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

— David Bancroft Johnson, 1909

WINTHROP'S FOUNDING PRESIDENT
It’s my pleasure to welcome you into the Winthrop University family.

Like you, I am new to Winthrop and am still learning a lot about this wonderful university. But in my short time here, I know that by choosing Winthrop, you have chosen a university where national caliber academics, undergraduate and graduate level research, civic engagement opportunities, and global connections are offered in a beautiful campus setting. And I can certainly speak to the unique Winthrop spirit that surrounds this place...everyone works together for the greater good of our students. It’s truly a special place.

While this academic year may look and feel a little different due to the unprecedented times to which we’ve all been adapting, one thing has not changed—Winthrop’s long and distinguished history. There is much to learn about this university, and I know you’re eager to get started. This book provides a look at our history, traditions and prominent individuals that provided the foundation on which we will build our own Winthrop achievements.

In these pages you will learn about special places and important activities that have helped define the Winthrop experience for generations. Taking full advantage of these opportunities will link you to alumni of the past and those of the future as well. It is my hope that our Winthrop treasures and traditions will become yours, and you will leave your mark here by living — not just wearing — the “Garnet and Gold.”

I look forward to navigating this year with you, and I hope to meet you soon and hear more about your plans and goals.

Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

George W. Hynd
Interim President

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**Traditions** often take the form of rituals or events, but in their essence, traditions are stories and experiences that connect a large group of people across generations.

We all become part of a community through the stories and experiences that unite us, regardless of race, gender and creed.

Winthrop has a long history of traditions, and each entering freshman class has the opportunity to build upon them.

This book, The Garnet and Gold, presents you with the opportunity to become aware of Winthrop’s history and shape its future.
Greetings Class of 2024,

Congratulations on making one of the best decisions in your life by choosing Winthrop to further your education.

When I became president of the Winthrop Alumni Association, I asked our alumni, especially those who were not involved, to reengage with the university. I asked them to support Winthrop by making annual financial contributions to Winthrop, to return to campus to speak with students and help mentor our undergraduates, and to provide internships and jobs for our future alumni.

As Winthrop students, when you see an opportunity to meet and network with alumni, take advantage of that. Do not hesitate to make lifelong connections to groups or individuals who may assist with your undergraduate endeavors or help in navigating your career.

Winthrop may be your temporary home, but it will provide you with friends and family that you will cherish for the rest of your life.

Welcome to a new beginning. I hope you take advantage of all that Winthrop has to offer. I look forward to meeting you and wish you all a very successful freshman year.

Regards,

Byron D. Putman ’94
President, Winthrop Alumni Association

The Winthrop Alumni Association is a non-profit organization that serves more than 60,000 alumni, the university, and students. Members of the association promote the growth and progress of the university, encourage loyalty among former students, strengthen tradition, and engage prospective students to attend Winthrop. The Executive Board serves as the governing body of all Winthrop alumni and oversees association business, and all active alumni are eligible to serve on the Executive Board.

Graduates of Winthrop are automatically members of the Association. A student regularly enrolled at Winthrop for at least one year who does not graduate becomes a non-graduate alumna/us, while students who completed less than one year may request approval for non-graduate alumni status. There are no annual dues or special requirements for becoming a member. All it takes is dedication to actively stay in touch with the university.
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You cannot spend four years of your life in contact with your fellow students in the daily presence of men and women of character and culture, in easy access to a well selected library of books, without being a better citizen and person of more or less culture; and having used the best means yet devised of enabling one to live a satisfactory life. This is what I think a college education can do for you.

— James Pinckney Kinard, 1932
WINTHROP’S SECOND PRESIDENT
Winthrop University has been an educational leader in South Carolina for more than 125 years. In 1886, David Bancroft Johnson, a dedicated and gifted superintendent of schools, successfully petitioned Boston philanthropist Robert C. Winthrop and the Peabody Fund for seed money to form a school whose mission would be the education of women as teachers. As the “Winthrop Training School,” Johnson’s fledgling institution opened its doors to 21 students in Columbia, S.C., using a borrowed, one-room building. Because of its important role, Winthrop soon received state assistance and moved to its permanent Rock Hill home in 1895.

Over time, Winthrop became one of the premier women’s colleges in the region and expanded its mission to become a comprehensive institution offering degrees in a variety of disciplines. The institution diversified its class ranks by extending its educational offerings to minorities in 1964 and becoming fully coeducational in 1974.

Winthrop assumed university designation in 1992 and has achieved national recognition in pursuit of its goal to be one of the finest comprehensive universities in the country.

Winthrop has changed dramatically since its beginnings, growing from a single classroom to a comprehensive university of distinction. Winthrop’s historic main campus is a setting of exceptional beauty, as is the nearby Winthrop University Lake Area, Recreational and Research Complex. Over the years, Winthrop has grown from an initial class of 21 in 1886 to a student body of more than 6,000.

Always Winthrop

In its more than 125-year history, Winthrop has undergone several name changes; however, the word “Winthrop” has been incorporated in each name change. You may note signage on buildings or other structures that reflects the different designations. The names and corresponding years are indicated below:

- Winthrop Training School, 1886
- South Carolina Industrial and Winthrop Normal College, 1891
- Winthrop Normal and Industrial College of South Carolina, 1893
- Winthrop College (The South Carolina College for Women), 1920
- Winthrop College, 1974
- Winthrop University, 1992
David Bancroft Johnson received $1,500 appropriation from the Peabody Education Board headed by Robert Charles Winthrop. The institution began classes on November 15 as the “Winthrop Training School” in Columbia, S.C., under the tutelage of Winthrop’s first instructor, Mary Hall Leonard.

Winthrop moved to a house on Marion Street where it remained until the college moved to Rock Hill in 1895.

Winthrop Literary Society, the first student organization, organized.

Alumnae Association established in Columbia.

Winthrop moved to Rock Hill.

Winthrop Journal (precursor to Anthology) published. 

President David Bancroft Johnson married Mai Rutledge Smith 1898.

First Winthrop Training School graduation held.

First alma mater adopted.

Winthrop Weekly News (precursor to Johnsonian) first published.

Author and activist Helen Keller visited.

Lucile (Ludy) Godbold ’19, ’20 won two gold and four other medals in the International Women’s Olympiad.

David Bancroft Johnson, founder and first president, died in office.

James P. Kinard named second president.

Shelton J. Phelps named third president.

Little Chapel relocated from Columbia to Rock Hill. 

Aviator Amelia Earhart visited.

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visited.

U.S. Army Air Force (formerly known as Army Air Corps, 41st College Training Detachment) and Civilian Pilot Training Program based at Winthrop in “Fort Bancroft.”

Henry R. Sims named fourth president.

Enrollment topped 2,000.

Uniform regulations discontinued.

Winthrop Lake construction completed.

Charles S. Davis named fifth president.

Cynthia Plair Roddey ’67, first African-American graduate student, admitted. 

Arnetta Gladden Mackey ’67 and Delores Johnson Hurt ’68, first two African-American undergraduate students, enrolled.

Enrollment topped 3,000.

Winthrop Training School closed.

Walter Schrader became the first male to receive a Winthrop degree.

Enrollment topped 4,000.

Charles B. Vail named sixth president.

Winthrop became fully coeducational.

First Winthrop Model United Nations held.

First Winthrop Coat of Arms adopted.

Philip Lader named seventh president.

Enrollment reached 5,000.

Comedian Bob Hope visited.

Student Alumni Council (SAC), also known as the campus’s “ Tradition Keepers,” was established by the Winthrop Alumni Association.

Martha Kime Piper took office as Winthrop’s eighth president.

Winthrop celebrates its Centennial.

Winthrop officially joined NCAA, Division I ranks.

Winthrop trustees approve a proposal that makes Winthrop the first college or university in the state to offer a Master of Liberal Arts degree.

Anthony J. DiGiorgio became Winthrop’s ninth president.

Winthrop achieved University status, and official name is changed to Winthrop University.
Homecoming moved to the fall.
Vivian Moore Carroll Hall completed.

U.S. News and World Report magazine ranks Winthrop one of the top twenty regional universities in the South in the magazine’s America’s Best College Value Edition.

1999
Winthrop Eagles made the NCAA Division I basketball tournament for first time.

2000
Winthrop College of Education renamed the Richard W. Riley College of Education.

2003
University College founded.
→ Courtyard at Winthrop opened.

2004
New general education program created.

2005
Lucile Godbold, Class of 1922, named to the South Carolina Hall of Fame.

2007
Construction completed on Glenda Pittman and Charles Jerry Owens Hall and the Lois Rhame West Health, Physical Education and Wellness Center.

2009
Homecoming moved to the fall.
→ Vivian Moore Carroll Hall completed.

2010
The university embarked on its 125th academic year.
→ Anthony J. and Gale N. DiGiorgio Campus Center and Scholars Walk completed.

2011
The Roddey-McMillan Record, a multi-cultural interest newspaper, celebrated its 25th year.
→ Hardin Family Gardens completed.

2013
Jamie Comstock Williamson named Winthrop’s tenth president.

2014
Winthrop celebrated the 50th anniversary of integration.

2015
Daniel F. Mahony named Winthrop's 11th president.

2017
David Bancroft Johnson inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame for his contributions to the state.

2018
Winthrop unveiled a new university logo.

2019
Byron D. Putnam ’94 installed as the first African-American Winthrop Alumni Association President.
→ Winthrop’s MLK Day of Service celebrated its 20th anniversary.
→ Winthrop University was designated as a Purple Heart University from the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

2020
You became an Eagle. Welcome to the Winthrop family!
Notable Figures in Winthrop's History

Take a look at some of the pioneers who shaped Winthrop’s history and traditions.

Robert C. Winthrop (1809-1894)
Benefactor and namesake of Winthrop University, Robert C. Winthrop, as the chairman of the Peabody Trust for Southern Education, enabled David Bancroft Johnson to obtain a $1,500 grant to start a teacher training institution in Columbia, S.C. in 1886. Winthrop gave Johnson $50 out of his own pocket to establish a library at the school, and he continued to donate $50 every year, as well as books, until his death in 1894.

David Bancroft Johnson (1856-1928)
Winthrop's founder and first president, D. B. Johnson, served as president from 1886 until his death in 1928. His determination to establish a college for women in South Carolina impressed those in the political and educational worlds alike. He was the driving force behind Winthrop for 42 years, and many buildings still in use today were built during his tenure. Without his quest for excellence, Winthrop would not be the school it is today. In 2017, Johnson was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to the state.

Cynthia Plair Roddey '67 (1940-)
Cynthia Plair Roddey became the first African-American student to be admitted to Winthrop in 1964. Roddey was 24 years old when she applied for enrollment in Winthrop’s graduate program. Roddey earned a master's degree in teaching in 1967. She served as the director of the library at Clinton Junior College in Rock Hill and continues to participate in Winthrop University activities.

Walter H. Schrader Jr. ’69 (1913-2005)
Since 1898, men have been allowed to attend summer courses at Winthrop and during the 1960s, they attended evening classes as well. However, the college’s charter did not permit Winthrop to award men degrees. Walter H. Schrader Jr. completed all the requirements for a Master of Arts in Teaching, sued to have the charter changed and became the first man to receive a Winthrop degree in 1969. Winthrop became fully co-educational in 1974.

Martha Kime Piper (1931-1988)
In June 1986, Martha Kime Piper was named the eighth president of Winthrop, becoming the first female college president in the Carolinas as well as Winthrop's first female president. During her tenure, Winthrop became the nation’s first college to sign a NAACP fair share agreement encouraging the promotion of minorities and the use of minority businesses, created a school of visual and performing arts, and had more than 20 buildings added to the National Register of Historic Places. Piper died in office in 1988.

Arnetta Gladden Mackey ’67 (1947-2009), Delores Johnson Hurt ’68 (1946-) and Sue Frances Meriwether Steed ’67 (1946-)
Arnetta Gladden Mackey and Delores Johnson Hurt were the first two African-American undergraduate students to attend Winthrop in the fall of 1964. Mackey graduated in 1967 with a degree in biology. She later worked at a chemical company, retiring in management after 33 years. Hurt graduated with a French degree in 1968 and later earned a master’s degree in broadcast journalism. She worked as a news reporter, business owner, and taught journalism and French before retiring. Sue Frances Meriwether Steed ’67 was the first African-American student to earn a degree at Winthrop. She transferred in the fall of 1964 from Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial State University. She earned a biology degree and enjoyed a 39-year teaching career before retiring.
The inspiration for The Garnet and Gold is the student handbook first created by Winthrop’s Young Women’s Christian Association (Y.W.C.A.) in 1902.

Freshmen received this pocket-sized booklet before the beginning of the academic term, allowing them to become familiar with Winthrop officials, the Y.W.C.A., the student government, college customs and traditions, and campus regulations. During the first weeks of school, freshmen were required to take an exam on its contents. From the handbook freshmen could also quickly reference the words to the alma mater, meal time blessings, the names of class officers, and the bell schedule. Some editions of the handbook even provided students with a few pages to fill in one’s class schedule and a place to jot down notes.

Though first created by the Y.W.C.A., the handbook has been sponsored by a variety of campus organizations through the years with the common tradition of students taking the role of editors. In the late 1980s the Division of Student Life took charge of producing the official student handbook, which gave rise to the more policy-oriented manual Winthrop students know today.
Olympian Lucile (Ludy) Godbold was a Winthrop alumna. Lucile graduated in 1919 and competed in the 1922 Women's International Track Meet where she won six medals.

From 1895 to 1907 students only had one day to enjoy their Christmas break. Winthrop may have kept the girls in Rock Hill, but there were plenty of Christmas preparations on campus. The dorms and the Main Building parlors had Christmas trees set up for the girls to decorate. The dining hall’s overhead steam pipes wore garlands of greenery. Christmas carols were sung in chapel all week.

There was a pool in Tillman, and students were required to swim one lap before graduating. The one lap requirement continued into the 1970s, long after the Peabody Pool replaced the Tillman Pool.

There is a bathroom in the President’s House specifically built for Eleanor Roosevelt’s visit to campus in 1940. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt appeared as an added feature of the Winthrop College Artist Course series to speak about social issues that plague young people.

The first president of Winthrop and his wife are buried beneath the floor of the Little Chapel. David Bancroft Johnson married Winthrop graduate, Mai Rutledge Smith, Class of 1898, in 1902. D.B. Johnson was first interred on the front lawn of campus. His body was moved in 1936 when the Little Chapel was relocated to campus from its original home in Columbia.

Withers/W.T.S. Building used to be a school for kindergarten through high school students. In fact, the Winthrop Training School served as a training opportunity for Winthrop education students. Today, Winthrop education students work with children in Macfair Laboratory School housed in Withers.

There is a well on the front of campus. There is an artesian well on front campus that once provided water to the campus community. The water was stored in a 24,000 gallon tank located directly under Tillman’s bell tower. The brick structure that encloses the well was constructed in 1906.

One of America’s first international students graduated from Winthrop in 1945. Winthrop has hosted international students from more than 40 different countries throughout it’s many years.

Johnson Hall used to be the student activities building. Johnson Hall, named for founding president David Bancroft Johnson, was constructed with funds from oil magnate and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, the YWCA, and the state legislature. Built in the Classical Revival style, it originally housed offices for students, the YWCA, and literary societies.

The Winthrop girls used to slide down the enclosed fire escapes on campus for fun.
President Woodrow Wilson’s profession of faith was made in the Little Chapel. The Little Chapel was once part of the Columbia Theological Seminary, where Wilson’s father was a professor. Wilson regularly attended services and became a member of the Presbyterian Church in the Little Chapel.

President Johnson only had one arm. At age 9, while crossing railroad tracks on the way home from school, Johnson was run down by a hand car loaded with rock. His arm was badly mangled and amputated to save his life.

Robert Mills designed both Winthrop’s Little Chapel and the Washington Monument. You can visit his home in Columbia, and see the original site of Winthrop’s Little Chapel.

The D.B. Johnson Memorial Organ in Byrnes Auditorium is one of the largest and finest musical instruments in the South. Installed in 1955, it is now one of the last of its kind, an Aeolian-Skinner organ with tonal finishing by renowned organ designer G. Donald Harrison.

In 1909, Winthrop’s enrollment exceeded that of the University of South Carolina and Clemson. Winthrop had 669 enrolled students, which was not only the largest educational institution in the state, but one of the largest in the South.

Soldiers lived on campus before Winthrop admitted the first male students in 1974. The U.S. Army Corps 41st College Training Detachment lived in Bancroft Hall during WWII. They took classes on campus from 1943-1944.

In the days of uniforms, women were not allowed to wear pants on the front of campus.

The Little Chapel is the original classroom of Winthrop, and was moved brick by brick from its original home in Columbia to Rock Hill in 1936.

There are tunnels and pathways under Tillman. They were constructed for the pipes that were used to heat and cool campus.

Ida Jane Dacus Library is named for an alumna. The building was named for Ida Jane Dacus because she was the first professionally trained librarian in the state and an alumna. It was constructed in 1969, four years after her death. She worked in the library for more than 50 years.

A former tradition among students was that underclassman could not walk up the front steps of Tillman. Only seniors had this privilege. This tradition was part of “Senior Week,” which was the last week of school before Commencement. Underclassmen had to use the two side entrances; if they were caught using the front entrance during senior week they had to pay a 25 cent fine.

Although Winthrop has never had its own football team, Winthrop hosted the 1926 football game between Davidson and Presbyterian College. It ended in a win for Davidson 3-0.
Campus Treasures

Winthrop’s distinctive history, culture and campus would be incomplete without these unique treasures that have become central to the character of the university.

Amphitheater
The amphitheater was excavated from a hillside over a creek bed in 1916. Located amid groves of trees that were originally part of Oakland Park in the 1890s, it is tucked away from the main pedestrian thoroughfares and now serves as a multi-purpose venue. The amphitheater was upgraded during fall 2010.

Chimes
The chimes were installed in the tower of Main Building, now known as Tillman Hall, in 1923. In early years, students received scholarships to play the chimes, which signaled class changes, awakened students, and started and closed chapel. Electronic chimes were purchased with student and alumni donations and installed during the 1970s.

Clock Tower
Among all the Winthrop treasures, nothing is more visible than the clock tower of Tillman Hall, which continues to serve as an icon for the university. The 151-foot high clock tower boasts a clock face, which uses the lettering “III” instead of the traditional Roman numeral “IV.”
Founder’s Bust
On April 25, 1987, a bronze bust of David Bancroft Johnson, created by sculptor Earline King of Winston-Salem, N.C., and architect Michael Gallis of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, was dedicated on the front lawn of campus near the founder’s original burial place. The sculpture was intended “to reflect the character of the man” who founded Winthrop and presided over it for 42 years, and was beloved by his “Winthrop daughters.” The memorial was created from some 70 photographs of Johnson from early to old age provided by the Winthrop Archives. Those who view the sculpture believe it a likeness of the “mature” Johnson. In 2005, the bust was moved to the Little Chapel to be near Johnson’s final resting place.

Magnolia Tree
The large magnolia tree standing in front of Tillman Hall has long been a fixture on the Winthrop campus. Since 1935, the lighting of the magnolia tree has heralded the approach of the holidays. Though it sustained significant damage during Hurricane Hugo in September 1989, the tree continues to serve as an icon of Winthrop.

Public Art
First President D.B. Johnson introduced Winthrop’s emphasis on public art and was honored posthumously for his contributions with the Medal of Honor in the Arts in 2011. In the manner of institutional architecture at the turn of the century, Winthrop buildings also possess decorative elements that enhance the campus’ distinct design. Today, Winthrop continues to advocate the importance of public art through an innovative program that gives fine arts and design students on-going opportunities to create and fabricate temporary and permanent works for the university’s public spaces.
When Winthrop moved to Rock Hill in 1895, the campus was divided into separate pieces of land. The area now known as the Research and Recreational Complex operated as a farm and produced vegetables, fruit, milk, butter and meat, all of which were used to prepare meals for students and faculty. Eventually, a decision was made to cease operations at the farm, and by 1958 the lake was constructed to provide a recreational area for students. However, due to the long history of this area as a working farm, the complex is still affectionately referred to as “the Farm.”

The President’s Award for Academic Excellence
The President’s Award for Academic Excellence is the university’s highest student academic honor; it is awarded to the student or students with the highest grade point average in the graduating class.

Winthrop Fountain
The original fountain on front campus was smaller than the present fountain and was made of metal standing about four to five feet above the ground. The original metal fountain was removed and placed in the yard of the President’s House and was replaced by the present fountain, which was constructed by local contractors and laborers in a similar style to the original. The fountain, formerly the center of outdoor student activities on campus, remains a popular symbol of Winthrop.
The great aim of our living and striving should be to become better men and women in heart and soul as well as in mind and body.

— David Bancroft Johnson, 1903
Classes Night
Classes Night was an annual skit competition between the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes. Each class, identified by their respective mascots, colors and blankets, created original skits and costumes relative to the Classes Night theme. Skits were judged on originality and adherence to theme and were carefully guarded secrets until being performed at Classes Night. This tradition, along with class blankets, colors and mascots, ended in 1980.

Daisy Chain
In 1903, President Johnson brought the idea of the Daisy Chain to campus in an effort to promote Winthrop to state and local dignitaries and community members. Daisies were gathered by students and made into a long chain with rope and ivy, and after singing class songs, the president of the senior class signified the passing of the senior rank to the junior class by giving her mortar board to the junior class president.

Seniors then “capped” the juniors and the daisy chain was left wrapped around the designated class tree. The tradition originally followed commencement, but as the years passed and enrollment grew, the Daisy Chain moved to the day before Commencement and relocated from the fountain to the athletic field adjacent to Crawford. The tradition was phased out in 1961.

Festival of Carols
The Festival of Carols arose in response to community members who desired an event to replace the former Christmas program held in Byrnes Auditorium. The inaugural festival played host to several hundred people from the campus and community and included performances by Winthrop music ensembles. Organized in 1974, the Festival of Carols grew to include a variety of activities, from tree lighting ceremonies to local school choruses to a children’s party with Santa Claus. In 2009, the Festival was retired due to Winthrop’s increasing involvement in ChristmasVille, a holiday festival centered in downtown Rock Hill.

Freshman Drop-In
During the 1940s and 1950s, the Freshman Drop-In offered new students an opportunity to meet the president and other school staff as well as the campus student leaders. The event usually took place at the president’s house or garden in the fall semester, but in the 1980s it became known as the Freshman Picnic as part of Orientation.

Fine Arts Series
Prior to cultural event credits, the Fine Arts Series gave students the opportunity to experience a variety of arts and cultural programs. The program began during President Johnson’s administration and was once referred to as “The Star Course.” Acts from around the country, including Broadway shows, symphonies, international artists, and celebrities of the period were invited to campus each year. Most of the events took place in Byrnes Auditorium and many were sponsored by the Winthrop Student Government Association. In later years, Winthrop partnered with the Rock Hill community to showcase the Fine Art Series.
Literary Societies
In its early years, Winthrop had three literary societies. The Winthrop Literary Society formed in 1889 when classes were still held in Columbia, S.C., prior to Winthrop’s move to Rock Hill. The Curry Literary Society was established in 1895 following the move. In 1909, the Wade Hampton Literary Society began, as growing interest in literary societies created the need for a third organization. Members of these groups met frequently and discussed literature in a social setting, and collaborated to publish “The Winthrop Journal,” a monthly campus magazine. Also, a student from each of the literary societies was chosen to speak at Commencement, which was considered quite an honor. Most women were part of a literary society while attending Winthrop. The Winthrop Literary Society remains an active campus organization and is recognized as the oldest student organization on campus.

May Day
From 1929 to 1971, the May Day tradition was planned by the senior class and held on the first Saturday of May prior to graduation. Festivities included music, dancing and the May Court pageant, which consisted of 18 members, with four attendants elected by each class. Hundreds of spectators, including Winthrop students, parents, alumni and community members, gathered annually to enjoy the activities and to watch the crowning of the May Queen.

Navy Blue and White Uniforms
The uniform policy began in 1895 in an effort to make students equals, with no regard to socio-economic class. Students whose wardrobe deviated from the uniform in any way were brought before the Uniform Council. While the styles transformed dramatically throughout the years, navy blue and white remained a tradition. When discussion began about the possibility of Winthrop becoming a co-educational institution, the tradition of uniforms was abolished in 1955. However, discussion about co-education continued until Winthrop became fully co-educational in 1974.

Rat Week
The tradition of Rat Week originated in 1945 and required freshmen to perform whatever duties upperclassmen assigned them. Cleaning rooms, carrying books and writing letters were typical tasks assigned to first-year students. Freshmen were also required to wear garnet and gold beanies at all times, meaning beanies were worn while sleeping, eating, bathing, and even while combing their hair. The purpose of Rat Week was to promote friendship between freshmen and upperclassmen, but the tradition ended when new hazing policies were established in 1978 by the Board of Trustees.

SGA President Dunked in the Fountain
The Student Government Association established a tradition popular among students in the 1940s, ’50s and ’60s. Each spring, students assembled to observe the installation ceremony for officers of the student government and various campus organizations, which included the outgoing SGA president dunking the incoming president in the fountain in front of Tillman Hall. In 1960, immediately following the installation of the SGA president, students surprised then university president Charles Davis with a spontaneous dunk in the fountain.

The Tatler
In 1898, the first official Winthrop yearbook was published. For over a century, the student publication documented classes, campus life, and university history and was a cherished Winthrop tradition. However, decreasing interest in hardcover annuals and the advent of online communication and social networking led to the retirement of this tradition in 2001. The last edition of The Tatler captured university history for the 2001-02 academic year.
Current Traditions

As a new member of the Winthrop family, you are encouraged to embrace the traditions that define the Winthrop experience. Participate in these traditions, cherish your time at Winthrop and reflect upon how these activities and beliefs have shaped the history of the university you enjoy today.

Alma Mater

In 1914, President Johnson proposed a competition among the four classes to prepare a college song. Over the years, the alma mater was adapted to suit the changing character of Winthrop, but the tradition of an official college song continues. At opening convocation in 1986, the Winthrop Glee Club performed the current Alma Mater, which was adopted to usher in Winthrop’s second century. Become familiar with the current Alma Mater, which can be found on page 53, as you never know when you may be asked to sing it.

- "Lo She Stands, Our Alma Mater"
  - Submitted by the class of 1915
- "Oh Hail Dear Alma Mater"
  - Written by Lily Strickland and retired in 1922
- "Fairest Flower"
  - First appeared in the 1922-23 student handbooks, officially adopted by the student body in 1936 and later retired due to the arrival of co-education in 1974
  - Lyrics by Donnis Martin; music by Hascal Vaughan Stewart ‘19
- "The Winthrop College Hymn"
  - Adopted in 1976, sung annually during commencement
  - Lyrics by Grace Beacham Freeman; music by John Baker
- Current Alma Mater
  - Adopted in 1986, melody by Donna C. Durst ‘83; lyrics by Donna C. Durst and Lisa Brelan

Attend an Athletic Event

With 16 NCAA Division I intercollegiate teams competing in the Big South Conference, finding an opportunity to relax and watch your favorite sport is easy. Winthrop Athletics has a tradition of winning championships and representing the university in the NCAA tournaments. In addition to stellar performances in the athletic arena, Winthrop student-athletes excel in the classroom and spend countless hours serving the community. All regular season events are free for Winthrop students to attend. Cheer on the Eagles! Attend a game; join the official student support group, The WU Crew; and keep up on Twitter with @WUEagles or www.winthropeagles.com.
Blue Line
Established in 1895 by President Johnson, the Blue Line is among Winthrop’s most cherished traditions. Originally the women were led in two lines down Oakland Avenue where they could attend any one of the many churches along the street. The procession of students dressed in blue and white uniforms was led by the president on the first Sunday of the academic year, and eventually became known as the “Blue Line.” When the uniform policy ended, the tradition lost its identity, but in 1983 President Lader revived the Blue Line. Typically, the president leads students out of Convocation to the lawn where students can enjoy food, novelties and vendor tables. **Participate in the 2020 Blue Line by wearing navy and white to our first virtual Convocation on Aug. 24!**

Commencement
The first commencement ceremony took place on June 17, 1887 in Columbia, S.C., the original home of Winthrop, and awarded degrees to 14 students. While the program has changed over time, all Winthrop graduates share the experience and tradition of our commencement exercises. Today, ceremonies for graduate and undergraduate students are held each semester at the Winthrop Coliseum. **Support your fellow Eagles by attending graduation before your final semester.**

Convocation
Convocation first began as an opening speech and welcome to the incoming freshman class by the university’s first president, David Bancroft Johnson. This welcome later became known as Convocation in 1983 during President Phil Lader’s tenure. Today, Interim President Hynd convenes the freshman class to offer them an official welcome to Winthrop, and typically a guest alumnus relates how the Winthrop experience has shaped his or her life after graduation. **Be sure to attend the 2020 Virtual Convocation on Aug. 24, 2020 to experience this cherished tradition.**
Family Day
Family Day, a tradition begun by President Phelps in 1936, was renewed in 2007 to become a fun-filled, engaging and educational time for students and their families. Today, there are numerous fun activities that characterize life at Winthrop. Invite your family to join us virtually for this year’s Virtual Family Week to see why Winthrop is your family away from home.

Garnet & Gold Fridays
Garnet and Gold Fridays began in the fall of 2007 as a spirit initiative of the Student Alumni Council. The group encourages the entire campus community to promote Winthrop by dressing in garnet and gold clothing every Friday. Members also award prizes for wearing school colors and issue “citations” for those wearing a rival school’s gear. Show others your Winthrop pride and join in the fun of Garnet and Gold Fridays.

Ghost Tours
Spooky stories also play an important role in the rich history and culture at Winthrop. In the fall of 2005, the Student Alumni Council began hosting Ghost Tours, an event that explores the campus legends and historical figures that have shaped Winthrop. All of the proceeds from the event are given to the Winthrop Fund, Winthrop’s unrestricted fund, which helps a variety of campus needs. Ghost Tours is a great way to experience Winthrop as never before and help support your fellow students.

Halloween Happenings
Halloween Happenin’ first started in 1967. Today this event is referred to as Halloween Happenings, which is sponsored by the Resident Students’ Association. Members of the Resident Students’ Association continue this tradition by inviting children of faculty, staff, and community residents to safely trick-or-treat in each of the residence halls and to participate in a carnival with crafts, activities, and plenty of candy. Today you can find this event outside on our beautiful campus providing a fun, safe and spooky-good carnival atmosphere. On-campus students are automatically members of RSA, so get involved and join in the fun by checking out the RSA website at www.birdnest.org/rsa/ for more information.
Homecoming and Reunion Weekend
The Division of Student Life established Homecoming in 1978. Over the years, Homecoming has included a variety of activities: alumni events, athletic games, tailgating, float competitions, themed parties, student talent shows and special performances.

Since 2010 Homecoming and Alumni Reunion Weekend have been a combined event. During the weekend the Alumni Association recognizes reunion classes, alumni award recipients and Winthrop faculty and staff who are alumni. All alumni are invited to campus to celebrate.

During half-time of the men’s basketball game, two distinguished students are crowned Homecoming King and Queen. **Homecoming in-person events for 2020 have been paused due to COVID-19, but there will be a number of virtual events for students and alumni to enjoy.**

International Education Week
International Education Week spotlights different international cultures as represented on Winthrop’s campus. Each fall semester the International Center hosts this event promoting cultural exchange and activities among the general student population. **Broaden your cultural horizons and experience the unique food, activities, and spirit of International Education Week on Nov. 9 - 13, 2020.**
Winthrop Annual Tree Lighting
Originally, a decorated Christmas tree in Main Building (now Tillman Hall) was lit to usher in the Christmas season. Then in 1935, the Christmas tree lighting was moved to the magnolia tree on front campus adjacent to the fountain. In 1969 the ceremony became an official event, and it continues today as part of the City of Rock Hill’s ChristmasVille, an annual four-day celebration of the Christmas season. Members of the Student Alumni Council host the Winthrop Annual Tree Lighting and provide entertainment and refreshments for the campus community. In 2010, Trees SC selected Winthrop’s Southern magnolia as the 2010 Heritage Tree, which honors trees that evoke great community spirit in South Carolina. Join your fellow Eagles for this festive and memorable tradition virtually on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020 at 6 p.m. via the Alumni Association’s social media.

Model United Nations
The Model United Nations conference at Winthrop began in April 1977 and continues to attract interest among students. The conference is a college-sponsored simulation with the purpose of educating high school students about international politics and the role of the United Nations. Winthrop’s program was the first of its kind to combine participation of college students and high school students. Enroll in the United Nations course or attend the opening night lecture during Model UN week every spring semester.

Winthrop Official Ring
Prior to the official Winthrop ring, several designs existed, which were used to create the current design that was adopted in fall 2003. Winthrop rings are reserved exclusively for undergraduate students of junior or senior standing that have earned at least 54 credit hours, graduate students who have completed 18 hours and alumni. Wear one and carry its meaning with you forever.

Official Winthrop Ring Ceremony
With the adoption of the new Winthrop ring design in 2003, the university also began honoring our ring recipients with a ceremony and reception. The rings are presented by the Alumni Association President, and students are encouraged to invite friends and family. Join us as we celebrate this monumental achievement in April 2021.

Student Involvement Fair
This festival was formerly known as Activities Day, but was changed when student organizations and the Council of Student Leaders began hosting the event. Each fall, members of registered student organizations assemble to promote their organizations and recruit new members. Engage in campus life by viewing the Virtual Student Involvement Fair on Thursday, Sept. 10 on the OSA YouTube channel to find the group that best represents you.

Tradition of Leadership
The infusion of leadership at Winthrop began with President Johnson and remains essential. Students can develop their leadership skills through roles in organizations or by participating in three programs: Distinction in Leadership, Emerging Leaders and Leadership Institute for First-Timers (L.I.F.T.). Join a leadership development program or attend L.I.F.T. in the spring semester.

Tradition of Service
Among the most notable of Winthrop’s qualities remains our awareness of and dedication to the needs of others. This spirit of service began with President Johnson and continues today through service learning, service organizations, and volunteer programs. Students also reaffirm the importance of service as they recite the university’s Dedication for Excellence during Convocation. Embrace the Winthrop spirit and volunteer today.
Welcome Week
In August 1985, Welcome Week began to offer students a variety of activities to ease the transition into college. Among these are entertaining acts (many of which earn cultural event credit!) brought to campus by the DiGiorgio Student Union (DSU). Freshmen also attend ACAD classes with Peer Mentors to become familiar with college life and the academic expectations of the university. Take part in our virtual and hybrid Welcome Weeks this August and September.

Winthrop Day
Winthrop Day is our admitted student day when all future eagles come to celebrate their acceptance with the entire campus. Faculty, staff, current students and alumni gather on campus to welcome the incoming students for next fall. Future eagles spend the day immersing themselves in the Winthrop spirit and end the celebration with a festival of games, food, photo booths and much more. Join fellow Eagles this spring for Winthrop Day 2021!

WUchella
WUchella is a fun end-of-the-year event based on the infamous “Coachella” music festival. WUchella takes some of the best elements of Coachella and gives it a Winthrop spin. In the past, this event has featured a Ferris wheel, carousel, fried Oreos, a live band, water slides, foam pits and MORE! The biggest attraction of the event are the large standing letters that spell out “WUchella”! These make for a great photo opp and add to the atmosphere of the event. Come and experience this new Winthrop tradition in spring 2021!

Build Your Own Traditions
Now that you have read about the university’s traditions and how they began, grab your friends and create some traditions of your own. Not sure where to start? Check out this list of activities that have become traditions among current students.

✓ Take your picture with Big Stuff.
✓ Have a socially distanced picnic on the Campus Green
✓ Meet friends after class for a theme dinner in Thomson Cafeteria.
✓ Watch the Winthrop Annual Tree Lighting on Facebook Live.
✓ Play Frisbee or study for spring semester exams at the Winthrop Lake.
✓ Make a snow Eagle, when the weather cooperates.
✓ Play Frisbee or study for spring semester exams at the Winthrop Lake.
✓ Make unforgettable memories at Winthrop!
✓ Support Winthrop Athletics by enjoying a sporting event or two.
✓ Take your picture with friends at the Winthrop entrance sign in front of Byrnes Auditorium.
✓ Go to the DiGiorgio Center to grab a Krispy Kreme doughnut on Study Day.
✓ Attend a virtual DSU event while we are socially distanced.

From studying at your favorite quiet spot on campus to eating at a local restaurant after games, you now have an idea of how to create your own traditions. As you participate in campus events and traditions of your own, remember that your involvement in life at Winthrop makes your Eagle experience one to remember!
The spirit of service has been a Winthrop tradition from the beginning days of the college. Down through the years our graduates have become leaders in many fields of endeavor and have played vital roles in the betterment of their homes, their communities, their state and their nation.

- Charles S. Davis, 1961
WINTHROP’S FIFTH PRESIDENT
Winthrop Symbols
Take a minute to learn more about the emblems that represent Winthrop both on campus and in the community.

Seal
In 1899, Winthrop President David Bancroft Johnson appointed a faculty committee to suggest a motto for the school. “Veritas cum libertate,” or “Truth with Liberty,” was chosen by the faculty. The committee then began designing a seal incorporating the new motto. On May 14, 1900, the faculty voted unanimously to accept the design still in use as the Winthrop Seal.

Mace
The first maces were weapon-like staffs used in ancient Rome to honor heroes and nobility. Maces were later used in the courts of England as symbols of authority. Today, maces are associated with the American judicial and legislative systems, as well as with colleges and universities. The current Winthrop mace was designed, produced and engraved by Alfred Ward, art and design professor emeritus. It is made of silver with detailing of 22K gold overlay. The stem is crafted from an African hardwood.

Coat of Arms
The Winthrop University Coat of Arms, created by the College of Arms in London under the approval of Queen Elizabeth II and adopted in 1980, incorporates a shield and helmet, the university motto and two flaming torches and two open books to represent learning. A diagonal blue line through the shield represents the blue uniforms that were worn at Winthrop until the 1950s. The garnet and gold represent traditional school colors.

Alma Mater
Melody: Donna C. Durst ’83
Lyrics: Donna C. Durst and Lisa Breland Spangler ’87
Winthrop Colors
Prior to the 1980s, there were no official school colors, but each class adopted colors and a mascot of their own. Garnet and gold, however, were the official colors of the Winthrop Training School, the Winthrop band and the freshmen rat caps. In 1979, garnet and gold became the official school colors, and today, garnet and gold are featured prominently in the uniforms of our athletic teams, campus flags and many students’ wardrobes.

Navy blue and white, while not official Winthrop colors, have traditionally been associated with the academic nature of the university, because of the uniforms worn by students from 1895 until 1955.

The Winthrop Eagle
Originally, each class was represented by its own mascot. In November 1975, the Student Government Association (SGA) began the process of selecting a mascot to represent the entire university. After polling students, faculty and staff, the possible mascots were narrowed to three choices: the Sandlappers, the Cardinals and the Eagles. The SGA chose the Eagles. Over the years, our Eagle mascot has evolved, going through numerous wardrobe changes. In 2010, Big Stuff was named one of the top mascots in the nation by the National Cheerleading Association.
In 1984, the Alumni Association of Winthrop established the Student Alumni Council (SAC). Today, SAC continues to be a major contributor to the Winthrop community. As the resident “tradition keepers,” members of Student Alumni Council promote Winthrop traditions and engage students and alumni in a variety of university activities including Grad Finale®, Garnet and Gold Fridays, Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, the Ring Ceremony and Ghost Tours.

If you are interested in joining SAC, e-mail us at sac@winthrop.edu for more information on how you can become a member.

Connect with us on Instagram @winthropsac or by giving us a "Like" on Facebook at www.facebook.com/winthropsac.

Winthrop Ambassadors

The Winthrop Ambassadors are student volunteers who serve as the first face of Winthrop University for our visiting guests. They are campus leaders that spend time welcoming visitors to campus by leading campus tours, speaking on panels, assisting with Admission events, and more. If you are interested in becoming a Winthrop Ambassador, email us at ambassadors@winthrop.edu and lookout for our upcoming interest meetings this Fall!

Connect with us on Instagram @winthropambassadors for updates!
Giving Day

The Division of University Advancement established Giving Day in 2019. The university’s aim to provide a contemporary, collaborative and supportive environment for students is achieved through Giving Day, a 24-hour day of philanthropy for Winthrop alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students and friends to invest in the future of Winthrop by making a gift of any size!

Giving Day was initially launched in partnership with Winthrop Day. There is no better recommendation then the support of a fellow Eagle. Give the gift of flight as we soar into another amazing year of growth on Winthrop’s campus.

Visit Winthrop.edu/givingday for giving day details!
On behalf of the Alumni Association and Student Alumni Council, we would like to dedicate the 2020 edition of the Garnet & Gold Book to Dr. Anthony DiGiorgio in honor and remembrance of the foundation and legacy that he leaves behind that will continue to positively shape the Winthrop campus and Rock Hill community. We are extremely grateful for Dr. DiGiorgio’s unwavering vision, commitment to diversity, and demand for academic excellence. Because of his many years of service to Winthrop University we will continue to live, learn and lead for a lifetime.
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA