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Lost Winthrop Class Ring Returned to Owner

Winthrop University
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Quick Facts

- CarolAnn Ratterree Davis is a 1957 and 1973 graduate of Winthrop.
- She spent her career in education and now works part-time at the Winthrop Bookstore.

ROCK HILL, S.C. — When Winthrop University President Jamie Comstock invited CarolAnn Ratterree Davis '57, '73 to her office, Davis thought the two would talk about her Winthrop experiences and take a stroll down memory lane revisiting special moments throughout her time as a student.

What Davis, a part-time employee at the Winthrop Bookstore, didn’t know was that, along with sharing her Winthrop memories with Comstock, she also would receive from Comstock a pleasant surprise: the return of her lost Winthrop class ring.

“I never thought I’d see it again, never,” Davis said, laughing and admiring the ring on her finger. “It feels wonderful. I just can’t believe it.”

“I can’t think of a better way to start Inauguration Week than by returning a lost class ring to one of our dedicated alumni,” said President Jamie Comstock. “CarolAnn has given so much to Winthrop and the Rock Hill community, I’m delighted to have the opportunity of returning a class ring that has so much meaning for her.”

Comporium executive John Barnes Jr. recently found the missing ring and gave it to President Comstock and Debbie Garrick ‘87, ‘89, executive director of the Winthrop Alumni Association, in hopes they could find its owner.

“After the Winthrop class ring came into my possession I was excited to share it with Jamie Comstock, knowing she would find the rightful owner,” said John M. Barnes Jr., Executive Vice President for Marketing and Business Solutions at Comporium. “It’s another great example of the partnership between Winthrop University and Comporium.”

Garrick put her detective skills to work. By investigating the ring’s design, inscribed initials and list of degrees she narrowed it down to Davis.

Davis earned a Bachelor of Arts in biology from Winthrop in 1957 and a Master of Arts in Teaching in secondary education in 1973. She spent her career in the Rock Hill school district, retiring as an administrator at Lesslie Elementary. She has worked at the Bookstore part time for more than 20 years.