



WINTHROP  
MAGAZINE  
FALL 2020

## message from the **PRESIDENT**



Dear Friends:

I am happy to share with you that Winthrop has successfully navigated a fall semester that has challenged us to change habits, think and act differently, and adapt to our new normal amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The semester's class offerings featured a mix of in-person classes, remote instruction and a hybrid version that incorporated both in-person and online instruction. Our students, faculty and staff have worked hard to embrace change and thrive no matter the course delivery method.

Through it all, I have noticed that one characteristic has not changed: our community's unquenchable desire to learn. Great

teaching has continued and inquiring minds have still been ready to learn no matter how a course is delivered.

Throughout this *Winthrop Magazine* edition, you will read more about how students, faculty and alumni have embraced learning during this unique and challenging time. I encourage you to read more about:

- *The scientific research that has placed Winthrop on the map for this work and brought in millions in grant dollars over 15 years;*
- *How Professor of Design Gerry Derksen spent his sabbatical creating an educational toy designed for autistic children;*
- *A new service-learning initiative that allows our students to safely help their local communities while learning remotely; and*
- *Compelling profiles on Antwon Sutton '02, '04, who worked his way up from driving a school bus to becoming a school district superintendent, and Nicole Davenport '15, '16, '20, who is examining equality, access and diversity throughout museums across the Southeast.*

As you can see, there are many great things happening at Winthrop. We vow to continue our COVID-19 vigilance and safety protocols so that we can come back from the holidays to an equally successful start and finish to the spring semester.

Thank you for being a part of this special Winthrop community. I hope that we are able to soon meet so that I can hear about how much Winthrop means to you.

Sincerely,

George W. Hynd  
Interim President

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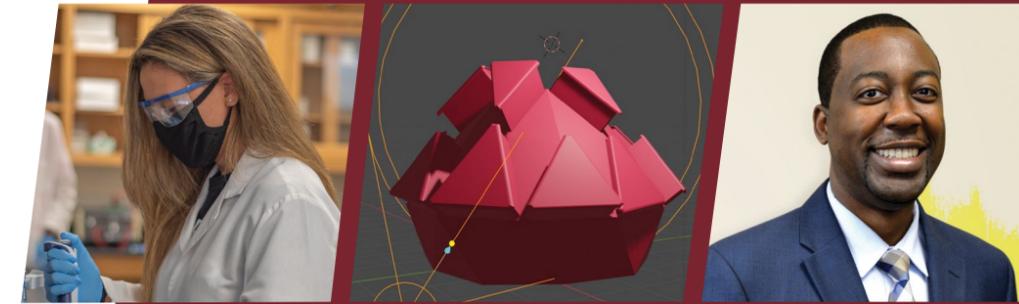
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## NOTES

About the cover: Faces of the freshman class make up this stunning image. The group had to forego the traditional class photo for COVID-19 safety reasons, but each class member is a special part of the Winthrop community of learners.

*Winthrop Magazine* is published for alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends of Winthrop University by University Communications and Marketing.

Winthrop University offers equal opportunity in its employment, admissions and educational activities.

All cities referenced in editorial content are located in South Carolina unless otherwise indicated.

# SCIENCE RESEARCH GRANTS ENHANCE THE WINTHROP EXPERIENCE

The halls and laboratories of Winthrop's science facilities in Dalton and Sims bustled this summer despite restrictions due to COVID-19.

Faculty researchers wrapped up the third phase of the university's South Carolina IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (SC INBRE) grant to enhance the state's biomedical research and infrastructure. Additionally, faculty and student collaborators worked on a National Science Foundation-funded Materials Assembly and Design Excellence in South Carolina (MADE in SC) grant.

Through grants like these, particularly SC INBRE, Winthrop has provided hundreds of student-centered research experiences since 2005, increasing the matriculation of participating students into graduate and professional programs. These grant-funded initiatives also have been a catalyst for enhancing STEM-specific infrastructure and brought more than \$12 million to Winthrop over the years.

Takita Sumter, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a former researcher in the program, said Winthrop's biomedical research for the past 15 years with SC INBRE has greatly enhanced its regional reputation in science.

"The first rounds of INBRE positioned Winthrop to recruit a critical mass of faculty and provided the

necessary equipment infrastructure for Winthrop's competitive selection for MADE in SC," Sumter said. Also, the collaboration with faculty at South Carolina's research institutions helped provide additional expertise.

**The Department of Chemistry, Physics and Geology** recruited materials science faculty — in the areas of solid state photochemistry, hydrothermal crystal growth and supercapacitors — which positioned Winthrop to join nine other S.C. institutions in the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Track I funding for Research Infrastructure and Improvement.

Winthrop's MADE in SC grant portion is \$1.2 million. Chemistry Professor Nicholas Grosseohme, who also is director of the university's undergraduate research, has worked with students on INBRE-funded work and for the past two years on a separate \$25,000 collaborative research grant in the materials science field.

One of the main benefits of SC INBRE and MADE in SC, said Sumter, is the number of new scientists that

*Juniors Alexandra Perez, above, and Brandon Ellison, right, worked with Chemistry Professor Nick Grosseohme on a grant to test proteins in the body.*

they have brought to the state, either through undergraduate and graduate training or through faculty recruitment.

The latest SC INBRE grant, which was renewed for the fourth time and began in September, allotted Winthrop \$920,000 of the state's \$18.9 million portion. Funded from the National Institutes of Health, specifically the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the grant will last through 2025.

It will support continued undergraduate research training, expand recruiting efforts to attract additional motivated science students to Winthrop and grow the Eagle STEM Scholars Program, which prepares students from underrepresented, low-income and first-generation groups to matriculate into doctoral programs.

Winthrop is one of 14 South Carolina member institutions participating in the grant.

## More Departments Involved

Thanks to the success of these initiatives over the years, other disciplines and departments now are involved.

**The Department of Human Nutrition** joined in this latest grant so faculty-student research teams can assess interactions among stress, diet quality and gastrointestinal health. This funding will expand the department's emphasis from community engagement research to include the basic science of nutrition for humans.

Another related effect of SC INBRE was the creation of a new degree program at Winthrop. **The Department of Mathematics** has participated in the grants by offering students the chance to apply mathematical models to health problems. The department launched a new bachelor's degree in data science this fall to broaden applications to various disciplines.

## Students Benefit Most

Since 2004, more than 350 students have been engaged in research aimed at improving the state's understanding of health and disease.

"In all, the programs have provided cutting edge research experiences for Winthrop students with many lasting up to two years. These students have presented and published about their research and then competed for positions in industry, graduate programs or pre-health programs across the country," said Robin Lammi, the INBRE grant's principal investigator and chair of the Department of Chemistry, Physics and Geology.

More than 100 students have gone on to pursue doctoral and professional studies.



## Positive Outcomes Achieved; More Grants on Horizon

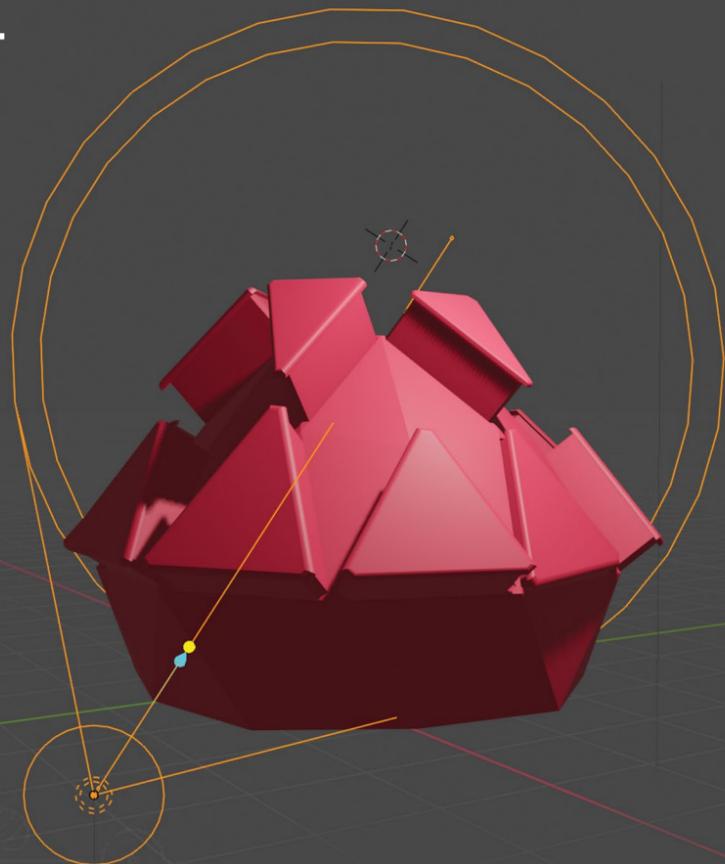
The biology, chemistry and mathematics departments all observed increases in retention within those majors and in the number of degrees conferred between 2013-18.

Because undergraduate research is a high-impact practice, Sumter said, she believes that the research experiences and close interactions with faculty played a key role in students choosing to remain in their major and at Winthrop.

The benefit of INBRE funding to students and faculty cannot be overstated, Sumter said.

And there is more exciting work ahead, she added, with at least four proposals for federal funding currently under review totaling more than \$1 million.

# NEW SMART TOY TAKES SHAPE



Design Professor **Gerry Derksen** is fascinated with how autistic children learn.

“I got interested in the subject because of former First Lady Michelle Obama, who started a program for girls who fall between exceptional and in need,” Derksen said. “The students I am working with are in the middle of the spectrum who need help but are not severely impaired but also don’t demonstrate exceptional skills.”

That learning process is fundamental to Derksen’s Ph.D. dissertation, “Educational Smart Toys for Autistic Children.” He took a sabbatical last year from Winthrop to work on a graduate degree in design technology and culture from University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign (UIUC), one of the top programs in the country.

Derksen’s dissertation examines how to identify patterns in student learning to aid them with their dis-

ability. Now with the advent of artificial intelligence, there are ways to explore neural networks and ways to predict human behavior. Derksen said educational game developers understand the importance of relating content to game action to reinforce learning, and then he applied that knowledge to create a smart toy.

“Capturing these physical interactions as well as more traditional assessments of progress help us map the learning process and teaches the intelligent toy to provide support if it encounters struggle,” Derksen said.

Children with autism typically have a hard time transitioning from one subject to another, he said.

His smart toy design is equipped with machine learning to predict the best plan for individual children and to accommodate for their emotional state. He reasoned that the more likely a child with autism is ready to learn, the better chance he or she will be engaged and acquire the information.

The toys can predict if a student is disinterested or fixated based on patterns, then it will look for ways to interest the student in the next steps or with new topics.

Each session of play is captured using sensors built into the toy to create a pattern of learning. The learning pattern is assessed based on previous 10,000+ sessions increasing the probability to predict the next action. These patterns may help society understand how students learn as well as promote the best opportunities for learning.

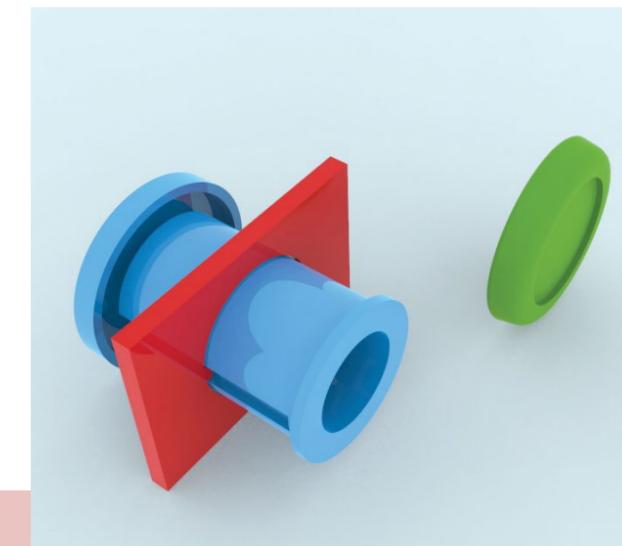
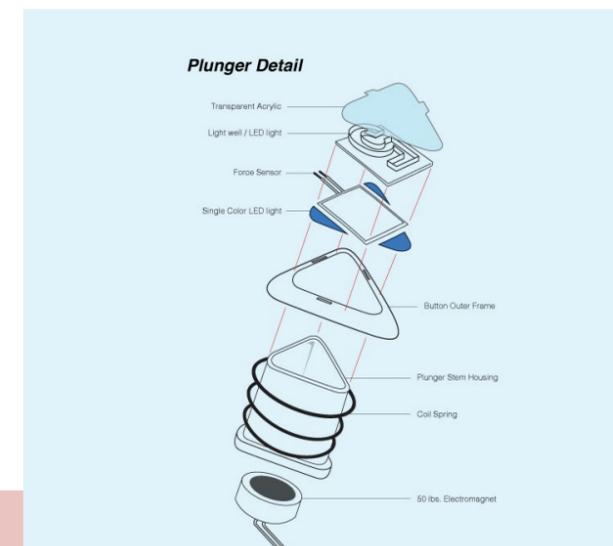
Derksen, who joined the Winthrop faculty in 2001, has published research on human behavior, cognition and perceptions of interactive media, visualization and designed experiences. He teaches in the **digital information design** area where students learn about user experience design, usability and visual media.

Since August 2018, Derksen’s toy project has gained interest in academic journals and funding bodies for its initial development. The prestigious journal *Formy* out of the University of Krakov in Poland published a prospectus entitled “Learning patterns: Intelligent toys for children with autistic disorders” that provides a detailed framework of the study.

The toy project has received funding from two granting bodies; the first from the Campus Research Board at the University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign that funds innovative research projects. Derksen is working with the grant’s principal investigator, Stan Ruecker from the Department of Art + Design at UIUC.

The second grant came from the University of Illinois’ Technology Innovation in Educational Research and Design (TIER-ED) group. Derksen was awarded a 2020-21 graduate fellowship and grant for the toy’s preliminary user study that implements the first functioning prototypes.

Derksen will continue to work on the toy this fall with help from the TIER-ED fellowship grant. He said there are no current plans to commercialize the toy, though plans may change.



*Pictured are preliminary drawings and prototype samples of Derksen’s project.*

# SERVING APART BUT TOGETHER FOR CHANGE



The COVID-19 pandemic may have changed the way people do things, but that doesn't change the fact that people can, and should, help one another.

Apart But Together For Change, a fall 2020 Winthrop initiative, makes it possible. The program is an ideal compromise for students who feel more comfortable learning remotely this semester, yet still want to make a difference and add value to their degrees.

Spearheaded by Jeannie Haubert, **chair of the Department of Sociology, Criminology and Anthropology**, the initiative pairs four courses — Intro to Language and Culture; Principles of Sociology; Intro to the Criminal Justice System; and Sociology of Health and Illness — with one-hour service-learning projects. This nearly completes a sociology minor or puts a student halfway to a sociology major, Haubert noted.

"In each class, students propose a service project," she explained. "The faculty member will have some starting points for potential projects that connect to the course, but the thought is that the student best knows the needs in his or her community. We want to empower them to be creative problem-solvers and active citizens in their own communities."

Assistant Professor of Anthropology Brent Woodfill is supervising one of the program's students, Orion

Hanna, as well as teaching the Intro to Language and Culture course. He appreciates the program's ability to apply the learning to everyday life.

"College students and faculty have a tendency to separate academic inquiry and everyday life to the detriment of both," Woodfill said.

*"What's in the classroom often just stays there, and it's hard to really think about our own experiences and how they relate to what we're learning from books and lectures. Service learning blows that all up and can help bridge the gap between academia and 'real life.'"*

- Brent Woodfill

Bridging that gap certainly appeals to Hanna, a psychology major.

"I didn't have service-learning experience," Hanna explained. "[Apart But Together For Change] gives me an opportunity to practice a foreign language."

Hanna will be working with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to assist students who have limited English proficiency with their learning.

For Stephanie Vasquez Loaeza, it's also about helping others. She had previously volunteered at an animal shelter and loved the experience. Now, she's helping children from underserved communities who are navigating virtual learning for the first time with their homework.

"I wanted to be of use to people who need it," said the psychology major. "I enjoy trying to make others feel better, and a way to do that is to lift a weight off their shoulders. By helping out these students with homework, they are able to focus and do their work ahead of time so they do not have to worry about deadlines coming up so fast."

She hopes she'll have more chances to help others, and she sees a huge benefit to volunteer work and service learning.

"People should get involved with volunteer work because some of us are more fortunate than others," she said. "If we have the privilege of offering time to people who would greatly appreciate it, then we should offer it. There are children who go home to an empty house because their parents have to work, so if we can be there to help with some basic needs, they could really benefit from that. It's important for children to know that they matter."

Interested in participating in Apart But Together For Change? Contact Jeannie Haubert at [haubertj@winthrop.edu](mailto:haubertj@winthrop.edu).

Interested in service learning? Contact the **Center for Career Development and Internships** at 803/323-2141.

## Service Learning in Action

Service learning has always been an integral part of the Winthrop experience, from volunteering at homework clinics to working in gardens, from packing lunches to celebrating the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., from volunteering for Alternative Spring Break projects to spending time with, and putting smiles on the faces of, local senior citizens.



*Close Scholars, who commit to 112 hours of community service each semester, and faculty paused for a photo after cleaning and clearing garden plots.*

# RISING THROUGH THE EDUCATION RANKS



**Antwon Sutton '02, '04** worked his way up through the education ranks to become a top administrator, but he had no idea he would be starting his first year as superintendent of Chester County School District navigating a pandemic and its impact on K-12 education and students.

In the midst of it all, he has had to redefine the role of school superintendent amid the unpredictability of the pandemic and concerns from parents and families.

“The superintendent of today must be visible, accessible and knowledgeable at all times. Emotions are high when it comes to children, and the stakes are high when it comes to public education,” Sutton said.

“I know there’s so much more work to be done.”

Jennie Rakestraw, dean of the Richard W. Riley College of Education, agreed that there is a long road ahead to tackle the challenges that students, teachers and school staff are facing because of COVID-19. The “new normal” will involve much more use of online learning and various technologies, she said.

“Now that teachers are becoming more adept at teaching online and stretching themselves professionally to be even more flexible and creative, schools and the teachers may not fully go back to their ‘old normal.’ As we prepare teachers in the years ahead, we need to enhance how we prepare



our students to teach online, to explore how new technologies can be used, and to become bold innovators in the teaching-learning process,” Rakestraw said.

Sutton believes instruction will become more personalized and mastery-based, where students will focus on individual learning pathways. Equally important, Rakestraw added, is equipping teachers — via teacher preparation programs — to help students manage emotional and social stressors exacerbated by the pandemic.

For Sutton, who taught high school and has been a principal in Clover and Goose Creek, serving students and helping people have always been his motivation. It’s a valuable quality he learned during his upbringing that was further developed as a student at Winthrop.

“I am always striving to be a source of strength and support to others,” said Sutton, who drove public school buses during his time at Winthrop to help pay for his tuition. But he was more than a bus driver, he was a mentor and supporter to the children who boarded his bus each day.

“Winthrop was a university that had the best interest of its students at heart. The education I received at Winthrop aided in preparing me for my role as a school superintendent. The opportunities to pursue my career aspirations were readily available at Winthrop,” said Sutton, who earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a Master of Arts in Teaching.

As a Winthrop student, Sutton was embraced by a strong support system. Keith Benson, the former College of Business Administration graduate program director and healthcare management professor, saw potential in Sutton early on. Winthrop basketball legend Pierre Wooten '02, '05 instantly became his best friend during freshman Orientation.

“He was a strong man of faith and someone always willing to support and help when he could. We were like brothers back then and we still are now. He’s been a prayer warrior for me as I’ve accomplished milestones in my life,” Sutton said of Wooten.

One of his biggest influences was Anthony White, former director of transportation for Rock Hill Schools, who became an important mentor and father-figure for Sutton while he was away from his parents. White, who passed away in 2012, was his biggest supporter and provided words of wisdom Sutton still cherishes.

Sutton wants to channel those who mentored him along the way and be a similar source of inspiration to others, all while connecting with families and putting children first.



Nicole Davenport '15, '16, '20 can pinpoint two constants throughout her life: her love of art and Winthrop.

## PUSHING FOR ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE MUSEUMS



Growing up in Anderson, Davenport explored her artistic side by drawing, painting and sculpting with clay. “I was interested in making things and would use whatever materials I could,” said Davenport.

Her parents and public school art teachers supported and encouraged her, and she knew early on that she wanted to become an art teacher.

Her grandmother, Emmie Smalley '65, and aunt, Leslie Davenport Hutto '97, had attended Winthrop, so Davenport knew it would be a perfect fit to continue exploring her love for art and art education.

What she found set her up for success. “The art department has small classes that allowed me to form relationships with my classmates and professors. We felt secure with one another and could provide constructive critiques of one another’s work without hurting feelings,” said Davenport.

After graduating with her Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts with an emphasis in printmaking and sculpture, she went straight into the Master of Arts in Teaching 5 program, which allowed her to earn her master’s

degree in one year. She then taught middle school art for one year before reevaluating her career path.

“That year provided me with an incredible growth experience. I learned a lot about myself, and I realized that I wanted to pursue a different path,” she said.

She applied for an installation position with the Winthrop University Galleries, and she knew it was a great fit. She was drawn to the educational component of gallery work, and she worked her way up to galleries assistant director and planned programming, met with artists, curated material and taught a Galleries Practicum course in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Her supervisor, Karen Derksen '10, a graduate of Winthrop’s Master of Arts in Arts Administration (MAAA) program, encouraged Davenport to pursue an MAAA degree.

“Nicole’s inspiring creativity, tireless energy and endless enthusiasm made her one of our most valuable employees. Her entrepreneurial work and beautiful creations in textiles excelled during her graduate studies in the arts administration master’s program,” said Derksen.



It was the MAAA program’s capstone project that really piqued Davenport’s interest. She researched galleries and museums in the Southeast to determine how they are making their offerings accessible to visitors. “Accessibility, diversity and inclusion in museums are more relevant now than ever before,” said Davenport.

What she discovered after researching what worked for the museums, what didn’t, best practices and more, could be broken down into three categories: communication (how do museums/galleries utilize two-way communication with their visitors?), content (what do visitors want to see?) and presentation (who do museums/galleries employ and can visitors relate to them?)

She took her research, which earned first place in the Graduate School’s **Three-Minute Thesis Competition**, and turned it into an exhibition this fall entitled “Future Study,” which she showcased in Winthrop’s Elizabeth Dunlap Patrick Gallery.

“I was so happy that we could take this opportunity to showcase all the hard work Nicole put into her capstone project and to celebrate her achievements,” said Derksen.

As for the future, Davenport, who graduated in August with an MAAA degree, plans to pursue a full-time

position in museum programming. “I’m proud of the work that I’ve done, and I plan to continue this research and hope to apply the findings beyond my capstone project,” said Davenport.

***“One commonality that I discovered is the need to listen. Museums and galleries should be listening to members of their communities as to what they want to see. I also discovered that there already are museums and galleries fighting hard against systemic hindrances, and I can’t wait to see how other institutions will follow their lead.”***

- Nicole Davenport

## Winthrop Emphasizes Importance of Voting; Efforts Recognized for Third-Straight Year

For the third year in a row, Washington Monthly has recognized Winthrop for its success in getting students to vote.

The university is among the top 50 in the Student Voting Category of the **2020 Washington Monthly College Rankings** and one of only three institutions listed from South Carolina.

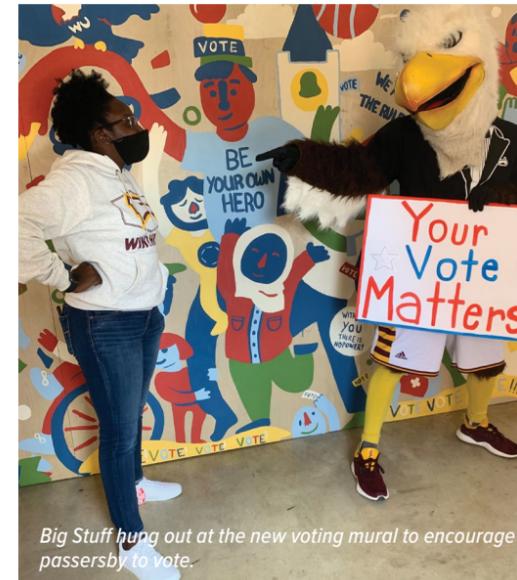
Across the campus, Interim President George Hynd, faculty members, student voting ambassadors and the athletics department urged students to make their voices heard.

Voting ambassadors made social media pushes on Facebook and Instagram to remind students to register to vote and to either vote early by absentee ballots or to vote in person on Election Day.

Other efforts included:

- Regular emails to students, faculty and staff that explained all aspects of voting and deadlines;
- Posters around campus about how students could file for an absentee ballot;
- Art program print art and voting mural in the breezeway between McLaurin Hall and Rutledge Building;
- Sponsorship of programs presented in the residence halls related to voting and absentee ballots;
- Voting information made available on the John C. West Forum on Politics and Policy website and on the voting FAQ page;
- Voting registration materials distributed through ACAD classes; and
- Departmental social media campaigns.

The Winthrop Athletics Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee spearheaded voter registration, education and action efforts for the athletics teams. This included holding a non-partisan virtual workshop entitled “Rock the Hill! Rock the Vote!” and an in-person, team-by-team voter registration and ballot request drive with all 16 of the university’s NCAA teams and Esports. At the drives, the department achieved 100 percent voter registration of student-athletes.



Big Stuff hung out at the new voting mural to encourage passersby to vote.



Lacrosse student-athletes rocked their vote T-shirts.

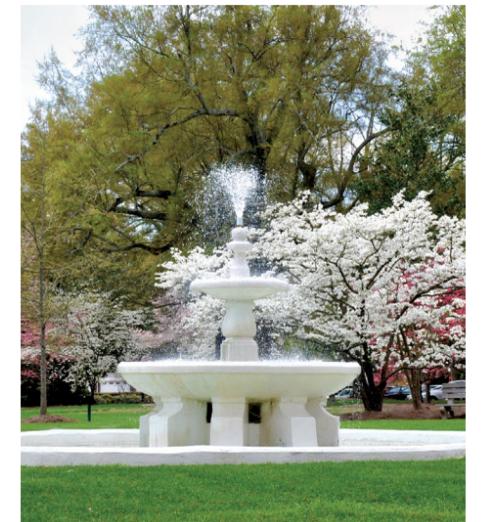
In social work, a graduate class created a voter education/engagement event in conjunction with students’ field placements. They integrated voter registration, education and outreach into their field agencies’ service delivery/culture during Early Vote Week of Action. Teams worked with Charlotte agencies or partnered with When We All Vote and York County Board of Elections for resources, strategies and best-practices to support their events.

## Winthrop Moves to Highest U.S. News Ranking; Earns Other Third-Party Endorsements

Winthrop continues to round up the accolades. The university was recognized for its strong commitment to undergraduate teaching, its attention to veterans, the social mobility of its graduates and its innovation, according to the **U.S. News & World Report’s 2021 edition of “Best Colleges.”**

Accomplishments included:

- Moved from 17th to 13th place among regional universities in the South, marking its best overall ranking in 26 years.
- Rose from 8th to 7th place among best colleges for veterans.
- Placed 12th for most innovative schools.
- Held on to 11th place for best undergraduate teaching as judged by peers.
- Ranked 23rd for social mobility, a category that measures how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants.



In addition, this fall, **The Princeton Review** praised the university for its diverse student body and beautiful campus in its “Best in the Southeast” rankings, and **Money Magazine** named the university to its “Best Colleges for Your Money 2020.”

## TRiO Support Grant Re-funded for \$1.375 Million

The U.S. Department of Education re-funded a federal Student Support Services (SSS) grant of \$1.375 million to help more Winthrop students graduate from college.

**The TRiO Achievers Program**, first funded at Winthrop in 2005, is designed to increase the academic performance, retention rates and graduation rates of program participants.

The array of services provided to qualified students are comprehensive and will include academic tutoring, financial aid advice, career and college mentoring, and help in choosing courses.

TRiO participants have a remarkable success rate: 99 percent of TRiO participants are in academic good standing at the end of the year; 97 percent return for their second year; and more than three-fourths graduate within five years.



## John Brazell Joins Board of Trustees

South Carolina lawmakers voted on Sept. 23 for John Brazell '93 of Columbia to join the **Winthrop University Board of Trustees**. Brazell will serve a six-year term.

He ran unopposed and replaced Donna Glenn Holley who represented Congressional District 2 and opted not to run for re-election.

Brazell has been an independent branch leader and financial consultant with Charles Schwab since 2017. He holds a psychology degree from Winthrop.



## Shaun Cassidy Named Newest Thompson Scholar



For the first time since 2016-17, Winthrop has appointed a new Thompson Scholar: Professor of Fine Arts Shaun Cassidy.

The \$5,000 award, generated through the Robert and Norma Thompson Endowment which was established during the university's first capital campaign, is given to support work on projects that strengthen the academic, intellectual and co-curricular life of the university. While in previous years the award had been for course-release funding, this year marks the first time the Thompson Scholar received a monetary award.

Cassidy noted that the Thompson Scholarship will allow him to introduce students to the many facets of being a public artist, including project application, ideation, model building, fabrication and installation of projects. The goal, he said, is to help equip students with these real-world skill sets that will help them apply for public art projects upon graduation.

## Three New Degrees Launched to Fit Job Market

This fall, Winthrop introduced three new undergraduate degree programs: Bachelor of Arts in data science; Bachelor of Science in applied software development; and Bachelor of Science in educational studies.

Provost Adrienne McCormick noted that these three offerings are timely and necessary to provide students with degrees to fit the needs and demands of the current job market.

The Bachelor of Arts in data science is ideal for students with high quantitative reasoning skills who are interested in mathematics and computer science.

There is currently only one undergraduate program in data science in the Carolinas.

The Bachelor of Science in applied software development is targeted to students who have completed an associate's degree in applied science in computer technology.

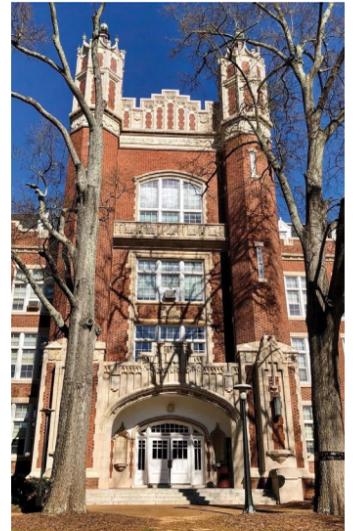
The Bachelor of Science in educational studies will help students who decide later to pursue teacher certification in early childhood education, elementary education, middle-level education or special education.

## Rex Institute Receives Outstanding Partner Award

The Rock Hill School District recently recognized Winthrop's Jim and Sue Rex Institute for Educational Renewal with the 2020 Outstanding Partner Award for its assistance in helping a local elementary school with its lack of space.

For years, The Rex Institute has worked with Rock Hill Schools in teacher preparation and professional development programs, awarding grants to teachers and schools to implement innovative and unique ideas, and providing on-going professional learning opportunities to area teachers and administrators.

For the 2019 and 2020 school years, The Rex Institute added another element of support to Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School, and that was space. As enrollment has soared, the school could no longer host special events and performances in its cafeteria or on its tiny stage. The school was able to host student performances and promotion ceremonies in auditoriums and venues on the Winthrop campus before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. School administrators were grateful and recognized the institute at a recent Rock Hill School board work session.



## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like...

Since the Dec. 4 Rock Hill Christmas Parade will be held virtually due to COVID-19, Interim President George Hynd, First Lady Alison Hynd and their dog, Curry, took time recently to film the university's parade submission, which was a reading of a Winthrop-themed edition of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." The virtual parade will begin on Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. and will broadcast on **CN2** and on the **Rock Hill Parks, Recreation and Tourism Facebook page**. [View Winthrop's video submission.](#)



## Sports Teams Adapt to Adjusted Seasons

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) recently announced when college and university sports teams could begin competition that had been paused due to COVID-19. These dates are for the start of the regular season schedule through the Big South Conference tournament competition. NCAA tournaments and championships will follow when announced:

- Men's and Women's Basketball – season start date is Nov. 25; season end date and conference tournament start date to be determined.
- Men's and Women's Cross Country - Jan. 23-March 5
- Men's and Women's Soccer - Feb. 3-April 17
- Volleyball - Jan. 22-April 3

At the time of this *Winthrop Magazine* printing, no decision had been made regarding fan attendance at games. For more information, please visit [www.winthropeagles.com](http://www.winthropeagles.com) or call **803/323-2129**.

## Partnerships Boost College of Business Administration

The College of Business Administration is making strides in its partnership program to provide a transformative education and prepare career ready graduates.

The college has welcomed five partners at the President's Level of giving (\$20,000 or higher) over the past 15 months. In September, Dean P.N. Saksena announced a partnership with Truist at a contribution of \$20,000. Earlier this year, Carroll Financial made an investment of almost \$45,000 to support student success initiatives.

These partnerships are examples of the college's strategic goal to develop alliances with national, regional and local organizations. Saksena said access to such resources is vitally important.

"We are committed to student success! Gifts like these ensure that we continue to invest in initiatives aimed at achieving our mission – to provide a transformative education, to a diverse student body, in the heart of the Carolinas," Saksena said.

The partnerships also help further a variety of CBA initiatives, including professional development, business acumen program, high-impact practices (i.e., internships, study abroad, research projects), and stackable credentials.

Contact Saksena at [cbadean@winthrop.edu](mailto:cbadean@winthrop.edu) if you are interested in becoming a partner.

## Student Emergency and Assistance Fund Support Continues

Ongoing support to the Student Emergency and Assistance Fund continues to impact students hit hardest by COVID-19.

Earlier this spring, the university thanked Winthrop supporters for achieving a Giving Tuesday Now goal of raising \$25,000 for the emergency fund. Since then, the fund has increased to over \$36,000 and has helped students navigate financial hardships and challenges related to remote learning, housing expenses, food insecurities, transportation and other basic needs.

The fund was set up through the Winthrop University Foundation with the Division of Student Affairs managing requests from students. Students have received an average stipend of \$500. Other emergency funding, including the Gloria Jones Fund, also has been active during this period.

To help students, contact University Advancement at **800/801-1083**, via email at [giving@winthrop.edu](mailto:giving@winthrop.edu) or visit [www.winthrop.edu/advancement](http://www.winthrop.edu/advancement).

## Thank you, Linda!

Please join the Alumni Association in thanking Linda Knox Warner '80 for her 33 years of dedicated service as treasurer of the Alumni Executive Board. As treasurer, Linda also served as an ex-officio member of the Winthrop University Foundation board since 1987. In September, Linda was selected to serve as a board member of the Winthrop University Foundation.

Thank you, Linda, for your more than three decades of leadership and for all that you will continue to do for Winthrop!



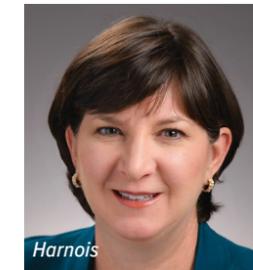
## Executive Board Update

Four alumni were selected to serve on the Winthrop University Alumni Association Executive Board. Sandra Daws '85, Jim Thrift '86, Suzanne Harnois '94 and Valida Foster '04 are all serving their first term on the board and will partner with the Alumni Association to connect with more than 60,000 alumni.

Three current board members were selected to serve a second term. They are Brenda Chase '89, Derrick Gainey '97 and Deb Dunlap '99.

In addition, Casey Ferri '09, who joined the Alumni Executive Board in 2019, was elected treasurer of the board.

For more information on the board, please visit [www.winthrop.edu/alumni](http://www.winthrop.edu/alumni).



## Class Reunions Moved to Spring

Due to COVID-19, Winthrop has rescheduled class reunion activities and events from November 2020 to spring 2021 to help ensure alumni can safely gather and celebrate. If your class year ends in a "0" or "5," you are celebrating a reunion year and will hear more from the Alumni Association for your spring 2021 class reunion.



## Celebrate the Season, Virtually!

Join the Alumni Association and Student Alumni Council for the 85th Annual Tree Lighting that will be held virtually this year. A beloved holiday tradition and part of Rock Hill's ChristmasVille celebration, the tree lighting will be held on Friday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m., and will be streamed via [www.facebook.com/winthropalumni](https://www.facebook.com/winthropalumni).



## Nominate a Deserving Alumni

Nominations for the 2020 Alumni Awards will be accepted through Friday, Jan. 29. The 2020 Alumni Award recipients will be honored at the Alumni Reunion and Awards Luncheon in spring 2021.

To nominate a Winthrop graduate for the Alumni Distinguished Service Award, Alumni Professional Achievement Award or the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, visit [www.winthrop.edu/alumni/alumni-awards](http://www.winthrop.edu/alumni/alumni-awards), complete the Alumni Awards Nomination Form for the appropriate award and submit to Lori Tuttle, executive director of alumni relations, at [tuttle@winthrop.edu](mailto:tuttle@winthrop.edu).

**1964**

“Do’s and Don’ts: Everyday Etiquette (and good manners) for Everybody,” written by Rock Hill resident **Linda Driggers Williams**, has been updated to a new version in Winthrop’s Digital Commons.

**1985**

**Carol Parrish** of Concord, North Carolina, received the 2020 Everlene Davis Award from the N.C. Department of Public Education.

**1988**

**Nickie Bulman Huckabee** retired as news anchor from WBTW News 13 in Florence.

The Artists Music Guild welcomed Charlotte, North Carolina, resident **Hade Robinson Jr.** as its newest board member.

**1991**

**Vann Newkirk** was appointed president of Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

**1992**

**Barbara McCraith** of Dallas, Pennsylvania, received professor emerita status from Misericordia University.

**1994**

The Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce named Blythewood resident **James McQuilla** as its new president.

**1996**

**Litasha Dennis** of Spartanburg

earned the 2020 S.C. Independent Colleges and Universities’ Excellence in Teaching Award.

**1997**

**Bradley Robinson** of Simpsonville was recognized as the S.C. Financial Literacy Master Teacher Program Educator of the Month.

**1999**

**Reginald Coles** of Charlotte, North Carolina, was promoted to director of student discipline and behavior support for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

**Abel Jackson** of Charlotte, North Carolina, was one of 16 artists selected to paint the Black Lives Matter murals.

**Ameca Carter Thomas** of Gray Court was named superintendent of Laurens County School District 55. She also has released her first children’s book, “You Can Be Anything!”

**2000**

**Jamie Webb Brooks** of Waxhaw, North Carolina, was appointed principal at Ardrey Kell High School.

**Page Bullington** of Charleston is the president and general manager of Blackbaud Foundation Solutions.

**Richard Eppes** of Fort Mill was named principal at Gold Hill Middle School.

Whitmire resident **Joy Route** was named 2020-21 Teacher of the Year at Fairfield Magnet School for Math and Science.

**2001**

**Kevin James** of Atlanta, Georgia, was named the 19th president of Morris Brown College.

**Sonya Woods** of Conway was named a master strength and conditioning coach by the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association.

Fort Mill resident **Grey Young** was promoted to executive director of student services for the Fort Mill School District.

**2002**

**Gina Barksdale Jenkins** of Fort Mill was named director of human resources for the Rock Hill School District.

**Bernard Wheeler** of Duncan joined First Reliance Bank as a relationship banker.

**2003**

**Bianca Chivers-White** of Rock Hill was named principal at Old Pointe Elementary School.

**Elissa Cox** of Fort Mill was appointed director of secondary education for the York School District.

**Savannah Copeland Steger** of Fort Mill was named principal of River Trail Elementary School.

**2005**

**Phil Hindson** of Fort Mill was named director of the ECNL Boys Program and College Program coordinator at the Charlotte Soccer Academy.

Rock Hill resident **Blaine Lahrs** was promoted to senior vice president of digital and innovation at Sharonview Federal Credit Union.

**2006**

**Willie Lyles III** of Rock Hill was chosen to participate in the U.S.-Spain Council and Fundacion Consejo Espana program.

**Steffanie Taylor** of Sumter was named a finalist for the Sumter School District Teacher of the Year Award.

**Jermaine Whirl** of Simpsonville was selected as the new president of Augusta Technical College. He also will participate in the 2020-21 Rising Presidents Fellowship program and was recognized by the 2020 Business Reports as the 2020 Forty Under 40 Awards winner.

**2008**

Rock Hill resident **Angelo Geter** is the recipient of the 2020 Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellowship.

**Jessica Kelly** of Astoria, New York, was selected by Delta Zeta Sorority as a recipient of the 35 Under 35 Award.

Kenya native **David N. Kenga** founded Elite Soccer Training Company, LLC., a non-profit afterschool outreach program in Columbia.

**Kelli Kirkwood Maydew** of Topeka, Kansas, has joined Forge Young Talent as executive director.

**Vilissa Thompson** of Winnsboro was among the Future 40 highlighted by BET for promoting self-advocacy among disabled people.

**2010**

**Candice Edrington** of Blair earned a Ph.D. in communication, rhetoric and digital media from North Carolina State University.

**2012**

**Brenton Coe** of Florence was named assistant principal at Brookland Cayce High School.

**Dawn Amerson Pugh** of Darlington established the Dawn Pugh Team real estate brand.

**Jordan Sease** of Lexington participated in the 106th Carolinas Amateur Championship at Cape Fear Country Club.

**2014**

Columbia resident **Zachary Christian** was promoted to deputy director of the S.C. Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission.

**Kobe Riley** of Mint Hill, North Carolina, was appointed deputy director of Greensboro Parks & Recreation.

**Sharifa Yasmin** of Ladson was one of four recipients selected to participate in the 2020 National Directors Fellowship.

**2015**

**Ladson Fishburne** of Walterboro was named head coach for the girls tennis teams at Colleton Preparatory Academy.

**2016**

**Lia McKay** of Rock Hill was named assistant principal of Northside Elementary School of the Arts.

**Hannah Strong Oskin** of Myrtle Beach joined the staff at the Myrtle Beach Post and Courier.

**2017**

Lyman resident **Lindsey Hawkins** was selected by Delta Zeta Sorority as a 2020 recipient of the 35 Under 35 Award.

**Vivian Segnini** of Rock Hill was appointed head coach of Virginia Commonwealth University’s women’s tennis program.

**2019**

**Rachel Beanland** of Richmond, Virginia, published her first novel, “Florence Adler Swims Forever,” which was named a Barnes & Noble Club pick for July.

**2020**

**Alexis Brindley** of Marietta, Georgia, was among 1,401 women’s collegiate golfers named 2019-20 All-American Scholars by the Women’s Golf Coaches Association.

**Alisa Soloveva** of Fort Worth, Texas, was a nominee for the NCAA’s 30th annual Woman of the Year Award.

**BIRTHS**

**Kristina Pasquino-Frates '05**, a son, James Alan Frates, March 6, 2020

**Portia Myers Brown '09**, a girl, Zuri Paris Brown, Dec. 30, 2019

**Lauren Cairco Dukes '09** and **Patrick Samuel Dukes '10**, a son, Daniel Zechariah Dukes, May 6, 2020

**Casey Munn Ferri '09** and **Eric Anthony Ferri '07**, a boy, Jack Lewis Ferri, June 19, 2020

**Michelle Renee Ransom '10**, a girl, Danielle Johnson, May 15, 2020

**Melody Lewis Gravely '11**, a girl, Emerson Gravely, July 2019

**Brittany Nicole Guilfoyle '11**, a son, Blake Crew Gore, Dec. 12, 2019

**Brianna Carter Shropshire '14**, a girl, Ava Shropshire, March 2020

**Morgan Barradale McDonald '17** and **Dakota Charles McDonald '18**, a son, Wells McDonald, Oct. 2019

**IN MEMORIAM**

**1930s**

Helen Peden Medlin '34  
Carolyn Cobb Simpson '36  
Lillian Clarke James '39

**1940s**

Jane Westerlund Oneppo '43  
Kathryn (Kitty) Willis Puryear '43  
Louise Reynolds Horde '45  
Florence Rush Potts '45  
Louise Stevenson Thomas '45  
Mary (Louise) League Williams '45  
Jacquelyn Williams Cooper '46  
Carolyn Hardwick '46  
Frances Miller Jones '46  
Caroline (Eleanor) Breeden Patton '46  
Ollie (Faye) Morris Brown '47  
Harriett Setzer Hindman '48

Alice Elizabeth Lee '48  
Ernestine Willis Gleason '49  
Rebecca Cox Jordan '49  
Janie Davis Kendrick '49  
Mildred McClain Looper '49  
Betty Bagwell Shuler '49  
Jacqueline Bell Sorensen '49  
Aileen Dickson Wallace '49

**1950s**

Evelyn Platt Vaden '50  
Edna Grainger Guthrie '51  
Beverly Floride Lee '51  
Thelma Gasque Lewis '51  
Nita Forehand Sparks '51  
Betty Palmer Watkins '51  
Marjorie Lytle Hollifield '53  
Evelyn Scott Odom '53  
Shirley Green Routh '53  
Jacqueline (Jackie) Smith Wansley '53

Helen Shewmake Moore '54  
Joyce Morgan Baker '55  
Joyce McCall Beckham '55  
Marilyn Pollard Raines '55  
Barbara Youngblood Buie '56  
Martha (Marty) Owens Kent '56  
Elizabeth (Betty) Milligan Starnes '56  
Mildred (Ann) Harrelson Byrd '57  
Wilma Ratchford Craig '57  
Catherine Huggins Fleming '57  
Mary Derrick Henry '57  
Marilyn Nathanson Pierpont '57  
Jessie Stanley DuBard '58  
Elizabeth (Jane) Rogers Bachman '59  
Margaret (Peggy) Satterfield Walter '59

**1960s**

Dorothy (Ann) Sherrill Jacobs '60

**MARRIAGES**

**Nickie Bulman Huckabee '88** to **A. Watts Huckabee '89**

**Jordan Nicole Epperson '19** to Joseph (Joey) Benjamin Kindig

**Let Us Hear from You!**

Do you have a new job, were recently married, welcomed a baby or experienced another life-changing event that you would like to share with the Winthrop family?

If so, please let us know by submitting the alumni update form which can be found at [www.winthrop.edu/alumniupdate](http://www.winthrop.edu/alumniupdate).

Nelle Jonas Pittman '61  
Doris Addy Langley '62  
Ellen Finerty Lynch '62  
George Ann Moss Marston '62  
Cecil Slocumbe Smith '62  
Linda Cooley Allison '63  
Judy Ayers Redman '63  
Nancy Elizabeth Fouché '64  
Susan Dye Jacobs '66  
Lees Dinsmore Baldwin '68  
Linda Jean Lattimore '68  
Sue Alton O'Connor '68  
Elizabeth (Betty) Chelf Hall '69  
Fay Wilson Hartis '69

**1970s**

Ruth McKinney Henry '70  
Stewart (Ann) Barnwell Dragner '71  
Julia Dale Parker '71  
Vessie Jean Burkins '72  
Karen Brownlee Glenn '72

Columbus Ross Bratton '73  
Rosamond Rollins Coleman '73  
Martha Strawn Iley '73  
Marteil (Elaine) Thomasson Baker '74  
Helen Keisler Dorn '75  
Yvonne Barnette Bowman '76  
Phyllis Arledge Gosnell '76  
Russell Eaton Weymouth '76  
Harry David Winders '76  
William (Bill) David Kelly Sr. '79

**1980s**

Warren Beale Smith '80  
Charles E. Wilson '81  
Janet Stevens Roberts '82  
Lois Dickinson Edwards '85  
John Anthony Law '86  
Nell Warwick Thomas '87  
Etta Inez Travis '87  
Charles (Chip) M. Knight '88

**1990s**

Robert Carson Moody '90  
Mark Andrew Dimmick '94  
Kelly Ryan Mittelmeier '96  
Kelly Brown Arnold '98  
David Eugene Rogers '99

**2000s**

Stephanie Marie Sulligan '07

**2010s**

Carol Thomas Bagwell '16



University Communications and Marketing  
200 Tillman Hall  
Rock Hill, SC 29733

If you are a parent of a recent graduate and your son or daughter no longer resides at this address, please call **803/323-2145** or email **[alumni@winthrop.edu](mailto:alumni@winthrop.edu)** so we can update our information.

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# MORE THAN a GIFT

YOUR SUPPORT ENRICHES AND EQUIPS STUDENTS!

A year like no other, 2020 has reminded us that change can happen quickly, and that caring for each other makes an important difference as we face life's challenges. We invite you to consider options for supporting Winthrop:

- *Donor-advised fund: A transfer to Winthrop makes an immediate impact.*
- *Stock: A gift of appreciated stock held at least one year avoids capital gains tax.*
- *Cash: The CARES Act created special rules for cash gifts in 2020.*
- *Retirement assets: IRA owners age 70½ or over can make a charitable distribution directly from an IRA.*

Our free resources can help with your planning. Contact the Division of University Advancement at 800/801-1083 or [giving@winthrop.edu](mailto:giving@winthrop.edu).