

## Wingate University Building Namesakes

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## Auditoriums, Theaters and Museums

### Austin Memorial Auditorium

Completed in 1960, Austin seats 999. The building is named for the late Mr. and Mrs. John M. Austin of Wadesboro. It was remodeled in 1980 to accommodate a custom-built, 30-stop Holtkamp pipe organ given by the late Thelma Rivers, an alumna of the Wingate School, in honor of the Rivers family, including Alma Rivers, L.D. Rivers and Theodore Rivers.

### M.B. Dry Chapel

Adjoining the lobby of Austin Auditorium, the chapel was presented to Wingate in 1964 by students of the late Professor Dry, the first administrator of the school. The chapel was renovated in 1992 through the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. Jack C. Lail and other friends of the University. It now serves as an office for Wingate's minister to students.

### George A. Batte Fine Arts Center

This 46,000-square foot, \$8.3 million facility opened its doors on the north side of campus on Oct. 23, 1999. The Batte Center includes a theater, recital hall, choral hall, classrooms, lounges, and a beautiful rotunda. Students come to the Batte for Lyceum lectures, concerts and more. George A. Batte Jr. studied chemistry at Davidson College and worked at Cannon Textile Mills, where he began a partnership with Charles A. Cannon. Together, in 1937, they opened the Cabarrus Memorial Hospital (now part of Atrium Health). Along with Cannon, Batte used his shares in the Cannon Charitable Foundation to advance neighboring communities as well as cancer research in their hospital. This trust provided more than \$1 million towards the building of the George A. Batte Jr. Center.

### Hannah Covington McGee Theatre

The main performance hall of the Batte Center, this 554-seat theater honors past Wingate University President Jerry E. McGee's late wife, who was a lifelong patron of the arts. The theater boasts unobstructed views and a full-size proscenium stage house. Learn more about Hannah Covington McGee.

### Larry Coleman Stage

Dedicated Feb. 28, 2018, the stage is named for Larry Coleman, an assistant professor for 28 years and later professor emeritus. He also served as director (and sometimes performer) of Wingate University Theatre, and was the director of the George A. Batte, Jr. Fine Arts Center for more than seven years. In 2016, Coleman was awarded the Charles and Hazel Corts Award for Excellence in Teaching. He passed away just weeks before the stage dedication.

## ***Auditoriums continued***

### **Plyler-Griffin Recital Hall**

Dedicated on Nov. 3, 2007, this 174-seat theater is named in honor of the late Aaron W. Plyler, his wife, Dot Plyler, and Bruce and Sis Griffin, for their generosity in advancing the University. Aaron W. Plyler served Union County for over 28 years in the North Carolina Legislature and was a champion for students attending independent colleges. Bruce and Sis Griffin dedicated this gift to his parents, Bruce Hartwell Griffin and Roberta Sullivan Griffin, who met in 1938 when Roberta came from Colleton County, South Carolina, to attend Wingate Junior College

### **Anne R. Belk Music Center**

This wing of the Batte Center was named in memory of Carl Belk's (Irwin Belk's son) late wife during the Campaign for Music.

### **Cynthia LeGette Bullock Center for Music Studies**

Dedicated on April 30, 2015, this facility was given in memory of Cynthia LeGette Bullock by her husband, James R. Bullock, of Greensboro. Cynthia, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and career nurse, had a passion for music and the arts.

### **C. Douglas Helms Gallery**

This gallery is named in memory of C. Douglas Helms. As a Wingate graduate and Monroe native, Helms established the school's pottery program where he shared his talents with Wingate students for nearly 20 years. His works have been featured in collections around the world. Helms was a loyal friend, a faithful Christian, and a loving husband and father.

### **Ronald and Polly Bostic Lobby**

Dedicated on April 30, 2015, this area honors Ronald and Polly Bostic for their many years of service to the Wingate University Department of Music. The lobby was funded by Suzanne Bostic Philemon, Jonathan Philemon, Christy Cousins Bostic and Benjamin Bostic.

### **Hinson Art Museum**

Dedicated in September 2015, this facility was named by Ronald and Deliliah Hinson in honor of their son, Eric Hinson, who has devoted his life to teaching art in Union County Public Schools. Eric graduated from Wingate in 1995.

## ***Auditoriums continued***

### **Goodwin Gallery**

The Goodwin Gallery is named in memory of H. Clark Goodwin, a Wingate alumnus, lifetime honorary trustee and Wingate University Doctor of Humane Letters. Clark worked in banking in Union County for 42 years.

### **Marcella McGinnis McGee Gallery**

Dedicated in September 2017, this gallery was named in honor of Marcella McGee, wife of President Emeritus Dr. Jerry E. McGee, for her generous gift to partially fund the football stadium lighting.

### **Ben Long Fresco**

True Art is to Conceal Art (Ars Est Celare Artem) is the name of this centerpiece in the Hinson Art Gallery. The fresco was made possible by a generous gift from Windall and Judy Talley of Stanfield, faithful benefactors of their alma mater and leaders in agriculture and the arts.

## Campus Buildings

### Dickson-Palmer Center

Dedicated in April of 1977 in honor of the late Clyde C. Dickson Sr. from Charlotte and the late Fannie Drye Palmer of Albemarle, this building initially served as a student center with offices, game rooms, a snack bar and more. Students came here to bowl, to check their mail or to buy books. It contained lounges for music and conversations, a small chapel and an auditorium with seating for 150. Over the years, bowling gave way to a workout area, art and computer classes replaced the former bookstore, and in 2017, a portion of the building was remodeled as a home for Starbucks. The remainder of the DPC is being transformed into a new welcome center which will include Admissions, Marketing and other offices as well as the Spirit Store.

### Huntley Commons

Dedicated in 1977, this portion of the Dickson-Palmer Center honored Fulton Allen Huntley of Wadesboro, North Carolina, a textile businessman and former chairman of the Wingate College Board of Trustees.

### R.W. Goodman Campus Service Center

Built in 1986, this multifunctional headquarters for maintenance, buildings and grounds services and custodial services, is also the primary stockroom for the University. R.W. Goodman was a longtime Richmond County Sheriff and friend of Wingate University.

### Holbrook Building

Named in honor of the late Roy L. Holbrook, a former trustee, the building was completed in the fall of 1965. Once used as the Administration Building, it was remodeled to become the new home of the Health Center in 2019. Students go to the Holbrook Building for both medical and counseling appointments.

### Perry Porch

This porch, which faces Camden Road, was named in honor of Frone Perry, who lived in Wingate from 1886 to 1971. She was an instructor at the Wingate School, a public school teacher, postmistress, and an advocate for orphaned children.

### John A. Cox Jr. Lobby

Dedicated on April 7, 2011, this lobby honors John A. Cox Jr., a 1946 graduate, student-athlete, loyal alum, capable administrator, and tireless advocate. Cox served Wingate from 1955 until his retirement in 1986.

## ***Campus Buildings continued***

### **Stegall Administration Building**

Completed in 1991 and dedicated in the spring of 1992, this building honors the late Roy and Vera Stegall, friends of the University for many years. Designed as the centerpiece of a growing campus, the Stegall Building is between the Charles Cannon Complex and the Dickson-Palmer Center. It is surrounded by a landscaped plaza and a small lake. The four-story building includes the offices of the president, the provost, and other administrators.

### **Belk Rotunda**

The Belk Rotunda is named in honor of the Belk Foundation, which has offered generous support to the University.

### **Watson House**

The house was named for its former owner, the late L.J. Watson, a lifelong Wingate resident and longtime postal worker who encouraged many students to attend Wingate. He was a member of the Patrons Club that started in 1961. The house has been used for a variety of purposes over the years including Campus Safety and New Student Orientation. It is now the home of the University's new multicultural center.

### **H. Fields and Ruth B. Young International House**

Dedicated on April 28, 1994, this structure was built in 1913 as a private home, but has served the University in various capacities over the years. In 1994 it was extensively refurbished and furnished as a guest house through the generosity of the late H. Fields Young Jr. and his wife, both of whom have served as trustees. The house is now home to the Office of International Programs.

## Classroom Buildings

### Herbert Bridges Hall

Completed in 1963, Bridges honors a former leader of the Wingate University Board of Trustees. The building provides classrooms, offices, laboratories and auxiliary facilities. It is home to the Biology Department.

### Burnside-Dalton

Named in honor of the late Harry L. Dalton and the late J.E. Burnside, both from Charlotte, this three-story building was completed in 1968 and used as a fine arts center prior to the construction of the Batte Center. The building has been transformed to house the University's physical therapy and occupational therapy doctoral programs. It is home to the University's cadaver lab and the DPT pro bono clinic.

### Burris Classroom Building

Erected in 1936, the building contains 23 classrooms and 20 faculty offices. Located on the east side of the Academic Quad, it honors the late Craven Cullen Burris, a former professor, dean and president of Wingate. Burris is the home of the departments of English, Religion, History, Sociology and Psychology. Within the Burris Building is the John and Anna Williams Bivens Teacher Materials Center which houses the John Benjamin and Effie Hobby Helms Curriculum Resources Collection. This collection includes state-adopted textbooks programs that support the University's School of Education. The Mary Ann Kincaid Children's Literature Collection also supports the Education curriculum.

### Mariam Cannon Hayes Building

Dedicated in 2006, the Hayes Academic Building was named in honor of Mariam Cannon Hayes of Concord, who passed away the following year. Hayes was a highly respected businesswoman whose service and generosity made North Carolina a better place. Wingate University was blessed by her friendship, financial encouragement and wise counsel. The Hayes Building connects with the Burris Building on its southern end, next to Elm Promenade. It is home to the Thayer School of Education.

## ***Classroom Buildings continued***

### **Thayer School of Education**

Dedicated on Oct. 24, 2002, the school is named in honor of Lloyd and Georgia Thayer. Dr. Thayer earned his associate degree from Wingate Junior College in 1929. A longtime teacher, principal and superintendent, he retired in 1975. His professional writings include “The First 100 Years of Elementary Curriculum in NC Schools” and “The Junior High School Movement in NC” (both titles are in the Wingate University Library). He was co-author of “The Junior High School,” the official resource manual of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

### **Mamie Monroe Classroom**

Mamie Monroe taught first grade for 45 years at Roberdell Elementary in Richmond County, NC. This classroom is named in her memory by a student from her final class, Dr. Jerry E. McGee, who served as president of Wingate University from 1992 to 2015.

### **Levine College of Health Sciences**

Dedicated on Aug. 4, 2011, this 70,000-square-foot building includes tiered-seating lecture rooms, general-use flex classrooms, specialty labs, simulation labs and flexible informal spaces. Numerous green building and design strategies were incorporated into this LEED Silver-certified facility. Labs are designed to support increasingly collaborative, interdisciplinary and team-based learning. Two 100-seat lecture rooms in Levine feature advanced communications and audio/visual systems to accommodate distance learning. Levine is home to Wingate’s School of Pharmacy, The Harris Department of Physician Assistant Studies and Nursing program. Learn more about Leon Levine’s legacy.

### **Porter B. Byrum School of Business**

Established in 2011, the Porter B. Byrum School of Business is named in honor of one of Charlotte’s most respected attorneys and entrepreneurs. A very generous and dedicated member of the Wingate University Board of Trustees, Byrum passed away in 2017 at age 96. In 2011, he sold Park Road Shopping Center and divided the proceeds among Wake Forest, Queens and Wingate universities. Upon his death he bequeathed an additional \$35 million to Wingate.



## ***Classroom Buildings continued***

### **Budd E. Smith Science Building**

Named in honor of a beloved past University president and completed in 1962, the Smith building provides classrooms and laboratories and is home to the Department of Chemistry and Physics. Labs added in 1982 include one named in memory of Bernice Brewer Russell, a 1927 alumna of the Wingate School. The lab section was a gift of her husband, the late Foil O. Russell.

## Dining Facilities

### W.T. Harris Dining Hall

Renovated in 1976 and again in 1988, the cafeteria is designed to accommodate 1,500 students and has a seating capacity of 600. The building honors the late William Thomas Harris of the Harris Teeter grocery store chain. A former Wingate trustee, he was a prominent Charlotte businessman, self-made millionaire, Baptist devotee, politician and civic leader. The building was dedicated in 1965 and rededicated in 1988.

### LaVerne Banquet Hall

Dedicated April 21, 1988, this portion of the W.T. Harris Dining Hall honors Harris' wife, the late LaVerne Childers Harris, devoted Christian woman, wife and mother.

## Library and Archives

### Efird Memorial Building

Situated on the south side of the Academic Quadrangle, this building was erected in 1947 and given by the descendants of the late J.E. Efird. It served for a period of time as the first free-standing library on the Wingate campus. In 1994 it was completely restored and refurbished and, until 2017, served as the location of the Wingate University archives, including the personal papers of Charles A. Cannon. The building is now home to the offices of the vice provost for student engagement, the dean of campus life and the dean of academic support programs.

### Ethel K. Smith Library

Named in honor of the University Librarian and First Lady who served as director from 1953 to 1974, the EKS Library is the heart of academic life on the campus. The building, equipped with ample study tables, carrels and whiteboards houses almost 90,000 items. The library provides access to more than 70 databases and hundreds of thousands of e-books through NCLive and Ebsco for electronic research. There are more than 40 computers for patrons to use, 12 individual study rooms, and three group study rooms. The library is also home to the Cornwell Conference Room and the A/V Auditorium, both of which are used as classroom spaces.

Einstein Bros.' Bagels provides meal options for library patrons. The Academic Resource Center which includes the Writing Center, tutoring, disability services and the office of student success are located on the second floor of the library. The Information Technology Help Desk is also located within the library to provide technical assistance with passwords, software and troubleshooting issues.

The library houses a collection of more than 80 international flags which represents all of the countries visited by students and faculty during W'International and Study Abroad programs. The flags also represent the countries of our many international students as well.

The generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Cannon launched construction of the original building in 1959. Before his death in 1971, Mr. Cannon made funds available for a large addition completed in 1972. The Cannon Foundation made possible a further addition and renovation in 1992.

## ***Library and Archives continued***

### **The Haskins Room**

The Haskins Room is named for former dean of students, Donald Brown Haskins, who served Wingate University from 1960 until the time of his death in 2005. The concept of the Haskins Room was presented by the library staff during the 1972 renovation. For years, Haskins visited the library almost daily to read the newspaper, so the room's original design was a reading room. Today, it also serves as a place for group and independent study and for meetings and offers laptop and wireless access.

## Recreational Facilities

### Charles A. Cannon Complex

Opened in 1986, this complex contains Cuddy Arena, a 1,800-seat basketball/volleyball arena (and can hold up to 2,500 for graduation), a swimming pool, racquetball courts, a physical fitness laboratory, classrooms and offices for the physical education, recreation, and sports medicine faculty.

### Koontz Family Court

Dedicated Dec. 8, 2012, the court honors the Koontz family, Dr. Thomas Koontz and wife, Lynne. Koontz attended Wingate College ('60) before going to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This is the first building on campus named after a student-athlete. Koontz played basketball at Wingate and was a charter member of the Wingate Bulldog Club.

### Cuddy Arena

Dedicated in the fall of 1986, this facility is named for Bruce Cuddy of Cuddy Farms in Union County and later the founder of Alison's Family Farm and now owner of High Ridge Farms. A generous benefactor to the University, Cuddy provided funds for the arena.

### Plyler Athletic Field

Funded by the children of I.F. Plyler Sr. of Monroe, this includes the Ron Christopher Baseball Stadium, built in 1995 to honor coach Christopher. Adjacent are several all-weather Grasstex tennis courts available for play year-round.

### Troutman Baseball Clubhouse

Dedicated in the fall of 2019, the Troutman Baseball Clubhouse was made possible by the generosity of the Raiford and Margene Troutman Family of Concord, NC. The family includes many Wingate University graduates including two baseball student-athletes, Blake Troutman, '12, and Blair Troutman, '09 and '14.

### Woodall Sports Medicine Facility

Opened in April 2015 and dedicated that November, the building honors Mr. and Mrs. Larry Woodall, who are dedicated members of the Bulldog Club. The Woodall Family Foundation gave \$25,000 toward construction. The building houses offices for the Wingate Sports Medicine staff and features seven treatment tables, seven modality units, four taping stations, a private exam/doctor's office, a wet room and rehab area.

## ***Recreational Facilities continued***

### **Hucks Softball Fieldhouse**

Named for Ryan and Virginia Hucks, this structure built in 2006 features a locker room, coaches' offices, restrooms and a laundry room. The fieldhouse honors softball alumnus Courtney Wagner's grandparents. The Huckses were owners of many Myrtle Beach-area business ventures including a service station, convenience store, restaurants and two motels. As parents and grandparents, they tried to emphasize the importance of family, friends and service to others. Ryan Hucks died in 1998, shortly after their 50th wedding anniversary. Virginia Prim Hucks celebrated her 94th birthday on May 5, 2020.

### **Irwin Belk Stadium**

Irwin "Ike" Belk was born in Charlotte in 1922. As part of the well-known department store family, he found himself in a powerful and wealthy position, which he used to help others. Belk served his country in the 491st Bomber Group in World War II. He served his community by introducing legislation that created UNC Charlotte, donating funds for the new campus, and for several other universities, including Wingate.

### **Irwin Belk Track**

In a gesture of gratitude for his contributions, Wingate University dedicated its track and field stadium to Irwin Belk on May 8, 2013, by naming it the Irwin Belk Track Complex. The track facility was the 41st one of its kind to be funded by Belk. He had a strong love for athletics, particularly track and field, and funded stadiums at colleges across the state. His passion for athletics even earned him an Olympic Order from the International Olympic Committee. A bust of Belk was erected before the stadium to commemorate the man who helped fund it. Belk passed away on Feb. 24, 2018.

### **Graham Gill Field**

Dedicated during Homecoming on Oct. 23, 2015, the field is named after Justin Graham Gill, Wingate graduate (2007) and lacrosse player who passed away on July 25, 2010. Gill was from San Antonio, Texas. He served as president of Kappa Alpha Order. His parents, Ernie and Pat Gill, joined other donors to establish the Justin Graham Gill Memorial Scholarship for students who participate in fraternity or sorority life, demonstrate campus leadership and engage in civic and community service.

## ***Recreational Facilities continued***

### **McGee Health & Wellness Center**

Dedicated on Jan. 24, 2017, this facility is used by students, faculty and staff and features a multi-activity court for volleyball, badminton, indoor soccer and field hockey, a large wooden-floor court that can be configured as two high school-sized basketball courts or one NCAA-sized basketball court, a suspended running/walking track overlooking the center courts, a weight and strengthening room, cardio room and rooms for group exercise as well as racquetball courts, locker rooms, classrooms and offices. It also features a conference room with hardwood floors salvaged from Sanders-Sikes Gymnasium. The center is named in honor of President Emeritus, Dr. Jerry E. McGee, recognizing his 23 years of service to Wingate. A native of Rockingham, NC, McGee served as president from 1992 to 2015. During his tenure enrollment tripled and more than \$280 million was invested in campus development. Thirty-seven buildings were added as were numerous master's and doctoral programs.

## Residence Halls

### Alumni Hall

Constructed in 1946 and renovated in the summer of 1977, this three-story building is located next to the Burriss Classroom Building on the north side of the Quad. Its first-floor is home to Residence Life offices.

### CM Black Hall

Named for Clinton McCoy Black (1921-2005), the building, completed in 2015, honors the founder of CM Black Construction. Coy Black was a World War II veteran, lifelong Lutheran, Lions Club district governor, Scoutmaster and devoted supporter of the University.

### Helms Hall

Completed in 1967 and renovated several times over the years, this building honors the late Lester Lee "Leck" Helms (1908-1992), prominent alumnus and trustee of Wingate University and his wife, Mary Smith Helms. The two, along with Bernard Helms, Leck's brother, operated a large woodcraft manufacturing company in Wingate beginning around 1950. MaLeck, which started making simple wooden furniture, grew in the 1960s and expanded to include clocks, serving pieces, cookware, candles and brass. It expanded again in the 1970s, but eventually closed because of competition from domestic and foreign companies.

### JM Smith Hall

This residence hall was completed in 2013 on the spot where McIntyre Gym, Wingate College's first gym, stood before its demolition in 1994. It honors the JM Smith Foundation which grew out of the Smith Drug Company, founded in 1925 in Asheville, N.C., by James M. Smith Sr.

### Ruth Coltrane Cannon Dormitory

This building is named in memory of the wife of Charles A. Cannon. A Cabarrus County native, Ruth Coltrane Cannon was a civic leader, preservationist, historian and benefactor. Her father founded North Carolina's oldest national bank, Concord National Bank.

### South Village Apartments

#### Belk Hall

Belk Hall honors Carol Grotnes Belk, the wife of Irwin Belk of Charlotte. See Irwin Belk Stadium.



## ***Residence Halls continued***

### **Bridges Hall**

The hall is named for H. Conrad Bridges (1929-2008) of Mooresville, a former trustee.

### **Haskins Hall**

Haskins Hall is named for former Dean of Students Donald Haskins, who served Wingate University from 1960 until the time of his death in 2005.

### **Rushing Hall**

The hall honors the late Mr. and Mrs. T.B. Rushing of Marshville. Tom Rushing was a trustee and a turkey farmer.

### **Sherwood Hall**

This hall honors the late Henry Harrison "Harry" Sherwood. He came to Wingate College in 1962 as the assistant director of housing and instructor in history and math. Sherwood retired from Wingate University in 1996 as the director of community relations. He loved his church, volunteer activities and politics throughout his life. Sherwood received the N.C. Order of the Long Leaf Pine and the WU Honorary Alumni awards. He was the Union County Man of the Year in 1979.

## **Watson Village Apartments (2007)**

### **Beam Hall**

Dedicated on Oct. 6, 2007, this hall was named for Donald Beam, president of Beam, Beam & Moss in Cherryville, N.C. Beam is a longtime benefactor of the University.

### **Bennett Hall**

This hall is named for the late W.L. Bennett of Wadesboro, former trustee, alumnus and supporter.

### **Byrum Hall**

Dedicated April 28, 2011, this hall is named after the late Porter B. Byrum, one of the most successful and admired businessmen in Charlotte. See Porter B. Byrum School of Business.

## ***Residence Halls continued***

### **Hendricks Hall**

Hendricks Hall honors the late A.F. Hendricks, professor of Bible and mathematics for 25 years. He served as president of Will Mayfield College in Missouri before coming to Wingate in 1929.

### **Holbert Hall**

This hall honors the late Edward D. Holbert of Albemarle.

### **Laney Hall**

This hall honors the late Baxter Laney and Minnie Funderburk Laney ('09). Minnie Laney lived from 1890 to 1975.

### **McIntyre Hall**

This hall is named in memory of J.C. and Minnie Staton McIntyre.

### **Welborn Hall**

Dedicated April 22, 2010, this hall honors Sam and Sandy Welborn. A Vietnam veteran, Sam entered Wingate as a freshman at the age of 24. After college, he and Sandy enjoyed successful careers with Fortune 500 companies. He passed away in 2017. Sandy remains a stalwart supporter of Wingate University.

### **Wilson East**

Named for its location on Wilson Street, this 32,000-square-foot residence hall vopened in 2018.

### **Wilson West**

Named for its location on Wilson Street, this 32,000-square-foot residence hall vopened in 2018.

### **Northeast Hall**

The newest dorm, this hall is located on the northeast corner of campus.

## Landmarks

### Cannon Statue

In the 1950s, Charles Cannon, a textiles magnate in Cabarrus County began giving money to Wingate Junior College so that his workers and other middle-class folks would have a place to send their children to college. By 1983 when a bronze statue of him was first erected on campus, he had given more than \$5 million. His foundation has continued to support the University. Official unveiling was on May 6, 1983.

### J.E. Drew Fountain

Dedicated Sept. 14, 2013, this fountain honors Ed and Mildred Drew (class of '52). Ed and Mildred first met on the Wingate campus, and from there they have fulfilled a lifetime of service and friendship. Their contributions to the citizens of eastern North Carolina and the University have improved the quality of life for many.

### Judy Love Talley Fountain

Windell and Judy Talley are owners of Talley Farms, which started out as a turkey farm but soon expanded to one of the biggest agricultural operations in North Carolina. The Talleys attended Wingate Junior College in the late 1950s. Windell Talley was a recipient of Wingate University's Honorary Alumnus Award in 2018. In 2013, in honor of his beloved wife, he donated money for the building of the Judy Love Talley fountain on Wingate's main campus.

### McGee Promenade

The walkway that goes from the McGee Center on the north side of campus all the way to Wilson Street near the campus entrance is named in honor of former Wingate University President Jerry McGee. See McGee Health and Wellness Center.

### The Old Well Spring Fountain

Constructed in 2015-16 and dedicated on Nov. 12, 2016, the Wellspring commemorates the fact that the school was built at its location in part because of the availability of water. Before Wingate School existed, the land was a part of Meadow Branch Baptist Church. As Wingate grew, the Wellspring became a hub of social life and went through several transformations. In 1967, the school built a theater called Laney Hall, on top of the wellspring area. Laney Hall hosted many performances until it was razed because of moisture issues. The Old Wellspring Fountain illustrates Wingate's transformation from school (1896), to junior college (1923), then to college (1977), and finally into a university (1995). It was funded by a generous gift from alumni Thomas Earl Williams Jr. and Carole Flowers Williams.

## ***Landmarks continued***

### **Thomas E. Corts Bust**

A man of faith and intellect, Thomas E. Corts was a much-loved president of Wingate College who challenged us to “become better than we used to be.” He transitioned the institution to a four-year college and established the hallmark W’International study and travel program.

### **The Gate**

The original Gate symbolized the progress of Wingate College as it became a Junior College in 1924. The Gate once stood near Ethel K. Smith Library, right at the school entrance. As the school and town expanded, the Gate was moved to a nearby site (near what is now Building 5 Dormitory in South Village). The Gate, in 1942, paid tribute to Carolyn Caldwell Gaddy, “For her faithful and loyal services, her kindness and friendship to Wingate College and its student body, we the GATE staff dedicate the 1942 Gate to our beloved and admired, Miss Carolyn Caldwell.” Decidedly misplaced, it was dismantled and rebuilt in a new location closer to the quad. The most recent renovation of the Gate occurred in 2012.

### **Budd E. Smith Bust**

College president from 1953-1974, Budd Smith was a man of vision who cared deeply about students, faculty and staff. He led Wingate Junior College to new heights during the mid-twentieth century. He and his wife, Ethel K. Smith formed new friendships which have benefited the institution for many years. Under his leadership, the student population grew, finances were strengthened and beautiful landscapes were developed.

### **Irwin Belk Bust**

Irwin Belk is a widely respected businessman and philanthropist. Wingate University presented him with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in May 1995 in recognition of his life of service and generosity.

### **Mariam Cannon Hayes Bust**

The daughter of Charles A. and Ruth Cannon, Hayes was an astute businesswomen and generous benefactor to education, the arts and healthcare. Wingate University is one of several North Carolina institutions that benefited from her encouragement and involvement.

## ***Landmarks continued***

### **C.C. Burris Bust**

C.C. Burris served as professor, dean, and president of Wingate College over a 38-year career, 1924 - 1962. His leadership, strength and vision guided the institution through the depth of the Great Depression. He was a respected and beloved teacher, mentor and administrator.

### **Carolyn C. Gaddy Bust**

Carolyn Gaddy served Wingate College from 1932-1075. She was a faculty member in the social sciences department, a college leader, an advisor and a mentor who positively impacted thousands of students and the entire Wingate community.

### **Prayer Labyrinth**

These stones were laid to the glory of God and in honor of God's servants, Charles E. Taylor Jr. and Carol Boseman Taylor. Chuck Taylor served the University as executive vice president and chief financial officer from 2000 to 2011. "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, you will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way; Walk in it" - Isaiah 30:21

### **C.C. Dickson Sr. Bust**

This bust (and plaque), that was housed in the Dickson-Palmer Center, was donated by Robert Alfred Weathers '84 in March 2018. His father, Graham Weathers, a doctor and accomplished pianist who sculpted in his spare time, was commissioned by the Dickson family to do the bust. When Graham Weathers died in 2015, Robert Weathers and his brothers came into possession of the bust. Robert Weathers, pastor of First Baptist in Shallotte, NC, and his wife are Wingate alumni who met here, graduated in 1984, and got married in 1985. Their daughter graduated from Wingate in 2015.