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Honoring influential mentors

Furman University

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Daniel Mickel gift bolsters Furman United program

WHEN THE UNIVERSITY launched the Furman United program in 2009 to assist students who had encountered economic hardships because of the recession, alumni and friends donated more than \$800,000 over a two-year period. The funds were distributed to 116 students with extenuating financial circumstances.

Now, with the help of a \$300,000 award from the Daniel Mickel Foundation of Greenville, the university will be able to extend the reach of Furman United and establish a permanent endowed fund to ensure ongoing support for students facing financial difficulties. The award is a matching challenge gift to encourage others to support the program.

Katie Shaw Howell '99, a trustee of the foundation, says, "We want students to be as financially unencumbered as possible so that there are fewer obstacles to their success. We are very excited about backing this effort, particularly because it offers so many ways to contribute and provide assistance for these students."

The Daniel Mickel Foundation has a long history of support for Furman, including recent grants to the Center for Vocational Reflection (Lilly Center) and the Heller Service Corps. The Daniel and Mickel families' generosity is recognized on campus in the dining hall and chapel, both named for Charles E. Daniel; the Homozel Mickel Daniel Music Building; and the Minor Herndon Mickel Tennis Center.

Charles Daniel founded Daniel Construction Co., which built much of the campus. Upon her death in 1992, his wife, Homozel Mickel Daniel, bequeathed more than \$55 million to 14 colleges and universities. Furman received approximately \$24.5 million in property and financial assets, including White Oaks, now the president's home.

The Daniels' nephew, Buck Mickel, and his wife, Minor, maintained the family tradition of support for Furman. As chair of the board of trustees in the early 1990s, Minor Mickel provided steady leadership during Furman's separation from the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

To learn more about Furman United, contact john.kemp@furman.edu.



Honorees included Shusuke Yagi (top left), Ron Friis, and music professors (left to right) Ruby Morgan, Bingham Vick, Kathy Holcombe Cochran and Dan Boda. Photos by Jeremy Fleming.

Honoring influential mentors

THE FURMAN STANDARD is a new program designed to advance the university's tradition of exceptional teaching and mentoring. Donors pledge \$25,000 in honor of an influential professor or administrator, and the contributions are pooled into a fund that provides support for research, materials, training and other opportunities to help faculty and staff remain leaders in their fields.

The program has gotten off to a rousing start. The first Furman Standard dinner, for donors and those they honored, was held this fall, with 18 current and former professors comprising the inaugural class of honorees.

They are: Don Aiesi, political science; John Block, history; Dan Boda, music; Kathy Holcombe Cochran, music; Robert Crapps, religion; Fred Current, accounting; J. Carlyle Ellett, economics; Ron Friis, Spanish; Ernest Harrill, political science; Linda Julian, English; Ruby Morgan, music; Ray Nanney, computer science; Ray Roberts, economics; Lew Stratton, biology; Laura Thompson, biology; Bingham Vick, music; Ray Wylie, mathematics; and Shusuke Yagi, Japanese/Asian Studies.

Visit www.becausefurmanmatters.com or contact susan.brady@furman.edu to learn more about the Furman Standard.