Fall 9-26-2006

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Winthrop University

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First Mauldin Fellowship Given to Rock Hill Teacher

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Winthrop University officials recently awarded the first Mark and Mayme Mauldin Fellowship for Excellence in Special Education to a Rock Hill teacher.

Sharon Gayton, a teacher at the Children's School at Sylvia Circle, received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Winthrop in 1990 and a master's degree in reading in 2005. Now pursuing a master's degree in special education, Gayton is a candidate for National Board certification in the area of middle childhood generalist.

The Mauldin fellowship, endowed this spring by the Rock Hill Coca-Cola Bottling Company in honor of the company's founders, will support outstanding teachers in York County who are pursuing additional certification in special education. The fellowship recognizes the Mauldin family's dedication to education. During a 100th-anniversary gala event earlier this year, Rock Hill Coca-Cola's president Fred Faircloth told the story of the Mauldin family, including how his grandparents Mark and Mayme Mauldin had come to Rock Hill "sight unseen" to take over the fledgling bottling company and build it into the regional enterprise that it has become.

"York County has been very good to us," he said, "and this scholarship at Winthrop is our way of expressing appreciation to the citizens of York County for a century of support."

Rock Hill Coca-Cola has a long history of partnering with Winthrop to support academics and athletics. Rock Hill Coca-Cola contributes regularly to the Winthrop Annual Fund and Friends of the Library and was a major supporter of Winthrop's first capital campaign.