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Award-winning profs

Furman University

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Furmanreports

Award-winning profs

Faculty members earn regional, national recognition

Four members of the Furman faculty have in recent months earned major honors from leading regional and national groups.

► **Bill Brantley**, who has taught physics at Furman since 1966, received the George B. Pegram Award from the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society for “excellence in the teaching of physics in the Southeast.”

Brantley is a member of the American Physical Society and is a founding member of the executive board of UNIRIB, a research consortium based at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. A past chair of the physics department at Furman, he created “Energy: Man, Creation and Calories,” a unique interdisciplinary course for non-science majors. During his career he has mentored approximately 300 physics majors who have gone on to pursue graduate study and careers in the sciences. He holds degrees from Mercer and Vanderbilt universities.

► **Jan Kiely**, assistant professor of history and Asian Studies, is one of 20 scholars chosen to participate in the Public Intellectuals Program, a new program sponsored by the National Committee on United States-China Relations and funded by The Henry Luce Foundation and The Starr Foundation.

The program, which runs through winter 2007, is designed to help American scholars broaden and deepen their knowledge of China’s politics, economics and society. Among other opportunities, the scholars will have the chance to attend workshops on United States-China relations, participate in a 10-day trip to China, and organize a public event that will focus on the country. They were selected from more than 125 applicants.

Kiely, one of only four professors from liberal arts colleges to be chosen for the program, holds degrees from Yale University, the University of Hawaii and the University of California. He is associate director of the South Carolina branch of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, directs the Furman-in-China study abroad programs, and has been a leader of the

university’s “China Initiative.” He joined the Furman faculty in 2001.

► **Jeff Petty**, a 1986 Furman graduate, is one of seven chemistry professors nationwide to be named a Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar for 2005. The Dreyfus award provides each recipient a \$60,000 unrestricted research grant.

Petty, who joined the chemistry faculty in 1995, holds advanced degrees from the University of California. His areas of expertise include biophysical chemistry, single molecule detection and high-sensitivity spectroscopy. He recently received a grant from the National Institutes of Health for a research

project on the role of water in drug recognition of DNA.

The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar awards program was established in 1969 to support the teaching and research careers of talented young faculty in the chemical sciences. Petty is the third member of the Furman chemistry department since 2000 to receive a Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar award, joining colleagues John Wheeler and Paul Wagenknecht '86.

► **Judith Bainbridge**, longtime professor of English at Furman, received the Whitney M. Young, Jr., Humanitarian Award from the Urban League of the Upstate for her contributions to the Greenville community. The award is named for the educator, author and civil rights leader who directed the national Urban League from 1961 until his death in 1971.

Bainbridge, a 2004 recipient of the Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Advising, is deeply involved in historic preservation work in Greenville and writes a weekly column on local history for *The Greenville News*. A graduate of Mary Washington College and the University of Iowa, she has been an administrator and professor at Furman since 1976.



Photo: From left, Bill Brantley, Judy Bainbridge, Jeff Petty and Jan Kiely gather in Furman Hall.