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Furman University

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Christenberry, Hipps were former administrators

George Christenberry '36 and **G. Melvin Hipps**, former teachers and administrators at Furman, died within a day of each other in late April.

Christenberry (above left) died April 21 at the age of 93. A U.S. Navy veteran with a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, he taught at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., before joining the Furman faculty in 1946 as professor of biology. He subsequently became dean of the Men's College before being named president of Shorter College in Rome, Ga., in 1953.

He returned to Furman in 1958 and was administrative director and vice president of development until 1964, when he moved to Georgia College in Milledgeville as chair of the biology department and eventually as dean of the college. In 1970 he was named president of Augusta College (now Augusta State University), a position he held until his retirement in 1986. From 1979-80 he was also acting vice chancellor of the University of Georgia system.

At Augusta College he worked to strengthen campus facilities, acquired property to allow for campus expansion, added degree programs and helped stabilize the university while building its reputation. The school named its field house in his honor.

At Christenberry's memorial service, William A. Bloodworth, president of Augusta State, said, "In my own role as president I have often said that I stand on the shoulders of George Christenberry. He laid strong foundations for Augusta State University."

Melvin Hipps died April 22 in Seneca, S.C., a day before his 72nd birthday. He was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of North Carolina (and charter member of Furman's Gamma chapter of South Carolina) and earned his doctorate from Duke University. He served in a variety of roles at Furman from 1960 to 1979, among them professor of English, professor and chair of the education department, and associate academic dean.

Known for his wit, passion for teaching and high standards, he went on to serve in administrative positions at Dallas Baptist University and Baylor University Dental School and Medical Center Library.

He later became director of university libraries at Mercer University in Atlanta before moving to Anderson (S.C.) College (now University), where he was vice president for academic affairs and dean until his retirement in 1999. His leadership was crucial in Anderson's move from a two-year college to a fully accredited, four-year institution.

Berg appointed VP for enrollment; Gabbert named associate dean

Furman has named Bill Berg, former director of planning and institutional research, and Paula Gabbert, associate professor of computer science, to leading administrative positions.

Berg, who served as interim vice president for enrollment for the past academic year after Benny Walker stepped down in the spring of 2008, was formally awarded the job this spring. He is responsible for the oversight of the offices of Admission, Financial Aid and Student Employment.

Before coming to Furman in 1999, Berg spent 13 years at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., the last nine as director of planning and institutional analysis. He also worked in the enrollment division at DePauw University for four years.

He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and holds an M.A. degree from the University of North Carolina. A former chair of the board of directors of the Higher Education Data Sharing consortium, he is a member of the College Board SAT Committee and the New Predictors Committee.

Gabbert, who joined the faculty in 1996, succeeds Linda Bartlett as associate academic dean. Bartlett, who held the position for seven years, has returned to full-time teaching in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, where she is a Spanish professor.

Gabbert has served on a number of university committees and was acting chair of computer science in 2002.

She earned her B.A. degree from Goucher College and her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Virginia.