

Riley National Conference to explore health care, ethics

BY JESSICA TAYLOR
Editor-In-Chief

From providing health care throughout life to deciding when to end life, domestic health policy has taken center stage thanks to recent events in the Terri Schiavo case.

"Health Policy in the United States," the Third Annual Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership National Conference, will be held April 18-20.

The conference seeks to shed light on difficult questions in American health policy currently facing legislators and medical caregivers by bringing many of the country's leading experts on health policy to Furman's campus. All events except the Tuesday noon luncheon have CLP status.

According to Don Gordon,

Director of the Riley Institute and professor of political science, health care is identified as one of the top two issues currently facing the country, along with Social Security.

"The Riley Institute tries to create conditions in which the public can look at these issues in a non-partisan forum by bringing in leading experts on pertinent issues," said Gordon.

The conference will open Monday at 8 p.m. in the Watkins Room with an address by former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Dr. Louis Sullivan entitled "Diversity and Health Care Delivery and Outcomes."

Sullivan served as HHS Secretary under President George H.W. Bush from 1989 to 1993. He is the founding Dean and first President of Morehouse School of Medicine and is board-certified in internal medicine. He has taught at Harvard Medical School, Seton Hall College

of Medicine, Boston University Medical Center and founded the Boston University Hematology Service at Boston City Hospital.

"Sullivan is the HHS Secretary who has done the most to heighten interest in health care by bringing in medical specialists to diversify the program to such groups as Hispanics and women," said Gordon.

Tuesday at 12 p.m. Robert Lawrence of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health will present a lunch address on "Health as Human Right." An afternoon panel on "The State of American Health Care" will be held at 3 p.m. in the Watkins Room.

Scheduled to speak are Sarah Shuptrine, president and CEO of the Southern Institute on Children and Families and National Program Director of Covering Kids and Families; Chris Ward, former Parliamentary assistant to the Canadian Minister

of Health, presently of Ward Health Strategies consulting group; Angela Franklin, assistant professor of clinical psychology at Morehouse School of Medicine; and Joseph Fins of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Fins will also present the closing speech of the conference.

Wednesday, April 20, a 3 p.m. address on "Consumer Choice in the Age of Health Savings Accounts and the New Drug Benefit" will be held in Hartness Pavilion. Grace Marie Turner, president of the Galen Institute, will open the session with a brief lecture and then moderate a panel discussion.

Panel members include Gale Adock, manager of Corporate Health Services, SAS; Dr. Ezekiel Emmanuel, chair of the Department of Bioethics at the National Institute of Health; Scott Gottlieb, editor of the *Forbes/Gottlieb* medical Technology Investor and fellow of the American Enterprise

Institute; George Kelemen, campaign manager of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP); John Maill, Director of Risk Management for the city of Asheville, N.C.; and John O'Brien of PhARMA.

Fins will conclude the conference with a lecture at 7:30 p.m. in Hartness Pavilion. In his address "Affirming the Right to Care and Preserving the Right to Die: Reflections on Schiavo," Fins will examine the legislative and ethical questions the Schiavo situation created and how they will shape future right-to-die issues.

Fins is Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics in the Departments of Public Health and Medicine at Weill Medical College where he serves as Associate Professor of Medicine, Public Health as well as Medicine in Psychiatry. He was appointed by President Clinton to the White House

See **RILEY** page 2

RILEY *from page 1*

Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy and has authored over 100 publications in medical ethics. He is also a Woodrow Wilson Fellow in Residence and a Riley Institute Fellow in Residence at Furman.

"Dr. Fins is the leading expert in the nation on the field of medical ethics," said Gordon. "He has

appeared on all the major networks regarding the Schiavo case, and it is a remarkable opportunity to have him here right after her death to analyze how the right-to-die issue will be confronted in the future."

Gordon hopes that this conference will not only be of interest to medical and political science students. He stressed that all students

should be concerned with health policy now and how it will affect their future.

"All Americans will eventually be confronted with health care issues. The way policies are decided now will create conditions on who will win and who will lose. This is a conference that is of interest to everyone," he said.