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Winthrop University

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Jerry Richardson Donates to Winthrop in Honor of His Wife

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Jerry Richardson, founder and majority owner of the Carolina Panthers, has established a fully endowed scholarship in the amount of $500,000 to Winthrop University to honor his wife, Rosalind Sallenger Richardson, who attended Winthrop in the late 1950s.

Rosalind Richardson left school to marry Richardson, assisting him in becoming a successful business owner and executive after a noteworthy stint in the National Football League with the Baltimore Colts.

"While Rosalind was attending Winthrop College, it was my good fortune that she agreed to marry me, and I have tried to take good care of her ever since," Richardson said. "It will give me great pleasure to honor my wife, Rosalind, with an endowed scholarship."

The Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Senior Scholarship, a full tuition scholarship for a rising college senior will be available in the fall of 2010. The recipient will be announced at Convocation each year.

A Florence, S.C. native, Rosalind Richardson was active during her years at Winthrop. She participated on the May Court her freshmen and sophomore years. Her peers also selected her as Freshmen Beauty Queen and as secretary of the sophomore class.

She has stayed in touch with many of Winthrop classmates of the class of 1960 and will celebrate a 50th reunion with them this spring. Winthrop honored Rosalind Richardson with an honorary Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996.

The Richardsons got their business start in Spartanburg, S.C. with the growth of the Hardee’s chain and Spartan Foods. By 1995, Richardson’s Flagstar Corporation was the largest publicly held company based in South Carolina. In 1995, he retired from Flagstar and acquired a professional football franchise, the Carolina Panthers.

The Richardsons have three children, Jon, Mark and Ashley and nine grandchildren.