

1-1-2002

Urban League of Upstate honors Johns

Furman University

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Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2002) "Urban League of Upstate honors Johns," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 44 : Iss. 4 , Article 14.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol44/iss4/14>

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Furman, five other state institutions included in biomedical research project

Furman is one of six colleges and universities in South Carolina included in a \$6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that will be used to strengthen biomedical research in the state. The project is an outgrowth of the Biomedical Research Infrastructure Networks (BRIN) program.

The University of South Carolina is the lead institution for the grant. Other participating schools are Clemson University, the College of Charleston, the Medical University of South Carolina and South Carolina State University. Awards will also be made on a competitive basis to additional four-year institutions in the state.

Furman, the only private institution in the group, will receive \$446,000 to fund summer research positions for faculty and students in biology and chemistry. The award will also be used to hire postdoctoral fellows to conduct research. Larry Trzuppek, professor of chemistry, is the lead researcher for the grant.

Each participating institution in South Carolina has outlined specific plans for the funding, including the hiring of new faculty, the creation of new research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, and the development of faculty-mentor

programs that will link established researchers with new scientists. The BRIN award will also help forge new research collaborations throughout the state, upgrade laboratories by providing for the purchase of sophisticated research equipment, and provide seminars and other programs for scientists.

The grant is part of an NIH program to develop research activity in states that received less than \$70 million in NIH grant funds between 1995 and 1999. Twenty-three states and Puerto Rico were eligible for the BRIN program.

Governor Jim Hodges of South Carolina says that the NIH award is a major step toward helping the state's colleges and universities become more competitive for research funding, which in turn will help attract more business and industry to the state and expand career choices in the pharmaceutical, medical technology and biotechnology sectors. "Technology development and enhanced partnerships between our colleges and universities are essential to our state's development in gaining and keeping higher-paying jobs," he says.

Urban League of Upstate honors Johns

John E. Johns, president emeritus of Furman, has received the Whitney M. Young Award from the Urban League of the Upstate for his humanitarian efforts and contributions to the Greenville community.

Johns, president of Furman from 1976 to 1994, was recognized by the Urban League at a banquet in November. He also received the Order of the Silver Crescent from South Carolina governor Jim Hodges. In presenting the award from the governor, Nick Theodore '52, former lieutenant governor of South Carolina, emphasized that Johns had "distinguished himself as a noted visionary."

A 10-year member of the Urban League, Johns was active in the group's efforts to revitalize and restore the Viola Street area in downtown Greenville. He is known throughout the Greenville community for his generous spirit, leadership skills and sense of humor.

He and his wife, Martha, have made many friends for Furman with their warm personal style and outgoing manner, and their joint efforts have enhanced the



university's relationship with Greenville and upstate South Carolina.

In addition to his contributions to civic and community causes, Johns' presidency at Furman was marked by growth and progress. Under his leadership, Furman's endowment grew tenfold, the faculty and the student body grew stronger and more diverse, and the issue of the university's governance was settled. In 1986, a study sponsored by the Exxon Education Foundation named Johns one of the nation's 100 most effective college presidents.

Arrington elected AAAS Fellow



Tony Arrington, professor of chemistry at Furman since 1967, has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). One of 288 individuals to be named a Fellow for 2001, he was recognized at the annual AAAS meeting in Boston February 16.

Arrington was cited by the organization for his "distinguished contributions to characterizing the chemistry of highly reactive species and for leadership in mentoring undergraduates through participation in research."

Founded in 1848, AAAS represents the world's largest federation of scientists and works to advance science for human well-being. It has more than 138,000 members and 275 affiliated societies across the world. The organization began its tradition of electing Fellows in 1874.

Arrington, who graduated from Furman in 1960, holds the William R. Kenan, Jr., University Chair. He earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University and did post-doctoral research at the University of California. He has been a Danforth Graduate Fellow, a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and a National Science Foundation Predoctoral Fellow, and has served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Utah and a Visiting Scientist at Los Alamos National Labs in New Mexico.

In 1980 he received the Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching. Furman's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa elected him to membership in 1990.