Dear Winthrop Friends:

In May, more than 720 students earned the proud distinction of becoming Winthrop graduates. The Commencement ceremonies symbolize the culmination of an educational journey, a journey that has earned each graduate a membership into an exclusive lifelong Winthrop association that includes tens of thousands of loyal members.

Over time, each student crafted his or her own Winthrop experience, tailoring the university’s extensive courses, research opportunities and extracurricular activities to fashion a comprehensive college experience like no other.

At the heart of the Winthrop experience is a commitment to serving others — a long-held value at Winthrop. I invite you to read in this issue about the university’s accredited Bachelor and Master of Social Work programs which prepare students to have a profound impact on those in need and the world around them.

This commitment to service continues long after the graduation caps and gowns are stored. Within this issue of Winthrop Magazine, I encourage you to read about several alumni whose service to their professions earned them extraordinary distinction, including:

- Murdale Cameron Leysath ‘45, the first woman in the United Church of Christ to be elected minister of a conference, a position that allowed her to nurture the faith of many;
- Bill Hilton Jr. ’77, who shares his interest and research of hummingbirds with avid bird watchers and the science community, a commitment that earned him recognition in “Discover Magazine” as one of the 50 best brains in science;
- President of Weight Watchers North America Steven McCormick ’83, whose commitment to helping individuals achieve healthy weight-loss goals has inspired others; and
- Sergeant DeMarius Jackson ’05, whose exceptional musical abilities and service to his country earned him the U.S. Marine Corps’ 2008 Musician of the Year Award.

As August rapidly approaches and as we prepare for our newest community members, rest assured that the Winthrop education that awaits them is one that holds endless possibilities, including myriad ways to serve others. We look forward to guiding each of them in fashioning a Winthrop experience like no other as well.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. DiGiorgio
President
About the Cover

Scholars Walk, the central promenade of the campus, connects Winthrop’s humble beginnings — the Little Chapel — to its present: a vibrant new heart of campus with state-of-the-art facilities, such as Owens Hall, the West Center, and the campus center still under construction. The walkway serves as another campus gathering spot where students may share together the Winthrop experience. Phase II of Scholars Walk construction, to be completed in 2010, will feature a sculpture garden, complete with green space, exceptional art work and a water feature designed to encourage thought and reflection.
As part of her social work practicum, Jessica Ceremuga, a May M.S.W. graduate, worked with children involved in Presbyterian Hospital's six-week cancer support group.
Delivering much-needed supplies and aid to disaster victims. Comforting a hospice patient with a kind word. Watching proud parents hold their adopted child. Offering encouragement to substance abusers trying to turn their lives around.

Improving individuals’ quality of life is the ultimate goal of a social worker. The field holds countless possibilities for graduates who desire to make an impact on the world, one life at a time.

“Students that have a passion for social justice and for helping others obtain their full potential can be confident that with a professional social work degree from Winthrop, be it a B.S.W. or an M.S.W., they will be ready to build a career that will truly make a difference in peoples’ lives,” said Sue Lyman, associate professor and the undergraduate program director.

Winthrop’s accredited Bachelor and Master of Social Work programs prepare students, through intensive course work and field practicums, to obtain the knowledge and experience to achieve success.

“Even in a less than ideal economy, applications to Winthrop’s social work programs have significantly increased, a real testament to our offerings,” said Ron Green, chair of the department.

**Students Prepare for Successful Careers Through Real World Experiences**

Job interviewers always look for experience, a vital component that catapults applicants to the head of the pack. To ensure career success, Winthrop integrates real world experience into its social work curriculum. Undergraduates complete 520 hours of work in a field practicum, while graduate students undertake 960 hours of training. Linda Ashley ’95, a department instructor and the director of field placement, works with each student to match a field practicum that best suits the student’s career goals. “We work with around 100 agencies all over the Carolinas that deal with issues ranging from eating disorders, child welfare, hospice, hospitals, counseling, homelessness, sexual abuse and other areas as well,” said Ashley. “The goal is to provide an in-depth learning environment where theory and educational opportunities entwine. It is amazing to see the depth of learning that takes place during that time.”

Jessica Ceremuga, a May M.S.W. graduate, experienced that type of in-depth learning while completing a practicum at Presbyterian Hospital’s Blume Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Clinic. She worked with children and their families who have cancer or another type of blood disorder. In addition, she worked with the hospital’s six-week Children’s Lives Include Moments of Bravery (C.L.I.M.B.) program, for which Ceremuga traveled to Colorado to receive specialized training from The Children’s Treehouse Foundation.

The program consists of children who have an immediate family member undergoing active cancer treatment. “The group is designed so that the children can get to know other children who have a parent with cancer so that they can support one another. It is also designed to educate them about cancer, and to learn and explore the feelings they have centered around cancer. The program empowers them to be able to talk with their families or other adults about their feelings,” said Ceremuga, who added that working
with each program has been rewarding and eye-opening. “To see them forge these relationships with others undergoing similar circumstances is very gratifying.”

An additional outlet where students may put their knowledge to work is the department’s Center for Social Welfare Research and Assessment, a three-year-old Medicaid funded operation that employs 18-20 graduate and undergraduate research assistants to work on numerous projects. According to Alex Wagaman ’95, director of center operations, hosting a research center within a social work department is a unique concept, one that has served as a beneficial learning tool. “Our students helped organize the center based on their research interests, and it provides wonderful opportunities for students to put their interests into action.”

The center’s responsibilities include collecting data for the state’s Department of Health and Human Services’ Bureau of Long Term Care. “The federal government requires annual satisfaction surveys on community long term care participants,” said Mike Bremseth, the center’s director of research. “Our students survey either face-to-face or by phone the identified participants who receive long term services, and we then analyze the data and report our findings to the state.”

Students also participate in surveying projects that range from depression in nursing homes to adults with chronic illnesses. In addition, students conduct exploratory research on their own interests that, according to Wagaman, “allows them to explore a subject from A to Z at the local, state and national levels, all while networking with some of the best professionals in the field.”

Participation in these distinctive experiences, Bremseth noted, produces better social workers. “Many students comment that they feel prepared for their career fields, citing their enhanced interview and communication skills as an example, and they feel vested in the program because they’re involved in important research at the state and federal levels. The work that these students conduct at the center gives them a leg up on other job applicants, and that’s our goal: to produce the best social workers in the field.”

Improving Lives One Day at a Time

Writing a grocery list, preparing a nutritious meal and engaging in conversation may seem like small tasks to many, but Michael McMahan ’08 views such daily activities as celebrated successes for his clients at Cherokee Mental Health in Gaffney, S.C.

As coordinator of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services, McMahan works with an average of 12 clients per day who suffer from various psychosocial disorders including schizophrenia, depression, bipolar and paranoia. Through twice-daily individual and group therapy sessions relating to topics such as anger management, weight control and maintenance, proper hygiene and medication compliance, as well as supervised meal preparations, McMahan’s goal is to help clients adjust to, and cope with, daily activities. “Improvement is always what we hope to achieve,” said McMahan. “Success is measured individually and one’s potential isn’t always another’s, but we celebrate with them when improvement is made.”

McMahan, a York, S.C., native and a member of Winthrop’s first M.S.W. graduating class who became interested in the field after a 22-year career in the U.S. Air Force, admits that the job is sometimes difficult. Tough economic circumstances have forced budget reductions and a hiring freeze; however, the rewards of seeing improvement take place one step at a time far outweigh the stress.

“I knew that I could make a difference in this field all while having a profound impact on people who just need a chance at improving their lives,” McMahan added. “This job requires daily commitment not only from me, but also each client that I serve, because total commitment to better health equals success, and that’s what I’m here to help them achieve.”
Discovering More Than a Job, Realizing a Passion

Before 8:30 a.m. on school days, Melissa Funderburk-Harris ’94 has hugged, high-fived and welcomed the 80 children that attend ISWA Head Start, a pre-kindergarten learning center located on the Catawba Indian Reservation in Rock Hill.

When the Catawba Indian tribe looked to fill the Head Start program’s director position in 2005, they reached out to one of their own. Funderburk-Harris, who grew up on the reservation and knew the program’s mission since her daughter attended the center, gladly accepted the job. “When my daughter attended I became very involved and fell in love with the program.” Today, she oversees four classrooms, each with 20 children ranging from three to five years in age, manages day-to-day operations, supervises a staff of 20, and ensures that the center is compliant with state and federal regulations. “It really is more than a job,” Funderburk-Harris said. “I adore it. I get to witness each new discovery that these children make — from the thrill of seeing a caterpillar to that ah-ha moment of recognizing the letter B. We are providing experiences that prepare them to successfully transition to kindergarten.”

The nine-month program, which is open to all eligible children with first priority given to tribal families, currently has a waiting list of more than 30, a testament to the program’s strength according to Funderburk-Harris, who earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Winthrop.

As part of the center’s curriculum, she incorporated lessons on Catawba Indian culture, music and language. “It’s important to continue these traditions,” a motto that she lives daily. “My goal is to always advocate for the Catawba Indian Nation and what better way than educating our future generations,” said Funderburk-Harris, who became one of the first women elected to the tribe’s council.

For more information on Winthrop’s social work programs, please call the department at 803/323-2168.
Focused on Healthy Living

Steven McCormick ’83 Guides Weight Watchers North America

By Jill Stuckey

For more than 25 years, Steven McCormick has worked for some of the leading companies in America. Until last November, he was with the Coca-Cola Company where he worked for more than 13 years. He never thought he’d leave that company or Atlanta, Ga., where he and his wife Patti ’83 lived with their two daughters. But when he got a call about a New York-based job opportunity with Weight Watchers International in 2008, he took the chance to partner with individuals trying to improve their health at a time when Americans could not need it more.

As president of Weight Watchers North America, McCormick oversees the operations, products, publishing and licensing of the weight-loss company’s North American division. In addition to Weight Watchers meetings, where individuals find group support for their weight-loss efforts, the company, through its Web site, also provides innovative subscription weight management products over the Internet. McCormick sees his position there as a unique opportunity to help improve the health of millions of people in a positive and sustainable way.

“The Center for Disease Control tells us that 67 percent of Americans are classified as either overweight or obese,” McCormick said. “No company is in a better position to help inspire Americans to change that than Weight Watchers, and I’m grateful to have a positive impact on literally millions of people.”

McCormick sees his company positioned at the forefront of the preventative health care issue and eagerly anticipates playing a continuing part in that debate.

“The U.S. spends $2.2 trillion on health care a year, and very few of those dollars are spent on preventative health care. Weight Watchers can play a critical role by helping people who want to achieve and maintain a healthy weight, thereby reducing the risk of developing certain diseases that can be brought on by obesity,” McCormick said. “We can help lower health care costs in North America through proper and effective weight management.”

While weight loss remains an important goal for many individuals, it also can be difficult to achieve. “The great thing about Weight Watchers is that we teach people how to live in the real world. We provide the tools and skills that are necessary so that people are able to make the choices that fit their needs,” McCormick said. “We’re a lifestyle-based business, but consumers are changing and their lifestyles are changing so we’ve got to continue to adapt.”

That ability to adapt has served McCormick well as he has transitioned through different industries and geographies during his career. After working for Cannon Mills Company, Pepsi, Compaq Computers and Coca-Cola, McCormick can look back on his Winthrop experience as a time in his life where he developed the skills, confidence and tools necessary to support such a career.
Bill Hilton Jr. '77 bands the legs of thousands of birds each year at his 11-acre farm near York, S.C., but it is the ruby-throated hummingbird that he chases south.

Hilton's work in documenting the thumb-size birds and in sharing his knowledge of their migratory patterns prompted “Discover Magazine” to name him as one of the 50 best brains in science in its December 2008 issue. Hilton learned of the award when he saw the magazine in an El Salvadoran airport, where he was traveling to track the hummingbird. “It was kind of a shocker,” he recalled.

An early environmentalist and nature lover, Hilton decided after earning a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in biology at Winthrop to concentrate on studying birds. His first experience catching, banding a bird and letting it go left him speechless … and energized to do more.

After gaining a master's degree in ecology at the University of Minnesota, where he studied blue jays, Hilton returned to York County to teach at Winthrop and local high schools.

One of only 150 people authorized around the country to band hummingbirds, Hilton and his volunteers have caught more than 4,000 hummingbirds since 1984 at his old homestead, called Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History. In all, he has banded 124 different species and more than 53,000 birds, almost half of them house finches, American goldfinches, purple finches and pine siskins. The birds are captured with large nets or in cages set up around Hilton's house, given a tiny numbered metal ring on a leg and set free.

Many birds appear to be on the edge of survival, but the hummingbirds remain strong in numbers, Hilton said. In 2008, Hilton banded 230 ruby-throats, the highest number yet. He describes the birds as generalists who are flexible enough to look for new habitats and food sources.

He worries for their future, though. “We can protect their habitat here but we have to protect it elsewhere also,” Hilton said. “These are not our hummingbirds. They're a shared resource.”

So Hilton heads to Central America each winter to find where hummingbirds spend the other half of their year. He takes with him teams of teachers and “citizen scientists” to Costa Rica and, as of next winter, Belize and Guatemala.

The team's data collection goes into Hilton’s Operation RubyThroat, which is an online database for bird watchers to track the hummingbirds' range across the Americas. The collaboration with others is crucial to saving the birds, Hilton said. “I can spend my whole life learning about these birds, and it won't do any good unless I share it,” he said, adding that he considers himself foremost an “educator-naturalist.”

Through presentations, his Web site (http://www.hiltonpond.org) and online journal, Hilton passes on the thrill of discovery. He estimates the hummingbirds travel 3,000-4,000 miles round trip, and if they survive the first year, which about 80 percent don't, there is a good chance they will return north for the next few years. And when they do, they are always welcomed with food and attention by Hilton.
Standing at the empty pulpit of a church in Covington, Tenn., 11-year-old Murdale Cameron Leysath ’45 discovered what she wanted to do with her life: become a minister.

The fact that female ministers in the United Church of Christ denomination faced discrimination did not keep Leysath from pursuing — and achieving — that dream. The Greenville, S.C., native, who studied sociology and psychology at Winthrop, spent years after graduation visiting and speaking in small churches, and she encountered more than a few people who were surprised that a woman wanted to preach.

“I had a difficult time understanding why God did not call upon women to be ministers. Even my mother told me God did not call women. This information troubled me, but I knew the pulpit was where I was supposed to be,” Leysath explained. So she kept pushing forward in her ministry work, looking to her mother, a widow who earned a business degree to support her family during the Great Depression, as a role model. In the 1950s and ’60s, when more women began taking higher leadership positions in churches, Leysath saw a valuable opportunity. She took a summer course at Lancaster Seminary in Pennsylvania. Then Leysath moved to Vermont with her husband, Elwin, so he could take a forestry position.

It was there, in Sherburn, Vt., that Leysath’s dream became a reality. She was ordained in the Sherburn United Church of Christ in 1965, becoming the first woman in her denomination to be elected minister of a conference, or geographical district of the church. The position was not an easy one, but Leysath pressed forward.

“Almost all the people I worked with were men. They had never had a female conference minister before, so it was different,” Leysath said. “But it didn’t bother me. I enjoyed the work.”

The work allowed her to speak at conferences across the United States. Later, she also served as associate conference minister in Michigan for four years and as conference minister in Minnesota from 1981-89. Eventually, Eden Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., granted her a doctor of divinity degree in 1983.

Not even retirement slowed her down. When Leysath retired as conference minister, she was called to churches in Wallingford, Conn., Castleton, Vt., Shrewsbury, Mass., and East Arlington, Vt. She also visited churches across Vermont to offer leadership. Her husband offered support by participating in some of the services as a singer in the choir. Her schedule stayed busy for years, and her work did not go unnoticed. In 2007, the United Church of Christ honored Leysath for her years of ministry service at the biannual meeting of the church’s Women’s Ministry.

While Leysath no longer preaches, the Brandon, Vt., resident has fond memories of her work as a minister. She doesn’t consider herself much of a pioneer, although many would disagree.

“I’m appreciative that I got to do the work I did,” she said. “I’ve just been very lucky.”
Following graduation, DeMarius Jackson '05 knew two sure things — he loved his country and his saxophone. The music performance major opted to combine his two loves as a musician with the United States Marine Corps band. The position has allowed him to fashion a reputation as one of the corps’ best musicians, an accolade the sergeant formally received as the 2008 United States Marine Corps’ Musician of the Year.

After training at Camp Lejeune, N.C., he spent seven months in Iraq, where he worked in entry control at Camp Fallujah. Upon return to the states, he was accepted to advanced music courses where he was instructed in arranging, drum majoring and conducting. During this course, Jackson realized he was passionate about teaching, a passion he now instills into students at the Armed Services School of Music in Norfolk, Va. “Often, musicians come here not really knowing what to expect,” he said. “I like being a positive influence on them, and I help give them the direction they need.”

As an instructor, he teaches saxophone to members of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps who are preparing to enter their branch’s respective bands. “Music plays an integral role in the armed forces. In previous years, the military bands’ main role was in maintaining troop and public morale, but recently the Marine Corps has launched a major campaign to put its bands’ talents more in the public eye,” Jackson said.

A talented and well-rounded musician who plays the saxophone, clarinet, flute and oboe, Jackson was selected from among 14 finalists for the distinguished U.S. Marine Corps Musician of the Year Award. A board of judges chose him based on his audition tape and stellar military record.

Jackson credits much of his success to the education he received while at Winthrop. “My professors were the key players in encouraging me to join the military,” he said. “I received such excellent guidance and support. They prepared me for the future by encouraging me to learn various instruments so that I would be more marketable. More importantly, I was able to gain real, professional experience while I was a student. I hope that I can have the same impact on my students.”

As for the future, Jackson, who lives in Chesapeake, Va., with his wife and two children, hopes to make the best of an already good situation. “I wanted to be a part of this family because I love the discipline that is required in the Marine Corps, and I love music. I hope to attend the senior music course, which is the final music course offered through the military. Eventually, I hope to become a band officer at one of the corps’ 12 national field bands,” Jackson said.
Development News

Thomas Slaughter Builds Upon Commitment to Students with $1.2 Million Gift

Winthrop students from York County, and particularly Hickory Grove, S.C., will benefit from a $1.2 million planned gift from Thomas G. Slaughter of Charlotte, N.C.

Slaughter’s legacy gifts will be made through a charitable remainder trust and a bequest provision in his will to the Slaughter-Wilkerson Endowed Scholarship, which was fully endowed in 2007. The scholarship was awarded for the first time in fall 2008 to Terra Carney, a special education major from York County. Slaughter’s planned gifts will further augment the existing endowed scholarship.

He endowed the scholarship in memory and in honor of his mother, Sally Allison Slaughter, and sister, Sara Emily Slaughter, both Winthrop alumnae; his cousin, Tommy W. Wilkerson; and their hometown of Hickory Grove. During his career, Slaughter taught chemistry each school year and worked as a pharmacist each summer. In giving to Winthrop, he makes a gift in support of the many York County students who attend Winthrop and feels that his support can do the most good for talented students from York County.

“I feel the best thing that ever happened to me was growing up in York County, and I think that Winthrop University is one of the best things to ever happen to York County,” Slaughter said. “I know that my gift will help scores of students from Hickory Grove and other areas of York County receive an exceptional education that will allow them to pursue successful careers and give back to their community.”

The Slaughter-Wilkerson Endowed Scholarship will provide scholarships for students from York County with first consideration given to students from Slaughter’s hometown of Hickory Grove. Such scholarship support will allow talented students to pursue their educational goals in any of the fully accredited programs at Winthrop.

In recognition of Slaughter’s generosity, Winthrop officials named the first-floor conference room in the Sims Science Building the Slaughter-Wilkerson Conference Room during a March 6 dedication ceremony.

You Answered the Call!

This spring, student Phonathon callers surpassed their $115,000 goal, raising $131,113 in gifts and pledges for Winthrop. Each semester, Phonathon callers speak with alumni and friends of Winthrop to update them on university happenings and to encourage them to give in support of the Winthrop experience. Even in difficult economic times, the university’s loyal donors place a priority on supporting Winthrop, and that generosity is much appreciated.

Couple Professes Love for Each Other and Winthrop

Ann Campbell Tennant ’57, a 1953 graduate of the Winthrop Training School and Rock Hill native, has fond memories of her Winthrop days. A long-time supporter of the Winthrop Fund, Tennant knows that her support is vital to continuing the traditions which enriched her time on campus.

She recently returned to campus to celebrate her memories and to celebrate a new milestone – her recent marriage to John Tennant, a Winthrop Training School classmate. The two wanted photographs taken on campus in tribute to the way they met so many years ago. On March 14, following a small ceremony with their minister, the newlyweds took photos on the old Winthrop Training School front steps (now the Withers/W.T.S. Building). Through giving – and through the many years of Winthrop memories they share – the Tennants continue their Winthrop experience together.
This year’s May 15-16 Alumni Reunion Celebration welcomed more than 300 alumni with a glimpse of Winthrop’s past, via Tatlers and memorabilia, as well as campus trolley tours to view the university’s continued progress. Class receptions and meetings, along with the awards luncheon, added the final touches to a successful weekend.

1. Left to right: Bette King Waters ’49, Dettie Austin Piper ’49 and Joan Taylor Caughman ’49 stopped for a quick hello on the front steps of Tillman while checking in for the weekend festivities.

2. Members of the Class of 1979 walked to Tillman’s front steps for a group photo.

3. Annie Laurie Sturkey Gebauer ’39 displayed her diploma that she generously donated to the university, along with the 1890 Winthrop Training School diploma of Nannie Leona Powell.

4. Class of 1969 graduates showed their school spirit and sang Winthrop’s alma mater in McBryde Hall during reunion activities.

5. Dressed in wide-brimmed hats and their Sunday best, members of the Class of 1959 wait at the trolley stop outside Tillman.

6. From left: Carole Anderson Shelton ’74 and Vickie Smith Cothran ’74 shared a laugh with friends on the front steps of Tillman.

7. Left to right: Barbara Ballew Beam ’59, Edna Snelgrove Elledge ’59 and Alice Murphree Kelsey ’59, members of the Golden Girls class who were celebrating their 50th reunion, checked the “Who’s Coming Board” to see which classmates were attending.
Campus News

Winthrop Celebrates D.B. Johnson Memorial Organ Restoration with August Festival

To commemorate the long-awaited restoration of Winthrop’s D.B. Johnson Memorial Organ, the Department of Music and the Organ Restoration Campaign will host a series of workshops, lectures and concerts Aug. 13-16.

The lineup of events will include a series of four free public concerts at 7:30 p.m. in Byrnes Auditorium. On Thursday, Aug. 13, several Winthrop alumni organ majors will play the first public concert since the organ was reinstalled in January 2009. World-renowned organist and recording and concert artist Richard Elliott will perform a recital Friday, Aug. 14. On Saturday, Aug. 15, Winthrop’s Professor Emeritus of Music David Lowry, curator of the restoration campaign, will perform. Finally, on Aug. 16, Robert Ridgell, associate organist of New York’s Trinity Episcopal Church, will perform a program that will feature work composed by Winthrop music faculty member Leonard Mark Lewis.

In addition to the concert, Ridgell will hold a workshop on improvisation on Friday afternoon and Elliott will offer a master class on Saturday morning. Registration for both must be received by Aug. 1.

Winthrop’s D.B. Johnson Memorial Organ, an Æolian-Skinner organ installed in 1955 in Byrnes Auditorium, was sent to the Letourneau Organ Company in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, in May 2007 for a complete restoration. More than $322,000 has been raised to date for the restoration. Now 54 years old, the organ is considered one of the most historic instruments in the Southeast.

For more information about the organ festival or to register for the master class or workshop, contact Department of Music Chair Don Rogers ’75 at 803/323-2255 or e-mail Lowry at lowryd@winthrop.edu. To contribute to the organ restoration campaign, please contact J. Terrell May, director of philanthropy, at 803/323-2150.

A Campus of Champions!

• Congratulations to the women’s tennis team on earning its third NCAA tournament appearance in the last four seasons. The team secured the automatic bid to the NCAA tournament when it won its 12th Big South Conference title. Off the court, senior Patricia Coimbra accepted the Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award for the second straight season. Coimbra also received the conference’s prestigious George A. Christenberry Award for Academic Excellence, the highest academic honor given by the Big South Conference.

• Senior softball outfielder Lisa Kingsmore accepted the Big South Conference Player of the Year Award as well as Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors.

• Head Women’s Golf Coach Jodi Wendt and player Brittany Penny earned head coach of the year and freshman of the year honors, respectively, at the Big South Conference Women’s Golf Awards Ceremony.

• Junior Travis Coleman captured the shot put title during the Big South Conference Outdoor Track Championship. With the title, Coleman became an automatic qualifier for the NCAA Regional. Other NCAA qualifiers included senior Kandrick Cooper in the 110m hurdles and sophomore Jared Baird in the javelin.

• In March, the women’s basketball team made its first postseason trip since it became an NCAA Division I member in 1986. In addition, the team posted back-to-back winning records in the regular season for the first time in history at the Division I level.
Campus News

Pinnacle Leadership Society Inducts Five Business Professionals

The College of Business Administration honored two of its distinguished alumni and three area business leaders at the April 30 Pinnacle Leadership Awards reception and banquet. The Pinnacle Leadership Society celebrates those individuals who through vision, determination, leadership and perseverance have shaped the world in which they have operated.

“The individuals in the Pinnacle Leadership Society serve as role models (for our students) as they enter the workforce and find their place in this world,” Roger Weikle, dean of the College of Business Administration, said.

This year’s honorees include: F. Merritt Wilkerson, retired from Wilkerson Oil/Wilkerson Fuel, for the Tower Award for Lifetime Achievement in Business; Jerry H. Padgett, retired dean of the business school at Winthrop, for the Summit Award for Lifetime Commitment to Education; Carlos E. Evans of Wachovia Bank, and president of the Winthrop University Foundation, for the Advocate of the College Award; Margaret Wicklund ‘87 of Lance, Inc. for the Distinguished Alumni Graduate Program Award; and Terry Grayson-Caprio ’85 of KPMG for the Distinguished Alumni Undergraduate Program Award.

Three Faculty Members Recognized for Teaching, Scholarship and Service

Winthrop recognized three faculty members for their teaching, scholarship and service during May graduation exercises. During the May 9 undergraduate Commencement ceremony, President Anthony DiGiorgio bestowed the Distinguished Professor Award, the highest honor the university may bestow upon a faculty member, on Stephen Smith, professor of political science, and

Outstanding Junior Professor Award on Adolphus Belk Jr., assistant professor of political science, and

Faculty Award to Brad Witzel, an associate professor of curriculum and instruction in the Richard W. Riley College of Education.

Show Off Your Garnet and Gold!

Margaret Thomson McCallum ’49 (left), a Union, S.C., native now residing in Palatka, Fla., displayed her Winthrop pride during a trip to the Grand Canyon with her daughter, Jane Robbins (right).

Have you displayed your Winthrop apparel in an amazing or unique place? If so, send a photo of you in your Winthrop gear, along with a brief description, to wualumni@winthrop.edu. To be considered, photos must be in focus. The best photos will be published in upcoming Winthrop Magazine editions.
Meet Your 2009 Alumni Award Winners

During the May 16 Alumni Reunion Celebration luncheon, the Winthrop Alumni Association honored four graduates for professional achievements and community service. Meet the four honorees below:

Scott Middleton ‘81 of Columbia, S.C., accepted the Alumni Professional Achievement Award. As owner and chief executive officer of Agape Senior, Middleton provides significant leadership and vision. His background in financial accounting, health administration and as a United Methodist minister allowed him to create a company where senior citizens can spend their last years in a loving environment and a faith-based atmosphere.

Christine Needham Catoe ‘02, ‘04 of Fort Mill, S.C., was honored with the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. The vice president for marketing and public relations at Family Trust Credit Union, Catoe continues to remain active with the College of Business Administration as a mentor for the Students in Free Enterprise program and she has promoted company sponsorship for Winthrop’s athletics program.

Mary Elizabeth Lucas ’59 of San Antonio, Texas, accepted the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award. During a 30-year military career, Lucas held assignments at various hospitals, including Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Brooke Army Medical Center. Named chief of the Army Medical Specialists Corps, Lucas assumed the highest position that a physical therapist could attain in the Army. Her career culminated with an appointment to the Surgeon General’s office.

Kasey Johnston Walther ’69 of Marietta, Ga., received the Alumni Distinguished Service Award. Walther, the outgoing president of the Winthrop Alumni Association, was honored for her dedicated service as chair of the association’s executive board.

Left to right: Middleton, Catoe, Lucas and Walther

Save the Date!

Homecoming
Winthrop University
Nov. 14, 2009
Let Us Hear From You!

Do you have a new job, marriage, baby or other life-changing event that you would like to share with the Winthrop family? If so, please send in your information to be included in a future Winthrop Magazine issue. Since several methods that we utilized to obtain alumni information are no longer available, we need you to let us know of your latest accomplishments. Please e-mail wu-alumni@winthrop.edu or call 803/323-2145 or 800/578-6545 to submit your news.

Following Years Abroad, Betty Creamer Applies Leadership Expertise to Texas School

Betty Creamer ’73 has made a career by blazing new paths. In the past 10 years, she has lived and worked in Korea and Japan, first training teachers on military bases in Korea, then developing community and alumni relationships at the American School in Japan. Creamer now lives in Bryan, Texas, and serves as head of school at St. Michael’s Episcopal School where she emphasizes strict academic standards and community involvement. She is providing valuable leadership to the school as it moves beyond its foundation stage, and she has incorporated many lessons she learned abroad in the multicultural, multinational school.

“Winthrop made me fearless. It let me know that I can do anything, so when opportunities arose to travel to foreign countries, I didn’t hesitate. That is the greatest gift Winthrop gave me and the one for which I am most thankful, the confidence to believe that I can do anything,” she commented.

Congratulations to the Newly Retired!

George Anne Moss Marston ’62
La Jolla, Calif.

Judith Belk Askins-Jacobs ’63
Lydia, S.C.

Marie Tibshrany Burgess ’64
Greenville, S.C.

Cathryn Price Partridge ’64
Manakin-Sabot, Va.

Carol House King ’66
Greenville, S.C.

Shirley Tylee Hopper ’72
Moncks Corner, S.C.

Beth Easterling Smoak ’74
Pinopolis, S.C.

Roxanne Ulmer Catoe ’78
Rock Hill

Sally Elaine Summers ’78
Union, S.C.

Mary Paget Cognetti ’85
Austin, Texas

Gloria Ann Kelley ’99
Charlotte, N.C.

1944
“The Gifted Heart,” a recently published book by Huntsville, Ala., resident Dorothy Tallon Arnts, tells the life story of her mentally challenged child.

1946
Chrysanthe Pappas Plevritis of Fort Lee, N.J., was recently chosen as a lender for items she submitted to the Wedgewood-250 Exhibition to be on display at the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum in Washington, D.C., beginning in October.

1969
Mirial Gainer of Ebetsu Shi, Hokkaido, Japan, completed the 2007 Honolulu Marathon and the 2008 Three Day March in Higashi-Matsuyama, Japan.

1980
Mark Huguley lives in Ruby, S.C., and works as a freelance writer.

1987
Spartanburg, S.C., resident Rodney Graves was recently promoted to director of secondary programs for Spartanburg School District Seven.

1988
Northwestern High School in Rock
Milestones

1993
Orlando, Fla., resident Jeffrey Revels is the artistic director for the Orlando Repertory Theatre.

1998
Oak Pointe Elementary School teacher and Irmo, S.C., resident April Anderson Gaura recently earned national board certification.

1999
Providing all photography and design services for Red K Photography, located in Charlotte, N.C., is Kelli Howard Boling of Fort Mill, S.C.

2000
Robert Compton of Rock Hill recently accepted a job as an education associate in the Department of Exceptional Children with the S.C. Department of Education.

2005
Serving in the Peace Corps in Ukraine is Jonathon Campbell of Hartsville, S.C.

Selected as Secondary Beginning Teacher of the Year for South Pointe High School was Rebecca Rockholt of Rock Hill.

2007
Amanda Jackson of Lexington, S.C., serves as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, West Africa.

Births

Andrew Louis Collier ’92, a son, Joseph Cartwright Collier, Feb. 18, 2009
Stephanie Hill DiStasio ’95 and Stephen Lloyd DiStasio ’96, a daughter, Natalie Sophia DiStasio, April 18, 2008
Dalene Carroll Gibson ’95, a daughter, Jalin Gibson, Jan. 9, 2009
Sarah Hartline Swain ’96, a daughter, Rachel Swain, July 29, 2008
Hannah Young Quincannon ’97, a son, Christopher Michael Quincannon Jr., Dec. 24, 2008
Brennon Demarco Graham ’00 and TriQuila Flowers Graham ’01, a son, Brennon Demarco Graham II, Jan. 22, 2009
Jerrod Belton Lowry ’01 and Molly Hood Lowry ’05, a son, Kendle Blake Lowry, Dec. 31, 2008
Jane DeZern Capel ’03, a son, Davis Edward Capel, Aug. 8, 2008
Megan Goddard Thomas ’03, a daughter, Lynden Kennedy Thomas, Jan. 20, 2009

Marriages

Ann Gibbons ’57 to John Tennant Jr.
Traci Long ’97 to David Westin
Chad Richard Steele ’97 to Wendy Wilder
Julianne Guzman ’98 to Adrian Flores
Adrian Jennette Duckett ’00 to Keith Wilks
Shayna Lynne Preston ’00 to Carl Matthew Frey
Caroline Wylie Thomas ’00 to Chadwick Desportes Smith
Michael Scott Ferragut ’02 to Stefan Adam Wisikoski
Elizabeth Rachel Hutchinson ’05 to James William Sterling
Shamona Monique McClary ’05 to Bobby Lee Fernanders Jr.
Janet Louise Shaver ’06 to James Kenneth North Jr.

Class Notes

Hill honored Bryan Coburn as its Teacher of the Year, and he later was named the S.C. Teacher of the Year.

Ann Gibbs ’57 to John Tennant Jr.
Traci Long ’97 to David Westin
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Michael Scott Ferragut ’02 to Stefan Adam Wisikoski
Elizabeth Rachel Hutchinson ’05 to James William Sterling
Shamona Monique McClary ’05 to Bobby Lee Fernanders Jr.
Janet Louise Shaver ’06 to James Kenneth North Jr.
## Milestones

### 1920s
- Nell Horton Mulligan ‘26
- Lou Helen Cook ‘28
- Katharine Dantzler Senn ‘29

### 1930s
- Ruby Russ Arnold ‘30
- Dorothea Stanley Thomasson ‘30
- Sallie Gibson Bankhead ‘31
- Mary Sims New ‘31
- Louise Hinson Bell ‘32
- Virginia Haile Dawson ‘32
- Mary Griggs Dunn ‘33
- Prue Ballard Houser ‘33
- Ray Beaudrot Young ‘33
- Ella Cooper Bell ‘34
- Frances Ione Rogers Bradley ‘34
- Adele Kirkland Lyle ‘34
- Jacqueline Wienges Patrick ‘34
- Emily Hodges Ligon ‘32
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- Adele Kirkland Lyle ‘34
- Jacqueline Wienges Patrick ‘34
- Emily Moore Reeves ‘34
- Carrie Rawls Burnett ‘35
- Margaret Alman Mann ‘38
- Ruth Benton McGinn ‘38
- Katherine Reese Pamplin ‘38
- Catherine Yates Reynolds ‘38
- Johnnie Hoke Smith ‘38
- Ruth Hanvey Woodham ‘38
- Mary Eloise Corley ‘39
- Mary Louise Greene ‘39
- Mamie Katherine Ritchie Hearne ‘39

### 1940s
- Mary Ramsay Dobbins ‘40
- Christine Currie Funk ‘40
- Evelyn Lanford Miller ‘40
- Ruth Dixon Nelson ‘40
- Virginia Herring von Lehe ‘40
- Elizabeth Epps Barbery ‘41
- Mildred Chapman Cooper ‘41
- Mildred Ackerman Dandridge ‘41
- Jewel Young Gill ‘41
- Virginia Brockinton Gourdin ‘41
- Helen Cochran Keaton ‘41
- Lucy McArthur Padgett ‘41
- Margaret McClary Campbell ‘42
- Frances Hammond Hixon ‘42
- Zelda Newsome Kuhn ‘42
- Martha Spencer Martin ‘42
- Milwee Snell Rush ‘42
- Jeanne Winter Shipley ‘42
- Joyce Buford Clinton ‘43
- Glenn Proctor Hannon ‘43
- Motte Legare Hay ‘43
- Frances Burns Hogan ‘43
- Nella Jean Swenson ‘43
- Thelma Mickle Wilkins ‘43
- Kathleen Hyman Cohen ‘44
- Frances Rivers MacDowell ‘44
- Celeste Humphreys Morrison ‘44
- Barbara Walker Wuestenberg ‘44
- Evelyn Allen Linder ‘45
- Anne Pitts McCabe ‘45
- Sara Carter Mills ‘45
- Harriette Myers Stevenson ‘45
- Katherine Harrington Kline ‘46
- Jacqueline Britton Miller ‘46
- Miriam Spires Anderson ‘47
- Betty Biggs Leslie ‘47
- Sara Neese Linder ‘47
- Evelyn McDonald Rash ‘47
- Rosa Weinberg Schwartze ‘47
- Erma Bell Stoudenmire ‘47
- Anne Hendrix Cobb ‘48
- Mary Claire Jeffers Osborn ‘48
- Sara Holston Hallman ‘49
- Emma Tisdale Holway ‘49
- Betty Griggs Millwood ‘49
- Mary Faye Haselden Perdue ‘49
- Mildred Holmes Prince ‘49
- Wylene McLurkin Kylie ‘49

### 1950s
- Jo Ann Huggins Cooper ‘50
- Nancy Katherine Curtis ‘52
- Gloria Herlong ‘53
- Carolyn Weathersbee Hill ‘53
- Peggy Stevenson Renner ‘54
- Anna Rogers Anderson ‘55
- Frances “Peggy” Hand Hester ‘55
- Nann Mitchell Martin ‘56
- Peggy Koon Gould ‘57
- Barbara “Bobbie” Mealing Hagins ‘57
- Laura Ballard Sheppard ‘59

### 1960s
- Trudy Brown Destefano ‘61
- Mary-Lee Houchins Lee ‘63
- Betty Davis Riddle ‘63
- Sharon Holobaugh Burch ‘67
- Rita Shetley Stringfellow ‘68
- Beverly Anne Weeks-Perkins ‘68

### 1970s
- Vickie Ernandez Conn ‘70
- Betty Tarrant Vaughn ‘70
- Sarah Page Holliday ‘72
- Jean Cason Mundy ‘72
- Jeanne Byerly Wilhelm ‘72
- Shirley Cheraw Durham ‘73
- Margaret Mulkey Johnson ‘74
- Barber Knightner ‘74
- Kathy Bowen Livingston ‘74
- James Kenneth Hood ‘75
- Deborah Dennis Jackson ‘76
- Virginia Smith Little ‘76
- Zora Fredrick Holmes ‘77

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- Mary Kirk Keller ‘80
- Sylvia Burnett Mitchell ‘81
- Melissa Lee Bryan ‘84
- Cecia Culp Craft ‘84
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- Lisa Franchina Roberts ‘89

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- Annie Mae Murray ‘90
- David Whitten Inman ‘93
- Brian Anthony McKee ‘94
- Nadine Davis Tolar ‘96
- Cynthia Jean Furr ‘97

### 2000s
- Robert Crawford Blakely ‘08
- Charles Alvin Boland ‘08
- Jordan Smith ‘08
- Angela Kay Bingner ’07 to Tyner Elgin
- Candice Addy Boatwright ’07 to Paul Padgett
- Erin Marie Duffy ’07 to Arpit Patel ’07
- Kelly Joan Ryan ’07 to Joshua Rion Coley
- Michael Jason Means ’08 to Rebekah Faith Craddock

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- Mary Langford Tiedeman ‘35
- Nell McNair Cassell ‘36
- Jane Kirby McCormick ‘36
- Lucy Graves Shuler ‘36
- Iris Stokes Wade ‘36
- Mary Pegram Davenport ‘37
- Enid Teal ‘37
- Lena Reid Miller Dunlap ‘38
- Annie Bankhead Heathershaw ‘38
- Margaret Alman Mann ‘38
- Ruth Benton McGinn ‘38
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“We give because Winthrop provides students not only the opportunity to receive an exceptional education but a chance to meet people from all walks of life. The numerous opportunities for students to participate in an array of clubs and organizations give each student varied experiences and memories that will last a lifetime. Winthrop becomes not only where you attended college, it becomes part of who you are. We give so that others can have the Winthrop experience.”

Rose Lemmons-Berry ’82
Business Administrator,
Providence Presbyterian Family Assistance Center Specialist,
S.C. National Guard
Annual Fund Loyalty Council, parent volunteer

Dani Berry
Junior
Psychology and exercise science major,
German minor
Javelin thrower, Winthrop track team

Bill Berry ’83
Forks Supervisor II, City of Rock Hill
Capt. (Retired),
S.C. Army National Guard
Annual Fund Loyalty Council, parent volunteer

Why we give...

The reasons for giving are different for each individual. Each gift, no matter the size, allows Winthrop to build upon its tradition of excellence and also demonstrates your support and commitment in helping Winthrop maintain its position as one of the best universities of its kind. There are numerous ways to give; please consider your reason for giving and call 803/323-2150 to learn more about gift opportunities.

www.winthrop.edu/development