Duke Endowment awards $1 million to support sustainability

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Kilstofte earns Guggenheim; Einstein named CUR Fellow

MUSIC PROFESSOR Mark Kilstofte and psychology professor Gil Einstein received major national honors this spring.

Kilstofte was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to support his work on major compositions, and Einstein was named winner of the Council on Undergraduate Research’s Fellows Award for his mentorship of young researchers and for involving undergraduates in his work on human memory.

Einstein, who teaches composition and music theory, joined the faculty in 1992. He intends to use the Guggenheim to compose a set of songs for soprano and chamber orchestra featuring poems by Mark Strand, James Merrill, Linda Pastan, Erica Farberklaus and Nancy Willard. The songs will serve as a study for the second part of his project — a chamber opera based on Helen Hunt’s “Brand,” a play where its chief character is a clergyman with uncompromising religious beliefs.

The Guggenheim program is designed to provide individuals with blocks of time in which they can work with as much creative freedom as possible. While awards vary, the average grant in 2008 was approximately $41,200. Kilstofte was one of 102 composers (and 180 scholars, artists and scientists) from the United States and Canada to receive an award out of approximately 1,500 applicants.

No stranger to top honors, Kilstofte previously was awarded the Rome Prize (supporting a year of study at the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome), the Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Anton Gepeald Award. His works have been performed and performed by such groups as the San Francisco Choral Artists, the New York Virtuoso Singers, the Washington Square Contemporary Music Society, and Moscow’s Studio for New Music.

Einstein and Hendrix College chemistry professor Tom Goodvin were selected the 2010 CUR Fellows. Winners have outstanding records of obtaining funding for collaborative research with students and have published research findings with undergraduate co-authors. They incorporate research activities into their courses and local efforts to institutionalize research on campuses and across the nation.

Each recipient is awarded a CUR Student Research Fellowship, which goes to a deserving undergraduate at the CUR Fellow’s institution.

When applying, a two-page essay written by the student must be submitted, and that essay is reviewed by both the faculty advisor and the CUR Fellow.

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THE DUKE ENDOWMENT has awarded Furman $1 million grant to support the work of the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability.

The Shi Center promotes the study of sustainability both on campus and in the Greenville community. Located in Cline Cottage, it is named in honor of Shi, who retired June 30 after 16 years as president of Furman.

According to The Duke Endowment trust agreement, the mission of the granting rule that Furman and Shi have played in promoting sustainability.

“Our founder, James B. Duke, had a vision for the future that he expressed through innovative philanthropy,” said trustee Neil Williams, chair of the endowment’s Committee on Educational Institutions. “Furman’s sustainability goals echo Mr. Duke’s forward thinking, long-range approach.

Thanks to The Duke Endowment gift, the university has now raised a total of $27 million to endow the Shi Center. In addition to contributions from Furman trustees, other leadership gifts have come from Tom and Bucky Edwards ’67 Hash, the Graham Foundation, and BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, an independent license of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

In all, more than 20 donors have provided support for the Shi Center. Since 2007, Furman has received $113 million toward its sustainability efforts, including donations for the construction of Cline Cottage and a $2.5 million U.S. Department of Energy grant to install geothermal systems at the North Village apartments on campus.

Furman is one of four educational institutions to receive potential funding from the Duke Endowment. The Endowment seeks to fulfill James B. Duke’s legacy by enriching communities in the Carolinas through higher education, health care, rural churches and children’s services.

McArthur was leader in state education circles

WHEN LAURIN CURRIE McARTHUR, JR., died April 4 at the age of 95, he left a legacy of exceptional service to the field of education in South Carolina and at Furman.

The vast majority of his working career was spent as an administrator in the South Carolina public school system, his obituary stated. “He took great pride in organizing school systems, recruiting and developing bright and talented teachers and administrators, and enriching the lives of countless students.”

He served as an assistant superintendent in Orangeburg County from 1950-53, superintendent of Beaufort School District One from 1953-59, and superintendent of Sumter School District Seventeen from 1959-74, when he retired from public school work.

At the time, Cyril Burbee, state superintendent of education, said, “We have 93 school districts in South Carolina. I wish we had 93 school superintendents like Currie McArthur.”

McArthur, a Navy veteran of World War II, served on an assortment of state, regional and national commissions. He chaired the South Carolina Education Association’s Blue Ribbon Committee on reorganization and the State Superintendent of Education Commission’s Commission of Teacher Certificates in the 1960s. He was also actively involved in Presbyterian church work.

He was remembered kindly by colleagues in Sumter, where he was superintendent when schools were desegregated. The Sumter newspaper, The Item, reported that the desegregation plan McArthur oversaw was “lauded as not only a model by the ‘New York Times’ and quoted his former secretary, Julia S. Winters, as saying, ‘He was a strong leader for District Seventeen and introduced new levels of learning.’”

In 1974, McArthur came to Furman to develop a school leadership program.

Harrd Harris, his colleague in the education department, says, “He brought a tremendous amount of real world experience with him, and he laid the foundation for the program on which others were desegregated.

During his nine years on the faculty McArthur was well known for his outgoing personality, charity nature and gentle manner.

Nelly Hekker, current department chair, recalls one of her first conversations with McArthur after she arrived at Furman, in which he emphasized how important it was for her, as a new faculty member, to invest herself immediately in the work of the department.

“Here far away from him, but it wasn’t paternalistic,” she says. “He was very collegial, and mentoring was his strength.”

Lesley Quay, now an associate dean at Furman, recalls McArthur’s sincerity and interest in others. “I never saw him in a bad mood,” she says. “He was very warm and courteous, the epitome of a Southern gentleman. He met my parents once when they visited, and after that he would never fail to ask me how they were doing. Those kinds of personal touches were typical of Currie.”

McArthur, who earned a doctorate from Columbia University, had a reputation as an exceptional conversationalist — but, as Hekker says, “He was also a great listener.” Harris says he was “full of stories and ideas” and recalls one discussion in particular when he began by telling her “Anne [his wife] is going to call me in a little while, because sometimes I talk too much and Anne told me this morning that I shouldn’t keep you very long. So I told her to call me when she thought I should stop talking.”

“Sture strength,” Harris says, “Anne called after about an hour. Currie then asked me if I thought I’d talked too long, and I said no, not at all. So he told me, ‘I’m OK right now. Call me in another hour.’”

Harris adds, “Carrie left quite a legacy, and Anne was a significant part of it.”

In addition to his wife, McArthur is survived by his daughter, Currie McArthur III (Nancy) and John Barron McArthur (Barbara Hose McArthur ’80), daughter Sally McArthur Shigley ’79 (Ken ’73), six grandchildren, and a brother.

— JIM STEWART