

THE GRAD GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WSSU GRADUATE COLLEGE

WELCOME TO THE DEAN'S CORNER

Dear Scholars, Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Supporters,

As the year comes to a close and the festive season surrounds us, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work, dedication, and resilience that each of you has brought to our Graduate College community during this fall semester. Together, we faced challenges, celebrated successes, and continued to advance knowledge and innovation in ways that inspire pride and hope.

The holiday season offers a unique opportunity to pause, reconnect, and rejuvenate. I encourage each of you to take this time to rest, spend time with loved ones, and engage in the activities that bring you joy and renewal. Whether it's cherishing old traditions or creating new ones, these moments are a valuable reminder of what sustains and motivates us in our academic and personal lives.

Looking ahead to the new year, I am excited about the opportunities that await us. From groundbreaking research to new initiatives that enhance our graduate programs, there is much to anticipate as we continue to grow and thrive as a community.

On behalf of the Graduate College, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for your hard work, creativity, and collaboration throughout the year. Your contributions are what make the Graduate College a place of excellence and inspiration.

Wishing you a season filled with peace, joy, and warm memories. May the year ahead bring health, happiness, and success to you and your loved ones.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS,
Montrale Boykin

INTERIM DEAN OF THE GRADUATE COLLEGE



*Happy First
Ram Holiday to
Chancellor Brown!*



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH

HOMECOMING ALUMNI CHECK IN FAIR

It was an exciting Homecoming Month at Winston-Salem State University, and the celebration kicked off in grand style! The Graduate College set up a table in DJR to connect with alumni and showcase our advanced degree programs. It was heartwarming to see so many familiar faces, all filled with enthusiasm and Ram Pride. The energy carried into the next day's Homecoming game, where our WSSU Rams fought hard and brought home a thrilling **37-31** victory over the Fayetteville State University Broncos **in double overtime**. *Great job, Rams—way to bring it home!*



ETIQUETTE DINNER

The WSSU Graduate College had the privilege of partnering with the Career Development Center to create a truly unique Etiquette Dinner with a cultural twist! From mastering the art of a firm handshake to understanding the subtleties of dining with the correct utensils (*did you know a "butter knife" is actually a "dinner knife"?*), the evening was filled with learning moments that many didn't expect. But the experience didn't stop there. Students were also immersed in a Virtual Reality journey that offered a haunting glimpse into the lives of African Americans during the Jim Crow era. As a special highlight, students had the opportunity to engage with representatives from The Magnolia House and view artifacts from The Negro Travelers' Green Book, a crucial resource during segregation that helped Black travelers find safe spaces to eat and sleep. They also learned about "Shoebox Meals," a creative solution for African Americans when faced with the challenges of segregation.





THE FAMILY HITS THE ROAD!

The Graduate College Team traveled to Johnson C Smith University for the Graduate College Expo. We had the incredible opportunity to connect with alumni and prospective students eager to learn more about our programs and explore their future at WSSU! Then it was off to the picturesque campus of Hampton University to attend their Graduate College and Career Expo. The energy was as high as their iconic bridges! Not only did we get to engage with alumni and prospective students, but we also connected with fellow HBCUs to share insights and strategies on how to better engage and support graduate students across the country.

KUDOS

ALUMNI ACHEIVEMENT AWARD

Mr. Kevin S. Larrabee is a proud member of the WSSU Class of 2011 and the newest recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award. Mr. Larrabee is also a dedicated U.S. Army Veteran.

With over 20 years of technical leadership experience overseeing a team of 2,000 personnel, Mr. Larrabee currently serves as the Head of Product at DataShapes AI, based in Alexandria, VA. Since 2022, he has also held the role of Chief Data Officer (CDO) at USASOC, Fort Belvoir, VA, where he leads the organization's data modernization and management efforts, aligning data strategy with broader organizational goals.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Larrabee has built strong partnerships with national intelligence agencies, Global Combatant Commands, and U.S. Special Operations Command, furthering his impact on both national security and technical innovation.



CONGRATULATIONS
MR. KEVIN S LARRABEE
MBA, CLASS OF 2011



STUDENTS WIN FUTURE HEALTHCARE LEGENDS AWARD!

OT Student Cristina Sorensen and her Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Colleague, Stefanie Ramsey, a MSN-FNP Graduate Student were awarded \$2500 for the Future Healthcare Legends Award! Dr. Megan Collins, Program Director and Professor of Occupational Therapy and mentor beamed with Ram Pride as she stated, ***"It has been a pleasure to work with them as well as their other mentors."***

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4, 2024:
WSSU Graduate College & Leadership Winston Salem
Partner for: **Business After Hours**

WSSU GRADUATE COLLEGE & LEADERSHIP WINSTON SALEM PRESENTS:



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



EVENT DETAILS:

SIR WINSTON
104 W 4TH ST
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27101
DATE: DECEMBER 04, 2024
TIME: 5:00PM-9:00PM

NETWORK WITH A PURPOSE!

THIS EVENT IS COMPLIMENTARY, BUT WE KINDLY ASK ATTENDEES TO BRING A NEW, UNWRAPPED TOY FOR A BOY OR GIRL, UP TO 13 YEARS OF AGE. ALL ITEMS WILL BE COLLECTED ON-SITE AND DONATED TO A LOCAL CHILDREN'S CHARITY/TOY DRIVE IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS.

RSVP TODAY



JOIN US TO NETWORK WITH FELLOW PROFESSIONALS AND MAKE NEW CONNECTIONS!

HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

Please welcome Alexis Hunt,
Our new Associate Director
of Graduate Admissions



Happy Holidays!

from the WSSU Graduate College Staff!

