



WINTHROP
MAGAZINE

SPRING 2021

message from the **PRESIDENT**



Dear Friends:

It is hard to believe that I have been at Winthrop for more than a year. And what a year it has been! Last March when I arrived, I never would have dreamed that we would confront a global pandemic; however, the Winthrop spirit has remained resilient throughout these difficult times, and I'm happy to share that I anticipate a more traditional fall semester as COVID-19 vaccines become more widely available and as case numbers decline.

During my first weekend on campus in 2020, I witnessed the men's basketball team win the Big South Championship, and I am thrilled that I was there again this year at the Coliseum to watch the team secure its second-straight championship and an automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament. March Madness definitely lived up to its name! Please read more about the team's season on pages 16-17.

In this *Winthrop Magazine* edition, I would like to share with you additional good news. I encourage you to read more about:

- *The \$1 million gift recently given by Leonard A. Lauder in honor of our own Ida Crawford Stewart '43. This incredible gift will benefit our College of Visual and Performing Arts' students and faculty members;*
- *Winthrop women who made history, and a recent S.C. House resolution that acknowledges four of the women's contributions to Winthrop's integration efforts;*
- *Campus-wide initiatives that are underway to ensure the university's long-term health and success;*
- *Compelling profiles on Brian Jones '96, who oversees the new Rock Hill Sports & Event Center, and psychology major Clara Benson, who created a much-needed nonprofit that helps partner Black medical professionals with Black patients; and*
- *The latest campus news, alumni news and university advancement updates.*

As you can see, there are many great things happening at Winthrop. As the campus slowly and safely opens back up, I hope that we are able to soon meet at an event on campus or at one near you so that I can hear about how much Winthrop means to you.

Sincerely,

George W. Hynd
Interim President

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FEATURES

- \$1M GIFT HONORS IDA CRAWFORD STEWART 2**
- WINTHROP WOMEN MAKE HISTORY 4**
- NEW INITIATIVES = LONG-TERM SUCCESS 8**
- EXPERIENCING LIFE THROUGH HIS LENS 10**
- JONES' SLAM DUNK OF A CAREER 12**
- BENSON'S DOING HER PART TO FILL A NEED 14**

DEPARTMENTS

- CAMPUS NEWS 16
- ADVANCEMENT NEWS 20
- ALUMNI NEWS 22
- CLASS NOTES 24
- MILESTONES 26

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NOTES

About the cover: Senior Designer Peter Airheart put an artistic spin on an image taken in 1969 by University Photographer Joel "Nick" Nichols of Jennifer Kathleen (Kathy) Ross Bradley '71. Nichols, who documented Winthrop from behind his camera lens for nearly 50 years, passed away in December. View more of his work on pages 10-11.

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Winthrop University offers equal opportunity in its employment, admissions and educational activities.

All cities referenced in editorial content are located in South Carolina unless otherwise indicated.

\$1M GIFT HONORS COSMETICS TRAILBLAZER IDA CRAWFORD STEWART

A trendsetter in empowering women, Ida Crawford Stewart '43 didn't simply want women to look good, but also to feel good, as they discovered their strengths.

Stewart worked in the cosmetics industry in New York City for more than two decades. She joined Estée Lauder, Inc., in 1961 and witnessed the company emerge as a worldwide leader in the luxury makeup, skin care, fragrance and hair care product market.

Stewart was vice president of merchandising for the international cosmetics company and in that role helped with product launches at retailers throughout the United States. She served also as special assistant to, and personal representative of, the company's late founder, Estée Lauder.

In recognition of Stewart and her many contributions to the company, Leonard A. Lauder, Estée's elder son and chairman emeritus of what is now **The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.**, recently made a personal donation of \$1 million to Winthrop.

Remarked Lauder: "My mother loved Ida, and I love Ida, and this endowment is a tribute to her and to her love of the arts, something we share. She truly reflects the ideals of lifelong learning in her deep commitment to the success of Winthrop and future generations of students."



Stewart, who relocated from New York City to her home state of South Carolina in 2019, was shocked by the generous gift in her honor. "It took several seconds for it to sink in, so I guess you could say my first reaction was silence. But as soon as I processed it, I was overwhelmed and deeply grateful. I always believed my success in life — and my wonderful career with Estée Lauder — had much to do with my time at Winthrop," Stewart said. "To have an endowment in my honor from Leonard Lauder to the college I love is more than I ever imagined."

Winthrop officials said the gift will create several learning opportunities for students.

Winthrop Interim President George Hynd called it a game changer for the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA). "Students look to Ida Crawford Stewart as a wonderful role model who was ahead of her time, serving as a trendsetter and teacher in the cosmetics industry. This gift will enable the college to reach new heights by expanding its offerings and scholarships for the next generation of Winthrop students."

CVPA Dean Jeff Bellantoni echoed Hynd's appreciation: "I am enormously grateful for the generosity of Leonard Lauder's extraordinary gift, which comes at a time when support for the arts is as critical as ever," he said. "This endowment will benefit students and faculty in the arts through scholarships and faculty enrichment and will allow us to fund creative initiatives on campus and in the broader community."

Born and raised in Clinton, Stewart graduated from then-Winthrop College with a B.A. in art. She taught art to sixth graders before returning to Winthrop as art supervisor and later as alumni director. She earned a master's degree in health education from the University of Maryland and worked there as an assistant professor of health education. She was employed at Bristol-Myers Company as an educational director and at Coty as a merchandising coordinator before joining Estée Lauder.

Known for wearing bright colors and striking hats, Stewart became a keynote speaker following her retirement from Estée Lauder and shared stories of her travels around the world for the company. She blended wit, wisdom and warmth into positive messages to uplift women and to promote higher education. The Palmetto State native has been given keys to several U.S. cities — Raleigh, Peoria, Mobile, Florence, Charlotte and Vidalia — and to Birmingham, England.

Stewart's achievements landed her in the Who's Who in Worldwide Business and Industry, Who's Who in Education and Who's Who in the East. She was a member of Fashion Group, Advertising Women of New York and the American Association of University Women.

The recent gift in her honor is a fitting tribute to a woman who inspired so many throughout her career and whose significant contributions helped build a cosmetics empire.



WINTHROP WOMEN MAKE



Winthrop Founding President David Bancroft Johnson created the then-Winthrop Training School in 1886 as an all-female teacher training institution.

"The sun never sets on Winthrop daughters," Johnson would fondly say, referring to how many women had graduated from the institution and then gone on to build extraordinary

lives in schools, businesses, hospitals, the military, community service organizations and more.

March is Women's History Month, the perfect time to reflect on Johnson's words and to look at the historic impact that Winthrop women have made:

MARTHA THOMAS FITZGERALD

Class of 1916

First woman elected in a general election to the S.C. House of Representatives



Education ran in Fitzgerald's blood. She earned a degree from Winthrop in 1916 and then two master's degrees from the University of South Carolina and Columbia University, respectively. While she taught for some time, she turned to service through the state's Department of Education, where she held roles such as school community organizer, rural school supervisor and director of elementary education.

Fitzgerald was elected to the S.C. House of Representatives in 1950, the first and only woman at the time. She served 11 terms representing Richland County. She advocated for the service of women as jury members and she supported higher pay for public school teachers.

MARGARET M. BRYANT

Class of 1921

First graduate to earn a Ph.D.



Bryant nourished a love of language and learning, earning a degree with honors in 1921. She earned a master's degree and a Ph.D., both from Columbia University, making her the first Winthrop graduate to earn a doctorate.

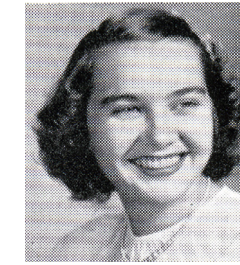
Throughout her career, Bryant lectured at universities in the Middle East, Australia, China, New Zealand and more. She was one of the original faculty members at Brooklyn College (now part of the City University of New York system), serving as chair of the Department of English, a role seldom provided to women at the time. She retired after 41 years and had authored 11 books and more than 100 scholarly articles.

Outside of the classroom, Bryant served as president of the American Association of University Women. The Margaret M. Bryant Professorship in English at Winthrop is in her honor.

MARY ELIZABETH BLANCHARD

Class of 1948

First female obstetrician-gynecologist in South Carolina



Growing up in Bishopville, Blanchard considered herself competitive in sports and transferred that competitive spirit into her career. She graduated in 1948 and earned an M.D. from the Medical College of South Carolina, now known as MUSC.

She completed her residency at Temple University in obstetrics and gynecology, becoming the first female OB-GYN in South Carolina, and went on to practice for 30 years in Sumter.

Outside of work, Blanchard was active in the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the South Atlantic Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, which presented her in 2019 with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award.

SADIE LIVINGSTON BOYER

Class of 1958

First female author of a NASA technical paper



In the 1950s and 60s – a time when few women achieved notoriety in mathematics, science and engineering – Boyer rose steadily through the ranks at the NASA Langley Research Center. The Newberry native earned a degree in mathematics in 1958.

She began her career with NASA as a National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics mathematician in the Flight Research Division, where she became the first woman to be first author of a NASA technical paper. Boyer later worked in the Scientific Computer Division. She earned a number of awards throughout her career, including the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

She and her husband established at Winthrop the Sadie Livingston Boyer-Dale Boyer Endowed Scholarship to give other young women similar opportunities.

CYNTHIA PLAIR RODDEY '67; DELORES JOHNSON HURT '68; ARNETTA GLADDEN MACKEY '67; SUE FRANCES MERIWETHER STEED '67

First women to integrate Winthrop

These four pioneering African-American women quietly integrated the Winthrop campus more than 50 years ago. The Roddey, Johnson, Gladden, Meriwether Endowed Scholarship was established to honor them and their contributions to Winthrop.

Roddey was Winthrop's first African-American graduate student, and is acknowledged as the first African-American woman to enroll at the university. Hurt graduated with honors in 1968, and

she and Mackey were the first African-American undergraduate students to enroll. Steed was the first African-American student to earn a degree at Winthrop.

All four went on to successful careers in education (Roddey and Steed); education and journalism (Hurt); and chemical engineering (Mackey).



The S.C. House of Representatives passed a resolution praising the efforts of Roddey, Hurt, Mackey and Steed, and the women were presented with the resolution during a March 1 ceremony at Winthrop. Back row, left to right: S.C. Rep. Kambrell Garvin '13, Interim President George Hynd and S.C Rep. John King. Front row, left to right: Gene Mackey, husband of the late Arnetta Mackey, Roddey and Hurt. Not pictured: Steed, far right, and other family members attended via Zoom.

NEW INITIATIVES ENSURE LONG-TERM SUCCESS



During his **2020 virtual State of the University Address**, Interim President George Hynd outlined academic, budget and campus beauty initiatives that he deemed vital for the continued long-term health and success of the university.

“These initiatives are imperative to put into place to ensure that Winthrop remains a top choice for our students

and their families,” said Hynd. “By focusing on offering the best academic programs we can while creating an inviting and functional campus environment and infrastructure, we set Winthrop up for continued success for decades to come.”

Currently in various phases of implementation, these initiatives include:

Academic Master Plan

In 2016, Winthrop launched the **Winthrop Plan**, the university’s blueprint for growth. Goals 1 and 2 of the plan situate the university’s academic program mix as vital to the institution’s success. Between 2016 and 2020, Winthrop launched three new undergraduate programs and four fully online graduate programs.

According to Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs **Adrienne McCormick**, who is leading the Academic Master Plan initiative, Winthrop now stands ready to launch a new Academic Master Plan that takes the university into the next decade.

“The new Academic Master Plan provides a framework that ensures existing programs maintain their high quality impacts on student success and new programs align to changes in the global economy and service to the local community,” said McCormick. “To achieve these goals, we need programs that produce graduates who are ready for multiple career paths, demonstrate digital and cultural literacy and are prepared for engaged citizenship.”

McCormick added that focusing on Winthrop’s long-term success requires the university to routinely evaluate the health of its program portfolio, respond to student and market demand for new programs, and provide clear program pathways for current and transfer students to ensure timely degree completion.

The plan is scheduled to be completed this spring.



Campus Master Plan

The creation of a Campus Master Plan also was identified as a need by Hynd. The plan will look at how the campus functions and will engage campus constituents in an interactive process to address a wide array of planning issues in the development of a prioritized, phased master facility plan for Winthrop.

The plan will analyze student housing needs and academic and academic support space needs.

“It is a wide aperture endeavor,” Hynd told Board of Trustees members at their Feb. 19 meeting.

The Campus Master Plan committee, co-chaired by Chris Johnson '99, sustainability coordinator, and Kimberly Faust, vice president and chief of staff, will work with a consulting team to review the Winthrop Plan and the Academic Master Plan in order to fold in the Campus Master Plan’s scope of work.

The Campus Master Plan should be completed and published by the fall.

Campus Beautification

The final initiative is one that focuses on the beautiful campus because its appearance reflects how Winthrop is presented to prospective and current students, alumni, employees and community members.

This initiative, led by College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean **Jeff Bellantoni**, will offer the opportunity for faculty, staff and students to participate in respecting the institution’s history by contributing energy, vision and engagement to the campus’ upkeep.

“We will make recommendations on areas that can be addressed in the short term such as general clean up,

landscaping, wayfinding and lighting, fencing, fountains, public art and outdoor objects such as bike racks, railings, etc., and outdoor areas for gathering. More extensive, complex projects will be contracted out or completed by facilities management. Funding will come from the campus beautification fund, which is 100 percent donor supported,” said Bellantoni.

Efforts have already begun such as the diversity and inclusion garden/sitting area at Rutledge Building created as an Eagle Scout project by Emily Pilarczyk; the tree planting and other beautification efforts as part of the campus’ Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service; and two campus cleanups.

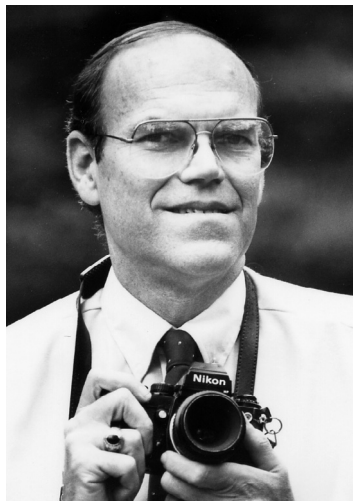


Make a secure gift to the Campus Beautification Fund or get more information by calling **800/801-1083**.

EXPERIENCING LIFE THROUGH HIS LENS



A third-generation photographer, Joel “Nick” Nichols spent 46 years telling the Winthrop story through pictures as the university’s full-time photographer. He observed that photography has the unique ability to capture fleeting moments in time. His photographs reflect the scope of change that Nichols witnessed during his tenure, starting with Winthrop as an all-women’s college.



integrated and then coeducational institution on its way to growing into a university of regional and national distinction.

One of the students Nichols photographed in the library early in his career at Winthrop later became his wife, Janice Williams Nichols. The Alumni Association surprised Nichols in 2008 with honorary alumni membership status in Janice’s Class of 1963.

Nichols passed away on Dec. 26, 2020, leaving behind a rich legacy that captured thousands of Winthrop’s large and small moments.

Today, Joynes houses an exhibit of some of Nichols’ best work that he personally curated, while the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections has his treasured negatives that span a nearly five decades-long career. Provided here is a sampling of Nichols’ images:



Nichols moved into Joynes Hall in September 1962, when it was used as faculty and staff housing. He covered the transition of Winthrop into a racially



SLAM DUNK OF A CAREER



Brian Jones '96 has a simple work ethic: work hard and enjoy your work.

“My biggest piece of advice is to find a job you love and have fun. Like Mark Twain said, ‘Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life.’ I wake up every day looking forward to what the day holds and how I might improve myself through the process,” said Jones.

Hard work has certainly paid off for Jones, supervisor of the recently built Rock Hill Sports & Event Center, the new \$27 million indoor athletic facility in the University Center/Knowledge Park area. The enjoyment comes for Jones in touting the state-of-the-art facility as another sports hub – in addition to Giordana Velodrome cycling venue, Manchester Meadows soccer fields and Cherry Park softball/baseball complex – that will enhance the city’s evolving sports tourism market.

“Rock Hill Parks, Recreation & Tourism has set the bar for what a sports tourism destination looks like, and

the addition of the Rock Hill Sports & Event Center just adds to that incredible impact,” said Billy Dunlap, president and CEO of Visit York County.

Jones said the center’s goal is to be diverse and welcoming to all. For instance, they are in the planning stages of hosting a regional junior wheelchair basketball event with USA Wheelchair Basketball in December. “Accessibility was very important to our city leaders, so in the planning stages of the facility it was in the forefront of the development,” he said.

Nurturing a love of sports

Jones has been connected to the sports community in Rock Hill since the mid-1990s when he first came to Winthrop to study physical education. He attended sporting events, recalling a packed Winthrop Coliseum in 1995 to watch the Eagles take on the Wake Forest men’s basketball team. And he related to some of his



professors like Charlie Bowers, retired professor of exercise science.

“As a professor and person, he brought it to you straight. He was always honest and very encouraging. I was always impressed with his dedication to Winthrop and his involvement in the Rock Hill community, even to this day,” added Jones.

Jones obtained his master’s degree from the United States Sports Academy in 2000 and landed a job in education and as athletic director at Fort Mill Middle School. He also worked several years with ROAR Sports running the youth and adult programs.

Then in 2013, he started with Rock Hill Parks, Recreation & Tourism as the Cherry Park supervisor. He was later promoted in 2018 to supervise the new sports center, which houses multiple basketball and volleyball courts, a walking track, locker rooms, concession stands and an 8,000-square-foot event space. [Take a tour of the facility.](#)

Taking a team approach

In supervisory roles, Jones likes to “lead by example” and has learned through job experience that not all people learn the same.

“I want to be in the trenches with my team wherever that trench may be,” he said. “This has helped me as a manager to better relate to my team.”

Last year, Jones and his team had to quickly maneuver the impact of the pandemic. Right before a planned grand opening in March 2020, the facility had to shut down.

“The pandemic has provided many hurdles to overcome over the past year, and it has been intriguing to say the least,” Jones said. “When I am challenged, I tend to lean on my creativity to complete the demand,” he added.

Since then, the sports center has been able to open its doors to the Rock Hill community, safely hosting a variety of sports tournaments and events, including basketball, volleyball, gymnastics and even cornhole. Last year, the center hosted a cornhole tournament that aired on ESPN.

Additionally, the facility will be offering youth and adult basketball and volleyball programs, including youth summer camps and clinics.

“Not only has it been a great community asset, the center also has welcomed thousands of visitors each weekend, giving exposure to our vibrant downtown,” Billy Dunlap added.

[Visit Rock Hill Sports & Event Center for more information.](#)

DOING HER PART TO FILL A NEED



Clara Benson found her life's purpose through jobs in retail, make-up and the restaurant industry – particularly when a customer tossed a sandwich at her through a drive-thru window.

While most would react to that situation with anger and shock, Benson, a psychology major from Charleston, found clarity: "I kept trying to figure out what I wanted to do. Psychology is my first love, so I thought, why don't I do that?"

"A majority of us love psychology because we're trying to understand our own trauma, understand the behaviors of people acting the way they do in order

to understand ourselves," Benson explained. "The better I understand myself, the better I can understand — and help — others."

She is now helping others through her nonprofit **Community Resources for Enduring Wellness (CREW)** and its first initiative, the **Black Wellness Project**. Born in June 2020 out of a need for accessible, equitable and welcoming public health resources within underserved communities in South Carolina,

the nonprofit also hopes to, in the future, provide more resources that will include actionable steps for communities to achieve whole-body wellness.

'A need that's not being filled'

Benson had been laying the groundwork for CREW in Charleston and the South. At the same time, friends and acquaintances were approaching Benson and asking for her advice: Do you know of a Black therapist? A Black OB-GYN? A Black psychiatrist who speaks Spanish?

"It became abundantly clear that this is a need that's not being filled, and I [CREW] can fill that need," Benson said. "I did not expect for it to be what it is already. My expectation would be that I filed my corporation paperwork and then slowly, throughout my senior year, start to build the foundation of the organization."

But within two months, Benson landed a \$40,000 grant from the Southern Power Fund through the Highlander Research and Education Center.

"They essentially said, 'Your work is necessary. We want to fund it, especially in the middle of the pandemic, to get these resources out to people,'" Benson said.

The Black Wellness Project serves as an online resource for people to find Black health and wellness professionals across the state. Benson explained that while white medical professionals are important, they're also abundant and easy to find, which isn't the case for Black medical professionals.

"It's really important for Black folks, people of color and underserved people to be able to go somewhere where they feel safe and heard," she said. "It's about, for example, not having to go to a therapist where you will have to explain why a micro-aggression is upsetting to you. It's the familiarity. It's the cultural intelligence you're looking for. You want the doctor to

believe you and listen. A lot of times when we go to doctors who don't look like us, that's not necessarily our experience."

Right now, Benson is working on building the Black Wellness Project's inventory through research, discussions with the CREW advisory board, networking with health alliances, conversations with the community and more – all while being a full-time student.

Her non-traditional path

Benson earned an associate's degree from Trident Technical College in 2017, but "I had no idea what I wanted to do or who I was." That led to her experiences in customer-facing fields, which she called humbling.

"It's definitely helped me understand people, helped me to understand the intersections of class and race, the impact of capitalism on working-class people," she said. "Before, I had a textbook definition of how life was... We're all more alike than we like to think. It's made me a better listener. I learned a lot by observing and being open to the experience."

As a non-traditional student at 33 years old, Benson at first found it hard to relate with her younger peers, until she made friends with a fellow Transfer Orientation Leader...eventually becoming one herself.

"I love Winthrop," she said. "I'm so glad I came. The community has been so welcoming. There are so many resources."

After her May 2021 graduation, she hopes to hire an assistant director and a paid intern for CREW, expand the Black Wellness Project and add curriculum-building as a resource from the nonprofit.

"I love this work, and I'm grateful that I've already found it and my lane of movement," she said. "I'm just out here trying to do my part."

BACK TO BACK CHAMPIONS!



On March 7, in a dominating 27-point win over Campbell, the Eagles won back-to-back conference championships and secured the 13th conference tournament championship in program history. The team reached 22 season wins for the 10th time in program history.

With the conference title, the team earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The 12th-seeded Eagles, the program's second-highest tournament seeding, faced 5th-seeded Villanova in the opening round of the tournament on March 19 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The team fell short in its effort to advance to the second round and extend its historic season.

With a final record of 23-2, the Eagles finished the season with the best winning percentage in the history of the program (.920) for a single-season.

End-of-season accolades were awarded to Coach Pat Kelsey who earned Big South Coach of the Year honors. Redshirt senior Chander Vaudrin, who led the nation in triple-doubles, was selected as the conference's Player of the Year.



ESPORTS WINS BIG SOUTH INVITATIONAL

In just its second year of existence, the esports team won the Big South Collegiate Esports Invitational.

The Big South Collegiate Esports Invitational consisted of nine teams from across Big South Conference schools. The Eagles received a \$1,000 cash prize and a spot in the Collegiate Esports Invitational Rocket League Championship, where the team took second place.



The team is led by Josh Sides, who joined Winthrop in 2019 as the university's first esports coach.

Diploma Pick Up, Awards, Virtual Celebration Capped Off December Commencement

On Saturday, Dec. 19, more than 100 graduates safely picked up their diplomas in the Lois Rhame West Health, Physical Education and Wellness Center as part of a day of celebrating the accomplishments of December graduates. The newest graduates were given the opportunity to pick up their diplomas since a traditional, in-person ceremony was not possible due to COVID-19. Later that day, the university unveiled a **virtual Commencement ceremony** that featured congratulatory messages from Winthrop leadership, submitted photos of each graduate and a reading of all graduates' names.

December graduate Chastity Jones was awarded the President's Award for Academic Excellence. The award is given to a student who has the highest GPA in the graduating class. The Cheraw resident received a business administration degree with a concentration in finance.

Mass Communication Professor Padmini Patwardhan earned the Kinard Award, the university's top teaching award, in December for her outstanding teaching, her successful mentoring of students and her significant contributions to the university.



Winthrop to Hold Five In-Person May Commencement Ceremonies

Winthrop will hold Commencement in person this May for all interested spring 2021 graduate and undergraduate degree candidates. This spring's Commencement will take the form of five ceremonies held over May 6-8 in the Winthrop Coliseum. They will be the first, large, in-person indoor ceremonies to be held on campus in more than a year. Each graduate will receive up to two tickets for his or her guests and the university will implement COVID-19 safety measures.

Trustees Approve \$21 Million Bond for Facilities Upgrades

The Winthrop University Board of Trustees voted on Feb. 19 to authorize a **\$21 million bond** issue to support projects in the housing and dining portfolios. The housing portion of the bonds will be \$9 million while up to \$12 million will go toward dining. The bond issue will fund these projects:

- Replacement of the Phelps Residence Hall roof.
- Renovation of the Lee Wicker Residence Hall to include mechanical, electrical, plumbing, HVAC and roof replacement, as well as interior updates.
- Renovation of Thomson Eatery, the university's main dining facility, or if cost effective, construction of a new dining hall.

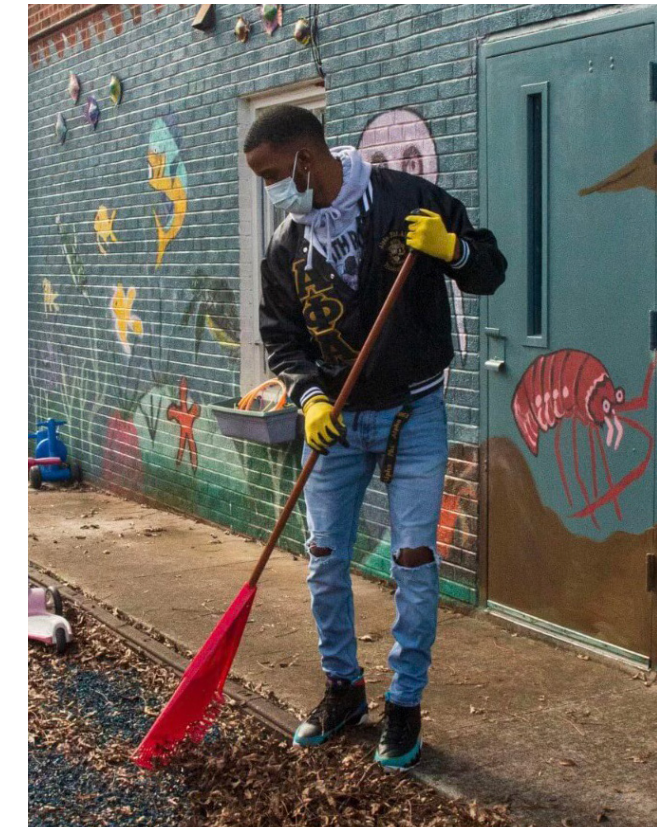
During the meeting board members also voted to leave in place the discounted fee structure for **Summer Session 2021**.

Saliva-based COVID Testing Now Offered to Campus Community

Winthrop began offering free, **saliva-based COVID-19 testing** to faculty, staff and students in February. The testing, provided through a partnership with the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy, allows for better monitoring of asymptomatic virus spread on campus. Such spread is a key factor in outbreaks on college campuses nationwide, and public health experts have encouraged regular, ongoing testing to mitigate its risks. This testing option is in addition to the community-wide COVID-19 nasal testing option that is provided throughout the week via Genetworx at the Winthrop Coliseum.



MLK Jr. Legacy Honored with Week of Service Projects



During the week of Jan. 18-22, more than 100 students spent their free time giving back to the community and to Winthrop. Instead of the traditional one day of service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Winthrop offered students an entire week of opportunities to participate in service projects at Pilgrim's Inn and Tender Heart Ministries and beautification projects at Winthrop like planting more than 30 trees at the Winthrop Lake and tidying up the mulch and shrubbery around the Campus Green.

This year's activities, themed "Together, New Challenges and New Possibilities," also included a **virtual program** that featured a keynote address by Chelsea Brown '14, poetry from Rock Hill's Poet Laureate Angelo Geter '08 and a performance by the Vision of Prayze Gospel Choir.

Together, Eagles Soar!

In spite of 2020's many challenges, the Winthrop family remained committed to providing resources to develop the knowledge, skills and values that will enrich students' lives and prepare them for all that the future holds. Consider these impressive numbers:

- 3,218 donors gave to Winthrop
- 994 donors gave for their third-consecutive year
- 670 donors made their first gift
- 2,354 Winthrop graduates gave back
- 306 donors gave to the Student Emergency and Assistance Fund during the COVID-19 crisis

Thank you for your continued loyalty and support!



Foundation Celebrates Endowment Milestone



Milestone Generosity

Thank you to the following donors who recently created new endowed funds:

Anonymous established an endowed scholarship for intercollegiate athletics.

Dr. Marsha Dean Ford '71 established the Doris Harrison Ford Scholarship in memory of her mother, a 1943 alumna. The award will benefit political science students.

Paulette Newton Handegan '65 and Jerry Handegan '84 established an endowed scholarship to support the recruitment of undergraduate students.

The Family of William M. Krech established the William M. Krech Scholarship in School Psychology and the William M. Krech Endowment for Professional Development in memory of their son and brother, William M. Krech '99, '00.

Peggy and Gary Williams established the Williams Family Literacy Collaborative Endowment to support the literacy collaborative in the Richard W. Riley College of Education.

Tabitha Altman Yothers '64 established the Tabitha Kemp Altman Endowed Scholarship in memory of her mother, a 1937 alumna.



Welcome the Newest Members of the D.B. Johnson Society

The D.B. Johnson Society, named after Winthrop's founding president, recognizes all who include Winthrop in their estate planning. Society members provide an important example for others and receive special recognition from the university. It would be our privilege to help you plan a gift that shapes your personal legacy of support for Winthrop.

Welcome to the newest members that joined in 2020:

- Donna Underwood Abercrombie '71
- John K. DeLoache '92
- Maggie P. Elrod '78
- April L. Hershey '99, '11
- Dr. Karen M. Kedrowski
- Dr. and Mrs. John R. Maiolo

In 2020, the Winthrop University Foundation's endowment surpassed \$70 million for the first time. The endowment, which is invested, serves as a permanent source of funding for student scholarships, faculty enrichment and program development. Currently, the endowment portfolio is professionally managed by Vanguard with oversight by the Investment Committee of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

Endowment growth has risen approximately 80 percent since 2015, from \$40.9 million to \$74.2 at the close of 2020. Based on the current balance, the endowment will provide more than \$2 million to Winthrop for the 2021-22 academic year, primarily in the form of student scholarships, another milestone amount. Although the market plays a significant role in the endowment's value, the direct support from alumni and friends of Winthrop,

through the work of the university's advancement team, has contributed over \$13.3 million in new gifts during this time.

Winthrop University Foundation has an Endowment Spending Policy, which follows the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act of 2006 (UPMIFA). Under this policy, the Foundation can distribute annually up to four percent of a trailing five-year average of the endowment's total asset value. The endowment distribution is part of a combined record of approximately \$5 million in available support for Winthrop in fiscal year 2022.

More information regarding the endowment's financial information and market performance is available at www.winthrop.edu/foundation.

Planning is More Important than Ever

The university advancement team welcomes the opportunity to work with you and your advisors to evaluate your charitable giving strategy. Together we can begin the process, determine what works best for you, choose the concepts that will help you realize your objectives and put this valuable plan in place.

Please visit www.winthrop.edu/giftplanning for more information, to download a copy of the gift planning guide or to notify university advancement of your gift intentions.

Alumni Association Seeks New Executive Board Members

Applications are now being accepted through Friday, April 9, for the 2021-24 **Alumni Executive Board** term. There are up to four available seats for the 2021-24 term. The Nominating Committee of the Alumni Executive Board will review all applications and make selections this spring.

Alumni Association Executive Board members must:

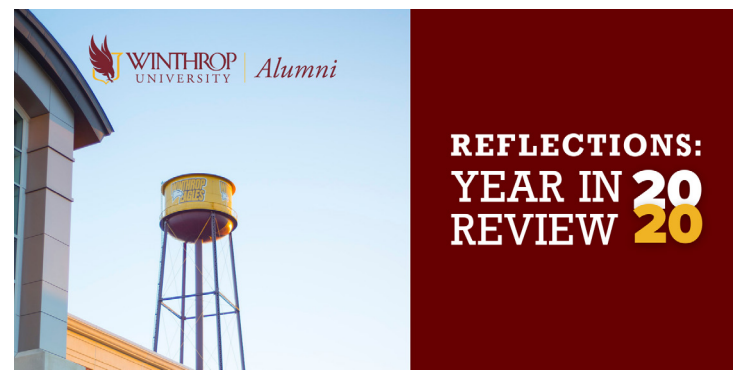
- Attend two annual board meetings at a time and place to be determined by the board;
- Serve on a minimum of one board committee;
- Participate in quarterly board conference calls;
- Attend Winthrop events as an ambassador and representative for Winthrop and the Alumni Association; and
- Make an annual gift to Winthrop in an amount that is meaningful to the board member.

Please complete the Alumni Executive Board application and submit to Lori Tuttle, executive director of alumni relations, at tuttlel@winthrop.edu by Friday, April 9.

Check out the Alumni Association’s Year in Review

Despite the many challenges 2020 presented, the Alumni Association stayed virtually connected with alumni. Because of the alumni chapters, young alumni councils, affinity groups and countless volunteers, the association was able to continue its mission of engaging with alumni worldwide.

Watch the **Year in Review video** to see some of the fun that was had and the good work that was accomplished last year.



Alumna Receives State’s Top Principal Honor

Denise Khaalid '95, '02, principal of Oakdale Elementary in Rock Hill, was recently recognized as the South Carolina Elementary School Principal of the Year. She started her career in education in 1995 when she became a teacher with the Rock Hill School District. She then went on to earn her

master’s degree in educational leadership from Winthrop in 2002 and began working in administrative roles. Khaalid was named the National Assistant Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 2012.

Join Us Virtually for Spring Reunions, Other Events

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 in 2020, Winthrop deferred all reunion gatherings planned for November 2020 to spring of 2021 in hopes of being able to gather in person to celebrate. As spring 2021 approaches it is clear that safely gathering on campus will not be possible due to continued social distancing guidelines and COVID-19 protocols campus has in place. The Alumni Association does not want to miss the opportunity to celebrate the classes ending in 0 and 5. These classes will celebrate a virtual reunion in April! Detailed information will be sent to classes ending in 0 and 5.

Please also stay connected with Winthrop through a variety of other alumni events which will continue to be hosted virtually for the foreseeable future in order to ensure everyone’s safety. **Alumni Chapters** and **Young**



Alumni Councils host events that alumni can attend, no matter where you live! Check out the **upcoming events page** to register for an event.

Join Winthrop Connect and Network with Alumni



The Alumni Association is excited to announce the launch of **Winthrop Connect**, an exclusive online networking platform for alumni! Create a profile to connect with fellow alumni, search and post jobs, join affinity groups, register for alumni events and more.

Winthrop Connect also includes an alumni business directory to help alumni promote their services.

Visit winthropconnect.org to join.

Follow the Alumni Association on Social Media



1943

Martha Lee Newton Gibson of Johnston was selected as the grand marshal for the 37th annual Johnston Peach Blossom Festival parade.

1967

Barbara Kunz Loots of Kansas City, Missouri, published her third poetry collection, "The Beekeeper and Other Love Poems."

1971

Susan Hoffer McMillan of Conway has written a book entitled "Sandy Island...Forever."

1973

Betty Creamer of Desert Hot Springs, California, is the author of a new book, "Life's Compliment: A Journey Just Begun."

1974

Judy Wilkins Rose of Denver, North Carolina, former director of athletics for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, was inducted into the Conference USA Hall of Fame.

1977

Dwight Watt of Lafayette, Georgia, was elected vice governor of the Kentucky Tennessee Kiwanis for 2020-21.

1981

Andrena Powell-Baker of Union was named to the Board of Directors for the South Carolina Economic Developers Association for 2020-21.

1982

Wylie Frederick of Chester was appointed interim Chester County supervisor and Chester County Council chairman by Gov. Henry McMaster.

1984

Melody Tankersley of Kent, Ohio, was named senior vice president and provost of Kent State University.

1986

James Robnett of Safety Harbor, Florida, was selected as the deputy chief for the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

1987

Rachelle Jamerson-Holmes of Orangeburg is the 2020 champion for the Summerville Sweet Tea Festival. Rachelle's Island Tea was also the featured beverage at the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism's 50th anniversary of the S.C. Welcome Centers.

1989

Kathy Hoffman Wood of Conover, North Carolina, was granted ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ.

1990

Beaufort resident **Eric Greenway** was named Beaufort County interim county administrator.

1991

Keith Wilks of Rock Hill was

promoted to chief of strategic planning, engagement and program support for the Rock Hill School District 3.

1997

Caroline Rust Ward of Rock Hill was one of 20 artists selected for the ArtPop Street Gallery Class of 2021.

Fort Mill resident **Darren Wilson** was named principal of Catawba Ridge High School.

1999

Lia Newman of Charlotte, North Carolina, was the 2020 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award presented by Winthrop's Department of Fine Arts.

2000

Trevor Beauford of Hartford, Connecticut, is the interim college chaplain at Trinity College.

Kari Doster of Rock Hill was named Rock Hill School District Mentor of the Year.

2001

Artwork of Omaha, Nebraska, resident **Dik Haneline** was displayed at the Wrightstone Fine Arts Gallery at McCook Community College in McCook, Nebraska.

2002

Chris Chandler of Charlotte, North Carolina, is the first Assistant Principal of the Year for the Rock Hill School District.

Clover native **John Gordon** was promoted to chief operating officer of Leroy Springs & Company in Fort Mill.

2003

Spartanburg resident **Jalitha Moore** was recognized as one of Forty Under 40 for her work with One Spartanburg, Inc.

Chisa Johnson Putman of Rock Hill was promoted to senior prosecutor by the city of Rock Hill.

2005

Adam Walls of Hope Mills, North Carolina, created two steel sculptural seating projects entitled "Chatter Bugs" and "Whisper Tubes" that are located at the new MLK First Responders Campus of Ocala, Florida.

2006

Paul Leonard, scientist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services of Fairbanks, Alaska, is the recipient of the 2020 Dwight A. Holder Award by Clemson University Institute for Parks.

2007

Standrick Rhodes of Rock Hill was named Rock Hill School District Teacher of the Year.

Crystal Starkes of Charlotte, North Carolina, received the Feature Story Award and was named the South Central District Association for Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals president.

2008

Cierra Fowler of Woodruff was recognized as one of Forty Under 40 for her work with the Spartanburg Housing Authority.

Courtney Wooten of Fairfax, Virginia, co-edited a published book entitled "The Things We Carry: Strategies for Recognizing and Negotiating Emotional Labor in Writing Program Administration."

2009

Dustin Evatt-Young of Easley was awarded the Alice P. Naylor Outstanding Dissertation Award for the 2019-20 academic year at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.

Tiffany Sanders of Charlotte, North Carolina, co-authored a children's book entitled "Your Feelings Matter: A Story for Children Who Have Witnessed Domestic Violence."

2010

Melissa Roy of Charlotte, North Carolina, was named principal of Barnette Elementary in Huntersville, North Carolina.

2012

Lawrin Green, a New York-based singer-songwriter, wrote a new song, entitled "The Blind Man," and released her first single, "Deception," from her "Raw" album.

Kathleen Sunseri of Charlotte, North Carolina, was named executive director of federal

programs for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

2014

Keri Fersner of Orangeburg has penned her first book, a children's book, entitled "ABC's for Little Queens in Christ."

Michael Hull of Clover was named technical services manager for Kemin Crop Technologies.

2015

Joanna Henry of Rock Hill was one of 20 artists selected for the ArtPop Street Gallery Class of 2021.

Peter Nagovnak of Austria earned a Master of Science in industrial engineering from the University of Leoben.

2016

Alex Pinto of Columbia was named 2020-21 Lexington Two District Teacher of the Year.

Ashley Proctor of Charlotte, North Carolina, and **Dylan Bannister** of Rock Hill were two of 20 artists selected for the ArtPop Street Gallery Class of 2021.

2020

Dwayne Hodges of Fort Mill was recognized by Winthrop's College of Business Administration for academic excellence, service and leadership.

BIRTHS

Maeghan Pawley Beahm '07 and Kevin Rowe Beahm '12, a son, Rhodes Everett Beahm

Lisa Frierson Staggers '09, a daughter, Savannah Staggers

Kristin Jessop Wagner '12, a son, Matthew Wagner

Lauren English Bridges '14, a son, Cade Blake Bridges

Brittany Phillips Neely '14, a daughter, Emilia Jane Neely

Kimberly Branham Ramsey '15, a son, Lucas Ramsey

Alicia Poore Marthers '16 and Tyler Manning Marthers '16, a daughter, Harper Rose Marthers

Miranda Brookover-Adams Laubscher '20, a son

IN MEMORIAM

1930s

William (Billie) Gibson Bell '38

1940s

Mary Melville Maner '42
 Mary (Virginia) Watson Able '43
 Frances Schumpert Lewis '43
 Virginia Black Norwood '43
 Helen Goodyear Barrier '44
 Mary (Marian) Baker Privette '44
 Elaine Bruce Liles '45
 Sarah Reese Sullivan '45
 Martha (Minerva) Windley Carlisle '47
 Frances Langford Martin '47
 Mary (Sis) Dinkins Wannamaker '47
 Hannah Kendall Barringer '48
 Mary Elizabeth Blanchard '48

Bernice Bowles Frazer '48
 Jean Fair Harrison '48
 Gladys Dickson Mappus '48
 Sarah Friedman Snyder '48
 Lola Shealy Sprouse '48
 Anne Flanagan Waltz '49
 Zayda Cannon Yoder '49

1950s

Peggy Barker Chesney '50
 Bobbie Bates Crawford '50
 Anne Martin Dempsey '50
 Mary Garrison Watts '50
 Marguerite (Margie) Smith Austelle '51
 Martha Walden Melton '51
 Hilda Louise Wilson '51
 Kathleen Alexander Coleman '53

Joyce Folk Hollingsworth '53
 Jeanne Simmons Pitcher '53
 Doris Masters Landrum '54
 Martha Tisdale Stone '54
 Harriette Benton Dodd '55
 Betty Jackson McCuiston '56
 Madge (Beth) Jackson Huskey '57
 Barbara Evelyn Jeter '58
 Mary Caskey Knox '58
 Elizabeth Johnson Robertson '58
 Ann Blaney Bell '59
 Phyllis Hardwick Bernard '59
 Joan Crane Stevenson '59
 Patsy Burgess Walker '59

1960s

Shelby Stover Gross '60
 Jane Hemphill Yount '60

MARRIAGES

Elizabeth Hope Floyd '09 to Craig Schumann

Jonathan Nathaniel McFadden '12 to Yvonne Pringle

Clayton Howard Duggan '15 to Lauren Ashley Lintz '16

Courtney Lynn Porfilio '16 to Richard Stitt

Cole Martin Heatherly '18 to Anna Kelly '20

Anna Kristen Wills '18 to David Moore

Mary Ellen Grosskopf '19 to Brandon Anthony Dill '19

Madeline (Maddie) Hunter Holland '19 to Matthew Holland

Sue Ann Lynch Walke '64
 Sherry Wade Osborn '65
 Linda Weaver LeGrande '68
 Phyllis Hendrix Davis '69
 Wanda Wageley Forbes '69

1970s

Leah Coleman Hanna '70
 Kathy Buchanan Henderson '71
 Joyce Lorraine Whitaker '72
 Patricia Floyd Edwards '73
 Elizabeth Garnett Smith '73
 Marcia Wallace Deatcher '74
 Miriam M.W. Sanderfer '75
 Vicki Butler Sinclair '75
 David Starnes Kee '76
 Lora Tomlin Nottingham '76
 Margaret Stratton West '76

Vera Anne Jones '77
 Mary Ann McDonald '78
 Anne Fouché Styron '78
 Rachel Baker Martin '79

1980s

Susan Royster '85
 Julia Macon Rogers '88
 Ruby Anna Nock '89
 Elizabeth Olthof Pallone '89

1990s

Waymon Agurs '90
 Edgar Lee White Jr. '91

2000s

Jennie Rebecca Barnes '03

Let Us Hear from You!

Do you have a new job, were recently married, welcomed a baby or experienced another life-changing event that you would like to share with the Winthrop family?

If so, please let us know by submitting the alumni update form which can be found at www.winthrop.edu/alumniupdate.



WINTHROP IS BEGINNING A NEW TRADITION!

From noon on May 4 through noon on May 5, the Winthrop community will come together to make a collective financial impact that will resonate through students' lives and our university's future for years to come.



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

1. Give: Every gift counts toward the 500-donor goal. Even \$5 will help.
2. Get your Garnet and Gold on: Find your Winthrop swag and show your pride.
3. Become a Champion: After you **give** (or even if you can't **make a gift**), become a Champion and inspire others to Bleed Garnet and Give Gold on May 4-5.

Learn more and make an early gift now!

giveto.winthrop.edu/2021/give

