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## Earthquake Awareness Needed in South Carolina

Winthrop University

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# Earthquake Awareness Needed in South Carolina

## Quick Facts

- Author Richard Côté will speak during a program about earthquakes called "When It Strikes, Will You Be Ready?" on Oct. 9.
- Côté authored "City of Heroes," a book about the great Charleston hurricane of 1886.

ROCK HILL, S.C. - The **Friends of Dacus Library** at Winthrop University will present a program on Tuesday, Oct. 9, about earthquakes called "When It Strikes, Will You Be Ready?"

The 4 p.m. lecture will be in **Plowden Auditorium** in the Withers/W.T.S Building.

Author **Richard Côté**'s presentation will describe South Carolina's history of earthquakes and promote disaster readiness. His recent bestseller "City of Heroes" describes the 1886 earthquake in Charleston and its far-reaching impact on geology, disaster preparedness, and historical & scientific research worldwide, as well as increased study of seismic activity in South Carolina.

**Côté** will talk about "When the Earthquake Returns to South Carolina," a program about Charleston's 1886 earthquake, what South Carolina learned from it and how its residents can prepare to survive the "Next Big One." Forget Hugo. For its size, and in its time, the earthquake of 1886 is easily the most destructive force ever to hit the Lowcountry. "August 31, up until that evening, was probably the single most boring day in the history of South Carolina," said **Côté**.

He is the author of "City of Heroes: The Great Charleston Earthquake of 1886," a heavily illustrated nonfiction book filled with gripping, first-hand accounts of the earthquake, drawn directly from newspapers, personal diaries, journals, and letters of the earthquake survivors. It also follows the earthquake scientists who descended upon Charleston to discover what caused the disaster. But above all, it identifies the noble and heartwarming acts of numerous unsung heroes, black and white, inspired and led by Charleston's extraordinary mayor, William A. Courtenay. Working together, they saved numerous lives, nursed the wounded, fed the hungry, sheltered the homeless and enabled Charleston to make a full recovery from the massive disaster in only fourteen months.

**Côté**, a Connecticut native and Vietnam War veteran, studied political science and journalism at Butler University. After serving on the staff of the South Carolina Historical Society, he turned to writing about the nineteenth-century South. In 2004 he was awarded the Bobby Gilmer Moss Award in History by the Daughters of the American Revolution for his outstanding contributions to historical writing. He lives in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., where he writes, lectures and serves as Editor-in-Chief of Corinthian Books.

**Côté** has generously agreed to donate 10 percent of the proceeds of his book sold at the event to the **Friends of Dacus**.

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