

4-1-2000

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Furman University

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Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2000) "\$200,000 gift supports Riley Scholars program," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 43 : Iss. 1 , Article 15.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol43/iss1/15>

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Evening Studies grads, take note!

Alumni of Furman's Undergraduate Evening Studies program have come together to form a Furman Club of their own.

Headed by Gig Meredith '99, the group is working to establish stronger ties between graduates of the evening program and the university and to develop scholarship support for evening studies students at Furman.

Calling itself the **New Horizons Undergraduate Evening Studies Club**, the group held an inaugural dinner in February and scheduled another for this spring to recognize the program's most recent graduates.

For more information on this new group that is reaching out to an important network of Furman alumni, contact Gig Meredith at (864) 294-3031 or through e-mail, gig.meredith@furman.edu.

\$200,000 gift supports Riley Scholars program

John I. Smith Charities, Inc., of Greenville has provided Furman with a \$200,000 gift that will support the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership.

The gift will provide endowed scholarships for the Riley Scholars program. The institute, which was established in the fall of 1999, is named in honor of Riley, a 1954 Furman graduate who serves as the U.S. Secretary of Education.

The Riley Scholars program provides scholarships for junior and senior political science majors who excel academically and are active participants in the department's programs. In addition to providing scholarships for students, the Riley Institute will bring nationally recognized speakers to campus and create an endowment that will fund



stipends for teaching associates, research associates and student internships.

John I. Smith Charities was established in 1985 by Smith, a Greenville business and civic leader. He died in August of 1986 at the age of 83.

ANOTHER MAJOR HONOR

Denison named to *USA Today* All-Star team

Ginger Denison wants people to realize she's just a typical college student. But given her track record, that isn't as easy as one might think.

After all, in one 48-hour period last year, Denison walked away with three prestigious scholarships: the Truman, Goldwater and Beckman. The awards were worth a combined total of more than \$50,000.

Then this winter, the vibrant senior from Greensboro, N.C., earned another major distinction: she was named to the *USA Today* All-Star Academic First Team. As one of only 20 college students in the country to receive the honor, she traveled to New York for a luncheon honoring the team — and to pick up the \$2,500 award each member received.

When asked to discuss her experiences in New York, she shared some lighthearted details of the trip. "One night, 10 of the top 20 students in America met in the hotel to hang out," she says. "If any random person had entered, we would have resembled another group of rowdy college kids, nothing more."

Denison, who graduated in May with a degree in chemistry, says she enjoys the opportunity to represent Furman because she loves the university. But she admits to occasionally feeling ill at ease because of all the attention her honors have brought her.

For example, most college students do not feel obligated to justify making a C on



A hurdler on the track team, Denison is a national finalist for the NCAA's prestigious Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship.

was a pleasure to have me in his class. I then felt as though I had to justify a test grade by telling him I was taking the course pass/fail."

Still, Denison seems to have adjusted to others' high expectations of her and describes herself as "a regular shoe." More significantly, she is both grateful for and humbled by her run of recognition.

"It has been inspirational to be classified with such amazing people of various nationalities," she says. "On a personal level it's given me more confidence."

After earning her Ph.D. in environmental chemistry, Denison hopes to work for the government to develop environmental laws and regulations. As far as graduate school, she was initially torn between the University of North Carolina and Indiana University before finally settling on Indiana.

And judging from her achievements at Furman, it's a safe bet that Ginger Denison will be a success.

— Lori Helms

The author, a junior from Goose Creek, S.C., interned in the Office of Marketing and Public Relations during spring term.

a test — but she did. "I don't want to be labeled as 'the Truman Scholar,'" she says, "but on the first day of one class a professor said he'd read about me in the paper and it