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Carson named student services VP; Walker to step down

Furman University

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Carson



Walker



Kazeo



Beckford

Carson named student services VP; Walker to step down

The university welcomed a new vice president February 1.

Connie Carson, a longtime administrator at Wake Forest University, succeeds Harry Shucker '66 as vice president for student services.

A graduate of North Carolina State and holder of an M.A. and an M.B.A., Carson spent one year as an area director at her alma mater before joining the Wake Forest staff in 1986 as area coordinator and summer conference director. She served as associate director of residence life and housing and as executive director of residential services before becoming vice president of campus services and planning in October 2006.

Furman has also announced that Benny Walker '71, vice president for enrollment since 1992, will step down at the end of the academic year to become assistant to the president and senior associate for the Richard W. Riley Institute. In his new role, Walker will assist president David Shi with the "Because Furman Matters" campaign, work with the Riley Institute's Diversity Leadership Academy, and help to promote other local and statewide initiatives.

Walker has worked at Furman since he graduated. He was an assistant director of admissions, director of financial aid and associate dean for admissions and financial aid before being named a vice president. He has been a trustee of the College Board and conducted workshops across the Southeast on financial planning for college.

In addition, the board of trustees has authorized a reorganization of the senior administration.

Thomas Kazeo, vice president for academic affairs and dean since 2003, has been named to the new position of provost and executive vice president. Kazeo remains the university's chief academic officer while assuming new administrative responsibilities that will allow him to devote more time to dealing with strategic issues. His expanded duties will, in turn, free Shi to focus on the needs of the comprehensive campaign.

Previously, all Furman vice presidents and several area directors reported to the president. Under the new system, the vice presidents for student services and enrollment will report to the provost and executive vice president, as will the director of planning and institutional research, the chief information officer and the chaplain. The director of athletics and the vice presidents of marketing and public relations, business affairs and development will continue to report to the president. The director of human resources will report to the vice president of business affairs instead of to the president.

This is not the first time Furman has had a provost. Francis W. Bonner was vice president and provost from 1972 to 1982.

As part of the reorganization, Furman named professor of music John Beckford, who chaired the faculty from 2005-07, to a new position, dean of the faculty. The dean reports to the provost and executive vice president and will assume various responsibilities for the academic area.

Beckford, who began his new role March 1, has taught at Furman since 1976. He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Iowa.

Freshman group's film in running for honor

A 12-minute film produced by a group of Furman freshmen about the challenges of maintaining a "green" lifestyle on campus has been awarded the regional top prize in a contest sponsored by Mazda and the Student Conservation Association, a non-profit that promotes conservation leadership and the protection of America's public lands.

The Lifestyle Project documents the experiences of the students as they work to reduce their impact on the environment. It covers a three-week period and follows the students as they adopt a vegetarian diet, reduce their water and electricity usage, work to generate less trash, and stop driving their cars.

The film received top honors in the Southeast Region for the 15-19 age group. It earned a \$2,000 award and is now eligible for a \$15,000 grand prize. The winner will be announced at a national conference April 24-27 in Washington, D.C.

The project grew out of an Introduction to Environmental Science course taught by earth and environmental sciences professor Weston Dripps as part of the Environmental Community of Students (ECOS) Engaged Living Program.

Students involved in *The Lifestyle Project* are freshmen Ben Dauten of Northfield, Ill., Grace Tuschak of Pennington, N.J., Courtenay Stroud of The Woodlands, Texas, Corrie Ferguson of Simsbury, Conn., Reece Lyerly of Roswell, Ga., Desmond Lee of Ellenwood, Ga., and Daniel Balo of Lenoir City, Tenn.

Another group of Furman students also submitted a film, titled *Ordinary Superheroes: Going Green at Furman University*. View both films at www.thesca.org/contest.