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Recent Winthrop Graduate Killed in Car Wreck on Sunday

Winthrop University

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Recent Winthrop Graduate Killed in Car Wreck on Sunday

Quick Facts

- Jordan Smith died and his girlfriend, Bonita Davis, was hurt in a car accident Sunday night.
- Smith was totally engaged with the Winthrop community.



Jordan Smith

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Jordan Smith, a 2008 December graduate of Winthrop University, was killed Sunday night in a car accident in Rock Hill resulting from a collision with an off-duty Lancaster sheriff's deputy riding a motorcycle.

Also injured was Smith's fiance, Bonita Davis, a December Winthrop graduate who was taken to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C., where she remains hospitalized.

Davis earned a psychology degree, while Smith holds a biology degree. Both are from Columbia, S.C.

Winthrop officials said Smith was totally engaged with the Winthrop community. His many involvements included serving as Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity president, 2007-08; Council of Student Leaders member, 2004-06; Emerging Leaders graduate, 2004; Dinkins Student Union member, lecturer chair and performing arts chair, 2005-07; Orientation leader, 2005; Student Homecoming chair, 2007; and Leadership Winthrop, 2005.

Debbie Garrick, executive director of the Office of Alumni Relations and Winthrop University Alumni Association, said Smith lived life with a smile on his face.

"Jordan was one of those students you're always pointing to when you want to show other students a good example. As a part of the Emerging Leaders program, I watched him grow into a strong campus presence, really, who became a mentor for other students," said Garrick, who co-teaches the Emerging Leaders program. "He was a young man of great integrity, faith and kindness. I'm going to miss him terribly."

Winthrop's staff in Counseling Services is on call for students, who are wrapping up their exams on Tuesday. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Dinkins Student Union lobby. A banner will be available for people to sign.

The funeral services for Smith will be held on Friday, May 8, at 1 p.m. at Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia, S.C. Bostick Tompkins Funeral Home of Columbia, S.C., is in charge of arrangements.

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