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Winthrop University

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English Professor Jo Koster Honored by Southeastern Medieval Association

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA - The Southeastern Medieval Association surprised Winthrop University English Professor Jo Koster with its annual teaching award for excellence on Oct. 18.

The presentation took place at the association’s annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

“Professor Koster is truly a gem, whose commitment to medieval studies and teaching excellence shines throughout her activities both on the Winthrop campus and in our organization,” said Tison Pugh, association president and an English professor at the University of Central Florida.

The teaching award is based on student evaluations, course materials, and statements of support from university administrators and colleagues at other institutions.

Koster, who has been a member of the association since 1994 and a Winthrop faculty member since 1993, has served three terms on its executive board. She received the association’s Award for Scholarly Achievement in 2010 and Winthrop’s Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award in 2012.

Koster’s primary areas of scholarship are in women’s literacy and literate practices in the later Middle Ages, especially in England, and in applications of social media and humanities computing to pedagogy and English literature. She is completing a book on medieval women’s literacy and is working with issues of material culture in Chaucer and with the development of opus Anglicanum in England. She also serves as director of Winthrop’s interdisciplinary Medieval Studies Minor.

The association’s mission is to promote the study and enjoyment of the Middle Ages by students at every level of expertise. Professional and independent scholars from various branches of medieval studies – history, arts, science, philosophy, archaeology, paleography, theology, language, and literatures – belong to the group.

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