

# WINTHROP MAGAZINE

Summer 2017



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends:

The month of May could easily be the most special time of the year for the university. We have held three Commencement ceremonies and celebrated more than 900 students who received their graduate, specialist and undergraduate degrees. These ceremonies mark the culmination of years of hard work, and we couldn't be more proud of our recent graduates. We're also proud of our women's tennis team that won the Big South Conference—again--and recently competed in the NCAA tournament. No team in the history of the athletics department has as many conference championships as women's tennis. Watch for more about this program in the next edition of *Winthrop Magazine*.

This month we also had the distinct pleasure of hosting another important ceremony on campus. David Bancroft Johnson, Winthrop's founder and first president, was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame on May 5. The formal ceremony to recognize this well-deserved, and in my opinion, long-overdue honor was held in McBryde Hall.


The Hall of Fame honor had been in the works for two decades as several alumnae tirelessly advocated for Johnson's inclusion year after year. It was a special night, and a fitting honor for a man who made it his life's work not only to educate South Carolina women but also advance education across the state through their work. You can read more about the ceremony and Johnson on pages 2-5 of this *Winthrop Magazine* edition.

While it's officially summer on campus, please don't think that our efforts slow down. We're continuing work on the **Winthrop Plan**, the university's strategic vision, and I'm continuing to visit area cities to discuss the plan, and how alumni and friends can be a part of the initiative. Page 24 lists where Winthrop Plan discussions will be held in the summer and fall. I hope to meet as many of you during these visits as I can. Please contact the **Office of Alumni Relations** for details and reservations.

We had a wonderful spring semester, and I'm looking forward to kicking off Winthrop's 132nd academic year this August.

As always, thank you for your commitment to this fine institution, and I look forward to our work together on Winthrop's behalf.

Sincerely,

  
Dan Mahony  
President

# WINTHROP MAGAZINE Summer 2017



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## EDITORIAL STAFF

Ellen Wilder-Byrd '88, '94, *editor*  
Allen Blackmon '86, *art director*

*Contributing writers and photographers:*

Monica Bennett  
Meredith Carter '05  
Shawn Cetrone  
Nicole Chisari '09, '16  
Judy Longshaw

## NOTES

*About the Cover*

The David Bancroft Johnson portrait which hangs in the lobby of Tillman Hall

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**WINTHROP**  
UNIVERSITY

# 'HIGH IDEALS AND RIGHT AIMS': WINTHROP FOUNDER INDUCTED INTO SOUTH CAROLINA HALL OF FAME

Life's great purpose, David Bancroft Johnson believed, could be encapsulated with a question: "How much can I give?"

Winthrop University's founding president urged students to spend their lives immersed "in loving deeds," and he lived by example. For more than 40 years, Johnson devoted himself wholeheartedly to serving the university he loved and to advancing education in South Carolina.

On May 5, Winthrop celebrated Johnson's legacy and served as host for his long-awaited induction into the **South Carolina Hall of Fame** during a special ceremony and reception in McBryde Hall. The ceremony honored Johnson as well as contemporary inductee Stanley Donen, a film director, choreographer and South Carolina native. Carla Donen Davis, Donen's sister, and Donen Davis, his nephew, attended the ceremony to

talk about the artist's life and receive the award from S.C. Hall of Fame Chairman Rodger Stroup.

Provost and Executive Vice President Debra Boyd noted that the ceremony's location — in McBryde, surrounded by historical documents, photographs and artifacts from Johnson's life — offered a fitting tribute to Winthrop's founder, an influential educator and advocate who made the university his home.

"To have the opportunity to host this event, to host the board of trustees of the hall and to be able to include so many of our family — our students, faculty, administration, alumni and friends — is the ultimate honor for us," said Boyd, who accepted the plaque from Stroup as well as a resolution from the South Carolina Legislature presented by S.C. Senator Wes Climer.

Organist Shirley Fishburne '72, '73 and Winthrop alumnae in attendance provided a musical tribute to Johnson — a rendition of "Fairest Flower of the Southland," adopted officially as the university's first alma mater in 1936.

In addition, Winthrop alumnae played instrumental roles in securing Johnson's induction into the Hall of Fame. Susan Hoffer McMillan '71 of Conway and the late Libba Singleton submitted the initial nomination in 1984. McMillan and retired Winthrop professor Louise Pettus '46 resubmitted the nomination in 2010. Gina Price White '83, director of **Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections**, also pushed for Johnson's inclusion in the Hall of Fame year after year.

White, who provided historical background on Johnson's life and career at the May 5 ceremony, described Winthrop's founder as "one of South Carolina's great educators."

"Johnson served as Winthrop's president from 1886 until his death in 1928, and he never wavered in his belief in the importance of women being the key to educate the state's citizens," said White.

White noted that Johnson's dedication to Winthrop helped the institution grow into one of the premier women's colleges in the region, expanding its mission to become a comprehensive institution offering degrees in a variety of disciplines. Although the university has changed dramatically since its humble 1886 beginnings, Johnson's legacy of scholarship and service remains a vital part of Winthrop's mission.

## ROAD TO WINTHROP

David Bancroft Johnson seemed destined to be an educator. In fact, he was born on a college campus in 1856: in the dormitory of La Grange Female College in La Grange, Tennessee, where his father was founder and president. A strong student, Johnson went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees at East Tennessee University (now the University of Tennessee). He worked briefly in Tennessee before moving to South Carolina to work as a school principal in Abbeville, followed by an appointment to superintendent of the Columbia City Schools. There he faced the harsh reality of chronic teacher shortages in

Left to right: Susan Hoffer McMillan '71 and Gina Price White '83, alumnae who advocated for D.B. Johnson's induction, pose with Provost and Executive Vice President Debra Boyd (holding plaque) and S.C. Hall of Fame Chairman Rodger Stroup after the May 5 ceremony.



South Carolina — a hardship that gave him the idea to establish an all-female teacher training institution.

In 1886, Johnson used his own funds to travel to Boston and meet with lawyer and philanthropist **Robert Charles Winthrop** (the university's namesake), chairman of the Peabody Education Board. Johnson left Massachusetts with \$1,500 in seed money to establish Winthrop, which opened its doors on Nov. 15, 1886, in Columbia. By 1895, when Winthrop moved to Rock Hill, the school was firmly established as an educational institution that supplied South Carolina with much-needed educators.

Johnson remained a constant presence at the state level, attending state legislator budget meetings and lobbying vigorously for more funds. His tireless efforts transformed Winthrop in the years 1900-1928, leading to a massive expansion and building program. By the time Johnson died in 1928, Winthrop, which began as a modest one-room school, had grown into one of the largest women's colleges in the U.S.

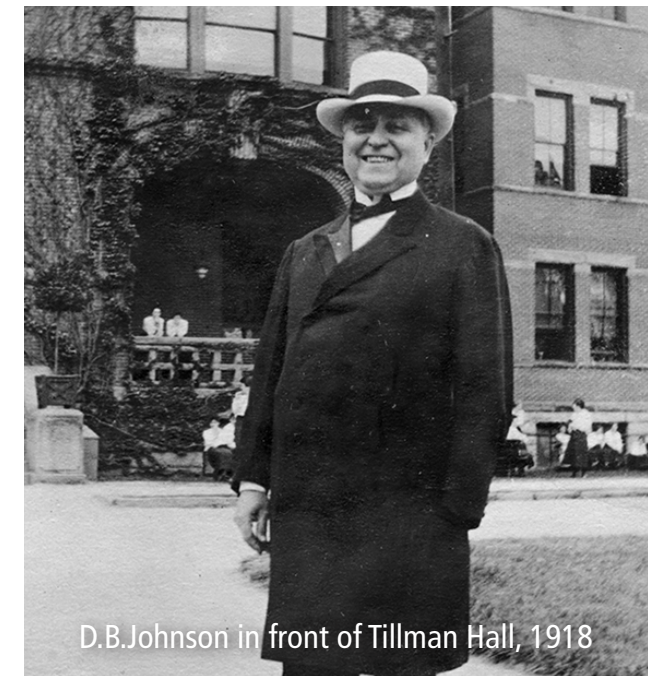
Johnson's professional accomplishments during his 42 years of leadership at Winthrop included:

- » Serving as president of the South Carolina Teachers Association, the Southern Education Association and the National Education Association.
- » Founding the South Carolina Association of School Superintendents.
- » Earning recognition as South Carolina's Most Distinguished Citizen by the American Legion in 1927 and Educator of the Half Century in 1950 — 22 years after his death.

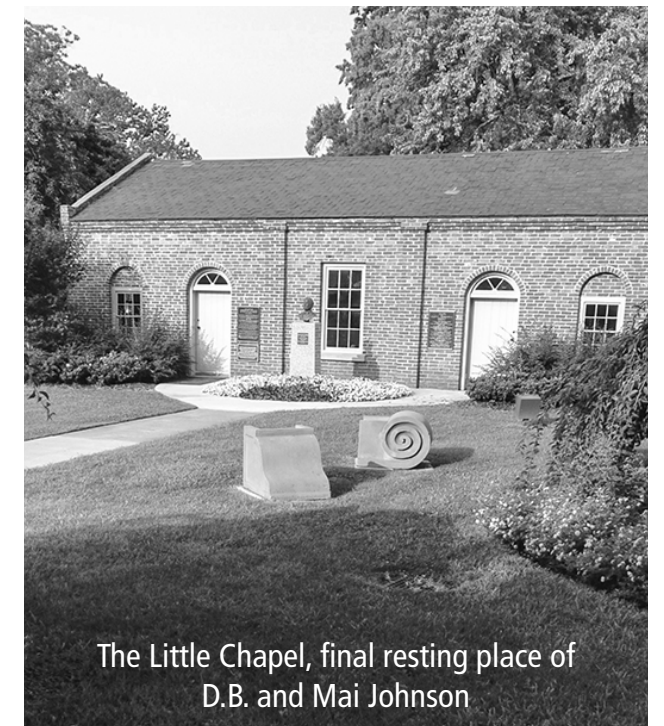
His unwavering dedication to the university was a commitment he shared with his wife, Mai Rutledge Smith Johnson, a native of Charleston. After the couple married in 1902, they hosted a number of prestigious and influential guests on campus, including 27th U.S. President William Howard Taft, aviator Amelia Earhart and comedian Will Rogers, among others. After her husband's death in 1928, Mai worked as associate librarian in the university's library for 50 years, retiring at age 92. For her devotion to Winthrop, she received the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award, which recognizes an alumna for selfless dedication of time, energy and talent in service to others.

The greatest object of your life should be to guard carefully against forming anything but right habits of thought, of feeling, of action — to store your minds and heart with high ideals and right aims and motives and purposes.

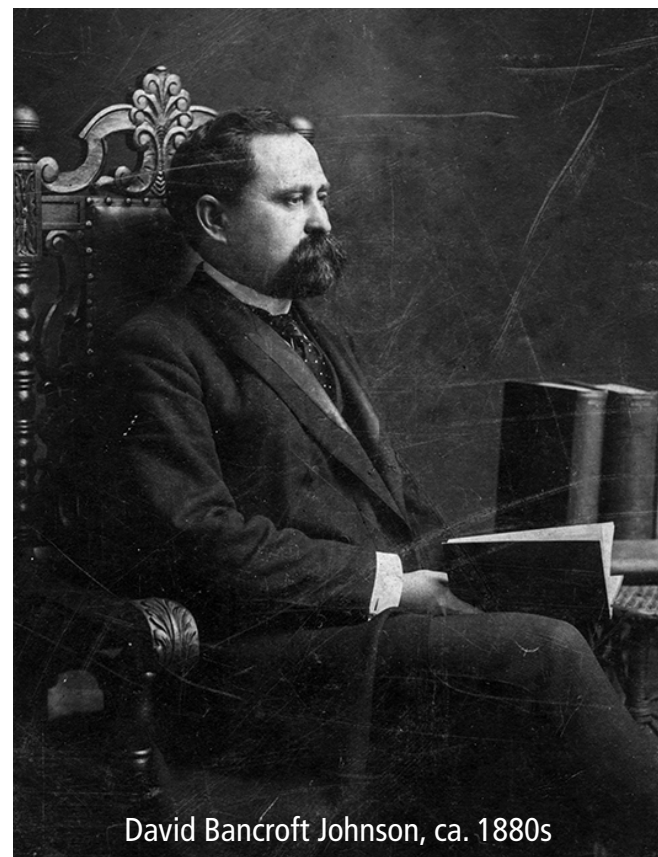
David Bancroft Johnson, 1909



D.B. Johnson in front of Tillman Hall, 1918



The Little Chapel, final resting place of D.B. and Mai Johnson



David Bancroft Johnson, ca. 1880s



Mai Rutledge Smith Johnson, 1902



D.B. Johnson, 1910

## ABOUT THE S.C. HALL OF FAME

The South Carolina Hall of Fame recognizes and honors both contemporary and past citizens who have made outstanding contributions to the state's heritage and progress. One contemporary and one deceased citizen are inducted into the Hall of Fame annually. Visit [www.theofficialschalloffame.com](http://www.theofficialschalloffame.com) for more information.

# HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

## WIND SYMPHONY PERFORMS AT CARNEGIE HALL

The premier of Antonín Dvořák’s monumental “New World Symphony,” the jazzy bounce of George Gershwin’s spirited “Rhapsody in Blue,” the harmonica-driven opening notes of The Beatles’ “Love Me Do” — Carnegie Hall has been a showcase for the world’s best music. On March 28, the Winthrop Wind Symphony joined a prestigious list of acts that have performed at the famed New York City music venue.

The once-in-a-lifetime moment of the March 28 performance was not lost on the group’s 47 members. Junior instrumental music major Tyler Holliday noted that it was a tremendous honor to perform on the same stage as some of the world’s most renowned musicians.

“We were able to perform on the same stage as other great artists, performers and composers such as Tchaikovsky, Leonard Bernstein, Yo-Yo Ma and Billie Holliday, all of whom have had such important influences on our musical culture,” said Holliday. “This experience taught me that the Wind Symphony is a family. It taught me to love the true art form of music, and it taught me to embrace uniqueness and creativity. I couldn’t ask for a better experience.”

**“Carnegie Hall is one of the greatest performing halls in the world, and groups cannot simply ‘walk in off the street’ to perform.”**

Lorrie Crochet  
Director of Bands

The gravity of the March 28 concert hit senior music education major Lori Lynne Hurst during the sound check. “The first notes we played in Carnegie Hall were so pure and resonant that it almost brought me to tears. It is something that I will never forget.”

The World Projects Corporation chose the Wind Symphony as its Featured Showcase Ensemble for the New York Sounds of Spring International Music Festival after requesting recordings of past Wind Symphony performances. After reviewing the recordings, the corporation’s CEO extended the invitation to perform a 45-minute program for select high school students from around the world and the general public.

“Carnegie Hall is one of the greatest performing halls in the world, and groups cannot simply ‘walk in off the street’ to perform,” said Lorrie Crochet, director of bands. “Performances are vetted to ensure Carnegie Hall’s legacy of high performance quality. This performance provided the Wind Symphony students with a once-in-a-lifetime experience to showcase their high-level artistry. I am quite proud of the music-making and commitment the students displayed.”

The Wind Symphony traveled by bus to New York City. On the way, students performed at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, North Carolina, and Riverside High School in Leesburg, Virginia. These stops brought attention to the Carnegie Hall concert and assisted the Department of Music in recruiting the finest high school musicians to study at Winthrop.

To help fund a trip of this size, an anonymous donor and longtime Winthrop supporter matched all gifts dollar for dollar—up to \$25,000—that were made in support of the symphony’s trip. Students were able to visit Central Park, Rockefeller Center, the Statue of Liberty, the 9/11 Memorial and Museum and take in a performance of “La Traviata” at The Metropolitan Opera.

Riley Pagett, a senior instrumental music major, appreciated the support from so many Winthrop contributors. “Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the university, we had time to explore the city and each develop our own appreciation for what makes it so vibrant,” he said. “The most memorable experience for me was watching the faces of my fellow students as some of them saw the city for the first time.”

The Winthrop Wind Symphony takes the stage in preparation for the March 28 performance at Carnegie Hall. *Photo credit: Group Photos, Inc.*



# A TICKET TO THE DANCE

## TEAM WINS BIG SOUTH, MAKES NCAA TOURNEY APPEARANCE

The 2016-17 men's basketball team put together a season for the record books when it won the program's 11th Big South Conference championship by beating Campbell University and earning an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament. This marked the program's 10<sup>th</sup> NCAA Tournament appearance and its first appearance since 2010.

Leading up to the big game, Head Coach Pat Kelsey, who has led the program since 2012, appeared on several media outlets, including ESPN SportsCenter, to assure tournament watchers and teams that Winthrop was not afraid to face a big-name opponent.

Surrounded by hundreds of fans at the Winthrop Coliseum on Selection Sunday, the team found out it earned a 13th seed in the NCAA Tournament, which is tied for the second best tournament seeding in program history, and would face 4th seeded Butler University in the tournament's first round in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on March 16.

The team put up a tough fight against the Bulldogs but ultimately ended up falling 76-64. Junior Xavier Cooks finished with a game-high 23 points and senior phenom Keon Johnson tallied 17 points. The Eagles' season came to a close with a 26-7 record, recording the third most wins in program history for a single season.

"It's been a very fun team to coach," said Kelsey. "I told all those guys in the locker room that they have nothing to be ashamed of. They should keep their heads held high. They had a phenomenal season. In about six, seven months there will be a banner put back up in the Winthrop Coliseum, and this senior class has re-established Winthrop basketball to its rightful place as a force in Mid-Major basketball."

### JOHNSON BREAKS WINTHROP SCORING RECORD

Johnson, a sociology major from Mansfield, Ohio, broke several Winthrop records this season. During a Feb. 9 game against UNC Asheville, Johnson scored a career-high 40 points to become the program's all-time leading scorer, passing the 1,850 points of Charles Brunson '82. Johnson finished his career with 2,076 points.

He also set the new single-season record with 102 three-pointers. Because of his stellar season, Johnson earned Big South Player of the Year honors and was named, along with Cooks, to the First Team All Big South. He also was named an Associated Press All-American Honorable Mention selection, becoming only the second Eagle to receive AP All-American recognition.

The Eagles compiled an impressive season and by doing so brought much national attention to the university during the team's tournament run. USA Today called Winthrop a top 10 Cinderella team to watch. Alumni and supporters took to social media to express their pride in the team and in the university. And the basketball world again took notice of Winthrop as its team shined on the national stage.

The men's basketball team captured the Big South Conference championship on March 5. The win earned the team an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. *Photo credit: Carlos Morales*



Upper left: Junior Xavier Cooks scored a game-high 23 points during the Eagles' loss to Butler in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. *Photo credit: Steve Gotter*



Left: Senior Keon Johnson was presented with a basketball to commemorate his spot as the program's all-time leading scorer. Head Coach Pat Kelsey, left, and Athletic Director Ken Halpin, right, presented Johnson with the ball. *Photo credit: Jack Frost*

# FORGET WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW ABOUT LIBRARIES

Card catalogues, huge print collections and microfilm — all things you could expect in a library 30+ years ago.

Now throw that out in place of online databases, smaller print collections, group study rooms, tech devices, fit desks, a music lab and more, and you have the modern university library.

When Winthrop University's Ida Jane Dacus Library was completed in 1969, few could foresee the drastic way libraries would evolve over the next five decades. Changes were necessary to keep patrons physically visiting the stacks and not solely relying on online resources. As some question whether we even need libraries anymore, Dean Mark Herring has an answer.

"Some readers may find it laughable to put the words 'exciting' and 'librarian' together in the same sentence, but I must," he said. "Frankly, it really is one of the most exciting times ever to be a librarian."

When Herring arrived in 1999, Dacus' materials budget hit about \$400,000, evenly distributed between print and non-print. Today, that budget clocks in at more than \$1 million, with 80 percent going toward non-print, i.e., digital access. That has prompted some difficult decisions, he said, such as moving from a robust, but costly, integrated library system to a less expensive, but also less inclusive, one.

But this brings some advantages, too. At print's pinnacle, students could access more than 3,000 journals with a visit to Dacus.

"Today's Winthrop's student has access to more than 30,000 journals, nearly all of which can be read while lying in bed in their pajamas!" Herring said.

But libraries are about more than books these days, he pointed out.

"We must provide access to the web, access to journals and databases and provide group and individual study areas," he explained. "The library today is not only not the one your mother used, but very likely not the one you used if you graduated more than five years ago. The changes are rapid and palpable. Attending to everyone's needs isn't easy."

No one knows that more than outreach librarian Michaela Volkmar. Her duties include promoting the library's resources and services and educating Winthrop students, faculty and staff in capitalizing on those resources. The library underwent a main-floor renovation in 2012 that created an information commons, techno-booths, group study rooms featuring smart boards, and added 24-hours/five days a week (Sundays-Thursdays) access based on student feedback, as well as added fit desks and a music lab more recently. But staff members still struggle to make a nearly 50-year-old building inviting.

LaSamrae Vandross demonstrates one of the Dacus Library's new fit desks, which allow students to get in a cardio workout while they study.

"[At the beginning of the semester] Students were in here just to check out textbooks and check out a laptop," Volkmar said. "It's not until a few weeks in when you get students coming for reference help."

Libraries may have evolved, she added, but students' needs are still the same: computer access, textbook reserves and research resources.

That's the key: teaching students about credible resources and how to find them.

Volkmar also has implemented unconventional outreach activities for students, including:

- » **Book-A-Librarian:** Students can sign up for one-on-one research consultations with Dacus librarians. "Every single student I've met with or heard from is really appreciative of the individualized research assistance we provide," she said.
- » **Easter egg hunt:** Eggs were hidden between books and other not-so-obvious spots in the library.
- » **Doughnuts with Dacus:** Volkmar sets up in the DiGiorgio Campus Center and offers doughnuts while talking to students about the library.
- » **Pokémon Go-inspired scavenger hunt:** This fun activity had students searching for bookmarks on all three floors.

"So much of what they can do here, they can do in their dorm," Volkmar said. "But we absolutely need libraries and librarians. Just because you have resources online doesn't mean you know how to use them. Searching for credible information isn't as easy as students think it will be. That's why librarians, who are experts in searching for information, are a resource in and of themselves."

Herring added, "In today's world of fake news, librarians are more relevant and more needed than ever before."

While difficult to imagine the next 50 years in library services, rest assured Winthrop librarians will continue to serve students in support of their academic endeavors by always evolving with technology changes and listening to student needs.



# MARK HAMILTON: SHAPING WINTHROP'S VISUAL FUTURE



When Fine Arts Professor Mark Hamilton teaches summer photography classes at Winthrop University to middle school students, he pays close attention to their technology tendencies.

After all, it's a peek into what his future college students will be using four years later.

Hamilton has watched the growing influence of visuals in the way the millennial generation learns. They don't use Google to find answers to their questions, he said. Instead, they go on YouTube to find videos.

Over the past decade, social media sites such as YouTube, Snapchat and Instagram have become more popular. This generation loves consuming pictures, memes and video across multiple platforms.

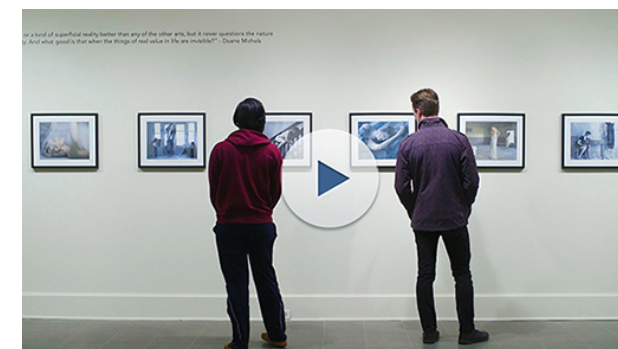
"We have a very visual culture," Hamilton said.

Now in his second decade at Winthrop, Hamilton is helping shape the photography program as longtime professor Phil Moody steps into retirement. Hamilton kept the millennial student's emphasis on the visual in mind when he suggested recent curriculum revisions.

Hamilton said the department will move the emphasis from commercial and fine art photography to photography and video. The department also recently added a photography minor.

Hamilton said the program has increased focus on visual literacy so that students can communicate with still and moving images, sometimes even without text.

Many of the students seeking the photography minor are business majors who want to improve their



**Watch the latest installment** of "These Professors" to see how Mark Hamilton builds his students up to succeed.

marketing skills, Hamilton said. "We talk about how art is an essential problem-solving skill," he said. "There is a greater need for art to communicate, and business people recognize that."

He and other Winthrop fine arts professors push their students to have dialogue with students outside the department and demonstrate their creativity. "We need to bring the greater campus into our world," Hamilton said. "There is something valuable here."

Hamilton's own interest in photography developed as a boy when he spent hours looking at the great picture magazines of the '60s. The New York City native joined the Marine Corps after high school, taught himself photography in the service and eventually led a team of 22 photographers for the Naval Atlantic Fleet Audio Visual Command.

He later worked as a fashion photographer with published work in more than 50 international publications with representation in New York, Tokyo and Milan.

Hamilton started teaching at Winthrop part time in 1997, was brought on full time two years later and now is tenured. He pursues personal fine arts projects and collaborative projects with his wife, photographer Jennifer Hamilton, along with commercial projects for select clientele.

Hamilton noted that in a world where everyone has a camera, it is more important than ever to make sure that his students have the ability to visually articulate either their own message or the needs of their client. "There is a big difference between taking snaps and crafting an image on demand," he said.

When working with students, Hamilton's goal is to help them unearth the voice that is buried within. "I always strive to have my students transcend the ordinary," he said. "In a global market, ordinary is not good enough. Art is a field in which there is less competition at the top than there is at the bottom. A personal vision is the key to success."



# FINDING PASSION IN THE REDIRECTIONS



As schools across the nation face increasing budget pressures, officials typically cut music programs first to save money. VH1 Save The Music Foundation tries to remedy that situation by working with those schools and building sustainable music programs.

Broadcast journalism graduate Trell Thomas helps lead that noble charge.

As the foundation's director of communications and talent relations, the 2008 graduate oversees all branding, including press, digital and marketing-related communications, as well as networks with artists, publicists and managers on how they can aid the mission.

"I love the feeling that I get knowing that I am able to help improve someone else's life," he said. "There is nothing better than knowing that you are a change agent, and because of your efforts someone, somewhere, has a better quality of life."

Originally, Thomas wanted to be a lawyer and then a judge.

"My dad told me I was good at proving my case or arguing," he joked. "I would also watch the television show 'Matlock' with my grandmother all of the time, so I was convinced that I could be him."

Growing up in Cassatt, Thomas instead set his sights on being the next Ed Bradley.

While at Winthrop, Thomas interned at NBC Universal in Charlotte, but another opportunity came knocking as he finished his degree: a chance to work in communications on then-presidential nominee Barack Obama's campaign in Georgia and North Carolina. He booked media interviews for surrogates on behalf of the campaign, an experience he called rewarding.

"It taught me not to be confined by fear and to follow my heart, to act out of passion and do things that felt right even if I was afraid," he said.

Thomas then found himself at a crossroads: not ready to move to D.C., but still bitten by the political bug. He moved to Portland, Oregon, for a three-month political boot camp that turned into a nearly three-year stay. He also worked at a non-profit helping high school and college students move their communities toward a sustainable future before spending several more years at the New Organizing Institute in D.C.

"I later decided that it was time to make all of my dreams come true, to stop playing small and really step into my destiny," Thomas said. "New York City had always in my mind been a place to do that sort of thing, so I started a plan to move to New York...the rest is magical history."

Thomas' advice for young students includes: one, use your college experience to help shape your life; two, always follow your passion; and three, there is no real failure in life, only redirections.

"With each experience you are steered toward what you are meant to do, being gently pushed toward things that come natural to you and are a part of your purpose," he said. "Don't spend so long thinking about the would-be failure that you miss the opportunities that are showing themselves in those moments."

*Photo credit: Jen Marigliano/VH1*

# Campus News

## May Commencement



The campus' biggest celebration – graduation – took place May 4 and 6 as more than 900 students received their bachelor's or master's degrees. Commencement speakers, Professor of Political Science Scott Huffmon and Associate Professor of Business Michael Matthews, dispensed words of wisdom, while **three faculty members were recognized for outstanding teaching, service and scholarship.**



**Check out the video** to join in the celebration of our students and faculty members!

## Medal of Honor in the Arts Offers Surprise Awards

Two members of the Medal of Honor in the Arts planning committee ended up in the spotlight at the April 9 event with medals of their own.

David Wohl, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, normally hosts the event, and Tom Stanley, chair of the Department of Fine Arts, has suggested recipients since its inception in 2001. The two, who are retiring this summer, were awarded medals this year, their last as Winthrop representatives.

Also honored that night were Polly Adkins '68, '72, Kitty Wilson-Evans '92 and Family Trust Federal Credit Union.

For the first time, the Medal of Honor in the Arts stretched over the entire weekend with events, activities and exhibitions across campus. Art Director Allen Blackmon '86 redesigned the medal presented to the recipients, marking its third iteration since the awards began.



## BMX World-class Cyclists Coming to Rock Hill



The City of Rock Hill will host a first world championship of its kind in South Carolina this summer.

Winthrop faculty, staff and students will help make a success of the **2017 BMX World Championships** from July 25-30 at the Novant Health BMX Supercross Track.

The event, sponsored by Union Cycliste Internationale, may draw up to 4,000 amateur and professional athletes from more than 40 countries.

Jack DeRochi, dean of the Graduate School and chair of a campus planning committee, said cyclists will pick up their tournament race packets at the Winthrop Coliseum. The venue also will provide parking and host an orientation for United States riders.

In addition, the university will provide translating services, help with a race documentary and integrated marketing consultation, economic impact analysis and volunteers the week of the event.

## Winthrop a National Leader in Graduating Minorities

An Education Trust report recently ranked Winthrop as second in the country as an institution with high rates of graduation success among minority populations.

The report, "A Look at Black Student Success: Identifying Top- and Bottom-Performing Institutions," found that Winthrop's black students graduated at an average rate of 56.2 percent during the 2012, 2013 and 2014 academic years. The graduation rate of black students is 3.5 percentage points higher than Winthrop's graduation of white students.

This is the second time in a decade that Education Trust has praised Winthrop's work in this area.

## Winthrop Named a Voter Friendly Campus



Winthrop recently earned the "Voter-Friendly Campus" designation for its work encouraging students to register and vote in the 2016 general election.

The designation, granted to only 83 institutions nationwide, was given by the national nonpartisan organizations Campus Vote Project and NASPA — Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

President Dan Mahony praised the efforts, noting that promoting engaged and informed citizenship is a core Winthrop value. "I am proud of the faculty, staff, students and community partners who encouraged voting, discussed current issues of the day, brought candidates to campus to meet with students, and inspired our students' expressions of free speech," he said.

Student Voting Ambassadors registered more than 300 students and handed out nearly 500 "check your voter registration" cards and 250 flyers describing absentee voting. Campus clubs, organizations and academic departments held more than 30 election-related events.

## Communications and Marketing Office Wins Two CASE Awards

Winthrop captured the top award for special events at the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District III conference for its First in the South Democratic Presidential Candidate Forum.

The event was sponsored by MSNBC with the S.C. Democratic Party. Organizers called the event, complemented by a midday visit by Republican U.S. Sen. Rand Paul as part of U.S. Sen. Tim Scott's Town Hall tour, a political extravaganza.

The forum, moderated by Rachael Maddow and attended by candidates Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley, shined a media spotlight on Winthrop for days. The MSNBC show *Hardball* was televised that night from campus. **Check out a video about the political season.**

At the CASE conference, Winthrop also earned an Award of Excellence for the fall 2015 edition of the *Winthrop Magazine*.

## College of Business Administration and College of Visual and Performing Arts Deans Named

Winthrop will welcome two new deans July 1 – P.N. Saksena for the College of Business Administration and Jeff Bellantoni, for the College of Visual and Performing Arts.



Saksena comes from Indiana University South Bend where he was a professor of accounting and associate dean for graduate programs and accreditation at the Judd Leighton School of Business and Economics. He replaces Roger Weikle, who has been dean since 1996 and was presented the college's top award, the Pinnacle Leadership Society Award, on April 22.



Bellantoni most recently served as vice president for academic affairs at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida. With a career spanning more than 25 years as an arts educator, designer and author, he will replace David Wohl, who is retiring after seven years at Winthrop.

## Bohnen to Lead Institutional Advancement



Evan Bohnen, associate vice president for development at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), will be Winthrop's vice president for institutional advancement beginning July 31.

"Winthrop faces a pivotal period as we have embarked on a new strategic plan which relies on fundraising to support its initiatives," said President Dan Mahony. "As we searched for Winthrop's next vice president, we knew we needed someone with a complete set of fundraising and management skills. Evan Bohnen is a proven leader who will continue to cultivate and grow key relationships with donors and friends of Winthrop, while substantially enhancing our advancement operation."

At IUP, Bohnen is responsible for all fund-raising operations such as major gifts, annual giving, planned giving, donor relations and donor research, as well as managing the university's largest comprehensive campaign to date.

## New Endowment Honors Retiring CBA Dean



Roger and Elizabeth Weikle

A new endowment will honor **College of Business Administration** Dean Roger Weikle, who will retire in June, and support students or adjunct faculty within the college or the **Department of Human Nutrition**.

Weikle, who retires after 41 years at Winthrop, and his wife, Elizabeth '83, '85, have established the Roger and Elizabeth Weikle International Opportunities Endowment. The fund will allow more students the opportunity to experience international study and will focus on supporting students or adjunct faculty in designated international study and learning experiences.

To make a gift to any of the funds mentioned in this section, send checks payable to "Winthrop University Foundation" to 302 Tillman Hall, Rock Hill, SC 29733, or give online at [www.winthropalumni.com/give](http://www.winthropalumni.com/give), then use the fund search and designate your support for the fund of interest to you.

## Funds Commemorate Rock Hill Couple



Martin and Harriet Goode

The children of Winthrop supporters Martin Goode '76 and Harriet Marshall Goode have established two new funds — an endowment and an annual restricted fund — to honor their parents' 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

The Harriet and Martin Goode Student Artists' Fund and the Harriet and Martin Goode Annual Restricted Fund will provide for either a purchase or merit award from the **Undergraduate Juried Exhibition** or the purchase of student artwork at another time during the year. Merit awards will be based on overall accomplishment, and any student artwork will become part of the university's permanent student art collection on display at the President's House.

The Goodes, who reside in Rock Hill, have strong ties to the university: Martin earned his M.B.A. at Winthrop, while Harriet graduated from Winthrop Training School in 1955.

## Alumni Couples Establish New Scholarships

Two alumni couples have established scholarships to celebrate their connections to Winthrop, where their relationships began.

Gary Gaulin '79 and his wife, Jody Guy Gaulin '78, have established the Jody Guy Gaulin and Gary V. Gaulin Endowed Scholarship to support **political science** or **business** majors who graduated from a South Carolina high school and maintain a GPA of at least 2.5. The couple lives in Rock Hill.



Gary and Jody Gaulin

Capt. Charles Thoennes '06, U.S. Air Force, and his wife, Kristen '08, have established the Charles and Kristen Thoennes Scholarship, which will benefit **political science** majors, with first preference given to Winthrop students who

are military veterans. The Thoenneses, who live in Sumter, hope to endow the fund over the next five to seven years. Kristen recently joined the Alumni Executive Board with a term beginning July 1.

## Scholarship Honors Late Alumna, Educator

The Gayle Campbell Lanford Scholarship, which will award for the first time in fall 2017, will celebrate the work of longtime guidance counselor Gayle Campbell Lanford '62, '74 who recently passed away.

The scholarship, established by Lanford's husband, Joe, will support one student who is pursuing an **M.Ed. in counseling and development**, school counseling concentration, and who demonstrates a passion for and commitment to guidance counseling.

Lanford earned her B.A. in English and her M.Ed. in guidance at Winthrop. She went on to work as a guidance counselor in the Rock Hill School District, eventually earning S.C. School Counselor of the Year honors for her efforts to improve admissions and find financial assistance for college-bound students.



Gayle Lanford

## Winthrop Launches Advocacy Network

Winthrop has launched a new initiative that will give alumni and supporters in South Carolina a more prominent role in advocating on the university's behalf.

The **Winthrop Advocacy Network** will provide in-state alumni an opportunity to become better informed about issues being addressed at the State Capitol, connecting alumni and supporters across the state to influence legislation affecting Winthrop among members of the South Carolina General Assembly.

During the legislative session, Winthrop will reach out to alumni and ask them to make contact with their representative and senator about legislation that is important to the university. This simple action won't require much time, but it will have a tremendous impact.

**Join the Winthrop Advocacy Network** and effect positive change for Winthrop. For more information, contact Vice President for University Relations Jeff Perez at 803/323-3029 or [perezj@winthrop.edu](mailto:perezj@winthrop.edu).

**WINTHROP ADVOCACY NETWORK**

News Grassroots Officials Winthrop University Home

Welcome to the Winthrop Advocacy Network! Our goal is to inform, educate and empower Winthrop University alumni and friends to effectively advocate for this institution that is focusing on becoming a national model for a student-centered public university experience.

Winthrop continues to be widely known for our stellar student experience. We provide an environment where our motivated, engaged students can thrive — what we call the Winthrop experience. We are proud that Winthrop is consistently named a U.S. News Top 10 public university in the South. Our alumni are leaders of business, education, science, the arts, and more. You can help extend and strengthen Winthrop's legacy and ensure this Rock Hill university thrives for generations.

By becoming an advocate, you will receive information, communications, and calls to action at critical times.

**JOIN NOW** **Click Here to Login**

**Instructions:**

1. Create a User ID and Password so that you can return the system
2. At the bottom of the page where indicated, provide your Name, Email Address, and Home Address. This will allow us to determine your State Representative and Senator. Completing this step will enroll you in the Winthrop Advocacy Network. There is no charge to be a member of the network.
3. If you know any elected officials in South Carolina, please enter this information in your profile under the tab, "My Key Relationships." Steps for adding relationships are as follows:
  - Under the tab of "My Key Relationships" select "See My Key Relationships" and then select at the bottom of the page, "Add a Key Relationship," and then select "All Elected Officials."
  - Select the appropriate body, such as the State House or Senate, and click on the name of the official with whom you have a relationship.
  - Click on "Add a Key Relationship." Using the drop downs and the information box, tell us about the nature of that relationship. You can enter information for as many officials as you wish by clicking on "Add a Key Relationship" again.

**Have a Voice**

- To ensure our region continues to have access to affordable high-quality, higher education
- To keep academic programs strong for current and future students
- To develop the talent needed to drive an information-based economy
- To support regional business and research investment
- To attract and retain top quality faculty and staff
- To provide opportunity for future generations

**Make a Difference**

- Stay informed about legislation affecting Winthrop and S.C. public higher education
- Get access to tools to help you advocate effectively
- Make the Winthrop Advocacy Network stronger and our message more impactful
- Receive "Calls to Action" when your email or call can make the difference
- By simply clicking a link, tell your legislators that Winthrop and public higher education are important to you
- Let us know if you have personal relationships with legislators to help us better communicate

# Alumni News

## Nutrition to Celebrate 100 Years in September



The **Department of Human Nutrition** will celebrate 100 years of food, nutrition and dietetic education at Winthrop University on Wednesday, Sept. 6.

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics President Lucille Beseler will deliver the keynote speech. In addition, there will be a research symposium featuring student research in the field of nutrition and dietetics. The reception begins at 4 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. in Richardson Ballroom, DiGiorgio Campus Center.

Winthrop invites alumni from across the department and university to join in this momentous celebration. For more information, contact the Department of Human Nutrition at 803/323-2101.

## Save the Date: 2017 Homecoming and Reunion Weekend

Missing your alma mater? Come home to Winthrop for 2017 Homecoming and Reunion Weekend on Nov. 17-18, 2017! Secure a prime spot on the Winthrop Coliseum lawn to reconnect and tailgate with friends before cheering on the Eagles at the Homecoming basketball game, or celebrate the accomplishments of this year's alumni award recipients. And there's plenty more to do: take a trolley tour of campus, reminisce with classmates over historic photos at the Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections exhibit and more.

Visit [www.winthrop.edu/alumni](http://www.winthrop.edu/alumni) or call the Morgan-Holcombe Alumni Center at 800/578-6545 for more information.



## Alumni Award Nominations Due Aug. 25

Each November, the Alumni Association presents awards during the Alumni Awards Ceremony and Luncheon, held during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, to alumni who have demonstrated Winthrop's tradition of excellence. The Alumni Executive Board's Honors and Awards Committee reviews nominations and selects winners for the following awards: Mary Mildred Sullivan Award, Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, Alumni Distinguished Service Award, Alumni Professional Achievement Award and Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Complete and submit the **Awards Nomination form** (pdf - 38 KB) to Lori Tuttle, executive director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, at [tuttle@winthrop.edu](mailto:tuttle@winthrop.edu). Nominations will be accepted through Friday, Aug. 25.

## Winthrop University's 14th Annual Ring Ceremony

Traditions are priceless. So are the lifelong friendships students develop at Winthrop University. At the 14th Annual Ring Ceremony in April, Alumni Association President David McDonald '01 presented rings to 42 students, inviting them to wear the ring to honor their experiences and achievements at Winthrop.

Established in 2004, the Annual Ring Ceremony is a celebration where juniors and seniors who are graduating receive their official Winthrop ring. For more information, contact Brittany Neely '14, campus relations coordinator, at 803/323-3050 or [neelyb@winthrop.edu](mailto:neelyb@winthrop.edu).

# Class Notes

## Alumni Recently Named Teacher of the Year

Visual Arts Coordinator **Marcia Womble '12**, Gray Court-Owings School in Gray Court, was chosen as one of five finalists for the South Carolina Teacher of the Year Award.

**Stephanie Fleming '80, '96**  
*Clover*  
Blue Eagle Academy

**Deborah Allen '82**  
*Rock Hill*  
The Children's School

**Deborah Lancaster '85**  
*York*  
York Intermediate School

**Angela Haltom '87, '93**  
*Hickory Grove*  
Hickory Grove-Sharon Elementary School

**Ann Lamba '88**  
*Fort Mill*  
Tega Cay Elementary School

**Melisa Smith '89**  
*Rock Hill*  
Mount Gallant Elementary School

**Patti Bechtler '90**  
*Rock Hill*  
Northside Elementary School

**Shelley Vaughan '91**  
*Lockhart*  
Lockhart Elementary/Middle School

**Susan Dixon '92**  
*Rock Hill*  
Richmond Drive Elementary School

**Kim Sloan '92**  
*Rock Hill*  
Mount Holly Elementary School

**Keisha Robinson '93**  
*Clover*  
Clover Middle School

**Michelle Reese '96**  
*Fort Mill*  
Gold Hill Elementary School

**Katrinia Wilkerson '96, '12**  
*Fort Mill*  
Fort Mill Elementary School

**Leigh Clarke '99**  
*Rock Hill*  
Ebinport Elementary School

**Rebecca Matthews '99, '05**  
*Rock Hill*  
Oakdale Elementary School

**Herbert Johnson '01, '13**  
*Sumter*  
Lakewood High School

**Lindsay Grant '03, '05**  
*Rock Hill*  
Rock Hill High School

**Jessica Calloway '05**  
*Fort Mill*  
Fort Mill High School

**Carol Dawkins '05**  
*York*  
York Comprehensive High School

**Joya Holmes '05**  
*Rock Hill*  
Dutchman Creek Middle School

**Leigh Ann Strickland '05**  
*Rock Hill*  
Old Pointe Elementary School

**Jennifer Wilkes Krinn '06, '10**  
*Fort Mill*  
Fort Mill Middle School

**Robin Deyton '09**  
*Clover*  
Oakridge Middle School

**Ryan Morrison '13**  
*Rock Hill*  
South Pointe High School

**Kayla Mullis '13**  
*Rock Hill*  
India Hook Elementary School

**Marsha Bell '15**  
*Rock Hill*  
Central Child Development Center

## Let Us Hear from You!

Do you have a new job, marriage, baby or other life-changing event that you would like to share with the Winthrop family? If so, please send in your information to be included in a future print or online *Winthrop Magazine* edition.

Please e-mail [alumni@winthrop.edu](mailto:alumni@winthrop.edu), visit [www.winthrop.edu/alumni](http://www.winthrop.edu/alumni) or call 803/323-2145 or 800/578-6545 to submit your news.

### 1961

Former school district state and federal programs director **Jackie Adams-Traynor** of Lancaster has been inducted into the Lancaster County Education Hall of Fame.

### 1972

This spring **Cathy Smith Bowers** will be inducted into the S.C. Academy of Authors for her poetry and novels.

### 1979

**Cheryl Swinton** has been named executive principal of Burke High and Simmons Pinckney Middle Schools in Charleston.

**Sandra Thompson** was recently inducted into the T.L. Hanna Athletic Hall of Fame for coaching boys and girls tennis.

# Class Notes

## 1987

S.C. Representative and Director of Community Relations at Furman University **Chandra Dillard** has been named to Greenville Business Magazine's "50 Most Influential People in the Upstate."

## 1988

Chester resident **Jessica Wylie Granville** is one of four alumni authors who contributed to the novel "We Are Not This."

## 1991

**Christopher O'Rear**, resident of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, will perform at the Shelton State Community College Terrific Tuesday Concert Series.

## 1992

Greer City Administrator **Ed Driggers** has been named to Greenville Business Magazine's "50 Most Influential People in the Upstate."

**Bill Littleton** of Ponte Vedra, Florida, assisted in the design of the Super Bowl LI championship T-shirt.

## 1995

Charlotte, North Carolina, resident **John Hartness** is one of four alumni authors who contributed to the novel "We Are Not This."

## 1996

Irmo resident **Matthew Sullivan** has been appointed to a four-year term on the National Federation of State High School Associations' baseball rules committee as the Region 3 (Southeast) representative.

## 1999

**Jaime Carter** was recognized by the Charlotte Business Journal as one of 40 local professionals under the age of 40 who are making major strides in their career while leaving a positive impact on their community.

## 2000

Fort Mill resident and York County Emergency Management Director **Chuck Haynes** has been awarded the State Achievement Ribbon for outstanding performance on duty during Hurricane Matthew.

## 2001

Lancaster native **David McDonald** has been recently named the new assistant superintendent for middle schools in the Greenville County School District.

## 2002

**Alexis Gordon** of Charlotte, North Carolina, has been recognized by the Charlotte Business Journal as one of 40 local professionals under the age of 40 who are making major strides in their career while leaving a positive impact on their community.

Spartanburg resident **John Jenkins** recently took the oath to join the Spartanburg City Council.

Rock Hill resident **Melissa McArthur Gilbert** is one of four alumni authors who contributed to the novel "We Are Not This."

## 2003

Rock Hill resident **Chisa Putman** has been sworn in as York County's first full-time female African-American magistrate judge.

## 2004

**Adam Narczewski** recently accepted Admiral Markets Poland's country manager position in Warszawa, Poland.

Rock Hill's **Jason Gilbert** is one of four alumni authors who contributed to the novel "We Are Not This."

**Justin McLellan** of Lancaster was recently named fire chief of the city's fire department.

**Mary Goode** of Columbia has been promoted to senior manager at McGregor & Company, LLP.

The National Aquarium has promoted **Scott Douglas Melton** of Baltimore, Maryland, to senior vice president/chief philanthropy officer.

**Shannon Quinn** co-directed the dance work "Propelling Voice" in Pretoria Gaueng, South Africa.

## 2006

The National Jurist Magazine has named Willie Lyles III of Carbondale, Illinois, one of the top 25 future lawyers.

## 2007

Baltimore, Maryland, resident **Bryan Moore** recently accepted a position at John Hopkins University as a senior compliance monitor.

## 2008

Former basketball player **Chris Gaynor** was recently inducted into the Winthrop Athletics Hall of Fame.

## 2009

Former volleyball player **Shannon Sitzmann Reid** of Waukee, Iowa, was inducted into the Winthrop Athletics Hall of Fame.

## 2010

Lewisville High School in Richburg has named **Jamal Sanders** assistant principal.

## 2011

Charlotte, North Carolina, resident **Nicole Brantley** was recognized by the Charlotte Business Journal as one of 40 local professionals under the age of 40 who are making major strides in their career while leaving a positive impact on their community.

**Shannon Duke** of El Segundo, California, has been chosen to judge the AAF Kansas City American Advertising Awards.

## 2013

Rock Hill resident **Elliott Jeter** recently started E. Jeter Music, a company that services the Rock Hill and Charlotte areas.

## 2014

Charleston native **Grace Riley** is pursuing a juris doctorate at the Charleston School of Law.

Rock Hill resident **Meagan DenOuden** with BNA CPAs & Advisors has passed the CPA exam.

# Milestones

## BIRTHS

**Kelli Kirkwood Maydew** '08, a son, Easton Karter Maydew, March 8, 2017

**Kelley Taylor Nugent** '10, '12, a son, James Robert Nugent, March 19, 2017

**Jaclyn Warden Berisford** '13, a son, Noah Martin Berisford, Dec. 13, 2016

## MARRIAGES

**William Owen Reid** '09 to Hayley Maree Chandler

**Nicole Christine Abbott** '12 to Josh Segura

**Sarah Katherine Barton** '14 to Zachary (Zach) Chase Frank '14

**Jeanne Kirkland Stroud** '14 to Andrew (Drew) Bailey Harris '14

**Kathleen (Katie) Paige Thompson** '16 to Philip Gawronski

## IN MEMORIAM

### 1930s

Bernice Martin Potter '34  
Mary Davis Todd '37  
Caroline White Donnan '39  
Anne Pursley Faris '39

## 1940s

Jacqueline Allen Hardy '40  
Alta Parsons McGeachie '40  
Frances Edwards Outz '40  
Anne Westbrook Cassells '41  
Lois Boyd Jones '42  
Mitchell (Mickey) Smith King '42  
Ann (Rebecca) Morgan McMaster '42  
Doris Wolff Wangerin '42  
Mattie Way Cranford '43  
Ethel Trenholm Seabrook Nepveux '43  
Edwina Barr Ogden '43  
Sara McLendon Sutherland '43  
Bess Maroney Caldwell '45  
Mary Ruth Moore Burwell '46  
Annie (Louise) Black Carson '46  
Betty Gambrell Milam McClain '46  
Lucy (Juanita) Hughes Bleakley '47  
Alice (Anne) Kelley Brown '47  
Sara (Frankie) Isbell Childress '47  
Julia Rainwater Logue '47  
Hilda Brockman Suitt '47  
Rebecca Watson Bohnhoff '48  
Helen Mae Culp '48, '53  
Betty Jane Godfrey '48  
Nancy Schroder Torbett '48  
Carrie Bigham Dover '49  
Barbara Rice Turbeville '49  
Peggy Neely White '49  
Nancy Lewis Wilburn '49, '69

## 1950s

Mary Ann Martin Inabnit '50  
Margaret Norris Kovachik '50  
Thelma Tripp Shepherd '50  
Maud (Eloise) Peeples Smith '50  
Jessie Margaret (Meg) Tart Sowell '50, '84  
Gladys Atkinson Vinzani '50  
Doris Holladay Greene '51, '68  
Mary Kay Rawls '51  
Frances Greene Wyndham '51  
Mary (Ginny) Whitmire Carter '53  
Cathryn (Betty) Bryan Ilderton '53  
Susan (Sue Beth) Vaught Grice '56  
Mary Jo Kay Wilson '56  
Sarah (Coline) Thomas Woods '57

## 1960s

Carolyn Ann Murray '61  
Martha Mary Raines '61  
Patricia (Pat) Oliver Deal '62  
Brenda (Gayle) Campbell Lanford '62, '72  
Sylvia King Ballew '64  
Susan Mabel Dodenhoff '65  
Annette Smith Stafford '66  
Linda Roberts Harper '67, '73

## 1970s

Harriet McLane Gilbert '70  
Barbara Whitner Munn '72  
Donna Rose McCrory Dixon '74  
Sheila Catherine Gallagher '75, '04  
Roger Dale Cox '76  
Joyce Deese Helms '78  
George Elliott Sumner '79  
Judith Ward Ferguson '79, '85

## 1980s

Gloria Price Schrum '80  
Ralph Donald (Don) Manus Jr., '82  
Kay Bridges Morrow '82  
Margaret Anne Johnson '84  
Phillip Glenn Harris '85  
Barbara Clark Jowett '86  
Keith Allen Frazier '88  
David Wayne Martin '88  
Michael William Shepard '89

## 1990s

Karen Arps Henry '90  
Linda Pulver Cripps '91, '94  
Leigh Satterfield DeYoung '91, '93

## 2000s

David Ryan Kirchman '00  
Sabrina Cannon Pringle '05

## 2010s

JaMill Leviticus Fields '13  
Tara Alexis Garland Sims '19

## 2020s

Caleb Randolph Whiteleather '20



## The Winthrop Plan: Charting the university's course through 2025

Meet President Dan Mahony as he discusses the university's strategic plan in a city near you:

**May 24**

6-8 p.m.

Blue Marlin

1200 Lincoln St.

Columbia

**Aug. 1**

6-8 p.m.

Tuttle Dining Room

McBryde Hall

Winthrop University

**Sept. 27**

Savannah, Georgia (TBD)

**Oct. 11**

Washington, D.C. (TBD)

**Oct. 25**

6-8 p.m.

The Warren City Club

818 N. Highland Ave. NE

Atlanta, Georgia

Event admission is free. Visit [www.winthrop.edu/alumni](http://www.winthrop.edu/alumni) to register and find out more information.

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