



Spring 3-21-2014

Inauguration Events Culminate with March 28 Investiture Ceremony

Winthrop University

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Recommended Citation

Winthrop University, "Inauguration Events Culminate with March 28 Investiture Ceremony" (2014).
Winthrop News 2014. 53.
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Inauguration Events Culminate with March 28 Investiture Ceremony

Quick Facts

- The 2 p.m. ceremony in Byrnes Auditorium is the highlight of the various activities from March 24-29 celebrating the university, academics, student achievements and President Comstock's leadership.
- Attending the March 28 Investiture Ceremony will be representatives of more than 90 academic institutions from across the nation, Winthrop board members, local legislative delegation members, community leaders, and Comstock's family and close friends, along with Winthrop faculty, staff and students.



President Jamie Comstock

ROCK HILL, S.C. – Next week's events commemorating Winthrop University President Jamie Comstock's Inauguration will build to the March 28 Investiture Ceremony when Comstock is officially inaugurated as the **university's 10th president**.

The 2 p.m. ceremony in **Byrnes Auditorium** is the highlight of the various activities from March 24-29 celebrating the university, academics, student achievements and Comstock's leadership. Visit the Inauguration website to view a complete list of Inauguration events.

The **Investiture Ceremony** itself is among the oldest traditions in academia. The term, derived from a Latin phrase meaning "dress in robe," focuses on one who will literally don the university's insignia and regalia.

This **Investiture** will be much like other **Winthrop academic ceremonies**, such as **Convocation** and **Commencement**, in that they are formal and celebratory. Winthrop last held an Investiture Ceremony in 1990. Although Winthrop has had **10 presidents**, Comstock is only the seventh to have participated in a formal Inauguration.

Attending the **March 28 Investiture Ceremony** will be representatives of more than 90 academic institutions from across the nation, Winthrop board members, local legislative delegation members, community leaders, and Comstock's family and close friends, along with Winthrop faculty, staff and students.

There are certain traditions that Winthrop has adopted from other institutions, namely the **processional of representatives from other institutions** marching in order of the year in which the institutions were founded. However, **Investiture Ceremonies** are very individualized events for each college/university and for each president.

This particular ceremony will allow for university greetings from individuals representing various Winthrop groups: alumni, the Winthrop Foundation, staff, students and faculty.

Providing reflections during the ceremony are three of Comstock's mentors: **Morris Marx**, president emeritus, University of Florida; Barry Pearson, provost and vice president for academic affairs, Purchase College; and Cathy Sandeen, vice president for education attainment and innovation,

After an installation by Board of Trustees members, Comstock will deliver a speech entitled “**When We Are Called to Rise**” that will outline her vision for Winthrop’s future. Once the two-hour ceremony concludes, attendees are invited to the **West Center** for a community reception.

Here are other details to assist those attending the Investiture Ceremony:

- Visitors to campus may park in the **Johnson Hall lot** near the **West Center**. A trolley will be available to transport visitors from the **Johnson lot** to **Byrnes Auditorium** beginning at noon. Campus police officers will direct traffic and provide information.
- **Byrnes Auditorium doors** will open at 1 p.m. for the ceremony. Attendees should be seated by 1:45 p.m.

For more information, contact **Judy Longshaw**, news and media services manager, at 803/323-2404 or e-mail her at longshawj@winthrop.edu.

About Winthrop and the Inauguration of 10th President Jayne Marie Comstock:

The March 24-29 Inauguration of Jayne Marie (Jamie) Comstock as Winthrop’s 10th president signals a new era in the history of this top-ranked regional public comprehensive university. Comstock has charted a bold course for Winthrop’s future, redefining public higher education by prioritizing both quality and access in a single institution. Serving more than 6,000 students, Winthrop blends liberal arts, professional programs, global understanding, and civic engagement in a diverse community of learners. Students leave Winthrop prepared for successful careers, engaged in a democratic society, responsive to local and global concerns, and grounded in values that give meaning to their lives. Comstock’s vision for Winthrop will ensure that all students – regardless of demographic category or life experience – have access to an exceptional public higher education.

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