



Summer 5-26-2011

Father David Valtierra Scholarship Awarded for First Time

Winthrop University

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Winthrop University, "Father David Valtierra Scholarship Awarded for First Time" (2011). *Winthrop News 2011*. 91.

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05/26/2011

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Quick Facts

- During a memorial concert earlier this month, Helen Layton became the first recipient of the scholarship, which provides financial support for scholarships, faculty support and programming needs of the Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution Studies Minor Program.
- Helen Layton is a political science major from Lake Wylie, S.C., and she has minors in international studies and peace, justice and conflict resolution studies.



Helen Layton

ROCK HILL, S.C. - The **Father David Valtierra Peace Studies Scholarship**, established by family and friends of Winthrop's late Catholic priest, has reached the endowment threshold of \$25,000 through tribute gifts and has been awarded for the first time.

During a memorial concert earlier this month, **Helen Layton** became the first recipient of the scholarship, which provides financial support for scholarships, faculty support and programming needs of the **Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution Studies Minor Program**. All proceeds from the concert went to the scholarship fund.

Layton is a political science major from Lake Wylie, S.C., and she has minors in international studies and peace, justice and conflict resolution studies.

"Father David Valtierra was an advocate for peace studies, but more than that, he was an example of how to live a peaceful life. I am happy that this scholarship can give back to Winthrop University students for years to come," said **Ginger Williams**, associate professor of history and coordinator of the Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution Studies Minor Program.

According to Williams, Valtierra was a big supporter of the Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution Studies Minor Program since its founding in 2006. He served on the peace studies committee, taught classes and helped bring speakers to campus.

Valtierra served as Winthrop's Catholic minister for more than 20 years before his passing last year. In addition, he was **Winthrop's Newman Apostolate director**, a sacramental priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church and director of the Oratory's Center for Spirituality.

The **Father David Valtierra Peace Studies Scholarship** is one of the first scholarships in Winthrop's history to be fully endowed from honor and memorial gifts.

For more information on making a gift to Winthrop, contact the Office of Development at 803/323-2150.

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