



Fall 10-29-2012

## Legacy of Cristina Grabel to Continue at Winthrop

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### Recommended Citation

Winthrop University, "Legacy of Cristina Grabel to Continue at Winthrop" (2012). *Winthrop News* 2012. 136.  
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10/29/2012

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## Legacy of Cristina Grabiell to Continue at Winthrop

### Quick Facts

- Friends of Grabiell have established the Maria Cristina Grabiell y de la Guardia Fund, which will be used to provide awards for students pursuing careers in higher education or social justice and who have a vision for how they intend to make the world a better place.
- The fund will also provide annual awards to recipients of the M. Cristina Grabiell awards, given to a student and a faculty member who “care enough to make the world a better place.”



*Cristina Grabiell*

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Future generations of students will be influenced by the life and legacy of **Maria Cristina Grabiell**, Winthrop University dean of students from 1983-98, who passed away on Oct. 15 after a battle with cancer.

Friends of Grabiell have established the **Maria Cristina Grabiell y de la Guardia Fund**, which will be used to provide **awards for students pursuing careers in higher education or social justice** and who have a vision for how they intend to make the world a better place.

The fund will also provide annual awards to recipients of the M. Cristina Grabiell awards, given to a **student and a faculty member** who “care enough to make the world a better place.”

The **Maria Cristina Grabiell y de la Guardia Fund** is a small reflection of Grabiell’s professional and personal legacy, which led many Winthrop students to follow in her footsteps and pursue careers in higher education, student life, and social justice throughout the country and around the world.

Grabiell’s husband, **Ron Margolis**, noted that Grabiell “inspired those she befriended to live fully and to direct their energy toward their greatest potential. Her enthusiasm for life was simply irresistible.”

When she learned in the last days of her life that friends were establishing a fund to honor her, Grabiell said “It has been a gift to have my life’s work helping students. I will die still believing that there can someday be peace on earth, but even more now because of all of you, and I always only meant to give [my students] my best so they could give others their best – but they have exceeded all my expectations.”

Margolis describes his wife as “extraordinarily generous” – how fitting that her generosity of spirit and the generosity of many who loved her will continue to provide support and guidance to new generations of Winthrop students.

For more information about the **Maria Cristina Grabiell y de la Guardia Fund**, or to make a gift, call the Office of Development at 803/323-2150 or visit <http://www.winthrop.edu/give>.

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