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English Professor John Bird Named New Bryant Professor

Winthrop University

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English Professor John Bird Named New Bryant Professor

Quick Facts

- The Bryant professorship rewards outstanding teaching, scholarship and service to Winthrop and helps enrich the department through support of faculty.
- Created in 1997, the Margaret M. Bryant Professorship is given in memory of Winthrop's first graduate to earn a Ph.D.



John Bird

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA - Winthrop University has selected **Professor John Bird** as its **Margaret M. Bryant Professor** for the **Department of English**.

The selection was announced on Aug. 19 by **Acting President Debra Boyd**.

The **Bryant professorship** rewards outstanding teaching, scholarship and service to Winthrop and helps enrich the department through support of faculty. Created in 1997, the **Margaret M. Bryant Professorship** is given in memory of Winthrop's first graduate to earn a Ph.D.

Boyd said Bird is an excellent choice because he excels in all areas of faculty life. He is a respected and gifted teacher, known for his use of innovative and creative techniques in the classroom. He also is a nationally-recognized scholar on **Mark Twain**. And he serves as the **Faculty Conference Chair** and the faculty representative to the **Board of Trustees**.

As the leader of the Teaching and Learning Center, Bird writes a weekly teaching reflection entitled "The Weekly Reader." **Karen Kedrowski**, dean of the **College of Arts and Sciences**, noted: "I eagerly open his emails because I so enjoy his essays and find insightful advice that helps me be a better teacher and student mentor."

In addition, Bird is the author of "**Mark Twain and Metaphor**" (University of Missouri Press, 2007), as well as articles on Mark Twain, Henry David Thoreau and American humor.

This spring he was elected to a two-year term as president of the national **Mark Twain Circle of America**, which is the most important academic association of Twain scholars and enthusiasts. He is the founding editor of **The Mark Twain Annual**, the group's academic journal published by **Penn State University Press**.

Bird received his Ph.D. from the **University of Rochester** and his master's and bachelor's degrees in English from Appalachian State University. He teaches courses in American literature, critical theory and critical thinking.

As the fourth recipient of the **Margaret M. Bryant Professor of English Award**, Bird will join fellow Winthrop faculty members Jane Smith, Gloria Jones and William Naufftus as Bryant professor awardees.

For more information, contact **Judy Longshaw**, news and media services manager, at 803/323-2404 or e-mail her at longshawj@winthrop.edu

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