

4-1-2021

Kohrt Distinguished Alumni Award

Furman University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine>

Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2021) "Kohrt Distinguished Alumni Award," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 64: Iss. 1, Article 26.

Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol64/iss1/26>

This Regular Feature is made available online by Journals, part of the Furman University Scholar Exchange (FUSE). It has been accepted for inclusion in Furman Magazine by an authorized FUSE administrator. For terms of use, please refer to the [FUSE Institutional Repository Guidelines](#). For more information, please contact scholarexchange@furman.edu.

1971

JENNIFRIED SNIDER MCNEAL published “Steven: A Runner’s Life: An Ultrarunner’s Journey” about her son’s experiences as an ultramarathon runner.

1979

JOHN S. GREEN published “Whimsy Park: Poems for the Whole Family” under the pen name Papa Green Bean.

1982

R.C. WEBBER’S anthology, “A Balm in Gilead: Eulogies of Comfort,” won the 2020 International Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Book Award in the Non-Fiction Religion/Philosophy section.

1983

ROGER N. CASEY, president of McDaniel College, plans to retire in June 2021. One of the longest-serving college presidents in the state of Maryland, Casey took office as McDaniel College’s ninth president in July 2010, and oversees McDaniel’s campus in Westminster, Maryland, and the college’s European campus in Budapest, Hungary. Casey, a first-generation college graduate who majored in English at Furman, holds a Ph.D. in English from Florida State University. He previously served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Rollins College in Florida and as associate dean and professor at Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama. Casey co-founded the Associated Colleges of the South’s Teaching and Learning Workshop, earned

distinguished teaching awards from Birmingham-Southern and Florida State, and was nominated for the Carnegie National Professor of the Year.

1984

TOM BOUND, a lawyer, published his first novel, “SHARKANO,” intended for young adults. It is a horror/adventure story about a teenage girl, Lexi, who spends the summer with her father, a volcanologist studying a long-dormant volcano in Hawaii.

1987

CHRIS HILEY DONOHUE opened an immigration law firm in West Palm Beach, Florida, in July 2020.

1993

BEN HARTMAN was recognized as a 2020 Legal Elite by Georgia Trend, a statewide business publication.

1994

KELLY JACKSON DAVIS, a public relations instructor at the University of South Carolina, was inducted into the Public Relations Society of America’s College of Fellows. Davis was one of 15 public relations professionals in the nation selected for the College of Fellows this year.

1995

DEBORAH HARNISH LAROCHE was named program manager for the Lowcountry Region

of Reach Out and Read Carolinas, providing medically based literacy intervention for children from birth to age 5.

1996

MAYA PACK was named the executive director of the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health.



KOVRT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES “JAY” BURKS ’89

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES “JAY” BURKS ’89 retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2018 and is believed to be the first Furman graduate promoted to general officer rank in the Air Force. His military career culminated as director, manpower, personnel, and resources, and Medical Service Corps chief, where he advised the Air Force surgeon general on healthcare and readiness strategy, a \$6.2 billion annual budget supporting 75 Air Force medical facilities, and career field management for 1,800 officers. Over 26 ½ years, Burks served in command and staff assignments, was an Air Force intern and RAND Corporation fellow, and deployed to Afghanistan. He earned a B.A. in business administration from Furman (1989), an M.B.A. from the University of South Carolina (1991), and an M.A. in organizational management from George Washington University (1999). He is board certified as a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and served on its local boards, national committees, Council of Regents and Board of Governors. He has also served on local and national boards of civic and healthcare organizations. Burks married his Furman sweetheart, **Valarie ’89 (Scheetz)**. As an Air Force spouse, Valarie led and served on base and community committees and boards at every assignment. The Burks are proud “pet parents” to two beagles, Mr. Cody and Miss Jersey. They enthusiastically support charitable work for animals, education, health, veterans and military families. For Furman, the Burks proudly established the Brigadier General (USAF-ret) James J. and Mrs. Valarie S. Burks endowed scholarship fund. ♦