

Civility in Public Discourse

Moderated by Rod Smolla, president of Furman University

Panelists

Furman alumna **Eleanor Beardsley** is a reporter for NPR France, following all aspects of French society, politics, economics, culture and gastronomy. In the spring of 2007, Beardsley covered the French presidential campaign and election of President Nicholas Sarkozy, and has been busy following his flurry of activity and reforms since then. She reported on the riots in French suburbs in 2005, the massive student demonstrations in 2006, and has covered the Tour de France. Prior to moving to Paris, Beardsley worked for three years with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. She also worked as a television producer for French broadcaster TF1 in Washington, D.C., and as a staff assistant to Senator Strom Thurmond. Beardsley has a B.A. in European history and French from Furman and a master's in international business from the University of South Carolina.

President of Furman's Class of 2011, **Shannon Cantwell** is an economics and political science double major and a member of the track team. Known for her commitment to servant leadership, she is a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, serves on the Board of the American Red Cross, and is the founder of Athletes for Africa. This summer, through this non-profit organization, she led four of her fellow Furman athletes on a service trip to Swaziland, Africa, where they shared their sports with children orphaned by AIDS.

Furman student **Michael Chiu '11**, is a double major in history and communication studies from Johns Creek, Georgia. Recently he served as a Furman Advantage Research Fellow and received a grant from the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities organization. He used the grant to research the rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement in Greenville. He has also been a freshman advisor, an intern with the Admission Office, and the vice president of Eloquence in the Cicero Society. In this capacity, he has been instrumental in relaying the importance of responsible rhetoric to the campus community.

Randy Eaddy, a member of the Furman Board of Trustees since 1993, is a 1976 summa cum laude graduate of Furman, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Blue Key, and the Quaternion Society. He received his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1979, where he was editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He is a senior partner in the Corporate Department of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP and serves on numerous boards and civic organizations. Among other honors, Eaddy received the 1999 President's Award from the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists in recognition of his contributions to the African American community as an attorney, legal scholar, and civic leader.

Katie Fearington '14, a Furman freshman from Charlotte, North Carolina, plans to major in political science. After graduation, she hopes to join the Peace Corps and then attend law school.

Brann Fowler '11 is a Furman history and political science major from Jasper County, South Carolina. For the last two years he has been active in Furman student government as junior class senator and senior class treasurer. He was also a member of the Riley Institute Advance Team and is a member of the Kappa Alpha Order fraternity. Fowler plans to attend law school next year.

David I. Gandolfo is associate professor of philosophy at Furman and plays a leadership role in the Poverty Studies Concentration. His main teaching interests are Latin American philosophy, African philosophy, topics in international justice, and poverty studies, and his research is focused on liberation philosophy and international justice. Gandolfo's research and teaching are linked by the question of what those at the center of world power can learn from critiques of the status quo being offered from the standpoints of those on the global margins. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy from Loyola University Chicago, and his M.A. in international affairs from Columbia University.

George Johnson recently retired as corporate officer of BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, a position which he held for 32 years. During his career in public relations and public affairs, Johnson worked with Furman University and the Liberty Corporation, and as a reporter and editor of *The Greenville News*. In 1996, Johnson was elected to the College of Fellows of the Public Relations Society of America. Currently he is an adjunct professor in the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies at the University of South Carolina. A native of Sumter, South Carolina, Johnson received a B.A. in philosophy and religion from Furman (1968) and an M.A. in journalism and mass communications from the University of South Carolina (1996).

Cynthia King came to Furman from American University in 2006 and teaches courses in U.S. Public Address, Public Speaking, African American Rhetoric, and Race, Gender, and Class in the Media. Her research area is nineteenth and early twentieth century African American rhetoric. King received her Ph.D. in rhetoric and public discourse from the University of Maryland College Park in 2002.

Brent Nelsen, professor of political science, has been a Furman faculty member since 1989. He received his B.A. from Wheaton College in Illinois, and his master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His teaching and scholarship focus on the politics of Europe and the European Union, religion and politics, and international political economy. Recently, he ran unsuccessfully for the Republican nomination for South Carolina state superintendent of education.

Beth Pontari, a faculty member of the Furman Psychology Department since 2001, is a social psychologist whose research interests address how people present themselves to others during social interaction and the critical repercussions these processes have for their private self-view and personal and professional goals. She completed a bachelor's degree in psychology at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, and she earned her M.S. and Ph.D. in social psychology at the University of Florida.

Richard W. Riley, chair of the Furman Board of Trustees, is the former U.S. secretary of education (1993–2001) and former governor of South Carolina (1979-1987). He is a senior partner in the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP and is also a senior partner in the firm's affiliate, EducationCounsel, which specializes in education advocacy, policy, strategy, and law. Riley serves as advisory board chair of the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership. 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. He earned his B.A., 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.

Furman alumnus **Carl Sullivan** is senior editor at MSN.com. From 2004 to 2008, he worked as news editor, senior editor, and then managing editor for Newsweek.com. Prior to joining Newsweek.com, Sullivan was the editor of the *Editor & Publisher* magazine's web site, where he directed coverage of the newspaper industry, media web sites, and journalism issues. At E&P, he won three Jesse H. Neal National Business Journalism Awards. Previously, he served as managing editor and Washington editor for *Financial Planning* magazine. Sullivan worked at daily and weekly newspapers in South Carolina and won several state press association awards. He received his B.A. in political science from Furman and a master's from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

Brandon Tensley '12 is a German studies and political science double major at Furman. He is active in a variety of organizations on campus, including the L.E.G.A.C.I.E.S. Peer Mentor Program through the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Men of Distinction, and Model United Nations. Brandon studied away in Berlin, Germany, a trip that provided some of his most memorable college experiences thus far. Upon graduation, he hopes to attend law school.

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