

Alumni Association Board of Trustees Report

October 2019

Alumni Association Events and Programs

During summer orientation, the Alumni Association continued the second year of the Legacy Program. A legacy student is a child, grandchild, or sibling of a Winthrop alumnus/a who is seeking an undergraduate degree at Winthrop. As a family member of a Winthrop graduate, these students are continuing the Winthrop legacy. The program started for the 2018-2019 academic year with 101 first-time freshman legacy students. Starting the 2019-2020 academic year, there are 105 first-time freshman legacy students. The number of students in the Legacy Program is 206. The program will continue to grow each year as a new freshman comes to Winthrop.

The Alumni Association hosted a welcome reception for Byron D. Putman as the first African-American president for the Alumni Association on July 28. 104 alumni attended this event to support Byron Putman.

Alumni Chapters and Young Alumni Council

The Alumni Association supports nine regional alumni chapters: Atlanta, Charleston, Charlotte, Columbia, D.C. Metro, Myrtle Beach, Rock Hill, Triangle (Raleigh/Durham), Upstate (Greenville/Spartanburg). Each alumni chapter is responsible for hosting quarterly events throughout the calendar year. These events range from networking events, luncheons, wine and designs to watch parties supporting the Winthrop Eagles. Each chapter has between 1 and 3 chapter leaders to coordinate and plan the event. The Alumni Association encourages each chapter to move to different parts of their region to reach a larger number of alumni. Alumni chapter events are open to alumni in the region as well as board members.

One of the most successful events this year was the Upstate Alumni social at Topgolf in Greenville on Aug. 8. The event was a collaboration between the Upstate Alumni Chapter and the Upstate Young Alumni Council. Tickets were \$20 which included 2-hours of unlimited golf, food and non-alcoholic beverages. 66 alumni attend the event. The Columbia Alumni Chapter hosted a jazz brunch on Sept. 29. Tickets were \$20 which included a breakfast bar, coffee and fresh juices.

Winthrop Athletics hosted a social with the D.C. Alumni Chapter on Sept. 26 at Penn Quarter Sports Tavern in Washington D.C. Alumni chapter leader Christina Alexander took a poll on the chapter Facebook page asking alumni what events they wanted to see the chapter host. Athletics was a common interest. Christina worked with the Alumni Association and Athletics to host an athletics focused event. There were 20 alumni in attendance. Other chapter events this year have included: skating with alumni, networking after hours, Winthrop vs. Clemson baseball game, Charleston ArtWalk, Social at the Columbia Soda City Market and Escape Rooms.

The Alumni Association supports nine regional Young Alumni Councils: Charleston, Charlotte, D.C. Metro, Rock Hill, Upstate (Greenville/Spartanburg). Each Young Alumni Council is responsible for hosting two events a year, a networking event and community service event.

The Charlotte Young Alumni Council recently had a relaunch at The Brass Tap at South End with 15 alumni. The Rock Hill Young Alumni Council will host a launch event on Tuesday, Oct. 1 at Slow Play Brewing. The Charleston Young Alumni host a launch event on Monday, Oct. 14 at Uptown Social in Charleston, SC.

As of September 30, 2019, 237 alumni have attended an alumni chapter or Young Alumni Council event.

Alumni Executive Board

Alumni Executive Board welcomed three new board members in July. Pat Plexico Boutwell '84, Casey Munn Ferri '09 and Erica Smith '02, Eagle Club Board liaison. Pat Plexico Boutwell is from Greenville, SC, serves as a reunion committee volunteer and a co-leader for the Upstate Alumni Chapter. Casey Munn Ferri is an attorney for Crisp Cherry McCraw, PLLC in Charlotte, NC.

Attendance at the Alumni Association Homecoming Tailgate

2017: 1,073

2018: 685 (Tailgate time was shortened from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. to 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Alumni Reunion Volunteers

2017 was the first year the Alumni Association worked with reunion volunteers for their 5-year reunion through their 75-year reunion. Prior to 2017 the 40-year reunion class through the 75-year reunion class were the only classes who celebrated a milestone reunion. In 2017 there were 28 reunion volunteers for 15 reunion classes. In 2018 there were 31 reunion volunteers for 15 reunion classes. In 2019 there are 42 reunion volunteers for 16 reunion classes. This year the Class of 2014 through the Class of 1939 will be celebrating reunion in November.

Submitted by Brittany Neely