From the Dean

Winthrop was founded 125 years ago in the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation. The college, grown into a university, has prospered over that time by finding creative solutions to resource dilemmas. From adjusting its basic mission to adaptive reuse of buildings, the upward trajectory and commitment to student learning has been preserved.

Though officially only 44-years-old, your College of Business Administration has been confronted with economic headwinds in the past and has always found a way to prosper in spite of the challenge. The last couple of years have presented an unprecedented level of challenge from budget cuts, shrinking state finding and structural changes that have occurred in the college. The EMBA program, as has been the case nationally, was no longer viable under the current model. After more than twenty years of service and having produced a shot of career adrenalin to hundreds of successful students, the program graduated the last class in 2010. We have kept a couple of positions open and were not able to do everything we has planned for academic year 2010-11 but in spite of it all, our core strengths stay in place and good things continue to happen. We have a new organization structure with two new assistant deans. Long-serving Associate Dean Dr. Martha Spears moved into a faculty appointment and her experience, energy and commitment to getting things right will be missed throughout the college. Dr Steve Frankforter is focusing on administrative efficiencies as assistant dean of administration and Dr. Cara Peters, assistant dean for professional development is focusing on strategies to build human capital across the college. Our AACSB-International accreditation visit at the end of last year proved the most successful one in our more than thirty-year history with the agency. The innovative and effective way we monitor student learning and our broad-based approach to student professional development were cited as exemplary.

We opened the fantastic Vivian M. Carroll Hall with the accompanying Carroll Capital Markets Training and Trading Center and the Whitton Auditorium. The entire space is visually stunning and in the short time since its dedication, has been used daily for events to serve the educational needs of students and the professional community. Generous gifts from Carroll Financial and from the Elaine Whitton Davis family continue to come in to make such accomplishments as reality. Generous private support is a key to achieving success in a headwind economy.

Students have achieved many milestones, collectively and as individuals. Graduates have passed professional examinations, gained admission to some of the best graduate programs across the country, and students teams have place well in competitions ranging from SIFE to computer programming. In field-based learning activities, we are all proud of a five-year record of faculty leadership in classes providing consulting solutions to more than 160 actual business cases for more than 50 different companies. Private employers and government agencies seek out our graduates to fill key positions. Winthrop students are traveling internationally in record numbers and our classrooms are populated with the most globally diverse student body in our 44-year history.

Faculty are winning national awards and being recognized for their scholarship and contribution to their disciplines. A sample of the specifics; Dr. Bobbie Fuller and Dr. Dave Bradbard were awarded research time by being named the Thompson Scholars to infuse the commercial use of Geographic Information Systems to students competencies.
Diversity abounds at Winthrop University everywhere you look. For the third year, Chinese students from Nantong University, China, have been attending Winthrop for their senior year. During the 2008-09 school year, there were 13 enrolled students. This current school year has shown an increase to 62 students, including 48 students majoring in accounting and one each in environmental science and integrated marketing. The 12 remaining students are in the MBA program concentrating in accounting, finance and international business concentrations.

Among the various benefits international students receive from a Winthrop education, two are most prominent. First, China places a high value on an education from an American institution. Second, in regards to the high enrollment in accounting-related majors, China has an abundant amount of opportunities for students earning an accounting degree. Both reasons, coupled with Winthrop’s excellent faculty, beautiful surroundings, and convenient location, make Winthrop University an excellent place for international students.

Carroll Hall, newest addition to the College of Business Administration

The College of Business Administration has recently opened Vivian M. Carroll Hall, a state-of-the-art, technology centered-building that houses the Carroll Capital Markets Training and Trading Center. Since opening in 2009, students have enjoyed learning about finance and the stock market through numerous innovated software programs such as Morningstar, Telemet, Bloomberg and Orion. In addition to the Carroll Capital Markets Training and Trading Center, Carroll Hall also features the 198-seat Whitton Auditorium, seven collaborative learning rooms, a student lounge, an executive conference room, and a multi-purpose SMART classroom with individual computer stations.

The College of Business Administration has used Carroll Hall for multiple events, including the Wachovia Economic Breakfast in the fall semester and both the Market Outlook and Pinnacle Awards in the spring. The building and its technology were made possible through a generous gift from Larry and Vivian Carroll, in honor of MBA alumni and Winthrop alumni board president, Vivian M. Carroll.
“Though I was a top student, I lost opportunity for education after the ninth grade. I was sent away from home as a farm worker. The farm was my high school! My cousin gave me a set of high school textbookss he used. Often after at least 14 hours on land, I sat down and read books under the dim light of candle. That was the most enjoyable time for me. I learned math, physics, Chinese literature, and English by my own. Some friends could not understand why I read books, and told me candidly that I would never have a chance to enter a college no matter how many books I read. This was my answer: ‘One day people will see the value of knowledge.’

“The day eventually came. After Mao’s death, China reopened the college entrance exam. Over 5.7 million people took the first college entrance exam and the college admission rate was 3.4 percent, including students accepted by community colleges. I was within the top 15 in Nantong city in terms of the test score, and entered one of top 15 universities that were the only universities managed by China’s central government.

“Eight years after graduation from college, Clemson University offered me a full graduate assistantship. I spent five years at Clemson for master’s degree and Ph.D. degree. Knowledge has showed its value. Among 46 classmates in middle school, I am the only one with a master’s degree, the only one with a Ph.D. degree, the only professor, and the only one in the US. I am proud to be an American.

“I consider teaching the occupation of my family. After graduation from college, I chose Nantong University (NTU). After graduation from Clemson, I chose Winthrop University. From experience of my early life, I respect all students who are hardworking, eager to learn, and appreciate opportunity of learning. I have a strong belief in the education quality of Winthrop. With help, support, and advice from Dean Weikle and many other colleagues, the NTU-WU accounting articulation program is in place. In my belief, I have brought those young Chinese students to a right place to reforge their future and make their dream come true.”

Winthrop Alumni and Students’ Success

Timothy Carpenter ’10 is currently enrolled in the M.S.-Finance program at UT-San Antonio. He is applying for admission to the Ph.D. program in fall 2011.

Erin Coley ’09, Ryan Parker and Amie Parson ’10 passed the PHR, the professional certification exam for Human Resource Professionals.

Margaret Ann Duncan ’09 just passed the CPA Exam, and she is working in Myrtle Beach for the CPA firm of Smith Sapp Bookhout Crumpler & Calliham, P.A.

Emelie Holm ’09 completed her Master of International Business degree at the University of South Carolina in May 2010 and is currently a Resident Research Analyst with Telogical Systems in Columbia, SC.

Charlton Jacobs ’10 received the Brigman, Holcomb, Weeks Scholarship, the SCTC (South Carolina Tax Council) scholarship, as well as the AICPA minority scholarship. He has accepted an offer from PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP and plans to sit for the CPA exam.

John Kanakleides is an internal auditor with Sharonview Federal Credit Union’s corporate office located in Indian Land, S.C.

Jason Kosakow ’10 received an excellent job offer from Shugoll Research in Washington, D.C.

Jorge Padilla ’07 is now a business mentor at the University of Miami and associate advisor at The Lubitz Financial Group.

Evan Mitchell ’10 has accepted an accounting position with Simpson & Associates.

Antjuan Seawright ’05 was named to The State “Class of 2011 Top 20 under 40,” which recognize Midland young professionals who are making an impact in their communities.

Sydney Laura Smith and Crystal Michelle McRae have both been awarded a South Carolina Banker Association Scholarship.

Raven Suber and Charlottee Brown have been selected to participate in the McNair Scholars program for 2011.

Degree Works – New Advising Tool for Students and Advisors

With the migration of student academic records to a new computer interface, students and advisors now have a powerful tool for advising and academic planning. Degree Works is an online tool that allows both students and faculty to keep track of degree requirements, including cultural events. It includes a GPA calculator and a “what if” scenario for students thinking about changing majors, options or adding a minor.

Degree Works provides the ability to track remaining degree requirements. Students are able to see discrepancies or problems early and are able to resolve them before graduation time. Students are able to determine which courses meet specific requirements and can make selections for future semesters. Advisors only reviewed these issues once each semester.
Degree Works– Continued

Degree Works is particularly helpful for junior and senior students who are taking classes in their major and have fewer and fewer choices as they progress toward graduation.

Degree Works was introduced to the campus before advising this past October. It has generated a lot of conversation about degree requirements, what courses count in specific areas, and when courses will be offered. Previously, students and advisors only reviewed these issues once each semester. With the addition of Degree Works students have immediate access to their records. Discrepancies or misunderstandings can be reviewed and resolved in a timely manner. Students are less likely to take the wrong course and need to petition for a course substitution. Advisors are less likely to confuse degree requirements from a previous year. Student Services will see fewer graduation issues, a welcome situation.
Alumni Spotlight

Alexis Ellis ’03, MBA ’04

Colleges and universities are continually measuring success by not only what students do during their college years, but also how well they do after receiving their degree. One alumna, Alexis Ellis, has excelled throughout her Winthrop experience and beyond. As an accounting major during her undergraduate, Ellis realized the importance and value a MBA has, thus prompting her to continue her education at Winthrop through the MBA program.

Winthrop is well-known for its strong academic curriculum. Yet, it was not the programs Ellis enjoyed most about her Winthrop experience. In regards to what she did enjoy the most, Ellis stated, “I was exposed to many different things at Winthrop. I was able to travel for classes and the groups I was in. I met and became friends with people from all over the world. The cultural programs offered at Winthrop were also very impressive.”

While her career is quickly advancing through hard work and dedication, she still cherishes the opportunities the College of Business Administration and its faculty gave her. “Professor Alvis helped me find my first accounting job, which helped me decide that I wanted to be an accountant. The business department also prepared me for the business world with lectures, seminars and networking. Beta Alpha Psi was very helpful in helping me determine what field interested me.”

Currently, Ellis is the senior tax analyst for The Cato Corporation and resides in Rock Hill with her husband, Todd, and children, Peyton and Alex. Ellis is just one of the many proud alumni of Winthrop University.

New Business? Small Business Development Center Is Here to Help.

Larry Stevens, director of the Winthrop Regional Small Business Development Center in the College of Business Administration, says “The work of assisting our local small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs has never been as important or diversified as it will be in 2011.” The SBDC is currently developing programs and preparing to venture into areas that will provide opportunities for both new ventures and existing businesses poised for expansion.

As a participant in the developing Nuclear Cluster (see NewCarolina.org), the SBDC joins a consortium of private industries, higher education and nonprofit organizations working in unison to support South Carolina's nuclear energy industry by strengthening small businesses that support the industry. Additionally, new funds being made available through the Small Business JOBS Act of 2010 will provide new training opportunities and specialized counseling for business owners looking to expand and/or create new jobs. Workshops are now being developed to aid businesses in increasing sales, marketing, and creating an online presence on a budget. Watch the SBDC website for details: http://www.winthropregionalsbdc.org

All in all, the staff of the SBDC is looking forward to an exciting new year of helping to strengthen South Carolina's economy!

College of Business Administration Upcoming Events

March 1- MBA Lecture, Reception 6 - 6:45 p.m., Lecture 7 - 8 p.m.
Jim Murphy, VP and Dir. of Global Marketing for Jack Daniels

March 9- 5th Annual Student Professional Development Conference
8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., DiGiorgio Center Ballroom

March 14-18 - International Field Experience– France and Spain

April 6- Registration for Fall 2011 Begins

April 21- Pinnacle Awards—6 p.m.

May 5- Graduate Commencement, 7 p.m.

May 7- Undergraduate Commencement, 11 a.m.

May 23– June 4– International Field Experience– China

If you would like to contribute to the College of Business Administration, please visit www.winthropalumni.com/businessadministration. All donations received will directly support our mission of preparing students in a learning-centered environment, through effective teaching, scholarship, and service.

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

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