



The Wilkins Legislative Award Dinner

with special guest Ambassador David Wilkins



Presented by the Riley Institute at Furman

Monday, January 9, 2006

6 P.M. Reception

7 P.M. Dinner and Award Presentation

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, South Carolina



Wilkins Legislative Award Dinner

Welcome

DAVID E. SHI

President, Furman University

National Anthem

SARAH REESE

Opera Singer/Teacher, Pendleton High School, Pendleton, South Carolina

Invocation

BAXTER M. WYNN

*Minister of Pastoral Care and Community Relations
First Baptist Church, Greenville, South Carolina*

Dinner

Remarks

RICHARD W. RILEY

*former United States Secretary of Education
and former South Carolina Governor*

DAVID H. WILKINS

United States Ambassador to Canada

Special Guest Speaker

MERLE BLACK

Asa G. Candler Professor of Politics and Government, Emory University

Award Presentation

MINOR MICKEL SHAW

President, Micco Corporation

PAULA HARPER BETHEA

*Director of External Relations,
McNair Law Firm, P.A.*

Closing

DAVID SHI

David H. Wilkins

DAVID H. WILKINS was nominated by President George W. Bush to become the U.S. ambassador to Canada on April 27, 2005, and was confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate on May 26, 2005. He presented his credentials to the governor general of Canada on June 29, 2005, to become the 21st U.S. ambassador to Canada. Wilkins resigned from the S.C. House of Representatives where he served for 25 years—11 as speaker of the House—to accept the Canadian ambassadorship.

Wilkins was elected speaker of the S.C. House of Representatives in December 1994. He was the first Republican elected speaker in the South since Reconstruction and retired as one of the longest serving speakers in the country. Wilkins began his legislative career in 1980 and quickly rose through the ranks in the House of Representatives, serving six years as chair of the House Judiciary Committee and two years as speaker pro tempore before being elected speaker.

Wilkins has been on the cutting edge of most major reform initiatives in the S.C. legislature. He wrote or co-sponsored the legislation on welfare reform, property tax relief, education accountability, LIFE scholarships, judicial reform, government restructuring and truth-in-sentencing. He also was instrumental in crafting South Carolina's historic ethics bill and played a key role in the relocation of the Confederate flag and the fight to ban video gambling.

A native of Greenville, David Wilkins received his undergraduate degree from Clemson University and his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. After service in the Army, he returned to Greenville where he practiced law for more than thirty years. David and his wife Susan have two sons, James and Robert.

Richard W. Riley

RICHARD W. RILEY, for whom the Riley Institute at Furman is named, is the former U. S. Secretary of Education (1993–2001) and former governor of South Carolina (1979–1987). Currently a senior partner in the South Carolina law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP, with offices also in North Carolina, Georgia and Washington, D.C., he counsels clients and works with partners on complex business, governance, financial and legal matters for local, national and international clients.

With the full support of the firm, Riley remains an ambassador for improving education in the United States and abroad. He has been appointed distinguished professor at Furman, and serves as Advisory Board chair of the Riley Institute at Furman. He also has been named distinguished professor at the University of South Carolina, and the College of Education at Winthrop University bears his name. He also is a distinguished senior fellow at NAFSA: Association of International Educators in Washington, D. C. In addition, he serves in an advisory and collaborative capacity with several other entities across the nation and overseas that support education improvement.

Riley earned his bachelor's degree, *cum laude*, in political science from Furman in 1954 and received a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1959. He is the recipient of numerous education and other public service awards, as well as honorary degrees from universities and colleges in the United States and abroad.

Riley and his wife, Ann Yarborough Riley (Tunky), have four children and 13 grandchildren.

The David H. Wilkins Legislative Leadership Program

DAVID WILKINS has had an extraordinary career as a state legislator, as speaker of the S.C. House of Representatives, and as a public servant. Over the last 25 years he has left an indelible mark on the political landscape of South Carolina. A man of pristine integrity and courageous vision, David Wilkins has worked tirelessly with legislators of both parties to enhance the state's quality of life. His widely acclaimed leadership and commitment to public service have become a national standard for statesmanship. He was elected president of the National Speaker's Association and, in 2004, was awarded the National Conference of State Legislatures' Award for Excellence in State Legislative Leadership.

To honor and sustain his efforts to improve the quality of legislative activity in his home state, Furman University is creating the following programs:

ANNUAL WILKINS FORUM AND AWARD DINNER

This annual event, held in Columbia, will consist of three components: a forum on an emerging major state issue bringing together experts and legislators; an awards dinner with a nationally acclaimed speaker; and the presentation of the David Wilkins Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership in South Carolina.

The presentation of the Wilkins Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership in South Carolina will be made to the legislator (House or Senate) who best embodies the highest principles of leadership based on integrity, compassion, vision and courage. The recipient will be selected by a non-partisan panel of distinguished scholars and leaders from the public and private sectors.

WILKINS FELLOWSHIPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

This program will allow six to eight Furman students to work as interns in legislative offices for eleven weeks while the legislature is in session. The interns will live in Columbia and work 35 hours per week for a legislator or state government leader involved in the policy-making process in South Carolina. The Wilkins Fellows also will be involved in seminars on legislative affairs taught by a Furman professor who specializes in state government and politics. Modeled after Furman's award-winning Washington Internship Program, the Wilkins Fellowships will be awarded to highly qualified students able to work full time on public policy projects requiring complex research, writing and analysis.

DAVID H. WILKINS CHAIR IN SOUTH CAROLINA POLITICS

This endowed professorship will enable Furman to offer a broader selection of courses in state and local politics and provide a leading scholar as a resource to the development of legislative initiatives in South Carolina.



The Riley Institute at Furman is a non-partisan organization affiliated with the Department of Political Science at Furman University. Named for former Governor of South Carolina and United States Secretary of Education Richard Riley, the institute engages students in politics, public policy and public leadership through collaborative research, study abroad opportunities and internships. Since its inauguration in 1999, the Riley Institute also has developed community leadership programs, symposia and conferences designed to promote discussion and analysis of public policy issues. Through its promotion of engaged learning, leadership development and conferences featuring internationally recognized speakers, the Riley Institute has established itself as an innovator in policy and public leadership education.

Furman University is a selective, independent, coeducational liberal arts college of 2,660 students located at the base of the Blue Ridge mountains on a 750-acre campus in Greenville, South Carolina. Furman provides a distinctive undergraduate education encompassing the humanities, fine arts, social sciences, mathematics and the natural sciences, and selected professional disciplines. Furman emphasizes engaged learning, a problem-solving, project-oriented and research-based educational philosophy that encourages students to put into practice the theories and methods learned from texts or lectures. The university is committed to liberal learning within a spiritual, moral and ethical context.

Please visit the Riley Institute Web site at www.rileyinstitute.org for information on future events and programs.



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THE RILEY INSTITUTE®
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WWW.RILEYINSTITUTE.ORG