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Dead Man Walking author visits campus

Furman University

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Furman reports



Cecil Staton received the first Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award; Carol Daniels is this year's Chiles-Harrill recipient.

Garrison, Staton, Daniels receive major honors

Three alumni, including one longtime member of the student services staff, received special honors at the annual Founders Day convocation April 12.

Junius H. Garrison, Jr. '49, a prominent Greenville business and community leader and steadfast supporter of Furman, received the Bell Tower Award posthumously. The Bell Tower Award, the highest honor Furman can bestow other than an honorary degree, is awarded by the board of trustees for exceptional achievement and meritorious service to the university.

Garrison, who died April 1, was a former president of the Alumni Association, a lifetime member of the Advisory Council and a volunteer leader during several of the university's capital campaigns. As president of the Furman Company, a leading real estate firm, he made significant contributions to the development of Greenville and the surrounding area. He was president of the Greenville Rotary Club, the Greenville Symphony Association and the Vocational Rehabilitation Workshop, and he served on the boards of such groups as the American Heart Association, United

Way, the Chamber of Commerce and the County Development Board.

The award recognized his years of service and dedication to Furman and to the Greenville community, his "foresight, wisdom and wise counsel," his distinguished achievements in business and his "insistence on excellence in all that he did."

Cecil P. Staton, Jr., a 1980 Furman graduate and head of Mercer University Press, was named the first recipient of the Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award. This annual award will recognize a Furman graduate who reflects Baptist ideals by "thinking critically, living compassionately and making life-changing commitments."

Staton earned Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Oxford, England. In 1990, he directed the establishment of Smyth & Helwys Publishing, Inc., which annually produces more than 30 books and 90 Christian educational resources for churches in the United States, Canada and Europe.

Since 1991, Staton has provided distinguished leadership to Mercer University Press, which now publishes more than 40 scholarly books a year in Southern history, theology and philosophy. An associate provost at Mercer, he also assists faculty in their research and publishing endeavors.

Carol Daniels, coordinator of student services at Furman, received the Chiles-Harrill Award. Named for former administrators Marguerite Chiles and Ernest Harrill, the award recognizes a member of the Furman faculty or staff who has made substantial contributions to the lives of students.

Daniels joined the Furman staff in 1972. A graduate of Spartanburg Methodist College, she earned a degree from Furman in 1982. She oversees freshman orientation, advises student publications, coordinates the University Disciplinary Committee and advises sororities and fraternities.

Carl F. Kohrt, Jr. '65, executive vice president and chief technical officer of Eastman Kodak Company, returned to campus to deliver the convocation address.



Dead Man Walking author visits campus

Sister Helen Prejean, a two-time Nobel Prize nominee whose work counseling death row inmates at the Louisiana State Prison was the subject of the acclaimed motion picture *Dead Man Walking*, spoke to a packed house in Daniel Memorial Chapel March 21 as part of the Religion-in-Life Lecture Series. Her book, *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*, was on the *New York Times* best-seller list for 31 weeks and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. The book has been translated into 10 languages and is being made into an opera by the San Francisco Opera Company.

A busy lecturer and frequent guest on television news and talk shows, Sister Helen has counseled death row inmates in Louisiana since 1981. During her visit to Furman, she also met informally with members of the university's chapter of Amnesty International. She is currently working on a book titled *Hand on the Tiller, Face in the Wind*.