



Fall 2017

## The Sage Page Fall 2017

Winthrop University Honors Association

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### Recommended Citation

Winthrop University Honors Association, "The Sage Page Fall 2017" (2017). *The Sage Page*. 15.  
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# THE SAGE PAGE



## WELCOME HONORS PROGRAM CLASS OF 2021

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Kathy Lyon, Ph.D.  
Honors Program Director

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Dear Honors Students, Alumni, Faculty and Friends,

Welcome to our ninth year of publication of our student-produced Honors Program newsletter, *The Sage Page*. As with previous editions, the students have provided interesting articles on several topics. Zuri Anderson writes about how honors has helped with earning five different scholarships, and Tess Norman's essay addresses how to participate in both the Honors Program and Greek life. Kristen Streetman, president of the Winthrop University Honors Association (WUHA!), sends greetings to the honors family by highlighting some of the activities of the student organization of the Honors Program, and Stephanie Copeland discusses her experiences in the "cool" honors symposium, *Nobel Controversy: The Lyrics of Bob Dylan as Literature*. Olivia Paxton, currently studying abroad in Buenos Aires, speaks about her observations of the city; and Honors Program alumna, Rachel Burns, comments on her activities as an English Teaching Assistant in South Africa through the Fulbright Scholarship Program. You will also see a listing of the forty-one Honors Program graduates from May 2017, along with their major fields of study, and a chart on Honors Program growth comparing the 2010-11 and 2016-17 academic years. There are two pages of photos, one from some of the social events of WUHA! and a second from the Bigs & Littles Reveal, the mentoring program of the organization. Even though they work very hard, honors students like to have fun!

I want to thank all of the students who contributed to this edition, particularly the co-editors, Carmen Little and Téa Franco, and I want to invite all Honors Program alumni to keep us updated on your activities. You may do so by filling out the information on the back or contacting me directly. I hope you enjoy *The Sage Page*!



# MEET YOUR 2017-2018 WUHA! OFFICERS



**Kristin Streetman**  
President  
Senior | Graphic Design



**Zina Weaver**  
Vice President  
Senior | Biology



**Erin Hershelman**  
Treasurer  
Junior | Chemistry



**Clare Buck**  
Secretary  
Sophomore | Exercise Science



**Audrey Hughes**  
Service Learning  
Coordinator  
Junior | Biology



**Tess Norman**  
Service Learning  
Coordinator  
Sophomore | Integrated  
Marketing Communication



**Téa Franco**  
Sage Page Editor  
Sophomore | Mass  
Communication  
and Political Science



**Carmen Little**  
Sage Page Editor  
Junior | Graphic Design

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## LETTER FROM THE WUHA! PRESIDENT



Photo provided by Kristin Streetman

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Kristin Streetman  
Senior  
Graphic Design

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Dear Winthrop Honors Family,

On behalf of the Winthrop University Honors Association executive board, it is my honor and pleasure to welcome you all to the Winthrop Honors Program! I am honored to serve as your WUHA! president for the 2017-2018 school year. The Winthrop University Honors Association serves as the social organization for the Winthrop Honors Program. We hold many social events, including "Rock Your Socks", "Donut Be Stressed", and the Halloween movie marathon. We also run the WUHA! "Bigs" and "Littles" program. Additionally, we organize several service learning events which benefit a wide range of organizations on the local and national scale.

As the Winthrop University Honors Association, we are here to make your experience in the Honors Program the best that it can be. We have a unique, tight-knit community on campus and are committed to the pursuit of knowledge and serving others. Our goal is to enrich the educational experience of highly motivated and talented students and to embrace the pursuit of knowledge for the enhancement of intellectual and personal growth. Whether it be through community events, peer mentorship, or philanthropic action, WUHA! is here to stand with you to make sure that your Winthrop experience is both meaningful and impactful.

Go Eagles!

Kristin Streetman



# PHOTO STORY: AWESOME HONORS EVENTS



## Early Move-In Pizza Party

Dr. Lyon hosts an annual pizza party for all the freshman honors students to meet each other and eat pizza.



## Dessert Party and Honors Shirts

Every year honors students receive a WUHA! shirt to rock around campus.



## Rock Your Socks!

One of the cool events hosted this year involved all the fun of tie-dying, but with socks!



## Donut Be Stressed

Students had the chance to take a mental break from mid-terms with DIY stress balls and donuts.



## STORY FROM ALUMNI



Rachel and some of her students on Heritage Day at her school  
| Provided by Rachel Burns



Rachel and some of the other teachers at her school participating  
in a best dressed contest | Provided by Rachel Burns

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Rachel Burns  
Fulbright Scholarship Program  
South Africa

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In January, I made the sixteen-hour flight to Johannesburg and from there to Port Elizabeth, South Africa. A city that is not the Africa you see on National Geographic. We have McDonalds here, Burger King, Hooters, and KFC. As I type these words, I am sitting at my favorite bar, enjoying free Wi-Fi, and sipping craft beer. However, this bar is also white, privileged Africa, and that makes all the difference.

During my last year at Winthrop as an Honors Program student, I applied for a English Teaching Assistant (ETA) position in South Africa through the Fulbright Program (an international program promoting cultural exchange, funded by the US government). To the surprise of many, most of all myself, I was accepted.

For the past nine months, I have worked at Paterson High School in one of the most infamous neighborhoods in the city. It is not white and it is certainly not privileged. The learners are black and colored. Colored itself is a

hard term for me to use, especially as someone of mixed descent from the south, but it is a term the community itself still uses. It essentially describes a South African person, who is not fully white, black, or Indian, but a mix of the three or anything else. Colored is a uniquely South African culture with its own language and identity, much like Louisiana Creoles.

As a woman who is a quarter black, my exposure to this community has changed the way I view race. In addition, as a teacher, these kids have changed me. Their world is not perfect and many of them have had harder lives than I can even imagine, but when I read their creative writing or look at the vegetable garden we planted together, I cannot help but hope this program and others like it continue to bring different people together. Especially these days. The world needs more people who are intelligent, dedicated, and open to new experiences. We need people who do not just want to take selfies of the world, but also actively engage with it. We need this – because the world is too small to not care.



# CONGRATULATIONS SPRING 2017 HONORS GRADUATES!

STUDENT NAME	MAJOR
Emily Almond	Sport Management
Jennifer Altman	Special Education
Waverly Baker	Philosophy and Religion
Arielle Black	Biology
Lindsay Bradley	Mathematics
Kathryn Cantrell	Integrated Marketing Communication
Alex Corder	Biology
Michelle Corley	Chemistry
Mallory Crimi	English
Nicholas Cunningham	Business Administration
Anne Cushman	English
Katelyn Dodd	Elementary Education
Phyllis Economy	Elementary Education
Justin Groves	Mathematics
Taylor Hamilton	Human Nutrition
Justin Hutchinson	Chemistry
Amber Kesterson	Human Nutrition
Malyn Lawhorn	Mathematics
Autumn Leggins	Biology
Victoria Leroy	Biology
Jordan Lewis	Biology
Julia Lusk	Early Childhood Education
Theresa Melendez	Chemistry
Kristen Melton	Mathematics
Catherine Metts	Early Childhood Education
Savannah Moritzky	Biology
Vanessa Mosher	Early Childhood Education
Shelby Peay	Economics
Davis Plasko	Chemistry
Julia Poppell	Human Nutrition
Holly Rittenberry	Athletic Training
Alex Schaeffer	Biology
Tollie Schultz	Psychology
Melody Sheets	Human Nutrition
Leigha Stahl	Biology
Sarah Stewart	Theatre
Jessica Tesney	Chemistry
Emily Thomas	English
Cameron Washington	Biology
Emily Watson	Chemistry
Andrew Williams	Biology



# HOW THE HONORS PROGRAM HELPED ME EARN FIVE SCHOLARSHIPS



View of the Courtyard clock tower | Photo by Téa Franco

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Zuri Anderson  
Junior  
Mass Communication

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Within this past year, I have managed to earn five scholarships. Two from my own diligence, and three from submitting an application offered to me due to my 3.9 GPA.

I hate talking about this because I feel like I am bragging, but there is a level of pride you have to accept if you make something higher than a 3.5 GPA, especially as an honors student. Your GPA is more than just an academic number. As a resume editor in the Center of Career and Civic Engagement once told me, it symbolizes your hard work and dedication, not only to your education, but yourself.

You get back what you invest in, which is a call to enhance your current self while you are in college. When you get involved with organizations and certain people on campus, you are opening those doors to new opportunities you would not have before.

Honestly, I have to credit my honors courses for pushing me further in terms of knowledge, research gathering, interpretation and critical thinking.

I produced a psychological autopsy on Elliot Rodgers, the 2013 Isla Vista shooter, in my honors Abnormal Psychology course in freshman year.

I affirmed my career goals of analyzing entertainment media for discussion, thanks to my Prometheans and Punks course.

I understand that certain species have less media attention despite being main indicators of a sixth mass extinction from my honors symposium.

Now, I am going beyond the standard write-up on my own personality theory in my contracted Theories of Personality psychology course.

The skills I learned from doing these arduous projects helped me look like a more attractive candidate when I applied to those scholarships.

Sometimes it seems that professors make it nearly impossible to pass the class, much less with an A. But work with your professors if you can, go the extra mile so that you can get what you need out of the course. Seek help besides your professor: other professors, your peer mentors, your friends, credible sources on the internet.

We may be honors students, but we cannot always be the one-person army when it comes to our work.

If it was not for me reaching out for assistance when I needed it, or going to the resources or people I needed, I don't think these scholarships would be in my hands. Those As would've been Bs.

Moral of the long story – put in the work, reach out for help when you need it, and be proud.





## BEING HONORS AND GREEK

Tess Norman  
Sophomore  
Integrated Marketing Communication

It's strange to think that around a year ago, I was still struggling to settle into campus life here at Winthrop. As an out-of-state freshman, I knew no one when coming to college, so as I started to learn my routine, figure out the best meal options in Thomson, and explore the Rock Hill area, most of my worries weren't focused on academics or achievement. They were focused on finding my 'place' at college, a spot where I felt at home and was making contributions to the Winthrop community. My first semester was enjoyable, but it certainly did its share to challenge me, and I found that the Honors Program was there as it all unfolded. From taking ACAD 101H with other students in the program, to actually living on the honors floor in Courtyard and meeting some great friends, honors was there to start cultivating my place on campus and helping me meet people with similar ideas and ideals.

As my first year at Winthrop ended, I turned my thoughts to Greek Life. Many of my friends were discussing going through the formal sorority recruitment process when we returned to Rock Hill in January, and I decided to take a chance and join them. The Honors Program had given me academic support and valuable friendships, and I knew that joining Greek Life would bring me sisterhood and opportunities at my home away from home, but I still had some concerns – mainly, would I have time to balance my involvement in the Honors Program and Greek Life, in addition to other clubs and organizations? I'm a firm believer that the best things in life require hard work, and while managing the two commitments requires work, it is more than possible and worth the effort. Since becoming both Greek and honors, I have learned more, done more, and seen more during my time at Winthrop than I would have ever anticipated. The close community of scholars in the Winthrop



Tess studying in the honors center | Photo by Téa Franco

University Honors Association and the larger Greek family have encouraged, motivated, and pushed me to become even more involved on our campus. When you strive to uphold the high expectations of both groups, both personally and academically, it's not hard to see where their ideals intersect. This means that both organizations have helped me to cultivate a social circle that motivates me and supports me while I'm using my time at college to reach my full potential, both inside and outside of their respective circles. I can say without a doubt that without the opportunities provided by both Greek Life and the Honors Program, I would not be the same student, leader, or person that I am today. I would urge any honors student considering Greek life to take advantage of this special opportunity offered at Winthrop – the only thing better than having one family at Winthrop to challenge, love, and motivate you is having two.



## STUDYING ABROAD AS AN HONORS STUDENT



View of la Caminito in La Boca| Photo provided by Olivia Paxton

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Olivia Paxton  
Sophomore  
Political Science

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When I first started at Winthrop last fall, I had no desire to study abroad. My ideal view of my college career included eight semesters, four years, straight through. I had chosen a school close to home – I am actually from Rock Hill – and I thought I would be content with four more years here.

That was until I took ACAD 101H. One of the requirements for the class was attending the Study Abroad Fair. Begrudgingly I went, but only for the grade. My goal was to show up, go up to the first table, get a pamphlet or two, and leave. That's exactly what I did, and I had no idea what pamphlets I had picked up until I got to my room. To make a long story short, as I was rifling through the pamphlets out of sheer boredom, the one for "Buenos Aires, Argentina" caught my eye. The rest is history.

I have been in Buenos Aires for a little over a month now, and I am having the time of my life. Not only am I experiencing a totally different culture but I am improving my Spanish language speaking skills. From churros

dipped in chocolate after class to cheering on the local soccer team, every day brings a new adventure.

That isn't to say that everything has been easy, I have definitely had some struggles and moments of severe culture shock. In my first few weeks here I was partially relying on Google translate to maneuver through awkward social situations and dinner conversations with my host mother. Then, my phone stopped working altogether, and I was left in a strange country with seemingly no way to tell my host mother "Yes, I would like more potatoes."

Luckily, being part of the Honor's Program at Winthrop has helped me develop problem-solving skills. Now, although it may take me awhile to figure out the correct wording, I am easily able to help the stranger on the street who asks for directions.

The decision to study abroad has been the best decision of my life. I have had experiences, good and bad, that I never would have had staying at home. I encourage all honor's students to take the leap and study abroad. You won't regret it!



# OPINION OF ONE OF THE COOL HONORS CLASSES: BOB DYLAN

Stephanie Copeland  
Senior  
Psychology major

HONR 207H, Nobel Controversy: The Lyrics of Bob Dylan as Literature, is one of the honors symposia for the fall 2017 semester. Each honors student needs to take one honors symposium as part of the traditional honors requirements, and they come in a range of interesting topics.

The one I chose features Bob Dylan. Bob Dylan as a Nobel Literature Prize winner was a controversial choice, as he is not a writer in the traditional sense. Yet, the class focuses on studying Bob Dylan's lyrics as if they were traditional poems. The class is held in the Honors Center and is discussion based. Each week, we closely read and analyze around ten of Bob Dylan's songs before class. When the class meets, we hold discussions about our thoughts on the reading. We have two or three discussion leaders per week who come up with discussion questions in order to get these conversations started. This usually leads to interesting thoughts, differing perspectives, and lively discussions.

Overall, the atmosphere is very comfortable, and we all feel comfortable chiming in and sharing our opinions. The class looks at rhyme schemes, symbolism, and word choice. We also discuss societal issues as well as Dylan's own life, both of which heavily influence his lyrics and the subjects of his songs. As Bob Dylan grows and society fluctuates, Dylan changes his sound. Therefore, there are specific eras in his body of work. We will move through the entirety of Bob Dylan's discography, moving from his first works to his more recent songs as the semester continues. This means that we will cover everything from his folksy roots, to his rock phase, as well as his gospel album. The overarching theme of this class is the question of whether or not Bob Dylan deserved to win a Nobel Literature Prize. That will be the prompt for our final paper, and I am interested to



Students walking to class | Photo by Carmen Little

see how my classmates feel about this controversial win by the time the class is over. I am grateful that the Honors Program has given me the ability to explore this topic and many other interesting topics during my time here.



# PHOTO STORY: BIG'S AND LITTLE'S



The reveal theme for this year was Masquerade Ball.



Littles had to find their name on the back of a mask and then find their big with the same mask color/pattern.



Bigs Erin Hershelman and Sydney Strother were excited to meet their littles!



Téa Franco took on three littles since the freshman honors class was so big this year!



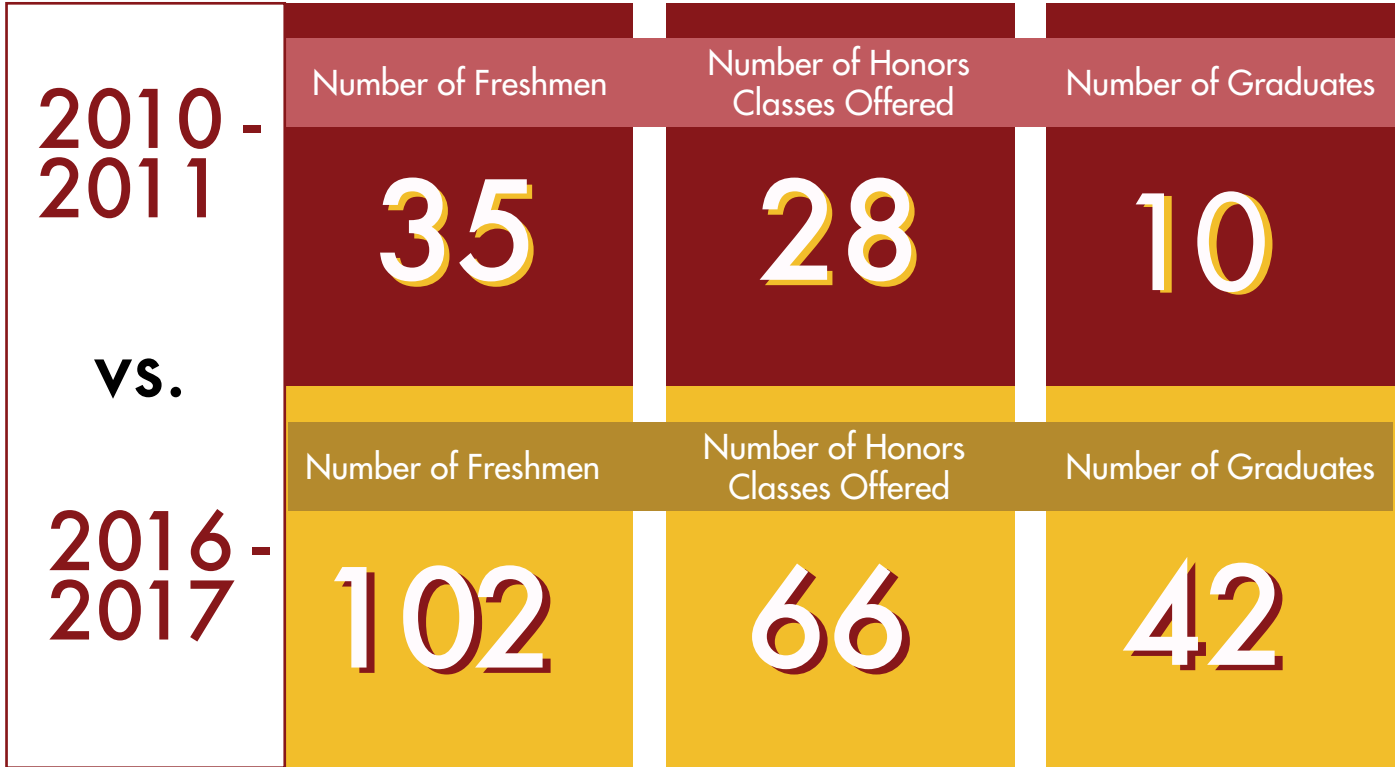
Olivia Greathouse and her littles rocking their masks.



Maggie Claytor gets to know her little.



# HONOR'S PROGRAM GROWTH



## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WINTHROP HONORS PROGRAM

Honors Program  
Honors Center  
University College  
Rock Hill, SC 29733

Phone: 803/323-2320  
Fax: 803/323-3910  
E-mail: [wuha@winthrop.edu](mailto:wuha@winthrop.edu)  
Website: [www.winthrop.edu/honors](http://www.winthrop.edu/honors)

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If WU alum, spouse's degree info: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer / Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_