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Neuroscience added; EBA department splits

Furman University

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Paez selected for Liberty Fellows leadership program

Doris Paez, assistant professor of education at Furman, is among 20 young South Carolina leaders who comprise the inaugural class of the Liberty Fellowship program.

The program seeks to develop a network of outstanding leadership in the state by empowering its future leaders to realize their full potential. It is sponsored by the Liberty Corporation, Wofford College and The Aspen Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based group that, according to its Web site, presents conferences, seminars and policy programs designed "to foster enlightened leadership, the appreciation of timeless ideas and values, and open-minded dialogue on contemporary issues."

The 20 Liberty Fellows, chosen from



Doris Paez

215 nominees, represent the business, government and non-profit sectors and are all between the ages of 25 and 45.

For the next year and a half they will study classic texts, take part in a series of seminars and group discussions, and attend periodic meetings with the state's business, political and academic leaders. Each Fellow will also develop a community service project.

Paez, coordinator of the Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages program at Furman, also runs a psychological consulting business and serves on the boards of the Alliance for Quality Education, Success by Six and the Northwest Crescent Child and Family Development Center. She has taught at the Medical University of South Carolina, New Mexico State University and Florida International University.

She earned B.A., M.A. and Ed.S. degrees from the University of South Florida and a Ph.D. in school psychology from the University of Florida.



Bell Tower facelift

The \$1 million restoration of the Bell Tower is under way. In addition to repairing both the tower and the clock, the university is refurbishing the John Edward Burnside Carillon and building the Anniversary Walk, a path that leads from the tower to the mainland. Donors to the project will have their names engraved on the path's concrete pavers. The project is scheduled to be completed in January.

Neuroscience added; EBA department splits

Furman made two significant changes in its academic offerings this fall when it introduced a new major in neuroscience and split the Department of Economics and Business Administration into separate departments.

Over the past decade, progress in the field of neuroscience has been mirrored by interest in the topic among Furman students. In recent years, more than half of all students who designed their own majors through the Individualized Curriculum Program focused on neuroscience.

Given this interest, and given that the interdisciplinary nature of neuroscience fits into Furman's academic philosophy, the faculty voted last spring to formally establish a major in neuroscience. William Blaker, professor of biology, is director of the program.

The neuroscience program requires six core courses in psychology, biology and chemistry, plus four electives that may be chosen from the three core departments and from offerings in philosophy, computer science, physics, and interdisciplinary classes titled "Brain and Mind" and "Pathophysiology." In addition, majors must complete an empirical research project.

The program began the 2004-05 academic year with 13 declared majors.

Meanwhile, the Department of Economics and Business Administration has been divided into a Department of Economics and a Department of Business and Accounting.

The decision was made following the joint recommendation of three consultants who evaluated the EBA program last spring. After interviewing members of the EBA faculty and studying the program, they submitted their findings to Tom Kazee, vice president for academic affairs and dean.

The consultants agreed that two departments working autonomously would be better able to develop their own identities and, in the case of the Department of Business and Accounting, would have the ability to build a program that fills a special niche, such as international business.

The move will not affect existing majors who fall under the umbrella of the EBA program (economics, business administration, accounting, and interdisciplinary majors in mathematics-economics and computing-business). Cheryl Patterson is chair of the Department of Business and Accounting, and Ken Peterson heads the Department of Economics.