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 the arenas of 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 a broad array of 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.

Visit the Riley Institute website at <www.rileyinstitute.org> for information on future events and programs.

Wilkins Legislative Award Dinner

with hosts
Ambassador David H. Wilkins and Secretary Richard W. Riley

and guest speakers
former United States Senators Howard Baker and Nancy Kassebaum Baker

Presented by The Riley Institute at Furman
Monday, January 8, 2007
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
Columbia, South Carolina
Welcome........................................David E. Shi
President, Furman University

National Anthem.......................Erika Powell
former Miss South Carolina;
Junior, Furman University

Invocation ... The Reverend Joseph A. Darby, Jr.
Pastor, Morris Brown AME Church
Charleston, South Carolina

Remarks.........................Richard W. Riley
former United States Secretary of Education
David H. Wilkins
United States Ambassador to Canada

Guest Speakers ..........Nancy Kassebaum Baker
former United States Senator from Kansas
Howard H. Baker, Jr.
former United States Senator from Tennessee

Award Presentation ......Minor Mickel Shaw
President, Micco Corporation
Paula Harper Bethea
Director of External Relations,
McNair Law Firm, P.A.

Closing........................................David E. Shi
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.

During his tenure as speaker, Wilkins was 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 policy, 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, South Carolina, 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, 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. Additionally, he is a distinguished senior fellow at NAFSA: Association of International Educators in Washington, D.C., and 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.
Former speaker of the S.C. House of Representatives David Wilkins left an indelible mark on the state's political landscape during his 25-year tenure in office. His widely acclaimed leadership and commitment to public service has become a benchmark standard for excellence for state legislators around the country.

Among other significant achievements, David Wilkins was elected president of the National Speakers 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 has created and is in the process of implementing the following programs:

ANNUAL WILKINS LEGISLATIVE AWARD DINNER
This annual event, held in Columbia, features nationally acclaimed speakers and the presentation of the Riley Institute's David H. Wilkins Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership in South Carolina.

Recipients of the award are selected by a non-partisan/bi-partisan panel of distinguished scholars, former legislators and leaders from the public and private sectors. The award is presented to a member of the South Carolina House or Senate who best embodies the highest principles of leadership, integrity, compassion, vision and courage. Senator John Drummond of Greenwood, South Carolina, received the inaugural award.
Wilkins Fellowships in South Carolina Legislative Affairs

The fellowships will allow six to eight Furman students to work as interns in state 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. The Wilkins Fellows will also 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 interested in working full-time on public policy projects that require complex research, writing and analysis.

David H. Wilkins Chair in South Carolina Politics

This endowed professorship will enable Furman to offer more courses in state and local politics and provide a leading scholar as a resource for the development of legislative initiatives in South Carolina.
Capping a distinguished public-service career as senator, presidential advisor and ambassador, Howard H. Baker, Jr. returned in February 2005 to Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, the law firm his grandfather founded and where he formerly practiced with his father, the late U.S. Representative Howard H. Baker. As senior counsel to the firm, Senator Baker focuses his practice on public policy and international matters.

Senator Baker’s return followed his service as the 26th U.S. ambassador to Japan, a position to which President George W. Bush appointed him in 2001. The appointment was yet another milestone in a public-service career that began in 1966, when Senator Baker became the first Republican popularly elected to the U.S. Senate from Tennessee.

Senator Baker gained national recognition in 1973 as vice chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee. Three years later, he was keynote speaker at the Republican National Convention and was a 1980 candidate for the Republican presidential nomination. He concluded his Senate career in 1985 after two terms as majority leader (1981 to 1985) and two terms as minority leader (1977 to 1981). He was President Reagan’s chief of staff from February 1987 to July 1988.

A delegate to the United Nations in 1976, Senator Baker has extensive foreign policy experience. He served on the president’s Foreign Intelligence Board from 1985 to 1987 and from 1988 to 1990, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs. He serves on the board of the Forum of International Policy and is an international counselor for the Center for Strategic and International Studies. In 2003, the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy was established in his honor at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Baker studied electrical engineering at the University of the South and at Tulane University, and he earned a law degree from the University of Tennessee Law School. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Baker and former Kansas Senator Nancy Kassebaum have been married since December 1996.
Nancy Kassebaum Baker represented Kansas as a Republican in the U.S. Senate from 1979 to 1997, where she chaired the Subcommittee on African Affairs, the Subcommittee on Aviation, and the Labor and Human Resources Committee. During her final term in Congress, she co-sponsored the Health Insurance Reform Act, which guaranteed the portability of health care.

When Kassebaum Baker was invited to deliver the annual reading of President George Washington’s Farewell Address on February 16, 1981, she was one of only two women serving in the Senate, and only the 14th female senator in the institution’s history. She began her career as the first woman elected to the Senate without having previously been selected to fill an unexpired congressional term, and, in her final term, she became the second woman to chair a standing committee in the Senate.

Known for her inclusiveness and independent nature, Kassebaum Baker worked tirelessly on issues such as reducing the budget deficit and arms control. She also advocated changes in Medicaid and was a key supporter of family planning programs both in the United States and abroad. After being re-elected in 1984 and again in 1990, she retired from the Senate in 1996.

Since leaving public office, she has served as chair of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and has served on the boards of trustees of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Kaiser Family Foundation. In 2004, she received the Benjamin Rush Medal from William & Mary Law School for her contributions to the advancement of American health.

Kassebaum Baker is the daughter of Alfred M. Landon, the former Republican governor of Kansas who challenged Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1936 presidential election. She is a graduate of the University of Kansas and received a master’s degree in diplomatic history from the University of Michigan.

She is married to Senator Howard Baker, former U.S. Senator from Tennessee and former U.S. Ambassador to Japan.
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