



Distinguished Alumna in PESH
Paula Rogers Jones '73

Paula Rogers Jones received her undergraduate degree in Physical Education from Winthrop College in 1972 and a Master of Education degree from the University of West Georgia in 1993. Paula is being honored as a distinguished alumna for her outstanding coaching and teaching careers.

While at Winthrop, Paula was a four year starter on the basketball team, a member of the volleyball team her junior and senior years, and served as captain in both sports. Winthrop won the State Tournament in 1972 and advanced to another post-season tournament. During her senior year she was All-State in basketball, Outstanding College Athlete of America, and selected to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

Paula began her professional career in 1972 in Lake City, Florida as a physical education teacher for special needs students. Her coaching career began at Coal Grove Middle School in Coal Grove, Ohio. The 1974 and 1975 basketball teams and track teams were undefeated and won the conference championships.

Paula moved back to South Carolina where she taught and coached for eight years at Pee Dee Academy, in Mullins, S. C and a member of the SCISA. As the softball coach her teams made three trips to the State Tournament. Her 1978 Track team was State Runner-up and in 1979 they won the State Championship, and was honored as State Coach of the Year. Her volleyball team was State Runner-up in 1981 and State Champs in 1982 and Paula was named State Coach of the Year.

Paula then made the move to Georgia where she taught Physical Education and Health and was the Varsity Girls' Head Basketball Coach at East Coweta High School in Sharpsburg, Georgia from 1987 to 2013. Jones served as the Department Head for fourteen years and was a volunteer at the Special Olympic Events in Coweta County for twenty-five years. In addition to her teaching and coaching duties she served as the Region Chairperson from 2004-2010 and the Atlanta Tipoff Club Area Selection Committee from 1997-2013. Under Paula's leadership, the Lady Indians won two Region Championships, made three trips to the Sweet Sixteen, two Elite Eight appearances, one championship game, and nine trips to the State Tournament. In addition they were the Carrolton Christmas Tournament Champs from 1997 to 2000. Paula was honored as Region 4- AAAA Coach of the year, Coweta/Fayette County Coach of the Year, and Georgia's South Coach of the Year.

Paula Jones retired in May 2013 after completing forty-one years of teaching and coaching! During those years she coached volleyball, basketball, softball, track, and tennis. In thirty-seven years as a head varsity girls' basketball coach, she has an impressive 518 wins. Paula Rogers Jones is indeed an incredible leader and mentor of thousands of young women and men.

Paula's husband, Griff, is a retired United Methodist Minister. They reside in Coweta County with their son, Lee, daughter-in-law, Hannah, and her two year old granddaughter, Paisley. Lee has followed in his mom's career as a Special Education teacher and as a high school football and baseball coach. It is for her commitment to excellence and her outstanding teaching and coaching careers that we the faculty and staff of Winthrop University, welcome Paula Rogers Jones as a member of the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Class.