



# Wilkins Legislative Award Dinner

*with hosts*

Ambassador David H. Wilkins *and*  
Secretary Richard W. Riley

*guest speaker*

Former Canadian Prime Minister  
The Right Honorable Brian Mulroney

*2007 award winner*

The Honorable Hugh K. Leatherman

Presented by The Riley Institute at Furman  
Monday, January 7, 2008  
*Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center  
Columbia, South Carolina*



WILKINS LEGISLATIVE AWARD DINNER  
PROGRAM

WELCOME.....David E. Shi  
*President, Furman University*

NATIONAL ANTHEM..... Ashley Grier  
*South Carolina Governor's School  
for the Arts and Humanities*

INVOCATION .....Dr. Don Flowers, Jr.  
*Providence Baptist Church  
Daniel Island, South Carolina*

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

GUEST SPEAKER .....The Right Honorable  
Brian Mulroney  
*former Prime Minister of Canada*

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

CLOSING.....David E. Shi

*Special thanks to Carrie Frey and Haley Zdybel from  
the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts  
and Humanities, who provided the music during the  
reception.*

## RICHARD W. RILEY



**R**ichard 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 chairman 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.

## DAVID H. WILKINS



**D**avid H. Wilkins was nominated by President George W. Bush in 2005 to become the U.S. ambassador to Canada and was confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate. 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.

## THE DAVID H. WILKINS SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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.

### WILKINS FELLOWSHIPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

The Wilkins Fellowships in State Legislative Affairs provides 12 to 15 Furman students with the opportunity to work in the South Carolina General Assembly or with an interest group or agency associated with the legislature. Wilkins Fellows live in Columbia and work Tuesday through Thursday for a twelve-week period while the legislature is in session. In this immersion experience, students meet South Carolina elected officials, listen to presentations made by legislative staff, agency personnel, and lobbyists, and attend receptions. They also enroll in courses taught by Glen A. Halva-Neubauer, a state politics specialist, which focus on state politics, legislative politics, and South Carolina public policy. Wilkins Fellows gain a sophisticated and nuanced understanding of the legislative process that comes from integrating theory and practice.

### 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.

### PAST AWARD WINNERS

- 2006 Bobby Harrell, Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives
- 2005 John Drummond, South Carolina Senator and President Pro-Tem Emeritus



Hugh K. Leatherman was elected to the South Carolina Senate on November 4, 1980. He was born and raised on a farm in Lincoln County, North Carolina, where at a very early age he learned the value of hard work. He holds a bachelor of science in civil engineering from North Carolina State University, and following his graduation from college, he moved to Florence.

Leatherman began his career in public service in 1967, when he was elected to the Quinby Town Council. From 1971-1976, he served as Mayor Pro Tempore of the Town of Quinby. Through his service in local and state office, Leatherman is a valuable asset to the entire Pee Dee region, as he has served the Florence area for more than 30 years. Currently, he serves as chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, while also serving on the Senate Ethics, Interstate Cooperation, Labor, Commerce and Industry, Rules, State House and Transportation committees. He serves as one of the five members on the State Budget and Control Board, which oversees the state's financial dealings on a monthly basis. Leatherman has been influential in securing various state funds for many infrastructure and economic development projects throughout the entire Pee Dee region—projects that are vital to the community.

For his many years of leadership, service and dedication to the people of the Pee Dee region and the entire state of South Carolina, Leatherman's contributions have been recognized by numerous organizations. Most notably, he received honorary doctorates from Francis Marion University, the College of Charleston, the Medical University of South Carolina, The Citadel, Coastal Carolina University, The University of South Carolina and Clemson University.

Francis Marion University (FMU) honored Leatherman by naming their science building for him. Friends of Leatherman endowed a faculty chair in his honor at FMU, and the SCDOT named the important intersection of I-20 and I-95 the "Senator Hugh Leatherman Intersection."

He and his wife Jean have six children and three grandchildren.



Brian Mulroney led the Progressive Conservative party to the largest victory in Canadian history in September 1984, becoming Canada's eighteenth Prime Minister. He was re-elected with a majority government four years later thereby becoming the first Canadian Prime Minister in 35 years to win successive majority governments and the first Conservative Prime Minister to do so in 100 years. He resigned in June 1993, having served almost nine years as Prime Minister.

His government introduced bold new initiatives such as the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Canada-U.S. Acid Rain Treaty. Mulroney's government also introduced a series of privatizations, a low inflation policy, historic tax reform, extensive deregulation and expenditure reduction policies that continue to be the basis of Canada's impressive economic performance today.

Mulroney also served as Co-Chairman of the United Nations Summit on Children and his government played leading roles in the campaign against apartheid in South Africa, the creation of Le Sommet de la Francophonie and the Gulf War.

Mulroney graduated from St. Thomas College High School, Chatham, New Brunswick, received his honors undergraduate degree from St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and a law degree from Université Laval in Quebec City.

He practiced law in Montreal and served as President of the Iron Ore Company of Canada before entering politics by becoming Party Leader in 1983 and Leader of the Official Opposition in the House of Commons, to which he was first elected in 1983 and re-elected in 1984 and 1988.

Upon resigning, Mulroney rejoined the Montreal law firm of Ogilvy Renault as Senior Partner.

Mulroney has been awarded Canada's highest honor, Companion of the Order of Canada, and has also been made a Grand Officer of the *Ordre national du Québec*. In 2003, the Institute for Research on Public Policy placed Mulroney second in a ranking of the best prime ministers of the previous 50 years. In 2006, a panel of Canada's leading environmental groups determined that Mulroney was "The Greenest Prime Minister in history."

In 1973, he married Mila Pivnicki and they have four children.

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**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 W. Riley, the institute engages students and citizens across South Carolina in the arenas of public politics, public policy and public leadership.

Since its inauguration in 1999, the Riley Institute has developed a broad array of community leadership programs, symposia and conferences designed to promote discussion and analysis of public policy issues. The institute also conducts research on education and other areas of public policy in South Carolina and nationally.

Through its promotion of engaged learning for students, leadership development, policy research, 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](http://www.rileyinstitute.org)> for information on future events and programs.



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THE RILEY INSTITUTE®  
3300 Poinsett Highway  
Greenville, S.C. 29613



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