

# THE GRAD GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WSSU GRADUATE COLLEGE

## WELCOME TO THE DEAN'S CORNER

Dear Scholars, Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Supporters,

**Happy New Year** and welcome to the start of a new semester! I hope you had a restful and rejuvenating break and are feeling energized to embark on a season of learning, discovery, and professional growth.

A new year brings with it new opportunities, fresh challenges, and renewed ambitions. Whether you are continuing your research, preparing to complete your degree, or just starting your graduate journey, this semester is full of promise and potential. You are part of a dynamic and diverse academic community where innovation, creativity, and scholarly inquiry **thrive**.

As you pursue your academic goals, remember that graduate education is not only a path to deepening your knowledge and expertise but also a journey of self-discovery and resilience. Here are a few tips to help you make the most of the months ahead:

- **Engage with your community:** Take advantage of networking opportunities with peers, faculty, and industry professionals. Collaborative learning and sharing ideas are key to success in research and beyond.
- **Maintain a balanced approach:** Graduate studies are demanding, but taking care of your well-being is equally important. Do not hesitate to access resources available to support your mental health, career development, and personal growth.
- **Seek mentorship and feedback:** Your advisors, professors, and mentors are here to guide you. Make the most of their experience by seeking regular feedback on your work and future plans.

I encourage you to explore new ideas, be open to unexpected opportunities, and embrace the inevitable challenges as moments of growth. The faculty and staff of the Graduate College are here to support your success, and we look forward to witnessing your progress and achievements.

Wishing you a year filled with inspiration, resilience, and accomplishments. **Welcome to 2025** and an exciting new semester!

WARM REGARDS,  
*Montrale Boykin*

INTERIM DEAN OF THE GRADUATE COLLEGE



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# HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH

## COLLABORATION WITH LEADERSHIP WINSTON SALEM

A wonderful networking event was sponsored by the Graduate College in partnership with Leadership Winston Salem. Our graduate scholars were able to slightly “wine down” before the fall exam season began, networking with peers, University Administrators, and influential Community Leaders alike. The excitement was palpable as students dropped by our table to learn more about the many ways we’re working to engage and empower them for future growth and success! It was inspiring to see so many eager faces, as attendees were excited to learn more about what WSSU has to offer. It was a great reminder of just how powerful networking is—***you never know who you might meet!*** The atmosphere was filled with holiday cheer—beautiful Christmas decorations, jazzy yuletide tunes, and an overflowing toy drive collection to support a local charity. This event marked the beginning of what we hope will be a long-lasting and beautiful partnership.





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH

## FALL COMMENCEMENT



Tears of joy and cheers filled the air across campus and beyond as we counted down to the big day. Our Rams celebrated commencement with heartfelt pinning and hooding ceremonies, lively parties, and vibrant festivities, all leading to the grand celebration at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Families and friends traveled from near and far to honor the dedication and perseverance of their loved ones. ***This moment will soon be yours as well!*** But for now, let's raise a thunderous Ram congratulations to all those who entered to learn and have now departed to serve! **#Classof2024**







*Dr. Michael (Mike) McKenzie*

## WELCOME BACK TO THE FAMILY INTERIM PROVOST MCKENZIE!

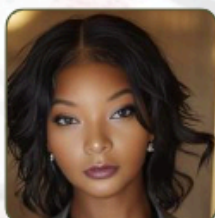
Dr. McKenzie brings a wealth of experience in higher education, most recently serving as Vice Provost for Program Management and Strategic Initiatives at Appalachian State University, where he was involved in developing new programs and managing partnerships, including with Project Kitty Hawk. Prior to that, he spent over a decade at Winston-Salem State University in various roles, including professor, department chair for HPSS and Exercise Physiology, director of the honors program, and interim associate provost. Dr. McKenzie holds a B.S. in Athletic Training from Appalachian State, an M.S. in Exercise Physiology from the University of Florida, and a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is married to Laura and has two children, Kate and John.

***Welcome back Provost McKenzie!***

## MEET THE WSSU GSA EXECUTIVE BOARD



**Makeiah Trotter**  
GSA PRESIDENT



**Jahdine Woods**  
GSA VICE PRESIDENT



**Kianna Marshall**  
GSA SECRETARY



**Xavier Parks**  
GSA TREASURER



**Deirdre Mack**  
GSA EVENT COORDINATOR



**Erin-Gara Benson**  
GSA COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



The results are in, and the ballots have been counted! It is with great excitement that we introduce your newly elected members of the Graduate Student Association.

In this historic campaign, these dedicated individuals engaged with the Graduate Student Body to share their vision for the very first Graduate Student Association. They outlined their goals and priorities for this pioneering administration, and have now submitted statements outlining their plans for their term, which begins **Spring 2025**.

Let's give a **HUGE** congratulations to these remarkable Rams who are ready to lead and serve our Graduate Student Community!



# Thank you for reading!

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*We encourage you to engage and leave comments on our LinkedIn page about the Newsletter and **SHARE, SHARE, SHARE.***

*If there are any kudos or additional commentary you would like to share in The Grad Gazette, send us an email at **graduatecollege@wssu.edu***

