

est. 1923

THE JOHNSONIAN



Feb. 26, 2026

Winthrop University

ACADEMIC COLLEGES RUMORED TO BE RECONSTRUCTED

Learn about the reconstruction of academic colleges with Provost van

Featured on Page 2

WINTHROP LACROSSE STARTS OFF WITH A BANG

After an opening statement win, Winthrop Lacrosse sets their tone.

Featured on Page 4

STUDENT DECISIONS AND ENGAGEMENT MATTERS ON CAMPUS

With the housing crisis at an all-time high, student voices matter most.

Featured on Page 5

Adaptation of first published play by an African-American playwright to hit Johnson stage

Closing February with the first theatrical performance of the semester and comments from members involved, including newcoming director, Dr. Marvin McAllister.

JOHNSON THEATRE 2026

THE ESCAPE; OR, A LEAP FOR FREEDOM

BY WILLIAM WELLS BROWN (1857)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25 - SATURDAY, FEB. 28 AT 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, MARCH 1 AT 2 p.m.

\$10 W/ WINTHROP ID | \$15 GENERAL PUBLIC

Graphic announcing schedule, featuring all actors and actresses in the play

Instagram via @winthroptheatre

Gabriela Griggs
AC&T Editor

Sydney Meetze
Staff Writer

The opening performance of “The Escape; or, A Leap for Freedom,” first released in 1858, was performed on the evening of Feb. 25 at the Johnson Theater. The play, written by writer and abolitionist William Wells Brown, follows the story of two enslaved lovers who secretly marry before making a desperate attempt to gain their freedom.

“The Escape” is widely considered to be the first play published by an African American writer. Though the play was published during the playwright’s lifetime, it was never performed in full while he was still living. Instead, W. W. Brown gained attention for his play by performing excerpts at abolitionist rallies and other public events.

Upcoming performances of “The Escape” are an adaptation of the original work, meaning there have been complex efforts from director and professor Dr. Marvin McAllister beyond those of a typical production.

“I think the most unique part of the adaptation has been highlighting and doing justice to the three different performance traditions W.W. Brown is playing with in his original,” McAllister said. “The first two traditions were blackface minstrelsy and melodrama, which

were very popular in the mid-19th century. The third is anti-slavery oration, which is kind of an antidote to degradation of blackface, and featured ‘professional fugitives’ like W.W. Brown telling their stories all over the world.”

Beyond protecting the traditions held at the core of “The Escape,” navigating language is another challenge faced by McAllister, who has been teaching the play throughout his career.

“The most challenging part of the adaptation was the language,” McAllister said. “Specifically, [figuring] out the right combination of blackface minstrel dialect and normal Black speech for the time. Brown’s original has [most of] the Black characters... speak in a blackface minstrel version of Black speech the entire [time], I didn’t want to put that on young 21st century actors, so I cleaned up the speech when the enslaved characters are speaking amongst themselves. Also, with language, nearly all of the white characters in the original play, use the N-word... so I had to find a way to get the essence of the word in there without [having] young white students actually say the word.”

“I have been teaching W.W. Brown play, in its original form and as an adaptation, for almost 30 years. Over these many years, students have discussed and written about this play from so many angles. I

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Student emotions still run high over Winthrop University’s housing crisis

Students shared their perspective through protest and the Student Government Association’s Residence Rundown Town Hall last week, expressing frustration over the lack of housing for upperclassmen on campus.

Evi Houston
News Editor

Students at Winthrop University have continued to voice their frustration since the University’s announcement in late January that juniors and seniors would not be guaranteed housing and would need to move off-campus next semester. This announcement blindsided many upperclassmen and has created transportation and financial strains which may interfere with their academic career.

In response to these concerns, Winthrop University’s Student Government Association partnered with

administrative figures to host The Residence Rundown Town Hall on Feb. 17. On their panel was Jarad Russel, James Grigg, Kevin Butler, and Sheila Burkhalter.

Notably, the Town Hall did restrict students from freely asking their questions and used an online form to submit questions. All questions asked were chosen and asked by the SGA based on their level of appropriateness. Some students still shouted out questions to the front of the auditorium, to no response.

On the morning of the event, some students protested the University’s handling of the housing

crisis on Campus Green to voice their concerns. Some protesters even brought their signs into the Town Hall to communicate directly with the administration.

Brianna McGriff, a junior majoring in sociology, joined the housing protest because she felt misled by the University, who previously advertised that housing would be provided to upperclassmen and then changed course. This decision has personally impacted her plans for the following year.

“I think that Winthrop should have been better prepared for a bigger freshman class and were

not taking into account students who live far away,” McGriff said.

McGriff also attended the Town Hall, which she said helped her understand the University’s thought process but was not what she expected.

“It did leave me feeling a lot more frustrated because they weren’t answering a lot of the questions [I had]. I feel like they could have addressed things better,” McGriff said.

How we got here

Vice President of Student Affairs Sheila Burkhalter explained the housing crisis

as a consequence of rebounding rather than overenrollment. The incoming class of 2030 is comparable to admissions numbers in 2018, a sign of health for the university, according to Burkhalter.

Burkhalter noted that

since the COVID-19 pandemic, upperclassmen have established a trend of staying on campus, which the University adjusted to by leasing out Walk2Campus apartments. The panelists

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Jarad Russell, Director of Resident Education speaking at Town Hall

Photo by Evi Houston

Bailey Wimberly | Editor-in-Chief

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Police Blotter



Chase Duncan
Copy Editor

Person caught smoking marijuana at DIGS loading docks

A WUPD officer observed a person parked illegally at the DiGorgio Campus Center loading docks on February 10 at approximately 2:05 p.m. When the officer approached the vehicle, the officer located the subject inside the vehicle smoking marijuana. The subject was issued a State Citation for the violation.

Student takes entire bottle of melatonin gummies, transported to PMC

A WUPD officer responded to Lee Wicker Hall on February 12 in reference to a student displaying signs of delayed responsiveness. EMS arrived at the scene and the student told the medical responders that he had taken an entire bottle of melatonin gummies. The student told EMTs that they were not trying to harm himself, but wished to be transported in the ambulance. They were taken to Piedmont Medical Center.

Scooter accidentally stolen in case of mistaken scooter identity

A WUPD officer responded to DIGS in reference to the potential theft of a scooter. The student who made the initial complaint said they accidentally took the wrong scooter because it looked very similar to theirs. The scooter was returned to its proper owner and the complainant retrieved their scooter as well.

Ghostly haunting inside DIGS bathroom stall???

A WUPD officer responded to the DiGorgio Campus Center at approximately 11:15 p.m. on Feb. 8 to a report of a person possibly remaining inside a bathroom stall past the building's closing hours. The officer found the stall door locked, and after knocking several times the officer unlocked the door. No one was there. The incident report was filed in the case log under the designation "Suspicious Activity."



mytjnow.com

Students and housing Cont.

expressed that they had exhausted all possible housing solutions, meaning students must look elsewhere.

"It became very clear, even with the 500 bed spaces in Campus Walk, we were not going to be able to house a large number of students," Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Residence Education Jarad Russell said at the Town Hall, discussing the University's decision making process at the end of 2025.

Discussions on housing began in October but were not finalized until January. After partnering with Apartment and Corporate Relocation Services, or ACRS, the University communicated their predicament to students on Jan. 27.

The numbers

During an executive committee meeting for the Board of Trustees on Feb. 12, Burkhalter shared how bed spaces will be split among the student body for the upcoming academic year.

In total, the University has 2,122 available bed spaces. An estimated 1,100 freshmen will take up these spaces next year, along with 871 sophomores. 129 of the remaining beds will be reserved for "operational hold".

Burkhalter's calculations then leave 22 beds for upperclassmen for the 2026-27 academic year. This is in stark contrast to the 451 upperclassmen who have expressed a need for housing and joined the University's waitlist as of Feb. 12.

"We're positioning ourselves to be able to manage as many people

on that waiting list as possible and give them an opportunity to live on campus," Burkhalter said.

Exempting rising sophomores from the two-year residency requirement is one strategy the administration hopes to use to open up more bed spaces for upperclassmen, but this has also not proved viable in numbers. On Feb. 12, only 33 students had requested to live off-campus for their sophomore year.

Winthrop's reasoning

Burkhalter said the housing decision is a sacrifice needed to maintain the profitability and stability of Winthrop University, so that investments can be made into student life on campus. This requires a growing freshmen class and, temporarily, the elimination of housing for upperclassmen.

"We have people in our midst right now whose institution closed because of a lack of enrollment, and that meant that their institution could not survive financially," Burkhalter said. She shared how the university was at risk of closing following the pandemic, if enrollment numbers had not started to increase.

The speaker recognized that this decision will have a personal effect on students and require trade-offs, although she hopes the University will prepare all students for success. The University feels it must prioritize Freshman and Sophomores so that they can adjust and mature, trusting that upperclassmen are more prepared to handle

off-campus living.

"We have done our best [...] to make sure that we could house you for as long as we could," Burkhalter said.

State of on-campus housing

When asked about issues with current student housing, such as mold and water damage, Vice President of Facilities James Grigg said that his team is working diligently to address maintenance issues, even when this requires hard decisions.

"Just because you see something does not immediately mean mold is dangerous and a concern," Grigg said. This was responded to with frustration and grumbling among the students present.

Students also asked about why the University tore down Richardson and Wofford Hall, two high-rise residence halls formerly facing Cherry Road. Grigg cited roof slab issues and water damage which potentially compromised the structure of Wofford Hall.

The state provided funding to demolish both buildings, although Grigg admits that only one hall had pressing structural issues. Due to past estimates of enrollment and maintenance issues with the building, saving Richardson Hall was no longer seen as necessary.

"Could we have envisioned that our enrollment would grow as rapidly as it has since then? No, no we didn't, but now we're in that process of trying to replace those buildings," Grigg said.

In addition to losing Wofford and Richardson Hall, Russell shared that

Roddey Hall will be closed next year, as the building puts a strain on Facilities Management and has "outlasted its lifespan by multiple years."

The university is focused on planning a new residence hall which will be ready for students during the Spring 2028 semester, according to current estimates. "Once that's up, we hope to be able to bring as many juniors and seniors back onto campus that wish to live on campus," said Russell.

The University is still in the process of selecting a contractor for the hall and will not break ground until the summer of 2027.

Solutions for students

Administrators cited student misunderstandings and a lack of education as a central problem with the housing crisis. Burkhalter shared this when meeting with the Board, explaining that affordability was not an issue if students were able to properly use their financial aid.

When asked about the use of outside scholarships on housing, rather than federal financial aid, Burkhalter claimed there to be no difference in terms of funding for students. "The resources that are used to pay for on campus housing will also be available to pay for off campus housing," she said.

Russell discussed different options for upperclassmen, including using ACRS to simplify the moving process, living at The Nest apartments, or finding another nearby apartment and sharing a room.

"There are dozens of apartment complexes in the area, you're looking at \$1,200 to \$1,700 split between four people, that's going to end up being much cheaper than on campus housing," Russell said.

ACRS has been promoted as a resource to find safe and affordable housing and ease transitions off campus, such as through bundling utilities. The service is funded by apartment complexes seeking to

advertise their building.

Russell responded to questions about transportation issues for students by saying "Rock Hill is unique in that it has a city bus system that is completely free, and the routes go pretty much everywhere in Rock Hill." He views this as a "viable option" for students living off campus without a car.

The panel was unresponsive to providing more commuter parking, arguing that there is enough parking, it is just not always in the places and of the nature that students would like.

There is no designated staff member to assist upperclassmen with housing, although the Board of Trustees is open to this idea. Students are welcome to meet with Residence Life for support at this time.

What's to come

The panel was asked directly about the likelihood of upperclassmen students getting on-campus housing next semester.

"I'm not expecting a huge number of spaces [for upperclassmen]," Russell said. The only potential chance of getting housing comes from sophomores choosing to live off campus, which would then allow for juniors and seniors to be pulled in from the waitlist.

Juniors and seniors will begin receiving waitlist notifications on March 1, but this process can only ensure housing for some students and will be given to those with the most credit hours.

Russell clarified that no exceptions would be made for any groups who need housing, including honors students and those asking for accommodations. Only those in their first and second years at Winthrop University (including transfer students) can be guaranteed housing.

Housing for juniors and seniors will remain an ongoing issue as the university continues to expand. "It will likely bleed into the following years, until we can get the new residence hall fully up and running," Russell said.



Students concerned about housing, signs created in response

Photo by Claire Meurent

Academic colleges are potentially getting restructured

Provost van Delden discussed with The Johnsonian how academic colleges at Winthrop may face potential restructuring in the coming years.

Caroline Smith
Staff Writer

Academic colleges at Winthrop University are at risk of being reorganized to allow for new majors, according to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Sebastian van Delden.

"Part of the driving factor of this, too, is to try and more intentionally go into key areas that Winthrop is perceived to be missing from the academic portfolio," Van Delden said. "And, there's two specific ones. One of them is health sciences and the other one is engineering."

These two potential additions to the academic colleges will require changing how the colleges are organized so that they are placed into a "parent college" with

other majors they share similarities with.

"These thought processes has nothing to do with the people at Winthrop, so if you are faculty, our department chairs, our dean, one hundred percent amazing colleagues [...] this potential restructuring has nothing to do with 'oh this person isn't doing a good job,' so we need to change something, but that's not it," Van Delden said.

Van Delden said the potential redistribution of colleges will hopefully organize majors together in a way that makes them better connected with each other and provide them with a clearer identity.

"The question that continues being asked is 'What's wrong with our current college structure?' [...] if you look at the

colleges we have now, and you look at the number of students in the colleges, and the faculty in the colleges, and the number of what we call 'credit hour production colleges', the number of all this kind of stuff," Van Delden said. "Things are a little out of balance."

Van Delden said that he has proposed adding a fifth academic college to the school, but the idea brings with it construction and hiring costs. Finding a donor could potentially soften the financial burden, but without a donor the proposal of a fifth academic college remains purely theoretical.

"We're still working on a donor [...] So, in the meantime, now fast forward almost two years, I think the reorg[anization] still needs to happen, but is

there a way to do it with only remaining with the four colleges," Van Delden said.

According to Winthrop's website, the current organization of the four main colleges are as follows: the College of Arts & Sciences houses 12 departments, the College of Business and Technology houses three, the Riley College of Education, Sport & Human Sciences houses four, and the College of Visual & Performing Arts houses six.

The Provost and his team's goal is to "cluster" together similar majors and fields more closely related to each other.

"This has been very transparent and we're nowhere near making any decisions because this takes a lot of conversations and work, but one of the overarching

goals would be to get the word 'engineering' in a college title," Van Delden said.

Van Delden proposed changing the College of Business and Technology into something including business, engineering, and technology, as the department has recently launched an engineering degree.

The provost is also interested in inserting the word 'health' into a college name, such as a college of health and natural sciences. This would include biology, chemistry, nutrition, and exercise science.

Van Delden clarified that these potential changes would not affect anything in regard to Residence Life or the renovations of Dinkins Hall and the Dacus

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“The Escape” play Cont.

have learned from these students what this play is really about. I literally learned how best to adapt the original play based on student, in-class reactions to the material,” McAllister said.

Recognizing the work put into making “The Escape” raises questions about why this work in particular was chosen for performance, instead of selecting a piece inherently more optimized for production without such hands-on work from those involved.

“In choosing this work, I wanted [a] piece that challenged our acting students to do something other than realism. Something more presentational than representational, because it requires different acting and performance muscles. It requires a greater separation [between] actor and role.”

McAllister said. “I also wanted to do a larger cast show to involve more people, especially actors who don’t typically get to be in mainstage shows. Related, I was looking for a show that had Black stories at the center, but included white actors, so we wouldn’t cut off half of the actors in the department. I [also] wanted a piece with historical weight that could honor and celebrate Black History Month. This campus doesn’t [seem] to do much with Black History month, I hope that can change.”

Students involved in the production, such as senior stage manager and filmmaker Ethan Ganzell and sophomore cast member Kai Brooks, also had much to say about their individual experiences with putting this production in motion.

“This show has been very different from other

shows I’ve worked on in the Winthrop theatre department in a lot of ways,” Ganzell said.

shows so regularly and often with the same staff members, there’s been a routine that has developed

“I am extremely proud of the whole escape team,” Brooks said. “Being part of this

[have] now been engraved in my acting self. I’ve built a lot of relationships within this

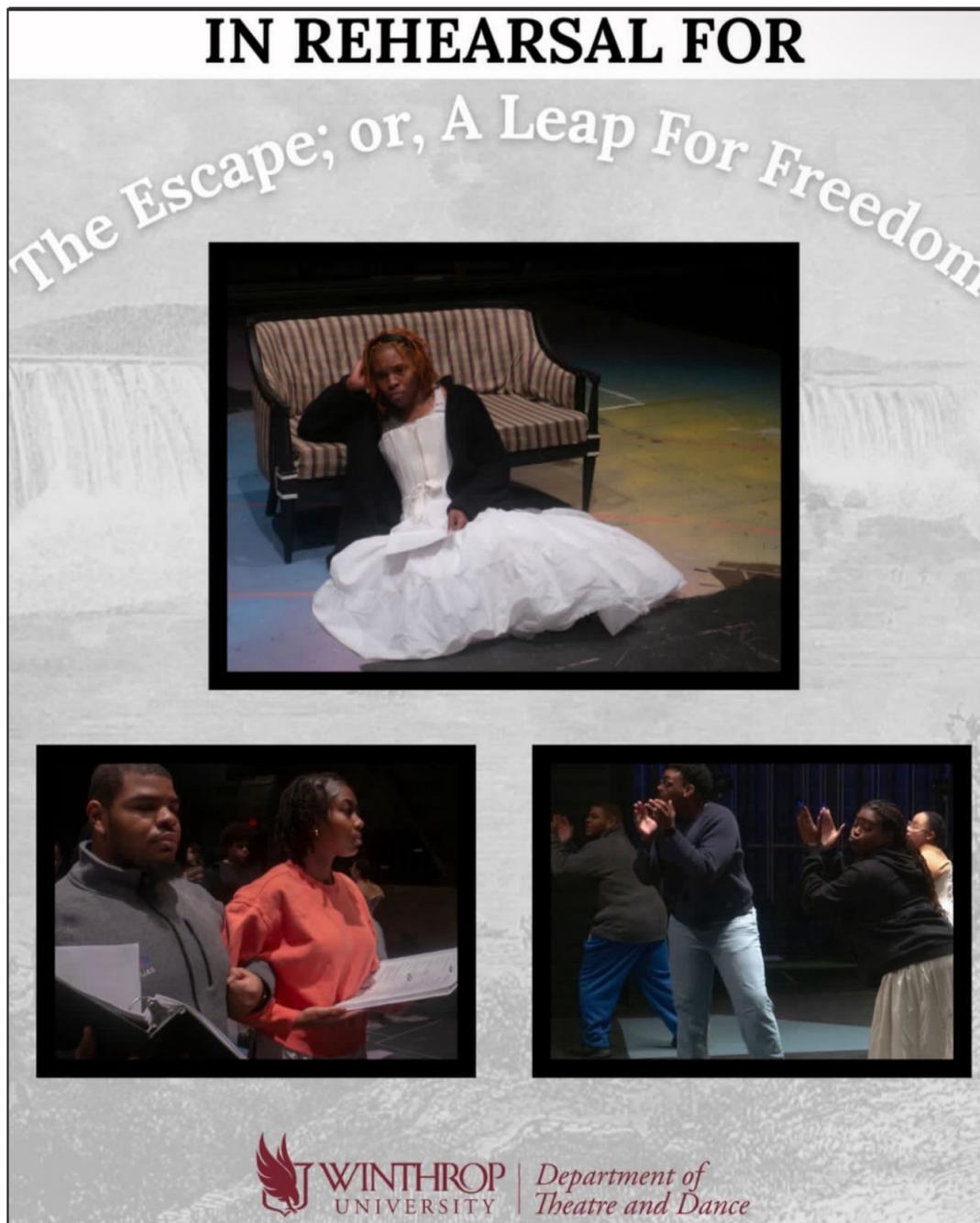
States politics, which is something that has not gone unnoticed by production members like Brooks and Ganzell.

“The things that are currently going on in the world [are] incredibly heartbreaking, and I think this story reflects that,” Brooks said. “While we are in a hard time, in the end, [we] will fight and win against all odds. I think it’s also important to showcase this production during black history month, [and] as a black actor this story connected to me on a different level. Knowing that this is based off a true story makes this not only a story, but a lens to [see] the reality of the situation.”

“The Escape is really the most unique show I’ve seen produced by Winthrop Theatre since I enrolled in the fall of 2023,” Ganzell said. “It’s probably the most collaborative I’ve seen a director be with students. The script itself is just so unique. A question that Dr. McAllister presents to his students in the classroom is ‘why this play now?’ which creates an understanding of why older plays are still relevant to us today. Out of Winthrop Theatre’s 2025-26 season, The Escape has the most obvious answer to that question.”

The final performance of the show will be held on March 1.

“It [has been] incredibly interesting to dive into the history of minstrel performance. There’s so much to learn from it [,] and at the start it had such an unsettling feeling to it. Questions went through my head like ‘Should I laugh?’ or ‘Am I portraying this correctly?’ When watching this production I think it’s important to keep an open mind, to listen thoroughly, and don’t be afraid to laugh!”



Rehearsal graphic for “The Escape”

Instagram via @winthroptheatre

“The biggest difference is that the director, Dr. McAllister, has never directed with this theatre department before. [Since] WU produces

over time. Working with someone who isn’t as aware of that routine has opened the door to us doing things a little differently than usual.”

production has been a, for a lack of better words, a weird journey. So many new learning techniques, like the Meisner technique or grid work,

cast and for that I’m extremely grateful.”

“The Escape” has walked on to the Winthrop stage during a tense time in United

Students welcome year of the Fire Horse with Lunar New Year event

A night of lion dancing and performances emphasize the importance of cultural awareness.

Zachary Bell
Managing Editor

Students gathered in Richardson Ballroom to celebrate the Lunar New Year in a festive night filled with dance, music, and delicious food.

The DiGiorgio Student Union (DSU), along with the Asian American Pacific Islander Organization (AAPi), hosted the event. Marcus Gonzalez, President of the DSU, spoke about the Lunar New Year’s role in promoting cultural awareness among Winthrop students.

“If we’re going to want to be better as people, we have got to be willing to see different aspects of life. It’s just about making people aware. All this stuff makes America the United States of America.”

The Lunar New Year is an ancient tradition celebrated in many Asian communities. Unlike the Western Gregorian calendar that revolves around the solar cycle, the Lunar New Year is based on the lunar cycle.

This year, the Lunar New Year’s celebration falls on February 17, marking the year of the Fire Horse. Students received lucky red envelopes at the door that

symbolize joy and good fortune.

The festival opened with a thrilling performance by the Queen City Lion Dance team. Dressed in traditional gold and red lion costumes, the performers danced to the rhythm of a vigorous drumbeat, kicking and leaping around the ballroom in a display that is believed to bring good luck.

Vinh Tran, one of the performers with Queen City Lion Dance, talked about the cultural significance of the lion dance.

“We almost embody the animal itself. We are trying to ward off the evil spirits. It’s believed in our culture that these animals provide that protection. They prepare you and your family for the New Year.”

Tran, a Vietnamese American, learned about lion dancing from his youth group at the age of seven. Today, he educates himself and others on the importance of lion dancing.

“I just hope that [the students] have a great time watching the show. But I also hope that they get to learn a little about our Asian culture and Vietnamese tradition.”

Although the Lunar New Year originated in China 3,000 years ago, many different Asian cultures observe the Lunar New Year. Serena Eow, Chair of the Lectures and Diversity Committee at the DSU, grew up with a family that celebrated the Lunar New Year. Hosting an event offered a new perspective on the festivities.

“Hosting it here, especially on a University campus, brings a different perspective. People might have heard of it but never witnessed it,” Eow said. “You can say it’s an eye-opening experience for me as well. I’m learning to embrace how other people celebrate the Lunar New Year.”

It was through hosting this event that Eow learned that Cambodians celebrated the Lunar New Year. Representatives from the Cambodian Legacy Project spoke to students about Cambodian culture and festivals.

The Cambodian Legacy Project started their presentation with two dances. A 12-year-old girl performed an original dance that incorporated pieces of her Cambodian heritage and ballet experience.

“She is half-white and



Queen City Lion Dance performing at the Lunar New Year event

Photo by Zoey Molina

half-Cambodian,” said Eow. “The dance she created incorporates ballet and traditional Cambodian dance. This [dance] is her way of embracing both sides of herself. She’s accepting both the white part of her, and the Cambodian part of her.”

For Kaovny Jonas, the CEO and Co-Founder of the Cambodian Legacy Project, it is important for people to embrace all parts of their identity. Jonas herself is Chinese, Cambodian, and American.

“I don’t see myself as divided,” Jonas said. “I see myself as a bridge.”

Jonas painted a vivid picture of Lunar New Year celebrations in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, the quiet streets and incense burnt in honor of their ancestors. Dance, according to Jonas, is not just about entertainment: It’s a symbol of cultural resilience that keeps a historical legacy alive.

This year’s festival was an emotional moment for Gonzalez after last year’s Lunar New Year celebration had to be canceled due to budget cuts.

“I was disappointed when we couldn’t do it last year,” said Gonzalez.

“But we made up for it with this great turnout and these amazing people.”

For Austin Guo, a Junior, it is important that Winthrop continues to support cultural celebrations on campus. “They bring everyone out. There’re all these different backgrounds, and these events open people’s perspectives more.”

This year’s festivities became more than a celebration of the Lunar New Year. Through food, music, and dance, students were reminded of the many cultures that shape Winthrop’s community.

February 26, 2026

Winthrop lacrosse opens 2026 with statement win

After their opening statement win, women's lacrosse set the tone for the rest of their season.



Lily Davis in action for Winthrop's women lacrosse

Photo by Jackson Stanton

Maurion Jamison
Staff Writer

The Winthrop Eagles women's lacrosse team entered the heart of the 2026 season with early momentum and a clear identity shaped by discipline, efficiency and defensive effort. After opening the year with a statement win, Winthrop has positioned itself as a team capable of competing in close contests while maintaining composure under pressure.

The Eagles are shooting over 30 percent through the opening stretch of the season, a reflection of deliberate shot selection and patience within the offensive system. Head coach Hannah Potter emphasized those principles throughout preseason training, and the results are beginning to show in both production and confidence.

Senior defender Lily Davis said the strong start has reinforced the standard the team set in the fall.

"We came into this year expecting more from ourselves," Davis said. "The work we put in during conditioning and skill sessions built a level of trust. Shooting over thirty percent so

far shows that we are playing smart and together."

Davis added that the team's defensive focus has been equally important to sustaining success.

"Ground balls have been a priority for us," Davis said. "When we win those battles, we control tempo and give our offense more opportunities. That consistency can carry us through the season."

Attacker Tory Iannotti believes the early results provide a foundation rather than a peak.

"This start gives us confidence, but it also raises expectations," Iannotti said. "We know what we are capable of when we stay disciplined and communicate on defense. Now it is about building on that every week."

Iannotti pointed to accountability and film study as areas that will determine how far the team can go.

"Momentum only matters if you maintain it," Iannotti said. "We have the potential to do something special, but it comes down to staying consistent in the small details."

With conference play approaching, Winthrop's

blend of efficient scoring and aggressive defensive play has created optimism around the program. The early momentum does not guarantee results, but it provides a measurable standard and a sense of direction.

If the Eagles continue to execute with the same discipline and urgency that defined the opening weeks, 2026 could mark a significant step forward for the program.

The outlook for this season is informed by the team's performance in 2025. Winthrop finished 6-11 overall and 4-4 in conference play, showing moments of competitiveness while also identifying areas for growth. Several close games highlighted the importance of execution in critical moments, and returning players say those experiences have shaped how they approach preparation and accountability this year.

Instead of seeing last season as a disappointment, the Eagles are using it as motivation. The .500 record in conference play showed the team could compete, and this year the focus is on building consistency and refining the details that make a difference in tight games.

Displays of athletic success: Highlights from spring semester 2026 Winthrop sports

As the 2026 season continues, the Winthrop Eagles have shown its fighting spirit across the athletic board.

Omar Woods
Sports Editor

Nearly three months into the 2026 spring sports season, multiple teams and athletes at Winthrop have put on promising shows of excellence during their games. One team at Winthrop just recently went on one of their lengthiest winstreaks to date while other certain athletes broke records from the years past.

The baseball team

started their season out strong going 6-2 in their first eight games. A few of their games were completely dominated by the Winthrop baseball team. In their matches against Morehead State, the team won 3-0. In one of these games, the team won by a margin of 15.

Their matches against Georgetown earlier in the season were similar. The team won two games against Georgetown by a double-digit margin.

The men's basketball team just came off one of their most dominant stretches since before the pandemic. Before their close loss against High Point University, the team was able to achieve a 12 game win streak.

During this time, they had the fourth longest win streak in the nation. This win streak is also tied for sixth longest in program history.

There have been several key players that led to the team's

explosive win streak. Senior center Logan Duncomb averaged 19 points per game this season while graduate guard Kody Clouet and senior guard Kareem Rozier both averaged about 13 points per game.

On the women's basketball team, junior guard Amourie Porter has been averaging 16 points and six rebounds per game. Senior guard Mya Pierfax and sophomore guard Madison Ruff have both

managed to average at least ten points per game as well.

At the recent invitational, the men's golf team tied for third out of the 14 total teams that were in attendance. Golf players Dylan Park, Ashton Eubanks, and Thomas Lamar with a -5, -5, and -3 to par respectively.

In their past few games, the softball team completely took over in their matches. The softball team is

currently on a 12 game winning streak and their latest match against Mount St Mary's resulted in a win with a score of 10-2.

The track and field athletes have broken a few Winthrop records during their 2026 spring season tenure. Women's triple jumper Faith Wood broke the third place spot in the record book while men's triple jumper Maurion Jamison broke the second place spot in the record book.



Winthrop's men basketball team huddles before the match

Photo by Jackson Stanton

In the rooms where it happens, student decisions matter.

Adriane Alston
Editorial Editor

The reactions to the recent housing crisis made one thing clear; as Winthrop students, we are not as civically engaged as we should be when it comes to the internal operations of our university.

Students infiltrate social media based apps with frustration and ridicule. We repost statements. We vented in our numerous iMessage group chats. Demanding change and calling for action to be taken. But when administrators and the board of trustees discuss issues like housing, the noncontinuation of the contracts that matter to us the most etc we are not in the meetings months before the crisis has reached a boiling point, very few students sit in those rooms and hear about the problems happening before they actually happen.

Ask around campus “When was the last time you attended a board of trustees meeting?”

Most students would probably answer “never.” Some might even laugh at

the question at hand. But that answer should not feel comfortable or funny. It should concern us.

If students want real change, they must show up before decisions become final. They must speak during public commentary periods. They must listen and be informed when university leaders debate policies that affect tuition, housing and campus life. Complaining after the fact does not carry the same weight as participating during the process.

Students at neighboring institutions have exercised this better. At the University of South Carolina and Clemson University, students regularly organize demonstrations, sit in on administrative decisions etc surrounding the issues that matter to them the most. They attend meetings. They write letters. They meet with administrators. They push for change early, not after decisions harden.

Winthrop students can do the same. But that requires intentionality and effort.

Some argue that student

attendance would not change anything. They believe administrators will make the same decisions regardless of who sits in the audience. That mindset guarantees silence when silence is the opposite of what we need. When students stay home, they remove themselves from the conversation entirely. Leaders notice empty seats just as much as they notice when students pack rooms.

Visibility matters. Presence matters. Administrators track engagement. They recognize when students care enough to invest time and energy. Even when students cannot immediately reverse a decision, they can influence how leaders communicate and implement it.

The recent Student Government Association town hall provides a clear example of this mentality. Some students dismissed the event as “a waste of time.” They expected the meeting to solve the housing crisis on the spot. When that did not happen, they questioned its value.

That criticism misses the point.

The town hall did not exist to undo board decisions. It existed to provide clarity and transparency. It gave students a chance to ask questions directly. It helped soften the transition. It increased visibility around a complicated issue.

Service and advocacy organizations carry a responsibility in these moments. They should lead conversations about policies that affect students. They should encourage turnout at meetings. They should educate their peers about timelines and procedures. They should not wait until frustration is at its peak.

Civic engagement starts long before a crisis trends online.

Housing did not suddenly appear as an issue overnight. The board discussed it in multiple meetings. Agendas posted publicly. Minutes documented conversations. Yet student attendance at those meetings remained minimal.

Students cannot expect influence without active

participation.

When students avoid these spaces, we surrender power. We allow a small group of administrators and trustees to shape outcomes without student input. Then we react when those outcomes disappoint them.

As Winthrop students we deserve better. We deserve a campus where our voices shape decisions. But we must claim that role.

Start small. Attend one board meeting this semester. Invite a friend. Ask questions about how the university allocates funds. Learn how decisions move from proposal to policy. Follow up with emails. Meet with student government representatives. Stay informed about upcoming agenda items.

Civic engagement does not require grand gestures. It requires consistency. Students often say they want transparency. Administrators cannot provide transparency to an empty room. They cannot engage with

students who choose not to show up.

Engagement requires two sides of the coin.

Winthrop promotes leadership and service as core values. Those values do not stop at volunteering in the community. They extend to holding our own institution accountable. They include advocating for the wellbeing of our classmates. They include paying attention when leaders make decisions that affect our daily lives.

Students must move from the approach of being reactive to proactive. We must replace outrage with organization. They must trade apathy for action.

The next time the university faces a difficult decision, students should not scramble to respond after the announcement. We should already sit at the table.

If Winthrop students want change, we cannot wait for someone else to demand it. We must step into the room ourselves.

Empty chairs never changed policy. Engaged students can.

“The only thing more powerful than hate is love:” How Bad Bunny’s halftime show started conversations across the country



Bad Bunny during his Super Bowl LX halftime performance

Photo via Getty Images

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As a white American woman, I was one of many viewers who could not comprehend everything Bad Bunny was saying, but the story and visuals created a narrative that everyone could visualize.

While this halftime show was not in my main language, I understood the representation, culture, and meaning that Bad Bunny was able to represent for his home country, Puerto Rico, and Latin American culture.

The main two pieces I took from the performance were “the only thing more powerful than hate is love” and “together, we

are America” not because they were the only words in English, but the symbolism and meaning behind the sayings.

Given the current state of the United States, the best way to unite our country is through rich heritage and representation across the nation.

After watching the halftime show with friends, I was inspired by the message and wanted to get to know more about this culture I knew nothing about.

In the past week, my staff spoke with members of Latines Unidos about the Super Bowl Halftime show and how it influenced them personally.

Marcus Gonzalez, a mass communication major, shared how he thought Bad Bunny

did an excellent job at representing Latin American culture, even for people who are not specifically Puerto Rican.

“He brought up what life is like, not just as a Puerto Rican, but just as a Latino,” Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez shares how important Bad Bunny’s success has been to him and many others, “I think the part that stood out to me was the little boy watching his Grammy acceptance speech. That night he won the Grammy, we were crying with him, myself included.”

When asked about the overall message of the performance, Gonzalez expressed the importance of representing the country, “[He’s] empowering every country there is...”

Sharing opinions

with Gonzalez, business administration major, Kimberly Jaramillo, recognized the importance of representation throughout the performance.

“It was a good representation of people living their ordinary lives, just working and having a strong community, especially in Puerto Rico,” Jaramillo said.

“In the beginning when he was in that house, that’s a regular, like a house that you’ll see in Puerto Rico. Or like the crops, they’re really well known for their crops. And especially the power lines; when he got up on the power lines, that’s also a representation of Puerto Rico struggles.”

While talking about the representation across the country, Jaramillo focused on love over

hatred throughout the United States.

Jamarillo voiced, “Recently America has been so centered on hatred and giving people different groups, Instead of being like, Oh, you’re different. Let me accept you. I want to love your culture. I want to get to know you because of who you are.”

After watching the performance, sociology major, Daniela Diaz, commented on the emotional appeal of the performance. “It made me feel kind of emotional to see it on screen, given what’s going on right now, and it means a lot to me to see all of the countries in not just Latin America, but just America in general being represented.”

Diez continued, “I think it’s a very powerful

message, especially with what is going on right now, because there’s so much hate going on, not overall in the world, but in the United States.”

All of these students, including myself, recognize Bunny’s vision and recognize the importance of his messages. Together, we are united and that we must lean on each other for this world to succeed. We must learn to love each other regardless of gender, background, situation, and so much more that does not define us as people.

In the end, Bad Bunny came to one concise conclusion; love is more powerful than hate. Now, it is left to us, the audience, to spread love and kindness instead of the hatred that fills this world.

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Library. [...] enables you to introduce new things like nursing and these applied health sciences, which then will hopefully help continue that measured enrollment growth over the next 20 years,” Van Delden said.



The flags on Scholars Walk that represent the current colleges

Photo by Jackson Stanton

South Carolina governor’s race takes shape ahead of 2026 elections

The field for governor is wide open as primary elections approach.

Daokta Gold
Staff Writer

As South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster reaches the end of his term limit, the race for his position is wide open.

The Republican candidates are Nancy Mace, Alan Wilson, Pamela Evette, and Ralph Norman.

Conflicting polls show different leaders in support, with The New York Times showing Wilson in the lead, while others say Mace has the advantage.

According to a new poll from The State of likely Republican primary voters, Mace, South Carolina congresswoman of District 1, leads the primary by 4 points. She currently stands at 23% support.

The same poll said Wilson, the attorney general of South Carolina, follows in second with 19% support.

Pamela Evette, Lt. Governor of South Carolina holds 14% support, while Ralph Norman holds 11% support.

Democratic candidates include Dr. Jermaine Johnson, South Carolina state Rep. of District 52, with 25% support and Mullins McLeod, Charleston lawyer, with 8% support.

The additional 67% of the likely Democratic voters are unsure.

According to the S.C. Daily Gazette, this “represents the ‘first truly open’ governor’s race in 16 years,” state GOP Chairman Drew McKissick said.

In the upcoming primaries on June 9, if no candidate wins at least 50% plus one vote, a runoff election will ensue.

From recent voter surveys, including one posted by The New York Times, a near majority of voters are

undecided. This leaves the Republican candidate for governor a wide-open field.

Campaigns and platforms are falling into

crisis. Additionally, Mace plans to work with President Donald Trump to “stem the tide of illegal immigration.”

businesses can keep more in their pockets.

Like Wilson, Evette plans to eliminate the state income tax and launch S.C.O.G.E. or The

and modernizing infrastructure in the state.

Johnson plans to make it so 70% of families are not paying income tax. He also plans to lower

scholarship to every Carolinian accepted into a 4-year college that maintains a B average.

McLeod also wants to increase teacher pay and return unspent government budget money to taxpayers.

Additional information about candidates’ platforms can be found on their websites.

Candidate debates will be held from now until the primaries this summer. The first debate will be held on March 17 at Coastal Carolina University in Conway.

The next two will follow in five-week intervals. One is at the College of Charleston on April 21 and the other will take place at Wofford College in Spartanburg on May 26.

The primary will follow two weeks later on June 9 with the fourth debate on June 16 at the Newberry Opera House in the event of a runoff.

Candidates will also hold rallies and events throughout the next couple of months that can be found through platform websites.

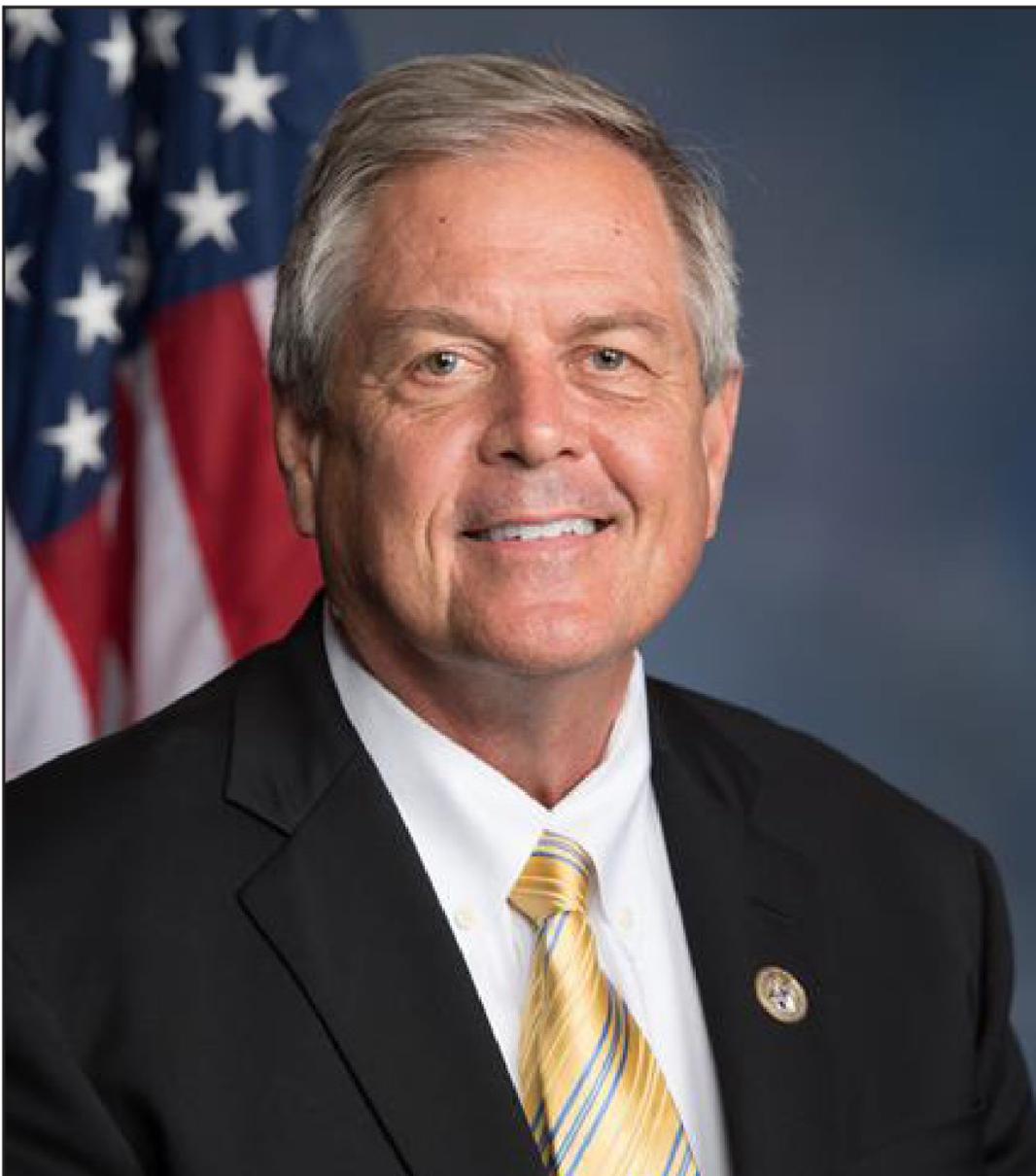
As the election approaches, more opportunities for civic participation and engagement present themselves.

Bob Inglis, former South Carolina state Rep. of the 4th district, recently visited Winthrop to speak at the “Conservatives for Climate Change” cultural event.

Inglis told attendees at the event that the future is in the hands of the voters.

“It’s your future, vote on it,” Inglis said. “In this constitutional republic, you get to set the course of the ship of state. You want to have a hand on the wheel, and you have a hand on the wheel by voting.”

Register to vote at SC.gov.



Ralph Norman, South Carolina government elect with office located in Sellers House

Photo via Foreign Policy for America

place as the candidates prepare for election season.

Mace’s plan is to cut state income tax to 0% in five years. She also wants to address South Carolina’s infrastructure

Wilson says he wants to make South Carolina more affordable for families while also keeping communities safe. To do so, he plans to eliminate the state income tax, so families and small

South Carolina Office of Government Efficiency, referencing Elon Musk’s D.O.G.E. initiative federally.

Evette’s platform also includes reforming the judicial system

property taxes and fund a grant program that will build affordable housing.

McLeod’s platform includes implementing a state minimum wage of \$18 or more an hour and giving a \$7,500 annual

February 10, 2026

