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Furman awards 717 degrees at Commencement

Furman University

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Three alums among new group of trustees

During its spring meeting in May, the Furman board of trustees elected seven new members to begin terms in 2005-06.

Three of the new trustees have served on the board in the past: Hardy S. Clemons, retired senior minister of Greenville's First Baptist Church; C. Dan Joyner '59, a real estate executive in Greenville; and Leighan R. Rinker of Atlantis, Fla., founder and executive director of Beginnings of Palm Beach County, a preschool facility affiliated with Palm Beach Atlantic College. Rinker is a past chair of the board.

Beginning their first terms on the board will be Alfred G. Childers '80, a partner with Southern Capitol Ventures, a Raleigh, N.C.-based firm dedicated to helping entrepreneurs build market-leading companies; Aubrey C. Daniels '57, an author and head of Aubrey Daniels and Associates, an international firm based in Atlanta that partners with organizations to strengthen leader and performer skills in self-management and the management of others; Barbara E. Mathews, a physician in Santa Barbara, Calif., and daughter of the late Joseph Chesley Mathews '27, a longtime professor at the University of California-Santa Barbara and renowned Dante scholar; and Patrick W. McKinney, president of Kiawah Island (S.C.) Real Estate.

Outgoing trustees who were recognized for their service were Gordon L. Blackwell '60 of Raleigh, N.C., Angela Walker Franklin '81 of Atlanta, Ga., Peggy Ellison Good '67 of Greer, S.C., Max Heller of Greenville, and Gordon R. Herring '65 of Greenville.



CLIFFORD SHIRLEY/TEMPLETON PRIZE

A royal encounter

Nobel Laureate Charles Townes '35 (left) is congratulated by England's Prince Philip at the May 4 presentation of the 2005 Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries About Spiritual Realities, which honors those who advance religion and spiritual matters. The prince formally awarded Townes the \$1.4 million prize at Buckingham Palace. Townes and his wife, Frances, are donating half of the prize to the Furman science complex project, which he helped design.

On October 6-8, the University of California will celebrate Townes' 90th birthday with a symposium called "Amazing Light: Visions for Discovery." To learn more, visit www.foundationalquestions.net.

Furman awards 717 degrees at Commencement

Furman completed its 179th academic year June 3 with Commencement ceremonies in Paladin Stadium. The university awarded 640 undergraduate and 77 master's degrees.

Fang Bu, a double major in English and biology from Marietta, Ga., received two major awards from the faculty: the Scholarship Cup, given each year to the graduate with the highest grade-point average (hers was a straight-A 4.0), and the Donaldson-Watkins Medal, presented annually to the outstanding senior woman. Kevin Neely Blackmon, a *summa cum laude* graduate in chemistry from Heath Springs, S.C., received the Bradshaw-Feaster Medal as the outstanding male graduate.

In addition to the student honors, two professors and a member of the administrative staff received Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman awards for meritorious teaching and advising. The teaching award went to Michael Bressler, associate professor of political science. Hazel Harris, who retired this summer as professor of education and associate dean for summer sessions and director of

graduate studies, and Carol Daniels, coordinator of student services, won the advising awards.

Graduates and guests filled the Paladin Stadium home stands to hear remarks from Jodi Tovay of Roswell, Ga., and Joe Waters of Greer, S.C., who were selected to deliver Commencement addresses. Both emphasized the importance of nurturing and promoting the value of community and civic responsibility.

"Our communities must constantly seek the good of all, cultivate virtue, explore ideas, readily share the wealth of our tradition with others, and be open to receive the wisdom of other communities," said Waters, a history major. Tovay, who earned a communication studies degree, urged her classmates to realize "how our future is bound to the future of others'. We must not sacrifice the virtue of community on the altar of convenience."

For the full texts of their speeches, visit www.furman.edu/press/pressarchive.cfm?ID=3380.