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Outstanding Class of 2021 Receives Special Welcome Via Solar Eclipse

Winthrop University

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Outstanding Class of 2021 Receives Special Welcome Via Solar Eclipse

Quick Facts

- Boasting the highest number of valedictorians in school history (11), the class also claims the highest entering GPA of 3.98.



ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA — The future for Winthrop University's Class of 2021 looks bright. Sunny, in fact.

The entering class received a special welcome via the Aug. 21 solar eclipse. Freshmen joined returning students, faculty and staff on the Campus Green to watch the eclipse, the first time in 99 years that the United States experienced a transcontinental solar eclipse from Oregon through South Carolina. Afterward, President Dan Mahony

officially welcomed them at Convocation in Byrnes Auditorium.

Boasting the highest number of valedictorians in school history (11), the class also claims the highest entering GPA of 3.98. Impressive!

Meet a few of the class' members:

***Ashley Allen** of Sumter played in the USA Roller Derby World Cup and the Roller Derby Junior Olympic Games.

***Caleb Blackwood** of Rock Hill was chosen for the S.C. All-State fishing team. Only two students are selected overall.

***Ashlynn Harris** of Bluffton helped construct and 3D print a prosthetic leg for a local adopted shelter dog that had lost a limb.

***Brandon Jackson** of Columbia won the Southeast Boys and Girls Club Military Youth of the Year Award and will compete on the national level in Washington, D.C., this September.

***Molly Kuhlmann** of Summerville competed in the National Archery Tournament.

Other fun class facts:

*Within the United States, **Sao Puaolelagi** traveled the farthest to attend Winthrop – 4,657 miles from Hauula, Hawaii.

*Outside of the United States, two students--**Rhys Jones** and **Ryan Jaede**--traveled 9,926 miles and 9,513 miles from Geelong and Russel Vale, Australia, respectively.

Number of international students: 16

Most Common Boy Name: Christopher

Most Common Girl Name: Emily

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