



2026 Alumni Distinguished Service Award

Mike Smiley, Class of 1992

The Alumni Distinguished Service Award recognizes a Winthrop alumna/us who significantly contributes to the quality of life in their community, the development of overall values and morals within others and serves as an outstanding citizen. Distinguished service may have been rendered with one's community, church, charity, family and school on a national, state or local level. The recipient shall be a dedicated alumna/us who supports the growth and development of Winthrop through service to and/or support of established programs and objectives.

Mr. Mike Smiley, Class of 1992, is the recipient of the 2026 Alumni Distinguished Service Award for his accomplishments in wealth management and service to his community.

Mr. Smiley earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Financial Accounting from Winthrop University in 1992. He obtained the Certified Divorce Planner designation in 1998 and completed the Duke University Non-Profit Management program in 2013 to further develop his skills in working with regional and national non-profits.

In 1999, he founded Penland Legacy Advisors, a financial consulting firm specializing in fee-only investment management, financial planning, estate and wealth transfer strategies, and legacy building/charitable giving, where he served as President. Prior to Penland, Mr. Smiley worked with FSC Securities Corporation and was a supervising principal during his final two years with the broker-dealer.

He joined TrinityPoint Wealth as a Managing Partner in 2019, which merged with Coastal Bridge Advisors in 2025. He has over three decades of wealth management experience, working with individuals, families, small businesses, non-profits, and family foundations.

Mr. Smiley is a dedicated Winthrop alumnus. He has served on the Winthrop University Foundation Board since 2024. In 2025, he established the Mike and Shari Lynn Smiley Endowed Scholarship, which supports students pursuing a degree in the health sciences. He is a current alumni mentor for the *I'm Ready* alumni to student mentoring program. On why he chose to become an alumni mentor, Mr. Smiley shared, "It's a way to pay it forward. I received so much from my Winthrop education - it put me on the pathway to success - and I want to help the next generation of Winthrop graduates in any way that I can." He also previously served on the Young Alumni Council.

Mr. Smiley is actively involved in the community. His philanthropic interests center on cancer research, Christian outreach, nature conservation, and children. In 2007, he and his wife, Shari Lynn, established the charitable fund Smiley's 4 C's to benefit these altruistic endeavors. He has served on boards and volunteers on various committees with organizations including Novant Cancer Institute/Novant Healthcare Foundation, Go Jen Go, Well of Mercy, Brookstone Schools, Habitat for Humanity, Susan. G. Komen, Project New Heights, Ronald McDonald House, Girls on the Run International, Myers Park United Methodist Church, and the Y.M.C.A.



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A self-described “migrant southerner,” he grew up in Tennessee and the Carolinas, and has lived in Luray, Virginia; Greensboro and High Point in North Carolina; and Brentwood, Tennessee. He is the youngest of five, the proud brother to four sisters, and uncle to 15 nieces and nephews.

He makes his home on Mountain Island Lake with his wife and enjoys spending time in the mountains of North Carolina, hiking, reading historical fiction, and attending regional car club events.