

Part One in a Summer Lecture Series presented by  
The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and The Riley Institute at Furman



**SOUTH  
CAROLINAS**

**A Look at Disparities in Education**

**Tuesday, July 17, 2012**

Younts Conference Center

Furman University

Greenville, South Carolina



## Education by the numbers

- In 2011, 49 percent of all children in South Carolina lived in either poor or low income households. (1)
- In 2011, SC ranked 37th nationally based on the average of 4th graders' reading scores. (2)
- Our widest achievement gaps are on racial and socioeconomic lines:
  - ▶ In 2011, 73 percent of SC's white 4th graders scored at or above a basic reading level, but only 44 percent of SC's black 4th graders did. (2)
  - ▶ 79 percent of 4th graders from middle- to upper-income families scored at or above basic reading, but just 48 percent from low-income families did. (2)
- High school students of low-income families drop out of high school at six times the rate of their peers from high-income families. (3)
- High school dropouts on average will earn \$260,000 less in lifetime earnings compared to graduates, and pay \$60,000 less in federal and state taxes. (4)
- SC's economy would grow by \$150 million annually if just 5 percent more students graduated from high school. (3)

1. 2012 Annual Report of the SC Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children

2. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics

3. Alliance for Excellent Education

4. McKinsey.com

## Program

- 6**     **Welcome**  
John Beckford, dean and vice-president for Academic Affairs, Furman University
- 6:10**   **Context and Introduction**  
Mark Quinn, director of public and member relations, Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina and former host of SCETV's *Big Picture*
- 6:20**   **Virtual Reality: The Myth and Meaning of Difference in South Carolina**  
John Simpkins, fellow, Charleston School of Law, and of counsel, Wyche, P.A.
- 6:50**   Break and Refreshments
- 7:10**   **Connections and Introduction**  
Mark Quinn
- 7:15**   **Are We Keeping Our Promise to "Minimally Educate" Our Children?**  
Steve Morrison, partner, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough

## Who's Who

**John Beckford**, vice president for Academic Affairs and dean and professor of music, holds bachelor of music, master of fine arts, and doctor of musical arts degrees from the University of Iowa where he studied percussion with Thomas L. Davis. His performance experience includes principal percussionist and timpanist for the Quad-City (Iowa/Illinois) Symphony Orchestra, percussionist for the Greenville Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra where he served as principal for thirty years, and he is an active freelance musician for area orchestras, road shows, and churches. His research articles have been published in the *Percussive Notes* journal. He has been a faculty member and chair of the music division with the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts, past president of the South Carolina Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society, a Yamaha Music Corporation Regional-Artist Clinician, a member of the Vic Firth Percussion Education Team, and an adjudicator for marching and concert percussion competitions.



**Mark Quinn** is director of public and member relations at the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina and has had a long career as a professional journalist in South Carolina. Quinn worked in television journalism for more than 16 years, 13 of which were spent in Columbia, South Carolina. For 11 years, he worked in various on-air capacities for one of the most successful NBC affiliates in the country, WIS-TV. In 2007 he began work with South Carolina Educational Television and is the former host of ETV and ETV Radio's weekly news and public affairs programs, *The Big Picture* and *The Big Picture on the Radio*. Among the highlights of his tenure with SCETV was his on-site coverage of both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions of 2008 and the statewide gubernatorial, congressional, and constitutional officer debates in 2010.



**John Simpkins** is a fellow of comparative constitutional law at the Charleston School of Law, where he previously served as assistant professor of law and director of diversity initiatives. He has taught as a visiting professor in Canada, New Zealand, China, and Spain and is of counsel to Wyche, P.A., in Greenville, South Carolina. Simpkins is the former associate director of the Riley Institute at Furman University and was a participant in the Riley Institute's second Diversity Leadership class in Greenville in 2004. Simpkins is a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. He is a member of the fourth class of the Liberty Fellowship, serves as co-chair of the Fellowship's statewide public policy forum, and is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Simpkins completed his undergraduate studies in government from Harvard College and received his JD and LLM in international and comparative law from Duke University School of Law. A native of Lexington, South Carolina, Simpkins currently divides his time between Charleston, South Carolina, and Vancouver, British Columbia.



**Steve Morrison**, partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, is a highly regarded litigation lawyer whose leadership in the legal profession and in community service has been widely recognized. He serves as co-lead counsel for South Carolina's poorest and most isolated children in *Abbeville et al v. State of South Carolina*. Steve has served on numerous corporate boards and spent seven years as a top executive with a New York Stock Exchange-traded company. He has tried more than 200 cases to jury verdict and has argued more than 60 appeals before state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Morrison has served as lead trial counsel in more than 20 states and four foreign countries. He has served on the South Carolina Bar Board of Governors and has served as past chairman of the South Carolina Bar House of Delegates. In addition, he has served as past president of the Defense Research Institute and of Lawyers for Civil Justice. An adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law, Morrison received his JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law and a BA in business administration from the University of Michigan.



## Future Lectures and Discussions

### July 24 Two South Carolinas: Disparities in Justice

#### Justice for All?

Kirby Mitchell, managing attorney, South Carolina Legal Services

#### A Report Card on Juvenile Justice

Margaret Barber, director, South Carolina Dept. of Juvenile Justice

### July 31 Two South Carolinas: Disparities in Health

#### How Wealth Influences Well-being

Lisa Waddell, M.D., deputy commissioner for health services, SCDHEC

#### Bridging the Health Care Gap

Roland Gardner, CEO of Beaufort-Jasper-Hampton Comprehensive Health Services

### Aug. 7 Two South Carolinas: Exploring Strategies for Change

The roundtable discussion moderated by Mark Quinn includes the following state experts and leaders who have on-the-ground experience with the complexities for these intersecting issues:

Sue Berkowitz, director, Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Renée Romberger, VP for Community Health Policy and Strategy, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System

Montrio Belton, director, SC Office of School Transformation

Lynn Bailey, consulting healthcare economist



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ Furman is a member-led, member-run, diverse learning community of senior adults engaged in non-credit educational courses and programs, social opportunities and physical activities that inspire students to stay mentally and physically active in a supportive, nurturing and fulfilling university environment. OLLI @ Furman is a part of a network of 119 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes on university and college campuses across the country thanks to a generous grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation in San Francisco, California. OLLI @ Furman currently offers 300 courses and events over four terms in an academic year to over 1200 senior members. To learn more, visit [www.furman.edu/olli](http://www.furman.edu/olli).

The Riley Institute at Furman is a non-partisan organization affiliated with the Department of Political Science at Furman. Named for former Governor of South Carolina and U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, the institute engages students and citizens across South Carolina in the arenas of politics, public policy, and 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. Learn more at [rileyinstitute.org](http://rileyinstitute.org).

Furman University is a top-ranked independent, coeducational liberal arts college of 2,700 students. Furman takes great pride in its impressive 750-acre campus, its gifted student body, its distinguished and active faculty, and in the many notable accomplishments of its alumni. The university emphasizes engaged learning, a hands-on, problem-solving, and collaborative educational philosophy that integrates research, internships, study away, service learning, and sustainability into a liberal arts curriculum. Committed to the education of the whole person, Furman provides a distinctive undergraduate education encompassing the humanities, fine arts, social sciences, mathematics, and the natural sciences, and selected professional disciplines. Learn more online at [www.furman.edu](http://www.furman.edu).

## Upcoming Riley Institute Events

For more information, visit our website at [rileyinstitute.org](http://rileyinstitute.org)

- Sept. 25**    **Jeffrey Brown, senior correspondent for *PBS Newshour*,**  
Younts Conference Center, Furman University
- Oct. 17**    **The annual Dick and Tunky Riley WhatWorksSC  
Award for Excellence** given to an outstanding education  
initiative in South Carolina, held in Columbia, South Carolina
- Jan. 8**      **The annual Wilkins Legislative and Civic Awards Dinner**  
Columbia, South Carolina

## Events at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

For more information, visit our website at [www.furman.edu/olli](http://www.furman.edu/olli)

- Aug. 21**    **Registration begins for OLLI Fall Term**
- Sept. 17**    **Fall classes begin**
- Oct. 18**    **Dedication of the Herring Center for  
Continuing Education (4 p.m.)**