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## Extending Furman's Reach

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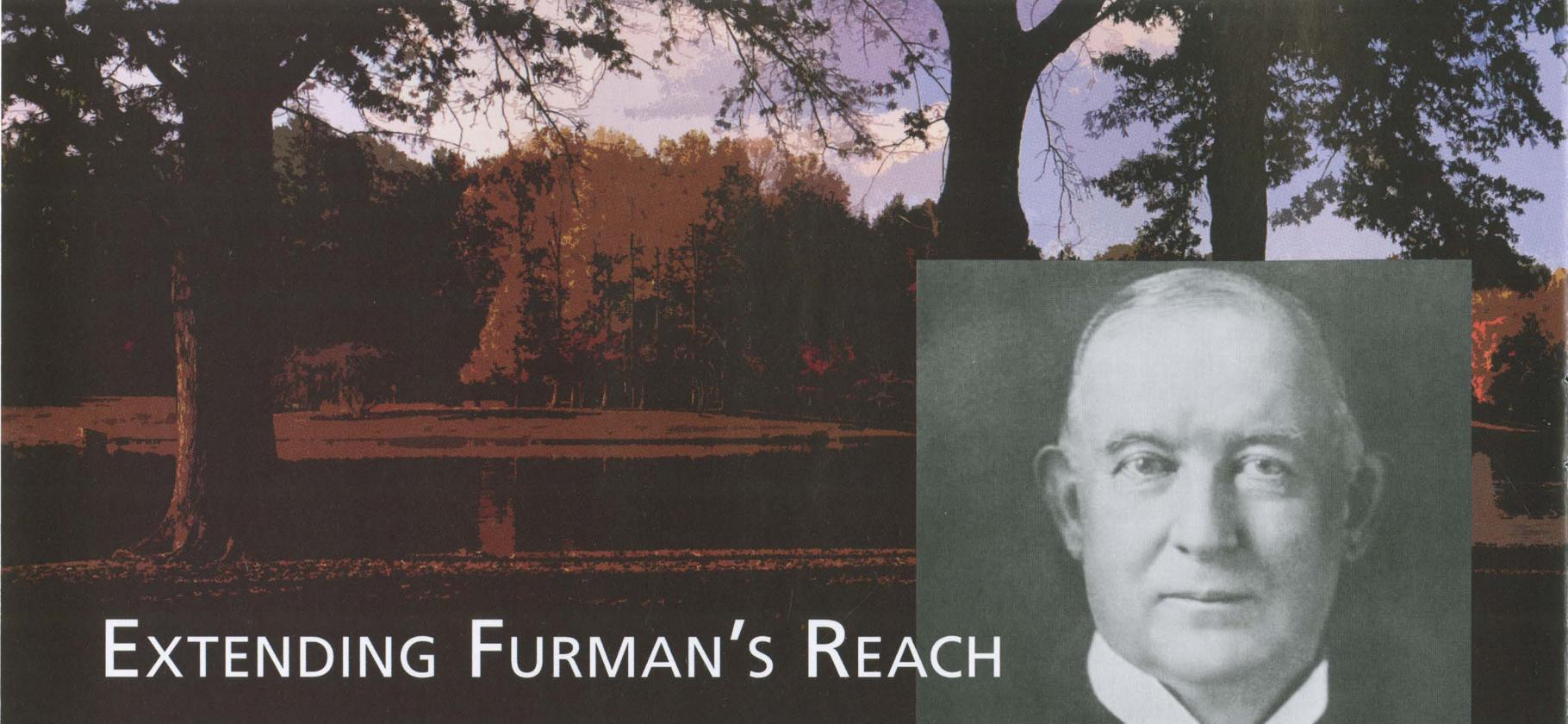
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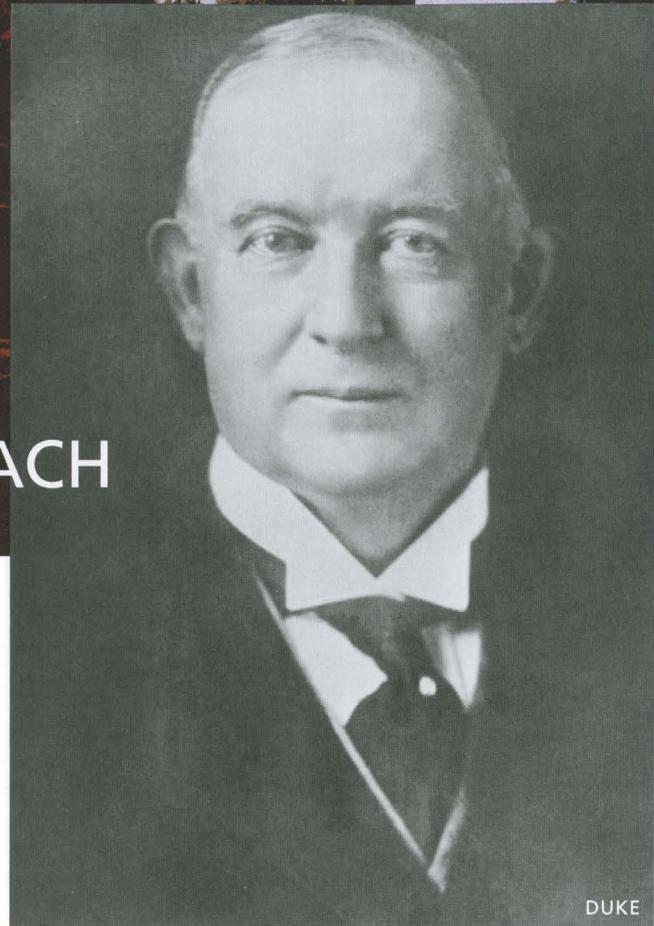
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# EXTENDING FURMAN'S REACH



**T**he Duke Endowment and Charles H. Townes, two of the most illustrious names in Furman history, are now permanently linked through the establishment of a new scholarship program.

Thanks to a \$17 million grant from The Endowment — the largest single cash commitment in the university's history — Furman has created the Charles H. Townes Scholarship Program. The Townes scholarships, which will be awarded to out-of-state residents, will complement the university's John D. Hollingsworth Scholarship Program, which serves students from South Carolina.

More than 100 friends of the university and members of The Duke Endowment board were on hand October 6 for the announcement of the gift.

Fourteen million dollars of the grant will endow the Townes scholarships, named in honor of the 1935 Furman alumnus, 1964 Noble Laureate, and 2005 recipient of the Templeton Prize for his efforts to illuminate the relationship between scientific and religious inquiry.

The first 10 Townes Scholars will enroll for the 2009-10 academic year. Ten more will be added each year until the university has a total of 40 Townes Scholars. The awards

will be worth approximately \$30,000 per year.

The remaining \$3 million of the grant will provide endowed professorships for the Department of Asian Studies, supporting the work of existing faculty as well as adding new professorships in fields related to Asian Studies.

The \$17 million grant is the second substantial gift from The Duke Endowment toward the \$400 million "Because Furman Matters" fundraising campaign, now in the second year of its public phase (page 26). The Endowment made a \$15 million commitment to the campaign in 2006, the majority of which went toward financing the new Charles H. Townes Center for Science.

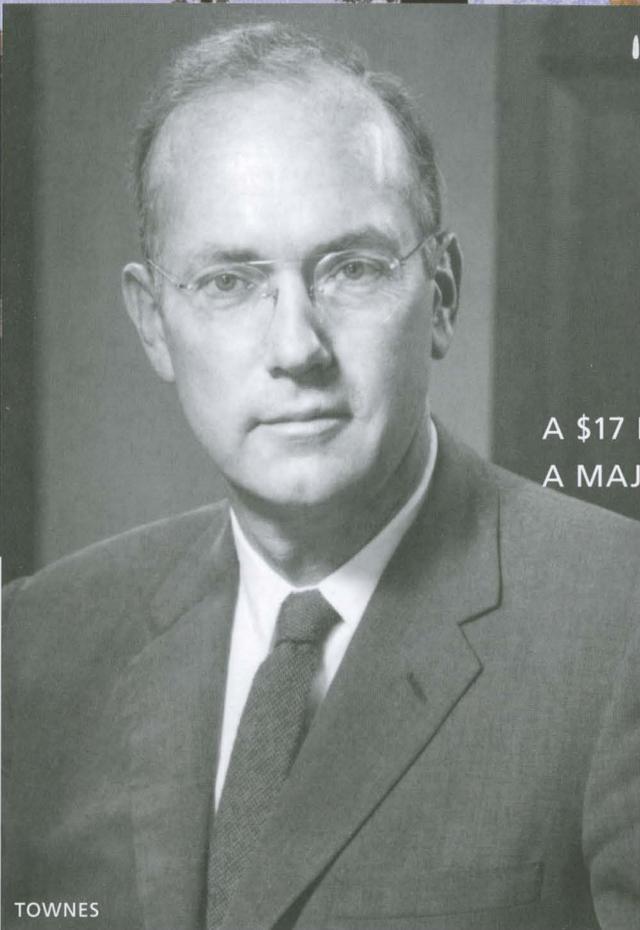
Furman president David Shi said, "Two of the primary strategic goals of the campaign are to increase the number of endowed scholarships for students and the number of endowed professorships. This grant directly addresses these priorities and provides a great surge of momentum for the campaign."

Townes Scholars will be selected on the basis of academic achievement, overall accom-

plishment and potential to make significant contributions to university life, with strong consideration given to financial need. The program joins the Hollingsworth Scholars, James B. Duke Scholars and Herman W. Lay Scholars as the university's top financial awards. Like the Hollingsworth scholarships, the Townes scholarships will include funding to support the recipients' interests in such areas as research, internships and study away opportunities.

The Hollingsworth scholarships, first awarded in 2006, provide in excess of \$100,000 over four years to 25 freshmen from South Carolina. They honor John D. Hollingsworth, Jr., a Greenville inventor and textile machinery manufacturer who died December 30, 2000.

Hollingsworth, who attended Furman for two years in the 1930s, stipulated in his will that his company, John D. Hollingsworth on Wheels, and his extensive real estate holdings



## A \$17 MILLION GRANT FROM THE DUKE ENDOWMENT CREATES A MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND BOLSTERS ASIAN STUDIES.

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be converted into a philanthropic trust called the Hollingsworth Funds. Furman is one of the primary beneficiaries of the Hollingsworth Funds, along with the Greenville YMCA and many other Greenville County charitable organizations.

“Since the Hollingsworth scholarships are for South Carolina residents, we thought it was important to create an equally prestigious scholarship program for out-of-state students,” Shi said. “The Townes scholarships will allow Furman to extend its geographic reach across the nation and build a stronger and more diverse student body.”

Neil Williams, a trustee for The Duke Endowment, said the grant will help Furman contend for top out-of-state students in an increasingly competitive college recruiting landscape.

“This will also help address the vexing issue of affordability in college education,” he said.

“It will open the door for others so that dollars and need will not be as much of a factor [in their decision to attend college].”

Russell M. Robinson II, chair of The Duke Endowment board, said, “We believe these grants are

an excellent way to continue Mr. Duke’s vision and hope for Furman because he did believe so strongly that Furman matters, not only in the Carolinas but in the nation generally.

“Over the past 80 years [The Endowment] has tried to support that vision with grants for Furman’s special areas of interest and capability. Our hope is that Furman alumni and friends will be inspired to follow suit in supporting these and other strategic campaign objectives.”

As for support for Asian Studies, Shi said, “The Duke Endowment gift ensures that our Asian Studies program will be one of the best in the country. It is critical that our students have a thorough understanding of Asia and its increasingly important role in the international arena.”

Since its establishment in 1988, Furman’s Department of Asian Studies has grown to the point that it now approaches the status of the

country’s leading liberal arts programs. It consists of faculty who hold joint appointments in economics, religion, philosophy, political science, history, business and accounting, and modern languages and literatures.

The department recently received a \$292,000 grant from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to operate a summer Chinese Language Institute in Suzhou, China. In 2004 New York businessman Ravenel B. Curry ’63 and his wife, Beth, gave the university \$1 million to support the Chinese Studies program.

The Duke Endowment was established in Charlotte, N.C., in 1924 by James Buchanan Duke, a noted industrialist and philanthropist. Its mission is to serve the people of the Carolinas by supporting selected programs of higher education, health care, children’s welfare, and spiritual life.

Furman, Davidson, Duke and Johnson C. Smith are the four educational institutions that receive annual funding from The Duke Endowment. ¶¶

*Compiled from reports by Vince Moore and John Roberts.*