



WINTHROP MAGAZINE



SUMMER 2020

message from the **PRESIDENT**



Dear Friends:

Since the last *Winthrop Magazine* edition, the university has continued to navigate the uncharted waters of COVID-19. We successfully completed the spring semester via remote instruction, transitioned into virtual Summer Session and are now carefully and strategically planning to welcome our students back to campus in August.

COVID-19 affected nearly every aspect of university life, as you'll read about in this edition. It remains top of mind for all of us working toward our 135th academic year.

Our campus community has remained resilient through these last few months and has embraced change with grace and perseverance. It hasn't been easy, and there are certainly more challenges ahead as we keep a watchful eye on the virus. But I can honestly say that the Winthrop spirit is alive and well, and I witness its strength daily.

This magazine edition contains a variety of COVID-19-focused content. I encourage you to read more about:

- *The university's swift response to the pandemic;*
- *The creative teaching methods used by our visual and performing arts' faculty;*
- *The genuine concern for our students' well-being that was exemplified by a College of Business Administration faculty member;*
- *How our student-athletes were affected by the cancellation of spring sports seasons; and*
- *A compelling profile on Gregg Davis '92, director of Public Health Laboratories at George Washington University, whose team of scientists is learning more about the virus every day.*

This edition also notes the 24 years of visionary leadership and service of President Emeritus Anthony J. DiGiorgio, who passed away in May. The outpouring of support that the Winthrop community has shown to Dr. DiGiorgio's family during this time has truly revealed his great legacy here. I know that his wife, Gale, daughter Darrah and his extended family have appreciated beyond measure the thoughts, prayers and support that they have received.

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

Sincerely,

George W. Hynd
Interim President

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FEATURES

ANTHONY DIGIORGIO PASSES AWAY	2
CAMPUS COVID-19 RESPONSE	4
CVPA GETS CREATIVE DURING PANDEMIC	8
GOING THE EXTRA MILE	10
INTERNSHIPS TAKING ON NEW SHAPE	12
GREGG DAVIS '92 STUDIES COVID-19	14
BASEBALL HAS UNFINISHED BUSINESS	16
BREAKING THE STIGMA	18

DEPARTMENTS

CAMPUS NEWS	20
ADVANCEMENT NEWS	24
ALUMNI NEWS	25
CLASS NOTES	26
MILESTONES	27

EDITORIAL STAFF

MONICA BENNETT, *editor*
PETER AIRHEART, *senior designer*
contributing writers:
NICOLE CHISARI '09, '16
KAYE HAYES
JUDY LONGSHAW

NOTES

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VISIONARY PRESIDENT ANTHONY DIGIORGIO PASSES AWAY

Anthony J. DiGiorgio, who served as the ninth president of Winthrop for 24 years, passed away on May 20 in Tucson, Arizona, where he and his wife, Gale, had retired. He was 79.

Under the leadership of Anthony DiGiorgio, who was named president emeritus and distinguished professor in 2013, Winthrop achieved university status, then experienced a renaissance and period of unparalleled growth, becoming recognized nationally as one of the best public institutions of its type by several publications. For more than two decades, the university received accolades for academic excellence, student character development, commitment to racial diversity, student programming, sound fiscal management and environmental and athletics achievements.

DiGiorgio's signature "Vision of Distinction" university-wide planning process produced a detailed annual work plan, aligned with the university's shared values, that guided faculty, staff and students in each year of progress. During his tenure, academic programs were re-designed to include a series of "Touchstone" courses teaching 21st-century core competencies, the campus footprint was expanded by more than 15 acres, and Winthrop completed a series of new and re-purposed facilities valued at more than \$100 million. He also built new relationships with Rock Hill by becoming a key leader in planning and launching the Knowledge Park re-development between Winthrop and downtown Rock Hill.

With his guidance the Winthrop Foundation launched its first capital campaign in 1997, surpassing its goal and raising \$31.2 million, and its second in 2011, which continued under his successors.

During his years at Winthrop, DiGiorgio also served two terms on the board of directors of the National Collegiate Athletics Association, as a member of the board of the Charlotte division of the Federal Reserve Bank, and as the South Carolina representative to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' State Leadership Council.

Locally, he was a member of the board of the Charlotte Regional Partnership for Economic

Development, the boards of York County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation, and numerous professional organizations until he left the presidency in 2013.

He retired from Winthrop in spring 2017, and enjoyed both traveling and creating digital art from photographs taken worldwide.

Donations may be made through the Winthrop Foundation to The Mary Grace and Antonino DiGiorgio Endowed Scholarship, which was created by the DiGiorgios to honor the president's late parents. Alternatively, donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

What People are Saying

"He inspired others around his vision not only for the campus, but also how the campus would integrate into the Rock Hill community. It was a privilege to know him. ...We're thankful that we had the opportunity to have him." **Glenn McCall, Chair, Winthrop Board of Trustees**

"Dr. DiGiorgio was such a visionary and transformational leader that you did not work with him, for him, or serve under him during his presidency that you weren't impacted. He led us through some of the toughest times. We're drawing on that strength right now as our city, our community, our campus and our country are also going through a crisis today. Gale DiGiorgio was such an asset to him, to Winthrop, and the community. They, as a couple, were a wonderful role model for all of us." **Kathy Bigham '73, Vice chair, Winthrop Board of Trustees**

"Tony DiGiorgio had a vision for the greatness of Winthrop that was a part of the vision for the greatness of the city of Rock Hill. He is one of the reasons that the school, and the city, have achieved so much in the last quarter-century. He was a leader. You can look at what we have done and are working on -- Knowledge Park, other cooperative projects with Winthrop -- and Tony DiGiorgio was a part of the action to make those happen." **John Gettys, Mayor, City of Rock Hill**

"Tony was truly a man of vision and had a huge impact on the development of the Big South Conference as a two-time Conference President and chair of our Membership Committee. He wasn't a founding father of the Conference, but he might as well have been. That was the magnitude of his influence on the Big South." **Kyle Kallander, Commissioner, Big South Conference**

WINTHROP RESPONDS TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The 2019-20 academic year proved to be like no other in Winthrop's history.

The campus was affected by the city of Rock Hill's serious water main break in October before fall break. Students were sent home two days earlier than planned for the break as the broken water line dumped millions of gallons of water on Cherry Road and disrupted water service for much of eastern York County.

By January, news outlets started reporting on the first coronavirus cases in Wuhan, China. Within two weeks, travelers carried the virus to Japan, South Korea, Thailand, the United States and Europe. The virus moved rapidly through societies around the world and reached pandemic status. It received an official name: COVID-19, an acronym for coronavirus disease 2019.

By mid-March, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in the United States, and Winthrop closed its doors on March 16 due to orders from S.C. Governor Henry McMaster. The institution announced it would move to remote instruction following spring break in order to complete the spring semester. Faculty members worked quickly over the break to refashion their classes for remote instruction, while accommodations were made for students who didn't have

internet access or couldn't return home to finish out the semester.

Interim President George W. Hynd said that when he accepted the two-year appointment to lead the campus, he could not have envisioned what the university would experience as a campus community. He started work on March 2, cheered the men's basketball team to the Big South Conference Championship at the Winthrop Coliseum on March 8 and within a few days, ordered the campus closure which would allow only essential workers to report to their positions. Other employees worked remotely.

"As we pivoted to a totally new mode of teaching, learning and working in response to COVID-19, we were stretched in unimaginable ways, yet succeeded in making it through the spring semester under the most unusual set of circumstances," Hynd said in May.

Not only did Winthrop officials respond to taking care of students' academic needs, but also their mental, housing and financial needs. Some students struggled with anxiety, family issues and the new instruction format, according to Counseling Services' staff members. The office handled more than 80 clients weekly during the spring semester with individual counseling, group counseling and mediation management sessions.

Determining the Financial Impacts

The pandemic has cost the university millions in lost revenue from events, reduction in fees to students and the unexpected expenses incurred by moving courses online, according to Justin Oates, vice president for finance and business affairs/CFO.

Since students left at spring break and returned only to get their belongings out of the residence halls, the university made housing, dining and parking fee adjustments and returned portions of those fees to students. The fee adjustment process affected 2,960 students and involved distributing \$3.7 million to their accounts.

Winthrop was among many higher education institutions to receive federal money from the CARES Act. Of the \$5.38 million given to Winthrop, half of the money, \$2,691,065, went for emergency assistance to 3,835 students. Pell-eligible undergraduates received \$750, while non Pell-eligible students received \$550.

Members of Winthrop's Board of Trustees also voted to reduce the cost of Summer Session tuition. "We recognized the concern many students and families had about continuing the Winthrop experience during this unprecedented and challenging economic time," said Hynd. "The Summer Session tuition reduction was the right thing to do as it will help our students benefit from fewer dollars invested in progress toward their degree over the next few months. It was intended to help them stay on track for on-time graduation."

Vice President for Student Affairs Shelia Burkhalter and hundreds of other employees shifted to working remotely following the campus closure in March.

Student-Athletes Grapple with Spring Sports

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) cancelled spring sports seasons, which affected several Winthrop sports teams. The NCAA granted student-athletes an additional year of eligibility. About a dozen athletes – covering baseball, softball, golf and track – will take advantage of the extra year and will return for another season.

Six baseball players will take the field again in 2021 to try to capture the Big South title. Senior pitcher Colten Rendon, an exercise science major from Jupiter, Florida, said he decided to come back because he knew the team was special. "We could have had something great," Rendon said. "So it makes me excited to finish off one more season with hopes of dog-piling on the mound in the playoffs."

[Read more about the baseball season and the returning players' plans on pages 16-17.](#)



May Commencement Ceremonies Postponed

With heavy hearts Winthrop officials postponed the May Commencement ceremonies. The need for social distancing meant large events such as Commencement were no longer possible.

Hynd said that senior leadership felt strongly that students' Winthrop experiences should not end without appropriate recognition and celebration.

To provide graduates with recognition on what would have been the week of their May graduation, the university put together a **celebratory website** that included congratulatory video messages from Hynd, trustees, faculty members and administrators.

May graduates were surveyed for their feedback on ceremony alternatives and 33 percent responded that rescheduling the ceremony when it is safe to hold large, indoor gatherings would be their first choice.

Campus Begins Phased Re-opening

On June 1, Winthrop began phase one of a three-phase campus re-opening plan. Full-time employees who were unable to work remotely were the first, beyond essential employees, to return. On July 6, phase two began, with offices re-opening for 50 percent of the workforce. Plans for phase three, which will not begin any earlier than July 27, intend to have 100 percent of Winthrop employees back on the job. Employees returning to work are required to take proper precautions, such as wearing face coverings, adhering to social distancing, limiting office visitors and continuing to hold virtual, instead of in-person, meetings.

Remote Use of Computers Donated to COVID-19 Research

When the campus closed in mid-March, Winthrop donated remote use of some of its technology to combat COVID-19.

The university allowed its academic computer labs, as well as computers from its esports program, to be accessed remotely as part of the Folding@home (FAH) project spearheaded by Washington University.

The Washington University labs, now in their 20th year concentrating on disease research, have focused on harnessing more than 4.5 million available devices throughout the world to find drug pathways to kill the virus.

The FAH computer simulations are usually timed for down time, but with universities, including Winthrop, relying on remote learning during the spring and summer, on-campus machines are idle all day.

“By lending our computing power to this huge project, it’s a small way of helping an overall effort,” said Maria Arrington-Ferguson, director of technology services.

Folding@home is seeking weaknesses within the coronavirus’ proteins—looking for structures that could be altered to inhibit the virus’ ability to infect the body.

The more simulations the computers try, the better the chances of finding one that works.

There are around 260,000 teams involved in the project. Winthrop’s team name is: Fold ‘em Winthrop Wings and its team number is 260865. **[View the university’s profile.](#)**

Those with personal computers can also participate in the project, and can sign up using Winthrop’s team number.

Looking Forward to Fall Semester

With a new semester approaching, changes to the upcoming academic year have been announced. There will be no fall break in October; face-to-face instruction in the classrooms will end before Thanksgiving break; and Winthrop will move to remote instruction to finish the fall semester.

The academic calendar changes will hopefully help mitigate a possible spike in COVID-19 cases. “Traditionally thousands of students, faculty and staff would be returning to campus following fall break and Thanksgiving break. We weighed the public health risks of having our campus community return from these breaks, and the risks were significant as the country may be facing a second wave of COVID-19 at the same time that we typically experience an uptick in seasonal flu cases,” said Hynd.

According to Adrienne McCormick, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs,

faculty members are building their fall course plans and determining how the final weeks of course material will be covered remotely.

“This course planning differs significantly from the spring semester since the hybrid content delivery will be planned from the start. The expectations for student work during that time after Thanksgiving will depend on the courses they are taking, but in general, the final week of content and all final exams will be delivered and completed via remote instruction,” McCormick said.

The university’s top priority, according to Hynd, is to keep students and employees safe, all while continuing to focus on delivering the exemplary learning experience that students and families have come to expect.

To view the university’s comprehensive response to COVID-19, please visit the **[COVID-19 website.](#)**

Winthrop Community Weighs In

“Our faculty and leaders have been working hard to ensure we are as physically safe as possible. If we all follow health guidelines and also ensure we are supporting each other in regards to maintaining social connections in a responsible way, we will get through this together.”

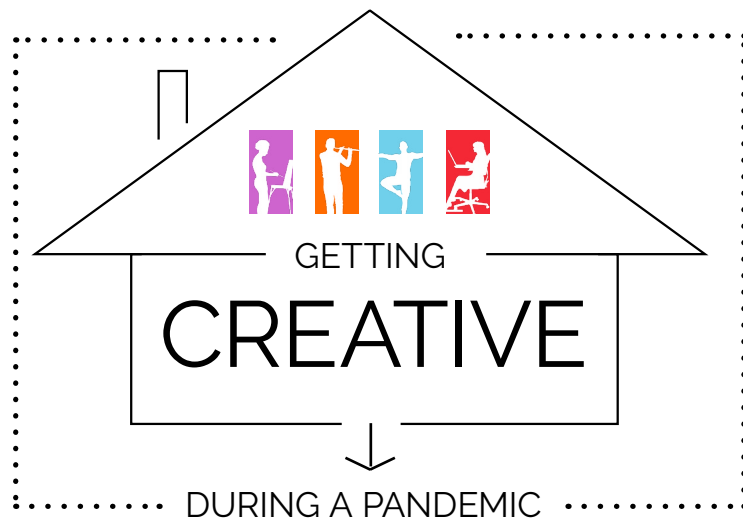
Melissa Reeves,
Associate Professor of Psychology

“Although times are hard due to these unfortunate circumstances, we are trying to bring the bright side out by encouraging one another and knowing these hard times won’t last forever. This situation brings together families that have lost time because of work and school. We are getting to know each other all over again.”

Joshua Byrd, rising senior
accounting major from Lugoff

“I often think about my privilege to work remotely when so many others are coping with sacrifices due to loss of income and employment. That’s a good reminder to take a deep breath and focus on what is essential during this time. I focus on my gratitude for our health and for my children and husband whose support makes coping with such a surreal experience manageable. This virus doesn’t care who you are or what you have to lose so it is up to each one of us to make decisions that benefit the greater good.”

Jackie Concodora, director of Health
and Counseling Services



Faculty and students in the **College of Visual and Performing Arts** employed their critical thinking skills and creativity like never before during the spring semester due to the campus' closure and the move to remote instruction.

Kelly Ozust, assistant professor of dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance, faced the unprecedented challenge of virtually continuing her dance technique classes, which typically require immediate feedback, partner work and a hands-on approach.

"I was inspired by how the students rose to meet this difficult challenge," Ozust said. "None of this was easy, but it showed me the resilience of students who are truly passionate about their majors, and want to push themselves to get better, even if they had to dance in their hallways, bedrooms and backyards."

Ozust used a variety of methods to continue teaching dance techniques, including a platform called FlipGrid that allowed her to film herself dancing at home, share it with the students, and then get response videos from them performing the technique exercises.

'Comforting beyond measure'

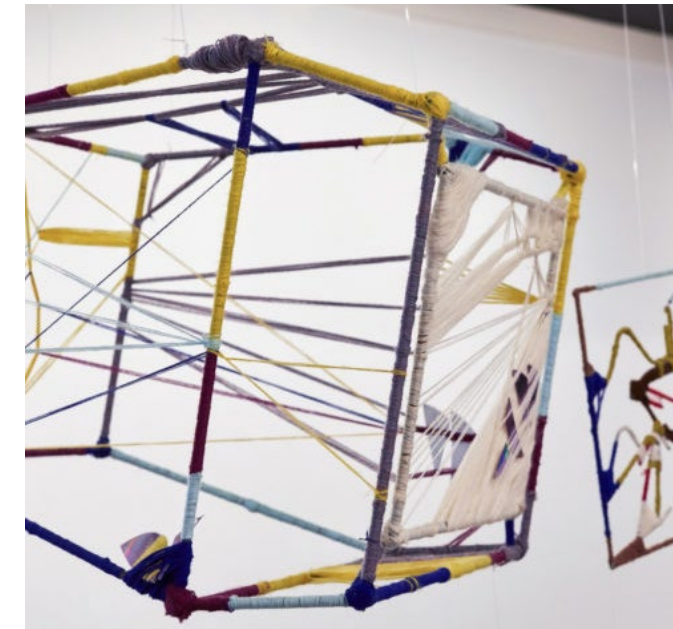
For students in the Department of Music, carrying an instrument between campus and their homes wouldn't sound like a challenge. But for one piano major, it wasn't as easy to pack up her instrument. Through the use of university contingency funding, student Savannah Gaymon received an upright piano rental at home, which was necessary to complete her coursework.

"I was extremely grateful that finding a place to practice was no longer an uncertainty," Gaymon said in a thank-you e-mail to administrators. "Music is a place of great comfort and peace to me, and having sure access to a piano may seem insignificant, but is comforting beyond measure."

Other music students that took required piano skills courses received keyboards at home.



Maggie Claytor
On Jamie Love's Wall



Amanda Campbell
Familial Bonds

The shows must go on

At the end of each academic year, seniors in the Department of Design hold their "Senior Show," often at an off-campus location. From the branding to promotion, students develop a look for the show and spend much of the spring semester promoting it.

The event, which was slated to take place in Charlotte, served as a way for graduating students to show off their portfolios, and it also provided an opportunity for them to meet with potential employers in the area.

"The biggest challenge I faced was the question, 'what now?'" said Jesse Weser, assistant professor of design. "The seniors looked at the event as their passage into the professional world. They kept asking me how to apply and get jobs now, and I didn't have an answer. I was pushing them to make

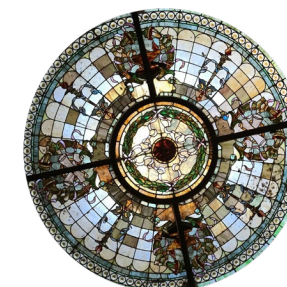
(when they could and felt like it) and get creative in promoting themselves and connecting with the creative community."

In lieu of a physical event, students were featured in individual spotlights on the **Design Senior Show website**.

Similarly, in the Department of Fine Arts, senior B.F.A. candidates transitioned their exhibition "What Was & What Will Be" from the Rutledge Gallery to a virtual exhibition. Assistant Professor of Fine Arts Claudia O'Steen and Department of Fine Arts Chair Karen Oremus believed that having the exhibition online was important, even though the exhibition will be open in August for visitors in-person. "The students worked really hard to reach this point in their careers, and we wanted to make sure that their work was seen," O'Steen said.

Alongside the artwork on display, students recorded digital artist talks that were posted on YouTube to share their research process with the audience. "The students were amazing," O'Steen said. "They were, of course, disappointed, because this exhibition was supposed to be a celebration of all of their hard work and accomplishments, but they also understood the need to come up with alternative solutions that kept people safe."

The exhibition is and will be open for public viewing this August in the Rutledge Gallery.



Learn more about
The College of Visual and Performing Arts

GOING THE EXTRA MILE



Whitney Garrett

Ask students what makes Winthrop special and they will say the faculty and staff who go the extra mile for their students. Sometimes, more than 150 miles.

In March, the university moved to remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. When Assistant Professor of Quantitative Methods Edie Dillé's methods in business course moved online, one of her students, marketing major Whitney Garrett, virtually disappeared.

“She was really engaged in the class [before the shutdown], She'd volunteer to work problems on the board, she'd ask questions when she had them and she had a good grade going into spring break and the campus shutdown.”

- Edie Dillé

Garrett's advisor, Professor of Marketing Jane Thomas, reached out to Dillé and asked how they could help Garrett finish the class successfully.

“When I found out Whitney was trying to do her coursework through her phone, I wanted to see if the university had any resources we could provide,” Dillé explained.

The Information Technology office agreed to lend Garrett some equipment, so Dillé drove more than three hours one way to meet Garrett to give her a laptop and hotspot.

A resident of Andrews, Garrett chose Winthrop for the care faculty and staff show their students.

“Based on word of mouth, the faculty and staff care about students' academics as well as their physical, mental and emotional standing,” she said. “The instructors and professors take their jobs seriously. The love is here at Winthrop University.”

'Grateful for their faith'

Garrett doesn't hesitate to share her story with other students, hoping it will encourage them.

Most students' college careers begin with registering for classes and purchasing books.

Garrett's began with her younger sister, Courtney, in the hospital. She registered, ordered books and went school shopping late due to the constant back and forth drive to Columbia to visit her sister. (Thankfully, her sister recovered and is now an English secondary education major at Winthrop.)

But the struggles weren't over: at the beginning of the 2019 spring semester, Garrett lost her uncle to suicide. The following week, as she and Courtney returned to campus, they were in a near-fatal car accident on I-77.

“I struggled with my grades because I fell into a depressive state and was diagnosed with anxiety disorder,” Garrett said. “My professors, advisors, the Academic Success Center, the deans and many more have been nothing but helpful and encouraging, and honestly, had more faith in me than I did in myself. They motivate and consistently stand in the battle with me.”

“Being back at home for the last two months has been rough. There's no Wi-Fi, and I proceeded to finish this semester with the use of my cellphone and laptop. Although I waited later than I should have, Dr. Dillé and Dr. Thomas, along with other professors, stepped in to help.”

- Whitney Garrett

She's especially appreciative of that help during this pandemic.

“I am grateful for their faith in me. I honestly wouldn't have made it this far had it not been for the support of my professors.”

Building relationships

Dillé sums it up like this: “Students are just people; they are just younger (usually). I heard a sermon once where the preacher's theme was, ‘It's all about relationship.’ I believe that.”



Edie Dillé

“One thing I love about teaching is that you get to meet and work with such a wide variety of people,” she continued. “We are all thrown together in a class for at least a semester and we get to know one another. While I only usually have direct contact for a semester or two, we often build relationships that last long after they graduate.”

Many students, like Whitney Garrett, are navigating challenges due to COVID-19. In response, Winthrop created the **Student Emergency & Assistance Fund** to provide assistance to those that need it.

If you are able to give to this fund, please consider supporting students with the greatest needs.



INTERNSHIPS TAKE ON NEW SHAPE

Completing a required internship continues to be a major academic degree component for many students. Education interns, in particular, were challenged as their assigned schools were closed due to COVID-19, forcing the students to demonstrate their flexibility with remote learning technology and different strategies to communicate with students.

Social studies interns connected COVID-19 to current events in the topics they were teaching.

Margaret Wilson Gillikin, an assistant professor of history and director of the social studies education program, said in geography classwork the virus played out in discussions of where it originated and where it has spread. In government classes, the virus was tied to issues related to voting, access to services and the government's role in people's lives. In economics classes, it connected through the economic shutdown and its impact.

"And finally in history classes, as we are living through a major historical moment that will be taught in history classes around the world for years to come, the tag line 'We are all in this together' is

really what civic engagement is all about," said Gillikin.

Intern Beverlee Fernandez, a graduate student from Spartanburg, quizzed her Northwestern High School students in a U.S. History class she helped teach.

"One way to maintain some sense of the old normal was to have students answer a question of the day. Some days it would be something more conversational," Fernandez said. "A more serious question I asked was how do they think COVID-19 will be recalled in history textbooks, and a common answer was that it will be remembered for disrupting everything, and for creating a sense of panic and fear."

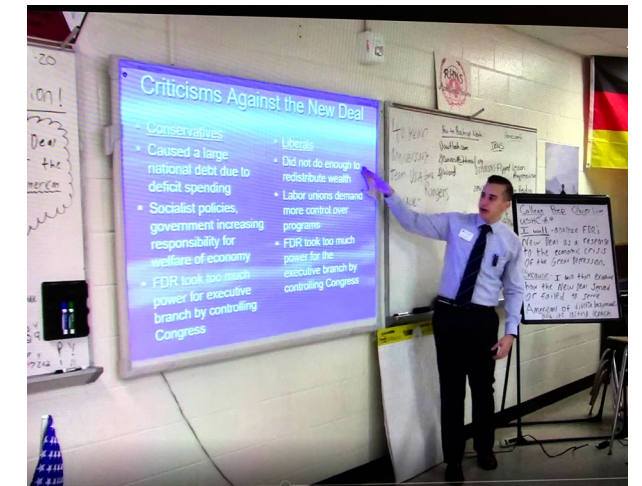
Fernandez also homeschooled her eighth-grade son during her internship.

"I think with parents being thrust into a position of helping their children with school work, it just demonstrates how important teachers are to communities," she said. "It's my hope that there will now be a greater support for educators."

At Rock Hill High School, Ian Young, the school's social studies department chair, gave high praise to his intern, Robert Napoli, who assisted for three weeks into the quarantine period.

Napoli, a graduate student from Horry County, had established a rapport with students and was able to quickly transition to a full list of responsibilities. "This work continued into the quarantine, and the quality of assessments created was thought provoking and very clear," said Young about his intern. "Clarity for students in this challenging time has proven to be very important. Robert really focused on working backwards when creating assessments, considering what the final product should look like and working backwards with instructions to ensure students are clear regarding expectations."

Irene Natsis, another social studies intern at Rock Hill High School, said she and her mentor teacher, Emily Stover '13, had to tailor activities to meet the needs of students that may not have access to the internet. "The activities created had to be representative of the content, but manageable for students with limited resources," said Natsis,



Robert Napoli

a senior who will join her father on the staff at Catawba Ridge High School this fall.

The Fort Mill resident sent videos or messages to let the students know what was expected of them. They also used a platform called Canvas that allowed them to upload assignments, videos, activities and grades and to send emails.

Stover said Natsis was a natural when it came to building relationships with students.



Beverlee Fernandez

"This was particularly an asset when we switched to e-learning because she was able to keep some students participating that may not have completed all of the work normally. Having her work with me during this time was incredibly helpful, and I even learned some new strategies from her."

- Emily Stover, mentor teacher, on student Irene Natsis.

SCIENTIST STUDIES FACETS OF COVID-19



Editor's Note: The terms coronavirus, COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 are used in the following profile. Coronavirus refers to the family of viruses that can cause the common cold or more severe diseases. COVID-19, which stands for coronavirus disease 2019, is caused by a virus named SARS-CoV-2.

Scientist Gregg Davis '92 is among the heroes who are up close and personal with the coronavirus.

A little too close, some might say. During the early stages of COVID-19, Davis was part of a research team that grew the new virus in a laboratory to study it more rigorously.

“During the early phase of the pandemic, our primary goal was to get the COVID-19 molecular

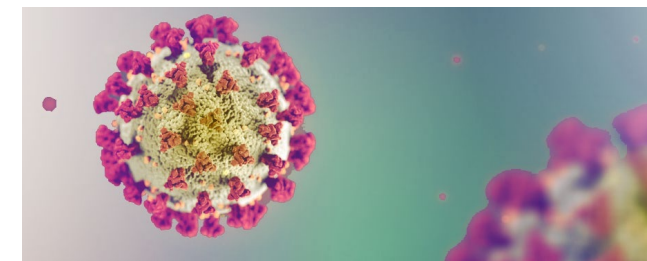
assay running and validated so that we could do testing. Simultaneously, we were working to grow the virus in our biosafety level 3 laboratory. This allowed us to generate reagents for the molecular assays, begin developing antibody tests to assess past exposure to COVID-19 and to initiate studies to advance our basic understanding of SARS-CoV-2,” explained Davis, director of Public Health Laboratories at George Washington University.

He believes our greatest hope is that the pandemic will one day end. Until then, Davis, a Rock Hill native, is among the scientists, medical professionals and public health experts working on the front lines, and behind the scenes, to battle the virus.

Davis began working in the biotech field in California in the late 1990s after graduating from Winthrop. He went on to obtain his master's degree in biology from Northern Arizona University. He eventually moved back to the East Coast and joined a research laboratory in the microbiology and immunology department at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. After returning to school and completing his master's and doctorate degrees, he later became a postdoctoral scientist at George Washington University School of Public Health in Washington, D.C.

Since the emergence of SARS-Cov-2, Davis has been actively engaged in both laboratory research and as a public health representative. Davis' colleagues in the school of public health conduct research on a variety of topics, ranging from environmental and occupational health, to microbiomics, infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance.

“As COVID-19 began to spread to the D.C. Metro area, some of our labs have temporarily suspended their research, others had ongoing long-term studies that have continued, and a couple of the laboratories shifted their research focus to COVID-19.”



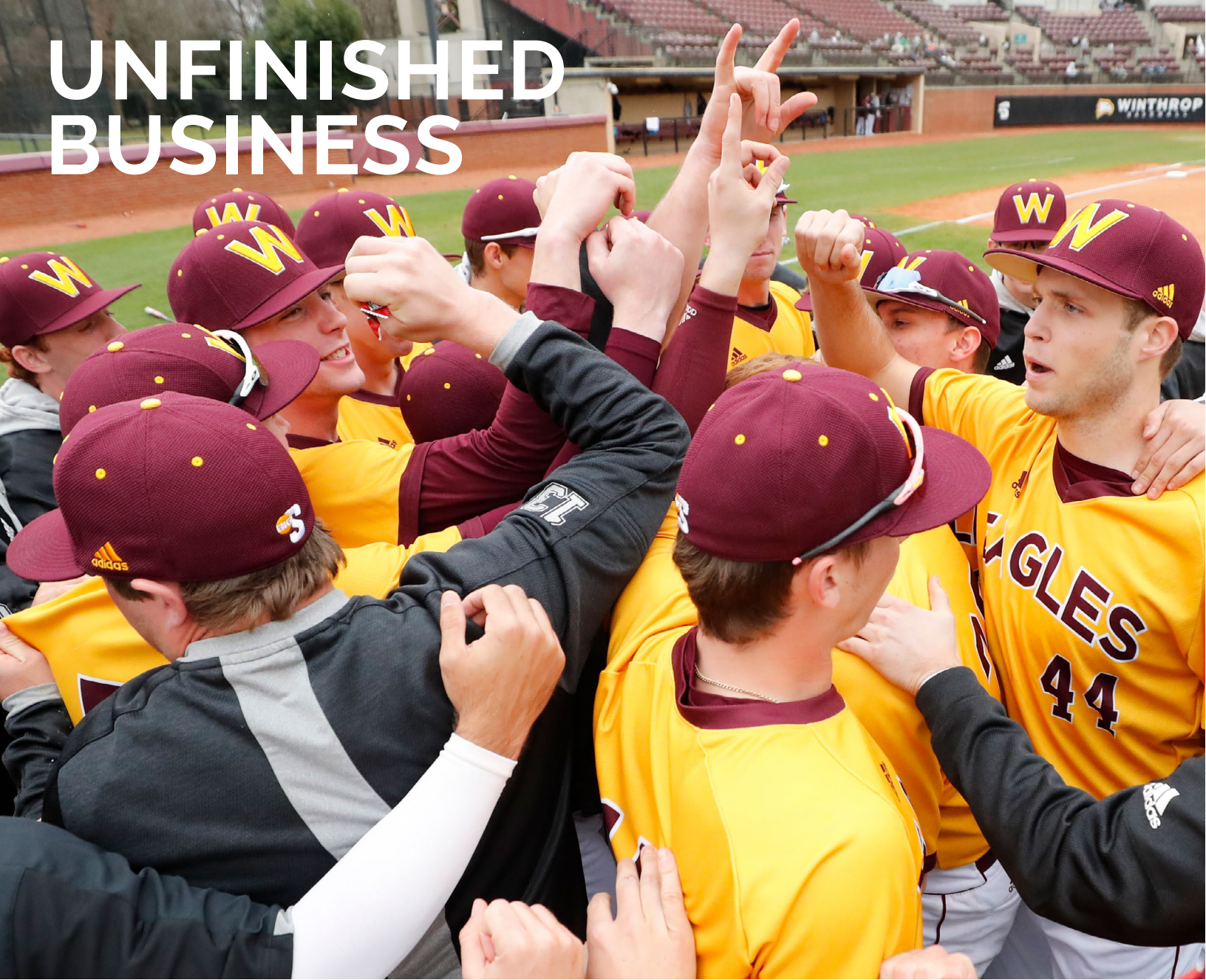
Urgency the Order of the Day

In the labs focusing on COVID-19, there has been a greater sense of urgency, Davis said. He added that early research was complicated by supply chain shortages among other challenges. Some investigators had to become inventive, Davis revealed, by going outside of the normal supply chains and having items, such as nasal swabs, produced on 3D printers.

He is more optimistic about a vaccine for COVID-19 rather than a cure. Although there are still many unanswered questions regarding immunity COVID-19, “the preliminary reports from the vaccine trials are definitely encouraging,” he said.

“The systems that we are developing and lessons that we are learning in response to COVID-19 will increase our ability to respond to future pandemics. Hopefully, as COVID-19 subsides, we will learn from our mistakes, as well as our victories,” Davis added.

One key to coping with the pandemic, Davis asserted, is to pay attention to your mental health, which is equally important as the directives to protect your physical well being.



The crack of the bat, the smell of popcorn and hotdogs, the crowds singing “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” ... most everything surrounding America’s favorite pastime ceased during the COVID-19 pandemic. All NCAA Division 1 spring sports, including baseball, were cancelled.

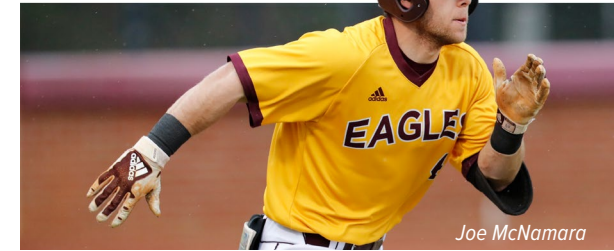
The Winthrop baseball team was off to an 11-4 record, the program’s best start in Tom Riginos’ 10-year tenure, and was beginning its Big South Conference schedule when the head coach had to

deliver the devastating end-of-season news to the team.

“It was one of the most difficult team meetings I have ever had. The entire team was disappointed, but we knew in the big picture this was the correct decision for the safety of our organization, Winthrop and the country,” said Riginos. “I felt very good about where this team was headed, and I had a very good sense of how this team was coming together.”

Although the season was cancelled, the NCAA granted an additional year of eligibility for all players affected by the season’s abrupt end.

‘I’m very thankful’



Joe McNamara, a senior business administration major and an infielder on the team, admitted that ending his senior season on such a disappointing note was difficult, but he’s grateful to get to play the sport he loves an additional year.

“I’m very thankful the NCAA is allowing a redshirt year so we don’t miss out on our senior season. I am excited to be able to come back to Winthrop next year and get to play another season with my teammates and coaches and win a championship,” said the Elk Grove, California, native. “I think this pandemic will help our team next year because we know not to take any practice or game for granted.”

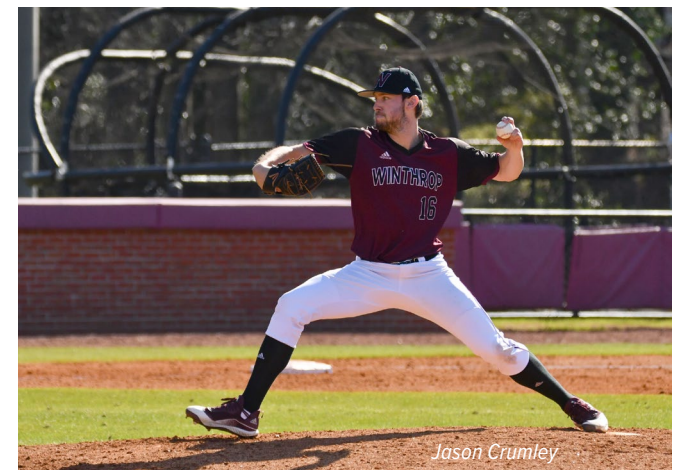
One of six seniors on the team, Jason Crumley, an exercise science major from Travelers Rest and a pitcher, echoed his teammate’s gratefulness. “I am choosing the extra year of eligibility to complete some prerequisites that I need to get into a graduate program. I also would like another chance to finish what we started and have an opportunity to play for a conference championship and make it to a regional. It means a lot to come back and have one last year playing collegiate baseball and spending time with friends made over the past four years,” said Crumley, who was named to the 2020 Big South All-Academic Team.

‘Building on the culture of Winthrop baseball’

Riginos is excited about having the team back and building on its success. “I would like to acknowledge the great work of Winthrop, our Interim President George Hynd and our Athletic Director Ken Halpin for honoring our seniors’ scholarships. There are many schools that are not honoring the scholarships of the returning seniors, and I appreciate that and I know the student-athletes do as well,” said Riginos. “To have the six young men returning for another year, it gives them an opportunity to keep contributing and building on the culture of Winthrop baseball. It gives them another year to compete on the Division I level and to represent Winthrop.”

In the meantime, Riginos is keeping the team focused on the season ahead instead of looking back.

“What I have emphasized to the team during this time of COVID-19 is that this is a great time to take responsibility for their own development and not solely rely on the coaches. During this time of uncertainty I want the players to be self-sufficient, self-reliant, organized and creative. It’s the best way we can all stay focused on the job ahead.”



BREAKING THE STIGMA



For years, senior Sara McGuire perceived herself as “the oddball” on the lacrosse field. She dealt with stifling anxiety and depression, but never felt comfortable enough to talk to anyone about it.

“Especially in today’s day and age, the mental health of athletes is stigmatized,” she said. “We’re seen as popular people, brave, strong-headed... but we’re all human.”

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), nearly one in five adults in the United States experience a mental illness each year, or approximately 46.6 million people. More specifically, one in six U.S. youth between the ages of six and 17 experience a mental health disorder each year.

‘Not the only one’

Originally from Denver, Colorado, McGuire was recruited to play goalie for the lacrosse team. She loved the school and the chance to travel away from home. While she had originally played soccer growing up, she decided to try lacrosse with a group of friends – and instantly fell in love with it.

“Not a lot of people played it yet where I lived,” said the sport management major. “I like the fast-pace. It’s the fastest game on two feet.”

As a Winthrop lacrosse player, she heard about an event organized by former Queens University player Patrick Murphy called “LAX; Another Day.” Murphy had lost his mother and a teammate to

suicide and designed the event as a 3-on-3 lacrosse tournament fundraiser. Murphy and the participants helped raise \$7,000 and athletes’ mental health awareness.

Murphy suggested that McGuire bring a similar event to Winthrop’s campus.

“I never really came to terms with [my anxiety/ mental health] until junior year,” McGuire explained. “I had never created a plan. It’s not like a cold or the flu – I realize it’s not going to cure itself in a few days. There are ways to cope, and one of my ways to be better is to help others.

“I’m not the only one. For a while I thought I was the oddball on the field, but I’m not.”

‘Hope to empower more people’

For her first “Another Day” event in 2018, McGuire pulled in help from across the campus community and beyond:

- *Athletic Trainer Martha Rivera, who’s also USA Mental Health certified, offered the athletic mental health perspective, along with other Athletics staff;
- *Health and Counseling Services staff talked about their offerings and how they can help;
- *Murphy and former Queens Dean of Students John Downey talked about the program’s origination and their personal losses.

McGuire was shocked when she arrived early to the event and saw a line already outside of Dina’s Place.

“I was excited to see so many people,” she said. “It opened my eyes and showed me I’m not alone. It broke down a barrier. It was nice, but also sad, to see how many people struggle by themselves.”

She followed a similar format for 2019’s event. She said the events have started positive conversations



McGuire was inspired to start the Winthrop event by former Queens University lacrosse player Patrick Murphy.

in the Winthrop Coliseum and training rooms, and prompted the Winthrop Athletics family to emphasize the importance of mental health and making time for yourself.

“[As an athlete], people care about how far you can throw, how fast you can run, but not always how much you have to hold and take in with your mind. I hope to empower more people to address their mental health.”

- Sara McGuire

Students are encouraged to reach out to **Health and Counseling Services** at **803/323-2206** and anyone can call the National Alliance on Mental Illness hotline at **800/950-6264** to discuss mental health concerns.

Trustees Take Action on Several Items at June Meeting

During a June 19 meeting, members of the Winthrop Board of Trustees discussed and voted on several important items. Read more about these action items:

Renaming of Tillman Hall

Trustees voted unanimously on a resolution requesting state legislators to consider an amendment to the Heritage Act of 2000 to allow Winthrop to **restore Tillman Hall to its original name of Main Building.**

Trustees do not have the power to change the name of Tillman, the university's first building in Rock Hill. That power belongs to the S.C. General Assembly who enacted the Heritage Act as part of a compromise that led to the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina State House dome. The act forbids the removal of other flags from public property or memorials for any war, historic figure or event without a two-thirds vote by state legislators.

"Trustees believe this will strengthen the sense of belonging among members of the campus community and is the right thing to do," said Glenn McCall, chair of the Board of Trustees. "We also resolved to advance equality and inclusion in order to become a truly diverse, inclusive and tolerant community for all members of the Winthrop family."

Tillman Hall was named for Benjamin R. Tillman, a South Carolina governor, U.S. senator and a driving force behind state support for Winthrop. A divisive man, Tillman gained popularity as a staunch supporter of agricultural populism and then became the architect of state Jim Crow laws. He is remembered as an avowed white supremacist and a violent advocate of lynch law.

Board Officers Re-elected

Trustees unanimously re-elected Chairman Glenn McCall to lead the Board of Trustees, the university's governing body. Kathy Bigham was re-elected as

No Tuition Increase for 2020-21

Trustees voted unanimously for **no tuition increase** for the 2020-21 academic year.

McCall said the vote signified that trustees understand how a COVID-19-shuttered economy has negatively affected students and their families. "Keeping tuition at 2019-20 levels is a way we can show prospective and returning students that the Winthrop family will assist them in fulfilling their educational goals, even in uncertain times," McCall said.

Room fees will be discounted as a result of the university's decision to move to remote instruction after Thanksgiving.

Tennis Programs Discontinued

Winthrop Athletics has **discontinued men's and women's tennis** following a vote by trustees.

The 12 returning students will retain their scholarships through the completion of their fourth academic year if they choose to remain at Winthrop.

The decision is a result of the financial impact brought about by COVID-19.

vice chair. The **two were selected for leadership** for the third consecutive year.

Both are Rock Hill residents and will serve one-year terms beginning July 1.

Faculty Members Celebrated with Top Awards

Three faculty members were recognized this spring with awards for their significant contributions and scholarship.

Brad Witzel, an education professor and program director of special education, was named the recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award, the highest recognition for faculty members. Crystal Glover '97, '99, an assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, was recognized with the Outstanding Junior Professor Award, and Adriana Cordis, an associate professor of accounting, earned the Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award. **Read more** about their recent awards.



Crystal Glover



Brad Witzel



Adriana Cordis

Winthrop Receives National First-gen Forward Designation

The Center for First-generation Student Success, an initiative of **NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education** – and The Suder Foundation, has designated Winthrop as one of its 2021-22 First-gen Forward Institutions.

The First-gen Forward designation recognizes institutions of higher education that have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students. Selected institutions receive professional development, community-building experiences and a first look at the center's research and resources.

"Student Affairs is excited to work with the TRiO Achievers Program, the McNair Scholars Program and the rest of the Winthrop community to think more strategically about serving first-gen students at Winthrop," said Shelia Higgs Burkhalter, vice president for student affairs, who was a first-generation college student. She added that efforts to advance first-generation students will ultimately benefit all students on campus.



Colleges Earn Re-accreditation

The College of Business Administration (CBA) and the Richard W. Riley College of Education (COE) are celebrating recent re-accreditation achievements.

CBA once again earned an extension of its accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB). The college has been accredited by AACSB since 1979, and only five percent of colleges of business globally have earned such a distinction. The accreditation means the college has demonstrated a focus on excellence in all areas, including teaching, research, curriculum development and student learning.

COE underwent a recent accreditation review by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and passed with flying colors. The review found that Winthrop's educator preparation program met all initial and advanced standards with no areas for improvement cited, which is a rare accomplishment.



Kaetrena Kendrick Named New Library Dean



Kaetrena Davis Kendrick '95 is the new dean of Dacus Library and Pettus Archives.

A former associate librarian and associate professor at the University of South Carolina Lancaster, Kendrick replaces Mark Herring who retired this summer.

Selected as the 2019 Association of College and Research Libraries' Academic/Research Librarian of the Year, Kendrick previously worked at libraries at the University of South Carolina Aiken, the Atlanta University Center, Georgia State University and for the counties of Gwinnett and Forsyth in Georgia.

In addition to a bachelor's degree in English from Winthrop, she holds a Master of Science degree in library services from Clark Atlanta University.

At Winthrop, Kendrick will oversee the Ida Jane Dacus Library and the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections. She will serve as chief academic and administrative officer of the library and archives, and oversee its 23 faculty and staff members. As part of her duties, she will be asked to develop and implement a vision for the library and archives.

Winthrop Virtually Welcomes its Newest Students

The Offices of Admissions and New Student and Family Programs (NSFP) had to think outside of the box this spring and summer when preparing to welcome the incoming freshman class.

The Office of Admissions held a virtual Winthrop Day on April 25. The event, usually held on-campus, was moved online to give more than 600 of the newest Eagles an interactive glimpse of what they can expect at Winthrop. The Department of Mass Communication also hosted a day-long broadcast on Eagle Air which included a number of interviews with alumni, faculty and Interim President George Hynd.

NSFP is used to welcoming hundreds of freshmen and their families to campus for summer Orientation sessions. This summer, the first portion of Orientation will be held virtually, while the second portion of Orientation will be held on campus in August.



Admissions counselors held virtual meetings to continue Winthrop Day planning.

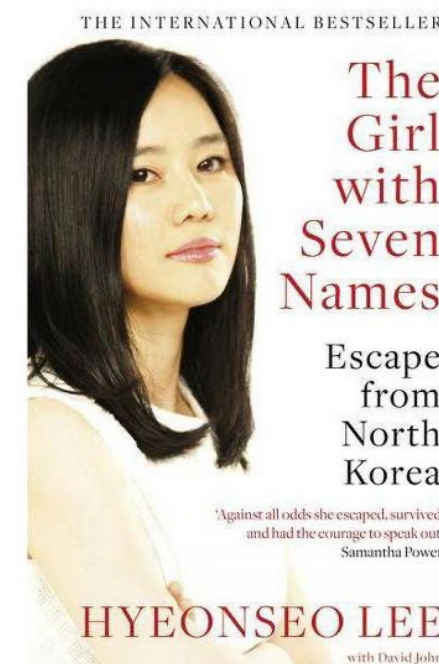
2020-21 Common Book Announced

"The Girl with Seven Names" will be read by all new students during the 2020-21 academic year as part of the university's Common Book Project.

The book details the story of one North Korean woman's struggle to defect from the dictatorship, avoid capture and guide her family to freedom.

Students will talk about the book in their ACAD freshman class, continue conversations in their residence halls, discuss it in more depth when they take the Human Experience course and when they attend Common Book cultural events provided throughout the school year.

The virtual alumni book club also will read and discuss the latest common book. [Learn how to sign up for this free book club.](#)



Student Emergency and Assistance Fund Exceeds Goal

Because of the generosity of Winthrop supporters, who came together on May 5 for Giving Tuesday Now, the university exceeded its goal of raising \$25,000 for the newly developed Student Emergency and Assistance Fund. On the designated global day of giving and unity, the Winthrop community came together to support students impacted by COVID-19.

With the campus closure in March and transition to remote learning, a number of students faced hardships related to housing and moving expenses, food insecurities, transportation, resources required for remote learning and other basic needs. The fund was quickly created to provide relief to students.

The university solicited the help of champions, including alumni volunteers and community supporters, to help promote the fund on Giving Tuesday Now via social media and to garner peer-to-peer support.

The Student Emergency and Assistance Fund was set up through the Winthrop Foundation with the Division of Student Affairs managing requests from more than 50 students. So far, needs have ranged from helping students pay for rent, groceries and utilities, while some students needed help with housing due to international travel restrictions.

To contribute to the fund, contact University Advancement at **803/323-2275** or visit justgiving.com/campaign/winthropstrong.



Students Help Perform Wellness Checks

Due to the campus' closure in March due to COVID-19, the Division of University Advancement had to cancel its Phonathon program. The program relies on student ambassadors who connect with Winthrop alumni, parents and friends to communicate the university's funding needs. To keep students employed during the closure, they were given the opportunity to use the Phonathon calling software from home.

Instead of asking alumni and supporters for donations, students called those who had given in

the past to thank them for their generous gifts to Winthrop and to perform wellness checks on them to ensure they were healthy and well during the pandemic.

The Phonathon program is an integral piece of Winthrop's annual fundraising drive.

For more information, contact Nicole Crist, annual giving coordinator, at **803/323-4018** or via e-mail at cristn@winthrop.edu.

Stay Connected with Virtual Alumni Engagement

Although gathering together in person cannot happen at this time, the Alumni Association is offering a number of ways to stay connected with Winthrop:

- 1) **Winthrop Connect:** Post your alumni-owned business on **Winthrop Connect** to promote your business and support other alumni-owned businesses.
- 2) **Digital Backgrounds:** **Download virtual background images** for video conference calls, like Zoom, that enable you to display the Winthrop brand.
- 3) **Resources from the Center for Career and Civic Engagement:** The center has a variety of resources available to assist alumni who are searching for employment, serving as professional representatives for organizations or recruiting on behalf of companies.
- 4) **Coloring pages:** Have some family fun by **downloading** six Winthrop-themed coloring pages.
- 5) **Virtual Alumni Book Club:** Connect with fellow alumni while reading books related to lifelong learning, professional development, social issues and more. It's free! Just get a copy of the book to enjoy! **Learn more and join today!**
- 6) **Virtual Alumni Socials:** The Alumni Association is partnering with Alumni Chapters and Young Alumni Councils to host **virtual alumni socials**. If you live close to one of our Alumni Chapters or Young Alumni Councils be sure to connect with the Alumni Association so you can receive news on virtual alumni gatherings in your area.

Look Back at a Memorable 2019

In 2019, the Alumni Association hosted more than 50 events that nearly 800 alumni attended. [Read more about these special events and connections.](#)



Homecoming Paused; Class Reunions Moved to Spring

Due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, Winthrop will hit the pause button on all Homecoming activities this fall. Homecoming and Reunion Weekend was scheduled for Nov. 13-14. More information will be shared when these annual events are safe to resume.

The university recently announced that the class reunion portion of the weekend has been postponed until spring 2021. Alumni with class years ending in 0 or 5 will soon hear from the Alumni Association about spring activities, which includes the Class of 1970 50th reunion and other class reunions, memorabilia displays, trolley tours and the Alumni Reunion and Awards Luncheon.

Visit the [Homecoming and Reunion Weekend website](#) for more information.

Nominate a Deserving Alumni

Nominations for the 2020 Alumni Awards will be accepted through Friday, Oct. 30. The 2020 Alumni Award recipients will be honored at the Alumni Reunion and Awards Luncheon in spring 2021.

To nominate a graduate for the Alumni Distinguished Service Award, Alumni Professional Achievement Award or the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, **complete the Alumni Awards Nomination Form for the respective award and submit to Lori Tuttle, executive director of alumni relations, at tuttlel@winthrop.edu.**

CLASS NOTES

1948

Mary Elizabeth Blanchard, of Sumter, received the 2019 South Atlantic Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Lifetime Achievement Award.

1987

Charlottesville, Virginia, resident **Derrick P. Alridge** received the Penn State 2019 Alumni Fellow Award.

1990

Union resident **Melissa Inman** was named Foster Park Elementary School Teacher of the Month.

1992

Thomas DuBose of Abbeville is the head football coach for Emerald High School.

Jennifer Thompson of Lititz, Pennsylvania, joined the Lancaster Theological Seminary as vice president of advancement.

1995

The S.C. Education Association presented the 2020 Friend of Education Award to **Isaiah “Reggie” Venning** of Rock Hill.

1996

Columbia resident **James Shadd** was elected as vice president of the S.C. Caucus of Black School Board Members.

1999

Deb Dunlap of Cramerton, North Carolina, completed a Doctor of Executive Leadership at the University of Charleston in Charleston, West Virginia.

Ameca Thomas, of Gray Court, was appointed as the superintendent of Laurens District 55.

2002

Ken Cummings of Simpsonville was re-elected for a second term on the city council.

2003

Amanda Stewart of Rock Hill was honored by the York County Regional Chamber of Commerce as the Young Professional of the Year.

2005

Matt Lochel of Fort Mill is the head of strategy and client services for Jeff Dezen Public Relations.

Jeffery Morris of Charlotte, North Carolina, was elected as a 2020 partner of Parker, Poe, Adams & Bernstein LLP.

2007

Michel Fadel of New Haven, Connecticut, had his exhibit “The Unmarkers” displayed in the McLanathan Gallery of the Misciagna Family Center for Performing Arts at Penn State Altoona.

2008

Jamie Blount of Simpsonville was named principal at Emerald High School.

The city of Rock Hill named **Angelo Geter** as its poet laureate.

2015

Ian Deas of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was named assistant dean of undergraduate students and dean of student leadership and engagement.

2016

Mashario Morton is the assistant track and field coach for Newberry College.

2017

Deron Christopher Williams joined Carolina One Real Estate as an agent in Summerville.

MILESTONES

BIRTHS

Kasey Elizabeth Biga '08 and **Mark Patrick Johnson '08**, a daughter, Layla Elizabeth Johnson, Jan. 16, 2020

Pohai Campbell '08 and **Olu Campbell**, a girl, Ann Nu’uhiwa Campbell, Nov. 12, 2019

Kelly Gold Hall '08, a daughter, Clara Jane Hall, Dec. 1, 2019

Tiarra Sanders-Hausa '09, a boy, Asar Sanders-Hausa, Jan. 2019

Brandie Adair Thomas '09 and **Brian Joseph Goulette '10**, a son, Louis Goulette, Nov. 2019

Jacqueline (Jackie) Honeycutt Keefe '10 and **Michael Kaleb Keefe '12**, a girl, Reagan Keefe, Nov. 2019

Daniela Esmeralda Pineda '13, a son, Osmar Alvarado, Oct. 2019

MARRIAGES

Kelsey L. Doucette '15 to Corey Parker

Samantha Hollis Lindler '15 to Shawn Houlihan

Jada Rush '19 to Jason Dozier

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.



THANK YOU TO THE WINTHROP COMMUNITY

for the strength and perseverance that have been shown these last few months. We can't wait to welcome students back in August!

IN MEMORIAM

1930s

Sara (Lib) Miller Thompson '37
Ida West Culler '39

1940s

Mary Crawford Gath '40
Nannie Love Allen '42
Rachel Muckenfuss Barnes '42
Alice Neel Wilson Eidson '42
Leona Ameen Weigle '42
Helen McGill Adams '43
Elizabeth Butler Graves '43
Fredna (Juanita) Ginn Schutt '43
Emily Love Sutherland '43
Martha Nickles Buckner '44
Lucile Rose Deal '44
Pearle (Wise) Spigner Moon '44
Harriet Williams Williamson '44
Cora (Eleanor) Marlowe Cantrell '45

Fannie Farnum Jackson '45
Marjorie (Margie) Murray Thomas '45
Mary Ann Davis Beckwith '46
Laura Jo Hillhouse Berry '46
Sarah Lipscombe Suggs
Clinkscales '46
Sara (Cathryn) Wilson Hamrick '46
Edith (Phyllis) Barnhill McKown '46
Mildred Jayroe Truax '46
Annie Frances Blackman '47
Martha Johnson Clark '48
Dorothy Boyd Hailey '48
Harriet Magoulas McCord '48
Avlona (Pep) Moore Seaborn '48
Dorothy Graham Shaw '48
Fairy (Gwen) Stone Converse '49
Mary Frances Kendall Downing '49
Angie (Burleen) Dorman Howe '49
1950s
Roberta (Bert) O'Shields Hodge '50

Marion Brigman Love '50
Sylvia Lingo Gillespie '51
Sylvia Oxner Kinder '51
Elizabeth Felder Newton '51
Ruth Sackett Thomas '51
Elizabeth (Betty) Morgan Wolfe '52
Patricia (Patsy) DeLoache Quattlebaum '53
Harriet Evans Wingard '54
Edna (Eddie) Fishburne Adkins '55
Betty (Jane) Mahaffey Fox '55
Mary Ann (Sis) Mayfield Brabham '56
Mary Jeter Bryant '56
Barbara Ann Glasscock '59
Patty Burgess Meeks '59
Dorothy Stroman Stillinger '59

1960s

Kenney (Lenora) Jordan Foster '60
Wanda Hill Howell '60
Lucia Randall Spratt '60

Lenda Boozer Edwards '61
Phoebe Massey Evans '61
Esther Adams Hunnicutt '61
Marilyn Koon Hendrix '62
Norva Rodgers Fagan '63
Judy Gettys Knight '63
Martha (Dee) Carolyn Price '63
Rebecca (Becky) Dobson Bruce '64
Elizabeth (Diannah) Champion Ellis '64
Willda Jo Smith '64
Linda Rabon Davis '65
Mary Ellenor Mahon '66
Catherine Bethea Richbourg '66
Iris Covington Coleman '68
Vicky Jo Horne '68
Jandrelle Almeida Avinger '69
Jane Bell Ullery '69

1970s

Diana Jayne Dowling '70
Beverly Fletcher Hodges '70

Emily (Janice) Creamer Howes '70
Virginia (Jinny) Harris Hagemeyer '71
Marian Barnes Hayes '71
Norma Brown Mayfield '71
Joyce (Brenda) Weathers Rast '71
Marjorie Cook Harper '72
Velma (Lynn) DeLoach Smith '72
Henry Maxwell (Max) Clyburn '73
Karen Epps Melton '73
Karen Kelly Prottis '74
Mary (Maj) Finklea Partin '77
Samuel Gurley Strickland '77
Clarence (Conney) Wishert Jr. '77
Brenda Lorraine Norwood '78
Fred Arnold Jenkins '79

1980s

Frances Watson Funderburk '81
Jeffrey (Jeff) Neal Clark '82
Paul S. Clarkson '82
Lee Ernest Henderson '82

Annie Pearl Littlejohn '83
Mary Fenton Saine '89

1990s

Christian Keith Lemmonds '97
Brandon Dianne Watts '98

2000s

Anquan Dewett Gist '02

2010s

Richard (Rich) Lawrence
Allsbrook II '18

2020s

Shannon Dainiele Barber '20

