

# Leading Edge

Educate. Collaborate. Innovate.



From L to R: Drs. Bettie Parsons Barger, Lindsay Yearta, and Lisa Harris.

## *New Roles for Three Faculty*

In August, three College of Education faculty members stepped into new administrative roles. These individuals bring much talent and experience to their new roles, and the college is already benefiting from their leadership.

**Dr. Bettie Parsons Barger** is the new director of the Jim and Sue Rex Institute for Educational Renewal and Partnership. Dr. Barger joined the Winthrop faculty in fall 2014 and has been a highly engaged faculty member and leader, serving as the elementary program director, chair of the Educator Preparation Committee, among other committees, and Kappa Delta Pi co-counselor. As the Rex Institute Director, she facilitates Winthrop University-School Partnership Network efforts, expedites collaborative professional learning activities involving Winthrop faculty and P-12/community partners, and supports the functions of the Office of Field and Clinical Experiences, among other things.

**Dr. Lindsay Yearta** is serving as the interim chair of the Education Core Department. Dr. Yearta is an alumnus of Winthrop and joined our faculty in 2012. She directs the Education Core that supports all teacher preparation programs, served on the South Carolina Department of Education's Professional Review Committee, and is the current recipient of the Singleton Endowed Professorship in Teacher Education. As department chair, she works closely with all departments involved in teacher preparation and with the Master of Arts in Teaching program housed in her department.

**Dr. Lisa Harris** is now the college's graduate studies director. Having been a faculty member in the College of Education since 2008, she has served as director of the Instructional Technology Center and continues to serve as director of the Master of Arts in Teaching program. As the COE Graduate Director, Dr. Harris works closely with graduate program directors in support of recruitment, admissions, and accreditation processes, and represents the college's graduate program across campus.

# *NetSERVE Teacher Residency Program*



Imagine what would happen if one of the best teacher education programs in the country decided to do something about the critical shortage of qualified teachers in rural South Carolina counties. Imagine a program that offered half-off tuition for a master's degree, a \$20,000 cost of living stipend, a bank of resources and support, and a guaranteed job after graduation. Just try to visualize a program of specialized curriculum and innovative preparation that prepares future educators to develop teaching practices that support equitable and meaningful opportunities for student, family and community engagement. The Teacher Education Program at Winthrop University brought these ideas to life as part of the *NetSERVE* Teacher Residency Program! Supported by a U.S. Department of Education Teacher Quality Partnership grant, *NetSERVE* (Network of Sustainable Educational Residencies that Value Equity) seeks to prepare new teachers for rural districts that often experience challenges in attracting new educators.

During a teacher residency, candidates spend an entire year in a partner school while receiving a living wage stipend. Residents are often career changers who are trying to support themselves, and possibly a family, while pursuing their dreams of teaching. The stipend allows them to focus on developing the knowledge and skills to be successful, as one of our residents explains, "The *NetSERVE* Program has been so helpful and beneficial by providing great resources to help during these interesting times. My experiences thus far have enlightened and shown me the true reality of teaching and education. The reality being shaping the future as best you can no matter the circumstances."

Partner schools are already seeing the benefit of the *NetSERVE* program. With anticipated openings for the 2020-2021 school year, one partner school principal shared, "Our teacher resident is doing her placement in an area in which we anticipate having a vacancy next year, and she will be a perfect fit to fill that need."

The program continues to evolve as it moves into its second year and more people learn about the benefits of being a *NetSERVE* teacher resident. Want to know more? Subscribe to *NetSERVE's* [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts for program updates, information, and news or visit the [website](#).

# *Congrats to Our COE Retirees!*



Dr. Linda Pickett retired after 14 years as an elementary education faculty member in the Richard W. Riley College of Education. Before coming to Winthrop, Pickett served 33 years in various positions in the Miami-Dade, Broward, and Lee County school districts in South Florida—including educational specialist, teacher consultant, college instructor, and classroom teacher.

Dr. Pickett earned her B.S. in education from Michigan State University, an M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from Florida Atlantic University, an Educational Specialist in Teaching and Learning from the University of Miami, and a Ph.D. in Science Education from Curtin University of Technology. While she has published and presented in multiple venues, Dr. Pickett is most known for her involvement with and dedication to pre-service teacher development. She has been recognized with numerous awards including Teacher of the Year (1987, 1990), The Wallace H. Coulter Outstanding Science Teacher Award (1996), Outstanding Academic Advisor Award (2010), Faculty and Staff Recognition for Innovation in Teaching (2012), among many others.

In her own words, Dr. Pickett says the following about her commitment to teaching. "Teaching is my passion, and I treasure my interactions with students. I maintain high standards for my performance and work diligently to excel in all aspects of my role as a teacher. I have high expectations for my students' performance, and they work hard to succeed in my courses."



Mary Ellen Lorow retired after serving 22 years in the College of Education. In 1998, she moved from New York and began her career at Winthrop in the Instructional Technology Center as the administrative specialist. In this role, Ms. Lorow utilized her technology skills to support faculty and students. Her exemplary leadership in this position earned her a Presidential citation in 2005 "for her vision and hard work in creating a Digital Documents Room" that served as a national model for accreditation efforts at other institutions. In 2009, Ms. Lorow was awarded a second Presidential citation for her initiative in designing a database system to assist in the creation of the student roster for the online learning system. Her assistance and effective communication with such a broad array of constituents was recognized by college faculty and staff with an award for Support Staff Excellence in Service.

In 2015, Ms. Lorow became the administrative assistant for the Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School. She seamlessly led the school towards more paperless systems and created numerous new methods for achieving tasks more efficiently and economically. From 2015 to 2020, Ms. Lorow expertly managed multiple college roles for which she was commended with a second Support Staff Excellence in Service award in 2019. Ms. Lorow was dearly loved by the Macfeat children, who often asked her if she slept at the school.

## HIGHLIGHT

# *Physical Education Program*



PETE faculty and majors after Super Star Competition at SCAHPERD. Back L to R: Dr. Adam Keath, Garrett Bowers, Cam Marshall, Sam Lovell, Dr. Jared Androzzi. Front L to R: Lauren Hershelman, Macee Smith, Victor Orego.

The Bachelor of Science in physical education teacher education (PETE) is a teacher certification program that prepares teacher candidates (TCs) to become leading physical educators in K-12 public schools. Dr. Jared Androzzi (PETE program director) explains, "The PETE program is structured to engage students in meaningful learning experiences that contribute to the community in several significant ways. When our students perform their practicums and year-long internship, we see it as an opportunity for our TCs to provide the children with high-quality physical education." Beyond classes and course requirements, Dr. Adam Keith serves as co-advisor to TCs in the Physical Education Majors (PEM) Club with goals of providing professional development, service to the community, a social network for majors. In its first year of being chartered, the PEM club, along with PETE faculty, have attended and presented at the annual South Carolina Alliance of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (SCAHPERD) Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Physical Education Olde English Consortium (OEC) in Chester, South Carolina; and have met with state and federal legislators in Washington, DC at the Annual "Speak Out Day" to promote policies which advocate for physical education in America. The PEM Club is also working to raise funds to purchase bicycles and helmets for economically disadvantaged children in the community as part of its commitment to community service.

"We deeply value modeling and teaching our TCs best practices for physical education," says Dr. Keath. Therefore, he and Dr. Androzzi regularly publish in peer-reviewed journals as well as present their research at national, regional, state, and local conferences. "Several of our majors are also interested in obtaining coaching positions or teaching health once they acquire their teaching certification. Consequently, we strongly encourage them to gain experience as a head or assistant coach or as a summer camp counselor, and to adopt the health education minor, which several of our majors do. This broadens the scope of their careers and contributes to their marketability," says Dr. Androzzi.

Dr. Androzzi and Dr. Keath are both active members on the boards and/or committees of SCAHPERD, South Carolina Alliance of Physical Education (SCAPES), and the Physical Education OEC, while student Molly Garrison is the secretary for SCAHPERD Future Professional Association and is also the recipient of the Polly Ford Award. The PETE faculty and majors are active participants in the local physical education professional learning community.

# Congratulations!



*Rex Institute for Educational  
Renewal and Partnerships*

## Outstanding Partner

On September 14, Rock Hill School District selected the Rex Institute to receive a 2020 Outstanding Partner Award for exceptional contributions made during the 2019-2020 school year. Rock Hill School District annually recognizes businesses, civic organizations, individuals, community partners, and school improvement councils for significant contributions to public education and demonstrating a commitment to excellence in our schools. Ebenezer Avenue Elementary submitted the following nomination for recognition: "Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School would like to recognize Dr. Lisa Johnson, Winthrop University, and more specifically the Rex Institute. For years the Rex Institute has supported Rock Hill Schools through their teacher preparation and pre-service programs. For the past two years, the Rex Institute has added another element of support to Ebenezer Avenue – space. Our enrollment has soared over the past three years, and we can no longer host special events and performances in our cafeteria or on our tiny stage. By working with representatives of the Rex Institute, we have been able to host student performances and promotion ceremonies in a number of the beautiful auditoriums and venues Winthrop University has to offer."

## Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching



Assistant Professor of Athletic Training Alice McLaine was recognized with Winthrop's Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching. McLaine has been a certified athletic trainer for more than 35 years while remaining committed to supporting new students entering the field.

## Distinguished Professor



Dr. Brad Witzel, former director of our special education program, was named the recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award, the highest recognition for faculty members. As a renowned scholar in his field, Dr. Witzel brought unique opportunities and expertise to the university.

## Swick Award for Excellence in Teacher Education



Dr. Tenisha Powell is the 2020 recipient of the Kevin J. Swick Excellence in Teacher Education Award from the South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC). The award is named after the late University of South Carolina early childhood education professor and is designed to honor an educator who has made a significant contribution to the field of early childhood teacher education in South Carolina.

## Outstanding Junior Professor



Dr. Crystal Glover '97, '99, an early childhood education faculty member, was recognized with the Outstanding Junior Professor Award. Presented to a faculty member with a rank of assistant professor, Dr. Glover embodies the true spirit of Winthrop's mission of providing a personalized and challenging experience for all students.