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Faculty Awards To Be Given at Commencement Highlight Outstanding Work

Winthrop University

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Faculty Awards To Be Given at Commencement Highlight Outstanding Work

Quick Facts

- During the May 9 undergraduate Commencement ceremony, Acting President Debra Boyd will bestow the Distinguished Professor Award, the highest honor for a Winthrop faculty member, on Jo Koster, an English professor, and the Outstanding Junior Professor Award on Marguerite Doman, an assistant professor of computer science.
- On May 7, Boyd will present the Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award to Jennifer Jordan, program director and associate professor of counseling and development in the Richard W. Riley College of Education.

*Jo Koster*

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA - The three Winthrop University faculty members to be honored during upcoming graduation exercises are known for their inspiring teaching, fascinating scholarship and collaborative work with others.

During the **May 9 undergraduate Commencement ceremony**, **Acting President Debra Boyd** will bestow the **Distinguished Professor Award**, the highest honor for a Winthrop faculty member, on **Jo Koster**, an English professor, and the **Outstanding Junior Professor Award** on **Marguerite Doman**, an assistant professor of computer science. The ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. at the **Winthrop Coliseum** to confer bachelor's degrees to more than 600 students.

*Marguerite Doman*

On May 7, Boyd will present the **Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award** to **Jennifer Jordan**, program director and associate professor of counseling and development in the **Richard W. Riley College of Education**. The presentation will occur during the 7 p.m. **graduate Commencement ceremony** at the Winthrop Coliseum, where master's or specialist degrees will be given to more than 240 students.

Learn more about these professors:

Jo Koster

*Jennifer Jordan*

Koster is the director of the **Department of English's graduate program** and the university's **Medieval Studies minor**. Three years ago, Koster received the university's **Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award**.

One of Koster's great hallmarks is her dedication to bringing the Middle Ages to life. As the founding director of the university's Medieval Studies minor, she helped bring medieval manuscript pages to the Winthrop archives so the students and scholars could work directly with these rare documents.

For her efforts, the **Southeastern Medieval Association** earlier this academic year surprised Koster with its annual teaching award for excellence, after having already presented her its Award for Outstanding Scholarship in 2010.

In her other role as director of the English graduate program, Koster has demonstrated passionate and attentive leadership to grow the program and to increase the academic success of its students.

As a dedicated and challenging teacher, Koster has taken on a wide range of courses, from General Education to upper-level English to special topics to medieval studies.

Her department chair observed that Koster's teaching outside of the classroom is what best exemplifies her contributions to student learning. She uses Twitter feeds, bulletin boards, field trips, sword fights and costumed exchanges to demonstrate her zeal for learning and sharing knowledge. Her online social media presence provides an ongoing string of medieval, critical thinking, English, liberal arts and higher education commentary for her students and others. With the addition of Blackboard for her online courses and as a repository for face-to-face courses, Koster creates a learning atmosphere that is boundless.

Koster joined Winthrop in 1993 and holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in English from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and a B.A. in English from the University of Pennsylvania.

Marguerite Doman

Doman joined the computer science faculty in January 2010 after completing a Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. She entered the graduate program after a 20+ year networking career with IBM and has successfully transitioned to the academic world.

Since arriving at Winthrop, Doman is viewed by administrators as a difference maker. She made an immediate impact by organizing a STARS (Students & Technology in Academia, Research & Service) chapter on campus and now serves as a liaison to the **national STARS organization**. The group is very active with tutoring, touring graduate programs and local technology companies, and has started a robotics club with the Rock Hill alternative high school, sent members to the annual meeting and began offering **Middle School Cyber Saturday** events.

Her most recent outreach involved 2014 summer camps at Winthrop for area secondary students to learn basic computing skills such as coding to games, animation, robotics and integration of technology into the arts. Nearly half of the 50 participants were female and a third were minority.

Doman also volunteered to join the **College of Business Administration's first trip** to study underdeveloped economies. In 2013, she joined Laura Ullrich in taking a group to Bolivia to learn about microfinance where they could evaluate potential and work with local university students to make loans to small companies to grow their businesses.

On the state level, Doman is active with **IT-ology**, a South Carolina-based non-profit collaboration of business and academic institutions dedicated to growing the IT talent pipeline and advancing the IT profession. She's hosted events on the Winthrop campus and organized workshops for high school teachers.

Also active with the **National Center for Women and Information Technology**, Doman is passionate about encouraging women to seek IT training and jobs to fill positions in a field desperate to fill its ranks with competent women.

She holds a Ph.D. and an M.S. degree in computer science from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and a B.S. in mathematics from Grove City College.

Jennifer Jordan

Jordan, program director and associate professor of counseling and development with the **Richard W. Riley College of Education**, is the **2015 Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award recipient**. The award, established seven years ago by Board of Trustees member **Dr. Jane LaRoche**, recognizes outstanding teaching at the graduate level and significant contributions to graduate education at Winthrop.

Jordan arrived at Winthrop in 2008 and has since worked as the clinical and field placement coordinator, community counseling director and program director of the M.Ed. in counseling and development degree program.

One of Jordan's biggest contributions is located on the first floor of Withers/W.T.S. Building. The **Community Counseling Clinic** opened in the fall of 2013 to serve as a lab setting for counseling students and as a counseling service for the community and for Winthrop students. Open during the week, evening and the weekend, the clinic has three counseling session spaces where students can work with real clients and are supervised by faculty members who monitor their sessions through video and audio devices. The clinic also offers free parenting classes, anger management assessments and a grief group counseling program.

In addition to teaching students in the classroom, Jordan involves them in her research projects and accompanies them to professional conferences to present their findings. She is the faculty sponsor for the two student organizations in the area of counseling, one of which is a national honor society.

Jordan has received funding for four **University Research Council projects** totaling more than \$16,000 to help purchase technology and other equipment for the counseling clinic. Her latest project involves looking at outcomes related to student trainees in an academic controlled setting. Jordan has sustained scholarly activities on her own and published manuscripts, books and book chapters during her tenure at Winthrop.

In recognition of her expertise, Jordan was appointed by S.C. Governor Nikki Haley to the **Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Psycho-Educational Specialists**.

Jordan holds a Ph.D., in counselor education from Mississippi State University, an M.A. in psychological counseling from Nicholls State University and a B. A. in psychology from the University of Central Florida.

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

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