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## Top honors for Susan Shi, Jeanne Davis

Furman University

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**Leigh Ann Williamson** and Christopher Allan Oden, May 16. They live in Columbia, S.C., where she is employed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control and he by Blue Cross Blue Shield.

**BIRTH:** Jamar and **Cameisha**

**Merriweather Barnes**, a son, Joel Elijah, June 20. They live in Lithonia, Ga.

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**Tyler Thigpen** of Cambridge, Mass., began the Mid-Career Master in Public Administration degree program in July at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

**Jordan Tidrick** recently moved to Shenyang, China, where she teaches high school science at the Shenyang Pacific Academy. The academy is a new school for Chinese nationals seeking Western-style education in preparation for college in the United States, Canada and Europe.

**MARRIAGE:** **Ashley Wayne Lowder** and Maya Eva Lake, March 27. He is employed by Sunland Distribution and she is self-employed. They live in Greenville.

**BIRTHS:** Jeff and **Kate Hamner Elkins**, a son, Jude Benson, June 28, Atlanta.

**Pete** and Shana **King**, a daughter, Anna Marie, May 11, Alexandria, Va. Pete practices business law and estate planning, and Shana teaches in the Fairfax County Schools.

**Matt '96** and **Jennifer Elliott Mathis**, a daughter, Ansley Cate, June 27. They live in Gaffney, S.C.

**Will** and **Reid Breckenridge '01**

**Murphy**, a daughter, Bennett Elizabeth, June 6, Greenville.

Robert and **Kimberly Craig Proctor**, a son, Levi Ellis Slate, March 16. Kimberly is director of admissions for the Clemson University MBA program.

**Noel** and Dayna **Schoonmaker**, a daughter, Nora Kate, July 20. They live in Valdese, N.C.

**Michael** and **Emily Smith White**, a son, Samuel Carlton, July 30, Durham, N.C.



## TOP HONORS FOR SUSAN SHI, JEANNE DAVIS

FURMAN SHOWED ITS APPRECIATION for Susan Thomson Shi, the university's First Lady from 1994 to 2010, by awarding her an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree during Opening Convocation September 2.

Shi (left in photo), who holds a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of North Carolina, was recognized for her superb work as an ambassador for Furman and for her extensive contributions to public education in the city and state. Having served on many boards and panels that have worked to improve and expand opportunities for the state's students, she is currently involved with the South Carolina Institute for Child Success, a collaborative effort among agencies, educational institutions and non-profit groups through which the physical, emotional and developmental needs of the state's young children will be addressed.

In addition, the university presented the Bell Tower Award to Jeanne Saunders Davis '56 of Lexington, N.C.,

for her commitment and devotion to alma mater. Described as "a role model for Furman volunteers," Davis is a member of the executive committee of the Advisory Council and a past member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. She has been a class agent and a member of the Annual Giving Council, and she has been active in reunion planning, the Paladin Club and the Furman Admission Network.

The smiley-face stickers she and Shi wear are in tribute to Davis' late husband, Lonnie.

Furman also announced that during the summer it had awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree to Mamie Jolley Bruce of Greenville. She provided the founding gift for the Bridges to a Brighter Future program, which for almost 15 years has helped high school students from economically challenged backgrounds realize their dreams and pursue their personal and educational goals. (See page 26.) Bruce was not able to attend the convocation.