

WINTHROP MAGAZINE

Spring 2022



message from the **PRESIDENT**



Dear Friends:

It is hard to believe that I am writing my last President's Letter. My two plus years as interim president at this wonderful institution have flown by. Alison and I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you, and I thank you for your encouragement and support during our time here.

As you'll read in this edition of the *Winthrop Magazine*, the university will be led, beginning in July, by one of its own. In February, trustees selected Edward A. Serna '02 as Winthrop's 12th president, and I know that Dr. Serna and his family will be tremendous assets to the university and the Rock Hill community. Winthrop's future is bright and limitless under his leadership. I encourage you to read more about Dr. Serna in this edition, as well as the university's solid foundation on which Dr. Serna will build.

Other articles of interest that you'll find in this edition of the *Winthrop Magazine* include:

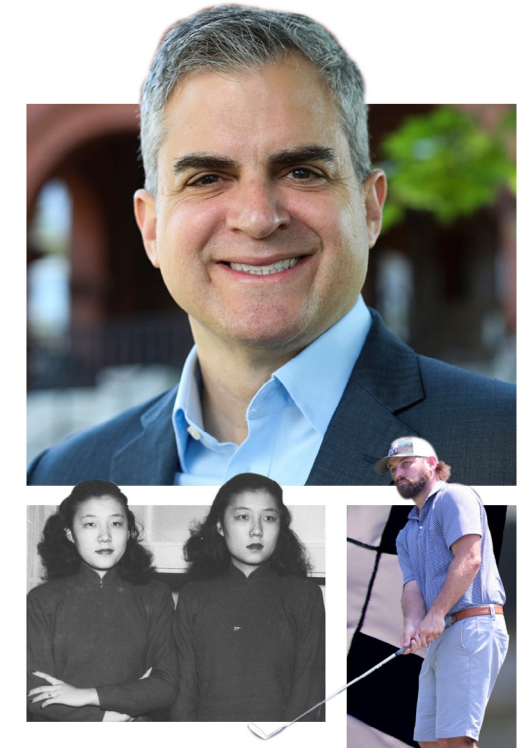
- A compelling feature on two of Winthrop's first international students – twins Marian and Helen Chuan, Class of 1949 – who arrived on campus in the early 1940s from Shanghai;
- A fascinating profile on Master of Social Work student Meghan Bayer who has a rare disease and tirelessly advocates for herself and others;
- How Derion Reid '14, a patent agent, helps protect vital life-saving technology;
- A then-and-now look at the career of Sarah Lageman '97, a neuropsychologist who was first featured in the spring 2004 edition of the *Winthrop Magazine*;
- Three golf team alumni – Christian Sease '16, '17, Kyle Bearden '13 and Jordan Sease '12 – who have each been named South Carolina Golf Association Player of the Year; and
- The latest campus news, alumni news and university advancement updates.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the *Winthrop Magazine*. As Alison and I prepare to re-enter retirement life, I look forward to keeping up with Winthrop and you, as I know bright days are ahead.

Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle,



George W. Hynd
Interim President



FEATURES

- EDWARD A. SERNA, 12TH PRESIDENT** 02
- BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION** 04
- TWINS FIND JOY IN LIFE OF SERVICE** 08
- ONE-IN-A-MILLION MEG** 10
- DESTINED TO FIND HIS CALLING** 12
- THEN & NOW: SARAH LAGEMAN** 14
- GOLF ALUMNI THRIVE** 16

DEPARTMENTS

CAMPUS NEWS 18 | ADVANCEMENT NEWS 20 | ALUMNI NEWS 22 | CLASS NOTES 24 | MILESTONES 26

EDITORIAL STAFF

- MONICA BENNETT**, editor
- PETER AIRHEART**, senior designer
- contributing writers:*
- NICOLE CHISARI '09, '16**
- JUDY LONGSHAW**

NOTES

Winthrop Magazine is published for alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends of Winthrop University by University Communications and Marketing.

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.

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- GLENN MCCALL**
Chair, Rock Hill
- KATHY HUDSON BIGHAM '73**
Vice Chair, Rock Hill
- JOHN BRAZELL '93**
Columbia
- ED DRIGGERS '92**
Greer

- JULIE GORE FOWLER '85, '88**
Simpsonville
- TIMOTHY L. HOPKINS '83, '85, '00**
Lugoff
- RANDY IMLER '87, '00**
Tega Cay
- JANE LAWTON LAROCHE '70**
Camden
- TIM SEASE '87**
Mt. Pleasant
- ROBBY SISCO '80**
Florence
- JANET RICE SMALLEY '72**
Walhalla

- SANDRA STROMAN '73, '76**
Chester
- ISAIAH VENNING '95, '00**
Rock Hill
- ASHLYE WILKERSON '05**
Columbia
- JENNIFER JORDAN**
Faculty Liaison to the Board
- JOHN KROFT '18**
Staff Liaison to the Board
- ERIN EMIROGLU**
Student Liaison to the Board

GARY WILLIAMS '11
Rock Hill

GEORGE W. HYND
Interim President

KIMBERLY FAUST
Vice President and Chief of Staff,
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

ELLEN WILDER-BYRD '88, '94
Associate Vice President for
Communications and Marketing

EDWARD A. SERNA

PROUD ALUMNUS,
12TH PRESIDENT



On Feb. 18, members of Winthrop’s Board of Trustees unanimously selected **Edward A. Serna ’02** as Winthrop’s 12th president. He will succeed President **George W. Hynd** who has served in an interim role for more than two years.

Serna is currently serving as the 15th president of the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF). He arrived at UMF in 2019 after serving as interim chancellor at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith (UAFS). His work at UAFS, a public, four-year university with an enrollment of 6,600 students and an annual budget of \$80 million, included leading initiatives focused on student success, student retention, and data-driven innovation.

Serna noted that he is excited and humbled by the opportunity to lead his alma mater. “My experience at Winthrop is what drove me to change careers to serve public higher education. The opportunity to return to a campus community that made such a profound difference in my life is truly a blessing,” he said. “Lauren, the girls, and I can’t wait to get to Rock Hill and meet the community this summer.”

After working as a senior business analyst and strategic management consultant in the private sector, Serna entered higher education as an assistant professor of management in Athens State University’s College of Business. Prior

to serving as interim chancellor at UAFS, he was chief of staff and associate vice chancellor for external funding and chief of staff and vice chancellor for strategic initiatives.

Serna was chosen from a diverse applicant pool, which included sitting presidents, provosts, and other educational leaders. **The Board of Trustees** acted as the Presidential Search Committee, led by Julie Fowler ’85, ’88. Board Chair Glenn McCall guided trustees in deliberations on three finalists, which resulted in the selection of Serna.

“We knew we wanted an academic leader with previous experience as a public university president and a proven record of leading change during challenging times,” McCall said. “Dr. Serna is well positioned to undertake the presidency at a critical time in Winthrop’s history. His commitment to strategic planning, data-informed choices and partnerships aligns with the Board’s expectations for Winthrop’s future as the top choice for well-qualified students seeking higher education opportunities that will enrich their lives and prepare them to meet the needs and challenges of the contemporary world.”

We knew we wanted an academic leader with previous experience as a public university president and a proven record of leading change during challenging times.

-Board Chair Glenn McCall

Serna spent time on campus in early February and interviewed with the Board of Trustees, the Presidential Search Advisory Group, vice presidents, deans, students, faculty and staff leadership, community leaders and Winthrop Foundation leadership. His selection concluded an eight-month search that the board undertook with the assistance of Myers McRae, a Georgia-based higher education consulting firm.

Serna will assume the presidency and join the Winthrop community on July 1. He and his family, wife Lauren and daughters Anna Kate (12) and Caroline (7), will reside in the President’s House on campus.

MORE ABOUT DR. SERNA

- Was a non-traditional student at Winthrop who came under the former New Start Program.
- Hobbies include cooking to Spanish guitar music; trying new foods; traveling; hiking; enjoying all things Star Wars.
- Excited to have his daughters, Anna Kate and Caroline, experience life on the Winthrop campus.



Watch a recent CN2 interview with Serna.



My experience at Winthrop is what drove me to change careers to serve public higher education.

-President-Elect Edward A. Serna

BUILDING *on a* SOLID FOUNDATION

When 12th President Edward Serna takes the helm this summer, he will embrace a unique opportunity to lead one of the outstanding universities in the nation. Consider Winthrop's exciting path forward with this list of impressive institutional characteristics...

WINTHROP TODAY

Winthrop is a public, comprehensive, masters-level university in the thriving city of Rock Hill, a growing and vibrant suburb of Charlotte, North Carolina. Ranked 6th by **U.S. News & World Report** among Southern public universities and public and private institutions in the region for years, the university provides an educational experience that blends liberal arts, professional programs, global awareness, and civic engagement, enabling students to develop the knowledge, skills, and values that enrich their life and prepare them for all the future holds.

BIOMEDICAL IMPACT

Through the SC INBRE initiative, Winthrop has provided hundreds of student-centered research experiences since 2005, increasing the matriculation of participating students into graduate and professional programs. These grant-funded initiatives have been a catalyst for enhancing Winthrop's STEM-specific infrastructure and brought more than \$12 million to the university over the years.

EAGLES VOTE!

Winthrop, with its emphasis on civic engagement, was praised for a fourth year in a row by Washington Monthly for its success in getting students to vote and was included on its 2021 Best Colleges for Student Voting Honor Roll. The university also was selected as one of 200+ U.S. institutions to earn the designation "Voter Friendly Campus" from the national nonpartisan Campus Vote Project and NASPA.

OUR FOCUS

The university is at the forefront of educational opportunities and offers degrees that meet today's growing and emerging job markets. From cyber security and clinical mental health counseling to data science, musical theatre, and athletic training, Winthrop offers **46 undergraduate degrees and 23 graduate degrees** across four colleges—the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business Administration, the Richard W. Riley College of Education, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over the last four years, the university has added a number of new undergraduate and graduate academic programs and is poised to add its first professional doctoral programs in the near future.

WHO WE SERVE

Serving approximately 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students, Winthrop prides itself on being a close-knit, diverse **campus family**. Undergraduates represent 48 states and 31 countries with diverse students comprising 45 percent of the student population. The student-faculty ratio is 12:1, the average class size is 19, and 87 percent of full-time faculty hold terminal degrees in their discipline. Winthrop is committed to serving veterans and first-generation college students.

DID YOU KNOW?

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded the university with Yellow Ribbon status for helping veterans pay for their degrees, as well as has recognized it as a Purple Heart University.

STAMP OF APPROVAL

Winthrop University is accredited by the **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges** to award baccalaureate, master's, and specialist degrees. Through national accreditation, the university has set a high bar of excellence with its accredited academic programs. Winthrop is one of only 37 U.S. universities and the only South Carolina institution with its undergraduate and graduate arts programs—*theatre, dance, music, fine arts, and design*—nationally accredited. Additionally, the business college is AACSB-accredited—a designation held by less than 5 percent of business programs worldwide.

DID YOU KNOW?

Winthrop's SACSCOC decennial review is currently underway.

AHEAD OF THE PACK

Winthrop was tapped by the Center for First-generation Student Success, an initiative of NASPA and the Suder Foundation, as one of its 2021-22 First-gen Forward Institutions for improving the experiences of first-generation college students. Additionally, the Winthrop-based West Forum trains South Carolina's next generation of political and civic leaders, while underscoring the university's commitment to civic engagement.

DID YOU KNOW?

The university is highly respected for its outstanding undergraduate research program, public art partnerships, and focus on critical thinking.

MASTER PLANS & BEAUTIFICATION

Through a near-complete Academic Master Plan, Winthrop is developing a framework that ensures existing programs maintain their high quality impacts on student success and new programs both align to changes in regional workforce needs and provide the knowledge and skills tomorrow's learners will need to succeed in a constantly evolving global economy. In addition, the university is aligning its physical environment with its mission and vision through an engaging **Campus Master Plan** process that will result in a 10+ year plan that is responsive to Winthrop's near- and long-term needs. The appearance of the campus is receiving a boost through a robust, donor-funded **beautification effort** and a long list of **facilities projects** that are underway..

CAMPUS OF CHAMPIONS

The athletics program boasts 75 Big South Championship regular season titles and 64 Big South Conference tournament championship titles. The 16 teams, nine for women and seven for men, participate in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) at the Division I level. The men's basketball team, conference champions in 2020 and 2021, has made it to the top 32 teams in the NCAA and even beat Notre Dame along the way.

DID YOU KNOW?

The university added a varsity Esports team in 2019, and the Eagles claimed their first and a subsequent national title in 2021.

OUR GRADUATES

A Winthrop education produces graduates who have acquired and developed knowledge, skills, capabilities and values that will enrich their lives and prepare them to meet the needs and challenges of the contemporary world, including the ability to communicate effectively, appreciate diversity, work collaboratively, synthesize knowledge, solve complex problems and adapt to change. Today's Winthrop experience will ensure they are ready for multiple career paths, demonstrate digital and cultural literacy, and are prepared for engaged citizenship.

DID YOU KNOW?

Living Winthrop alumni number more than 60,000 and reside all over the world.

AHEAD OF THE PACK

Critical to Rock Hill's future, Winthrop eyes expectantly the nearby development of Knowledge Park, a master planned area, home to technology leaders, innovative startups, and creative industries. Within Knowledge Park and adjacent to Winthrop is University Center, a mixed use development of 14 buildings that include: market rate apartments, student housing, Class A office space, an indoor sports and events complex, a hotel, numerous retail spaces and restaurants, an outdoor entertainment venue, and more. Across town, the Carolina Panthers Headquarters & Training Facility, a \$1 billion investment in a 240-acre site, joins an impressive array of venues close to Winthrop, including a Velodrome, BMX Supercross Track, soccer and tennis complexes.

DID YOU KNOW?

On university land across from the Winthrop Athletics, Recreation an Research Area, sits Miracle Park, touted as Rock Hill's most inclusive park with fields specifically designed for individuals with physical and cognitive challenges.

TWINS FIND JOY *in* LIFE *of* SERVICE

In their nearly 95 years, twins **Marian** and **Helen Chuan**, Winthrop College Class of 1949, have often been guided by their parents' wise words:

"Joy comes from little things."

"The more I give, the more I receive."

"Every day you can find something beautiful, if you look."

The sisters have found joy and beauty in dedicating their lives to community service since graduating from Winthrop, where they were considered the first international students from China.

They spent their illustrious careers in the nursing, teaching, child development and social work education fields, and volunteered extensively in the Valle Verde community of Santa Barbara, California.

Their path to a life of service — and to Winthrop — began years ago in Beijing.

From Beijing to Shanghai to... Rock Hill

Their parents always emphasized the importance of education: their father earned degrees from Yale (the first student from northern China to at-



tend), and their mother graduated from Carleton College. The couple eventually resided in Beijing. After the Japanese army invaded China and occupied Beijing in 1940, the Chuan family escaped in stages to Shanghai. Later, the twins' father shared his desire to send the twins to the United States for college with a missionary neighbor, who knew then-Winthrop President Henry Sims' secretary, and they were admitted.

Marian and Helen arrived in San Francisco via boat, then took a train cross-country to Rock Hill. President Sims and his wife met them at the station and invited them to stay in the President's House until the semester began. Unbeknownst to the twins, their father had written to Sims encouraging the president to place them in different dorms.

"He thought since we had come all the way to the United States that we should be on our own," Marian explained.

"When the president showed us our father's letter, it just brought tears to us," Helen continued. "The president, being a twin himself, not only placed us in the same dorm, but in the same room!"

'Best foundation in becoming a person'

"We knew nothing of the United States, its geography or anything," Marian said. "Our parents were worried for us and afraid of discrimination. Since we were born and raised in China, we had never experienced discrimination...but our entire experience in Rock Hill, we never experienced a sense of discrimination or unkind language."

"Or rejection — we only experienced kindness," Helen added.

They shared how local schools would invite them to come and speak to their classes about Chinese culture. Fellow classmates also invited them to their homes for the holidays.

Both called the differences between the American and Chinese education systems of the time "fascinating," including the emphasis on child development and the open discussions and asking questions (U.S.) rather than learning via repetition (China).

Helen also spoke about Southern cuisine staples: "I loved the biscuits and the fried chicken," she chuckled.

At Winthrop, Marian earned a degree in early childhood education while Helen's degree was in home economics.

"Winthrop was the best introduction to the United States...because it was a very pleasant and happy experience in learning about new cultures and the foundation of education in the United States," Marian said.

"The best foundation in becoming a person," Helen added. "When we first got here, we were still technically children. We developed mentally here."

"We have had a meaningful, happy, satisfying long life," Marian continued. "We are forever grateful to Winthrop for giving us the opportunity to succeed. Winthrop will always be in our hearts."

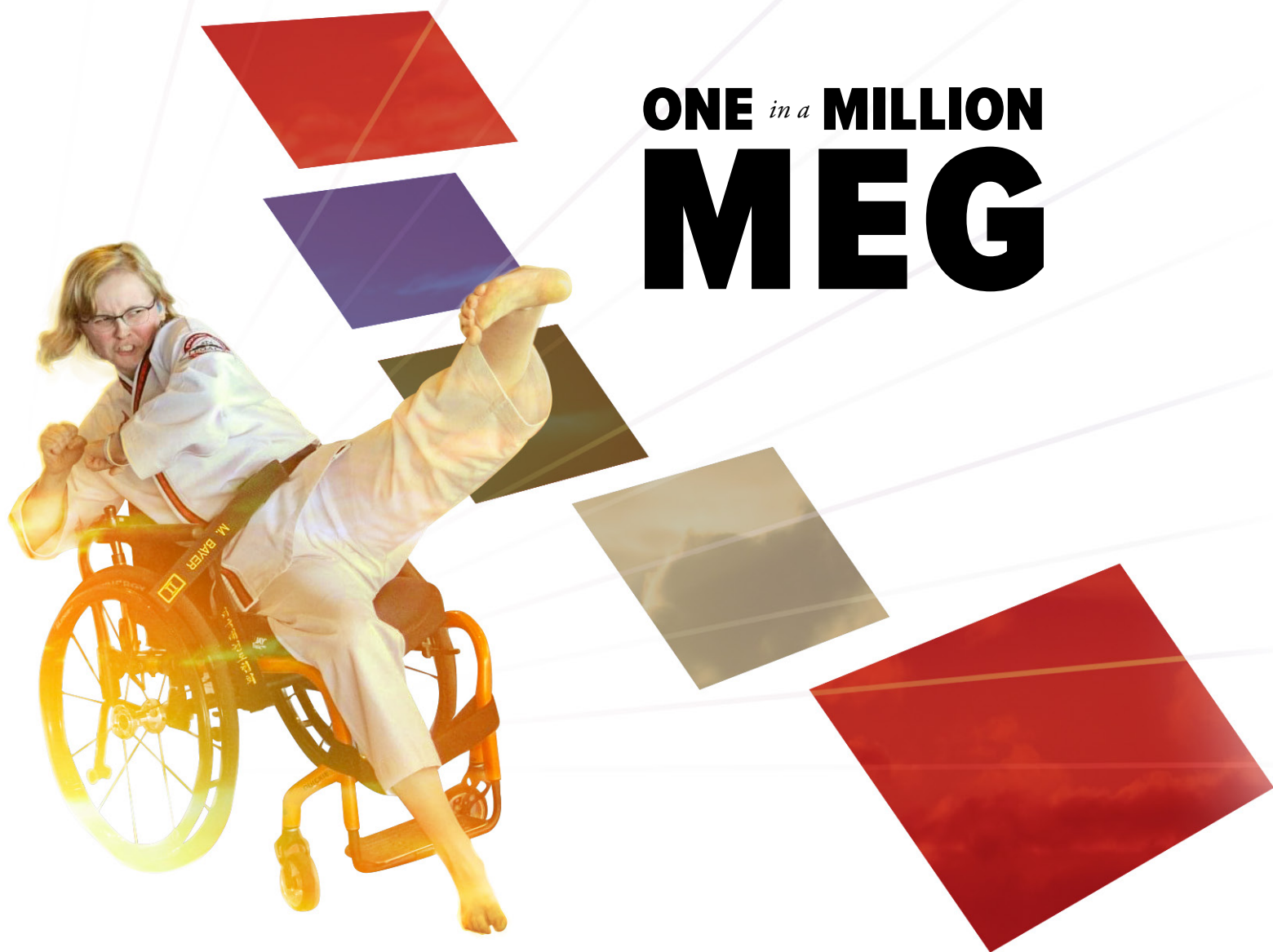


Marian Chuan

Marian studied at the Merrill-Palmer Institute, where she received a fellowship in infant and child development. Later, she was an instructor at Yale School of Nursing and earned a Master of Social Work from Columbia University. While at Boston University's School of Social Work, she developed a National Institute of Mental Health grant and collaborated with multiple departments to develop The Children's Project, for which she earned the Massachusetts National Association of Social Work's award for the greatest contribution to the social work education field. She later became director of student support services for Concord, Massachusetts, public schools.

Helen Chuan

Encouraged by Margaret Hess, former head of Winthrop's biology department, Helen earned a master's degree in nursing administration from Yale (receiving a distinguished alumnae award) and eventually another one from Boston University. She spent most of her career teaching at Yale-New Haven Hospital. She was one of the founding faculty members of the Southern Connecticut College of Nursing.



ONE *in a* MILLION MEG

Meghan Bayer is one in a million – literally.

Every day, Bayer, who’s pursuing a Master of Social Work degree online, battles Stiff Person Syndrome (SPS), a neurological disorder with features of an autoimmune disease that causes muscles throughout the body to go into severe spasm with the potential to break bones and dislocate joints. Approximately one to two in every million people worldwide have the condition, but Bayer’s type – pediatric onset – is even rarer, with only about 20-30 living cases today.

“I have really, really good days; I have okay days; and I have really bad days,” she said. “On those good days, I just live my life and find new adventures. If I have learned anything in the last 10 years, it is that you do not have to be dying to start living.”

Journey to a Diagnosis

Bayer’s diagnostic journey began in August 2012 when she experienced a catastrophic autoimmune reaction to the HPV vaccine. She spent half of high school and undergraduate years (University of Pittsburgh, B.A. in communication rhetoric with a health sciences concentration and administration of justice minor) in and out of the ICU, traveling to see specialists across the country.

She found Scott Newsome at Johns Hopkins’ Stiff Person Syndrome Center, the only outpatient SPS center in the world, seven years after experiencing her first symptoms. Because of SPS, Bayer relies on a feeding tube, has Type 1 diabetes and uses a wheelchair. She receives a plasma infusion every Friday and doses of chemotherapy every five months.

“
*Tell me I cannot do something,
and I will do it.*”

- Meghan Bayer

“The average time to an accurate diagnosis of SPS is over seven years. More recently, I have met some people that have been diagnosed in a matter of months,” Bayer said. “I think medicine is slowly turning the tide for the better.”

‘I will show you it is possible’

While Bayer began taekwondo in 2007 to combat bullying, it has become a lifestyle. She holds nine World Champion titles in the American Taekwondo Association and is currently training for her fourth degree black belt, at which point she’ll be considered an expert martial artist. She loves instructing new generations of black belts and serving as a tournament judge.

“Believe me when I say, I get some strange looks when kids realize their highest-ranking judge is in a wheelchair!” Bayer joked.

Speaking of competitions, Bayer recently won the Rare Disease Day research competition hosted by the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine’s Orphan Diseases Center, which is the first time she presented graduate student research to professionals in the medical and medical-adjacent fields.

“The competition was tough, and I was competing against people with credentials like M.D./Ph.D. or M.D./M.P.H.,” she said. “It was a surprise, but I’m excited to share my research with the world!”

She takes the same approach with her studies. She appreciates Winthrop’s online M.S.W. pro-

gram for the strong connections with her classmates and professors.

“The [program’s motto] ‘Excellence Matters’ really fits this program and this institution,” Bayer said, “because I have always been an overachiever. Tell me I cannot do something, and I will do it. Tell me it is impossible; I will show you it is possible.”

With faith and hope in her heart, Bayer started her non-profit Meg’s Miracles last year to raise awareness for SPS and funds for Johns Hopkins’ SPS research, raising more than \$6,800. She hopes to double that amount in 2022.



“I draw my strength from my faith in God and His master plan,” she said. “I know that God has called me to live an extraordinary life to glorify His Kingdom, and I hope I can do that by helping to stop this devastating disease for myself and others.”

Learn more about Bayer’s nonprofit and its work by visiting www.megsmiracles.org.



DESTINED *to* FIND HIS CALLING

Derion Reid '14 admits that destiny shaped his future during his time at Winthrop. One different reaction or encounter could have changed his life's trajectory.

Hailing from the small town of McCormick, Reid, a first-generation college student, wanted to experience a bigger city, and Winthrop's ideal location near Charlotte was a perfect fit. The university's commitment to diversity also was important to him.

"As soon as I stepped foot on campus I saw myself as a student there. I was sold," Reid said.

During his summer Orientation session, he bonded with his Orientation Leader (OL) who was a chemistry major. "I didn't really have a career path in mind. I thought I might major in political science, but my OL encouraged me to take a general chemistry course, which I did and loved. My OL also was working on a research project with Dr. Takita Sumter and suggested that I look into the undergraduate research experience.

I, too, got involved with Dr. Sumter's research and declared myself a chemistry major. It is interesting to think about how different my life could have turned out if I had been assigned a different OL," said Reid.

Reid remembered how learning from someone that looked like him was a motivating force. "It was good to see someone like me teaching chemistry, and I appreciated Winthrop's commitment to hiring professors that look like the students they're teaching," he said.

Finding His Fit

As a member of Winthrop's Learning Excellent Academic Practices (LEAP) program and the Ronald McNair Scholars program, Reid excelled.

"These programs taught me many skills and supported me when I needed it," said Reid.

Through McNair, which prepares first-generation, low-income, and/or underrepresented groups for graduate school, Reid was able to complete

two summers of research with Sumter, attend conferences and acquire graduate school entrance exam preparation.

His graduate school preparation paid off. He pursued a Ph.D. in chemical biology at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. "I felt very prepared for the Ph.D. program thanks to Dr. Sumter and the McNair Scholars program."

Reid began graduate school thinking he would be a professor, but soon realized that wasn't for him. He happened (again, destiny at work?) to attend a career panel and one of the panelists was a patent agent, something that intrigued Reid.

"It is a great field because you have this exposure to science and get to use all of your science expertise but you aren't actually producing the science," said Reid.

Protecting Meaningful Work

He started learning about intellectual property, took the federal patent bar exam, and became a patent specialist at Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. "I loved my time there because I was helping patent technology and pharmaceuticals that were saving lives," he said.

This past fall, he joined the intellectual property firm of Dority & Manning, P.A., in Greenville, as a patent agent. A typical day involves meeting with clients ranging from universities to pharmaceutical companies to medical device companies that are wanting to patent and protect intellectual property. "I write a lot of patent applications and help our clients work through the process of obtaining a patent which can sometimes take several months or years," said Reid.

The work excites him because he gets to see cutting-edge technology before it's released. "We get to protect drugs and equipment that

“

It is interesting to think about how different my life could have turned out if I had been assigned a different OL.

- Derion Reid

”

help people. We meet the researchers that are working on different types of untreatable cancers and help protect their very rewarding work," Reid said.

Ultimately, he enjoys building relationships with his clients. "A lot of the clients have been with our firm for one or more decades, and it's exciting to see their growth," he said.

Speaking of relationships, something else for which he thanks Winthrop is meeting his wife, Heather Williams Reid '11, '13. A church friend introduced them, another life turn he credits to destiny. "She was an education major and I was a chemistry major so we didn't really run into each other. But destiny intervened and crossed our paths," said Reid. He and Heather have four children.

As for his future plans, Reid will attend law school this fall to become a patent attorney, which will allow him to expand into patent litigation.

This past December, he brought his oldest son to a Carolina Panthers football game and made the drive south to show him Winthrop's campus. "It was a special time for me to show him the place that made me into who I am now and that brought his mom and me together," Reid said.

**THEN and NOW:
17 YEARS LATER,
SARAH
LAGEMAN
STILL HELPING
OTHERS**



Much has changed, yet stayed the same, for Sarah Lageman '97 since she was featured in the spring 2004 *Winthrop Magazine*.

In 2004, Lageman, who majored in psychology and biology as a Trustee Scholar at Winthrop, was a doctoral student at the University of Florida where she studied clinical and health psychology with a concentration in neuropsychology. Her research had her working with breast cancer patients and studying the cognitive effects of different cancer treatments such as chemotherapy, radiation and endocrine therapy — work she found “very rewarding.”

Fast forward 17 years, and Lageman has spent the last 11 years at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where she was hired to spearhead a neuropsychology practice at the university's Parkinson's and Movement Disorders Center.

Her move from Florida to Virginia featured stops along the way. After receiving her doctorate degree, she completed her one-year clinical internship at West Virginia University, then completed a two-year fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota before accepting her first faculty position at Emory University in Georgia.

Expanding Client Engagement Opportunities

On what brought her to VCU, Lageman said: “It was an exciting opportunity in which I was grateful to participate. Building a new clinical service and clinical research program was challenging but very personally rewarding.”

Today, she spends 60-75 percent of her time on clinical work while clinical research rounds out another 20-35 percent of her time. “In my clinic work, I do neuropsychological assessments, which evaluate cognitive and mood changes that can occur with neurologic disease. I also provide individual and couples therapy to help people adjust to changes that are occurring and to treat depression and anxiety, which can co-occur with certain neurologic problems,” explained Lageman, who also delivers guest lectures as an associate professor.

The day of the week determines her work. On Mondays and Tuesdays she conducts neuropsychological evaluations in the mornings. In the afternoons, she scores the tests and then interprets them and writes the neuropsychological reports. On those afternoons she sees a few patients. On Wednesdays, she see the majority of her therapy

clients. On Thursdays and Fridays, she finishes the neuropsychological reports and gives feedback to the patients and family members. She also does clinical research on these days as well as attends lab meetings and various departmental faculty meetings.

On her research days, she's examining caregiver issues related to Parkinson's disease. She and her research colleagues did a study of caregiver depression, anxiety and burden at their VCU clinic and a clinic in Guadalajara, Mexico. They have been exploring the data and have had lots of students get involved in various manuscripts. She also is working with other colleagues to look at how a new test from the National Institutes of Health can be used in ethnic minority communities and what modifications need to be used to interpret the data from the test correctly. In addition, she and another neurologist in the Parkinson's and Movement Disorders Center are studying which activities of daily living predict decline in individuals with Parkinson's disease dementia and Lewy Body dementia.

Changes and Consistency

One aspect of her work that has changed since 2004 is navigating a pandemic. “We stopped in-person clinic visits for 3.5 months and then experienced a huge increase in clinical referrals.



Lageman was first introduced to Winthrop Magazine readers in the spring 2004 edition. This photograph from that edition captured Lageman, who was a doctoral student at the University of Florida at the time, working on research with breast cancer patients.

We are just one clinic, but our experience seems to mirror others and highlights the increasing need for psychological services for all kinds of people,” said Lageman. “On the positive side, the pandemic has led to our field embracing online services more so than ever before. Virtual psychotherapy in particular has been covered by insurance companies, and there is momentum to have virtual therapy continue, which will allow much greater access to therapy for remote areas as well as individuals with various disabilities or who are home-bound for various reasons.”

While the scope of her research and work has changed over the 17 years since the *Winthrop Magazine* last featured Lageman, one aspect of her life's work has remained the same: helping others at a time when they need it most.

“

Building a new clinical service and clinical research program was challenging but very personally rewarding.

- Sarah Lageman

”

GOLF ALUMNI THRIVE *on* AMATEUR CIRCUIT



The lessons Golf Coach Kevin Pendley '98 taught his players during their college years continue to pay off handsomely for three alumni.

Winthrop Eagles have won the S.C. Amateur Golf Player of the Year for the past three years: Jordan Sease '12 in 2019, followed by Kyle Bearden '13 in 2020 and Christian Sease '16, '17 in 2021.

Pendley said he is very proud of not only what the players have accomplished, but also for what they did at Winthrop and for the men they have become.

“In speaking to some of them recently, the biggest thing that’s led to their success is that they realize that they are playing a game and not putting so much pressure on themselves to perform as they did at times in college,” Pendley said. “Everyone comes to that realization eventually and some faster than others. They all had great success in college but have really taken off post-college.”

He said the three were in different places with their games when they got to Winthrop. “But all possessed common traits which have led them to become the great players they are: they are ultra-competitive, are good athletes who have positive attitudes and are tireless workers,” Pendley said.

The S.C. Player of the Year award is given based on points players earn through the course of the year. Points are awarded for top finishes in major amateur events across the United States, but the emphasis of the point structure is participation in tournaments in the Carolinas.

“The neat thing about golf is that you can keep playing the sport after college,” said Christian Sease, who now lives in Greenville and works for an insurance marketing company. “We had a great group of guys at Winthrop, and we continue to push each other. It’s nice to give back to the school that way. We can still have success and make Winthrop proud.”



Christian Sease

Jordan Sease, who is first cousin to Christian, said he tries to play around seven to eight tournaments a year. It is challenging to compete against college players because they have more time to practice, he said. Those out of college have jobs – Jordan is a project manager for an architectural firm in Columbia – and practice when they can. Yet the



Jordan Sease

older players typically have better course management and know when to be aggressive, he said.

Bearden, who lives in Barnwell and works in sales and customer service for a lumber mill, said continuing to play golf after college keeps the competitive juices flowing. “I see friends that I’ve known a long time, I play on great courses, and I really enjoy it,” he added.

Each of the three also won the S.C. Mid-Amateur Tournament between 2018 and 2021.

Below are their impressive stats:

- 2021 winner Christian Sease was a member of the golf team from 2012-17. He earned a business degree in financial planning and an M.B.A. He won the S.C. Mid-Amateur tournament and tied for fifth in the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship.
- 2020 winner Kyle Bearden was a member of the golf team from 2008-13 and served as assistant coach for a year. He earned a business degree and played on the pro circuit for two years and then returned to amateur status, winning the S.C. Mid-Amateur in 2018. He played very consistently and placed among the top finishers in several

“
They represent all that is great about the game of golf and being a Winthrop Eagle!

- Golf Coach Kevin Pendley '98

tournaments in 2020. He was second in the S.C. Mid-Amateur and, a year later in 2021, he placed third in point rankings.

- 2019 winner Jordan Sease was a walk-on when he came to Winthrop and played from 2008-12. He earned a business administration degree and played professionally for a couple of years and then returned to amateur status. During the 2019 year, he placed in the round of 32 in the U.S. Mid-Amateurs, won the S.C. Mid-Amateur and put together high finishes in other back-to-back tournaments.

Pendley said each of the three players accepted his coaching and wanted to be coached.

“Lofty expectations can be a double-edged sword, and they have all learned that, I believe. It’s helped them reach a new level of play,” he said. “They represent all that is great about the game of golf and being a Winthrop Eagle!”



Kyle Bearden

Three Faculty Members Earn Prestigious Awards

Three faculty members recently earned recognition for their teaching and research. The awards included:

JAMES PINCKNEY KINARD AND LEE WICKER KINARD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING



The university's highest teaching award was presented to **Barbara Burgess-Wilkerson**, a professor of management. The award was established in honor of former president James Pinckney Kinard and his

wife, Lee Wicker Kinard, in 1984 by their family. Burgess-Wilkerson joined the Winthrop faculty in 2006.

THOMPSON SCHOLAR



The university appointed **Adolphus Belk Jr.**, a professor of political science, as the 2021-22 Thompson Scholar. The monetary award, generated through the Robert and Norma Thompson Endowment,

will provide Belk with the opportunity to develop a new course on hip-hop and politics.

BANK OF AMERICA PROFESSORSHIP



Associate Professor **Crystal Glover '97, '99**, earned the professorship, which is given to a Richard W. Riley College of Education faculty member, to develop a comprehensive, integrated, instructional curriculum that

celebrates the humanity, identities, lived experiences, and joy of Black, indigenous, children of color and their families and politics.



\$1.3 Million Awarded to Exercise Science Faculty

Two exercise science faculty members will collaborate with two other universities to train South Carolina nursing home staff to use a wellness program to exercise senior citizens' minds and bodies.

A \$1.3 million award from the Civil Money Penalty Grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will allow Associate Professor Joni Boyd '07, '20, '21, and Assistant Professor Jennifer Bossi of the Department of Physical Education, Sport, and Human Performance to oversee the use of Bingocize® in 60 South Carolina nursing homes.

Bingocize® is a program merging the widely popular game of bingo with range-of-motion exercises. The project is expected to serve 3,000 nursing home residents in twice-a-week sessions over the next three years.

Winthrop's award is the largest Bingocize® award given to date.

Winthrop Making Additional Upgrades to Become Laptop Campus This Fall

Wi-Fi upgrades continue this semester as Winthrop moves to become a laptop campus in the fall.

Beginning in August, each student will be required to have a laptop computer for 2022-23 academic year classes.

Winthrop's Board of Trustees' members unanimously approved the move to laptops during an Oct. 29, 2021, quarterly meeting. Interim President George Hynd noted that one of the known factors that will contribute to a successful learning experience is students' access to technology.

"This is where we need to move as a campus. We take student success seriously, and we saw during the pandemic that it was a challenge for some students to complete assignments due to technology at hand," said Hynd. "This requirement will help all Winthrop students as well as faculty."

Laptops will give students more flexibility for when and how they complete their work. The use of laptops in the classroom will also let faculty members more easily include video, audio, artwork, print and digital components into their lectures and will let them design their curriculum and pedagogical techniques around possible student technology capabilities.

The campus-wide Wi-Fi system in residence halls and academic buildings is in the process of being upgraded.



D.J. Burns Jr. Earns Postseason Honors



The National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) named D.J. Burns Jr. to the 2022 NABC Division I All-District Team.

Burns Jr. was voted to the NABC All-District 3 First Team, adding to his list of awards for the 2021-22 season. The Rock Hill native took home Big South Conference Player of the Year honors and was named to the All-Big South First Team. It was the third straight season Burns Jr. earned Big South all-conference honors. He became the fifth Eagle in program history to be named all-conference at least three times.

The junior forward led the Eagles in scoring with a career-high average of 15 points per game. He also set career-highs in field goal percentage and rebounds per game. His shooting percentage of .626 led the Big South. He also reached 1,000 career points this season, finishing the year with 1,128 which ranks 19th on Winthrop's all-time scoring list.

Kay Creamer's Generous Gift Provides Opportunities for Others

Grateful for the positive impact Winthrop had on her life, retired teacher Kay Lancaster Creamer '71 paid forward the investment with a gift to her alma mater.

"I am contributing to the future," said Creamer, who celebrated her 50th anniversary graduation from Winthrop last year. "This is a way to say thank you and to help another person who hopefully will do good things for South Carolina."

Due to the pandemic, Creamer's golden reunion was delayed a year and won't be held until this spring. Her classmates will be told of her generosity, and she hopes her \$150,000 scholarship donation will inspire them to set up their own scholarship or donate to hers.

The Kay Lancaster Creamer Mathematics & Science Scholarship was created to support preferably a South Carolina student majoring in secondary education in mathematics or science who has obtained at least sophomore status and has financial need. It was first awarded in fall 2021.

A Mount Pleasant native, Creamer had a national defense student loan for four years that decreased each year. To supplement her tuition payments, she worked on campus her sophomore, junior and senior years. Creamer was awarded a second, smaller scholarship from Winthrop her senior year that enabled her to stay in school to finish her mathematics degree.

"I wouldn't have been able to attend college without it," Creamer said. "My parents weren't able to finance my education."

Now retired and living in Lancaster, Creamer looks back on a long and successful teaching career with pride. She earned two more degrees: a master's degree in education from Clemson University and a Ph.D. in secondary education from the University of South Carolina.



She taught for years at Chester Middle School in as well as served as an instructor at Winthrop and at Tri-County Technical College and in the math lab at Lander University.

"I love public education," she said, "because it touches everyone in our society. My students were wonderful, and I loved teaching."

She thrived in the profession. One of the highlights came in 2001 when she was one of four South Carolina teachers who received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. It is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics and/or computer science teaching. "It was quite an experience and an honor," Creamer said about visiting Washington, D.C., to accept the award.

In retirement, she stays busy playing golf, practicing yoga, walking and playing cards. Married to Jack Creamer, a retired Winthrop programmer analyst and former software specialist, the two love traveling on cruises. They have visited nearly 70 countries on five continents.

Many of the opportunities in Creamer's life unfolded because she obtained a college degree. Her love of Winthrop inspired her to provide an opportunity for success to others.

Milestone Generosity

Thank you to the following donors who recently created new endowed funds or annual scholarship funds.

Endowed Funds:

Marc '89 and Michelle Bogan '91, '92 established the Marc and Michelle Bogan Endowed Scholarship to support undergraduate students who have financial need.

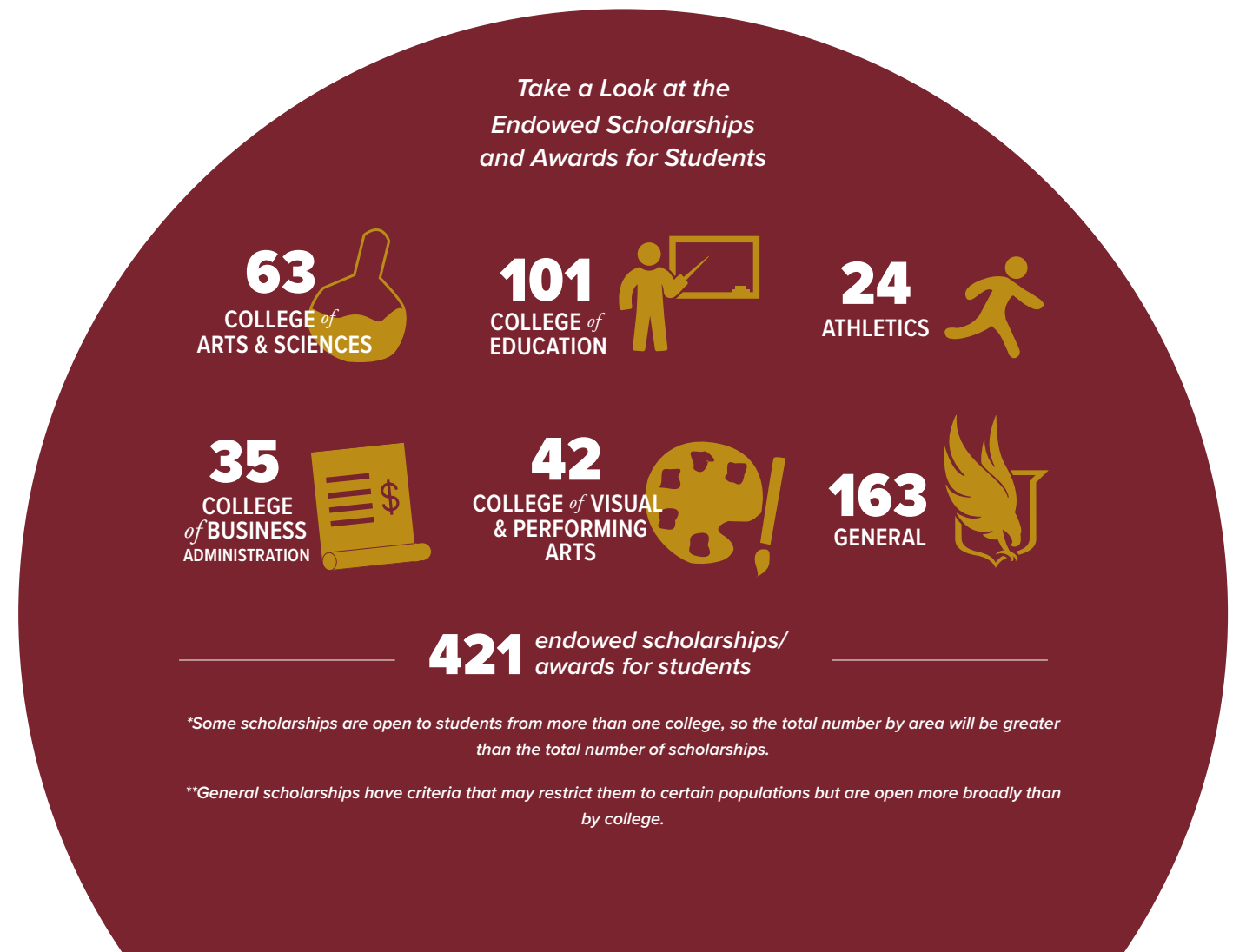
Patricia Rambow Robertson '67 established the Patricia Rambow Robertson '67 Endowed Scholarship to support students who have financial need, have achieved at least sophomore status and have a 3.0 or higher GPA.

David C. Sims '74 established the David Sims Fine Arts Endowed Scholarship to provide scholarship support for students majoring in fine arts and who are from South Carolina, North Carolina or Georgia.

Teresa. A. Williams '80 worked with gift planning staff to facilitate a future gift through bequest that will establish the Joby Williams Endowed Scholarship that supports students studying physical education.

Annual Scholarships

William T. Wirthlin created the Alison Manner Dietetic Internship Annual Scholarship to support students in the dietetic internship program in the Department of Human Nutrition. Special preference is given to those who have earned undergraduate degrees from Winthrop.



*Some scholarships are open to students from more than one college, so the total number by area will be greater than the total number of scholarships.

**General scholarships have criteria that may restrict them to certain populations but are open more broadly than by college.

Alumnus David McDonald Elected to Board of Trustees



David McDonald '01 has been elected to serve as the alumni representative for the **Winthrop University Board of Trustees**.

His six-year term will begin on July 1. McDonald will replace Jane LaRoche '69,

'70, whose term is set to expire in June. She's served on the board since 2010.

McDonald earned his B.A. in history and secondary education at Winthrop.

McDonald has lived in Greenville since 2013 where he serves as assistant superintendent for school leadership for Greenville County Schools. Prior to serving in that role, he served as a classroom teacher, assistant principal and principal in the Lancaster County School District.

Since becoming an alumnus, McDonald has served Winthrop as a volunteer in numerous capacities including the Young Alumni Council, Annual Fund Loyalty Council, Winthrop Alumni Admissions Volunteer, Winthrop University Foundation Board and Executive Committee, Winthrop Real Estate Foundation Board and as a longtime member of the Winthrop Alumni Executive Board where he served as secretary, first vice president and president for two terms.

Winthrop has often invited McDonald back to campus to serve as a guest speaker at programs and classes. In 2011, he had the opportunity to serve as the keynote speaker at Convocation. He has presented to numerous groups in the Richard W. Riley College of Education and other campus groups. Winthrop awarded McDonald the Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2008 and again recognized him for his service in 2019 with the Winthrop Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

2022 Alumni Award Nominations Now Open

Nominations for the 2022 Alumni Awards will be accepted through Friday, June 24. To nominate a Winthrop graduate for the Alumni Distinguished Service Award, Alumni Professional Achievement Award or the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, please complete the **Alumni Awards Nominations form** for the appropriate award and submit to **Lori Tuttle**, executive director of alumni relations and reunion giving, at tuttlel@winthrop.edu.

The 2022 Alumni Award recipients will be recognized at the Alumni Awards Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 10.

Submit Your Design to the Homecoming T-Shirt Contest

The Homecoming T-shirt design contest is back by popular demand! Do you think you have the skills to design Winthrop's 2022 Homecoming T-shirt? Put those skills to the test by submitting your Homecoming T-shirt design by May 31. The Alumni Executive Board will vote on the design that will be this year's Homecoming T-shirt design. The contest is open to all alumni and runs April 1-May 31.

Read more for [official rules and contest details](#).



Alumni Elected to Big South Hall of Fame

Retired Winthrop men's and women's tennis coach Cid Carvalho '82, '89, and former Winthrop volleyball player Mary Hock Leventis '06 were inducted into the Big South Conference Hall of Fame on March 6.

The **Big South Hall of Fame** now totals 77 former Big South Conference student-athletes, coaches, administrators and contributors.

Carvalho, who began his coaching career in 1986, retired in 2019 with 26 combined Big South Championship titles – a record 21 on the women's side and record-tying five on the men's side. He is the all-time leader in wins in Big South history in both sports, and recorded the most conference tournament wins in Big South tennis history with



63 women's victories and 36 men's wins.

Hock Leventis, who played volleyball from 2002-05, was a four-time Big South Conference Champion and NCAA Tournament participant, was a three-time All-Conference First-Team selection in 2003, 2004 and 2005, and was the Big South Player of the Year in 2004. She was also the Big South's first volleyball All-American.

Save the Date for Homecoming and Reunion 2022!

Make plans to come home to Winthrop Nov. 11-12 and celebrate! More details on weekend events to come, so stay tuned! Please check the **Homecoming website** frequently for more information.



1986

Janis Page Lewis of Fountain Inn was named Teacher of the Year at Ellen Woodside Elementary in Greenville.

1998

Jaime Cochrane of Rock Hill was named assistant principal of Ebenezer Avenue Elementary.

1999

The Rock Hill Schools Board of Trustees named **Tommy Schmolze** of Rock Hill as superintendent.

2002

Harold Haney of Rock Hill is the author of “The Holy Hip Hop Bible,” a translation of the New Testament written in hip hop language.

2005

Blaine Lahrs of York was promoted to chief digital and innovation officer at Sharonview Federal Credit Union.

2008

Renee Thompson Salley of Beaufort joined Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C., as counsel in the firm’s estate planning\wealth management and business transactions sections.

2011

James Wells of Cordova, Tennessee, was named 2022 Tennessee Art Educator of the Year.

2013

Ashlea Sovetts of Little River and **Alexandria Nunweiler '14** of Maldew, Massachusetts, were awarded the Art Project Support grant by the South Carolina Arts Commission.

2017

Philip Thomas of Charlotte, North Carolina, was appointed as one of 18 members of Charlotte’s new Arts and Culture Advisory Board.

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.



FOUNTAIN RESTORATION PROJECT

CAMPAIGN PASSES HALFWAY MARK!

Winthrop has raised more than half of the money needed to replace its iconic front-campus fountain.

Out of the \$500,000 needed to replace the foundation, donations and grants totaling \$301,614 have been raised to date from 343 donors.

Thank you to those generous donors!

It’s not too late to make a gift!

Make your online gift today and learn more about the **Fountain Restoration Project**.

Questions? Contact Lori Tuttle, executive director of alumni relations and reunion giving, at tuttle@winthrop.edu.

BIRTHS

Rebecca Rockholt Gentry '05,
a boy, David Lee Gentry

Katrina Beaty Clavon '08, a
girl, Emerie Rose Clavon

Elizabeth Layman Burrow '10,
a girl, Hanway Burrow

Emi Reeves Ferrell '13 and
Trey A. Ferrell '13, a girl,
Eleanor Ferrell

Jessica C. Jennings '14 and
Tyler J. Jennings '13, a girl,
Brooklyn Elaine Jennings

Jessica Irvin McGinnis '14 and
Brandon Thomas McGinnis
'12, a girl, Kennedy McGinnis

Sarah Fetner Cumberbatch
'15, a boy, Michael
Cumberbatch

IN MEMORIAM

1940s

Betty Brown McNaull '41
Frances Williams McSween
'41

Emily DuRant Strider '41

Ruth Griffin Aycock '44

Mary (Elsie) Elizabeth Castles
'44

Mildred Crosby Collins '44

Sara James Stringfellow '44

Margaret Shurley Green '45

Kathryn Willingham Robinson
'45

Ellen Goode Scoggins '45

Jane Walden Smith '45

Erleen Stevenson Bankhead
'47

Lucille Beckham Lee '47

Telitha Pettit Rogers '47

Josephine (Jo) Breazeale
Walker '47

Jacqueline Hallman Brazzle
'48

Louise Able Murdock '48

Frances Brown Gaffney '49

Mary Ella Fudge Jordan '49

Patricia Ann Mintz '49

Alma Lee O'Shields '49

Sybil Hayes Page '49

Frederica Fairey Reilley '49

1950s

Dorothy (Dot) Ducworth
Garrison '50

Virginia Shuler Greene '50

Mary Timmerman Murphy '50

Mary Stanley Eason '51

Jean Marks Schwerin '51

Sara Kay (Buddie) Nicholson
'52

Dorothy Mills Coleman '53

Barbara Wood Stilley '53

Mary Cannon Turner '53

Iris Simpson Arant-Kittrell '55

Anne Harmon Datko '56

Alice (Jackie) Patrick Guy '56

Madlean Velma Rogers '56

Priscilla Vaught Jennings '57

Montez (Tez) Nix Carter '59

Margaret Quinn Ferguson '54

Stella Weeks Goodson '55

Betty Hauser Hammond '55

Iris Kornegay Pritchard '56

Madlean Velma Rogers '56

Peggy Moody Knowles '57

Stella Emma Hurst '58

1960s

Anne Davis Hood '61

Sara Phillips Lear '62

Vivian Bailey Williams '62

Betty Sue Curry Webber '63

Ann Jeffords Wright '64

MARRIAGES

Alisha Marie Hughes '08 to
William Lewis

Nele Sophie Karmaus '10 to
James Thomas

Billie Jean Shaw '13 to
Michael Perry

Olivia Nicole Black '15 to
Holden Derrick

Heather Elaine Lemon '15 to
Ryan Wiggins

Melody Marie Sheets '17 to
Ian Conant

Kristen Alexis Watson '21 to
James (Jay) Oeland Camp '21

Myrna Porter Kendrick '65

Lillie Alford Van Riper '65

Sarah Jay Frye Grant '66

Jacqueline Darby Thompson
'66

Rebecca Robinson Blackmon
'67

Doris Russell Duncan '67

Vernie Kimbrell Hoffman '67

Judy Lentine McMahon '67

Barbara Jan Owings '67

Brenda Rountree Jackson '68

Lynda Broome McLane '68

Larene Martin Ray '68

Amelia Dunlap Cotty '69

Martha (Marty) Moore Milam
'69

1970s

Robert (Bob) Louis Williams
'70

Tony William Barbee '71

Rita Poston Coleman '71

Joseph Dale Greene '71

Patricia Brawley Vander Veen
'73

Bobbie Swank Lalli '74

John Grier McFadden '76

1980s

Mary Ballard Bales '80

Gary Wayne Wright '80

Kevin Atkins Bosler '81

Elizabeth (Beth) Dowdle Bell
'82

Kane Joseph Gaskill '86

Robert Frank Sarratt '87

Paulette Catledge Brookshire
'89

Deloris Caldwell Dial '89

Angela Hemingway
Murdaugh '89

1990s

Kim Young Woods '90

Trudy Lee Quinn '96

2000s

Mary-Frances Hood Lowry
'05

2010s

Alison Hope Manner '12



JOIN US APRIL 26-27
for
**BLEED GARNET,
GIVE GOLD!**

You have energy, style and substance. You're Winthrop through and through. That's why we hope you'll join us for our second annual 24-hour giving event, Bleed Garnet, Give Gold!

- Explore this year's projects and causes to support
- Become a champion and inspire others
- Visit giveto.winthrop.edu/2022/give to make an early bird gift and help us reach our 500-donor goal.

