



December 2020



Holiday Greetings from Winthrop

During this holiday season, Interim President George Hynd and First Lady Alison Hynd encourage the Winthrop community to cherish time safely spent with friends and family. The Hynds were featured in the virtual Dec. 4 Rock Hill Christmas Parade. Take a look at their [video highlight](#) which showed Big Stuff getting the campus decorated for the holidays and [view the parade](#) in its entirety.



Mass Communication Professor Padmini Patwardhan Earns Top Teaching Award

Earlier this month, Professor Padmini Patwardhan was awarded the Kinard Award, the university's top teaching award, for her outstanding teaching, her successful mentoring of students and her significant contributions to the university.

The award is given annually to a faculty member who has demonstrated a dedication to teaching and is highly regarded on campus by faculty and students.

[Read More>>](#)



Congratulations, Class of 2020!

Winthrop celebrated its most recent graduates with a Dec. 19 Commencement ceremony that was a virtual celebration due to COVID-19. December graduates were invited to campus that day to pick up their diplomas as part of

Commencement day celebrations. [View photo highlights](#) from the special day and take a look at the virtual, pre-recorded [Commencement ceremony](#) that featured remarks from Interim President Hynd and Alumni Association President Byron Putman '94.



Academic Calendar Changes Announced for Spring Semester

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, Winthrop recently announced modifications to the spring 2021 academic calendar. Changes include implementing a Jan. 11 remote start for students before transitioning to in-person classes on Jan. 19. In addition, instead of a traditional, week-long spring break, students will now receive five days off that will be distributed throughout the semester. [Read More>>](#)



Trustees Honor Long-time Employee and Former Board Member for Dedicated Service

The Board of Trustees recently commended Dorothy “Dot” Barber of the Ida Jane Dacus Library for her 50 years of employment with the university. The board also honored the nearly two decades of service by former Trustee Donna Holley.

[Read More>>](#)



Alumna Receives State's Top Principal Honor

Denise Khaalid '02, principal of Oakdale Elementary in Rock Hill, was recently recognized as the South Carolina Elementary School Principal of the Year. She started her career in education in 1995 when she became a teacher with the Rock Hill School District. She then went on to earn her master's degree in educational leadership from Winthrop in 2002 and began working in administrative roles. Khaalid was named the National Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 2012.

Reasons to Give this Season



What's Your Reason to Give?

'Tis the season of giving and hope. We've all had an unpredictable year due to COVID-19 with many of us maneuvering challenges with home, work and school. In particular, Winthrop students are adjusting in ways they've never had to before. Please consider brightening someone's holiday spirit by giving to the university's Winthrop Fund. [Make a Gift>>](#)



Fall Winthrop Magazine Includes Alumni Features

The fall interactive Winthrop Magazine highlights the tremendous work of students, faculty and staff, and alumni who continue to make an impact on our university community. Inside you will find compelling features on Antwon Sutton '02, '04, the new superintendent of the Chester County School District, who worked his way up the education ranks, and Nicole Davenport '15, '16, '20, whose arts-related research is shining a light on the need for accessibility, diversity and inclusivity in museums. [Read More>>](#)



Alumni Director's Letter: Thank You! Alumni Help Boost Engagement

A special thank you to our alumni volunteers and ambassadors, virtual event attendees and social media followers who helped us stay connected during a difficult year. We've got a robust 2021 in the works, so be ready to mark your calendars. [Read More>>](#)



Alumni Spotlight: Standrick Rhodes '07, '09

Top educator Standrick Rhodes '07, '09 found a strong sense of family and accountability at Winthrop. It was the perfect community to help him explore his passion for special education and children that are differently abled. [Read More>>](#)

Calendar of Events

Dec. 24-Jan. 3, Winter Break
Winthrop Offices Closed

Jan. 11, Classes Begin Remotely

Jan. 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Offices Closed

Jan. 19, In-Person Classes Begin

Feb. 4, Winthrop Trivia with the [Myrtle Beach Alumni Chapter](#)
7 p.m., Zoom; [RSVP](#) by Feb. 1

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