

WINGATE

2018 – 19
Impact
Report





What is the impact of a Wingate University education? Depends on whom you ask.

Current students find that it changes their view of the world. Recent graduates realize that it makes them more marketable and better prepared for their careers. Older alumni lean on the values instilled in them all those years ago. And the community beyond The Gate benefits in countless ways (an innovative, others-centered workforce is a good place to start).

Over the next few pages, we attempt to quantify, through numbers and stories, what type of impact the University has on its students. Not to mention the impact our students, graduates, faculty and staff have on Union County, the Carolinas and the wider world.

President's message: Growth with a purpose

It's an inescapable fact these days: Our Bulldog family is growing.

Two years ago, we welcomed the largest class of first-year students in our history, and far more students are enrolled at Wingate now than even five years ago. With caring professors, a beautiful campus and programs of study that are in high demand, it's no mystery why we're such a popular choice. It's an appealing mixture of people, place and possibility.

Rest assured, we haven't simply opened up the doors to Burris, Smith and Bridges and let anyone with a pulse take classes. The average high-school profile (SAT/ACT score and GPA) for incoming freshmen was roughly the same at Wingate in 2017 as it was in 2010. Our students come in prepared.

We like to think that all of the growth is a good thing. It fits our mission as a university. Or, to be more precise, it fits our mission as an *institution*. Long before we were a university, or even a college, we were a school, serving high-school students at a time when public education was not widespread. Founded to fill a need in the community, The Wingate School gave an education to teenagers in Union and Chesterfield counties who otherwise might have gone without.

Every step in our history has been taken in order to meet the evolving needs of the community. We became a junior college because the need in the 1920s was for students with degrees beyond high school. Five decades later, we became a senior college, because that's where the need lay. In the mid-1990s, we became a university, for similar reasons.

For one thing, it makes good business sense (companies that don't fill a gap in the market don't last long). Aside from that, it's also the right thing to do.

Between July 2017 and July 2018, the city of Charlotte added more new residents than all but four major U.S. cities. A little farther north, Raleigh is the 10th-fastest-growing metro area in the nation this decade. The rapid growth spells a lot more college-age kids on our doorstep now and in the future. The wider community will need a good chunk of them educated beyond high school. That's where Wingate comes in.

But perhaps you already know all of this. The important thing to remember is that at every step, with every change, we have kept certain core values sacred. Chief among them is personal attention. Even with our recent growth, Wingate remains a small university with a teaching-focused faculty.

A case in point: In the fall of 2018, Anna Holmquist was an unassuming, if highly accomplished, student-athlete. She was an All-American volleyball player with a nearly perfect grade-point average, but the Nebraska native had an inherent Midwestern modesty about her. She quietly excelled.

Then she took a class with Dr. Steven Hyland. The history professor knew almost instantly that Holmquist was Fulbright material. He convinced her she could win a Fulbright placement and guided her through the process, and in February she'll head to Brazil to teach English. There, she will export Wingate's own brand of others-based modesty – the Faith, Knowledge, Service ethos students are exposed to here – to another part of the world.

"It was really special to have a professor approach me and say, 'You need to do this, because you've done this, this and this,'" she says. "It was really inspiring that he saw that stuff in me."

"There's no way if I wasn't at Wingate that I would have gotten to the point where I would have applied or have gotten it (the Fulbright)."

Holmquist isn't the only Bulldog student-athlete to excel in the classroom and on the court. Far from it. In June, five Bulldogs (two tennis players, three

swimmers) became Academic All-America honorees, taking Wingate's total for the year to eight. Since 2000, Wingate has had 112 Academic All-Americans – the most in NCAA Division II and in North Carolina (all NCAA divisions).

The "athlete" part of "student-athlete" hasn't been too shabby either. In February, Isaiah Kyle claimed Wingate's first national title in track and field, winning the Division II men's high jump at the national indoor championships. Fourteen Wingate teams reached NCAA regional play this year, 27 athletes were named All-America, and we had seven South Atlantic Conference players of the year. In addition, Michael Cabana, director of the University's tennis program, was named national women's tennis coach of the year.

Of the many athletes who excelled in their sport and in the classroom, quite a few hailed from overseas. Nik Martin (see page 12), a native of Germany, was just one of a host of outstanding Wingate swimmers from outside the United States who set a high bar in the classroom. In

fact, all three male Bulldog swimmers who made Academic All-America this year came to Wingate from Europe (Giacomo Viazzo, from Italy, and Sweden's Markus Furst are the others).

The 122 international students who studied at Wingate in the most recent academic year brought a unique perspective to campus. Their take on a variety of topics informed class discussions, while their social involvement helped American students understand how similar we all are, no matter where we hail from.

To give students firsthand experience with different cultures, the University continued to expand its international programs last year. Wingate set a new school record with 299 people participating in study abroad, including 261 students. Those students studied in 16 countries, with 40 percent of them participating in WInternational, the University's flagship study-abroad program.

Back at home, the University has been expanding physically to accommodate our growing student body. We added 50,000 square feet to the main campus in the past academic year, taking the total to 1.55 million.

Construction crews were busy all summer adding a residence hall, remodeling the Klondike (to bring in

Chick-Fil-A, Bento's and Freshens), creating a new space for art classes and renovating the ground floor of Burnside-Dalton to welcome our inaugural cohort in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program. And in Ballantyne, MBA classes have moved into a 7,200-square-foot space in the Gibson building.

The new 200-bed residence hall, behind Helms Hall, will provide a new style of dorm life – one that enables students to learn where they live. It will feature classrooms, study rooms and even a teaching kitchen. The University's first Living-Learning Community will be housed there, giving a select group of freshmen a community-focused twist on the first-year experience. LLC students will take a special section of Gateway, Wingate's First Year Seminar course, that will focus on service, and they will participate in activities and programs designed to improve student success, including experiential learning, career and academic exploration, and in-hall tutoring and advising.

It's all part of our commitment to fulfilling that age-old Wingate mission: finding a need and meeting it. At Wingate, people and place come together to create a world of possibility.



Dr. Brown walks with students

Enrollment



3,689

Total students

23%

Change in overall student population since 2013 which makes us the fastest-growing private university in NC



2,726

Undergraduate students

36%

Change in undergraduate student population since 2013



Faith: No-frills mission trip provides 'a spiritual awakening'

26

faith lyceums
(five held during
Interfaith Week),
with a total of

2,564

participants

During baccalaureate

128

faculty and staff
members received
the mentor medallion
for their service
to students

750

students, faculty, and
staff participated in
university worship
experiences

For nine Wingate University students, a spring break trip to Jamaica was no day at the beach. In March, they visited Kingston, Jamaica's capital, where they volunteered with Missionaries of the Poor.

The trip contained virtually no leisure or sightseeing component. The Wingate students, and the five adults accompanying them, engaged in no-frills volunteer work, sleeping in cots or on the floor, waking up shortly after 5 a.m., and spending each day helping homeless adults and orphans, many of them disabled, with everyday tasks.

"You may be changing bedpans and helping handicapped children get dressed," Dane Jordan, minister to students, warned students before they left.

"This will be an intense week," student Kirby Goodin added.

It certainly was. Volunteers helped residents brush their teeth, eat meals, clean themselves and get dressed.

470

hours volunteered with Missionaries
of the Poor monastery (more than
 $\frac{3}{4}$ in Jamaica)

"We saw a lot of things that maybe other people have never seen before and were doing a lot of dirty, not-fun tasks," Goodin said after returning to campus. "I was putting lotion on dirty, crusty feet. But one of the things I kept telling myself, from a faith standpoint, was, 'This is Jesus.' When Jesus said, 'You know, When you serve the least of these, you are serving me,' that's exactly what we were doing."

Student Ministries got connected to Missionaries of the Poor through Cameron Jackson, assistant vice president for auxiliary services and a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Lancaster, S.C. The Missionaries of the Poor monastery is affiliated with Our Lady of Grace and with Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Monroe.

Missionaries of the Poor is a relatively new order of the Catholic Church, founded in 1981 by Father Ho Lung, a former college professor who had a spiritual awakening in the 1970s. He founded the order to

care for the neediest and most destitute citizens of Jamaica – those, as Jordan says, "nobody else wants to take care of." The organization has more than 550 brothers serving in nine missions around the world.

The trip to help serve the residents of the monastery in Kingston was unique in that the tourism element was limited to one trip to Devon House, Kingston's famous ice-cream shop. Otherwise, the Wingate contingent concentrated on comforting the afflicted.

"I think it was kind of a spiritual awakening for a lot of people," Goodin said. "A lot of Christians get in the routine of you go to church, you read your Bible. It's a lot of me, me, me. 'What can I do to grow my spirituality?' But I think we forget sometimes how much service is supposed to be a part of that. What I saw in a lot of the students was 'I'm worshiping through my service' or 'I'm literally serving Jesus when I'm doing these things.'"

And while they served, they got something in return.

"Serving with Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica was, overall, truly the most challenging yet rewarding experience of my life so far," student Ariel Ray said. "I had no idea what to expect. Initially, our intentions were to serve the poor and in need, but what I found in Jamaica was something that I myself was in need of: an abundance of joy."

Outcomes

851
graduates

100%

Physician Assistant grads passed licensing exam (98% on first attempt)

100%

Nursing grads passed licensing exam (third year in a row)

100%

placement rate for health sciences, education and music graduates

97%

of seniors say they are challenged by their courses

93%

of seniors took part in a high-impact practice (service learning, research with a faculty member, internship, study abroad, etc.) and 4 out of 5 participated in 2 or more



Knowledge: Martin a human-focused problem solver at heart

Nik Martin is a lot of things: a serious student, a champion swimmer, a web designer, an entrepreneur. But at his core, he's a problem solver.

"I'm very aware of the problems around me and how the system works," says Martin, a native of Germany who graduated in May. "I always think about ways to fix things and how to make them better."

In 2018, Dr. Debbi Brock knew just the problem in need of Martinizing. For years, the assistant professor of marketing has maintained a digital folder full of social-entrepreneurship teaching resources, using the online sharing tool DropBox. Other marketing and entrepreneurship professors around the world would contribute to the cache of resources or download lesson plans and PowerPoint presentations for their own use.

The account was heavily used and highly appreciated, but it was more storage locker than organized library.

"You could never see what was actually in the file. You could only see a preview," Martin says. "There were many files, so it was really difficult to see what was what. Nobody knew the folder structure, so everybody just added their own folders."

Brock asked Martin to come up with a more user-friendly way to present the resources, and the website he created from scratch, www.socialchangeinnovators.com, certainly did the trick. For their efforts, early this year Martin and Brock received the Excellence in Pedagogical Innovation Award at the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship's annual conference in St. Petersburg, Florida. They beat out 15 other entrants to win the award and joined teams from Utah State, Florida State and the University of Missouri-Kansas City in taking home hardware.

The website project was perfect for Martin, who sees marketing as the ideal blend of art, technology and business. Martin taught himself to code when he was a young teenager in Germany, and

he worked as a graphic designer for the University's AdTeam for two years. He is also, as Brock says, "crazy organized."

"His attention to detail is to the level of a business professional with 10 years of experience, to the point that he became the project manager and gave me deadlines to complete," she says. "The role reversal was a breath of fresh air!"

Martin, a captain on the swim team, was an Academic All-American as well as a first-team All-American in the pool. The dedication, tenacity and single-mindedness it takes to excel as a swimmer paid off in the classroom, where Martin made the President's List every semester of his four years at Wingate, graduating with a 3.98 grade-point average. Dr. Barry Cuffe, professor of management science, puts Martin in the top 1 percent of students

he's taught in the past 20 years.

Originally a finance major, Martin switched to marketing in part because he wanted to focus on what's best for the consumer. "I got pretty annoyed that it (finance) was always about the owners of the business and how to increase the profits at the cost of everybody else," he says.

At his next stop, Martin will learn even more about how to make people's lives better. This fall, he is diving into a master's program in human-machine connection (how very 21st century) at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. There, he will learn about human cognition and how to apply it in practical settings.

Sounds like the perfect course of study for a problem solver like Martin.



International Programs

261

students studied abroad
(plus 38 faculty/staff)



16

different countries
visited as part of 20
unique programs



122

international students,
representing

48

countries, studied at
Wingate



5

Fulbright English
Teaching Assistant
Fellowships in the
past 5 years

Service: New portal enables students to more easily give back

536

area residents were served during three health sciences community events involving

234

student volunteers

3

United Way Spirit of North Carolina awards in 3 years. Wingate also brought home the prestigious Excellence in Community Spirit Award.

\$1.5m

worth of health services provided free of charge to local residents, thanks to our expanded partnership with Community Health Services of Union County. The University now funds a full-time physician assistant at the CHS clinic.

1,000+

members of the University community involved in United Way's Day of Caring over the past four years.

It's no secret that Wingate encourages students to embrace a lifestyle of service. From the United Way Day of Caring in the fall to One Day, One Dog in the spring, hundreds of Wingate students and employees volunteer to help with a range of organized service projects each year.

But what if you're looking for something a little more bespoke – something that matches your skill set or interests more closely? Last semester, finding a good service match became much easier for Wingate students.

Thanks to a \$25,000 Jessie Ball duPont Foundation grant, Wingate has launched its Partnership Portal. The website will enable University partners to reach potential volunteers, students to find service opportunities easily, and faculty members to build those opportunities into their courses to help turn pen-and-paper assignments into true service-learning.

Just a small part of the grant's provisions, the Partnership Portal will be a game-changer, according to Catherine Wright, assistant religion professor and sustainability guru.

"It's very easy to use, and it allows every group, from businesses to nonprofits, healthcare organizations, to have their own space to share their projects and needs for volunteers or interns," Wright says. "The tool also gives students a super-simple way to find all sorts of volunteer

opportunities that suit their interests and to be autonomous about it."

Anyone can sign on as a user of the portal, which tracks hours as soon as volunteers check in at a work site. It also stores data so that students, at the touch of a button, can print their service resumé as a complement to their college transcript.

"Also, we can go into the portal and find out how many students we have volunteering and what is the cumulative impact of this service," Wright says.

The portal also brings students together with people they might never have met otherwise. "Since the portal is public, when students show up to serve, they could be working alongside other students or alumni or other community members that they wouldn't have met otherwise, but there they are shoulder-to-shoulder," Wright says. "So it expands

the concept of One Dog."

The duPont grant is also being used to fund faculty and student fellowships. Two-person teams are tasked with interviewing key community stakeholders and gathering ideas about how we all could work together more effectively.

"A big goal of the fellowship program is to find out more about our community – how we can support them and how they can support us," Wright says. "We want to find out first what are their strengths and assets, then what do they need in the way of support and resources. We also want to find out what inspires them, very specifically, and what their aspirations are, where they see themselves going."

It all adds up to even more community involvement for a University already heavily committed to pitching in.

234

student volunteers

1,582

One Day, One Dog volunteers completed 29 service projects



Athletics

13

teams nationally ranked

8

new Academic All-America honorees

7th

Women's Swimming's finish at NCAA championship meet



1

SAC Presidents Award Winner: Anna Holmquist

7

conference championships



Elite 8

Volleyball team's NCAA finish



2

SAC Person of the Year honorees: Anna Holmquist and Daniel Belsito

13

SAC Echols Athletic Awards in a row

Physical Growth

1.55m
total square footage

540
acres

78
buildings

Recent projects include a
200 - bed,
53,000 - sq.-ft.
residence hall
that includes
7 classrooms

14
remodeling projects
totaling
\$21m
got underway during
summer 2019

Giving

\$14,440,623 raised

\$186,105

raised on One Day, One Dog,
up \$20,000 from last year

1,190

gifts on One Day, One Dog

10

new scholarships
established

2,971

total donors

1,076

alumni donors



I give because
I like to give.
Give. Serve. Celebrate.



