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Winthrop University

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Dorothy Perry Thompson Colloquium Marks 10-Year Hurricane Katrina Anniversary

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA — This year marks the 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina striking the Gulf Coast. This milestone will spark a two-day in-depth discussion during Winthrop University’s 14th Annual Dorothy Perry Thompson Colloquium, set for Feb. 22-23.

Hurricane Katrina is considered one of the deadliest storms in United States’ history, killing more than 1,000 people, damaging more than $100 billion in property and displacing thousands of people.

This year’s colloquium theme—“Lessons Learned From Hurricane Katrina: Race, Class, Gender and Disasters”—will tackle those issues with a special documentary screening and a panel discussion featuring experts from across the United States.

The schedule is as follows:

• **Sunday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.: “When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts”**
  Directed by Spike Lee, the HBO documentary detailed the devastation of New Orleans, Louisiana, due to the failure of the levees during Hurricane Katrina.

• **Monday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m.: Panel Discussion**
  The discussion will focus on the social inequalities that existed on the Gulf Coast pre- and post-Hurricane Katrina and how they have grown or been altered since. Panelists include: Winthrop University Associate Professor of Sociology Jeannie Haubert; Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo, assistant professor of sociology and women’s and gender studies at Montana State University; Jessica W. Pardee, assistant professor of sociology at the Rochester Institute of Technology; Kristen Barber, assistant professor of sociology at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; and Dana M. Greene, research fellow in the Institute for the Environment at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Both events are free cultural events and are open to the public. They will take place in the Irvin and Jean Kirby Plowden Auditorium in the Withers/W.T.S. Building.

The annual colloquium honors the late English Professor Dorothy Perry Thompson, the founder of Winthrop’s minor in African American Studies program, Adolphus Belk, director of the program and professor of political science has explained. The colloquium also offers the opportunity to "bring in nationally- and internationally-renowned writers and scholars to talk about different aspects of the African American experience."

The colloquium is sponsored by the African American studies minor, the College of Arts and
Sciences, the departments of interdisciplinary studies, sociology, anthropology and environmental sciences, and the Global Learning Initiative.

For more information, contact Jeannie Haubert at 803/323-4293 or haubertj@winthrop.edu.

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