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Fine Arts Professor Will Deliver Commencement Address on Dec. 20

Winthrop University

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Fine Arts Professor Will Deliver Commencement Address on Dec. 20

Quick Facts

- Dufresne's message will be heard by December and August graduates and their guests attending the 11 a.m. Commencement on Dec. 20 at Winthrop Coliseum. There are more than 270 students set to receive their degrees.
- Winthrop will recognize its December graduate students at a separate ceremony on Dec. 18. At that 7 p.m. event at Winthrop Coliseum, 80 students will receive their master's or specialist degrees.
- Both the Dec. 18 and 20 ceremonies may be viewed by computer via a live stream found on the Winthrop homepage.



Laura Dufresne

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – **Winthrop University's 2014 Distinguished Professor, Laura Dufresne** of the fine arts department, will talk about mistakes and risk taking during her address at the **Dec. 20 undergraduate Commencement ceremony**.

Her message will be heard by December and August graduates and their guests attending the 11 a.m. Commencement on Dec. 20 at **Winthrop Coliseum**. There are more than 270 students set to receive their degrees.

Dufresne joined the Winthrop faculty in 1989. She has been a department leader in online course offerings and in establishing partnerships with agencies such as the **Mint Museum** in Charlotte, North Carolina, to help place art history students in key internships to expand their career options.

Her peers said that such topics as medieval manuscripts, the art of the book, iconography and women's studies have been a part of the department's vocabulary in large part due to Dufresne's perseverance. She has encouraged a rigorous, yet joyful academic environment where the study of art history can flourish. In 1991 she received a **Fulbright Award** to study in Czechoslovakia (now Slovakia and the Czech Republic).

Within the past five years, Dufresne has headed a revamping and re-sequencing of the art history curriculum and courses in a major effort to keep Winthrop's offerings relevant.

She recently completed the book "The Fifteenth-Century Illustrations of Christine de Pizan's 'The Book of the City of Ladies' and 'The Treasure of the City of Ladies'" which was published by **Edwin Mellen Press**. Research for this book took 24 years.

Born in Los Angeles, California, **Dufresne** studied psychology at the **University of California-Santa Cruz**, later earning a specialist degree in gerontology at the **University of Nebraska-Omaha**. During her time in Nebraska, she worked with the elderly for **Volunteer in Service to America**. Dufresne earned her Ph.D. in art history at the **University of Washington-Seattle**, where she served as a teaching assistant, as well as an intern at the **Textile Collection of the Henry Art Gallery**.

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