

WINTHROP

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2013



Then & Now

By Monica Bennett

IN HIS OCT. 18, 1990, inaugural address, President Anthony DiGiorgio stated "A first-rate institution is not possible without ... first-rate facilities and the first-rate support of capable people doing what they know best how to do."

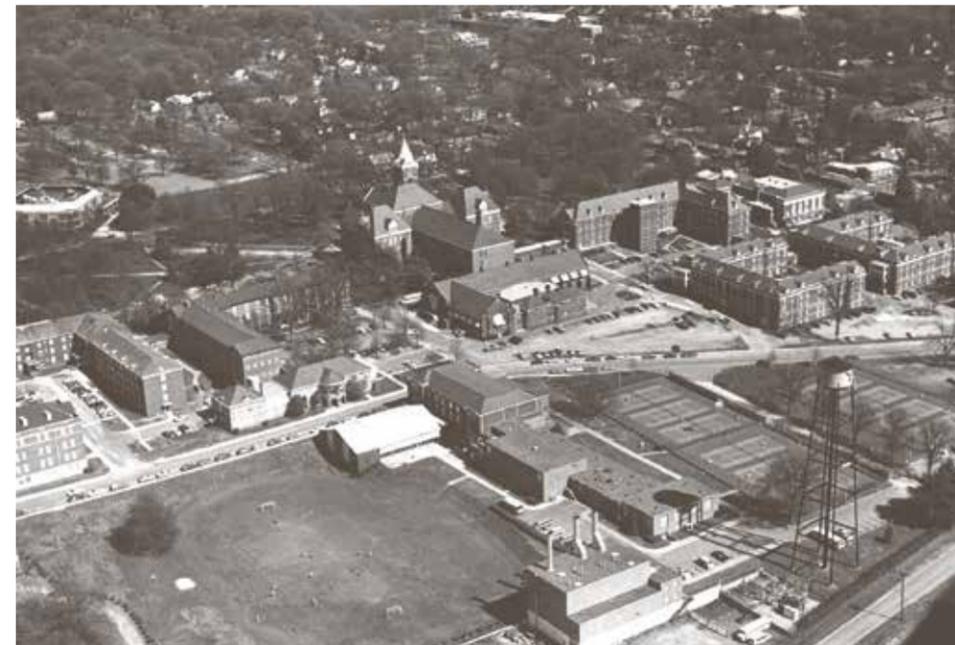
In his 24 years as president, DiGiorgio has spearheaded Winthrop University's never-ending commitment to enhancing the quality and value of the Winthrop Experience for every student. A key part of that commitment is how academic planning and facilities planning are intertwined in a very purposeful way. Dubbed "Education by Design," Winthrop's strategic facilities planning process emphasizes creating environments for both intentional and casual interactions by members of the campus community, and contemporary facilities with a traditional feel that are connected in a pedestrian friendly atmosphere.

There is no question that under DiGiorgio's leadership, Winthrop's physical plant has been transformed. His vision of a first-rate institution with first-rate facilities has come to fruition as the university now enjoys state-of-the-art academic classrooms, its first certified green building, an expanded and enhanced Winthrop University Recreational and Research Complex, and a realigned heart of campus.

The following pages detail the university's physical plant milestones and provide a snapshot of how spaces were utilized "then" and strategically transformed into the modern spaces of "now."

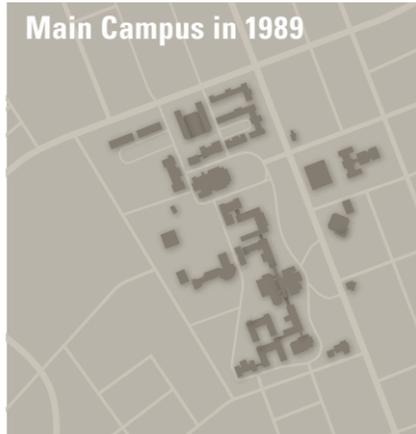


SCHOLARS WALK Once open to vehicular traffic (above), Scholars Walk today (top) is the central promenade of campus that connects Winthrop's beginnings — the Little Chapel — to its future: major facilities connected by verdant spaces along a pedestrian walk spanning the heart of campus. The culminating destination of Scholars Walk's southern end is Hardin Family Garden.

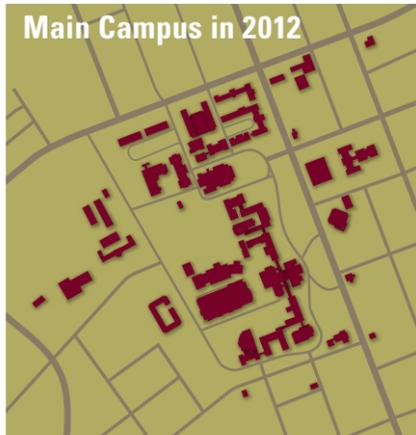


CAMPUS GREEN Formerly known as Peabody Field (lower left in photo at left), the green space served as a key locale for intramural sports competitions. Today, the Campus Green (above) functions as an attractive, environmentally engineered surface-water drainage system for the heart of campus and yet another space for students to congregate, study or participate in recreational activities.

Main Campus in 1989



Main Campus in 2012



CAMPUS GROWTH In terms of numbers, Winthrop's physical plant has grown significantly since 1989. The university has added 16 buildings—totaling more than 526,000 square feet—and purchased more than 38 acres of land to ensure the university's continued growth. In all, new construction and adapted facilities during DiGiorgio's tenure are valued at more than \$150 million.



ANTHONY J. AND GALE N. DIGIORGIO CAMPUS CENTER The 128,000-square-foot DiGiorgio Campus Center (above) opened in 2010. Named for President DiGiorgio and First Lady Gale DiGiorgio, the Campus Center houses student services offices, student publications facilities, meeting spaces, banquet rooms, a movie theatre, the campus bookstore, the post office and casual dining options. The Campus Center is located where Peabody Gymnasium (left) once stood.



DALTON HALL Formerly the Life Sciences Building, Dalton Hall (left) was rededicated in April 2010 in honor of longtime environmental and arts supporters, Harry '86 and 'Becca Dalton. Completed in 1999, the building was the first addition to the university's central campus in more than three decades, and it provides laboratory facilities for the departments of biology and human nutrition, as well as office and research space for faculty members. Before construction the space was used as a parking lot (below).



LOIS RHAME WEST HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS CENTER

The West Center (below) opened in 2007. At 137,000 square feet, the West Center is the largest building on main campus. The LEED-certified facility houses academic space for the health, physical education and sport management programs, as well as wellness facilities. The building's namesake is a 1943 alumna and former First Lady of South Carolina. Tennis courts and the backside of Peabody Gymnasium (left) once stood where the West Center was constructed.





VIVIAN MOORE CARROLL HALL Dedicated in 2009, Carroll Hall, Winthrop's newest academic facility, serves students in the College of Business Administration. Adjacent to Thurmond Building, Carroll Hall features the Carroll Capital Markets Training and Trading Center, an electronic stock market ticker board, Whitton Auditorium, the Miner Executive Seminar Room and two computer labs. The facility is named for Vivian Moore Carroll '73 who retired from Merrill Lynch and currently serves as co-chair of *Distinction: The Campaign for Winthrop* and is past president of the Winthrop Alumni Association. Before construction the space was unused.



GLENDA PITTMAN AND CHARLES JERRY OWENS HALL Opened in 2007, Owens Hall is Winthrop's newest general-use classroom facility. The 32,200-square-foot building contains 21 classrooms equipped with SMART technology, a computer lab, two conference rooms and a student lounge. Named for Glenda Pittman Owens '59 and her husband, Jerry, the building suffered severe damage from a March 6, 2010, fire and reopened in spring 2011. The space was formerly a parking lot located behind Bancroft Hall.



HARDIN FAMILY GARDEN Completed in 2011 as a capstone to Scholars Walk, Hardin Garden (below) is an example of beauty in utility. The garden's design came from the ancient concept known as the Golden Section, which describes beauty and the organization found in nature. The garden is named for the Hardin Family, which traces its Rock Hill roots back several decades, and includes many members of the extended Winthrop family. The garden was made possible with the support of a generous and multi-faceted gift to Winthrop from the late Patricia "Patz" Whetstone Carter '69 and her husband, Ray. Hardin Garden is located where Breazeale Hall (left), razed in 2004, once stood.



WINTHROP UNIVERSITY RECREATIONAL AND RESEARCH COMPLEX Once used as farmland during Winthrop's early years, the 325 acres located one mile from main campus have transformed into a vibrant educational and recreational locale (above). Since 1989 (right), "The Farm," as it is still informally called, has seen the addition of state-of-the-art athletic facilities such as the Winthrop Ballpark, Terry Softball Complex, Memorial Tennis Courts, Eagle Field soccer complex, Irwin Belk Track and the intramural recreational fields. In addition, in 2004, a partnership between Winthrop and Rock Hill Schools created the Piedmont Wetlands Research Area that adjoins Winthrop Lake. The 1.1-acre area offers research possibilities for students of all ages and a glimpse of the fast-disappearing Piedmont wetlands. Mainstays such as the Coliseum, golf course and the Shack continue to provide opportunities for fun and fellowship.



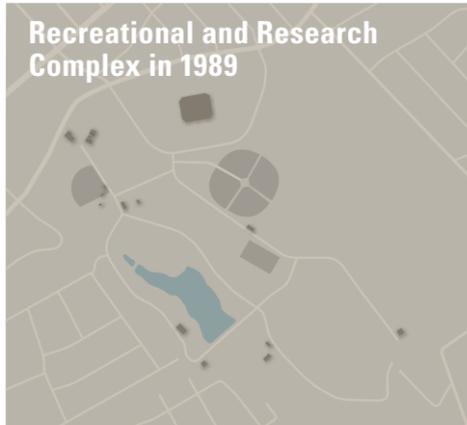


WINTHROP COLISEUM

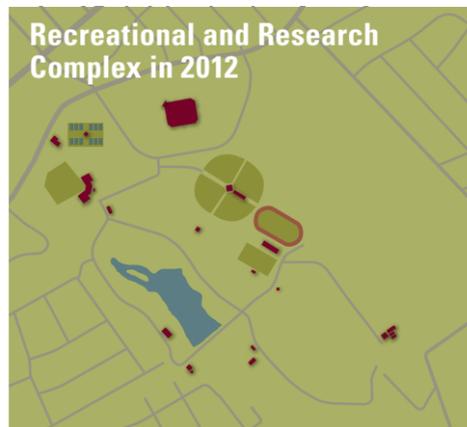
Completed in 1982, the 6,000-seat Winthrop Coliseum is the site of Winthrop's NCAA Division I men's and women's basketball games, and women's volleyball games. The facility also accommodates Winthrop's Commencements, area high school graduation ceremonies, conventions, trade shows, concerts, special events and tournaments. From 2002-04, the Coliseum was renovated with a new brick facade, enhanced main entryway and refurbished interiors, including all-new arena seating. Winthrop's Athletics Hall of Fame is located in the upper concourse of the Coliseum.



Recreational and Research Complex in 1989



Recreational and Research Complex in 2012



OLDE STONE HOUSE Built at the beginning of the 20th century, the Olde Stone House has a stone exterior which was added in 1937-38 during the building's renovation by Works Progress Administration labor. The Olde Stone House (below) was once the home of Winthrop's grounds superintendent. A makeover of the building in 2004 included the addition of an outdoor patio, viewing decks and a conference room. Winthrop's preservation of the Stone House received a 2005 Historic Rock Hill Award. Today the Stone House (left) is used for fund- and friend-raising activities.



WINTHROP BALLPARK Built in 2001, the Winthrop Ballpark (below) is one of the most impressive collegiate ballparks in the South. A second phase of construction, funded by an anonymous \$1.5 million gift, was completed in 2008 and included the additions of locker room space, a training room, indoor batting facilities, coaching offices, covered grandstands and an elevator tower for improved accessibility. The facility holds 1,800 spectators.



A Vision Fulfilled: Winthrop Recognized as One of the Best

By Nicole E. Smith

“WINTHROP UNIVERSITY WILL BE—and will be recognized as—one of the best universities of its kind.”

These are words that President Anthony DiGiorgio has spoken often, but they represent more than an idealized hope for the future or a vow awaiting fulfillment—they are a promise DiGiorgio made, one that has come to fruition throughout the past two decades in collaboration with faculty and staff members, members of the Board of Trustees and the local community.

It is a sentiment he reaffirmed at his final address to faculty and staff in August 2012. After 24 years as president, DiGiorgio will retire this summer. However, the unique characteristics that help articulate a Winthrop education—Touchstone courses, diversity, core values and commitments, programs provided only on an exemplary level and more—will continue to embody and evolve the campus. Below are just a few examples of initiatives and programs created under DiGiorgio’s leadership:

Vision of Distinction Creates Blueprint for University

At his inaugural address in 1990, DiGiorgio declared: “We have the opportunity to create—out of the legacy bestowed upon us by the past and our dreams for the future—a zealous scholarly companionship that will saturate every corner of the campus: a mission compounded of service, of excellence, of diversity and of community.”

The institution was a college at the time but earned its university status shortly after DiGiorgio took office.

DiGiorgio led the campus community through a strategic planning process that resulted in six statements that appropriately described the university’s goals, defining: the type of community Winthrop would become; the kind of student body it would build; the nature of academic life on campus; the type of facilities that both support classroom learning and create engagement opportunities; the support services that would progress the campus’ work and interactions beyond; and the kind of partnerships and

collaborations that would fulfill the university’s mission.

Together, these goals became the Vision of Distinction, a tangible “road map” that creates accountability and points the campus community in the appropriate direction for its aims and objectives.

Winthrop Becomes First State Institution to Achieve 100 Percent National Accreditation for Eligible Programs

DiGiorgio placed an emphasis on academic excellence in the 1990s with his commitment to have national accreditation for 100 percent of Winthrop’s programs for which such accreditation is available—or not to have the program. Under his guidance, Winthrop became the first institution in the state to achieve 100 percent national accreditation for eligible programs. That high standard of quality continues to serve the university to this day.

His pledge to embrace a program or activity only if it can be done in an exemplary manner truly sets the university apart, as students know that their selected program of study is of the very highest quality.

Core Commitments Reflect Importance of Personal, Social Responsibility

Winthrop’s commitment to student learning is not only entwined within the academic track, but with a student’s personal development as well. With a motto of “Live. Learn. Lead.,” the university became one of only 18 universities to lead the first phase of a national initiative called

“Core Commitments: Educating Students for Personal and Social Responsibility.”

These core commitments center on mining personal and academic integrity, contributing to a larger community, learning and respecting others’ perspectives, developing a strong work ethic, and refining competence in ethical and moral reasoning.

By setting—and inevitably fulfilling—these goals, Winthrop has created a guide for students that maps their way toward deeper learning and reflection.

Emphasis on Deeper Learning Encourages Critical Thinking, Writing, Discussion

Under DiGiorgio’s watch, a new division of the university—University College—was created with the goal of increasing and enhancing student achievement, responsibility and engagement, allowing faculty to work across various disciplines. This cross-campus cooperation ensures that all students have a solid academic foundation.

University College’s formation led to the further creation of Touchstone courses and an emphasis on cultural and diverse programming. Such courses include the introductory Academy 101, Writing 101, Critical Reading, Thinking, Writing 201 and The Human Experience 102. Each of these classes includes an introduction to concepts, principles and skills necessary for successful educational and life experiences.

The Common Book Project also launched during DiGiorgio’s time to provide an annual shared intellectual experience for the Winthrop community. All freshmen read

the book and engage in lively discussions, and a variety of campus programming complements the selected book’s theme.

Third-Party Accolades Note Academic Excellence, Value, Service Learning and Diversity

Winthrop has grown not only in its student body during the last 24 years—amassing more than 6,000 students from 40 countries and 41 states—but also in external validations.

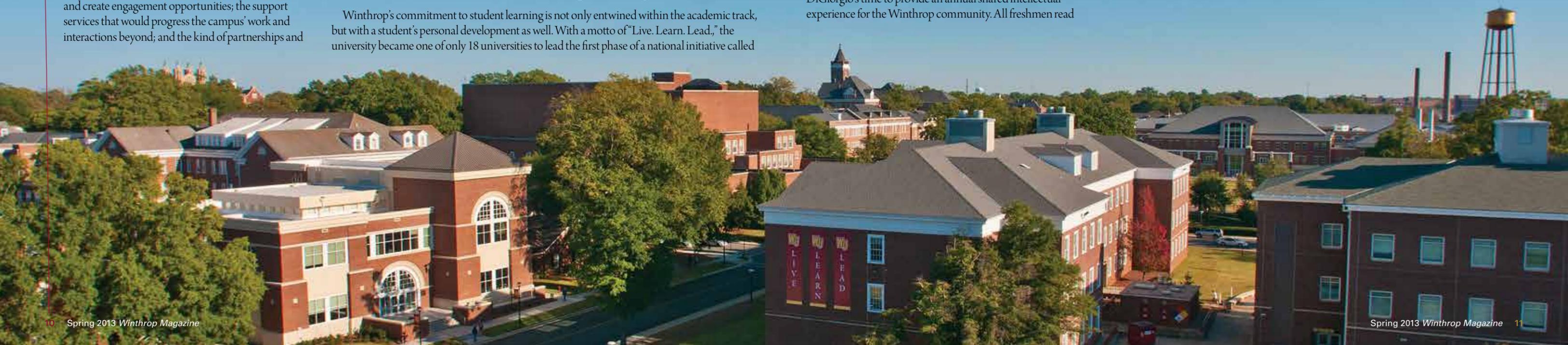
For the 21st time, U.S. News and World Report listed Winthrop among the South’s top universities that convey master’s degrees. Barron’s “Best Buys in College Education” and Princeton Review’s “America’s Best Value Colleges” included Winthrop in its past publications, citing the university’s value and academic excellence.

Winthrop was among 32 postsecondary institutions—and the only South Carolina institution—recognized nationally for “beating the odds” in helping students, particularly minority students, most prone to dropping out of college, stay on track toward graduation.

In addition, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) named Winthrop as a leader among institutions of higher education for its support of volunteering, service learning and civic engagement.

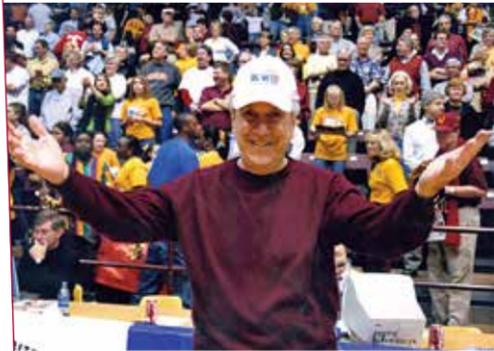
Finally, the S.C. Commission on Higher Education has recognized Winthrop as one of the state’s top-performing institutions, giving it top ratings.

Though DiGiorgio will retire as president this summer, the academic measures geared toward giving students the best possible learning experience—“the Winthrop Way”—will not leave with him. They will remain a staple of the university, as it continues to fulfill DiGiorgio’s promise: for Winthrop to be—and to be recognized as—one of the best universities of its kind.



A Winning Combination:

By Monica Bennett

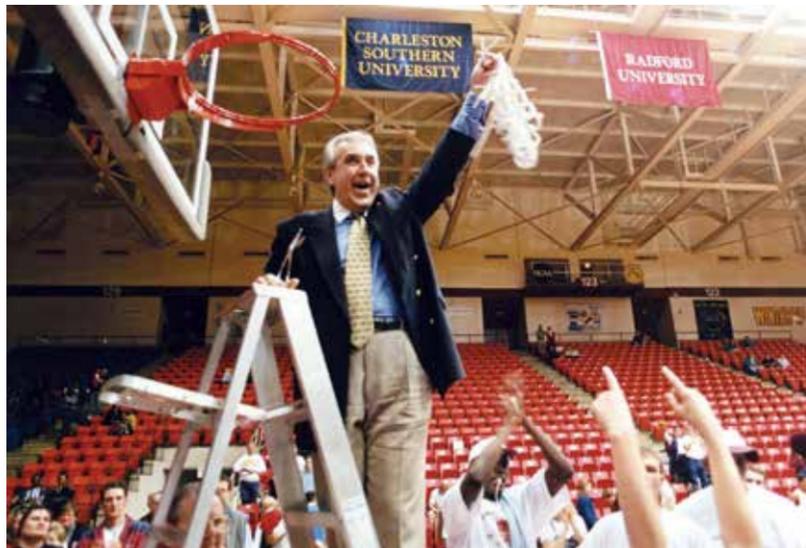


AS WINTHROP'S #1 FAN, Anthony DiGiorgio has attended too many home and away contests to count in his 24 years as president. Working behind the scenes, he has transformed Winthrop Athletics into a nationally competitive program, playing a major role in recruiting top coaches and players to continue building on a tradition of excellence.

A life-long sports lover, DiGiorgio served as a constant advocate for growth in Winthrop's Division I sports offerings. In 1989 when DiGiorgio arrived, Winthrop sponsored 12 intercollegiate teams. During his tenure, the program added six teams – men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's outdoor track and field, women's soccer and women's lacrosse. Under his leadership, opportunities for female student-athletes tripled, as participation increased from approximately 60 to 160 female student-athletes.

Athletic scholarships also grew significantly during DiGiorgio's tenure. In 1989, athletic scholarships totaled \$178,000; in 2012, \$1.9 million, thanks to a vibrant and active Eagle Club, the university's athletic booster club.

Winthrop's commitment to recruiting outstanding student-athletes has produced impressive results. Over the last two decades, the university has accumulated 49 Big South Conference championships in 10 sports and 42 NCAA



Regional appearances. Track and field student-athletes have earned 72 individual and 12 relay Big South Conference titles, qualified 24 individuals and four relay teams for the NCAA Regionals and sent six athletes to the NCAA Championships.

When they're not putting up big numbers for their respective teams, Winthrop student-athletes shine in the classroom and in the community. In 2011-12, Winthrop led all Big South Conference institutions with the highest percentage of student-athletes who earned recognition on the prestigious Presidential Honor Roll. Student-athletes also devote time and energy to the surrounding community. For a fourth consecutive year, the university won the Big South Conference Kallander Cup Challenge for completing nearly 3,200 hours of various community service projects during the 2011-12 academic year.

An equally impressive hallmark of DiGiorgio's legacy centers on the first-class athletic facilities that have been upgraded or added during his time at Winthrop, including:

- » Renovations to the 6,000-seat Winthrop Coliseum included new seats and scoreboard, family-friendly food services, concourse monitors of events inside and improved walkways. In 2012 the lobby entrance, arena and coaches' offices were updated with new wall murals and other elements.
- » Addition of the Memorial Tennis Courts, completed in 2003, which include 12 lighted courts and seating for 300. The courts were named for members of the men's tennis team who were involved in a tragic highway accident in Hattiesburg, Miss., in 1993.
- » Addition of the 1,800-seat Winthrop Ballpark, one of the most impressive collegiate ballparks in the South.
- » Addition of Eagle Field, the soccer complex, which features lighting for night matches, bleacher and stadium-style chair-back seating,

DiGiorgio Guides Athletics to National Prominence



Memorial Tennis Courts

and a state-of-the-art press box, making the facility one of the best in the conference.

- » Addition of the Terry Softball Complex, home to the Eagle softball program. The complex features four fields and 300 seats.
- » Addition of the Irwin Belk Track, home to the Eagle track and field teams. The track encircles a full-sized practice field for soccer and women's lacrosse, as well as areas for field events, such as discus and pole vault.

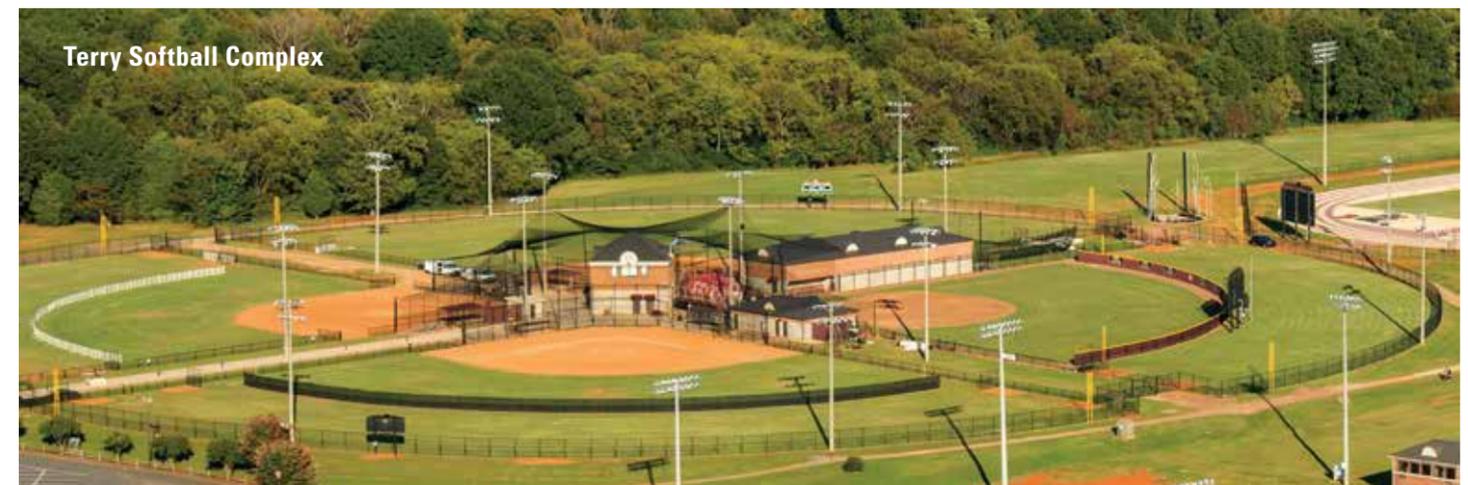
» Addition of intramural recreation fields, a student-use facility that features two lighted fields and a building that meets multiple needs for Recreational Services.

DiGiorgio's passion for sports extended beyond Winthrop as the National Collegiate Athletics Association also sought out his guidance and expertise. During his tenure DiGiorgio served on the NCAA Board of Directors and the College Basketball Partnership, an NCAA committee.

His commitment to Winthrop Athletics will be noticed for years to come as the university continues to reap the exposure its teams have received through national television, radio and newspaper coverage.



Irwin Belk Track



Terry Softball Complex

Winthrop a Canvas for Public Art:

By Jill C. Stuckey

WINTHROP'S COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC ART began with its founding president, D.B. Johnson, who brought copies of Classical sculpture to the Rock Hill campus to educate and enrich. President Anthony DiGiorgio has built upon that tradition by not only encouraging the display of original, contemporary works by faculty and staff, but also intentionally integrating them into the campus environs and embedding public art in the curriculum.

Prior to his arrival in 1989, student works were occasionally displayed, but with no cohesive plan to their installation or placement. DiGiorgio worked with the Department of Fine Arts and Facilities Management to institute a process that provides spaces for temporary installations, as well as regular additions of permanent pieces. Beginning with Thomson Sculpture by Tim Wright and Sweet Dreams, the five-piece steel chair sculpture created by Doug McAbee '94, '03, more than 30 permanent art installations have provided opportunities for students, alumni and faculty to exhibit their work.

Providing these spaces for both permanent and also many temporary installations has allowed the sculpture program, in particular, to flourish. Students, working

within the real world parameters of budgets, approval queues, installation processes and site requirements, learn marketable skills such as the power of collaboration, hard work and contribution to a community.

While public art contributes to the aesthetics of campus, it also adds to its functionality as well. Part of the strategic planning process instituted by DiGiorgio includes creating environments for both intentional and casual interactions by members of the campus community. Spaces like the curved Leitner Wall by Keith Walters '97 outside Kinard Hall or Brian Rust's Touch Stones in front of Margaret Nance Hall, provide settings for the constant conversation that occurs on a college campus. Hardin Family Garden, which opened in 2011 as a capstone to Scholars Walk, is another example of beauty in utility. The design of this aesthetic and functional garden came from the ancient concept

DiGiorgio Shaped Public Art Program's Strategic Growth



Previous page: **Sweet Dreams**. This page, clockwise starting top left; **Thomson Sculpture**, **Leitner Wall**, **Winthrop Monolith** inside Hardin Family Garden, **Kara Sensui with Komori**, aerial view of Hardin Family Garden showing the **Golden Section** design theme and **Touch Stones**.



known as the Golden Section, which describes the beauty and the organization found in nature.

An artist himself, DiGiorgio has transformed the campus into an ever-changing canvas. As new buildings have enhanced student and faculty life in recent years, art has been ubiquitous and deliberate in the new spaces, but nowhere as prominently as in the new campus center named in honor of DiGiorgio and wife Gale. It is especially fitting for this building, which honors the man who placed strong emphasis on transforming the campus through art and architecture, to showcase the talents of students, alumni and faculty on its walls.

DiGiorgio has set Winthrop on a course to achieve national prominence, and at the same time has embraced the transforming beauty of public art. As an innovative leader, DiGiorgio sees the importance of both in the lives of Winthrop students.

For a virtual tour of Winthrop's permanent art installations, scan the code below with your smart phone or visit www.winthrop.edu/virtualtour/arttour.aspx.



A Fitting Tribute: Celebration Honors DiGiorgios' Legacy

By Judy Longshaw

President Anthony DiGiorgio quoted writer and traveler Anne Morrow Lindbergh, who once wrote about times of transition and farewells, during an Oct. 18, 2012, tribute that honored him and First Lady Gale DiGiorgio.

Lindbergh said of her time in Japan, "Sayonara, of all the good-byes I have heard, is the most beautiful."

Literally translated, DiGiorgio said, sayonara means, 'Since it must be so,' ... "It is a simple acceptance of fact: That a time has come that 'it must be so....'"

To nearly 325 people gathered in the Rosalind and Jerry Richardson Ballroom in the DiGiorgio Campus Center, DiGiorgio bid "Thank you, each and every one, for being our community – for the past 24 years and for all the years to come."

Dignitaries from Washington, D.C., and across South Carolina attended the tribute to praise DiGiorgio's tenure. He will retire as president this summer after conferring nearly 19,000 undergraduate degrees and 6,300 graduate degrees.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., called DiGiorgio the "Strom Thurmond of higher education" for his longevity. He is South Carolina's longest-serving public university president and one of the longest-serving public university presidents in America. Winthrop has expanded in stature, size and scope due to DiGiorgio's vision.

Other accolades poured in from S.C. Rep. Gary Simrill '91, R-Rock Hill, who presented a framed copy of a S.C. House resolution introduced by the York County delegation. Rock Hill Mayor Doug Echols '77 gave the DiGiorgios a proclamation and key to the city.

Along with a framed portrait of the couple presented by the Board of Trustees to hang in the DiGiorgio Center, Foundation board members presented a check for \$201,459 for the DiGiorgio "Progress of the Times" Fund for student and faculty research. Donations were given by trustees, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. More information on the fund may be found on page 21.

Gale DiGiorgio received her own surprise during the festivities as Board of Trustees Chair Dalton Floyd conferred upon her an honorary doctoral degree.

Gale has been active for more than two decades as a community volunteer with a special emphasis on the well-being of children. She has devoted countless hours to the campus, her church, the greater community and her adopted state. Because of her many accomplishments, the Division of Student Life created and annually awards the Gale N. DiGiorgio Woman of Achievement Award.

Following retirement the DiGiorgios will remain in Rock Hill.



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1. President Anthony DiGiorgio
2. Gale DiGiorgio was honored with an honorary Winthrop doctoral degree.
3. Anthony and Gale DiGiorgio
4. From left: Harry Dalton '86, honorary campaign co-chair of *Distinction: The Campaign for Winthrop*, and Carlos Evans, campaign co-chair for *Distinction*, presented a check for the Progress of the Times Fund.
5. President DiGiorgio (left) and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.
6. Rep. Gary Simrill '91, R-S.C., made a special presentation to President DiGiorgio.
7. From left: Louise Barnes, Jack Holladay '91, Ed Barnes and Lora Holladay
8. Rock Hill Mayor Doug Echols '77 addressed guests and the DiGiorgios.
9. Table host David Vipperman (left) and Baxter Simpson
10. From left, back row: Board of Trustees Chairman Dalton Floyd, Winthrop Foundation Chairman Gary Williams, President DiGiorgio and John S. Thomas; from left, front row: Peggy Williams, Gale DiGiorgio and Judy Thomas
11. From left: Gale DiGiorgio and Board of Trustees members Jane Lawton LaRoche '70 and Sue Smith-Rex
12. Larry Durham '80, '87 (left) and Nate Barber '89
13. Mari Heckle (left) and Lisa Hall
14. Betty Jo Dunlap Rhea '51 (left) and Phyllis Hatfield Faircloth '72, '75
15. Board of Trustees Chairman Dalton Floyd unveiled a portrait of the DiGiorgios as the board's gift to the couple.



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“The Spirit of Service:”

David Bancroft Johnson and Anthony Joseph DiGiorgio

By Dr. Edward Lee

FOR MORE THAN HALF OF Winthrop University's 127-year history, two presidents have guided the South Carolina institution. From 1886 to 1928, David Bancroft Johnson took a small school with 21 students housed in a Columbia chapel, relocated it to the New South City of Rock Hill, and oversaw steady growth in curriculum and enrollment. Anthony Joseph DiGiorgio, from 1989 to 2013, propelled the college to university status, secured accreditation for all eligible academic programs, and left his fingerprints on a campus with an international reputation and a diverse enrollment of more than 6,000 students. Both men possessed essential leadership qualities: crisp vision, adaptability to turbulent times, fundraising skills, a commitment to preparing students for lifelong service and forging a vibrant partnership with the host city.

The fifth president of the institution, Charles S. Davis, explained the Winthrop mission in a 1961 speech, “The spirit of service has been a Winthrop tradition from the beginning days of the college. Down through the years, our graduates have become leaders in many fields of endeavor and have played vital roles in the betterment of their homes, their communities, their state and their nation.” Davis and his successor, Charles B. Vail, would oversee racial integration and coeducation, but it would be Johnson and DiGiorgio who would shape “the Winthrop tradition.”

D.B. Johnson, born in antebellum Tennessee, founded a teacher training academy in Columbia in 1886 and hired the first professor, Mary Hall Leonard. He solicited \$1,500 from former United States Senator Robert C. Winthrop, president of the Peabody Fund, and gained the attention of Governor (later United States Senator) Benjamin Ryan

Tillman, South Carolina's dominant political figure. When Tillman and Johnson sought a new Up Country location for what was then a women's school, they brought Winthrop Normal College to Rock Hill in 1895. With its bold entrepreneurs like James Milton Cherry and John Gary Anderson, Rock Hill would be a suitable location to educate the daughters of farmers—far away from the scars of the Civil

War. Henry Sims, president from 1944 to 1959, said, “This was certainly the best investment that Rock Hill ever made.”

Johnson proudly opened Winthrop's doors in Rock Hill in 1895. Main Building (later Tillman Hall) and Winthrop Training School (built in 1912) were the towering heights of an educational institution that had found a permanent home along Oakland Avenue. The students wore uniforms, obeyed strict rules of conduct and listened to Johnson passionately speak with missionary zeal about the imperative need to lead the state's revival from the war. Service was an obligation, and the curriculum was rigorous as the students learned that “the sun never sets on Winthrop graduates.”

Part of Johnson's success was his ability to secure funds to expand the physical plant. Bricks and mortar rose: McLaurin Hall in 1901, Rutledge Building in 1905 and Bancroft Hall in 1908. He was in a hurry, and he left as a legacy a campus that boasted a stellar

reputation in teacher preparation, the fine arts, home economics and liberal studies. Like Rock Hill, Winthrop expanded its reach—always under the watchful eye of Johnson, who died in 1928.

There have been nine presidents since Winthrop's birth. English Professor James Pinckney Kinard was Johnson's chief lieutenant and immediate successor, serving until 1934. Even the challenges of the Great Depression did not slow the college's evolution. Always, it moved forward. Kinard passed the baton to Shelton Phelps (1934-43), and then to Henry Sims (1944-59), to Charles Davis (1959-72), to Charles Vail (1973-82), to Phillip Lader (1983-86), and to Martha Kime Piper (1987-88).



David Bancroft Johnson



But instability darkened the waters in the 1980s. Vail had been dismissed by the Board of Trustees. Lader had left Rock Hill to seek the state's governorship in 1986. Piper, the first female president, died in office in 1988. It was a decade of uncertainty, characterized by a recession, reduced state funding, shifting political winds in Columbia, and increased competition for students and faculty. In 1989, the trustees chose Anthony DiGiorgio, vice president of Trenton State (N.J.) College, to bring a fresh vision of excellence and a steady hand to Winthrop.

DiGiorgio was born in 1940 to Italian immigrants. Like D.B. Johnson, he raised money and promoted Winthrop along the corridors of the state legislature. As Winthrop's ambassador, touring South Carolina with his wife Gale in 1990, the new president observed, "(Winthrop) really is a jewel in the crown of higher education in South Carolina, but it is not well understood across the state. We are still perceived as a relatively sleepy campus in a quiet town that educates women to become school teachers. Certainly, that's been our heritage, and we've done that extraordinarily well, but that's not who we are today."

Like Johnson, DiGiorgio moved quickly. At his October 1990 inauguration, the new president spoke of the Winthrop tradition: its "courage and resilience in moving from single gender to coeducation, successfully and productively. It has shown vision and creativity in moving from a single purpose to embrace many purposes, successfully and productively." He called for "a core curriculum in which all students share." The school's mission required "a partnership with government, with business, with our sister institutions, and with the community at large." He told the crowd, comprised of dignitaries like Governor Carroll Campbell, "Let us bring our students into the fellowship of learning, showing them by example that the sign of an educated person is that he or she is always trying to become one." And, so, DiGiorgio's "era of distinction," endorsed by the trustees, commenced.

In 1991, U.S. News and World Report ranked the institution among the South's top colleges, the first of numerous similar accolades. The following year, Winthrop attained university status. A 1993 \$1 million gift from the Pamplin Family to the Winthrop

Foundation became the first of many indicators of DiGiorgio's fundraising expertise. Endowed professorships were established. Realizing the changing environment for funding higher education and the growing emphasis on accountability, DiGiorgio wrote in 1994, "Its ultimate purpose is to help restore the traditional linkage between public education and a sense of the public good." During his 1994 opening address to faculty and staff, the president commented, "It will require an explicit commitment to getting the job done using smaller staffs, simplified procedures and technology as hallmarks of progress."

By the mid-1990s, the university's first official website had appeared, and 100 percent national accreditation of eligible academic programs was achieved. In 1996, DiGiorgio said, "Our goals must be shaped in partnership with those who utilize the services we provide. Higher education needs to be held to a high standard of accountability by those in both the public and private sectors...." Thus, strategic planning involving various constituencies from the trustees to the faculty and students was initiated.

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In 1998, Rock Hill's Harry '86 and 'Becca Dalton contributed \$1 million for an endowed chair, and the athletics program was fully certified by the NCAA. In 1999, the first new academic building in 30 years, Dalton Hall (formerly the Life Sciences Building), was completed for the study of life sciences, and the Winthrop Eagles appeared in the national basketball tournament.

Enrollment reached 6,000 in 2000. The College of Education was renamed the Richard W. Riley College of Education in honor of President Bill Clinton's secretary of education. Winthrop's first capital campaign announced in 2003 that it had raised more than \$31 million. University College joined the colleges of arts and sciences, business administration, education, and visual and performing arts.

Winthrop focused on the "Live.Learn.Lead." concept in 2004. A \$3.8 million grant-funded biomedical research program was established that year. Athletics have long been important to DiGiorgio, and a \$1.5 million anonymous gift enhanced the Winthrop Ballpark.

The campus continued to blossom throughout DiGiorgio's tenure. In 2007, the Lois Rhame West Center was completed as well as Owens Hall, an academic building. Carroll Hall opened for business students two years later. All three buildings were named in honor of distinguished alumnae. Millions of dollars in federal funding strengthened teacher education. In 2010, the DiGiorgio Campus Center, named in honor of the president and first lady, was completed.

"The spirit of service" which defined both the Johnson and DiGiorgio presidencies is evident in the evolving curriculum, vibrant classroom discussions, recognized faculty scholarship, diverse student body, success on the athletic playing field, growing physical plant, tireless fundraising and international reputation of a university which continues to move forward—even amid the economic challenges of the 21st century. D.B. Johnson explained it best in his 1911 Commencement speech: "Winthrop does not stand for an education without purpose. We hold that education is a training of the individual for life's duties—for service." He and DiGiorgio demonstrated in their 66 years of stewardship to Winthrop University the wisdom of that assessment.

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