


WINGATE

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1896

2017-18 IMPACT REPORT



The background of the page features a photograph of a building with a porch and large windows, partially obscured by the silhouettes of trees. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent yellow overlay. The text is written in a white, sans-serif font, positioned on the right side of the image.

We're all about the numbers at Wingate University: The number of graduates we send out into the world with prospects and purpose (**658** last year). The number of Academic All-America honorees who have graced our fields, pools and courts (**114** and counting). The number of squirrels on campus (fluctuates*).

Counting and organizing our accomplishments makes it easier to quantify our impact on the world.

Introduction

So, what is the ripple effect the University has on Union County, the Carolinas, the Southeast, and the world? When we send a newly licensed teacher or physical therapist into the workplace, how many people's lives are changed for the better because of the knowledge and experience their teacher or therapist gained at Wingate? How much healthier does the University-supplied physician assistant make the clients of Community Health Services in Monroe?

When Joni Wagoner joined the chorus in middle school, she could already bring a church hall to tears with her soprano voice. But under the tutelage of a pair of Wingate grads – Mount Holly Middle's **Amy Burch Carpenter** '12 and East Gaston High's **Peter Haley** '09 – she really found her voice, and purpose.

Now a freshman in Wingate's Music Department, Wagoner is intent on following in the footsteps of her Bulldog mentors. The self-described "humongous choral nerd" wants to one day be a chorus teacher herself.

"It is a wonderful thing to know that some of the same folks that helped take care of me will help take care of her as well," Haley says.

Not everyone who experiences the Spirit of One Dog will ultimately enroll in the University, of course (though we'd love five minutes of your time to give you our pitch). We do, however, like to think we have a positive impact wherever we go.

For a research project this past summer, Assistant Professor of Education Melanie Keel and senior Leanne Mansfield visited Ecuador to see how children there learn English. What they

found was a culture that prizes language acquisition and has embraced a bilingual culture.

Keel and Mansfield found a startling commitment to teaching English. "The environment they have created was one to support risk-takers, to help them see that this (mastering English) is not an overwhelming task," Keel says.

Keel is passionate about the health of the local schools. She hopes to take elements of the Ecuadorian approach to bilingualism and help Union County Public Schools improve how it teaches a growing population of Hispanic students.

It is all part of what we like to refer to as a Laboratory of Difference-Making – the intersection of our students' enthusiasm for learning, the knowledge and experience of our faculty and staff, and the needs of the community.

It's an equation that we think adds up to a huge impact.



Enrollment

3,621 TOTAL STUDENTS

2,593 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

21% CHANGE IN OVERALL STUDENT
POPULATION SINCE 2013

29% CHANGE IN UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT POPULATION SINCE 2013



The fastest-growing independent university in North Carolina

The 2017-2018 academic year was one for the University record books.

After steady gains over the years – even as other schools struggled to add students – Wingate’s enrollment took a massive leap in the fall of 2017. The number of first-year undergraduate students jumped 62 percent from August 2016 to August 2017.

The growth took the University’s overall student population – including graduate and professional students – past 3,600. Wingate is now the fastest-growing non-public university in North Carolina.

The growth is due to many factors, such as Wingate’s pivot toward the health sciences in the early 2000s, the tweaking of several admissions processes over the years, and the simple

fact that we have a beautiful campus, friendly students and approachable professors.

But we like to think it’s something deeper than that. Wingate has made it a priority to educate people from all walks of life. **Ghada Bedwan** ’18, a Muslim student who is now in medical school, liked the welcoming feel of campus when she visited five years ago.

“I don’t know too much what I was expecting,” she said. “I just know I wanted this home environment, and in that respect it exceeded my expectations. I’ve just really loved it.”

Outcomes

100%

P.A. GRADS' FIRST-ATTEMPT PANCE PASS RATE (THIRD TIME IN FIVE YEARS)

NURSING GRADS' FIRST-ATTEMPT NCLEX-RN PASS RATE (THIRD YEAR IN A ROW)

HEALTH-SCIENCES GRADS' POST-LICENSURE-EXAM PLACEMENT RATE

TEACHER-EDUCATION GRADS OFFERED TEACHING POSITIONS OR ACCEPTED INTO GRAD SCHOOL

PLACEMENT RATE FOR MUSIC-EDUCATION MAJORS

+++

MEDIAN EARNINGS OF GRADUATES 10 YEARS AFTER COMING TO WINGATE
ARE ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

92%

OF SENIORS SAY THEY NOW THINK MORE CRITICALLY AND ANALYTICALLY

717

THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL UNDERGRADUATES ON CAMPUS VERSUS 2013

A woman with dark, curly hair and a patterned scarf is holding a large, light-colored sign. The sign has handwritten text in black ink. The text includes "MY Sister Keeper" in a large, stylized font, and "Come on in it is" in a smaller font. There are also some drawings of hearts and other small text. The background is a solid purple color.

Making a difference in young lives

As a rookie teacher at Wingate Elementary School, **Joya Wortham '12** saw her younger self in one particular student. The girl was sweet, she says, but had a “nasty attitude.”

Wortham knew she needed to find a way to get the girl on a better path.

Wortham started My Sister's Keeper, a twice-weekly after-school program that is now in its sixth year. During the two-hour sessions, she uses a mix of discussion and action to deal with issues relating to respect, self-esteem and leadership. Often, discussion turns to such heavy topics as divorce, abuse and suicide.

The program has been so successful that Wortham earned a Bright Ideas grant in 2017 to help the program along.

“Joya is passionate about helping all students succeed,” says Lesa Williams, an interventionist at Wingate Elementary. “She allows students to debate each other and teaches them to have meaningful conversations about relevant topics. She pushes students outside their comfort zones to become leaders, to do their best in all situations and to have a positive self-image.”

Faith

22 WINGATE GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WENT ON 3 DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIPS TO HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

45 STUDENTS WERE ENGAGED IN SOME TYPE OF SUMMER MINISTRY PROGRAM

Talking faith as a core University value

In the summer of 2017, the University formed the Faith Development Council, whose goal was to get people talking about what it means for Christian faith to be a core institutional value. A year later, the University's first Faith Summit got that conversation started.

About 65 faculty and staff members, trustees and University friends attended the event on the main campus June 28-29. Among them were the four founding members of the Faith Development Council: Paul Baxley, Jim McCoy, Jim Somerville and Mitch Simpson, each of whom has served as either campus minister at the University or senior minister of Wingate Baptist Church and continues to have a passion and appreciation for those institutions.

Two more members of the council have been added: Todd Lake, vice president for spiritual development at Belmont University, and Father Benjamin Roberts of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Monroe, N.C. A goal of the Council this year is to gain new perspectives by expanding the membership with diversity and inclusiveness in mind.

Topics discussed at the Summit included campus ministry programs and faith organizations that serve students; faculty and staff perspectives on the meaning and manifestation of faith on campus; and the Wingate University/Wingate Baptist Church partnership. In a keynote address, Lake surveyed different types of Christian, faith-based colleges and universities.

The conversation will continue with another Faith Summit planned for next summer.



9 RECOMMENDATIONS CAME OUT OF THE FAITH SUMMIT

19 FAITH LYCEUMS, WITH A TOTAL OF 1,650 PARTICIPANTS

7 FAITH-BASED REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (RSOS), WITH 316 TOTAL MEMBERS

129


BULLDOGS WERE
INVOLVED WITH
THE FELLOWSHIP
OF CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES

High-impact practices

Future physician thinking like a scientist

79%

OF SENIORS PARTICIPATED IN TWO OR MORE "HIGH-IMPACT PRACTICES" (LEARNING COMMUNITY, SERVICE LEARNING, RESEARCH WITH FACULTY, INTERNSHIP, STUDY ABROAD OR CULMINATING SENIOR EXPERIENCE) DURING THEIR TIME AT THE UNIVERSITY.



Hannah Teague wants to become a physician, not a veterinarian. But the research she's doing on sheep alongside Dr. Alison Brown will still help her reach her goal.

Brown and Teague, a senior biology major, have taken two trips to Idaho in search of fetal DNA in ewes. Teague has participated in every step of the process: slaughter, tissue collection, DNA extraction, and everything in between. She and Brown are trying to determine whether any DNA from lambs crosses over into the mother during pregnancy and, if so, what that means for the ewe later in her life.

It might seem like an obscure point to research, but it could have a large effect on the sheep industry. And it will undoubtedly have a big impact on Teague.

"Conducting research will increase my ability to think like a scientist, which is essentially what physicians have to do each day," Teague says. "In order to understand and diagnose a patient, I must be able to think critically and analyze and interpret data. It's like putting the pieces of a puzzle together."

International Programs

119

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
STUDYING AT WINGATE THIS
FALL, FROM 42 COUNTRIES

233

STUDENTS STUDIED ABROAD
(PLUS 37 FACULTY & STAFF)

in

12

COUNTRIES (UK, GERMANY, FRANCE,
SPAIN, ISRAEL, NETHERLANDS, ITALY,
HONDURAS, COSTA RICA, ECUADOR,
SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA)

45%

INCREASE FROM 2016-2017

4
FOR
4
4 FULBRIGHT
ENGLISH
TEACHING
ASSISTANT
FELLOWSHIPS
IN PAST 4
YEARS

Fleurizard latest Wingate Fulbrighter

A black man from the high-poverty town of Bridgeport, Connecticut, **Tyrone Fleurizard** '18 attended an affluent, predominantly white prep school in nearby Fairfield. Growing up with a foot on both sides of the socioeconomic divide has made the psychology major and recent Wingate graduate fascinated by the intersection of race, ethnicity and education.

What better place to go on a Fulbright, then, than Malaysia.

"Malaysia is one of the most ethnically diverse Southeast Asian countries," Fleurizard says. "I've intimately spoken about how my experiences being black in the United States educational system make me more aware of issues related to race and ethnicity and how, because of those experiences, I'm interested in seeing and figuring out how other people do it."

Fleurizard is the fourth Wingate alum in four years to earn a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant fellowship, and he's the only one to have earned a posting before he graduated. Dr. Steven Hyland, history professor and two-time Fulbrighter himself, has been instrumental in encouraging Wingate students to apply for Fulbrights – and in the process spread the Spirit of One Dog around the world.

Service

>1,000

MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY INVOLVED IN UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS AND WINGATE WON UNITED WAY'S SPIRIT OF NORTH CAROLINA AWARD FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

ONE DAY, ONE DOG: APRIL 12, 2018

37 TOP DOGS

198 AMBASSADORS

700+ VOLUNTEERS IN 15 SERVICE PROJECTS

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

- 188 health sciences students, 25 faculty members, 6 staff members (219 total WU participants)
- 320 members of the public
- 32 people registered with Community Health Services of Union County
- 126 blood-pressure screenings, 105 diabetes/cholesterol screenings, 42 flu shots given, 56 oral health screenings, 60 hands-only CPR trainings, 14 fall and balance screenings, 20 pints of blood donated



WU health fair prompts lifestyle changes

Wingate's health-sciences programs are changing – and saving – lives in Union County.

In January, Wingate began providing Community Health Services of Union County with a full-time physician assistant for its free clinic. The PA will serve the more than 5,000 diabetes patients who visit the clinic every year.

And in January, Wingate put on a four-hour Community Health and Wellness Fair. The numbers behind the fair are impressive (see left), but one figure in particular stands out: In exit surveys, 68 percent of community members who attended the fair vowed to make health-related changes as a result of participating.

That's exactly the kind of impact organizers had hoped for. The University is using its considerable health-sciences resources to improve the community around it – making the Community Health and Wellness Fair the embodiment of the Lab of Difference-Making ethos.

Students will take that ethos with them when they leave Wingate and enter hospitals, pharmacies and clinics across the country. Volunteer Trana Rashid, a student in Wingate's School of Pharmacy, says, "When you have a platform to educate all types of people, you should take advantage of that opportunity."

Athletics

9 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

9 ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA HONOREES

2 SAC SCHOLAR-ATHLETES
Nepolian Patel (cross country and track)
Valerie Griesche (cross country and track)

1 SAC PRESIDENTS AWARD
(best overall student-athlete) Valerie Griesche

28 ALL-AMERICANS

7th MEN'S SWIMMING'S FINISH AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

8th WOMEN'S SWIMMING'S FINISH AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

1 NATIONAL CHAMPION (800-METER FREE RELAY, WOMEN)

1

SAC WOMAN OF THE
YEAR / NCAA WOMAN
OF THE YEAR NOMINEE
Valerie Griesche

Griesche miles ahead – on track and in classroom

As a steeplechase standout, **Valerie Griesche** '18 is used to clearing hurdles. But few obstacles are as daunting as cancer.

At the University of Heidelberg, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the world, Griesche is putting her biology degree to good use in the pursuit of better treatments for cancer. She recently started a master's program in major cancer biology within the molecular bioscience department at Heidelberg.

"My vision is to discover new findings about the fatal disease and develop treatment and therapeutic methods to fight cancer," she says. "One day, these new insights might help to find a cure for cancer."

Don't bet against her. At Commencement in May, Griesche shared the H.K. Helms Award for having the top GPA (4.0) in the senior class. The native of Germany did it while also being

named All-Southeast Region in outdoor track four times and all-conference in cross country three times.

Her other highlights: first-team Academic All-America, SAC Scholar-Athlete, SAC Presidents Award, SAC Woman of the Year, NCAA Woman of the Year nominee. The honors student also worked on breast-cancer research for three years and tutored in the Academic Resource Center.

Oh, and all while just putting her head down and getting on with it.

"Valerie excels at everything she attempts in an unassuming way," says Steve Poston, Wingate's director of athletics. "She accomplishes great things without fanfare – partly due to the distance events she runs, and partly due to her nature."

Physical growth


1.5 MILLION

TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE

520 ACRES

UP FROM 400 ACRES A YEAR AGO

76 BUILDINGS



2017	MCGEE CENTER	72,000 SQ. FT.
2017	HILLTOP HALL	22,186 SQ. FT.
2017	ED WEST CENTER ATHLETIC OFFICES	8,200 SQ. FT.
2018	WILSON EAST	32,000 SQ. FT.
2018	WILSON WEST	32,000 SQ. FT.

New buildings sprouting like mushrooms

Whether you've been back to Wingate recently or not, you've probably been hearing for years how much the campus has changed. It's difficult to overstate the transformation. Even current students notice significant differences after summer breaks.

The most recent additions are two new residence halls, Wilson East and Wilson West, that opened just before classes started in late August. And we really mean just before – the furniture for Wilson East wasn't delivered and installed until the Friday before classes began. Wedged between the soccer

complex and Wilson street, the two new 32,000-square-foot residence halls provide housing for a total of 218 students.

They are among 10 new buildings on the Wingate campus, plus one in Hendersonville, in the past three years. That's 249,086 additional square feet of space to study, play, sleep and be inspired.

But take your drone shots soon to capture this moment in time. Ground has already broken on a new residence hall, set to open in the fall of 2019.

Giving

\$30,508,506

DOLLARS RAISED

951

MORE DONORS IN 2017-2018 THAN THE PRECEDING YEAR

2,821

TOTAL DONORS

1,154

ALUM DONORS

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS ESTABLISHED

- Sandra Millikin and Luther Thomas Moore Scholarship
- Harry E. Greene and Brenda Staley Greene Endowed Baseball Athletic Scholarship
- Martha Secrest Asti Artist Series Endowed Fund
- True Homes, LLC Scholarship
- James R. Bullock, Jr. Music Scholarship
- Gateway Scholarship for Early College Students

ONE DAY, ONE DOG

- 1,320 donors
- \$166,002 raised
- \$90,758 raised, with nearly a 200 percent increase in leadership giving since 2015



Wingate becomes All-Steinway school

Wingate piano students already learn from some of the best instructors in the business. Why shouldn't they also learn on the best pianos available?

Now they do. Wingate is awaiting certification as an All-Steinway school, which means that at least 90 percent of the University's pianos are manufactured by Steinway and Sons. Wingate will join about 200 other colleges, universities and conservatories in having earned the designation.

"It's an exclusive mark," says Assistant Professor David Brooks. "Not many schools – even prestigious conservatories – have this distinction, for a variety of reasons. But especially a school this size, it's unusual to be all-Steinway."

To get to that point, the University conducted an All-Steinway campaign that netted close to \$200,000 in gifts from music lovers. The last of the 20 Steinways purchased through the campaign funds arrived in August, putting Wingate at 92 percent Steinway.

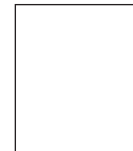
Being All-Steinway is more than a reputational designation. It's a significant factor in providing students with the best musical education possible. Brooks says that Steinways, although more difficult to master, are more versatile instruments than lower-quality pianos. "It's like a Ferrari is more difficult to drive than a Prius," he says, "but you can do more with it."

And since students will be driving those Ferraris once they graduate, they might as well learn to handle them now.

W I N G A T E
U N I V E R S I T Y



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W I N G A T E