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A Hero's Story

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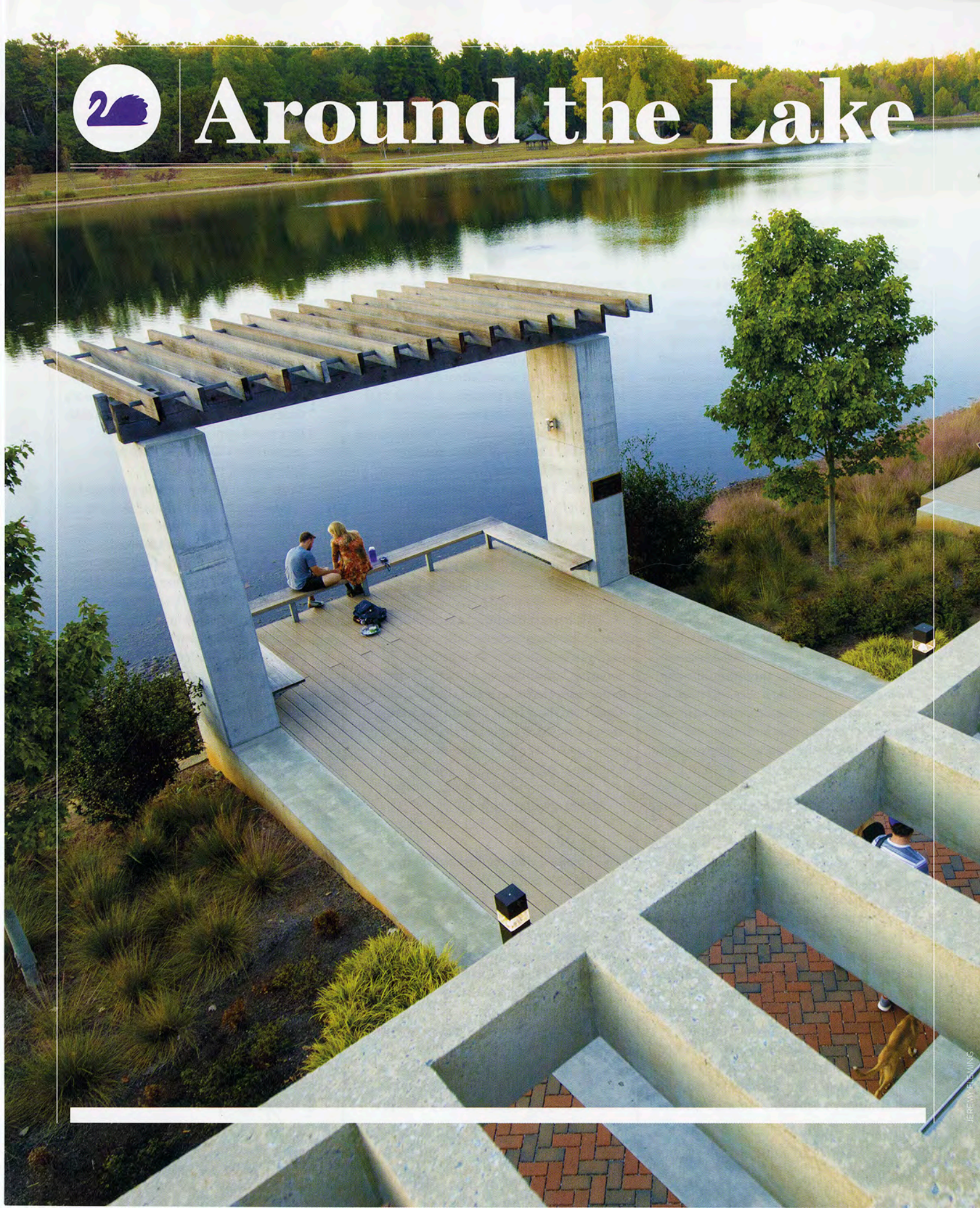
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Around the Lake





John Harris '91 loved to tell stories to his children. Mostly he told stories about Amy, Betty and Christy, a trio of imaginary girls he used to teach morals or lessons to his daughter, Sophie '19, when she was younger.

Sometimes Sophie decided she wanted to be part of the stories and would draw pictures of her three friends.

One day Harris heard a true story about unsung heroes that needed to be told, and Sophie volunteered to illustrate it.

This summer the father-daughter duo published the true story of school principal Brooks Tuck in their first children's book, *Mr. Tuck and the 13 Heroes* (Regeneration Writers Press).

Professor John Harris joined the mathematics faculty at Furman in 2000 and serves as assistant director of the Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection, while Sophie Harris is an art major at Furman.

The book tells the inspiring story of the integration of the first school in Henry County, Georgia, and how a courageous commitment to do the right thing helped to overcome fear and prejudice, stem the tide of racial injustice, and open a door of opportunity for generations who would follow.



A Hero's Story

Father-daughter duo publish children's book about integration at Georgia school

BY ERIKAH HAAVIE

ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIE HARRIS '19

Curtis Brooks Tuck (1938–2012) was an educator for 50 years, first as a teacher and principal in Henry and DeKalb county schools in Georgia, then as a teacher with Mercer University in Atlanta. He received a Doctor of Humanities degree from Mercer in 2010. In his commencement

address that day, Tuck told the story of the 13 heroes publicly for the first time, according to Colin Harris, professor emeritus of religious studies at Mercer University, who also collaborated on the book with his son and granddaughter.

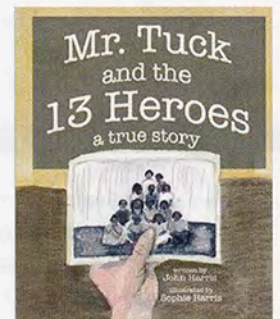
"Brooks Tuck was a modest man, and he didn't like to

draw attention to himself," said John Harris. "But when he heard the idea of turning the story into a children's book, he gave the project his blessing. It's really a story that wrote itself."

"We hope everyone who reads the book feels the same emotions we did when we heard it," said Sophie Harris.

Award-winning children's book author Melinda Long '82 described the book as "a well-told story that beautifully explains a difficult time in our history."

"This true story is a 'must tell' story that should indeed be shared with today's youth, who may know very little about any of the pioneers in the desegregation of public education," said Jacqueline Culpepper, associate professor of reading education at Mercer University. ●



Mr. Tuck and the 13 Heroes is available at the Furman Bookstore and through Amazon.com.