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Professors appointed to endowed chairs

Furman University

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Washington Center honors Furman

FURMAN HAS BEEN NAMED Private University of the Year by The Washington Center, an independent, non-profit organization that provides college students the opportunity to work and learn in the nation's capital for academic credit. Founded in 1975, the center serves a global network of students and colleges that extends throughout the United States and abroad.

The award recognizes the longstanding collaboration between Furman and the center. Furman was honored October 4 in Washington.

Furman students have taken part in the Washington Internship Program for almost three decades, spending a spring or summer in the nation's capitol and learning firsthand about politics. Danielle Vinson, chair of the political science department, says nearly 900 Furman students have interned and earned academic credit through the center.

Vinson says, "Furman's partnership with The Washington Center has had a tremendous impact on our students. I frequently hear stories from students about how the program helped them decide on a career path and prepared them for the real world, or brought to life what they had been learning in their classes on campus."

The centerpiece of the program is an internship arranged and tailored to each student's individual interests. Interns may work on Capitol Hill or with a government agency, interest group, law office, or one of a myriad of other institutions.

Michael B. Smith, president of The Washington Center, says, "Among our 500 affiliated institutions, Furman has stood out for the seriousness with which it prepares students for their time here and for the active participation of faculty in the program itself. We are delighted to honor the university for the excellence of its program and the efforts of all involved."

The University of Iowa was named the center's Public University of the Year, and the University of Massachusetts System the System of the Year.

The Washington Center program is the largest of its kind, with 70 full-time staff and more than 40,000 alumni.

Professors appointed to endowed chairs

SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE FURMAN FACULTY were appointed to endowed professorships this fall.

In making the announcement, John Beckford, dean of the faculty, said, "These outstanding professors were selected in recognition of their record of teaching, scholarship and service to Furman. We are fortunate to have the support of generous donors who understand the value of a strong faculty and the resources needed to help in its development."

Gifts from donors and foundations support 24 endowed professorships and six rotating professorships at Furman.

Faculty members who received lifetime appointments were:

- Gilbert Allen, Bennette E. Geer Professor of Literature. Allen, an award-winning writer, has been a member of the English faculty since 1977.
- Sam Britt, Gordon Poteat Professor of Asian Studies and Religion. Britt, a 1972 Furman graduate, joined the faculty in 1992.
- Kate Kaup, James B. Duke Associate Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies. She joined the faculty in 1997.
- David Shaner, Herring Professor of Philosophy and Asian Studies. He has taught at Furman since 1982.

Recipients of limited term appointments were:

- Suresh Muthukrishnan, Henry Keith and Ellen Hard Townes Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences (two years). He has been a member of the department since 2002.
- Travis Perry, Henry Keith and Ellen Hard Townes Associate Professor of Biology (two years). A 1992 alumnus, he joined the faculty in 2000.
- Doug Rall, Herman N. Hipp Professor of Mathematics (three years). Rall has taught at Furman since 1976.