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Dacus Library Photography Exhibit Shows Poverty of Rural Areas

Winthrop University

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Dacus Library Photography Exhibit Shows Poverty of Rural Areas

Quick Facts

- Dacus Library will host "BUT WHAT ABOUT US?," an exhibit illustrating the poverty of S.C.'s rural communities.
- The exhibit will run Sept. 6-13 in the library.

ROCK HILL, S.C. - An upcoming **Dacus Library** exhibit at Winthrop University will show the poverty of South Carolina rural communities in pictures taken by the region's youngest members – its children.

The "**BUT WHAT ABOUT US?**" exhibit dramatizes the need for comprehensive, long-term equitable funding of South Carolina's rural public schools. Sponsored by Ferillo and Associates, Inc. of Columbia, S.C. with support from community leaders, the traveling exhibit consists of four portable 8'x10' collapsible display units presenting 60 photographs of students and their dilapidated schools. It will be shown on the first floor of **Dacus Library** from Sept. 6-13.

Nearly 250 students in middle and high schools in Allendale County School District, Dillon County School District 2, Hampton County School District 2, Jasper County School District, Laurens County School District 55, Lexington County School District 4 and Marion County School District 7 submitted photographs during March and April of 2006.

The plight of the seven rural school districts and their dilapidated facilities also became the subject of an award-winning documentary called "**Corridor of Shame.**"

"This photography exhibit seeks to identify malingering conditions in elementary, middle and high schools in the state's rural communities through the eyes and words of students themselves," said Bud Ferillo, producer and director of "**Corridor of Shame.**" "Piecemeal, short-term judicial and legislative remedies will remain woefully insufficient to address the obvious needs of South Carolina's rural schools. Until these deficiencies, are comprehensively addressed, this state's rural school children, will continue to languish and South Carolina's educational rankings will remain among the lowest in the nation."

Winthrop's **Richard W. Riley College of Education** has reached out to the counties along the I-95 corridor with a \$776,036 federal grant. Over four years, Winthrop professors will travel to the area to train successful teachers to become principals. Classes started this summer.

For more information about the exhibit, contact Mark Y. Herring, dean of library services, at 803/323-2232.

[\[Back to Previous Page\]](#)

IN THE HEART OF THE CAROLINAS

