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Furman University

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Shaw, Glenn, Matthews receive top honors during Founders Convocation

Furman presented major awards to two graduates from the 1980s and to a local community leader during the annual Founders Week Convocation April 5.

The university issued an honorary degree to Minor Mickel Shaw, a Greenville resident and prolific civic activist and volunteer. Her late parents, Buck and Minor Mickel, were at the forefront of Greenville's and Furman's development over the last quarter century, and Minor Mickel was the first woman to chair the Furman board of trustees.

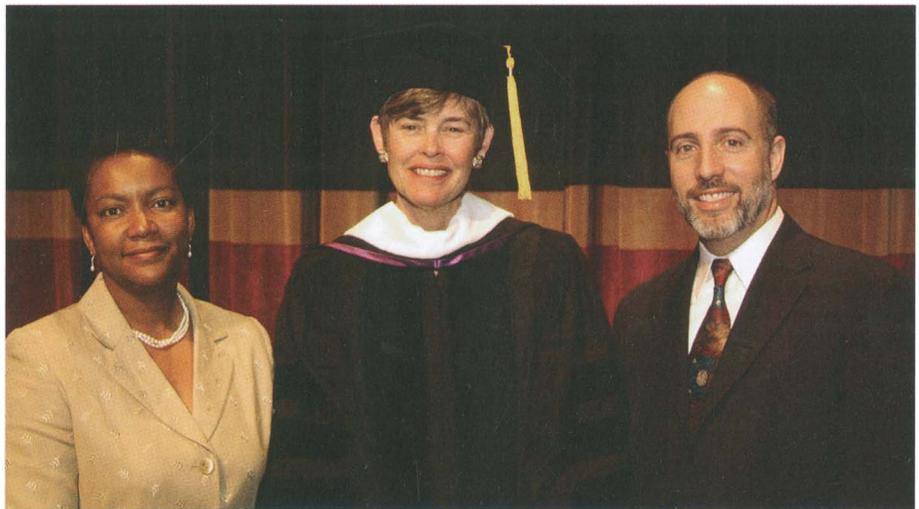
In recognizing Minor Shaw, the university said, "Through her actions and deeds, she carries on the family tradition." Her degree citation recognized her "lasting contributions to the betterment of [her] community and state" and her "passionate advocacy of causes that benefit children, education and the arts."

Minor Shaw is president of Micco Corporation and chair of the Daniel-Mickel Foundation. She is a trustee of The Duke Endowment and a director of such businesses, foundations and philanthropic organizations as the Hollingsworth Funds, the United Way of Greenville County, South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Piedmont Natural Gas and the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts Foundation. Both *The Greenville News* and *Greenville Magazine* have named her one of the 10 most influential people in the Greenville area.

She has chaired the board at Wofford College and served on several major committees at her alma mater, the University of North Carolina.

The Chiles-Harrill Award, presented to a member of the faculty or staff who has made substantial contributions to the lives of students, went to Idella Goodson Glenn '84, director of multicultural affairs at Furman. She was honored for her caring nature, superior work ethic and commitment to promoting inclusiveness, tolerance and respect throughout the Furman community.

A host of current students, colleagues, alumni and community leaders submitted letters nominating Glenn for the award,



From left, Idella Glenn '84, Chiles-Harrill Award; Minor Shaw, Doctor of Humanities; and Kyle Matthews '86, Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award.

citing her upbeat attitude, strength of character and ability to make students feel comfortable and accepted. As one of her colleagues wrote, "Her energy level is amazing! In addition to her commitments at work, she serves on numerous boards, advises students, is working on a Ph.D., and is a very devoted wife and mother. She gives so much of herself and never accepts any credit for all she does. She embodies all the traits of the Chiles-Harrill Award winner."

Glenn has worked at Furman since 1996. She recently received the Bobby E. Leach Award from the Southern Association for College Student Affairs for her efforts to improve multicultural relations on the Furman campus.

Kyle Matthews '86, one of Christian music's most prolific songwriters and proclaimers, received the Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award, which goes annually to a Furman graduate who follows in the tradition of the university's founder and reflects Baptist ideals by thinking critically, living compassionately and making life-changing commitments. Matthews was recognized for his "spiritual commitment, compelling talent that transcends traditional pathways, and dedicated efforts to inspire and challenge others."

Matthews, who lives in Nashville, Tenn., has used his musical and storytelling gifts to spread the gospel as both a performer and teacher. His thought-provoking songs demonstrate his commitment to sound theology and in-depth biblical teaching.

He has had hits with Ginny Owens, the Oak Ridge Boys, Grover Levy and Point of Grace, to name a few artists, and he has received four Dove Award nominations. His song "We Fall Down," recorded by Donnie McClurkin, received the Dove Award for Traditional Gospel Recorded Song of the Year, the Stellar Award for Song of the Year and ASCAP's Gospel Song of the Year honor. To learn more about Matthews' work, visit the Web at www.kylematthews.com.

Richard W. Riley '54, former governor of South Carolina and U.S. Secretary of Education during the Clinton administration, delivered the convocation address. He encouraged students to take seriously the Furman alma mater's exhortation to "drink from wisdom's fountain pure," and praised the university's efforts to "educate the whole person for a worthwhile life of productivity and service.

"That," he said, "is Furman's great strength."