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Math professor earns Fulbright award for 2002-03

Furman University

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Burnett named to Women's Hall of Fame

Jessie Stokely Burnett, who taught in the history department of the Woman's College of Furman University from 1935 to 1947, was inducted into the Greenville County Women's Hall of Fame in March.

Born in Tennessee in 1882, Burnett received a degree from Virginia Institute (now Virginia Intermont College) and studied at Yale University where, although having completed all the requirements for a master's degree, she was awarded a "certificate" because she was a woman. She received an M.A. degree from Smith College in 1908 and also studied at the University of California. She taught at Virginia Intermont, Smith College and Miss Head's School in Berkeley, Calif., before coming to the Woman's College, which was coordinated with Furman in 1933.

While a graduate student at the University of California, Burnett became interested in the women's suffrage movement. After marrying and moving to Greenville, she organized a group of suffragettes and helped to establish the Council on Human Relations and Greenville Branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, now the American Association of University Women. Burnett was elected the first state president.

She chaired committees on International Relations and the Status of Women, served on the board of the YWCA, and was a member of the League of Women Voters. In 1958 she received Furman's Mary Mildred Sullivan Award for "high aspirations and noble humanitarian qualities of character." She later established the William Montgomery Burnett Chair in History at Furman (currently held by Marian E. Strobel) in memory of her husband.

She died in 1979.

Math professor earns Fulbright award for 2002-03

Mark Woodard, professor of mathematics at Furman since 1989, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach at the University of the West Indies in Bridgetown, Barbados, for the 2002-03 academic year.

Woodard's classroom duties will include teaching abstract algebra and linear algebra, as well as helping guide the university's math department toward more computer-integrated instruction. His research will involve the creation of interactive, Web-enabled software that will allow students to simulate exam situations, thereby enhancing preparation for and reducing the anxiety of test taking.

Woodard, who holds a Ph.D. from Indiana University in Bloomington, has worked at Furman to develop and implement an integrated calculus/pre-calculus course as well as a new course called "Ideas in Mathematics." He is the author of one of the first mathematically oriented Web sites, the Mathematical Quotations Server, which is accessible at math.furman.edu/~mwoodard/mquot.html. He also developed the Furman University Electronic Journal of Undergraduate Research, which allows mathematics students to publish the results of their senior projects and summer research experiences (math.furman.edu/~mwoodard/fejum/welcome.html).

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship program in international educational exchange. The Fulbright Scholar Program sends 800 scholars and professionals each year to more than 140 countries, where they lecture or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.



Woodard

Earth Month at Furman

April was Earth Month at Furman, and the university sponsored a series of lectures, readings, hikes and clean-up programs to increase awareness about the environment both on campus and in the Greenville community. The centerpiece of the event was the April 20 Earthfest on the Mall, cosponsored by Furman's Center for Habitat Earth and the Sierra Club, which promoted the concept of "sustainable living" and provided hints on how to meet living needs without compromising the environment. Attractions included displays with environmental themes, special presentations by vendors, and examples of Hybrid (gas/electric) vehicles and organically grown plants.

