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Winthrop University
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ROCK HILL, S.C. - Homecoming 2006 packs in plenty of activities for students and alumni during a week of fun Feb. 6-12.

Debbie Garrick, executive director of alumni relations, says she’s particularly excited about Homecoming 2006 because it offers Winthrop’s community and alumni so many opportunities to come together. "We’re building a Homecoming week and are trying to plug in more events to attract students and alumni," she said.

There will be entertainment, sports activities, spirit events, reunions, tours and more. "This is a community-friendly schedule," Garrick said. "We’re offering a broader range of activities during the week."

The week starts off with a block party and pep rally from 4-6 p.m. Feb. 6 in the Richardson/Wofford Circle. The rain location is inside Thomson for athletes, club, student government leaders and others to gather. Another activity aimed at students is the second annual talent show on Feb. 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Byrnes Auditorium in an event designed for both individuals and organizations to shine.

The weekend kicks off on Friday, Feb. 10, with Who’s Bad?, a Michael Jackson tribute band. Free for those with a Winthrop I.D. and $7 for the general public, the 8 p.m. show in Tillman Auditorium also features comedian Eric O’Shea.

One of the biggest Homecoming draws is sure to be Eagle Mania, held on Saturday, Feb. 11, from noon-4 p.m., on the coliseum lawn by the tennis complex. Eagle supporters can listen to music by Blind Vision as they tailgate, check out the Homecoming floats and catch up with friends. Alumni may check in between noon and 3 p.m. at The Shack for a pre-game celebration.

Campus tours will be available during that time for bus rides to the main campus so alumni can see new construction on the west side and view university landmarks. Alumni from the Class of 1981 and former Student Alumni Council and Winthrop Ambassadors will gather for reunions during the early afternoon.

Game time for the Lady Eagles is 1:30 p.m. against Birmingham Southern University, while the men’s basketball team will host Radford at 4 p.m. During halftime of the men’s game, the 2006 Homecoming Queen and King will be crowned.

Jason Capel, athletics marketing director, is encouraging folks to purchase advance tickets to the Homecoming basketball games. He predicts a sellout game, particularly since season tickets have sold extremely well this year. Prices are $7 and $5, depending on the section. Purchasing a ticket to the women’s game automatically grants free admittance to the men’s game.

One of the most popular community events during Homecoming is the National Pan-Hellenic Council Step Show in Byrnes Auditorium. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. in time for the 8 p.m. show. Ticket prices are $8 in advance and $10 at the door, or tickets are available by e-mailing wustepshow@winthrop.edu.
The final event for alumni is a Sunday, Feb. 12, prayer brunch featuring Cynthia Roddey ’67, the first African-American student to graduate from Winthrop. She will speak at the brunch, which begins at 11 a.m. in Tuttle Dining Room. Tickets are $12 at the door.