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Alumna Establishes Endowed Scholarship to Honor Late Mother

Winthrop University

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Alumna Establishes Endowed Scholarship to Honor Late Mother

Quick Facts

- The Doris Harrison Ford Endowed Scholarship will support students with financial need, with first preference given to political science majors.
- Marsha Ford earned her B.A. at Winthrop in 1971.



Doris Harrison Ford

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – **Marsha Ford** '71 has a vivid memory of watching the John F. Kennedy/Richard Nixon debates with her parents. Her mother, **Doris Harrison Ford** '44, took a keen interest in politics that Marsha plans to honor with a **new endowed scholarship** at Winthrop University.

Funded through a bequest, the **Doris Harrison Ford Endowed Scholarship** will provide support for students with financial need, with first preference given to **political science** majors and second preference to **mass communication** majors.

Marsha described Doris as an “astute observer of political climates,” noting that her mother’s lifelong interest in politics informed her own political leanings.

“My mother maintained an interest in politics because she thought it was vital to show up and vote and pay attention to what’s happening politically,” said Marsha, retired emergency physician, medical toxicologist and former director of the Carolinas Poison Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. She earned her B.A. in **philosophy and religious studies** at Winthrop in 1971.

Marsha also established the **Dr. Marsha Ford Political Education and Engagement Fund**, an annual restricted fund, in spring 2017 to support the **Department of Political Science** with programming related to political engagement and education, including materials, transportation, speakers’ fees, receptions and student travel, among other departmental needs.

Marsha’s gifts to Winthrop illustrate the university’s emphasis on creating a **thriving culture of philanthropy**, with **fundraising** defined as a **key priority** in the **Winthrop Plan**, the university’s strategic plan through 2025.

Born in Brunson, North Carolina, **Doris Harrison Ford** earned her bachelor’s degree in home economics at Winthrop in 1944. Before settling into her career as a special education teacher, she worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and as editor of the Great Falls Reporter newspaper in Great Falls, South Carolina. She was a member of the **South Carolina Education Association**.

Planned gifts are an important and meaningful way to give to Winthrop. Please contact Evan Bohnen, vice president for institutional advancement, at bohnene@winthrop.edu or 803/323-2275 for more information about including Winthrop in your estate plans.

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