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English professors Allen, Chevalier earn major awards

Furman University

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Special recognitions highlight Founders Convocation

An alumnus, a valued employee and a late trustee received major honors April 2 at the university's annual Founders Week Convocation.

William King "B.K." Bryan, who died in early 2007 after serving for several years on the board of trustees, was a posthumous recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. A man of exceptional wit and infectious energy, he was a business and civic leader in Greenville.

At Furman he chaired the Advisory Council, the Richard Furman Society and the trustees' student services committee. With his wife, Frances, he provided naming gifts for the Bryan Center for Military Science and the Frances Jones Bryan Garden Room in the Charles Ezra Daniel Memorial Chapel.

His daughters Ann P. Bryan, Katherine B. Anderson and Betsy Bryan Jones, who have helped to establish a scholarship at Furman in their father's name, accepted the award.

William H. Bellinger '72 received the Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award, which recognizes a Furman graduate who reflects Baptist ideals by thinking critically,

living compassionately and making life-changing commitments.

Bellinger is chair of the religion department at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he holds the W. Marshall and Lulie Craig Chair of Bible. He has published a number of scholarly articles on the interpretation of the Psalms and the theology of the Old Testament. His books include *The Testimony of Poets and Sages*; *Jesus and the Suffering Servant: Isaiah 53 and Christian Origins*; *Psalms: Reading and Studying the Book of Praises*; and another forthcoming commentary on the Psalms.

He has been president, executive committee member and program chair (Hebrew Bible) for the Southwest Region Society of Biblical Literature, and he served as president and executive committee member of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion.

Theresa Cureton, department assistant in the Office of Student Services for the last 10 years, was presented the Chiles-Harrill Award, which goes to a member of the faculty or staff who has made substantial contributions to the



Honorees Bill Bellinger '72 and Theresa Cureton.

JEREMY FLEMING

lives of students. The award was established in 1998 by Frank Keener '64 to honor Marguerite Moore Chiles, former vice president for student services, and Ernest E. Harrill, professor emeritus of political science and a former dean of students.

Cureton joined the staff in January of 1992. After working in the post office for two years she moved to academic records, where she was employed for four years before assuming her current job. Students hold her in such high regard that she has twice been named staff member of the year by the Association of Furman Students. In 2003 she was inducted as an honorary member into Senior Order, the select women's leadership society.

English professors Allen, Chevalier earn major awards

Two members of the Department of English earned distinguished honors this spring.

Gilbert Allen, a member of the faculty since 1977, received the Robert Penn Warren Prize in Poetry from *The Southern Review*. The award, which carries a \$1,500 honorarium, goes to the best poem or group of poems published in the journal during the previous volume year. Allen won for a poem titled "The Assistant."

Allen is the author of poetry collections titled *In Everything*, *Second Chances*, *Commandments at Eleven* and *Driving to Distraction*. Visit

www.furman.edu/press/assistant.htm to read his winning poem.

The Southern Review, published quarterly by Louisiana State University, also awards The Eudora Welty Prize in Fiction and The Cleanth Brooks Prize in Nonfiction, given annually to the best short story and work of nonfiction, respectively.

Allen's departmental colleague, assistant professor Victoria Chevalier, has received a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Career Enhancement Award. She will use the fellowship to support her work on a book

titled *Black Things: Memory and Material Culture in Twentieth Century American Literature*.

The Career Enhancement Fellowship goes to 20 junior faculty nationally. It supports the tenure process for minority junior faculty and other faculty members committed to eradicating racial disparities across their disciplines by funding research for the Fellows at full pay for a year, including funds for travel.

Chevalier, who joined the Furman faculty in 2005, will return to her native New York City for the year to write her book.