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McMaster



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Cunningham

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THE RMR

RODDEY MCMILLAN RECORD

ISSUE 2

THE INSPIRATION

Rev. Cynthia Plair-Roddey, a 1967 Winthrop graduate, is a trailblazer for change. She was the first Black student to enroll at Winthrop 10 years after the Supreme Court ended segregation in public schools with their *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Nine of her friends attended Winthrop alongside her. She was accepted to Winthrop College in the summer of 1964, where she earned a Master of Arts in teaching library science after having graduated from John C. Smith—an HBCU—with two bachelor's degrees. Roddey worked in education for 55 years before she retired in 2017.



The Roddey McMillan Record (RMR) is named after both Roddey and Sheila McMillan, which is one of the many honors that the publication has received since its inception. McMillan was the first Black person to sit on the Board of Trustees in 1983. Before coming to Winthrop, she was one of the first Black students to integrate into the University of North Carolina and the first Black Senate attorney with the South Carolina Legislature after she earned her doctorates in law from the University of South Carolina. Both of the magazine's namesakes have broken glass ceilings for Black women across the country. When the RMR was created by Gail Harris in 1986, she was inspired by these women to establish a safe space for minority students.

The purpose of the RMR is to

“shine a light on the many diverse cultures at Winthrop, focusing on issues, concerns and happenings of those who represent the multicultural community on campus.”

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contact roddeymac@winthrop.edu!

2022 Midterms

You've probably already heard the buzz around the importance of voting- President Joe Biden has stated "Democracy is on the ballot for all of us" this midterm- but it is arguably just as vital to understand who is on the ballot for November 8th and why. Below are the candidates running for election in South Carolina, and what they have on their agendas.

For Governor

Henry McMaster is the Republican Incumbent who has been in office as S.C. Governor since 2017. Born in the state capital, Columbia S.C., he attended law school at University of South Carolina. He is a lifetime lawyer (1973) and politician (1993). He was a legislative assistant to known segregationist, Strom Thurmond. He was also the first U.S. attorney Ronald Reagan appointed in 1981. The highlight of his time in that position was "Operation Jackpot," in which he made over 100 drug smuggling convictions.

"I have prosecuted drug dealers, drug traffickers, corrupt politicians- I know how to do it. My opponents do not know how to do it."

According to his website, as governor, McMaster has created over 65,000 jobs, overseen the investment of \$19.5 billion in state "capital investments", pushed for changes in the education sector (including raising teacher pay by \$10,000, freezing tuition for technical colleges and doubling funding for needs based financial aid in-state), cut taxes on small businesses by \$317 million, returned \$67 million to taxpayers through cuts, promoted law enforcement through pay increases and exemptions, and aided elderly citizens through state support services.

Henry McMaster Republican Incumbent



Photo Via Greenville News

2022 Midterms

For Governor

Joe Cunningham Democratic Candidate

Joe Cunningham is the Democratic challenger from Kentucky. He is a former congressman (2019), the first Democrat to be elected to South Carolina's First Congressional District in over 40 years. He has historically placed

"Lowcountry
over Party",

being ranked the 4th most bipartisan member of congress by the US Chamber of Commerce. Notable bills he authored or sponsored include the Veterans Tele-hearing Modernization Act, Great American Outdoors Act, a bill that banned offshore drilling, a bill to close the Charleston Loophole, and the For The People Act.

Cunningham's plans for Office include eliminating the state income tax, temporarily suspending the gas tax, which he contends is the highest in the southeast, legalizing Marijuana and Sports betting (to supplement losses from the income tax), raising teacher pay, overhauling state infrastructure, namely road construction, passing pro-choice legislation, and imposing term limits on politicians in South Carolina.



Photo Via AP

2022 Midterms

For Senate

Tim Scott

Republican Incumbent

Tim Scott is the Republican incumbent Senate Representative for South Carolina. He is the first Black Senator from the South since the Reconstruction Era, and the first Black Congressperson to serve in both chambers of the legislative branch. Generally, he supports Republican legislation and votes with Republicans on most, if not all, issues. He voted against the American Rescue Plan, Infrastructure investment and Jobs Act, and the United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021, while voting for the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022. Notably, he voted Not Guilty during the impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump.



Photo Via AP

"From Cotton to Congress in One Lifetime"

According to his website, his primary focus is on increasing schooling opportunities for children, defending the second amendment, protecting unborn life, and lowering the national debt. He has authored or supported legislation including the Parental Rights Over the Education and Care of Their (PROTECT) Kids Act, A bill to establish an advisory committee to oversee the security of Federal elections, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, and the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act.

2022 Midterms

For Senate

Krystle Matthews is the Democratic Contender from Ohio. She is currently a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, and believes that “people who look like her and come from backgrounds like hers are often affected the most and heard the least”. She is running for reelection in the South Carolina Legislature while also running for Senate. A self-described non-partisan, she promotes policies that promote and protect minority populations.



Krystle Matthews Democratic Candidate



Photos Via AP

Policies, Not Promises

According to her website, her campaign priorities include protecting immigrants through legislation like the American Dream and Promise Act, reforming the credit score system that she states disproportionately affects minorities, women, and low-income workers, codifying laws that protect women’s rights, including pushing for the Equal Rights Amendment in congress and protecting reproductive freedom of choice, reforming weapons safety through background checks and closing loopholes, and reforming education through increasing teacher pay, addressing overcrowding, and reducing standardized testing.

Lead Actress Destiny Gore on being a Performer

by D.J. Lewis

Destiny Gore just wrapped up her first production at Winthrop University playing the lead character named Taylor in a production of "Stick Fly". She describes "Stick Fly" as a Thanksgiving dinner with people from around the world.

"The show is a piece about black power and treading on the lines of social justice in a family setting."

When asked if she had any advice for aspiring fine arts students, Destiny Gore said "Audition, audition, audition and know your worth make sure you are auditioning for productions that you are passionate about."

Destiny has been performing since she was in seventh grade, her first show was the Wizard of Oz Jr.

This show along with many other factors helped her to realize that performing was going to be a career goal in her life.

While talking to Destiny, we were able to speak to her about the auditioning process at Winthrop and some of her tactics that she uses to memorize her lines.

Destiny says the process is like none she has ever seen before. There is a table and a sign-up sheet with specific audition times. She says the process is cut and clean with little to no wait time.

Like any other performer Destiny gets nervous before auditioning for a production, but her nervousness level is based upon how much material she has memorized.

She memorizes her lines by taking the first letter of every word on the script and writing it down in order. From there she goes on to memorize those lines for her auditions and performances.

Destiny Gore, lead performer in "Stick Fly"



"Audition, audition, audition and know your worth make sure you are auditioning for productions that you are passionate about."

Destiny wants to keep performing as a part of her life and it's one of her career goals. After graduation she plans to move with her sister to Atlanta with hopes of being a part of what she calls the "black mecca of acting".

Destiny says that performing is her number one goal, but she also would like to be a part of the whole production process.

One piece of advice Destiny gives is that when auditioning the worst thing someone can say is no, never sell yourself short and get out there and be yourself.



Recap of the protests occurring in Iran

Protests in Iran sparked by supposed murder of 22-year-old

by Sam Hyatt

On September 16, 2022, 22-year-old Mahsa Amini was taken into custody by the Iranian morality police. Amini was accused of wearing the hijab in public, which violated Iranian law.



Photo Via "La Celebrite"

Over the last century, Iranian veiling laws have changed numerous times. In 1936, Reza Shah forced women to remove the veil under his unveiling order. From 1941 to 1979, Iranian women had the choice to wear or not to wear the veil. During this time, many women still wore the headscarves because of they were under the strict control of male members of the family, were limited by patriarchal values, and because they wanted to make a statement against the monarchy.

In 1979, the Islamic Revolution reintroduced the idea of women being forced to wear the headscarf, and in 1983 it became obligatory for women to wear the headscarf. Women who did not follow the hijab laws were subjected to fines or imprisonment.

In January 2018, there was a shift in the way women were punished for not wearing the headscarf. Women who did not wear the headscarf were no longer subjected to fines or imprisonment, but rather were led by Iran's Morality Police to be taken to Islam educational classes.

According to "Hijab law in Iran over the decades: the continuing battle for reform", Sahar Maranlou states that the law concerning the obligatory hijab is "loosely drawn, [such that] enforcers such as the mortality police can choose to interpret it differently and crack down on women in various ways."

As a result of these laws and the death of Amini, protests have continued throughout Iran since Sept. 16.

According to CNN, at least 10 people, including children are believed to be killed during a police "crackdown" on protests.

Amnesty International has stated via Twitter that security forces were firing live ammunition from rooftops at peaceful protesters.

As an attempt to help the Iranian people, the United States announced on Oct. 26, 2022, that they are imposing sanctions against the Iranian officials who are involved in the ongoing policing of the nationwide protests.

Those who are outside the Iran and the Iranian government are not able to have an accurate death toll because of the little information coming from the country.

International Student Spotlight: Ethel Sakyi

Sam Hyatt

International student Ethel Sakyi has spent her first year at Winthrop University as an international student by getting involved in events on campus and with the international student center.

Sakyi is an international student from Ghana studying computer science and economics as a double major. She moved to the Rock Hill area in July 2022 and started as a freshman this August.

"I live with my family in Rock Hill" Sakyi said. "Even if I did not, I do not think that being away from them would have been an issue. In high school I was away from them for about 3 years while in boarding school, just staying home for vacations. But it does feel good to have them around when you make a complete change in living environment."

When looking at colleges, Sakyi was interested in Winthrop because of the beautiful campus. Even though she explained she likes being away from home, the fast-approaching deadlines inclined her to apply to Winthrop.

"Applying to Winthrop was a last-minute decision because I moved to the United States in July, and I wanted to go to college, so I decided to apply to Winthrop" Sakyi said.

"Then one day I came around Winthrop with my family and I was like 'wow this place is actually so beautiful.'"



Photo Via Winthrop University

In the short time that Sakyi has been at Winthrop, she has enjoyed the small class sizes.

"It makes class so interactive and allows you to build a relationship with your professor and I think that is a really good thing" Sakyi said.

With the transition process for college life and living in the United States, Sakyi says that her ACAD class has been beneficial to her.

"For me ACAD has been very beneficial because there are some things I would have never known about if my ACAD instructor, Ms. Sarah Titman or Peer Mentor, Ethan Lehr, did not mention in class" Sakyi said. "My Peer Mentor is always available to answer any questions, so it makes it easy to avoid getting lost or making mistakes and getting confused. As a freshman and international student, it has been very beneficial."

In addition to academics, Sakyi has been working with the International Student Center.

"We work with the culture club not only at Winthrop but with Sullivan Middle school to educate students on world diversity" Sakyi said. "We also have ambassador meetings to discuss opportunities for us to get involved as international students with campus activities."

The International Center and its faculty members have been instrumental to Sakyi's enjoyable college experience.

"I think that the international center and Winthrop is doing its best and now it's up to everyone else on campus to show up in their numbers for these events to meet and interact with international students" Sakyi said. "The International Center had a welcome back bash at the beginning of the school semester, we also had a global is local event, we have had some common book events, we also participated in the cultural fair, and we had a taco Tuesday."

Various faculty members on campus have played major roles in assisting Sakyi's transition on to campus.

"I am grateful for all my teachers. Ms. LeAnn at the international center has motivated me to get out of my shell to get more involved" Sakyi. "I am also thankful for Dr. Tarabar who motivated me with his past experience as an international student and gave me some advice."

As the semester and school year continues, Sakyi is excited to participate in other international center events, going to class, and possibly living on campus.

What you need to know about student loan forgiveness

Sam Hyatt



On Aug. 24, President Joe Biden announced his plan to allow for people to receive loan forgiveness for the loans used to pay for higher education.

People who have an annual income of \$125,000 or below, or \$250,000 for married couples, are eligible to have \$10,000 of their loans paid in full. Those who received the Pell Grant while in college have the opportunity to have \$20,000 removed from their remaining loan payments.

"I think the student loan forgiveness that the Biden administration is implementing is vital for students" English graduate student Stephanie Martin said. "The cost of attending college has drastically risen throughout the years, and I know people prior to this felt they would never be able to pay off their debt. I know that it will help me in the long run, and I am grateful for that."

On Oct. 21, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals placed the student loan forgiveness plan on hold. The hold was placed after an appeal from the GOP-led states.

These states believe that the president is "overstepping his authority" according to CNBC "Biden's student loan forgiveness plan is on hold. Here are the key issues borrowers need to know." These states also argue that this plan could cause some private leaders to lose business.

Although the Biden administration's student loan forgiveness plan has been paused, it is still encouraging loan borrowers to continue filling out the student loan forgiveness application. The application can be found at studentaid.gov.



"As a first-generation college student, I was not educated much on the best way to pay for college" Shannon Preston, a senior exercise science major said. "I had to take out big loans in my name that I may be paying for the rest of my life. The loan forgiveness could help me out so much in the long run. It could help me be more financially successful in life and less stressed."

According to CNBC "Biden's student loan forgiveness plan is on hold. Here are the key issues borrowers need to know", White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said "[the] temporary order does not prevent borrowers from applying for student debt relief at studentaid.gov. It also does not prevent us from reviewing these applications and preparing them for transmission to loan servicers."

Loan borrowers have until December 30, 2022, to submit their student loan forgiveness application. An estimated 8 million borrowers may receive automatic debt cancellation due to the Department of Education having their information on file. These borrowers may begin to see their debt canceled on November 15, 2022, if there is not still a legal pause in place.

As of Nov. 3, 2022, about 26 million borrowers have applied for student loan forgiveness.

Although this is a vital and important assistance to loan borrowers now, there is not yet a plan in place to help those who take out loans in the future.

"While the student loan forgiveness is crucial, it will not prevent future generations from going into life altering debt in order to become specialized in an area and pursue a career" Martin said. "The real solution needs to be looking at the steady increase in tuition rates that has occurred over the years and how to combat that steep increase."

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respect. communication. consent

Find resources at:

levelupforchange.org

For on-campus support visit:

Winthrop.edu/CSW

This used to be your favorite seat.
Now it makes your skin crawl,
because all you can think about is
what happened there the other night.