



Spring 4-23-2013

Winthrop Recognizes Exceptional Employees During Annual Ceremony

Winthrop University

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Winthrop University, "Winthrop Recognizes Exceptional Employees During Annual Ceremony" (2013). *Winthrop News 2013*. 100.
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Winthrop Recognizes Exceptional Employees During Annual Ceremony

Quick Facts

- Winthrop University honored 41 employees with presidential citations during the April 23 Faculty, Staff and Retirees Awards Ceremony.
- Retirees Glenn Savage and Lynn Harand were co-recipients of the Mary Spann Richardson Award.
- Associate Professor Kristi Schoepfer received the Faculty Student Life Award.

ROCK HILL, S.C. – Winthrop University honored 41 employees during the April 23 **Faculty, Staff and Retirees Awards Ceremony** with **presidential citations for service to the university** as well as **presidential citations for service to the community**. **President Anthony DiGiorgio**, who oversaw his final Faculty, Staff and Retirees ceremony before retiring as president this summer, congratulated each recipient while presenting each with a framed citation.

In addition, **Glenn Savage**, who recently retired and served the university as controller for 20 years and **Lynn Harand**, an instructor and director of student services who retired in June 2012, were co-recipients of the **Mary Spann Richardson Award** which was created by siblings Rowland P. Alston Jr., William E. Lenoir, Jr and Victoria Lenoir Saunders '79 in memory of their mother. The award honors a faculty or staff member for exceptional service, professional excellence and the ability to provide Winthrop with positive visibility throughout the region.

Also, **Kristi Schoepfer**, associate professor of physical education, sport and human performance, received the **Faculty Student Life Award** for her broad and deep interactions with student life efforts that contributed to students' learning outside the classroom. All of Schoepfer's involvements have been significant and sustained ranging from being a faculty partner for residence life's Leadership Explorer Academic Success Community to serving as a new student Orientation faculty member to teaching a leadership studies course to being the faculty advisor to the Council of Student Leaders.

Presidential citation for **service to the community** award winners are recognized for their contributions in agencies external to Winthrop. Their work could be for a social agency, church, community organization, K-12 school, etc. Those employees who received a presidential citation for service to the community were:

- **Pam Varraso**, student affairs, for teaching others how to use Winthrop's community garden and donating harvested produce to HOPE House, for assisting with Winthrop's United Way campaign and for showing compassion to students, faculty and staff.
- **Frank Zebedis**, campus police, for advocating for and assisting with the design of an International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators course – Managing Critical Incidents for Higher Education Institutions: A Multidisciplinary, Community Approach.
- **Barbara Heinemann**, world languages and cultures, for serving as a Guardian ad Litem for York County for the last eight years.
- **Jayne Maas**, accounting, finance and economics, for developing and growing the Beta Alpha Psi student organization.

Presidential citation for **service to the university** award winners are recognized for their extraordinary contributions to the university beyond normal job expectations. Winners have demonstrated a history of engagement with the campus community and a career that has significantly advanced the vision and values of the university. Those employees who received a presidential

citation for service to the university were:

- **Julie Schrader**, residence life, for developing and implementing WUCycle!, a project that has evolved into an annual sustainability event.
- **Clifton Calloway**, chemistry, physics and geology, for coordinating and risk managing scientific equipment and for his collaborative and innovative approaches to solving problems with access to scientific facilities and equipment.
- **Nick Grosseohme**, chemistry, physics and geology, for receiving a highly competitive Cottrell College Science Award given by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement to fund his research.
- **Wendi Hevelow**, biology, for organizing, preparing and updating more than 100 submitted employment applications, and developing a creative, innovative and transparent electronic system that allowed selection committee members' convenient remote online access to the files.
- **Norma McDuffie**, English, for serving as advisor to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for which she coordinated more than 3,500 hours of community service, an initiative that led to Winthrop winning the Big South Conference's Kallander Cup for community service excellence an unprecedented four straight times.
- **Pat Owens**, chemistry, physics and geology, for raising the national profile of the chemistry department.
- **Terry Ryan**, management and marketing, for going above and beyond the call of duty as an adjunct professor by providing leadership and assistance to a variety of projects and causes.
- **Michael Williams**, music, for his leadership of the percussion ensemble which won the prestigious 2012 Percussive Arts Society International World Percussion Competition, and, in addition, performed at the largest and most prestigious gathering of percussionists in the world at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention.
- **A.J. Angulo**, curriculum and pedagogy, for authoring a nearly \$178,000 U.S. Department of State grant proposal to renew the first federally funded cultural and educational exchange program of its kind at Winthrop, the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program.
- **Susanne Okey**, counseling, leadership and educational studies, for serving as logistics coordinator for Winthrop's Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program.
- **Scott Huffmon**, political science; **Adolphus Belk**, political science; **Karen Kedrowski**, political science; **Katarina Moyon**, political science; **Elizabeth Oswald-Sease**, political science; and **Judy Longshaw**, university relations, for contributing time and talent to ensure that Winthrop was well represented during the September 2012 Democratic National Convention.
- **Karen Kedrowski**, political science, and **Katarina Moyon**, political science, for designing and teaching a new innovative course – PLSC 390: Presidential Nominating Conventions.
- Development staff members **Jane Starnes** and **Melanie Brandon** for reaching out to various members of the Class of 1963 who had little to no previous contact with the university.
- Development staff members **Sheena Branch**, **Melanie Brandon**, **Afri Carlos**, **Meredith Carter**, **Linda Jacobs**, **Joanna Key**, **Katie Langer**, **Eyvette Long**, **Portia Myers**, **Jill Parker**, **Shannon Simpson** and **Teleia White** for creating and implementing the Chimney Challenge, a three-day fundraising event.
- **Beth Melton**, admissions, for designing and creating the Winthrop Tartan.
- **Thadd Bridges**, environmental health and safety, for becoming a certified course trainer for the AAA Driver Improvement Program.
- Facilities management employees **Chris Rousseau** and **Wes Love** for developing a method to detect water, steam and sewer leaks which have helped save the university more than \$250,000.
- **Jonathan Thomas**, computing and information technology, for designing and developing a data integrity and duplicate record mitigation system.

In his closing remarks, **President DiGiorgio** thanked faculty and staff for their hard work, partnership and friendship. "As I've always said...thank you for all that you have done and for all that you will continue to do to give this great university the future it deserves," DiGiorgio said in his final address to the campus community. "Come August Gale and I have no idea where we'll be and that's refreshing in a way. But, wherever we find ourselves, please know that our hearts will be here with you," he added.

For more information on these awards, please contact **Judy Longshaw**, news and media services manager, at 803/323-2236 or e-mail longshawj@winthrop.edu.

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