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## Founders celebration

Furman University

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## Founders celebration

The rededication of the Bell Tower — Furman’s most recognizable symbol — and the recognition of two women for their contributions to the university were the highlights of the annual Founders Day Convocation April 6 in McAlister Auditorium.

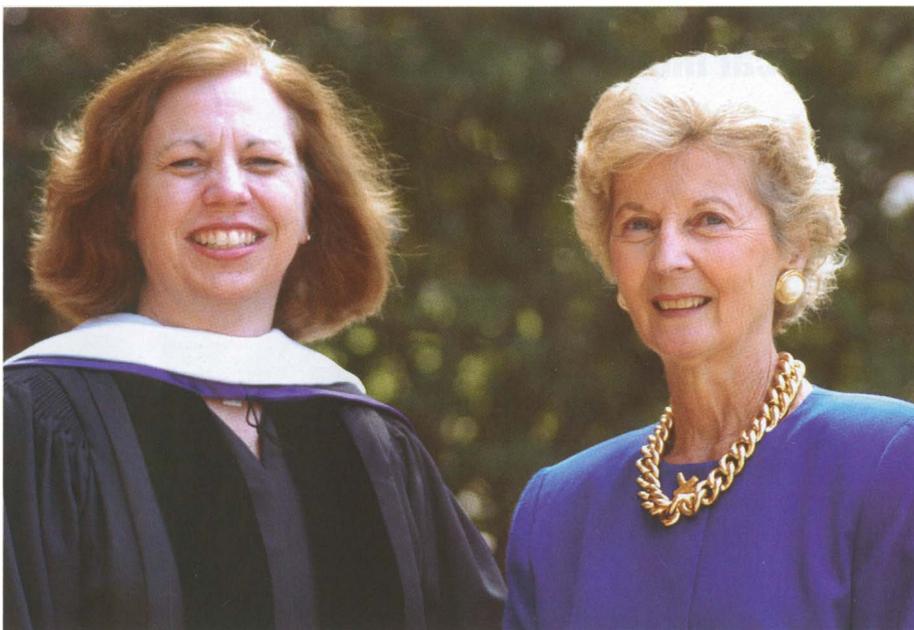
John L. Plyler, Jr. ’56, a retired hospital executive from Davidson, N.C., and son of John Plyler, president of Furman from 1939 to 1964, delivered the Founders Day address. He recalled for the audience a series of events that led to the construction of the current campus, combining personal recollections with institutional history.

The convocation also gave Furman the opportunity to honor Margaret “Peggy” Haymes ’82 and Shirley Mangels, longtime departmental assistant in the Division of Continuing Education.

Haymes, a minister, author and counselor, 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.

Haymes is a partner with West Summit Partners, LLP, in Winston-Salem, N.C., a company that provides resources for those in need of counseling, coaching, healing therapies and other services. She also works with other support organizations in the city. The award cited her “compassionate spirit, dedication to

*Bell Tower rededicated; Haymes, Mangels receive awards*



**Peggy Haymes ’82 (left) received the Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award, while longtime employee Shirley Mangels earned the Chiles-Harrill Award.**

helping others and commitment to the potential for healing and growth in each person.”

Mangels, a Furman employee since 1987, received the Chiles-Harrill Award, presented annually to a member of the faculty or staff who has made a lasting impact on students’ lives. The award, established by Frank Keener ’64, is named for Marguerite Chiles, former vice president of student services, and Ernest E. Harrill, professor emeritus of political science and a former dean of students.

Mangels works with students in the

Undergraduate Evening Studies program, many of whom are forced to juggle multiple demands of family and work. In a letter nominating her for the award one person wrote, “Her personal concern for students and her attention to detail make the process of going back to college as an adult student, or beginning college for the first time as an adult, less intimidating. . . . She helps each student navigate through the processes of admission, financial aid, advising, course registration and graduation.”

Following the convocation, the 40-year-old Bell Tower, which recently underwent a \$1 million refurbishment, was rededicated. The Bell Tower project included restoration of the carillon, repair of the tower’s exterior, and construction of a walkway that includes the names of project donors on brick pavers (photos at left).

The Bell Tower is an exact replica of the tower at “Old Main” on the former Furman campus in downtown Greenville. The current tower was built in 1965 and provided by the children of Alester Garden Furman, Greenville businessman and longtime Furman trustee, in their father’s memory. The carillon honors John Edward Burnside, a 1917 alumnus who was the first chair of the Furman Advisory Council.

