became even more important following the recent promotion of AI art by Winthrop University, despite the university’s strict guidelines surrounding the use of AI in coursework.

On April 15, the same day the Student-Made storefront had its soft opening, the Winthrop University Instagram page posted an AI-generated image of a Big Stuff figurine, with the caption: “The Big Stuff Starter Pack. Additional accessories sold separately... [Made using AI + Design Chair mods ;)]”

This move evoked frustration and outrage from students across campus. With the

way that AI use has generally been regarded by the university, many students were confused at seeing the same university using it.

The post still remains up, but has since had the comments turned off. This has not prevented students from speaking out, as the post has over 150 shares from students frustrated and taking to their Instagram stories to voice their opinions.

Many students also took to Yik Yak to air

out their frustrations.

One student wrote, “So here’s food for thought: if you run a design department and want your students to have something to put on their portfolio, have a design contest or something for social media posts.”

Another wrote, “Completely disgusted by the design department’s chair contribution to AI art. Just shows they only want your money at the end of the day.”



Inside the Student-Made booth, photo by Jackson Stanton located in the Hickory Post store

One student in particular anonymously created their own version of the Instagram post and posted it to the site as well.

Following the outcry against the university’s use and promotion of AI-generated artwork, now is the perfect time to engage with Rock Hill’s Student-Made program, full of talented, creative, and dedicated Winthrop students.

An upcoming challenge with the rise of computer generated artwork is ensuring that students are still allocated possibilities to both grow and promote their own handmade creations and pieces. Student-Made has chosen a perfect time to begin their program at Winthrop, a notion agreed upon by many of the participating students.

“I think it’s pretty valuable that [Student-Made] has come now, especially

with AI as a rising problem, specifically at Winthrop as well, so it’s nice to have an organization that focuses on handmade products and individual businesses,” Staub said.

“Curating a space for student made and produced work/products is amazing because of the opportunities that student made gives to push these small businesses and their handcrafted products into our community,” Lucero said.

The Student-Made Rock Hill online store officially closes on May 2, 2025, for the summer. The storefront downtown will remain open as students will continue to submit inventory in the months to follow. The local pop-ups will also continue, with even more information, specifics, and updates available on the program’s Instagram page, @studentmade_rockhill.

Professor profile: Dr. Ginger Williams

Mia Molfetta
Staff Writer

Dr. Ginger Williams is a well-known history professor at Winthrop University. She teaches Latin-American History and peace studies courses.

Beyond being a history professor, Williams is a part of many different involvements that Winthrop has to offer.

Williams is the Director of the Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution Program, which is offered as a minor. The Program was created to build a foundation of practical knowledge and theoretical understanding to build more peaceful societies.

Williams is also the Director of the Individualized Studies Program, designed

for students who want to curate their own academic program built on untraditional interdisciplinary approaches.

In an interview, Dr. Williams discussed her journey and personal experiences at Winthrop.

When asked about her past education and work experience, Williams said, “I am originally from Jacksonville, in Florida. I had always been in Florida. I went to Florida State and received my PhD from there in 1993.”

She continued, “I started to work at Augusta College, now known as Augusta University, from 1996. I had stayed in Augusta because it was close to family and life at the time, but then I

outgrew it with time.”

Williams moved on to discuss her admiration for Latin-American history.

“I had gone into college being a History major. I had always enjoyed it. I don’t remember when I started to enjoy it, but I really became passionate about it in college with learning about Latin-American History with the then-present fight against their dictatorship occurring while I was in school.”

Pivoting the conversation back to Winthrop, Williams discussed how she found her way here.

“I picked Winthrop University because of being so used to city life. I found Augusta so far from a city, the nearest one being

Atlanta, and I wanted to be closer than two hours.”

She continued, “So when I found Winthrop, I found Rock Hill, and you cannot beat how close it is to Charlotte.”

This year will be Williams’ 29 year here at Winthrop.

Finally, Williams talked about the Individualized Studies Program.

“The program originally started in 2013, and it was not talked about much, nor brought to light much, until 2017. We started to form a campus-wide presence and really got ourselves out there, and it worked.”

Williams began directing the program in 2017 and is retiring from the role at the end of this academic year.



Dr. Ginger Williams Photo via winthrop.edu

She continued, “The Program is built on helping students for what they want their degree in specifically. They can take classes from one major to another because of

something they want to do as a career after college. This makes our school stand out in a way because it brings creativity, involving variety, and diversity of careers and studies.”

NPHC Greek Life recap: Alpha Phi Alpha

Members of Alpha Phi Alpha share their favorite memories from this school year and what they enjoy most about being a part of the Divine Nine.

Riley Brodie
AC&T Editor

The National Panhellenic Council – also referred to as Divine Nine Organizations, or Black Greek Letter Organizations – greatly contribute to Winthrop’s overall environment. NPHC organizations continue to work towards both the betterment of their members as well as the betterment of their communities as a whole.

Alpha Phi Alpha was

the first historically Black intercollegiate fraternity to be established. It was founded on December 4, 1906 at Cornell University, during a time of widespread segregation and racial discrimination. The fraternity was founded by seven college men, to facilitate close bonds of brotherhood for African American college students.

Two members of the Xi Phi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Inc. at Winthrop University took the time to give

insight into their organization and share their experiences within it.

Alvin Monte’ Curry currently serves as the president of the Xi Phi Chapter of AΦA. He has additional involvement in Collegiate 4-H, National Association for Black Journalists, and Student Government Association as Residential Student Representative.

Curry has family members who have also been members of Greek organizations.

“My mother is a part of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and my sister is a part of Zeta Phi Beta sorority,” he shared.

In regards to AΦA, Curry said, “This legacy means to continue to put service first and that showing up is not enough. You must put effort in everything you do.”

“Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. fosters a leadership development environment for all brothers that will uplift young men going into adulthood. It ensures

that members put service, academics, and brotherhood before anything to continue to run a successful fraternity,” Curry said.

Xi Phi’s Alpha Phi Alpha chapter’s hardwork has been recognized throughout this past year.

“We’ve had [a] chapter of the month in September of last year and February of this year,” Curry said.

Curry has grown throughout his time as an AΦA.

“I am most proud of keeping everything

organized within the chapter and it has allowed me to grow comfortable with conversing with other black men. I am usually anxious but it has helped me overcome this overwhelming feeling of nervousness”

Curry’s overall appreciation for his brothers is evident. He described the brotherhood as “strong and genuine”, stating, “My brothers can let me know if they need anything.”

Cont. on pg. 7

Winthrop can't wait: Now is the T.I.M.E to move Winthrop FORWARD

Newly elected SGA President Victoria Williams and Vice President Emany Roach talk directly to the student body about their goals leading the student government.

Victoria Williams
Guest Writer
Emany Roach
Guest Writer

First, thank you. As we start our Op-Ed, we want to show our gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to serve our Winthrop student body. Our campaign would not have been possible without the support and trust of our Winthrop community. We do not take your trust and our responsibilities lightly, and we are both ready to move Winthrop FORWARD. Our campaign was an incredible journey. It

all began with both of us spending countless hours planning, strategizing and organizing every aspect of our campaign. We knew we had a vision for the institution, and we wanted to craft it in a way that every student could receive and understand. We wanted to create a campaign that united our campus community and was truly for the advancement of all Winthrop students. Every campaign event, from Field Day on the Green, hosting a Lip Sync Battle at the Edge, Pancakes and

Policies in the Main Lobby, and more. We envisioned our 
photo of Victoria Williams (left) and Emany Roach (right), via Victoria Williams campaign to reflect the beacon of the institution, the student body, and how strong our campus community

is when united under one movement, FORWARD. This is not the end of our campaign, it is the start of a new chapter for SGA and Winthrop. We are committed to not only serving as a bridge between students and administration, but we are ready to launch initiatives that will Transform, Invest, Maximize and Empower the Winthrop community. This summer, we will both work to launch these initiatives and platform points, and work with the SGA to create a year of action,

impact and change. We want to create a campus where every student feels seen and heard. We will continue to work so that every student feels valued and respected. Throughout our campaign, we had amazing conversations and feedback from students on how we can all work together to move Winthrop FORWARD. Now that we are elected, the work that we do in SGA will be impossible without hearing from you, the student body. We want to keep the energy and conversations going.

Throughout our term feel free to reach out, give feedback, attend meetings, and more. It will take all of us united together, to continue to cultivate and strengthen our campus culture, and move Winthrop FORWARD. We will lead with integrity, transparency and inclusivity at the forefront, as we work to transform, invest, maximize and empower our institution. This commitment did not end at the election results; We are ready to put in the work, and show up for EVERY student, EVERY day.

RFK Jr.'s comments on autism aren't just wrong – they're deadly

Clark Vilardebo
Editor-in-Chief

When the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services is announcing a news conference, most people would assume it's to go over something important. Perhaps a new scientific breakthrough, or an update on a highly transmissible disease. Instead, the American public gets a glorified episode of the Joe Rogan podcast, full of conspiracy theories and exaggerations about autism. On April 16, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. spoke at the Center of Disease Control after the agency filed a new report showing that autism rates had increased to one in 31 among 8-year-olds. During this conference, Kennedy made multiple disparaging comments and claims about autism and people with it. Blaming environmental risks, dismissing the idea of better diagnostic tools leading to higher diagnosis rates as “indefensible” and calling autism a “disease.” His most notable

quote from the press conference was when he made a sweeping generalization of children with autism, saying: “They’ll never pay taxes, they’ll never hold a job, they’ll never play baseball, they’ll never write a poem, they’ll never go out on a date. Many of them will never use a toilet unassisted.” To put it as bluntly as possible: the way Kennedy views autism and people with it is straight out of Nazi Germany. I’m sure a lot of people are familiar with the term Asperger’s syndrome – a now retired description for people with what was described as “high-functioning autism.” However, what many people don’t know is the person it’s named after has deep ties to Nazi Germany and eugenics. Hans Asperger, an Austrian doctor during the Nazi regime, conducted experiments on children and described children with “distinct psychological characteristics as ‘autistic psychopaths,’” according to the medical journal Molecular Autism.

Asperger also published his research about 5 years before Leo Kanner published his studies on autism. Asperger, like many others in the Nazi regime, had no desire to actually improve the lives of children with autism. Instead, he used them as lab rats and conducted forced sterilizations and played a big role in the child euthanasia program. Like RFK Jr., Asperger didn’t see autism as a neurodevelopmental disorder – but as a disease. Kennedy’s description and generalization of children with autism also come dangerously close to that of Asperger’s, even if he doesn’t outwardly refer to them as “psychopaths” like Asperger. Most importantly though, Kennedy’s words are cut and dry eugenics language. According to Merriam-Webster, eugenics is “the practice or advocacy of controlled selective breeding of human populations (as

by sterilization) to improve the populations’ genetic composition.” Now, I’m not saying Kennedy is advocating for sterilizations or has the same mindset of Henrich Himmler, but the language he uses comes across that way. Let’s start with his quote on children with autism not being able to pay taxes or hold a job. Kennedy is essentially saying children with autism aren’t truly living life, and to do so you must pay taxes or hold a job. While both of those things are major aspects of the human experience, they are not requisites to being able to take care of yourself. There are many people with autism who can do both of those things on their own, but even those who can’t still deserve to be seen as people. Besides, a good amount of neurotypical people already hate paying taxes and doing their jobs – so how is that a basis for being able to live an independent life? Kennedy is also incredibly out of touch with the comments on

not being able to “write a poem or pick up a baseball.” There are multiple sports programs for children with autism to participate in, as I can directly speak from experience on this. I have a younger cousin who participates in a program called Buddy Baseball, and he’s been doing that for the past few years now. Even if I didn’t have first hand experience though – does anyone truly believe that most children with autism couldn’t even pick up a baseball? Or write a poem? I think even my Republican and overall right-leaning peers know that this language is just plain wrong. I’m sure y’all have family members with autism – do y’all truly view them the same way as RFK Jr.? I believe the overwhelming answer would be “no.” The real dangerous part of his language however, is when he refers to autism as a “disease that needs a cure” and pledges to find one by September. This is how leaders in the Nazi party talked about anyone

who didn’t meet their Aryan criteria – Jewish, people with disabilities, Romani people and pretty much anyone who was not White, blonde and blue eyes. This idea of a “cure” sounds eerily similar to a “final solution.” And what exactly is this “cure” that Kennedy proposes? The fact of the matter is simply we have too much scientific research to still be talking like this – but we also have historical context as to why this language is dangerous. We’ve already seen multiple children die from measles because of Kennedy’s outspoken criticism of vaccines. How many children with autism are now going to be put in harm’s way because their parents heard Kennedy refer to it as a disease that needs a cure? I know parents and families of children with autism will speak out on this, but it’s time for those who don’t to use their voice. We cannot let elected officials with no background in the medical field make these decisions for our children.



HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. speaking at his news conference about autism on April 16

AP Photo/Jose Luis Mangana

David Pascoe | Cont. from pg. 2

by the Dorchester County Republican Party and many fellow Republican solicitors, applauding in approval of his attacks on Democrats as “extreme”, “radical”, and overly progressive in criminal justice practices.

Pascoe displayed pride in being attacked by Democratic leadership and advocating for the use of a firing squad in state executions, pandering to the opinions of his new party.

The South Carolina

Daily Gazette revealed soon after the event that Pascoe is likely interested in running for the state Attorney General position, which will be open for the first time in 16 years in 2026. Current Republican Attorney General Alan Wilson has stated that he is “considering” running for governor, which would then vacate the seat.

Party politics are critical when running for a state office in South Carolina. The Daily Gazette cites that the Attorney General

position has not been filled by a Democrat in 35 years, and a Democrat has not held a single state office since 2006.

Regardless of Pascoe’s true values and policy preferences, party identification is essential in statewide elections, particularly for down-ballot voters. Any candidate running for the Attorney General position can evaluate their prospects based on their commitment to conservative values, particularly regarding violent crime,

immigration, and leniency on crime.

Dr. Scott Huffmon, professor of political science at Winthrop University, shared his thoughts on Pascoe’s recent announcements.

“People are looking at it as opportunistic,” Huffmon said, but what he really wonders is “when was he doing the pretending?”

Huffmon speculates that the solicitor might have been a Republican all along, but claimed the Democratic label to gain votes in his

district.

He cited multiple instances of candidates switching to the Republican party to accommodate for their values and run for state offices, including Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and Tricia Cotham of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Cothman’s switch in 2023 was particularly influential, as it gave Republicans a supermajority in the North Carolina House, Huffmon explained.

The professor predicts Pascoe will face criticism from voters

for being ambiguous in his stances and potentially lacking in values. When asked about a potential run for Attorney General, Huffmon said that yes, “He is probably about to start exploring that,” by setting up a committee to determine his viability in the state.

With over a year until midterm elections, Pascoe and his team have time to refine a Republican image to appeal to South Carolina voters if he so chooses to pursue the position.

Limestone University to cease campus operations according to WARN notice

Limestone employees were given advance notice that the campus will close April 30, and over 450 employees will be affected.

Chase Duncan
Managing Editor

Limestone University employees were given advance notice on April 17 that the college will permanently close its campus in Gaffney, South Carolina, at the end of the month.

The Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act of 1988 is a US labor law that requires most employers with more than 100 employees to notify workers at least 60 days ahead of planned mass layoffs or plant/location closures.

Limestone employees were informed that 478 employees would be affected by the college campus permanently closing the campus on April 30, 2025, via a WARN notice and a letter from the university providing further information on the closure.

“All the employees have been notified of their anticipated separation of April 30, 2025, and that if they are separated from employment, that separation will be permanent,” said the WARN letter.

“Employees have likewise been notified that Limestone does not yet know which employees will retain employment after April

30, 2025, and will not have that information until at least April 22, 2025, when Limestone’s Board of Trustees decides whether to continue online programs or to close Limestone completely.”

The letter said the notice of the university’s potential closure was released at the earliest possible opportunity after it was certain that all avenues to obtain funding through legitimate means, and that releasing information about Limestone’s funding needs earlier could have jeopardized other routes of funding.

The letter also noted that “none of the affected employees are represented by a union.”

Limestone University is a private, non-denominational Christian college established in 1845 that holds the distinction of being South Carolina’s first women’s college. The school admitted students for its first Masters program in 2012.

Limestone’s financial issues stem from “lower enrollment rates, rising costs and long-standing structural pressures facing small, private institutions,” according to the school’s website.

The Post and Courier reported that Limestone University is \$30 million in debt in part due to a federal civil lawsuit filed by nine former student athletes from out-of-state universities against the university and its former employee Collins Murphy.

“These cases arise from incidents occurring in the fall of 2012 at Limestone University, formerly Limestone College, in Gaffney, South Carolina,” the lawsuit says. “Plaintiffs were members of the women’s field hockey teams at Bellarmine University and the Indiana University of Pennsylvania that traveled to Limestone for competition. Id. At the time, Defendant Collins Murphy (“Murphy”) was working as the Director of Intramural Sports and Summer Conferences at Limestone when, on various occasions in the fall of 2012, he secretly placed a video camera in the locker room on campus designated for Plaintiffs’ use and recorded Plaintiffs while dressing and showering without their knowledge or consent.”

The lawsuit states

that at some time in 2019, the recordings of the student athletes were published online and distributed to “countless pornographic websites”. The lawsuit also alleged that the private limited liability company MG Freesites participated in publishing and profiting off of the illegally filmed videos.

“Plaintiffs filed suit in this Court alleging claims for violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (“TVPRA”), violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (“RICO”), invasion of privacy, intentional infliction of emotional distress, various types of negligence, false light, and civil conspiracy,” the lawsuit said.

Winthrop University’s Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing Joseph Miller said that WU is still waiting to hear from Limestone officials to give a lead on how they want partner institutions to proceed in regards to their closing, but that the university is ready to help anyway that they can, with care and dignity.

“We want to help support them and their students and their faculty in the transition and kind of lean into our shared educational mission,” Miller said. “Because a lot of those students, if they do, in fact, decide to close, then those students are going to need to find a new academic home, just based on the announcement and the press information that was released last week.”

Miller said he has been in contact with Limestone’s Vice President for Enrollment Management Travis McDowell about Winthrop attending the school’s teach out college fair on April 25, which will invite other universities’ transfer teams to visit the college and talk to student about their transfer options to other colleges they might be interested in.

“So really, it will require our leadership team working with their leadership team to try to put a coordinated plan together,” Miller said. “Because the other side of this too is, you know, this is part of our accreditation standards with our regional accreditor SACS. When an

institution closes, they have to put together a teach out plan for their students, along with their regional accreditor. So a lot of it is not just institution to institution coordination, but also coordination with our regional accreditor, SACSCOC.”

Miller said the number one question on his mind regarding how transferring students from Limestone might take place is where exactly they’ll receive their degrees from; from Winthrop or Limestone.

“What kind of degree will that be for those students?,” Miller said. “Will there be a reverse articulation that will allow those students to take courses at Winthrop and then still earn their Limestone degree? Or will they do a full transfer to Winthrop and then become Winthrop students and earn a Winthrop degree? So that’s one piece that’s sort of the question mark on the table right now as we work with not only Limestone, but SACSCOC, the accreditation, trying to figure out how that degree completion teach out plan will work.”



Photo of the Curtis Building, Limestone’s main building, with the year the school was created in view

photo via counton2.com

Greek life recap | Cont. from pg. 4

“I would like to shout out Nick Guinyard because he shows up over and beyond for the chapter and it is admirable because he does the same with every single organization he is in,” continued Curry.

The second member who spoke in regards to AΦA is Nick Guinyard. Guinyard is a junior AΦA brother studying sociology and criminology.

Guinyard has taken on multiple leadership roles outside of and within AΦA.

Outside of AΦA, Guinyard serves as the Vice President of Order of Omega, a leadership honor society for undergraduate members of fraternities and sororities, and the Sergeant of Arms for the NPHC executive council. Additionally, Gunfield works as a residential assistant, orientation leader, and Winthrop University Student Ambassador.

Within AΦA, Guinyard currently holds the positions of secretary, historian and director of educational activities.

He described his secretary position as his “main job.”

“I take notes of every single thing that is said during a meeting. If someone puts something up to vote, I have to take note of that – who says it, who votes against it, who votes for it, just pretty much anything that is said or anything that happens in a meeting. I

need to record all of it, because in the future, if that comes back as a topic of discussion, we can go back to those notes.”

For his role as historian, Guinyard runs his chapter’s social media and newsletter, The Sphinx.

“I feel most proud of the fact that our advertising quality has improved during my time as the historian, and we have gained over 1,500 followers within the past year in which I have been over our social media,” he said.

Lastly, as director of educational activities, Guinyard primarily ensures his brothers are maintaining their GPA and coordinates group study times. He also hosts their annual “Importance of Black Educators” cultural event.

“The Importance of Black Educators’ event consisted of a panel of black individuals in the special education field with one being the director of special education for Rock Hill, one working with the gifted and talented program, and one who works with students who need extra help in the classroom. They covered a lot of their experiences as a black educator and how that can foster a great and different relationship with students of the same background. With Winthrop being a primarily teaching school at heart, this event resonated with

a lot of students,” Guinyard said.

The Psi Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, has hosted several other Cultural Events throughout the past school year.

““Feelings Phirst” focused on mental health, why it’s important to take care of it, and ways to do so. This event consisted of a panel of the CSL president, a residential assistant, the NAMI representative, a social work professor, and Shiggs. It was an amazing event,” Guinyard shared.

He continued, ““Protect Your Jewels” focused on sexual health, information on different STD’s and STI’s, how to have safe sex, and how to get tested. This event also consisted of a representative from Affinity Health that gave a presentation on all of these aforementioned aspects.”

This past year, the fraternity has hosted “Stroll Like An Alpha” and the “Neophyte Presentation”. They also held their annual “MLK Candlelight Vigil.”

Gunfeild briefly touched on probates.

“New Member Presentations are a very special event for those within the Divine 9. The point of the presentation is to reveal to the world the new members of a respective organization at said chapter. Attendance of these

events are open to the public and are not exclusive to the black or D9 community.”

Alpha Phi Alpha Inc. has multiple national programs.

“Go to High School, go to College,” emphasizes the importance of reaching for higher education. We also have “A Voteless People is a Hopeless People” which pushes for the further understanding of voting in any election and that we can’t progress as a community without using our voice to vote. There are other programs, but these are the two I wanted to highlight,” Guinyard stated.

AΦA prioritizes service. They have participated in the “Rolling In Rock Hill” project, to help paint houses in the community. They additionally volunteer at local schools and the Manna House periodically.

In order to uphold the standards of AΦA, brothers hold each other to a high standard. Guinyard described his brotherhood with the term “tough love”.

“In my organization, communication is key, so beating around the bush is something that doesn’t happen. If someone is doing something wrong, we let them know, if someone has a problem with someone else, we talk it out. It is all about growing that bond between each

other. It is a lifelong commitment after all,” Guinyard noted.

Guinyard emphasized the importance of both communication and accountability.

“This is more than just a fraternity, it’s a business- Alpha Phi Alpha incorporated, so I will be interacting with older brothers for a long time. If you don’t learn communication skills now, you will have a hard time communicating with people who work from different generations after college. You have to learn at the underlying level how to communicate your concerns, problems, any questions or forms of unreadiness that you might have,” he said.

“In terms of accountability, if you do something wrong and you realize it’s wrong, it’s okay to let your ego aside. You learn from those mistakes and have people who are honest with you and hold you accountable. Accountability and communication definitely go hand in hand,” Guinyard continued.

“With all of this, there has never been a time where I needed support in a dire situation that someone even thought twice about helping me. I know I can call on anyone within my organization for help in anything, and I will do the same,” he concluded.

Guinyard offered insight for individuals interested in joining an

NPHC organization.

“Once you do your research and decide which organization you want to join, study a little bit of their information - like their founders, where and when they were founded, etc. Follow their social media, participate in their events and community service opportunities, and genuinely try to get to know members as people. Remember, that we are students just like everyone else at the end of the day.”

Guinyard additionally encouraged students to show interest in NPHC organizations, regardless of their race.

“I feel like a lot of people try to stay away from NPHC organizations because they think it’s only for Black people. I understand that because they are historically Black organizations, however, countless non-black members have joined in recent years,” he stated.

“I feel like it depends on the specific organization you are interested in, because some people have stronger feelings on this topic than others do. I personally love to see it happen, as long as you are putting in the work and showing interest in a proper way. Don’t be afraid to come to our events and interact with us,” Guinyard said.

All students are encouraged to support the D9 organizations.

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Here's to any even
better 2025-2026
school year!