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Endowment of Scholarship Honors Late Alumna Anna Marie Hurst '12

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Endowment of Scholarship Honors Late Alumna Anna Marie Hurst '12

Quick Facts

- The Anna Marie Hurst Memorial Scholarship supports students majoring in elementary education, early childhood education or family and consumer sciences.
- Hurst, a native of Rock Hill, earned her B.S. in family and consumer sciences.



Anna Marie Hurst

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – **Anna Marie Hurst '12** was a strong-willed free spirit who loved her alma mater, loved her sorority and loved her work with children. The **recent endowment of the Anna Marie Hurst Memorial Scholarship** ensures that Anna's legacy of kindness will have a permanent impact on Winthrop and its students.

Established in 2013, the **endowed scholarship** provides financial assistance to Winthrop students majoring in **elementary education**, **early childhood education** or **family and consumer sciences**, with first preference given to students from South Carolina and members of **Alpha Delta Pi Sorority**. The first scholarship will award in fall 2015.

Anna's mother, **Melanie Myers Hurst**, explained that she and her husband, Chuck, created the scholarship to honor Anna and support Winthrop students who share their late daughter's passion for working with children.

"The scholarship will keep Anna's memory alive and help other students follow in her footsteps and do what Anna wanted to do: help children," said her mother, who received "tremendous support" from the Rock Hill and Winthrop communities. The Hurst family also celebrates Anna's memory through Sisters Fine American Cuisine, a new Rock Hill restaurant named in part for the strong bond Anna shared with her Alpha Delta Pi Sorority sisters.

A native of Rock Hill, **Anna** was a graduate of Northwestern High School. During her years at Winthrop, she was active with **Alpha Delta Pi Sorority** and earned her B.S. in family and consumer sciences. **Anna** also worked at Carolina Kids Child Development Center in Rock Hill and worked independently as a babysitter.

Donna and Fred Simmons, donors to the **Anna Marie Hurst Memorial Scholarship**, met **Anna** when their daughter, Lauren, became Anna's Alpha Delta Pi Sorority big sister. After getting to know Anna, Donna Simmons noted that supporting the scholarship in her honor was a perfect way to honor the young woman who was "outgoing, assertive and opinionated, but also with a very sweet and nurturing side."

"Not only does the scholarship honor an amazing young woman we lost way too soon, it also assists young women with interests and goals similar to Anna's," said Simmons.

Longtime family friend Cindy Hogan – whom **Anna** dubbed "Aunt Cindy" – said that her contribution to **Anna's scholarship** represents a personal gift to the "beautiful, outgoing, opinionated girl who was ready to conquer the world."

Donor James Williamson also regarded **Anna** as a member of the family. She bonded closely with his daughters, attending family trips and University of South Carolina football games. He advised **Melanie Myers Hurst** during the early stages of establishing the scholarship and elected to give to

the fund “to help Anna impact the world in a small way, the way that she would have wanted to impact it.”

“Anna deserves to be remembered, and I’m very pleased that her memory will be carried on in a way that respects who she was,” said Williamson. “She had a natural talent that allowed her to communicate with and reach kids. The scholarship honors her in the sense that it will help others fulfill that role.”

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