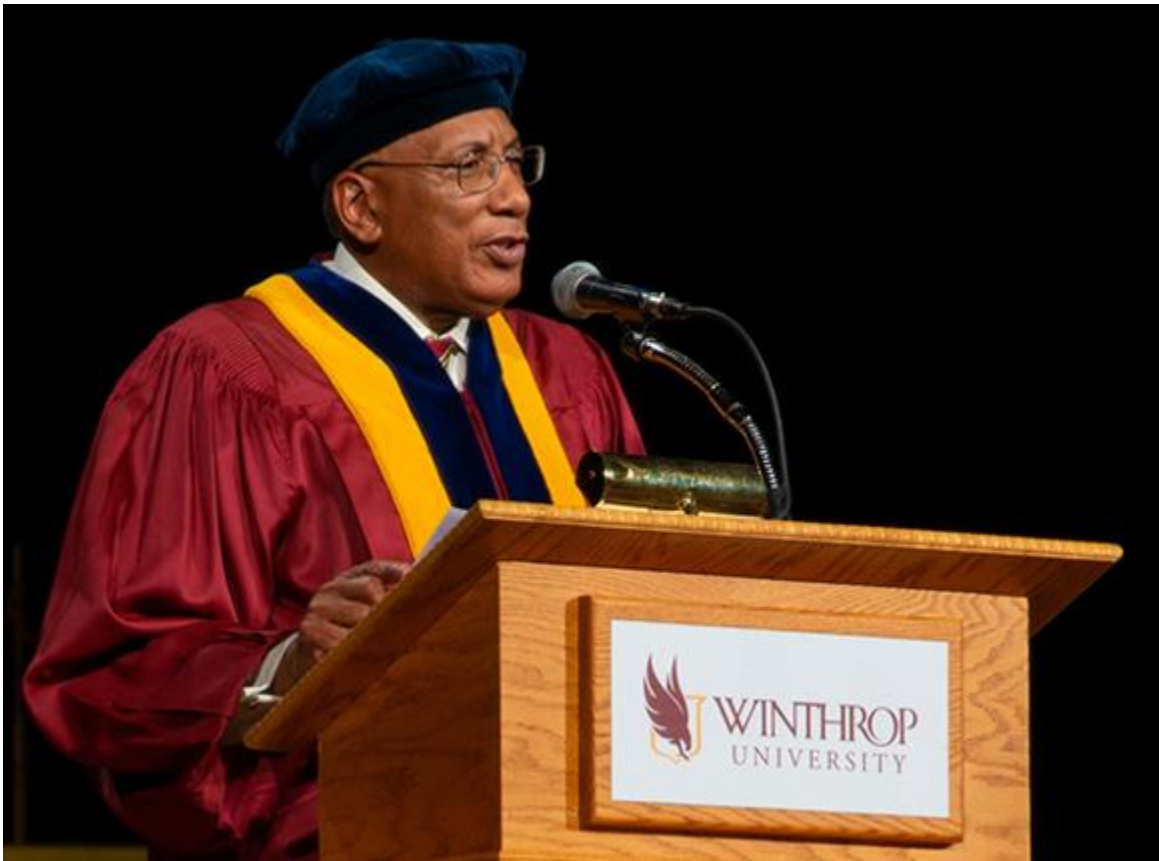




July 2025

REMEMBERING GLENN MCCALL

[Winthrop Mourns the Passing of Board Chairman Glenn McCall](#)



Longtime Board of Trustees Chairman Glenn McCall passed away on Friday, July 11. His sudden passing came on the heels of his being re-elected to lead the university's governing body for a second two-year term late last month. He was first appointed to the Winthrop board in 2011 as the education superintendent designee. He was then legislatively appointed to an at-large seat in 2014 and was re-elected for a six-year term ending in 2027. Tributes poured in for McCall on social media, with many noting his faith, kind demeanor and visionary leadership. President Edward Serna '02

expressed his appreciation for McCall and everything he meant to him both personally and professionally. "Glenn saw something in me that gave him hope that the revolving door of leadership at Winthrop would finally close. He offered steadfast encouragement and let me know the board was always in my corner. I will cherish the three years we worked together to help propel Winthrop forward." A Celebration of Life was held July 26, and the [Glenn McCall Endowed Scholarship Fund](#) has been established in his memory. [Read more](#) about McCall's life and legacy, and [make a gift to the fund](#).

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

[Joel Hamilton Assumes Board of Trustees Chairmanship](#)



Alumnus and Rock Hill attorney Joel Hamilton '06 has assumed the role of chairman of Winthrop's Board of Trustees, effective immediately, due to the passing of previous chairman Glenn McCall. Hamilton was elected board vice-chair at the trustees' June meeting but will now move into the chair role according to the board's bylaws. In a July 15 e-mail message to alumni and friends, Hamilton said that he cannot imagine worse circumstances for assuming the role of chair, but he does so humbly and is prepared to serve. "Although there is no replacing a leader as naturally gifted as Glenn McCall, I feel very blessed to have had the unique opportunity to learn from and observe Glenn over the many years I knew him," Hamilton said.

ACADEMIC NEWS

[New Interior Design Space Named for Alumnus Bob Bazemore](#)



Winthrop announced that a newly developed 5,000-square-foot interior design center, located at [The Thread](#), will be named Winthrop University's J. Robert Bazemore Design Center in honor of J. Robert "Bob" Bazemore, a national leader in commercial interior design and a member of the Winthrop Class of 1985. Members of Winthrop's Board of Trustees approved the space naming at their June 26 meeting. A dedication ceremony is planned for Aug. 20 at 11 a.m.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

[Family Trust and Winthrop Forge Thread Partnership](#)



Winthrop recently announced a new partnership with Family Trust Federal Credit Union in support of the J. Robert Bazemore Design Center, located at The Thread in the heart of Rock Hill's Knowledge Park. This collaboration celebrates both Family Trust's deep roots in the community and its ongoing commitment to education and innovation. Family Trust's gift will fund space in the university's new 5,000-square-foot interior design center, which honors the legacy of Winthrop alumnus and interior design visionary J. Robert "Bob" Bazemore '85.

FACILITIES AWARD

[Byrnes Renovation Earns State Preservation Award](#)



The South Carolina Historic Preservation Office recently presented Winthrop with its 2025 Stewardship Award for the renovation of the university's historic Byrnes Auditorium. Byrnes' [reopening this spring](#) after several years of renovation was one of the university's highlights. The project architects and contractors were able to balance modern requirements with the building's historical significance, ensuring the preservation of key architectural features while addressing practical challenges.

LATEST WINTHROP MAGAZINE

[Read the Summer Edition of the Winthrop Magazine](#)



The latest edition of the [Winthrop Magazine](#) is here! In this iteration, read more about one of the spring Commencement speakers, alumna and actress Shanola Hampton '98; the university's more than 600-piece art collection, including recent pieces donated by Charlie and Nancy Wofford '67, '84; and compelling profiles on former trustee Jane LaRoche '69, '70, who remains one of Winthrop's most dedicated supporters and cheerleaders, and Jimmy Duncan '10, '12, Rock Hill Schools' first athletic director who has spearheaded bringing girls' flag football to York County middle schools.

VIRTUAL ALUMNI BOOK CLUB

[Virtual Alumni Book Club Picks Latest Reading Selection](#)



The fourth book for the 2025 Virtual Alumni Book Club is "[Birding to Change the World: A Memoir](#)" by Trish O'Kane. In this uplifting memoir, a professor and activist shares what birds can teach us about life, social change and protecting the environment. The reading period is Aug. 1-Oct. 3. O'Kane will hold a live virtual

author talk on Thursday, Sept. 18, from 2-3 p.m. [Sign up](#) for the author talk. [Read a summary and reviews](#) for the book. [Sign up](#) for the free Virtual Alumni Book Club.

[A Message from the Alumni Director](#)



We are excited to kick off the 2025-26 academic year with our Aug. 25 Convocation ceremony. We look forward to welcoming the newest Eagles into the Winthrop family! Each new student will receive a copy of our [Garnet and Gold](#) book that details our beloved treasures and traditions. We're also planning lots of events and gatherings for this academic year, including our Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, Nov. 14-15. I hope you're making plans to join us! Check out our [upcoming events calendar](#) to see what's coming up next!

The mission of the Alumni Association is to honor the traditions and values of Winthrop University through the engagement of alumni worldwide.

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