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Furman

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2010

The Right Choice:
Incoming president
Rodney Smolla PAGE 2



Furman

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2010

Volume 52, Number 4

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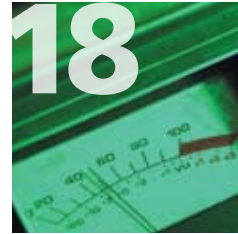
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THE LAST WORD



A Regular Guy

BY JOHN ROBERTS

During his 30-year legal career Rodney Smolla has taken on *The New York Times* and successfully argued a First Amendment case in the hallowed, oak-hewn halls of the U.S. Supreme Court.

He has also won a high-profile trial involving murder for hire that eventually became the subject of a television movie in which he was portrayed by Oscar winner Timothy Hutton.

After each brush with celebrity, Smolla followed a similar path. Once the hard knock of the judge's gavel sounded and the media spotlight dimmed, he returned to the quiet confines of the law library and the college classroom.

Friends and colleagues describe Smolla as intensely competitive, a person who relishes courtroom battles. But his latest victory — in which he was named Furman's 11th president — could take him out of the courtroom permanently.

When he assumes the presidency of Furman July 1, Smolla, dean of the law school at Washington and Lee University, will no longer practice law.

Instead, the man who graduated at the top of his class at Duke University Law School will embrace his role as educator. The decision reflects his desire to find purpose and meaning through helping others.

It's a philosophy, he says, that mirrors Furman's mission and that attracted him to seek the position as the school's chief executive.

"The secret to the good life, the core value that is at the center of Furman's mission, is to help you realize, deep in your hearts, that it is not all about you," he said during his introduction to the university community in December. "The most important lesson you can learn

while you are here is that for your life to have authentic meaning, fulfillment and consequence, you must learn the importance of connection to forces larger and greater than yourself, to larger causes and to the greater community."

Richard Cullen '71, a Furman trustee who chaired the presidential search committee, says Smolla's message resonated across the campus. "We repeatedly heard people comment about his statement that 'It's not all about you,'" says Cullen, a former attorney general of Virginia. "He was able to encapsulate in just a few phrases the essence of a liberal arts education."

Cullen adds that Smolla's communication skills, honed by years in the courtroom and classroom, were crucial to his selection.

"The trustees knew that finding the right person to succeed David [Shi] was going to be a daunting task," Cullen says. "David can communicate like no one I have ever met. But in Rodney, we may have found someone who might be his equal."

June Aprille, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Washington and Lee who also worked with Smolla at the University of Richmond, describes him as "organized, energetic and open to all opinions."

"Rod leads with ideas and gathers consensus," she says. "He is a remarkable communicator. He can relate to people because he has been one of them. He's a parent, he's been a student, he's been a faculty member, and he's been a practicing professional. He also comes from a humble background. He can speak to people with a kind of credibility."

A master communicator with a remarkably agile mind and a natural ability to relate to people, Rod Smolla prepares to take the helm as Furman's 11th president.

The oldest of five children, Smolla grew up in a three-bedroom home in the western suburbs of Chicago.

His father, Richard, was a Polish Catholic Navy veteran who served as a radio operator in World War II and Korea. After leaving the service, he became an air traffic controller. Described by his son as "very humble and modest," he was a strict disciplinarian who spoke little of his war service and accomplishments.

A natural in the classroom and on the athletic field, Rodney Smolla enjoyed a Norman Rockwell-esque childhood. After arriving home from school, he would dash out to play with friends. His summers were filled with sports and games, with the children in his neighborhood migrating from yard to yard and house to house.

In a 1999 interview, Smolla's mother, Harriet, said she recognized her son's intelligence early. "We knew he had a good grasp [on things] because he was able to explain the daily news to his younger brothers and sister in a way they could understand," she told the *Daily Herald* of Arlington Heights, Ill.

Agile, fast and fiercely competitive, Smolla was always among the first selected for neighborhood pick-up games. But it was not until his freshman year in high school, when he became the basketball team's starting point guard and a halfback on the football team, that he began to realize his potential as an athlete.

A slashing runner who sought to model himself after Chicago Bears running back Gale Sayers, Smolla could run the 40-yard dash in 4.6 seconds. In four years at Lake Park High School, he returned eight kickoffs for touchdowns.

In the classroom, teachers noted Smolla's flair for writing. Some took him aside, helped him hone his writing skills and study habits, and inspired him to look beyond high school. During his senior year, he was recruited to play football by the service academies and by several colleges in the Midwest.

His mother said her son wrote to the Yale football coach to let him know he wanted to play for Yale. "On his own," she said, "he applied to Yale, got accepted and arranged a financial package."

Once he received his letter of acceptance, Smolla says he and his family "could not understand what this would mean. It was unreal." When father and son packed up the family Dodge in preparation for the two-day drive to Connecticut during the summer of 1971, the occasion marked the first time a Smolla would enroll in college.

At Yale, Smolla made friends easily and immersed himself in his studies.

"I immediately loved the place," he says. "It was like a candy store for me. They put the best teachers in the freshman and sophomore classes, and I became wrapped up in American Studies and in American literature."

Early in his sophomore year, Smolla tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his knee during football practice. At the time, reconstructive surgery was not an option, so the injury ended his football career.

But he moved ahead with his academic work, and in 1975 he graduated *cum laude* with a degree in American Studies. He says he "drifted" into law school, in part, because some of his favorite professors at Yale were lawyers and some friends had chosen the same path.



Susan and David Shi hosted Rodney and Michele Smolla at White Oaks before the announcement; the Smollas, along with sons Miles Taylor (a Furman freshman) and Dylan, meet the press; university administrators welcome Smolla to campus. Photos by Jeremy Fleming.

Jaime Aleman, a classmate of Smolla at Duke Law School who is now the Panamanian ambassador to the United States, says, “On the first day he asked a particularly brilliant question, and I recognized that he was indeed a very gifted person. I made a gentleman’s bet with a friend that this guy would make the dean’s list and be an editor for the *Duke Law Journal*.”

Aleman won the bet. He and Smolla also became close friends and were roommates for two years.

Aleman says that Smolla had an uncommon ability to absorb information and make sense of complicated cases. “He spent less time studying than many because he did not have to,” says Aleman, who describes Smolla as “a regular guy” who never let on that he was the smartest person in the room.

“He carried his intelligence with much dignity. He was never demeaning. Rod is ambitious but unpretentious. He is not self-absorbed in any way.”

After finishing at Duke, Smolla moved to Jackson, Miss., where he clerked for Judge Charles Clark of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Clark, a Mississippi native and veteran of World War II, would serve as a valued mentor.

“Judge Clark taught me that character really matters,” Smolla says. “He was extremely modest and never allowed any acrimony or sarcasm in his opinions. He was a complete gentleman. I also learned never to equate a Southern drawl with slowness of thought. I saw some old country lawyers that could out-think anyone.”

In 1980 Smolla returned to Chicago and joined a large law firm. He soon became restless for the academic life, however, and landed a teaching position at DePaul University.

He later taught at the universities of Illinois, Arkansas and Denver, while maintaining a private practice that focused on constitutional law, civil rights, mass media, advertising, defamation and privacy law. In 1988 he was named director of the Institute of Bill of Rights Law at William & Mary’s Marshall-Wythe School in Williamsburg, Va. He remained there until 1996, when he accepted an endowed chair at the University of Richmond School of Law, where he would later become dean.

During the 1980s and ’90s Smolla authored several books, including *Suing the Press: Libel, the Media and Power* (1987), *Jerry Falwell v. Larry Flynt: The First Amendment on Trial* (1988), *Free Speech in an Open Society* (1992) and *A Year in the Life of the Supreme Court* (1995). By the mid-1990s he had established a reputation as one of the top legal minds in the areas of free speech and freedom of the press.

In 1999 he faced a sticky First Amendment issue when he joined a legal team suing a publisher called — ironically, as things turned out — Paladin Press.

Smolla and his colleagues represented the families of three people murdered by a hired killer who had read *Hit Man: A Technical Manual for Independent Contractors*, published in 1983. In the highly publicized case, Smolla called the book a “murder manual” and said that the killer, James Perry, had used it as a guide.

In a unanimous ruling, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed, declaring that the First Amendment did not protect Paladin Press from responsibility in publishing *Hit Man*. Smolla later wrote about the case in *Deliberate Intent: A Lawyer Tells the True Story of Murder by the Book*. In 2000 the book became a TV movie.



More high profile cases followed. In *Virginia v. Black*, Smolla questioned the constitutionality of a state law that banned cross burning. Working with the American Civil Liberties Union, he represented Ku Klux Klan leader Barry Elton Black, who had been arrested for burning a 30-foot cross on his farm. Smolla argued that Black's constitutional right to freedom of expression had been violated.

The case went to the Supreme Court. In preparation, Smolla, then dean at Richmond, held mock trials at several law schools and invited law professors to lecture on the case. "It was a great way to prepare," he says with a laugh.

On December 11, 2002, he presented his arguments. For 30 minutes, he answered roughly 70 questions posed by the justices. He remembers it as the "Super Bowl" of practicing law: "I told my colleagues before arguments that we needed to savor this moment. It does not get any better than this." His team won the case.

In 2009 Smolla represented Vicki L. Iseman, a Washington, D.C., lobbyist, in a defamation lawsuit against *The New York Times*. The suit charged that a *Times* story published in February of 2008 had implied that Iseman and presidential candidate John McCain had engaged in unethical activities and had a romantic relationship. The case was eventually settled out of court, with the *Times* publishing a statement that it had not intended to suggest any inappropriate relationship between Iseman and McCain.

On the academic front, Smolla is credited with developing the new third-year experience at Washington and Lee, where he became dean of the law school in 2007.

His idea was to revamp the program so that it teaches more practical applications, such as how to manage clients and work with judges. The redesign emerged in part, he says, from concerns that law schools, while generally doing a good job of teaching students to think like attorneys, fall short of showing them how to actually practice law.

The Washington and Lee program pairs students with law firms and places them in the real world — in other words, engaged learning at its best.

"It helps law students take the critical leap," says Smolla. "They take what they have learned in the classroom and relate it the real world."

As for his plans for Furman, Smolla is not tipping his hand just yet. In December, during his introduction to the university community, Smolla said that he looked forward to having "a great conversation" about the future of liberal arts education.

Citing the university's commitment to developing the whole person, Smolla says Furman's values should remain the same regardless of who sits in the president's office.

"Furman is deeply connected to a number of things that are larger than Furman," he says. "That is what makes Furman Furman. It's what makes Furman unique. I don't want to lose any of that." |F|

Learn more about Rod Smolla and see the video of his December 15 talk at Furman by visiting www.furman.edu and following the links.

Sustainable



KAY OWEN

Furman

A comprehensive sustainability master plan calls for the university to become carbon neutral by 2026.

In the wake of the Arab oil embargo and the first energy crisis of the mid-1970s, American political leaders began extolling the virtues of energy conservation and independence.

But despite their urgent message, the country's dependence on foreign sources of oil increased through the years, and concern about climate change grew.

In December of 2006, 12 college and university presidents resolved to launch a renewed national effort to promote energy independence by becoming founding signatories of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. They sent letters to 400 of their peers inviting them to join their cause.

By March 2007, more than 150 presidents, including Furman's David Shi, had become charter signatories of the ACUPCC. Today close to 700 presidents, representing 40 percent of the nation's undergraduate population, have pledged to work toward making their campuses climate neutral.

The group's Web site states, "Presidents signing the Commitment are pledging to eliminate their campuses' greenhouse gas emissions over time." As part of their efforts, the institutions agree to:

- Complete an emissions inventory.
- Integrate sustainability into the curriculum and make it part of the educational experience.
- Make their action plan, inventory and progress reports available to the public.
- Take immediate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by agreeing to develop a climate action plan, which is a multi-year strategy to move their campuses toward carbon neutrality — a point when campus-related activities do not increase the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Furman is in the forefront of the movement. Its blueprint is "Sustainable Furman," a holistic, 40-page master plan approved unanimously in November by the board of trustees. Sustainable Furman will impact every aspect of university life, from the academic program to campus operations, transportation and construction practices, environmental stewardship, and community outreach activities.

More than 100 students, professors, staff members, trustees, alumni and community leaders were involved in crafting the plan, which took 18 months to develop.

Says Shi, "From the outset, we determined that any effort in this area . . . needed to encompass a long-range sustainability master plan for the university, which would include not only those activities relevant to its carbon and ecological footprints but also the much broader scope of the university's mission and function, including the curriculum, co-curriculum, and projects and partnerships in the greater Greenville community."

The climate action plan in Sustainable Furman calls for the school to be carbon neutral by 2026, the 200th anniversary of the university's founding.

Most of the proposed carbon-cutting efforts will focus on improving energy efficiency (by upgrading HVAC and lighting systems, appliances and roofing), conserving energy, and making the transition to eco-friendly transportation by continuing to purchase hybrid or all-electric vehicles and encouraging on-campus biking and walking. Larger ventures, such as the development of renewable energy projects, will be implemented as funds become available, most likely through outside grants such as the \$2.5 million awarded in October by the U.S. Department of Energy for geothermal heat

pumps at the North Village apartment complex. (See page 10.)

According to Sustainable Furman, about 50 percent of the university's carbon footprint can be eliminated by developing renewable energy projects and improving the energy efficiency of campus buildings. Duke Energy, which supplies Furman with electrical power, plans to cut its net carbon emissions in half by 2030. These improved efficiencies should help further reduce Furman's carbon footprint another 24 percent.

The university believes the balance of its greenhouse gas emissions — about 25 percent — can be eliminated through conservation, reducing transportation-related emissions, and investing in a community-focused energy conservation offsets program.

As for the Presidents' Climate Commitment's stipulation that participating universities incorporate sustainability-related topics into their academic programs, Sustainable Furman reaches beyond the requirement by infusing energy and environmental issues across the curriculum and in co-curricular projects and research activities.

The university's timing is good. The Department of Labor predicts that, through 2016, careers in environmental science and protection will be among the 30 fastest growing occupations, with a projected increase in employment of 28 percent. Other labor-market studies suggest that sustainability will be embedded into every employment category in the near future, and that understanding of sustainability concepts and issues will become an important prerequisite for employees.

The Chronicle of Higher Education has reported that sustainability is one of the top emerging majors among college students, and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

says that the number of sustainability programs in the country for undergraduates is growing quickly. These reports conclude that academic institutions that proactively upgrade their curricula with sustainability offerings will be better positioned to prepare America's future leaders — not just technical specialists, but critical decision-makers who understand the broader context of the world around them.

Furman's recently revised curriculum requires all students to take at least one course dealing with "Humans and the Natural Environment." The university is also examining the value and feasibility of a major or concentration in sustainability studies, and has developed workshops and incentives to encourage faculty to incorporate sustainability concepts into their courses.

In addition to its impact on students, Furman's plan seeks to involve alumni and friends by promoting "sustainable service" as a form of outreach.

Service opportunities could take a variety of forms, such as training members of the university community to improve the energy efficiency of homes in low-income neighborhoods. To that end, the university helped to establish the Greenville Sustainability Community Coalition. The group, which includes local leaders and Furman volunteers, will target service projects for Greek organizations, athletic teams and the Heller Service Corps, among others.

Sustainable Furman is the product of Furman's growing emphasis on sustainability over the last 15 years. In 1997 the university introduced a strategic plan that designated sustainability as a strategic initiative, and in 1999 the board of trustees adopted a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Buildings Rating System for all new and renovated construction on campus. In an updated strategic plan approved in 2001, the board resolved "to strengthen our commitment to the environment by promoting sustainability through educational programs, campus operations/construction practices, and public awareness initiatives."

Since that time, the sustainability movement at Furman has gathered momentum, involved more people, earned a host of awards, and attracted millions of dollars in grants and donations.

The university has partnered with the Cliffs Communities to construct Cliffs Cottage, the *Southern Living* sustainable showcase home that is a model of environmentally responsible design, building techniques, materials and energy-saving systems. A Center for Sustainability, funded by an \$850,000 grant

from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, now coordinates all academic, co-curricular and community outreach activities tied to sustainability. The trustees recently voted to name the center in honor of Shi.

Angela Halfacre '92, who joined the Furman staff in 2008 as director of sustainability and environmental education, says, "There is a growing global awareness about the fundamental connection between the quality of the environment and the quality of human society. We want to expand our leadership role in this area by helping the campus community, the region and even the nation develop a deeper appreciation of this connection. And we want our graduates to become effective proponents of sustainability in their homes, communities and professions."

Furman's commitment to sustainability has also been recognized by a variety of organizations.

The university recently received the South Carolina Green Building Council's Award of Excellence for its pioneering work in green building technologies, and the AASHE gave

Furman its National Campus Leadership Award. Clean Air-Cool Planet, a group dedicated to finding solutions to global warming, presented



the university its Climate Leadership Award, and *Kiwi* magazine has twice included Furman among the 50 schools featured in its annual “Green Colleges Report.”

Since 2007 the university has been one of 10 schools nationwide included in the Compton Mentor Fellowships program, which supports graduating seniors who wish to pursue one-year projects in sustainability or environmental fields. Four Furman graduates — Colin Hagan '07, Kartikeya Singh '07, Elizabeth Cooke '08 and Angel Cruz '08 — have received \$35,000 fellowships from the Compton Foundation to develop educational programs and projects based in South Carolina, India and Latin America.

Health and exercise science professor Frank Powell, who has been a champion of environmental issues since joining the faculty in 1974, says that Shi has been the driving force behind Furman’s commitment to sustainability.

“It’s clear that David’s leadership and vision have been the defining factors in what we have accomplished,” says Powell. “He helped to create and build a knowledgeable group of decision-makers at Furman who were not simply going to follow him but were willing to go in other directions.”

That once small group of environmentally minded faculty, staff and students now numbers in the hundreds, and today the campus is home to 15 environmental groups. Among the newest:

- Sustainable Connections, which works to promote cooperation, coordination and expansion of sustainability efforts among students.

- Conserve Furman, a peer-to-peer education initiative developed by students.

- Furman in the Garden (FIG), which focuses on agriculture and food-related issues both on and off campus.

- The Furman Farm, a student-managed organic garden.

- A chapter of Upstate Forever, a local organization that promotes “smart” growth and the protection of natural resources.

Powell says the combination of student support, a large group of young faculty and staff who are devoted to the cause, and Sustainable Furman helps to guarantee that the movement will continue on campus long after he, Shi and other early champions of eco-friendly initiatives are gone.

As Sustainable Furman states, “Nurturing sustainability also nurtures our sense of community by focusing attention on a compelling goal: to ensure that Furman remains a perpetual landscape of possibilities for generations of students to come. Step by step, Furman is making a difference. The campus community is justifiably proud of its sense of place, and even prouder of the culture of sustainability that is spreading. . . .

“The seed of sustainability that germinated over a decade ago is blossoming into a collective vision. The good work of nurturing our environment, our campus and our community is never over. Nor should it be. This plan reflects that ongoing reality and commitment.” [F]

Adapted from an article in the Winter 2009 issue of Inside Furman, the university’s internal newsletter.

Visit <http://furman.edu/press/sustain2.pdf> to read *Sustainable Furman*. Additional information on Furman’s sustainability efforts is available at www.furman.edu/sustain.



Case studies: Building for a sustainable future

The Charles H. Townes Center for Science at Furman was built as a model of green architecture. With its thermal solar panels, day lighting and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, the complex itself is a teaching tool, as students study its energy use and sustainability systems.

In recent months the south end of Townes Center, across from Stone Soccer Stadium, has sprouted some impressive appendages — an erector set of solar panels and a huge greenhouse. They represent a clear statement that Furman is committed to sustainability, energy/water conservation, and environmental awareness.

Joe Pollard, chair of the biology department, talks about putting “science in sight” as a key mission of the Townes Center. And while Furman has had a greenhouse for many years, the new one is in a prominent location and will be available for use not only in science projects, but also by members of the university community growing their own produce in Furman garden plots.

In addition to these external manifestations of the Townes Center’s sustainable ethos, the complex boasts a wastewater treatment and recycling project known as the “Living Machine.”

The Living Machine mimics the ecology of tides and wetlands. Wastewater is diverted from the Townes Center’s sewer line, collected in a buried tank and pumped into computer-controlled wetland basins. Tidal cycles furnish the oxygen and nutrients for microorganisms that make their home in the wetland basins, and they are enlisted as nature’s way of treating the wastewater. The resulting high-quality effluent can be recycled as water for flushing toilets and urinals or for washing the cages in science labs, for example.

Jeff Redderson, assistant vice president of facilities services at Furman, translates into layman’s terms the expected savings from the solar concentrators and the Living Machine. According to Redderson, the solar concentrators produce 14 kilowatts of electricity and 70,000 BTUs per hour of hot water during peak operating periods — enough to meet the power and hot water needs of a small residential building.



Of the Living Machine, Redderson says, “The wastewater reclaim system processes up to 5,000 gallons a day of sanitary sewer water. The reclaimed water, or graywater, can be pumped back into the building to flush urinals and toilets, which reduces our freshwater consumption by another 5,000 gallons a day. This is enough water to fill up the main campus fountain every four months, or enough water for 100 showers each day.”

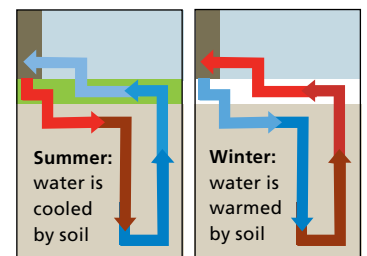
While it is being treated, the water is kept below the surface of a gravel-packed medium with plant life above the surface. So there’s no danger of accidental human contact with untreated water or of the Living Machine becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes, according to an official with Worrell

Water Technologies, a Charlottesville, Va.-based firm that engineered the system and is partnering with Furman on the project.

The Living Machine leaves a small ecological footprint — 120 square feet. A custodian spends about 30 minutes a day making sure the system is running properly.

As for the solar concentrators, they use parabolic mirrors to concentrate the sun’s energy over 1,000 times normal levels. According to Redderson, they can produce 14 kilowatts of electricity and 70,000 BTUs per hour of hot water during peak operating periods. That’s enough to meet the power and hot water needs of a small residential building.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the campus, a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will allow Furman to replace the HVAC heating and cooling system in the 11-year-old North Village housing complex with a more environmentally friendly and energy-efficient geothermal heat pump system.



The geothermal heating and cooling system is expected to save the university more than \$2 million in energy costs over the next 20 years and allow Furman to take a big step toward achieving its goal of carbon neutrality on campus.

Redderson says the North Village work will likely begin in the summer of 2011 and will take two years. Eighteen wells 300 feet deep are planned for each of the complex's 11 buildings, with 275 geothermal heat pumps to be installed.

More than 1,000 Furman students reside in the apartment-style complex.

A geothermal heating and cooling system uses the water stored underground, where the Earth's temperature is constant, to heat residences in the winter and cool them in the summer. It is the most environmentally responsible and energy-efficient HVAC system available.

The DOE grant is part of \$338 million in Recovery Act funding for the "exploration and development of new geothermal fields and research into advanced geothermal technologies." The grants support 123 projects in 39 states. The recipients include industrial companies, academic institutions, tribal entities, local governments and DOE's National Laboratories.

Of the 28 colleges and universities nationwide to receive a grant, Furman was the only liberal arts college and the only institution from South Carolina.

"The United States is blessed with vast geothermal energy resources which hold enormous potential to heat our homes and power our economy," said Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu. "These investments in America's technological innovation will allow us to capture more of this clean, carbon-free energy at a lower cost than ever before. We will create thousands of jobs, boost our economy and help to jumpstart the geothermal industry across the United States."

According to the Department of Energy, the grants are directed toward identifying and developing new geothermal fields and reducing the upfront risk associated with geothermal development through innovative exploration, drilling projects, and data development and collection. In addition, the grants will support deployment and creative financing approaches for ground source heat pump demonstration projects across the country.

Collectively, these projects will represent a dramatic expansion of the U.S. geothermal industry and are expected to create or save thousands of jobs in drilling, exploration, construction, operation of geothermal power facilities, and manufacturing of ground source heat pump equipment.

Compiled from reports by Ann Green and Vince Moore.

In support of sustainability

Furman is seeking to forge a variety of strategic partnerships for the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability — the hub of the university's sustainability efforts — and to raise additional resources to underwrite the center's mission and endow its operations. Naming rights are available for many of these programs, including:

Shi Center operations — Endow core staff and functions as well as student internships and postdoctoral fellowships.

Educational programs — Sponsor or endow curricular and co-curricular initiatives, including degree/certificate programs and engaged learning activities for students.

Conservation initiatives — Sponsor or endow creative and ongoing programs related to waste management, recycling, conservation, energy generation and other areas.

Campus features — Underwrite ongoing developments and features of The Cliffs Cottage, subsidize lake restoration efforts and organic farm needs, and support building improvements related to energy efficiency or renewable-energy projects.

Environmental outreach — Sponsor an array of service projects and partnership possibilities designed to support corporate initiatives/productivity and community development.

To learn more about supporting the Shi Center for Sustainability, contact mike.gatchell@furman.edu, (864) 294-2475.

Natural Inspiration

Mindy Friddle
finds many parallels
in her dual passions,
writing and gardening.

By Leigh Savage



In every area of her multi-faceted life, novelist Mindy Friddle lives by the same open-minded mantra: “Just walk the path and see what will happen.”

She applied the philosophy in her diverse, all-organic garden recently, planting gourds among the perennials, vegetables and herbs. They quickly took over, clambering across the yard, swallowing up plant beds and even climbing her camellia. But Friddle didn’t mind this unforeseen outcome. It’s the process that appeals to her — trying things and watching as the results unfold.

Her observer’s mindset guided her through her years at Furman and then down a winding path in which she became a journalist, penned two successful novels, earned two master’s degrees, became a Master Gardener and founded The Writing Room, a program that offers workshops for aspiring writers.

“I don’t try to project,” says Friddle, a 1986 Furman graduate. “I’m just really open to whatever appeals to me.”

Nature holds infinite appeal for Friddle, and her passion for plants is evident in both of her novels: *The Garden Angel* (published in 2004 by St. Martin’s Press/Picador) and *Secret Keepers*, released in May 2009 by St. Martin’s.

Secret Keepers is the story of Emma Hanley, a devoted yet frustrated matriarch of a family full of closed-off emotions and unfulfilled potential. Nature — in particular a hidden garden tucked behind the family’s former home — is a major character in the book, in which secrets and buried dreams are unearthed.

Friddle says that nature “sustains” her and often serves as inspiration. In *Secret Keepers*, the family home, falling to ruins after years of glory, is called Amaranth. The opening page of Part I describes amaranth as an “annual with dense green or reddish clusters.” But the second definition captures the spirit of the story: “An imaginary flower that never fades.”

It was while writing *Secret Keepers* that Friddle became a Master Gardener, and the classes she took on horticulture and environmentally sound practices inspired her to expand her own garden and invigorated her interest in sustainability. She has long loved tending a garden and says she comes by it naturally — her grandfather was a horticulture teacher, and her mother (Kay Vinson Friddle ’68) is an “absolutely wonderful” gardener.

Over the years, Friddle says, she began to feel a growing kinship with the environment. She found ways to make an impact — she became a vegetarian and sought out locally grown produce. Another step: getting rid

“Just as plants grow and reveal themselves, sometimes in surprising ways, characters and stories also must reveal themselves organically.”

of her front lawn at her downtown Greenville home (she mulched over it) and replacing it with a native plants and perennials that require minimal watering. When necessary, she uses rainwater collected from gutter runoff.

Her shady backyard, certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a “backyard wildlife habitat,” is designed to attract insects, birds and other creatures. Native plants like Joe Pye weed, swamp sunflower and coneflower lure hummingbirds, cardinals and butterflies, and a small structure Friddle built is designed to attract bats. She’s also devoted a section of her refrigerator to mealworms, which she feeds to bluebirds.

As in her novels, she relishes setting the scene and then watching nature in action. “When the bluebirds feed their young in the spring, it’s just so beautiful,” she says.

Friddle notes several parallels between her two passions, writing and gardening.

Both, she says, require patience and an open mind. The early stages of writing creatively “are sort of like getting the soil ready for seed germination,” she says. “You have to amend the soil, and then the idea comes.”

When the idea for *The Garden Angel* occurred to her, Friddle says she was ready, in part, because of her years at Furman. Always a voracious reader, she majored in philosophy, wrote for the student newspaper and published a poem in the *Echo* literary magazine.

“The whole idea of a liberal arts education, taking classes in everything that interests you, that’s just the best education there is,” Friddle says. “And you graduate from Furman knowing how to write a killer essay.”

She remembers being challenged in her classes, “pulling a lot of all-nighters.” One of her favorite courses was an interdisciplinary study of international women writers taught by Ann Sharp (English), Jane Chew (German) and Elaine Nocks (psychology). “That was a very eye-opening and inspiring class, a class about ideas.”

She also took Southern literature with Willard Pate and relished the introduction to writers that are still some of her favorites today, among them William Faulkner, Alice Walker, Eudora Welty and Flannery O’Connor.

Friddle points out that Southern novels are changing as the South changes. “Everything is more blended now,” she says. “This used to be the part of the country that was more violent and warring, the part of the country that enslaved people.” But she sees the good as well — the ties to land and family, civility, neighborly warmth, and a love for storytelling.

After graduating from Furman, Friddle went to work for *The Weekly Observer* newspaper in Hemingway, S.C., and then the daily *Florence (S.C.) Morning News*. Her newspaper experiences helped her sharpen her observational and time-management skills, as she covered everything from town council meetings to school board gatherings and other community events.

“Journalism definitely gets you out in the world,” she says. Since you “become the observer and don’t insert yourself,” she says, it’s good practice for writing fiction.

She first considered writing a novel during her newspaper days but says, “It seemed like a far-off dream. How would I even think about writing a novel?”

Inspiration eventually came from an unlikely place. While home with her daughter, Saga, who was around 2 at the time, Friddle was folding laundry and watching “The Oprah Winfrey Show.” The guests included writers talking about how they got their starts, and they mentioned books they had read about the craft. Friddle jotted down such titles as *How to Write a Novel* by John Braine and *The Writing Life* by Annie Dillard. After reading them, she decided she might as well take the plunge.

Around the same time, the idea of a specific character occurred to her: Cutter, a complicated young woman with unbreakable ties to her home and her heritage. Cutter propelled the story of *The Garden Angel*, which Friddle worked on in fits and starts for eight years as she balanced family time with jobs as a technical editor and then in corporate communications.

Those busy years were challenging, but her love for telling stories drove her to continue. Just as plants grow and reveal themselves, sometimes in surprising ways, characters and stories also must reveal themselves organically, she says. “There might be a minor character who keeps popping up. It’ll make me think that this character wants a bigger role. And I’m open to that.”

George Singleton ’80, author of four collections of short stories and two novels, met Friddle in the early 1990s when she was hard at work trying to figure out how to become a novelist. “She had, obviously, what [Furman] creative writing professor Gil Allen called the disease,” Singleton says. “What was going to



JEREMY FLEMING

stop her from success? Zero. She understood inherently that if one continues working diligently, one would end up publishing a novel.”

After years of on-and-off effort, her big break came in 2000 when the opening chapter of *The Garden Angel* was one of 12 stories selected by the South Carolina Arts Commission as a winner in the S.C. Fiction Project. Each writer received \$500. That success inspired Friddle to attend a writer’s conference, and she soon procured an agent.

Friddle worked closely with the agent to revise her draft before publishing *The Garden Angel* in 2004. The novel earned critical acclaim for its unique characters, offbeat humor and vivid sense of place. National Public Radio named it a “Summer Reading Pick,” and Barnes & Noble chose it for its “Discover Great New Writers” promotion.

“Mindy has been able to write narratives that successfully straddle what might be called ‘high-falutin’ literary fiction’ with story lines that appeal to everyone,” says Singleton, who teaches at the South Carolina Governor’s School for the

Arts and Humanities in Greenville. “Both *The Garden Angel* and *Secret Keepers* revolve around protagonists aswirl in certain dysfunctional families . . . trying to figure out their best bets according to the hands they got dealt.”

Through writing her novels, Friddle says she learned that, beyond a passion for writing, novelists need, as an editor once told her, “talent, luck and pluck. And pluck is the most important. It’s tenacity. Hanging in there, letting rejection roll off you and focusing on the writing in front of you.”

It’s a lesson she wanted to share with aspiring writers, so she approached the Emrys Foundation, a Greenville group that encourages women and minorities in the arts, about starting a writing program.

“I felt there was a real untapped literary community here in Greenville,” she says. After looking at model programs around the country, she founded The Writing Room in 2006 with the backing of Emrys. Now in its eighth session, The Writing Room offers workshops for people who always wanted to write a novel but weren’t



Friddle's favorites

Mindy Friddle weighs in on some of the books and authors that inspire and transport her:

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy. "I reread it last summer, and it's just one of those novels that you crawl up into and just live. I read it in July and was so glad to be reading about Moscow and St. Petersburg and vodka. It was so hot and I felt air-conditioned as I read. I love Tolstoy."

Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson. "She also wrote *Home* and before that *Gilead*, but *Housekeeping* is my favorite. It's just a beautiful book."

William Faulkner. *The Sound and the Fury* is Friddle's No. 1 pick, but *Absalom, Absalom!* also had an early and profound effect: "When I first read it I was a senior in high school, and I felt like I was thrown in a vat of Vaseline. Everything was blurry and beautiful, and I loved it."

Other influences and recommendations: *Norwood* by Charles Portis, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers, *Tracks* by Louise Erdrich, *The Complete Stories of Flannery O'Connor*, *Ironweed* by William Kennedy, *The White Hotel* by D.M. Thomas.

— LEIGH SAVAGE

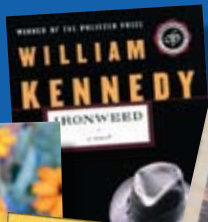
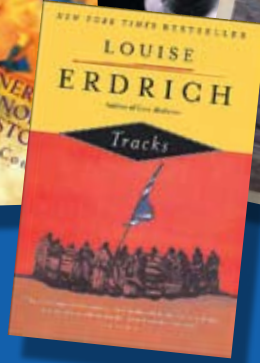
sure how. Friddle, who directs the program, hopes to create a scholarship fund that will allow people facing economic hardships to attend.

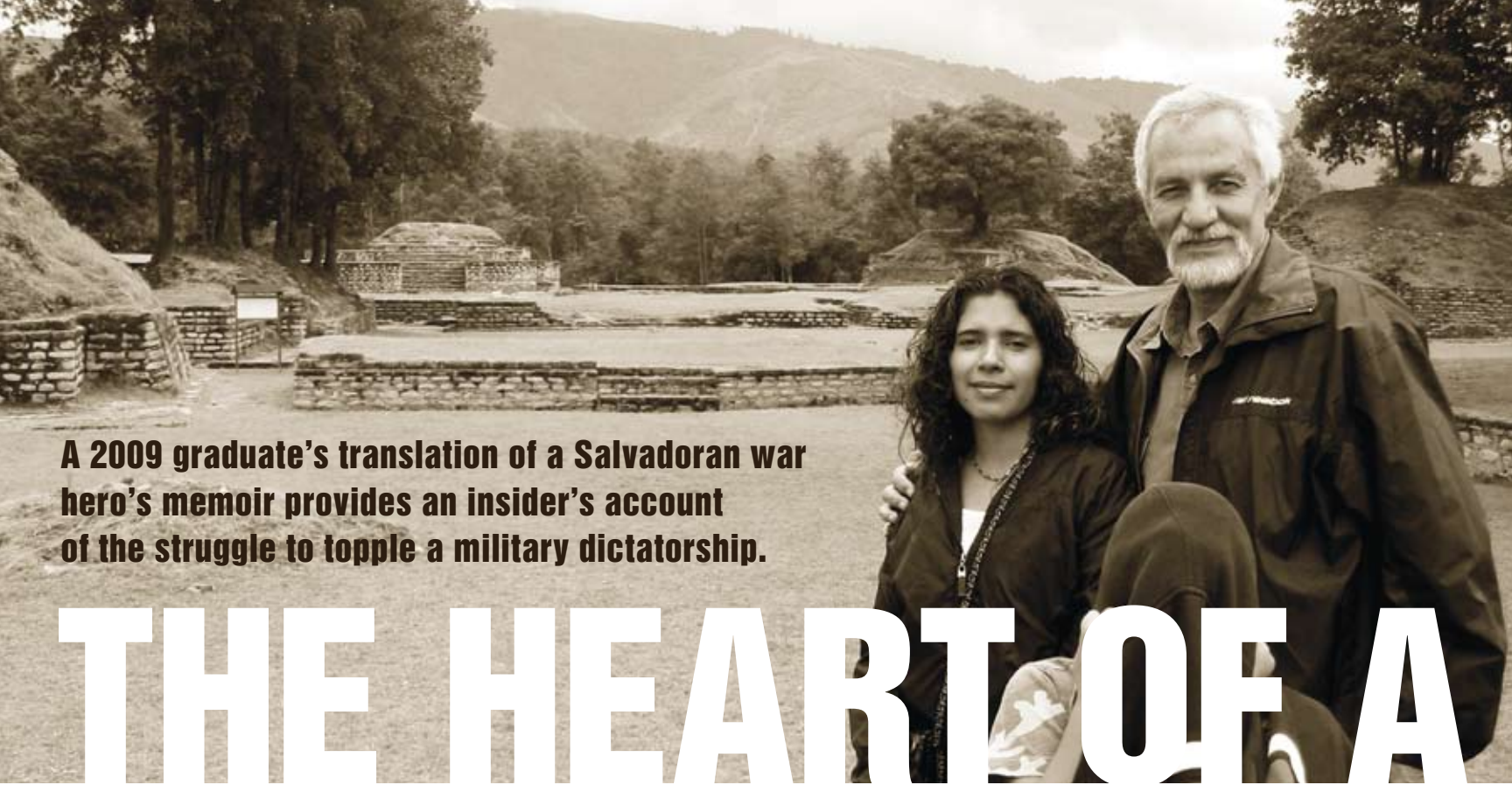
In her classes, Friddle encourages her students to crank out 1,000 words a day with absolutely no judgment and no editing. Now working through the second draft of her third novel, she knows that future drafts will offer ample opportunity for editing and revision. The first draft is the time for unfettered creativity.

"You can't let the editor in at this point," she says. "It shuts people down. And it doesn't even have to look like it makes sense. It's threads in a tapestry, all over the place, and it's really coming from this deep fount of something very intuitive. It's a portal. And I say, keep the portal open." [F]

Read Mindy Friddle's "Novel Thoughts" at <http://mindyfriddle.blogspot.com>, where you'll find links to other sites of note.

Leigh Gauthier Savage, a 1994 graduate, is a freelance writer based in Simpsonville, S.C.





A 2009 graduate's translation of a Salvadoran war hero's memoir provides an insider's account of the struggle to topple a military dictatorship.

THE HEART OF A

BY ANN GREEN

At first glance, Charlie Nagle doesn't fit the description of a revolutionary.

The Spanish major and 2009 Furman graduate is clean-cut, polite and soft-spoken. He chooses his words carefully, whether he's talking or writing.

During his four years at Furman, he was a volunteer translator at a free medical clinic and taught immigrants in an English as a Second Language program.

He also used his language skills for another purpose, and in the process has given readers the opportunity to journey into the heart of a revolution by providing an inside look at the struggle to overthrow a military dictatorship in El Salvador.

His English translation of the memoir of Salvadoran war hero Carlos Henriquez Consalvi, *Broadcasting the Civil War in El Salvador: A Memoir of Guerrilla Radio*, is scheduled for publication August 1 by the University of Texas Press.

Furman professors who worked with Nagle say it's rare for someone so young to have the patience and knowledge to translate a book of such importance, let alone have it accepted for publication by a major university press.

Consalvi has quite a story to tell, one that would make a blockbuster movie. It would feature rebels hiding in the hills of El Salvador, dodging bullets and bombardments as they try to keep a radio station up and running.

Known throughout El Salvador as Comandante Santiago, Consalvi used words as weapons during the civil war. The Venezuela-born journalist was drawn to insurgencies in Central America and became the voice of the revolution in El Salvador, broadcasting from Radio Venceremos, a clandestine station operated by the guerrillas.

The rebels used an old transmitter — vintage World War II equipment. The equipment was always breaking down, and they scrambled to find parts.

"They would broadcast twice a day at set times," Nagle says. "It was important for them to broadcast at those times to inspire the people and to let the government, as well as the people, know that they were alive and well and hadn't been defeated."

Nagle describes how guerrillas carried the radio station's equipment on their backs under enemy fire as they moved to safer locations. They would broadcast to the entire country and throughout Central America, and the station became not just an alternative source of information but a symbol of their struggle.

"The people rallied behind this one symbol and knew that if the symbol still stood, the people behind it still stood," Nagle says.

He says the book has "a little bit of romance mixed in with the war." There's also an intricate plot to assassinate the man responsible for an infamous massacre reported by the radio station.

Today Comandante Santiago operates a museum in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador. He uses the Museum of Word and Image to preserve the history of the revolution and other aspects of his adopted country's culture and history. The museum also features a replica of the radio station.

Through Furman history professor Erik Ching, students at Furman have been able to work with Santiago.

"I came to know Santiago some six or so years ago as part of my ongoing research on El Salvador," Ching says. "When I saw the work he was doing with his museum, I realized it could be a win-win situation. He would get input and help from our students, and they in turn would have the opportunity to learn the history and politics of El Salvador."



REVOLUTION

Opposite and below: Today Commandante Santiago operates a museum in San Salvador. It features a replica of the radio station used by the guerrillas. Left: Charlie Nagle is now enrolled in a Ph.D. program in Spanish linguistics at Georgetown University. Photos courtesy Charlie Nagle.

Nagle, who participated in study abroad programs in Spain and Chile during his time at Furman, wanted to be an intern at the museum. But he says the position went to Derek Gleason, who graduated from Furman in 2007 and has since completed work on a master's degree in Latin American Studies at Indiana University.

Nagle let his professors know that he'd be interested in future opportunities in El Salvador. So when Santiago wanted someone to translate his book, Ching recommended Nagle.

Spanish professor Bill Prince was Nagle's advisor on the project, and Nagle and Santiago communicated by e-mail throughout the process. Prince says, "Although I made corrections and offered some suggestions, Charlie did most of the work."

Nagle knew the importance of the project and seized the opportunity. "There were outside accounts of what was going on during the war, but no direct accounts," he says.

Not surprisingly, to see his project about to be published fills Nagle with immense pride. "It's exciting. It was a long process," he says. "The translation took a relatively short amount of time, a few months. Then Dr. Prince and I spent months and months editing and looking it over.

"Dr. Ching sent the manuscript to different places. So it was a two-year period. Having not been involved in any publication process before,

I didn't know exactly how long it would take. I guess I was starting to lose hope that it would be accepted or published at all."



He describes translation as mentally exhausting work. "You can agonize over a sentence or a word for an hour, or complete 10 pages in an hour. It just depends on the context of what you're translating," he says. "It's hard to capture not just the words but the sense of the words, the flow of the book and the emotion behind everything, especially if it's a memoir."

Prince says, "The number of undergraduate students in the entire country who could do what Charlie did is extremely small. He is a remarkably talented language student."

Nagle says he was paid \$3,000 for his work, but the experience was priceless.

And he's come a long way since he first sat in a high school Spanish class more than eight years ago.

"I was frustrated with it. Then I fell in love with Spanish and decided it was the only thing I could do in life, my one true passion," he says. "As a Spanish major or any language major, you spend years and years honing your skills, and you may or may not use them. For me, it's definitely all about the practicality of it, using it and learning more. Then anyway I can interact to help people is always a plus." [F]

Reprinted from Engage magazine (Volume 5, Issue 2), a publication of the Office of Admission. Ann Green, a 1975 graduate, is a freelance writer and former reporter for The Greenville News.

FEELING

Thanks to determined students who have refused, over and over, to give up, WPLS-FM — 95.9 on your dial — is still playing all the hits (and more) for you . . . wherever you may be.



Music posters and ads adorn the station's walls these days. Opposite: A scene from the cramped quarters of the station's early years. Color photos by Jeremy Fleming.

ALL OF 45, GOING ON 15

As a noncommercial educational radio station, Furman's WPLS isn't allowed to accept advertising money. Which is too bad, because after 44 years it could show a certain drum-wielding, battery-hawking bunny a thing or two about going, and going, and going. . . .

There have been budget crises, equipment failures and name changes. Outages have lasted from a few minutes to a few hours to a few days to an entire school year. The station's 100-watt FM signal with a 13-mile range started as a feeble AM signal traveling through underground cables, often barely strong enough to be heard in individual rooms. Today's spacious digs on the second floor of the University Center stand in sharp contrast to the original headquarters — a room so small it was impossible to fit more than two people at a time.

But one thing that hasn't changed is that since the mid-1960s, there has always been a station, because there have always been students willing to do what needed to be done. That's the legacy the volunteers, from the original six to the current co-managers who are overseeing a renaissance in WPLS' popularity, have built.

Tradition is what Furman radio has been all about — and likely will continue to be all about as long as there's a Furman.

"Every time in the station's existence that we were getting ready to make a big change or something, all of that impetus has come from students — student managers willing to badger you to death until you got on their page," says student life coordinator Carol Daniels, who has worked with the station since the 1970s. "There have always been students at Furman that love the radio. I don't know why. I really don't."

For students who believed in keeping the music playing, though, it's no mystery.

"The station provided a place for those who didn't exactly fit the typical mold, the standard image of a Furman student," says William Marion, a 1994 graduate and former station manager who credits WPLS with being the only thing that kept him from transferring. "It became its own fraternity or sorority. It was a positive place for a lot of people to go and feel that they weren't completely out of the norm, I guess."



"I got the feeling the administration was skeptical at first, didn't know what our motives were, didn't know if we were legitimate or some radical political force or what we were trying to do."





THE PIONEERING DAYS

Forty-five years ago, Jeff Holmes '66, Joe Carey '67 and Vaden "Mac" McMillin '68 had a revelation: Furman's buttoned-up young campus needed a radio station to liven it up. And how did they stumble upon this revelation? While trying to liven up Furman's buttoned-up young campus.

"I think it was sort of a discussion at that time over mead, which they now call beer," Holmes says with a chuckle.

McMillin, an electronics whiz who had built a working AM station from scratch while in high school, brought his love of radio — and his station — to Furman in the fall of 1964. He quickly found listeners in the men's residence halls, as well as like-minded students willing to work to establish an "official" station.

Six people apparently deserve most of the credit for doing the initial lifting: McMillin, Holmes, Carey, Chris Lemley '68, Morris Jeffries (who transferred after one year) and Bob Carr '67. McMillin volunteered to handle the technical details while the others worked to convince the administration to take the idea seriously.

Holmes remembers pillaging his native Florida for any used equipment he could find, while trying to rally students (and student leaders) to support the cause. The pioneers felt they needed all the support they could get so that dean of students Ernest Harrill would come on board.

"That took some real doing," says Holmes, who would be the first station manager.

"In today's world it would just be, oh, sure, anything to help these kids, but at that time it was extremely difficult because it was a matter of who was going to control the

content of what was going to be played. Back then we were still heavily influenced by the South Carolina Baptists and the social mores of the time, the generation gaps that existed between the students and faculty, all sorts of things."

McMillin adds, "I don't really know what went on behind the scenes, but I got the feeling the administration was sort of skeptical at first, didn't know what our motives were, didn't know if we were legitimate or some radical political force or what we were trying to do."

As has been the case repeatedly throughout the station's history, however, the students didn't give up, and on December 12, 1965, at high noon, WFBN, as it was first known, hit the airwaves. The voice of Milton Bagby '69 was the first on air, and he jumped in with both feet by playing The Rolling Stones' "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction." This on the heels of an electrical surge during initial testing that blew out the campus clocks and caused students to be late to classes.

Radio at Furman was off to a rousing start.

"I'm sure they decided after we went on the air that they had made an egregious mistake," Holmes says. "I remember Dean Harrill was about to pull his hair out — what he had left."

But Furman had already concluded that, despite certain reservations, radio was something its students needed.

"As a student, you never really knew where the administration was from one minute to the next," Holmes recalls. "You always had your doubts. They stood behind us, though. They weren't real happy about some of the music that was played, but they stood behind us."

That support would prove to be unwavering — and critical.





UPGRADES AND UPHEAVALS

Fast forward to the mid-1970s. The hall telephone buzzer system was being phased out and replaced by phones in student rooms — which spelled the beginning of the end for the radio station’s carrier current signal, because once BellSouth ran its lines, problems became apparent.

“They put their cables alongside ours and put their switching boxes next to ours,” Gary James ’78 says. “Our signal started bleeding over into their telephone signal.”

It appeared that without an over-the-air signal, the station now called WFRN was doomed.

One good thing about an over-the-air signal would be that the music would no longer stop when it rained, as often happened when water seeped into the dirt around the underground cables. But moving to above-ground transmission also required jumping through government hoops — and acquiring expensive equipment.

The station needed Furman’s name on an FCC license. It also needed an antenna and an FM signal. None of which would matter, of course, if funding weren’t available.

Early results weren’t promising. “When we went to the administration and asked for help in going to FM, one of the things we found out was that they didn’t know we had a station,” James says.

Still, once he became aware of the problem, president John E. Johns came through with \$5,300 for construction of a tower (eventually placed atop the Plyler Hall cupola), plus a \$2,300 operating budget. In 1979 the station was granted its FCC license as a 10-watt educational FM station with new call letters: WPLS.

But there were still problems. For one, Plyler Hall wasn’t an ideal spot for the antenna.

“That’s not quite a high enough location,” Carol Daniels says. “The trees interfered. We were never able to get over Paris Mountain.” Or even, for many years, to some corners of the campus.

Enter William Marion in 1990. After becoming station manager, Marion determined that to take WPLS “more toward what real radio is like,” the antenna needed to be relocated.

In 1992 the station received permission to move its antenna to the highest point on campus — a light pole at Paladin Stadium. But it took nearly four more years to secure the money and complete the process.

Mission accomplished? Not quite.

“Turns out the ticket office of the stadium is a lightning magnet, and so every thunderstorm we had took the station down,” Daniels says. “In the meantime, we were always sending the transmitter away to be repaired. Nobody saw it coming, and nobody could diagnose the problem.”

The issue reached critical mass at around the time WPLS was being forced to grow again, or die. In 2000 the FCC had decided to phase out 10-watt licenses, and the station needed to change to 100 watts. Furman approved the plan — and provided the \$10,000 necessary — for the conversion that began in 2002.





But instead of ushering in a golden age of Furman radio, WPLS would soon face perhaps its darkest hour.

Multiple equipment failures forced the station off the air for the entire 2008-09 school year, though it continued to broadcast on the Internet. When the signal was finally restored, current co-manager Maia Pujara '10 says on-campus awareness was at an all-time low.

"With the station being down for a while, interest went down," she says. "Especially with DJs coming in to do their show, it was kind of like, what's the point? We didn't have any airwaves to do it over. We just had on-line streaming."

She and co-manager Ryan Devens '10 had their work cut out for them. You get one guess on how things have turned out.

BACK FROM THE BRINK, AGAIN

Visit the WPLS office in the University Center today and you see what appears to be a perfect college radio setting.

Posters of bands virtually unknown to anyone over 25 adorn the walls. CDs — though increasingly obsolete — are piled on shelves. A DJ is surrounded by equipment that was inconceivable four decades ago. Pujara and Devens talk to a reporter over a bag of cookies, justifiably proud of bringing the station back to life.

An advertising blitz this year doubled the number of student volunteers, to about 40. And the Internet audience continues to grow with the help of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

Pujara and Devens believe they've left a strong foundation for the future. "Now that it's up and running, we've gotten people to see it as kind of a cool thing again," Pujara says. "The radio station has been so good up to this point, and it just doesn't make sense to say it's obsolete because it has meant so many things to so many people."

Take Marion, for instance. Now living in Cambridge, Mass., where he is a principle with a radio promotion firm, he says, "In my case, I learned more in two years as a station manager than I did in all four years as a student at the university. It prepared me for the outside world, the business world.

"I think to this day, probably one of the hardest things I've had to do in the music business was firing a staff member at the radio station. Just having that experience and going through it was something that I wasn't going to learn in a classroom."

Carol Daniels admits that, over the years, she has had a harder and harder time keeping up with the endless stream of new music. But she remembers first hearing Billy Joel and Bruce Springsteen on WPLS.

She also knows how much the station has meant. "It provides a place at Furman for a group of students who would not have a place," she says. "They dream dreams that those of us sitting in offices get really afraid of, because they dream in a scale that doesn't understand limitations. And that is the joy of working with this age group."

Pujara agrees that the station provides a critical alternative. "You can come here and play your own music and meet people who also have the same music tastes," she says. "When



you come to an environment like this, you realize people aren't always what they seem."

To help keep the momentum going, Gary James has recently dedicated himself to organizing the station's alumni. He's developed a mailing list and a Facebook page and helped arrange reunions at Homecoming and other times. Today he has approximately 700 names, and he's looking for more.

"I think Furman students enjoy a challenge, and working at a radio station is not only fun, it's a challenge," he says. "For me it was a challenge just learning the coordination required to get the record to start at the time that I stopped talking, or to remember to stop talking when the lyrics started."

As for Jeff Holmes and the other original conspirators, they may be far removed from their Furman days, but the station will always be a special memory.

"It's turned out to be something that none of us really could have imagined back when we started," says Holmes, who works in the furniture business in Greensboro, N.C. "It was a labor of love and passion. It was a lark, but by golly we did it. I think that we were more surprised than anybody." [F]

To learn more about the alumni group, e-mail Gary James at furmanradio@yahoo.com. Visit <http://fwpl.wordpress.com> to listen to and learn more about the station.

The author, a 1993 graduate, is a freelance writer based in Hendersonville, N.C.



Because Furman Matters.

Furman offers new incentive for annual giving: as you like it

No, the last line of this article's title isn't a reference to one of the Bard's famous comedies. It refers to a new initiative that encourages donors to make their annual gift to Furman and designate it to an area of current need that has special meaning to them.

For example: If "the play's the thing" for you, then you might consider designating your gift to support the performing and fine arts. Or if you had an internship as a student that influenced your life's direction, your gift could go toward undergraduate research and internships.

For Matt Wilson '86, an ophthalmologist in Memphis, Tenn., the opportunity to designate his gift was the incentive he needed to quadruple his level of giving. He designated his gift for two areas: scholarship support and undergraduate research and internships.

He says, "Research fosters student-faculty interaction, which is the heart of a university — students learning from faculty and faculty learning from students. Targeted giving made it easier for me to write the check and check the boxes that met my goals for giving."

When the time comes to make your annual gift to Furman, consider these areas for your designated support:

- Area of greatest need (most popular designation)
- Scholarships
- Paladin Club (athletic scholarships)
- Undergraduate research/internships
- Study away
- Sustainability
- Performing/fine arts
- Student life
- Service learning
- Furman United, the two-year effort to raise \$800,000

to provide aid to students facing financial challenges due to current economic conditions.

— PHIL HOWARD
Director, Donor Marketing

To learn more about designation options or to give on-line, visit www.myfurmangift.com.

Young Benefactors step up



When 2005 graduates Brian and Jessica Moore Fisher returned to Greenville recently to pursue law careers — Brian with the firm of Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice and Jessica with Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart — they also sought to reconnect with alma mater.

One of the first avenues they pursued was membership in Young Benefactors, a group of approximately 100 alumni who have graduated within the last 20 years and who make annual gifts at the Presidents Club level and above (\$1,000 or more). The Fishers, who were already donors to Furman, realized that by increasing their annual gift and designating it for the Furman United effort, which supports students whose finances have been affected by the recent economic downturn, they would be able to make an immediate impact for current undergraduates.

Jessica says, "We wanted to make sure that other people have the kinds of opportunities that we had, particularly those students already at Furman who may not be able to stay due to the economic climate."

Brian and Jessica graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where both were members of the *Law Review* and finished in the top 5 percent of their class.

"Brian and I feel that going to Furman was one of the best decisions we ever made," Jessica says. "The relationships we developed at Furman will be life-long. Our Furman education was instrumental in getting both of us where we are today."

Contact john.kemp@furman.edu or call (864) 294-3717 to learn more about the Young Benefactors program.

Planned gift from alum's estate funds history scholarship

James Branham '56 arrived at the University of South Carolina-Coastal Carolina in 1963. At the time the college was a two-year institution and the campus, located in Conway, S.C., consisted of just two completed buildings and an unpaved parking lot. Branham was one of a handful of instructors hired to teach the school's 105 full-time students.

When he retired in 1991 as Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, the college, known today as Coastal Carolina University, was a four-year institution with 23 buildings and more than 4,000 students.

Upon his death October 2 at the age of 83, Coastal Carolina lost one of its founding faculty members and teaching legends. In his estate, Branham provided funds to establish a history scholarship at Furman.

"James Branham was a loyal son of Furman," says A.V. Huff, retired dean and history professor at Furman. "He was a living embodiment of the liberal arts ideal of learning and critical thinking.

He fell in love with history at Furman under the tutelage of Dr. D.H. Gilpatrick, whom he sought to emulate."

At Furman Branham received the Bradshaw-Feaster Medal for General Excellence and was elected to Quaternion, the men's select honorary society. He earned a master's degree from West Virginia University in 1959 and taught at Furman for two years before accepting a fellowship to the University of Georgia, where he remained until moving to Coastal.

Known for his high standards and rigorous classes, he was the first recipient of Coastal Carolina's Teacher of the Year award and chaired the history department for many years.



Contact betsy.moseley@furman.edu, (864) 294-3491, to learn more about planned giving opportunities.

Student testimonials reflect Furman United's impact

Furman United is the special effort launched this academic year to build scholarship support for students facing financial hardships caused by the economic downturn. The university is working to raise \$800,000 during the next two years to help meet the increased needs of students.

Is the program having an impact? Consider the following testimonials from two students who have benefited already.

Virginia Rogers '11, a history major from Marysville, Ohio, says, "The donations made to Furman United are invaluable. Furman

opens doors and allows its students to pursue opportunities that aren't available in other places."

And from Katie Brasher '10, a French major from Weddington, N.C.: "As families find themselves in worsening fiscal situations, it is important to remember what a gift quality education is. That is what Furman United is giving me — with my Furman diploma, a future that reaches beyond the cost of tuition."

Visit www.furman-united.com to learn more.

Furman
United
stats

399

Number of students requesting additional financial aid or first-time aid in 2009-10.

107

Number of students helped to date through Furman United.

310,000

Dollar amount of Furman United support awarded to date.

90,000

Dollar amount needed to reach this year's Furman United goal.



Objets d'art: Furman's antiques, artifacts and memorabilia

The Smithsonian Institution is frequently referred to as the nation's attic.

But Furman has its own attic — and like the Smithsonian, it isn't confined to one building.

Furman's attic stretches across the campus. It includes temperature-controlled rooms and vaults, and features paintings, rare books and ancient lamps from Biblical times. It has satirical etchings from the hand of noted Spanish artist Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes (Goya for short), earthenware objects that date from 3100 BC (above), and precious coins embossed with the images of ancient rulers.

DebbieLee Landi, special collections librarian and university archivist, chairs Furman's Decorative and Fine Arts Committee, which protects the artwork, antiques and artifacts owned by the university. The material includes the Cherrydale Collection, with its variety of antique furniture, china, silver and other items that beautify the Alumni House, and the furnishings and art at White Oaks, the president's home.

"It's a diverse collection. We have more than 2,500 items in our inventory, but we estimate we have more than 3,000 items on campus," Landi says. "We manage collections spread across 27 buildings, on and off campus."

No one has put a price tag on the collection. Many of the items have not been appraised, and Furman won't make public the value of those items that have been.

"It's a collection that only appreciates in value, and it serves an educational purpose as well as an illustrative purpose by highlighting the history of Furman," says Landi. "This campus is only 50 years old, but a lot of our collection began with the founding of the university in 1826. The entire Furman community continues to add to this collection, so it's one of the few things showing our full history."

Her office contracts with preservation specialists, conservators and furniture experts to restore, clean and protect the collection. And on occasion, the library pulls together items for a special exhibit.

During the fall semester, for example, an exhibit titled "The Archives of Babel" featured a diverse sampling of works written both in and about a variety of languages. In the spring of 2009, a photographic retrospective highlighted the 50th anniversary of the move to the current campus.

For many years the university had no record of what exactly it owned. In 1999, Furman established the Decorative and Fine Arts Committee. Comprised of alumni, volunteers and friends, the group was initially tasked with helping to decorate and find interior furnishings for the newly arrived Cherrydale Alumni House.

In 2005, Landi reorganized the committee. It now includes staff members from the departments of art, facilities services, business affairs and development, and its responsibilities extend to the cataloguing and protection of the university's artifacts and collectibles.

"We have dozens of contributions each year, which is a good thing," says Landi. "But now that we have more than 2,500 items in our database, the next step that the Decorative and Fine Arts Committee wants to take is to make sure these objects are being used for educational purposes."

She hopes teachers will eventually use Furman artifacts in their lessons, and that she can persuade more Furman faculty to explore and take advantage of the collection.

"We have evocative artwork that reflects different movements for art classes," Landi says. "But artwork can also be related to other disciplines. There are objects related to religion, artifacts from different cultures, and historical objects. These resources could be used for history, language, sociology, religion and education classes, to name just a few."

— ANN GREEN

This article first appeared in the fall 2009 edition of Inside Furman, the university's internal newsletter. Photos courtesy Special Collections and Archives.



Nair's advice to students: Find balance in your lives

Marian Strobel, chair of Furman's history department, sums up her colleague Savita Nair's talents as an advisor in just a few short sentences:

"It is not unusual for students to request her services, even if they have never taken a course with her. Savita's reputation precedes her. As an advisor, she is compassionate, conscientious, and someone whose door is always open. Students feel safe in her care, yet at the same time, they are challenged by her to make the most of their academic careers and their futures."

To compassion and conscientiousness, Nair's students and colleagues add other qualities, ranging from patience and encouragement to a calming presence and commitment to helping students become not just better scholars, but better human beings.

No wonder, then, that Nair was named the recipient of the 2009 Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Advising.

For Nair, who has taught in the history and Asian Studies departments since 2003, building a strong rapport with students begins at their first meeting where, she says, she typically commends them for being accepted to a school like Furman — and then reminds them not to push themselves too hard.

"Students are often overwhelmed by being away from home for the first time and encountering all the new experiences that college brings," she says. "They're in danger of burning out too quickly. They tend to try to do too much, and sometimes the result is that they find themselves unable to function."

Her advice: Make sure you take time to decompress. Turn off your laptop and iPod and close your textbooks. Relax. Sit under a tree. Escape from the daily grind. "You don't have to drive yourself all the time," she says.

Her philosophy, she points out, comes in large part from her Indian heritage. Her family immigrated to the United States when she was 5, and she spent her formative years in Albany, N.Y. She still has relatives in India and frequently returns, both to visit and to accompany Furman students on study abroad trips — as she did during fall semester.

"In India people are not so scheduled," she says. "They're not obsessed with their date books and where they have to be. They take time to stop and visit. It's very liberating."

Nair also credits her advisor in graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania with being an excellent role model. David Ludden, she says, treated her like a peer from the start of their relationship. "He looked at me as a whole person, not just an academic being," she says. He helped her come to terms with what she calls graduate school's "sub-culture of intensity" and was supportive of her choices — such as having three children while pursuing her degrees. Indeed, she defended her doctoral dissertation just two weeks after the birth of her third child.

What Ludden understood, Nair says — and what she tries to pass on to her students — was the importance of balance. And as Travis Sago '09 has testified, it's a message worth heeding.

In his letter nominating Nair for the advising award, Sago recalled sending her a lengthy e-mail in which he laid out his struggles with an assortment of academic and personal frustrations. Her response, he said, demonstrated a kind of compassion that he described as "second to none." He then proceeded to quote one comment that, he said, he would never forget. Nair wrote:

"Enjoying time with family and resting are vital. It is what sustains us, centers us. It is mental rejuvenation and indeed it is the stuff



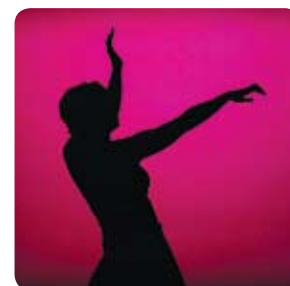
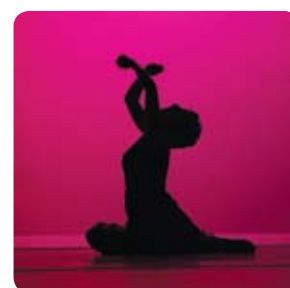
JEREMY FLEMING

of life. While we thrive on our academic forays, they become meaningless without the base of family and friends."

Said Sago, "It is this message that I remind myself of when life seems to become too much, too fast. Furman students, in general, could benefit greatly from these words."

As more students come to know Savita Nair, they will.

— JIM STEWART



Dancing around the world

The International Students Association presented its annual “Cultural Rhythms” dance program November 11 in McAlister Auditorium. The show featured a variety of dances which, through movement, costume and music, represented different countries’ cultures, beliefs and history. The group presents the program annually with the goal of bringing the world closer to Furman and the Greenville community. Photos by Jeremy Fleming.



Shi, Furman join leadership group’s advocacy work for liberal arts

As he completes his final year as president of Furman, David Shi is among 82 college and university presidents and chancellors working to make the case for the value of liberal arts education in the 21st century.

Established by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Presidents’ Trust is a leadership group within the AAC&U’s national initiative, “Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP): Excellence for Everyone as a Nation Goes to College.”

“A liberal arts education is important because it exposes students to a wide array of subjects and helps them learn to think critically and creatively,” says Shi. “It pushes them to look

beyond traditional boundaries for answers, to challenge inherited assumptions and embrace new ideas. Most important, a liberal arts education fosters a thirst for lifelong learning.”

The group is serving as an advocate for liberal arts education on economic, civic and student recruitment fronts. It aims to integrate liberal arts and professional preparation on campuses and chart a new direction for assessment and accountability.

AAC&U president Carol Geary Schneider says the Presidents’ Trust is striving to “help ensure that all college students in all majors receive the kind of excellent education they deserve — one that provides them with broad

knowledge, sophisticated intellectual and practical skills, a well-developed sense of personal and social responsibility, and the capacity to apply learning to new problems.”

The Presidents’ Trust will also hold regional and national meetings to discuss the purposes and practices of liberal arts education. The group believes that such education in the 21st century should empower individuals with core knowledge and transferable skills, cultivate social responsibility and a strong sense of ethics and values, and prepare graduates for socially valued work and for civic leadership.

University collaborates with local school to promote value of fitness

Fuller Normal Advanced Technology Charter School in Greenville is intent upon reversing the national trend toward obesity in American's youth — while at the same time boosting academic achievement.

And Furman faculty and students are key contributors to the cause.

This academic year, Fuller Normal introduced a program that requires the school's approximately 250 students to engage in 45 minutes of directed physical activity per day — not including recess.

By comparison, most Greenville County elementary students take part in a physical education class for 45 minutes one day a week.

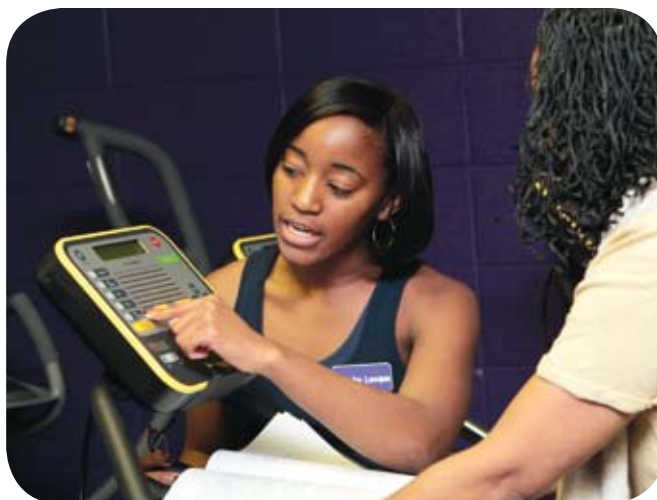
Studies indicate that students who are fit are better behaved, feel better and perform more effectively both in the classroom and on standardized tests. Given this data, the powers that be at Fuller Normal decided to establish the daily wellness program at the school, which serves students from kindergarten to eighth grade and draws from lower-income areas in Greenville.

Even though it has no gymnasium, the school sectioned off an area of its cafeteria to create a fitness center complete with exercise bikes, elliptical machines and weight stations. Two full-time physical education teachers work with all students each day. In addition, the school has partnered with Morrison's, the food service provider for Greenville's Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital, to revamp its dietary program and provide healthy meals that surpass USDA requirements.

Private donations helped to fund the fitness center, a huge advantage given the budget constraints faced by South Carolina

public schools. And since the center opened in the fall, Fuller Normal students have enthusiastically embraced the program while encouraging their parents to hop on the bandwagon.

After the regular school day ends, the facility remains open into the evening for use by teachers and parents. Furman students



and recent alumni staff the center, where they are available to assist clients or to tutor Fuller Normal students so parents can exercise.

The program is already paying benefits. Students seem to be maintaining higher energy levels throughout the day while learning such intangibles as sportsmanship (they often engage in friendly fitness competitions) and respect for others and for the equipment itself.

As a result, Fuller Normal may one day serve as a model for other schools to emulate.

All this is the brainchild of Greenville businessman William Brown, chair of the school's board. Brown and his fellow directors joined with principal Brenda Humbert to

provide the impetus for the program. They recruited Julian Reed, associate professor of health and exercise science at Furman, to help implement the plan.

"I'm unaware of any program with this much across-the-board buy-in or this kind of holistic approach that extends to the entire school community," says Reed, who has studied childhood obesity and written a book on integrating movement into the classroom environment. He helped hire the school's physical education instructors, assisted in purchasing the exercise equipment, and recruited Furman students and alumni to work at the facility.

Reed visits the school frequently and points out that Fuller Normal will serve as a research laboratory through which he and current undergraduates can compare information on academic progress, absenteeism, disciplinary problems and health-room visits with data from other schools that do not offer daily physical education instruction.

He says that the Fuller Normal program can also be viewed as preventive medicine. "Here we have an opportunity to intervene at an early age, to teach and model the value and importance of exercise," he says. "By doing so, we can prevent problems from occurring later.

"The children help to pass the lesson along by influencing their parents to take advantage of the fitness center. By paying a little now, we believe we'll be able to avoid paying a lot more later."

— JIM STEWART

Visit <http://eweb.furman.edu/dept/hes/jreed.htm> to learn more about Julian Reed's work on fitness and movement. Photo by Jeremy Fleming.

Tom Hartness made enduring contributions to Furman, Greenville

Entrepreneur. Inventor. Philanthropist. Civic leader. Friend to Furman.

Tom Hartness was all of these, and more.

When he died December 3 at the age of 90, he left a legacy of accomplishment and dedication that touched many in the Greenville community and beyond.

As Max Heller, former mayor of Greenville and an emeritus trustee at Furman, told *The Greenville News*, “He was a brilliant man with a heart of gold and the mind of a giant. He was wonderful to be around and a wonderful person for Greenville.”

A native of Shelby, N.C., Hartness moved to Greenville in 1940, graduated from the Aviation Ground School at Furman in 1941, and worked with the Red Cross during World War II. He went on to own the Pepsi-Cola bottling plant in Greenville for 43 years, during which time he made Pepsi a sales leader in the region.

As founder and chair of the board of Hartness International, a company that manufactures packaging equipment, he used his intelligence and perseverance to propel the business to a position of global leadership in the packaging industry. He held many patents on packaging machinery and other inventions, and today Hartness International does business in more than 100 countries.

Bern McPheely, the company’s chief executive officer, told the *News* that Hartness “was an innovator beyond imagination. He could fix anything, and he knew how to make an operation run better.”

Hartness served for many years on the Furman board of trustees, including several terms as chair. In the early 1980s he headed

the Campaign for Furman’s Future, and he and his late wife, Edna Gladden Hartness, were generous supporters of the university’s cultural, academic and athletic programs. Furman awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1972.

Both the pavilion at Daniel Dining Hall and the Welcome Center beside the Furman administration building are named in honor of Tom and Edna Hartness. They also donated funds to support several student musical groups, and their gift provided for the construction of the

At Hartness’ funeral, Baxter Wynn, associate minister at First Baptist and a Furman trustee, captured the businessman’s kind nature and generous spirit through a story about taking a Furman student to meet Hartness.

The young woman wanted to thank Hartness for supporting the musical quartet in which she had played during her Furman years, but she was a bit intimidated by the prospect of meeting her benefactor. Wynn described how Hartness quickly put her at ease — and wound up taking her on a tour of the company plant, complete with protective glasses.

“Tom blessed her with his wise and understanding heart,” Wynn said. “He blessed her with his time and attention, and with words of encouragement and affirmation. He blessed her simply by being himself, and by showing her that her life mattered to him. That’s pretty much the way he treated just about everybody fortunate enough to meet him.”

Furman president David Shi echoed Wynn’s comments, describing Hartness as “a man of grace and charm. He was remarkably sensitive and attentive to others. He loved to laugh, his smile was infectious, and he won the love and respect of all who knew him.”

Wynn also quoted Gordon Herring ’65, a Greenville businessman who served with Hartness on the Furman board. “Even though he was soft-spoken, you always listened when he spoke because you knew that you would hear the truth,” Herring said. “Tom’s love for Furman played a large part in my wanting to reconnect with the university. When I saw how dedicated Tom was to an institution which he did not attend, I knew that Furman was worth preserving. His love for Furman was unwavering.”

“He was remarkably sensitive and attentive to others. He loved to laugh, his smile was infectious, and he won the love and respect of all who knew him.”



2,930-pipe organ in Daniel Chapel, which they gave in honor of their son and daughter-in-law, Bobby and Becky Hartness.

In addition to his extensive work for Furman, Hartness served on the Advisory Council at Converse College in Spartanburg and was a former trustee of the South Carolina Foundation of Independent Colleges and of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was a past president and director of the Greenville Lions Club, a former director of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Entrepreneurs Forum at Greenville Tech, and a former director of American Federal bank. He was active in First Baptist Church of Greenville, where he chaired the diaconate.



Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of recent publications by alumni and faculty

COURTNEY TOLLISON '99, *World War II and Upcountry South Carolina* (The History Press, 2009). The author, a history professor at Furman, uses first-person accounts to describe how state residents supported American troops during World War II, from growing “victory gardens” to manufacturing various materials to aid the war effort. In addition, Camp Croft in nearby Spartanburg, S.C., and the Greenville Army Air Base welcomed thousands of trainees to the area, and more than 166,000 state residents fought in the war. Says the publisher, “The resulting import and export of culture through the war and long after reflect the modernization and diversification that occurred across the South.” In addition to her work at Furman, Tollison is museum historian at the Upcountry History Museum. She received the university’s 2009 Outstanding Young Alumni Award and is spending the spring as a Fulbright Scholar in the Ukraine.

KRISTY DUNCAN DEMPSEY '91, *Me with You* (Philomel, 2009). This children’s book follows the every-day adventures of a grandfather and granddaughter. The publisher says, “With simple rhymes and delightfully charming illustrations [by Christopher Denise], *Me with You* is the perfect book to remind young readers how unique they and their grandparents truly are.” The author lives in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and has two more books in the works. Visit www.kristydempsey.com.

PEGGY HAYMES '82, *Didn't See It Coming* (West Summit Publishing, 2009). When the author was hit by a car while riding her bike, she had to answer — literally and figuratively — this question: What do you

do when you’re blindsided? Although she knew the healing process would be a long one, she wasn’t prepared for all the trials she would face during her convalescence. Haymes, an ordained minister and licensed professional counselor, writes with honesty, insight and humor. Says James Dunn, Resident Professor of Christianity and Public Policy at the Wake Forest University School of Divinity, “It is a quick read. It is a satisfying read. It is, theologically speaking, a damn good read.” Haymes, who lives in Winston-Salem, N.C., received Furman’s Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award in 2005.

ROBERT WHITLOW '76, *Greater Love* (Thomas Nelson, 2010). Due in March, this is Whitlow’s 10th novel and the third in his “Tides of Truth” series. The story revolves around attorney Tami Taylor, who, according to the publisher, “is offered a coveted position as associate partner in one of Savannah’s oldest and most prestigious law firms. Though her strong faith and convictions are valued by the firm’s partners, Tami struggles to discern if God’s will for her career is elsewhere. Meanwhile, she must protect a young client named Jessie who is on the run from some shady characters. Her association with Jessie puts Tami in mortal danger. With her life on the line, Tami falls in love and discovers the power of romantic love forged by the activity of the Holy Spirit.” Whitlow is an attorney in Charlotte, N.C. Visit www.robertwhitlow.com.

SCOTT WALKER '73, *The Edge of Terror: The Heroic Story of American Families Trapped in the Japanese-Occupied Philippines* (Thomas Dunne/St. Martin’s Press, 2009). The publisher says, “Before the Japanese invaded the

Philippines in World War II, MacArthur ordered Americans living on the islands to evacuate. Several families of Baptist missionaries chose to remain to support the Filipinos, continue their ministry and help the war effort.” The author tells their story, drawing from first-person accounts, interviews and military archives “to describe the dangers the missionaries faced in their effort to serve both God and country.” Walker, a Baptist minister and author of 10 books, is a senior lecturer and director of the Institute of Life Purpose at Mercer University in Macon, Ga. He is the son of Baptist missionaries to the Philippines.

ORVILLE VERNON BURTON '69, editor, *The Essential Lincoln* (Hill and Wang, 2009). Burton is the Burroughs Distinguished Professor of Southern History at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C., and an award-winning author or editor of 15 books, including the critically acclaimed *The Age of Lincoln* (2007). In *The Essential Lincoln*, he brings together the 16th president’s most defining speeches and correspondence. Harold Holzer, co-chair of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, says, “Orville Vernon Burton notes that ‘Lincoln chose his words deliberately,’ and so does Burton. His introductions and editorial notes are concise, lively and reliable. . . . There have been many collections of Lincoln’s writings, but this slender, thoughtfully selected compendium more than lives up to its title.”

ALEXIA JONES HELSLEY '67, *Hidden History of Greenville County* (The History Press, 2009). The author, an instructor in history at the University of South Carolina-

Aiken, describes the personalities, places and events that have given Greenville its progressive, diverse environment. The publisher says, “From mansions to murders, learn things about Greenville County history that you’ve never encountered before.” Helsley is an archivist, historian and genealogist and has written a number of books on regional history.

KIRK H. NEELY '66, *A Good Mule is Hard to Find* (Hub City Writers Project, 2009). Neely’s latest features 50 “country tales” from upstate South Carolina, the author’s home area. The publisher says, “Just like his blue jeans after an adventure in *Dead Horse Canyon*, Neely’s tales are caked with red clay.” Neely is a Baptist minister from Spartanburg, S.C., and has written several other books. This one is illustrated by his nephew, Emory Cash. Visit <http://kirkhneely.com>.

MITCH CARNELL '56, editor, *Christian Civility in an Uncivil World* (Smyth & Helwys, 2009). This collection of essays promotes a change in the tone of Christian dialogue. As the publisher says, “When we encounter a Christian who thinks and believes differently, we often experience that difference as an attack on the principles upon which we have built our lives and as a betrayal to the faith . . . However, it is possible for Christians to retain their differences and yet unite in respect for each other.” One of the contributors to the book is the Rev. Stacy Sauls '77, Episcopal bishop of Lexington, Ky. Carnell is a writer and communication expert who served for 35 years as president and CEO of the Charleston (S.C.) Speech and Hearing Center. Visit www.mitchcarnell.com.

Campus rallies in support of Haitian relief efforts

Probably no one at Furman was more directly affected by the earthquake in Haiti than Fabien Vorbe, a sophomore from Port-au-Prince.

Vorbe, a member of the men's soccer team, returned from Haiti for spring semester just two days before the quake struck January 12. Although his immediate family survived, their home was destroyed.

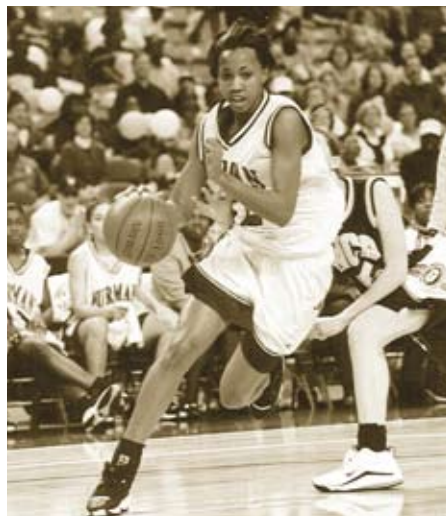
In response, the Furman community rallied behind Vorbe and the relief efforts. The men's soccer team sponsored a soccer marathon January 22 in Stone Soccer Stadium, with teams representing the faculty, staff and student groups taking part in the 12-hour event. All proceeds went to Haitian relief. Elsewhere the Heller Service Corps and other student organizations set up booths in the University Center to provide support for the American Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, the UNICEF Haiti Relief Fund and other humanitarian agencies.

The headquarters of The Fédération Haïtienne de Football, the governing body for the Haitian national team, collapsed during the quake. Jean-Yves Labaze, coach of Haiti's 2007 Under-17 World Cup Team, was killed, as were 30 members of the country's soccer federation.

Vorbe, who played for Labaze, says, "Your team is like a family unit. You have tight relationships with everybody in the federation, and to just see the whole federation collapse, people in there that you knew died, and people that you knew on the team, even if they didn't die, they have relatives that died. It's tough."

Vorbe says he is hopeful that soccer can somehow help his country's healing. "In Haiti soccer is what everybody breathes, and every time Haiti goes through a bad phase, they always rely on soccer as something to put them back up there, so people can see them."

— WILL JORDAN '10



Basketball standouts' jerseys retired

Two former Furman basketball players who shared a common name and uncommon talent on the hardwood have had their jerseys retired by the university.

Jackie Smith '00 (now Jackie Smith Carson) and Jerry Smith '63 received the signal honor earlier this season.

Carson's No. 22 was retired November 19 during the Lady Paladins' game against Indiana State. A three-time All-Southern Conference selection and two-time league Player of the Year, she is the second-leading scorer in school history with 1,920 points in 114 games, an average of 16.8 points per game. She played on two conference championship teams, including the 2000 squad that posted a 20-11 record, won the league's post-season tournament and made Furman's second appearance in the NCAA tournament.

A native of Woodbridge, Va., she was team captain her junior and senior years and was the team's Most Valuable Player three times. In 1999 she was Furman's Edna Hartness Female Athlete of the Year, and in 2005 she was elected to the university's Athletic Hall of Fame. She is now an assistant coach at James Madison University.

Jerry Smith had his No. 50 jersey retired during the January 16 game against Georgia Southern.

Hailing from Corbin, Ky. — the same town that produced another Paladin legend, Frank Selvy '54 — Smith was known for his deadly shooting. He averaged more than 20 points per game each of his three seasons and was named all-conference each year. In 1961-62 he led the league in scoring (and finished seventh nationally) with an average of 26.9 points per game. That performance earned him a place on the Helms Foundation All-America second team.

Furman's all-time leader in free throw percentage with 82.2 percent, Smith stands fifth in school history with 1,885 points. He was a second-round selection by the Detroit Pistons in the 1963 National Basketball Association draft. He went on to be a businessman in Greenville and was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 1988.

Carson and Smith join Selvy (No. 28), Rushia Brown '94 (34), Natalie Cleckley '92 (53), Darrell Floyd '56 (33), Nield Gordon '53 (27), Clyde Mayes '74 (34) and Jonathan Moore '80 (25) as the only Furman basketball players to have their jerseys retired.

Digging deep: Volleyball team enjoys record-setting season

While women's volleyball might not be the highest profile sport at Furman, you would be hard pressed to find a more successful one these days.

In just the past three years, the Lady Paladins have produced 67 wins, posted victories over Clemson, Wake Forest and Colorado, and established themselves as one of the top programs in the Southern Conference.

And if the 2009 season was any indication, the program may just be warming up. With only two seniors contributing regularly and four freshmen and three sophomores seeing significant playing time, Furman finished 26-4, went undefeated (16-0) in regular-season league play and finished the year among the nation's top 50 teams.

The only disappointment came in the conference tournament, which Furman hosted. The Lady Paladins defeated Appalachian State in the semifinal round, but lost to the College of Charleston in the championship match. True to form, only the conference tournament champion received an invitation to the NCAA tournament.

"It was tough losing in the conference tournament," says Furman coach Michelle Young. "It was almost like the players didn't feel they were conference champions. But while it's always exciting to go to the NCAA tournament, we had to remember that we went undefeated in the conference and won the regular-season title. We had a great year no matter how you look at it."

There is no arguing with Young there. The regular-season championship was Furman's first since 1993 — the Lady Paladins won the tournament title in 2008 — and the team's 87 percent winning percentage was the best in program history. A 19-match winning streak that covered the better part of 10 weeks was also the longest ever.

There were plenty of individual honors, too, as the Lady Paladins produced the conference Freshman of the Year (Caroline Adams), Player of the Year (Kelsey Salava) and Coach of the Year. Adams and Salava, a senior, were also first-team all-conference, and two other freshmen — Chandler Ambrester and Natalie Braun — were named to the All-Freshman team. Sophomores Kelly Kirby and Alexis Shaffer were named to the all-league second team.

"I knew this team had a lot of talent and would be pretty good," Young says. "But you don't know how a team is going to respond until you start playing. I could tell right away that it was a very competitive group, and they played a lot of five-game matches that they won. It turned out to be a clutch team."

The Lady Paladins are also getting some clutch coaching from Young, who has been quietly and steadily building the program since becoming head coach in 2000. Eight of her 10 seasons have been winning ones, and her 188-129 career record makes her the most successful volleyball coach in Furman history.

Young, a two-time Southern Conference Coach of the Year, also created a dynamic home court atmosphere for the Lady Paladins by abandoning the larger and less intimate confines of Timmons Arena in 2005 and moving the team's games into the cozy surroundings of Alley Gymnasium (Old Gym), where the fans sit right by the court. A steadily rising level of interest in the program, especially from students, has forced Young to add seating each year, and this year's conference tournament at Furman was completely sold out.

"I had people coming to my office trying to get tickets," she says. "It was amazing."

You can count Salava, a senior setter from Clearwater, Fla., among Young's fans. "I couldn't have asked for a better coach during my four years at Furman," she says. "Coach Young cares about more than just her players' success on the court. She listens to our input and strives to understand where every player is coming from. She is always there for her players."

If you haven't checked out the volleyball program yet, you may want to add a few games to your schedule in 2010. Most of the record-setting roster returns, and Young has signed three high-level recruits — Christina Dorismond of Cary, N.C., Amanda Komisarow of Atlanta, Ga., and Sarah McCarthy of Villa Park, Ill.

"We have a lot of talented players coming back, and the three high school seniors we have signed should be able to come in and help us right away," Young says. "We're excited about the direction of the program."

— VINCE MOORE





GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

It is with much pride and humility that I write my first column as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Pride that, after my generally unimpressive stint as a sociology major at Furman, I would even be allowed on the board, much less serve as president.

And humility, as I follow in the larger than life footsteps of Randy Blackwell '63, who died last spring before completing his term as president.

With every project the board pursues over the next two years, we will ask ourselves the same question: Would Randy be proud of this? I can only hope that I can bring the same enthusiasm and passion to the job as Randy did.

Furman is facing some very real challenges right now — the economy, for one, and the retirement of the most excellent David Shi and transition to new leadership. However, Albert Einstein once said that in the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.

I had the chance to serve on the university's Presidential Search Committee and was inspired by both the dedication of the committee to find just the right person and the incredible credentials of the candidates. Those of us on the committee believe that the Furman community will be extremely pleased with our new president, Rodney Smolla.

Of course, if you are taking the time to read this, you must love Furman as much as I do. If that is indeed the case, I would encourage you to give back to the university in any way you can.

Your contributions don't necessarily have to be

monetary, although my friends in the development office tell me that money is always in good taste. But there are many other effective ways to give back to alma mater — like attending your class reunion, joining a Furman Club, or serving as a Furman advocate for prospective students.

One area that's close to my heart is working with students. Many alumni take the time to mentor students, offer career advice and arrange internships for them. I've worked with a number of Furman students over the years and have been amazed by their talent, insight and contributions.

[Editor's note: Clare Morris was honored at Homecoming 2009 with the Wayne and Rubye Reid Award for contributions to students' career development.]

LET ME FILL YOU IN on my background and credentials. I'm a 1983 graduate, and back in the day I served as the marketing and communications director for the South Carolina Department of Commerce

With three colleagues from Commerce, I started the Clare Morris Agency in Columbia, S.C., in April 2006. We specialize in helping companies and organizations work to make South Carolina more competitive in the knowledge economy. Our president is another Furman product, Jessica Marsh Daly '94.

During our first three years we've done well, earning three awards from the S.C. Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators for excellence in communications strategy and execution. Our past and present client list includes the Riley Institute at Furman, Boeing, the Medical

University of South Carolina and the National Hydrogen Association. Visit our Web site, www.claremorrisagency.com.

On the home front, I'm the proud mother of Roe, a junior at Furman, and Andrew (16), a drummer for a Blink182 cover band called My Losing Season. I'm also a fitness fanatic, having recently completed two triathlons, and I'm involved in animal rescue efforts with Project Pet in Columbia.

As the Alumni Board works to formulate our vision and plans for the next two years, we welcome your input as to how we can better serve the more than 25,000 former students who call Furman alma mater. If you have thoughts and concerns, please e-mail clare@claremorrisagency.com.

IN CLOSING, I wanted to offer a quick note about Homecoming 2009. Among the "Golden Paladins" who returned to the "new" campus in October to reminisce about days of yore were Jose Vargas of Garrett Park, Md., and John T. James of Charlottesville, Va., both members of the Class of '44. They made the long trek south with their wives to celebrate their 65th reunion. Despite the less than stellar weather, they report that they had a wonderful time.

And Harry Baumgardner '39 of Greenville, who played on the last football team to beat Clemson, was on campus for his 70th reunion. He brought some memorabilia with him — including a picture of him with Furman Bisher '38, the legendary sports writer for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. (See page 39.)

Would that we all could have the opportunity — and energy — to return to Furman almost three-quarters of a century after graduating!

— CLARE FOLIO MORRIS

CLASS NOTES, WINTER 2010

54

Ted Tibbs is in his 50th year as organist at Southside Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. The church recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Samford Memorial Pipe Organ, which Ted helped to design. He is a professor emeritus of music at Samford University, where he taught from 1959 until 2002.

MARRIAGE: **Kaye Adams Cook** and Bert J. Lampert, Jr., May 3. They live in Raleigh, N.C.

56

James Crenshaw, Robert L. Flowers Professor Emeritus of Hebrew Bible at Duke University Divinity School, spoke at Furman October 26 on "Hebrew Wisdom and Contemporary Calling: Three Things You Must Know to Escape the 'Evil One'." His lecture was sponsored by Furman's Lilly Center for Vocational Reflection. James is a leading interpreter of wisdom literature and has published widely on biblical prophecy. In addition to teaching for two decades at Duke, he was on the faculty at Vanderbilt University Divinity School for 18 years.

60

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Helen DeLoach Fincher Hardman, who has 28 years of experience in travel and tourism marketing and management in the state of Georgia, has been appointed to the board of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission for Region 2. She lives in Dahlonega.

62

Elizabeth Harrill Mitchell, president of the Maine Senate, is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor. The primary will be held in June. Libby is a longtime leader in Maine politics, having served nine terms in the state House, where she is a former Speaker, and three

in the Senate. If elected, she will be the first woman to be governor of the state. Visit www.libbymitchellforgovernor.com.

69

James '65 and **Karen Olsen Edwards** live in Aiken, S.C., where she has started a residential real estate brokerage business. James is verifications loan officer for Wyndham Resorts.

Robert McKeown has been named interim director of the Institute for the Advancement of Health Care, the centerpiece of a developing relationship between the University of South Carolina and the Greenville Hospital System. He serves as chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Arnold School of Public Health at USC and as director of the university's Health Sciences Research Core.

Angela Buzzett Shiflet, Larry Hearn McCalla Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., was named the 2009 South Carolina Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Shiflet has chaired the Department of Computer Science at Wofford since 1998 and has been director of computational science since 2001.

71

Susan Thomson Shi, Furman's First Lady, received the 2009 All for the Love of Children Award from the Children's Hospital Development Council of Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center. The honor goes to a community leader who has made significant contributions on behalf of children. Susan was recognized as "a role model throughout her years in Greenville in promoting the importance of early childhood education and intervention."

74

Eric Berg retired from the U.S. Army in September as a colonel after 31 years of service, with a four-year break for medical school. He is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm (Third Armored Division) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Armed Forces Medical Examiner System). A forensic pathologist, he worked with the recovery of the remains of those killed in the terrorist attack at the Pentagon on 9/11, helped bring back the bodies of Americans killed when a suicide bomber attacked the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, and assisted with the recovery of the remains of the seven astronauts killed in the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia. Now working as a civilian employee for the Army, he lives in Clarksville, Tenn.

Marion Soards, author and professor of New Testament at Louisville (Ky.) Presbyterian Theological Seminary, delivered the "What Really Matters" L.D. Johnson Lecture at Furman October 29.

Lynn Stall is pastor of Rumpel Memorial Presbyterian Church in Blowing Rock, N.C.

75

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

N. Staten Bitting, Jr., has been elected president of the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association. GDLA is an organization of lawyers who defend civil suits and proceedings. He is a partner in the firm of Fulcher Hagler LLP in Augusta.

Nancy Cox, associate dean for research in the College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky, was honored in October with a Vision Award from Bluegrass Tomorrow, a coalition of business, farming, development and preservation interests dedicated to promoting coordinated growth and planning for the central Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Cox, who directs the

Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station and is administrative leader for the university's equine initiative, was recognized for her support of the equine industry.

The city of Fredericksburg, Va., has hired **Richard Tremblay** as its economic development manager. He most recently was executive vice president with the residential division of Silver Cos. and previously served as planning director for Stafford County.

78

Yadkin Valley Financial Corporation of North Carolina, the holding company for Yadkin Valley Bank and Trust Company, has named **Jan Hunt Hollar** chief financial officer. Most recently she served as senior vice president and chief financial officer of BlueHarbor Bank in Mooresville, N.C.

83

Bill Ellison of Piedmont, S.C., and his jazz band "Staggered," composed of people who suffer from Meniere's disease and other hearing impairments, have produced a self-titled CD of American standards to help raise awareness of the disease. Visit www.staggered.biz to learn more.

David Grier of Greenville has become director of program and dealer development with TCI, a subsidiary of Michelin.

Michael Mohr has joined Wilmington Trust, a wealth management company, as managing director and head of investment advisory activities for the Southeast region. Michael was previously a founding principal of The Arden Group and a portfolio manager with SunTrust Bank. He is a member of the finance council and investment committee of the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta and a member of the board of Eagle Ranch Children's Home, which supports children in crisis.

2009-10 ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Clare Folio Morris '83, president; J. Chris Brown '89, president-elect; Harriet Arnold Wilburn '74, past president; Rebecca Ann Armacost '89; Lynn Neely Bailey '78; N. Staten Bitting, Jr. '75; Frank W. Blackwell '90; John M. Block '63; Mary Lou Walch Cagle '69; Bobby E. Church '78; Paul D. Goebel '63; Michael L. Guynn '91; Shannon Scruby Henderson '75; L. Yates Johnson, Jr. '59; Gwinn Earle Kneeland '89; J. Cordell Maddox '54; James N. Martin '79; Herman A. Matherson, Jr. '79; Andrew C. Medlyn '97; Matthew A. Miller '99; Joseph C. Moon, Jr. '76; William P. Morrow, Jr. '54; Emmett L. Patrick '56; Scott W. Raeber '92; Gordon D. Seay '61; Ellison L. Smith '89; Leslie L. Smith '91; Cynthia Black Sparks '80; Heyward M. Sullivan '59; William N. Turrentine '64; Connie Gartrell Williams '74.

Ex-Officio and Other Members: David Shi '73, president; Michael Gatchell '91, vice president for development; Tom Triplitt '76, director of Alumni Association; Jane Dungan, associate director of Alumni Association; Tina Hayes Ballew '78, associate director of Alumni Association; Cal Hurst '04, president, Young Alumni Council; Andrew Yowler '10, president, Student Alumni Council; Ben Able '10, president, Association of Furman Students; Rick Harris '10, president, Senior Class.

84

ADOPTION: **G. Allen Barbee**, a son, Donald Allen Barbee, born July 25, 1998, adopted October 30, 2009, Marietta, Ga.

85

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Todd Deaton, editor of the *Western Recorder* in Louisville, Ky., has earned his doctorate in education from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

89

John Blevins has been appointed research professor at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta. He works with the Interfaith Health Program to coordinate community mobilization projects in eastern and southern Africa.

George Quarles, head football coach at Maryville (Tenn.) High School, was the coach of the East team in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, an all-star game for high school players held January 9 in San Antonio, Texas. In his 11 seasons at Maryville, George has led his teams to seven state 4A titles and compiled a 150-12 record. His 2009 squad finished 13-2 and lost in the state 6A championship game.

90

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Emily Radford Hill of Plano, Texas, has been named vice president of the board of directors for the Texas Organization of Parents, Attorneys and Advocates. TOPAA helps secure appropriate educational services for children with disabilities. She also works to protect the civil rights of children with special needs.

91

Steve Duggan has been inducted into the Sumter (S.C.) High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He is also a member of Furman's Athletic Hall of Fame and the Sumter Sports Hall of Fame. A football and soccer standout and 1986 Male Athlete of the Year at Sumter High, he teaches and coaches in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Lori Schock of Arlington, Va., has been named director of the Office of Investor Education and Advocacy (OIEA) for the Securities and Exchange Commission. She was formerly associate director at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority's Investor Education Foundation and Office of Investor Education.

BIRTH: **Paul '93** and **Carol Ann Zuppa Good**, a daughter, Arabella Caroline McGrew Good, June 25, Greenville.

92

Michael Overcash was named by the South Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants as the Physician Assistant of the Year. Michael practices medical dermatology in Charleston and serves on the board of Palmetto Medical Initiative, a non-profit organization that works to take medical and PA students overseas to participate in medical missions. He is preparing medical mission teams to travel to Uganda and South Africa this spring. He is also the founder and immediate past president of the South Carolina Association of PAs in Dermatology.

BIRTH: **John** and **Miranda Wilsey**, a daughter, Sally Elizabeth, June 14, Barboursville, Va.

93

Timothy McCullough recently joined Vista Capital Management Group in Greenville as controller.

Rashmi Anand Smith of Arlington, Va., has joined the Office of Inspector General in the Department of the Treasury.

MARRIAGE: **Raina Renita Wood**

and Michael Paul Rathke, September 19. Both are organists, and Michael owns a pipe organ building company in New Castle, Ind.

BIRTHS: **Doug** and **Martha Rivers**

Davisson, a daughter, Mary Jane, May 29. They live in Williston, S.C.

Ben and **Jamie Moon Merrill**, a son, Dylan James, September 23, Charleston, S.C.

Nathan and **Amy Heidebrecht Woolwine**, a daughter, Sally Katherine, March 25, 2009, Concord, N.C.

94

Allison Jeffrey Hanauer of Collierville, Tenn., works for the Department of Defense as a civilian psychologist at NSA Mid-South, the U.S. Navy base outside Memphis. She previously served seven years on active duty with the U.S. Air Force, deploying to Iraq before transferring into the inactive reserve and working in private practice for three years.

Jerry Kane, assistant professor of information systems in the Carroll School of Management at Boston College, published an article in the *Harvard Business Review* titled "Community Relations 2.0: With the rise of real-time social media, the rules about community outreach have changed." The article focuses on how companies and other organizations must handle community outreach differently in the age of social media.

BIRTH: **Keith** and **Angie Waller**, a daughter, Abigail Reece, February 3, 2009, Gallatin, Tenn.

95

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

MARRIAGE: **Nancy Fullbright** and Peter Hendy, November 17. They live in Savannah, Ga.. Nancy is a communications officer for the Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute and Peter is an engineer at Gulfstream Aerospace.

BIRTHS: **Jeff '94** and **Stacy Williams Fuson**, a son, Coleman Jeffrey, July 7, Kennesaw, Ga.

David Lanning and **Adriana Bolanos-Davila**, a daughter, Rose Lee Lanning, November 5, Simpsonville, S.C.

Jerry and **Meredith Tomlinson**

Williams, a son, John Duncan, April 23, Lillington, N.C. Meredith is chair of the Department of Mathematics and Information Technology & Security at Campbell University, and Jerry is a psychological operations specialist in the U.S. Army.

96

BIRTHS: **Michael '97** and **Shawn Pierce Barfield**, a daughter, Elizabeth Belle, June 3, Charleston, S.C.

Mark and **Debbie Drew Berry**, a son, Maxwell Crawford, May 8, Charleston, S.C. Tripp and **Sherri Lewis Martin**, a son, Lewis Anderson Martin, October 1. They live in Liberty, S.C.

Rob and **Britt Riedl Young**, a son, Dawson Koa, September 2, Reno, Nev.

97

MARRIAGE: **Lori Boatright** and Randy McDowell, November 14. They live in Athens, Ga., where Randy is a systems analyst for Campus Crusade for Christ.

BIRTHS: **John** and **Melanie Dobson Hughes**, a son, Elijah Reid, November 30, 2008. They live in Carbondale, Colo., where John has opened Aspen Integrative Medicine. His practice offers care through osteopathy, nutritional support, prolotherapy, ozone therapy and other means of treatment.

Jon and **Rachel Zola Hutchison**, a daughter, Abby Diane, May 18, Sterling, Va.

98

Marie Swann Cope has been hired as assistant rector at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Spartanburg, S.C.

Michael Davis has been named chief executive officer of Sandhills Regional Medical Center in Hamlet, N.C. He previously was with Mary Black Health System in Spartanburg, S.C. The Los Angeles office of Alston & Bird LLP has named **Andrew Howard** a partner in the firm's construction and government contracts group. Andrew is a member of the American Bar Association's Public Contract Law Section and Construction Industry Forum and frequently lectures on the topic of public construction contracting. He is co-author of *The ABCs of Federal Government Contracting* and is a contributing author to both *The Construction Law Handbook* and *The Construction Contracts Book: How to Find Common Ground in Negotiating Design and Construction Contract Clauses*.

BIRTHS: Clay and **Jennie Connor Council**, a daughter, Madeline Kathleen, February 16, 2009, Raleigh, N.C.

Travis and **Amy Lang Johnson**, a son, Aidan Birch, November 4. Travis recently completed a master's degree in public health at Harvard University. The family is moving to Bundibugyo, Uganda, to work with a community development team through World Harvest Mission. Visit web.me.com/travisandamyjohnson. Blake and **Peyton Burke Lewis**, a daughter, Carter Burke, September 30, Greenville.

99

Jennifer Adamson Moorhead was selected by *Greenville* magazine as one of the city's "Best and Brightest Under 35" for 2009. The annual list recognizes individuals for their accomplishments and service to the community. Jennifer is an attorney with Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP, specializing in real estate and business transactions. She is a member of the South Carolina Bar Association, Greenville Chamber Real Estate Group and the



HELP BUILD THE COLLECTION

The Special Collections and Archives Department of the James B. Duke Library is always looking to add to its trove of memorabilia.

This image was recently digitized from its original format as a glass plate negative. Pictured are athletes at the Greenville Woman's College from the year 1930. If you can identify the women in this photograph, contact danielle.fisher@furman.edu, (864) 294-2194.

The department is also trying to complete its collection of GWC yearbooks by locating a 1904 edition of the *Blue and Gold* and 1909 and 1910 editions of *Entre Nous*. Contact Danielle Fisher if you can help.

International Council of Shopping Centers. She is vice president of the Young Alumni Council at Furman and is a board member of the South Carolina Council on Economic Education.

Brent Rosser of Charlotte, N.C., has been promoted to counsel status by Hunton & Williams LLP. His commercial litigation practice focuses on environmental matters, consumer finance, and contract and construction disputes. In early 2009 Benchmark Litigation recognized him as a North Carolina "Future Litigation Star."

MARRIAGES: **Michael David Schmidt** and Stacey Michelle Rockwell, September 12. He is director of sales with At Net Services and she is a dental sales professional with Heraeus Kulzer, LLC. They live in Greenville.

Brian Sumrall and Lauren Gracco, October 18, 2008. Brian has opened a private law practice in Atlanta.

BIRTHS: **Newman '00** and **Julie Mancini Bankston**, a daughter, Celia Elizabeth, July 9, Knoxville, Tenn.

Connor and **Brigid Kennedy Chambers**, a daughter, Moira Therese, September 8, 2008. They live in Fairview Park, Ohio.

Mark and Emily Turner Foster, a daughter, Sophia Helen, July 1. They live in Greenville where Emily has joined the pediatric neurology group at Greenville Hospital System.

David and **Jennifer Granger Guidry**, a daughter, Julia Granger Guidry, November 19, 2008, Charlotte, N.C.

Chad and **Melissa Faulkner McAllister**, a daughter, Lynley Joy, November 6. They live in Inman, S.C.

Bill and **Meredith Bridwell Smith**, a son, Wells McCall, June 12. They live in Greenville.

Matt and **Sarah Odell Smith**, a son, Turner William, June 8. They live in Anchorage, Alaska.

00

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

David McDowell has been named a member of the law firm of Gearhiser, Peters, Lockaby, Cavett, and Elliott, PLLC, in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Izetta Simmons completed her first foreign service tour in Accra, Ghana. She is now on a two-year assignment in Dakar, Senegal, as a foreign service officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development, working in the fields of health, population and nutrition.

MARRIAGE: Shelby Huie and Justin McNinch, August 8. They live in Charlotte, N.C., where she is a nurse at Carolinas Medical Center and he is a transportation broker.

BIRTHS: Andy and Lesley Morgan '01 Peters, a daughter, Vada Caroline, June 27, Atlanta. Both Andy and Lesley are residential real estate agents with Keller Williams Realty.

CLASS NOTES POLICY

Because of the large number of submissions and clippings Furman receives for the magazine's class notes section and the time needed to review, compile and edit so much information, news items frequently are not published until five or six months after they are submitted.

Furman magazine does not publish dated items (anything more than 18 months old at time of publication) or engagement announcements. When sending news for class notes, please include your spouse's or child's name, whether your spouse is a Furman graduate, and the date and city where the birth or marriage occurred.

When sent electronically, news about alumni couples who graduated in different years is included under the graduation date of the submitter. In other cases it goes under the earliest graduation date. It is not listed with both classes.

Send news to the Office of Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or e-mail to alumni@furman.edu. Selected information submitted to the on-line alumni registry (<http://alumni.furman.edu>) is included in class notes.

Lee and Susan **Smith**, a son, Landis Mack, August 13, Atlanta. Lee is director of student academic operations at Emory College of Arts and Sciences, and Susan is a librarian at Georgia State University.

Tyson and Caroline Dodge '01 Smoak, a daughter, Mildred Louise, June 30. They live in Greenville.

01

In his first year as coach of the men's soccer team at Coker College in Hartsville, S.C., **Paul Leese** led the squad to a 12-5-3 record, the best in school history, and the Conference Carolinas tournament championship.

Matthew B. Vasey, an emergency medicine resident in New York City, edits *The New York Journal of Style and Medicine* (www.nyjism.com), which describes itself as "an editor-reviewed, Web-based medical publication written

by doctors who are passionate about reaching out to the non-medical community about a variety of topics." The site features "artistic material and interviews that explore many aspects of entertainment . . . music, photography, modeling, fashion, design and art, along with professional athlete and celebrity interviews as they relate to medicine."

MARRIAGES: Kristina Groce and Benjamin Brown, August 1. Kristina earned her Ph.D. in school psychology from North Carolina State University. Benjamin is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Arkansas-Monticello.

Annah Gullede and Michael Hiers, October 31. She is director of youth ministries at St. John's United Methodist Church in Lugoff, S.C., and he works for BlueCross BlueShield.

Kyle Moody and Laura Stinson, October 3. They live in Atlanta.

BIRTHS: Wes and Emily Coleman Botts, a son, Brittin Turner Botts, May 27, Birmingham, Ala.

Allan and Carrie Smith Burns, a daughter, Laura Avery, August 5. They live in Richmond, Va., where Allan is an attorney with Cravens and Noll, P.C., and Carrie is an employee benefits consultant with Willis.

Jason and Ashley Hicks Holbrook, a daughter, Avery Sue, April 17. They live in Westerville, Ohio.

Drew and **Katie Wyatt Johnson**, a daughter, Henley Margaret, October 12. They live in Smyrna, Ga.

David and Catherine **Koysza**, a daughter, Caroline Frances, April 2, Greenville.

David practices business, securities and bankruptcy litigation with the law firm of Wyche Burgess Freeman & Parham.

The September issue of *Greenville* magazine named him one of "Greenville's Best and Brightest Under 35," an annual list that recognizes individuals for their accomplishments and service to the community.

Kevin '99 and Kristin Simpson Leedy, a son, Connor, April 30, Birmingham, Ala. Kevin has opened The Leedy Group, a consulting company for water infrastructure and economic development. Kristin is a veterinarian.

Wyeth and **Amanda Dowtin McLaughlin**, a daughter, Elizabeth Carter McLaughlin, May 30, Greensboro, N.C. Joel and **Hayley Odell Simoneau**, a daughter, Bria Ruth Mackenzie, July 27. They live in Harvest, Ala.

02

Rudy Currence released an EP titled "Last Christmas" in November on the Disturbing Tha Peace Records label. It is available through iTunes, Amazon.com and Napster. He is working on his debut album for the company.

Megan Theiling Draper is director of development for the College of Pharmacy at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She is co-owner with her husband, Trevor, of TMD Architects, a firm that was featured in the fall 2009 *Charleston Home & Design* magazine.

Paul Foster of Simpsonville, S.C., a representative with Northwestern Mutual Finance Network, was invited to attend the 2009 Northwestern Mutual Forum, held in November in Scottsdale, Ariz. The invitation was in recognition of his outstanding performance.

Elizabeth Coker Hamlett has become university collections manager at Furman. She has worked for a number of museums and historic groups in South Carolina and most recently worked for Informal Learning Experiences, a museum consulting firm in Washington, D.C.

MARRIAGES: Robin Hinson and Michael Kanady, June 27. Robin, a reporter for WOLO-TV in Columbia, S.C., was nominated for a 2009 Emmy for her coverage of a fatal plane crash that injured two celebrity musicians. Michael is a sales representative with Colonial Life Insurance.

Dulaney Wible and Benjamin Farkas, October 17. They live in Cockeysville, Md.

BIRTHS: Will and Jessica Sumner Barrett, a daughter, Kara Leanne, August 12, Johnson City, Tenn.

William and **Bonnie Warman Byrnes**, a son, Kieran Philip, February 10, 2009, Richmond, Va.

Brent and Kelly Benning '01 Huckaby, a son, Judah Pace, April 24. Brent is director of worship and arts at Hope Church in Dallas, Ga. Kelly recently joined a grant-writing consulting firm, where

she works to secure federal, state and foundation funding for community health centers and other clients.

Josh and Natalie **Patterson**, a son, Cooper Wright, September 8. Josh is an assistant principal at Boiling Springs Intermediate School. They live in Duncan, S.C.

Doug and Jody James '03 Webb, a son, Charles Douglas, February 25, 2009. Doug recently accepted the staff attorney position with the Greenville County School District.

SPORTSWRITING LEGEND BISHER RETIRES

With the retirement of James Furman Bisher, the world of journalism lost one of its all-time greats.

A veteran of more than 70 years in the newspaper business, Bisher spent the last 59 years of his career as sports editor and columnist at *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* — until October 11, 2009, when, just a few weeks before his 92nd birthday, he published his final column.

The North Carolina native covered it all, from the Olympics to the Masters, from the World Series to the Kentucky Derby, Super Bowl and Final Four. He wrote for national magazines and authored books with and about such legendary figures as Henry Aaron, Arnold Palmer and others. His distinctive flair and insightful style earned him a legion of faithful readers and a host of awards.

His work was included in the “Best Sports Stories of the Year” anthology 23 times. He received the Georgia Associated Press Sports Writing Award 18 times, was named the state’s Sportswriter of the Year 19 times, and won the Professional Golfers’ Association’s Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award. He is a member of the National Sportscaster and Sportswriters Hall of Fame, the International Golf Writers Hall of Fame, the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

As Vince Moore wrote in the Fall 1995 *Furman Magazine*, Bisher is “one of America’s best sportswriters and one of Atlanta’s best-known citizens.”

Bisher is also a member of Furman’s Class of 1938 — even though he actually earned his degree from the University of North Carolina. He had intended to finish his college career at Furman, but he was thrown a curve at the start of his junior year.

Bisher told Moore he thought he was set at Furman — he had a scholarship and was planning to be manager of the football team and sports editor of *The Hornet*, the student newspaper. But just two weeks into the term, he learned that Furman would not be offering any journalism classes that year, and journalism was his primary interest. After talking to his father, he decided to transfer to North Carolina.

Still, he said, “I made a lot of good friends when I was in Greenville, and they are friends I have stayed in touch with over the years.”

His loyalty to Furman was evident when he established the J. Furman Bisher Academic/Athletic Scholarship, which is awarded to four top scholar/athletes each year. The university, in turn, honored him in 1978 with the Distinguished Alumni Award and in 1999 with an honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

Commenting on Bisher’s retirement, Furman president David Shi joked that the sportswriter “is so distinguished that many people assume that Furman was named for him rather than the other way around.” More seriously, Shi said that Bisher “effectively uses his agile words about athletics and athletes to help readers reflect on much larger issues . . . Over many years,



Furman Bisher has prompted countless readers to stop and reflect about sports but also about life — and what really matters.”

For those who’d like to sample Bisher’s talents, a good place to start is *Furman Bisher: Face to Face*, a 2005 collection of some of his best interviews (Muhammad Ali, Ted Turner, John Wooden and others). Or visit <http://furmanbisher.wordpress.com>.

03

Paige Harden of Austin, Texas, has completed her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of Virginia and her clinical internship at Harvard Medical School/McLean Hospital. She is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Texas.

MARRIAGES: **Ryan Gooch** and Katie Holmes, November 11, 2008. They live in Brentwood, Tenn.

Kenneth Hamner and Michelle Sawyer, October 24. They live in Atlanta where she works as a fundraiser for Emory University and he manages on-line advertising campaigns for 360i.

Erik Huffman and Jaime Dugan, April 4. Erik and Jaime met as contestants on the 15th season of the CBS reality show "Survivor." They live in Nashville, Tenn.

Stephanie Anne Morris and Brian Kelly, August 2, 2008. Stephanie is a technology integrationist at Delay Middle School in Lewisville, Texas.

BIRTHS: **Mike '02** and **Ashley Callahan Baisley**, a son, Benjamin Michael, July 14. They live in Knoxville, Tenn., where Mike recently joined the law firm of Hodges, Doughty & Carson, PLLC. Steven and **Nikki Kuhne Bell**, a son, Hayden, October 1. They live in Junction City, Kan.

AS METLIFE FELLOW, PARKER HAS VOICE IN EDUCATION DIALOGUE

Two days after she graduated from Furman in 2007, Jeneca Parker began a master's program in childhood education at Pace University in Manhattan as a New York City Teaching Fellow. The program helps educators learn to work on narrowing the achievement gap among students in inner city schools.

It wasn't long before Parker, a fifth-grade teacher at Coy L. Cox School in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn, became alarmed by what she considered a lack of quality education afforded to children with special needs. She decided to complete her master's with a concentration on children with disabilities.

Today, through her work with special needs students, she has a chance not just to influence individual lives, but national education policy as well.

Parker was recently named a MetLife Fellow by the Teachers Network Learning Institute (TNLI), a select group of educators nationwide who are committed to bringing teachers' voices to bear on the national conversation about education. MetLife Fellows document their classroom work in papers and publications, share their work locally and nationally, and suggest ways to improve classroom practices. Their "action research studies" address the direct link between policymaking and its effects on student achievement.

One area of particular interest to Parker is reducing students' anxiety levels when taking standardized tests. Because of their disabilities, she says, her students tend to feel defeated before they ever begin the test.

She is also examining how to build students' confidence, especially in reading. "I was so tired of hearing this mantra: 'I can't read.' It's really frustrating as a teacher because they can read," she says. "But they don't see themselves as readers because they know they're struggling in comparison to other kids their age."

A native of Orlando, Fla., Parker initially planned to major in Asian Studies at Furman. She even traveled to China her sophomore year. But eventually, she says,

"I realized what I was passionate about was far bigger than a region of the world. I wanted to get folks out of poverty."

Through Furman's Individualized Curriculum Program, she designed a major called "International Development Studies" — and wound up traveling to Latin America and Africa. With each stamp on her passport, education inched up on her post-graduate agenda.

"I saw that the building block to development was working with these kids to give them better resources and better opportunities, so they could have a better quality of life," Parker says.

She's seen results. One student, Melanie, was reading at a second grade level, and Parker learned that the girl's foster parents ridiculed her because she was unable to read the newspaper. "That was a big problem because she is a smart young lady, and I wanted her to believe in herself," Parker says.

Initially, Melanie refused to see herself as a reader. But slowly, with Parker's encouragement, she made progress.

At the end of the year at Cox School, each student gives a brief speech. When her turn came, Melanie stepped up and said, "Thank you, Ms. Parker. I am a reader. You taught me how to read."

From Parker's perspective, Melanie was always fully capable. "But now she has confidence in herself," Parker says. "I know she's going to go so far."

As she completes her third year of teaching, Parker relishes the accomplishments of the children with whom she works each day. "I am far from perfect, but every day I'm learning," she says. "I can tell that I'm improving because I can see it in my students' attitudes and their small milestones of success."

— PIPER GRAY

The author, a 2008 graduate, is a freelance writer in New York City. Visit her blog, <http://litshardoutthereforatemp.blogspot.com>. Photo courtesy Jeneca Parker.



Jeneca Parker hopes to reduce students' anxiety about taking standardized tests.

Cameron and **Katie Mathews Garvin**, a son, Reese Kendrick, September 28. They live in Fort Valley, Ga.

Luke and Jennifer Luckenbill '04 **Swetland**, a son, Mark Christopher, May 31. They are with the U.S. Army, based in Germany.

04

Joyce Monforte Hollins has earned her master's degree in professional counseling from Middle Tennessee State University. She lives in Franklin, Tenn., and is a counselor at Centennial High School.

Dorothy Powers recently completed her MBA degree at the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School. She was scheduled to join Deloitte Consulting in January as a senior consultant with the strategy and operations practice out of Atlanta.

MARRIAGES: Laura Cunningham and Jonathan James Stair, August 15. They live in Atlanta.

Miranda Dunn and Marshall Orme Klein, October 17. They live in Atlanta where Miranda works in the office of Georgia governor Sonny Perdue. Marty owns a political consulting company.

Katie Hammond and John Hanson, August 1. They live in Matthews, N.C.

Karen Nelsen and Jeramiah McGinnity, September 5. They live in Atlanta.

Kay Parham and John Alexander, February 14, 2009. They live in Atlanta.

Sarah Thomason and Joseph Hoffmeyer '05, September 19. They live in Greenville.

Mary Elizabeth Thompson and Jeffrey Jacob Meyer, July 11. They live in Lawrence, Kan. She is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in flute performance at the University of Kansas and is employed as the grant writing assistant at the university's Lied Performing Arts Center. He is completing his D.M.A. degree in tuba performance from the Cleveland Institute

of Music and is employed by the Kansas Department of Veterans Affairs.

Kristi Wright and William Davenport '06, October 4. They live in Silver Spring, Md.

05

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Justin Cash received his Juris Doctor degree from American University's Washington College of Law and is completing a Master of Laws degree in taxation at the Washington, D.C., school.

Kate Sakolosky earned her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. She lives in Austin, Texas, and works for Central Texas Rehabilitation Hospital.

John Tynan was elected in November to a seat on the board of the Greenville Water System. He is a project manager for Upstate Forever, an environmental group that promotes conservation, sustainability and preservation of water and air quality in the Upstate.

J. Buckley Warden IV has joined the Richmond, Va., office of DuretteBradshaw PLC as an associate in the commercial litigation practice group. He previously served as a law clerk to The Hon. G. Edward Welmaker of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of South Carolina.

MARRIAGES: Luke Barbour and Alice Martin, July 18. They live in Charlotte, N.C.

Krista Joyce Davenport and Robert Clifton Timmerman, Jr., September 12. They live in Gainesville, Fla. She is completing an internship in internal medicine before beginning her radiology residency at the University of Florida, where he is a second-year anesthesiology resident.

Matthew Gooch and Deanna Farris, September 26. They live in Nashville, Tenn. Matthew has earned a master's degree in exercise science from Middle Tennessee State University.

KEEP UP THROUGH YOUTUBE

Did you know that Furman has a YouTube channel? The university has posted videos for a variety of constituents, from alumni to prospective students and parents, at www.youtube.com/thefurmanchannel.

The videos provide information about programs and services offered at Furman, as well as updates and features about university activities and initiatives.

For example, one series of videos features Forrest Stuart, director of financial aid, who offers advice on how to pay for college. Other videos cover summer research in the Townes Science Center, examine new courses such as "Engaged in Politics," follow students in the Chinese language house as they prepare a meal, and offer testimonials from students about how donors' contributions directly affect and support their Furman experience.

So next time you visit YouTube, check out the Furman channel.

06

Michael Cooper works for AmeriCorps in Woburn, Mass. He is an outreach and technology coordinator with Social Capital Inc., a non-profit that focuses on strengthening communities by connecting diverse individuals and groups through civic initiatives. He is completing a master's degree in ethics and public policy at Suffolk University.

John Dickson, a student at Harvard University Medical School, has been recognized by *Cambridge Who's Who* for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in medical research. He is four years into an eight-year M.D./Ph.D. program, focusing his studies on biological chemistry and molecular pharmacology.

Dan Ennis graduated from law school at Washington and Lee University. He passed the Georgia Bar and works in Atlanta for the Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs law firm, where he practices in the area of commercial finance, dealing with asset-based lending.

Anna Lee Gresham has graduated from the University of Alabama with a master's degree in journalism.

Kimberly Jackson was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church December 19 at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta.

David Mitchell graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law and is employed by Balch & Bingham, LLP, in Birmingham as an associate in the environmental and natural resources practice group.

MARRIAGES: Sarah Gilchrist Heedy (M.A. '07) and John Perry Folk, June 27. Sarah, a teacher at Monaview Elementary School in Greenville, was recently named Emerging Elementary Teacher of the Year for the Greenville County School System. John is vice president of Able Constructors.

Lee Ann Wooten and Hugh Thompson Rice III, October 24. They live in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where she is an attorney in the office of John M. Leiter, PA. H.T. has served as a law clerk for the South Carolina Senate Judiciary Committee.



THIRD ALUMNI RETREAT PLANNED

If you're contemplating a life transition or looking for a fresh perspective, you can join Furman alumni of all ages and stages of life to share wisdom, intellectual stimulation, fun, friends and transformation — in other words, the best of what you remember about Furman!

The Alumni Association is joining with the Lilly Center for Vocational Reflection to offer its third alumni retreat July 29-August 1. The 2010 theme is "Simpler Living; Radical Change." All interested Furman alumni may attend, but spaces are limited and reservations required.

The retreat will begin with dinner on Thursday evening and end at noon on Sunday. Participants will learn about new ideas in sustainability and will consider practical lifestyle changes that promote personal and planetary well-being.

Current and former faculty members will lead sessions and speak on "Dreaming Dreams, Living Lives." They are: John Crabtree, English and academic vice president emeritus; David Rutledge, Reuben B. Pitts Professor of Religion; Margaret Oakes, professor of English; and Paula Gabbert, associate academic dean and associate professor of computer science.

Housing will be in North Village apartments, with most meals on campus. Cost for the weekend, including room, board and program expenses, will be \$295, with an additional charge of \$12.50 for those who would like the university to supply linens.

Reservation forms are available on-line at <http://furmanlilly.com>. Reservations will be accepted until May 3 unless all spaces are filled earlier.

In addition, the Lilly Center has announced plans for an alumni pilgrimage to Ireland in July 2011.

In the summer of 2009 a group traveled to Compostela, Spain, for an enriched spiritual experience during which they explored their vocational callings. The Ireland trip will offer similar opportunities. Cost is to be determined, but an early estimate is \$2,000 plus airfare.

Contact ann.quattlebaum@furman.edu, (864) 294-2511, to learn more.

07

Allison Carpenter Bellomo graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine with a Master of Science degree in genetic counseling. She works as a genetic counselor in the Greenville office of the Greenwood Genetic Center.

Ben Fulp was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in August.

Andrew Orr works for the city of Franklin, Tenn., as a sustainability/grants coordinator. He pursues grants tied to sustainability and environmental efforts, as well as all the grant applications for city departments. He previously was a grant writer for Blue Print 2000, an intergovernmental agency in Tallahassee, Fla.

Soprano **Erika Grace Powell** made her solo debut January 18 at Avery Fisher Hall in New York's Lincoln Center as part of the Concert for Peace celebrating the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. Visit her Web site, www.erikagracepowell.com.

Elizabeth Roach is deputy speechwriter for Gov. Steve Beshear of Kentucky.

Shani Robinson has joined the NORCEE Finance Office of AXA in Brussels, Belgium, as a junior analyst for the regional finance team. She previously spent a year teaching English in Paris.

Patrick Smith earned a master's degree in computer science from the University of Texas-Dallas.

Jessica Taylor of Arlington, Va., has been named assistant Web editor for "2010," a new site being launched by the journalistic organization POLITICO. She previously worked at *National Journal*, where she was the research director for the 2010 edition of *The Almanac of American Politics*.

MARRIAGES: **Clary Gardner** and Kristopher Aaron, June 27. They live in Chamblee, Ga.

Lauren Graham and Jonathan Kaczmarek, April 25. They live in Matthews, N.C.

Gary Guth and **Sarah Digby Wood**, September 26. She is employed by Inlingua Language and Intercultural Services in Greenville as a course coordinator, and he is a teacher and coach at Christ Church Episcopal School.

Katie Lewis and Andy Kerechanin, April 4. They live in Greenville.

Jennifer Ward and Paris Cornwell, November 8, 2008. They live in Knoxville, Tenn. Jennifer is working on a Master of Public Health degree at the University of Tennessee and serves as the office coordinator at Bridge Refugee Services, which works to resettle refugees from all over the world. Paris, a former U.S. Marine, is now in the Air Force and is working on his degree in mechanical engineering.

08

Ben Anderson has joined the Tysons Corner, Va., office of the Goodman & Co. accounting firm.

Tina Bishop (M.A.) is an instructional specialist at Carolina High School and Academy in Greenville.

Having completed her year as a Compton Mentor Fellow in Haiti, where she worked to promote environmental education, reforestation and use of alternative energy,

Elizabeth Cooke is now pursuing master's degrees in public affairs and environmental science at Indiana University.

Patrick Franks is the executive director of Teneo, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that works to equip leading young professionals with the relationships and tools necessary to advance the conservative cause.

Caitlin Green has earned a Master of Accountancy degree from San Diego State University.

Bonnie O'Neill works as a community development specialist for the Helena (Mont.) Citizens' Council, a group of 28 neighborhood representatives who advise the city commission on the budget and city development.

Major League Soccer's San Jose Earthquakes named midfielder **Shea Salinas** for the club's 2009 Humanitarian of the Year for his outreach activities in and around the California city.

Jennifer Wilder works in San Salvador with the Volunteer Missionary Movement, an international community of lay Christians who are catalysts for peace, social justice and empowerment of the poor and marginalized.

MARRIAGES: Erin Bear and Kyle Brinks, September 6. They live in Savannah, Ga.

Matthew Friedel and Jeannie Tanner, March 21, 2009. They live in Central, S.C.

09

Jeff Heinzl teaches English at Carolina High School and Academy in Greenville.

Karly Schledwitz is a staff assistant for the majority staff of the House Committee on Science and Technology in Washington, D.C.

Melissa Summer teaches third grade at Woodland Heights Elementary School in Spartanburg, S.C. She is working toward her master's degree in early childhood education at Furman.

MARRIAGE: Melissa Raque and Thomas Patterson, June 13. They live in Greer, S.C.

DEATHS

Mattie Hughes Organ '33, June 2, Oakley, Kan. She ran a jewelry business with her late husband.

Frank W. Childers '34, September 27, Bainbridge Island, Wash. He was retired from Childers Inc.

Edith Gresham Kelley '34, November 20, Ware Shoals, S.C. She was a retired editor with the CIA.

Cleveland L. Woods '34, September 5, Greenville. He was retired from Kanawha Insurance Company.

William H. Glass '35, June 30, West Hartford, Conn. He was captain of Furman's swim team and a quarterfinalist for the 1932 Summer Olympics. A graduate of Duke University Medical School, he served as a junior surgeon in the Coast Guard during World War II. He then settled in West Hartford, where he practiced internal medicine for almost 60 years and was president of the Hartford Medical Society. He was a master carpenter and apprentice electrician, championship trap and skeet shooter, and a member and past president of the Hartford Gun Club.

James Edwin "Doc" Meadors '35, September 18, Greenville. He was the retired owner of J.E. Meadors Company. He was a past member of the Home Builders Association and the Salvation Army and served with the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Rebecca Glymph Venters '36, May 29, Hemingway, S.C. She was a retired educator, having taught for more than 30 years in schools in Florence and Williamsburg counties of South Carolina.

Amy Craig Rhoden '37, June 5, Richmond, Va.

Margaret Jolly Wells '37, September 15, Greenville. She taught for more than 32 years in schools in Pickens, Woodruff and Greenville, where she retired from

Hollis Elementary. She was a former music instructor and was associated with League's Music Store.

Thomas Spartan Bruce '38, November 6, Greenville. He and his father owned P.L. Bruce Livestock Company and in 1938 founded Bruce Automobile Auction. In later years he partnered with son Tom in Bruce Implement Company, Bruce Construction Machinery Company and Auction Recon Center Inc., and with son Gary in Bruce Auto Auction. He was a past president of Carolina Farm and Power Equipment Dealers Association and a founding member of the National Automobile Auction Association, receiving the group's Pioneer Award and being inducted into its Hall of Fame in 1985.

He was also a past president and director of Southern Auto Auction Association. He served on the Greenville County Planning Commission and Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission and was a past president and charter member of Goodwill Industries of South Carolina. He was also a member of the Elks and a past president of the Executive Sertoma Club. He was a Shriner, a past director of the Royal Order of Jesters and director emeritus of the Shriner's Hospital for Children. The Goodwill facility on Poinsett Highway in Greenville was named in his honor, and the sculpture of Joel R. Poinsett on Main Street was donated in honor of him and his wife for their contributions to the city.

Susan Nicholson Blythe '39, November 19, Greenville. She was a sustaining member of the Junior League, a member of the Assembly and a past president and advisor to the Debutante Club. She was active in community affairs and served on numerous boards. She was a member and former chair of the Greenville Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of South Carolina.

Virginia Brown Sweeny '39, October 31, Highlands, N.C. While living in Pittsfield, Mass., she participated in United Way fund drives, was inducted into the international Philanthropic Educational Organization and was a member of the Hospital Auxiliary.

C.A. Kirby, Jr. '40, January 13, 2009, Boiling Springs, N.C. He worked for Shuford Hatcher Funeral Home in Gaffney, S.C., and after graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary went on to pastor several churches. He retired after 21 years at Double Springs Baptist Church, which named him pastor emeritus. He also served a number of interim pastorates.

Frances Scott Moffett Conoly '41, September 28, Greenwood, S.C.

Deloris Edwards Adams '43, September 30, Johnston, S.C. She worked for many years at Edwards Insurance Agency.

Ruth Mitchell Coble '43, September 1, Loudon, Tenn. While living in Charlotte, N.C., she and a partner established a nursery school for children whose mothers remained in the work force after World War II. She served 10 years as a volunteer with the Program for the Blind at Bethlehem Center, followed by 10 years of service at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte.

Curran Earle Stone '43, November 11, Toccoa, Ga. He was retired from Hampton Automotive in Columbia, S.C. He was in the U.S. Army during World War II, serving in five major campaigns in Europe, including D-Day on Normandy Beach. He and his wife assisted on many church-building mission trips and worked closely with Habitat for Humanity.

Harry Wills Weeks '43, October 24, Greenville. After college he was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Navy and served in the South Pacific. In 1947 he opened Weeks Company,

CAMPUS DIRECTORY

(area code 864):

Main University Number

294-2000

Academic Records (Registrar)

294-2030

Admission

294-2034

Alumni Association

1-800-PURPLE3

Annual Giving

294-3475

Athletic Ticket Office

294-3097

Bookstore

294-2164

Parents Programs

294-3465

For other administrative offices, call the main number.

Inc., in Greenville, a company that made disappearing stairways. The business eventually expanded to a variety of construction-related projects, including installing and servicing residential and industrial overhead doors and operators. He retired in 1984. He was president of the Augusta Road Kiwanis Club and served on the Kiwanis Board of the Carolinas and as lieutenant governor from the Greenville area.

Sue Chapman Clark '45, September 11, Atlanta. She was a fourth-grade teacher and retired as a teacher-librarian from the DeKalb County School System. She was a member of the Alpha Delta Kappa Teachers' Sorority.

Jeanne Coleman Robinson '45, October 11, Columbia, S.C.

Victor Adair Greene, Sr. '46, September 27, Greenville. He was pastor of Baptist churches in North Carolina, South Carolina

and Georgia. He served as a missionary in the Philippines and saw military service with the U.S. National Guard.

Virginia Grant Harris '46, November 27, Austin, Texas.

Evelyn Hodgens Hayes '46, November 4, Greenville. She held a master's degree from Columbia University and was a music teacher at Elon University in North Carolina and in the Greenville County School System. She was a past president of the Music Club of Greenville.

Lawton Wells, Jr. '46, October 31, Elgin, S.C. He was a Baptist minister, having last served Lakeview Baptist Church in Camden, S.C., for 24 years. The church named him pastor emeritus upon his retirement. He served other churches in South Carolina and Kentucky and was deeply involved with the Bethea Baptist Home in Darlington, S.C.

Ruth Mann Young '46, October 26, Cleveland, N.C. She was a mathematics teacher at several high schools in North Carolina.

Betty Campbell Balentine Gaillard '47, September 28, Greenwood, S.C. She taught at Lakeview School for 20 years and was a member and past president of the American Association of University Women. She served twice as president of the Piedmont Reading Association and was a member of the International Reading Association and the Epsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Mary Lou Lloyd Bailey '49, July 16, Columbia, S.C.

John Theodore Dickerson, Sr. '49, November 5, Easley, S.C. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and in 1948 was ordained to the Baptist ministry. After graduating from college and seminary, he and his wife served as missionaries in Alaska from 1953 to 1995 and then held short pastorates in Simpsonville, S.C., and Geneva, N.Y. He was a member of the Pickens (S.C.) Rotary Club and the Upstate Furman 49ers.

Robert Foster Haddon, Jr. '49, December 4, 2008, Marietta, Ga. He served in the Army Air Force during World War II and went on to work as an engineer for AT&T for 39 years. He was a member of AT&T's Pioneer Club and served on the board of Camp Hope in Dahlonega, Ga.

Samuel Owens Schumann, Sr. '49, November 3, St. Stephen, S.C. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II and obtaining his undergraduate and medical degrees, he became the first board-certified medical practitioner in Berkeley County, S.C. He was a member of the Berkeley County Medical Society, the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians, the South Carolina Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He was also a member of the St. Stephen Lions Club and a former member of the Berkeley County Mental Health Board.

Clyde Thompson Stephens, Jr. '49, October 20, Chester, S.C. He graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and retired as a lieutenant from the South Carolina Highway Patrol, having served 34 years. He was a member of the S.C. Troopers Association and a former member of the U.S. Army Reserve.

Marion Twyman Mathis, Jr. '51, November 4, Piedmont, S.C. He was a member of the U.S. Army's First Cavalry Division during the Korean Conflict and was awarded the Purple Heart. He worked in the jewelry business in Greenville.

Jo Ann Elizabeth Coleman '53, October 16, Travelers Rest, S.C. She was retired from Greenville Memorial Hospital, where she was a laboratory worker.

Martin Ray Willis '53, September 5, Laurens, S.C. He was a former pastor of four Baptist churches in South Carolina.

George Jerome Mitchell '54, October 1, Hendersonville, N.C. He was a retired Baptist minister and a former public school

and college teacher. He pastored several churches in upstate South Carolina, and his teaching career included stints at Slater-Marietta High School, North Greenville College, Spartanburg Methodist College, Boiling Springs High and Dan Greer Bible Institute. He was also a U.S. mail carrier for 10 years.

Jean Boartfield Harris, M.A. '55, Ocean Isle Beach, N.C., October 24. She was a past president of the Limestone College Alumni Association and of the board of trustees at Limestone, which named her its Alumna of the Year in 1977. An avid gardener, she was a nationally accredited "Master Flower Show Judge" and "Landscape Design Master Critic."

John Oneal Roberts '56, September 30, Wewahatchka, Fla. After receiving his pharmacy degree, he owned the Corner Drug Store in Pickens, S.C. He later moved to Florida and worked as a pharmacist at Bay Medical Center, from which he retired after 20 years. He was a Royal Arch Mason of the Easley (S.C.) York Rite Bodies.

Charlotte Louise Orman Kelley '57, October 27, Greenville. She worked in various administrative positions before retiring in 1986. She was a member of the Eastern Star and the National Penwomen's Association, and she was active in various civic organizations.

Bobby Derrick Chambless '58, September 19, Jacksonville, N.C. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 30 years, including two tours in Vietnam. He also served in Hawaii and Okinawa, Japan, and at several bases in the States.

Charles M. McCuen '58, October 10, Pendleton, S.C. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Rufus Samuel Merritt '59, September 20, Easley, S.C. He was retired owner and operator of Merritt Carpet and Tile. He also worked for Wunda Weave and Brookline Carpets.

RICHARD CASS, DISTINGUISHED ARTIST AND TEACHER

Richard Cass was a pianist of great distinction who thrilled audiences in concert halls throughout Europe, Asia and the United States. Known for his technical virtuosity and artistry, he was described by *The New York Times* as “a genuine musical personality” and by the London Daily Telegraph as “a complete artist . . . an important pianist from America.”

While he maintained a steady schedule of recitals and concerts from 1953, when he graduated *summa cum laude* from Furman, until his death November 29 at the age of 78, he was also a highly influential teacher. After working for a time at the University of North Texas, he accepted a position in 1975 at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory, where he would remain for more than 25 years until his retirement. In 1999 UMKC named him a Distinguished Teaching Professor, and a scholarship at the school bears his name. In 1993 he was featured in the book *The Most Wanted Piano Teachers in the USA*.

Noted pianist Robert Blocker '68, Henry and Lucy Moses Dean of Music at Yale University, was one of Cass' students and became his close friend and colleague. Blocker spoke at Cass' funeral, and in his eulogy he offered an eloquent description of his friend's philosophy:

“Music was the garden of Richard's soul, and he tended it with great care,” said Blocker. “He embraced the premise that talent is a divine gift and, as such, it must be shared.

“Richard believed that artists must be involved in and affect the cultural fabric of their communities. That is precisely why his recitals were first for people —

whether in a Kansas City retirement home, a high school in Greenville, Carnegie Hall, or the great halls of Europe. For him, being a pianist carried a higher moral obligation than fame or money . . . Richard's artistry connected his heart to that of the listener.”

A Greenville native, Cass was a student of Wendell Keeney at Furman and was elected to Quaternion, the select honorary men's society. Upon graduation he



earned a Fulbright Scholarship and studied for two years at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris with such renowned artists as Nadia Boulanger, Alfred Cortot and Jules Gentil. After his well-received Paris debut, he won a top prize in the Viotti International Contest in Italy and went on to a series of concert triumphs in Europe and the United States.

Cass was known for his winning personality and widespread interests, among them science, philosophy, religion and politics. He loved gardening, cooking, the outdoors, and spending time with family and friends.

Throughout his life Cass remained close to his hometown and to Furman. The university presented him its Distinguished Alumni Award in 1981, and in recent years he worked with Furman students as a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Music.

“For Richard, teaching was a noble calling rather than a vocation,” said Blocker. “His sensitivity to individual personalities and needs made each student feel special — almost as if you were his only student. Simply put, his teaching inspired us and compelled us to be more than a pianist.”

Richard Cass is survived by his wife, Sanna Bryan '59 Cass, four children, and eight grandchildren.

Kenneth Edgeworth Hough '61, September 20, Brunswick, Maine. He was the headmaster of College Preparatory School in Charleston, S.C., from 1968 to 1981.

Fletcher Seaborn Stone, Jr. '61, September 9, Charlotte, N.C. He served two years in the U.S. Army. He was associated with Hoechst/Celanese for many years until retiring in 1996. He later founded FS Stone Application Technology, Inc.

Eula Lamont Vaughn '63, September 1, Greenville. He was retired from Norfolk/Southern Railroad.

Samuel Ludie Watkins '65, September 4, Laurens, S.C. He was a certified public accountant who was a member of the South Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants and the National Association of Certified Public Accountants. He was also an active member of Sons of Confederate Veterans and was a Civil War re-enactor. He spent 48 years as organist at New Prospect Baptist Church.

John Tyler Hill, Sr. '67, September 22, Fort Myers, Fla. An Allstate Insurance owner/agent for more than 25 years, he was also a Pop Warner football coach and a past chair of the Harry Chapin Food Bank. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club and was a Mason.

William Raymond Scott, M.A. '67, November 12, Spartanburg, S.C. He was founder and co-owner of Scott-Jackson Kitchens from 1953 until 1980. He also taught mathematics at Boiling Springs High School for two years and later gained recognition in several states for his work as an artist. He was a past member of the Civitan Club of Spartanburg and a founding member of the Palmetto Archery Club and the South Carolina Archery Association.



LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SET

Furman's Alumni Office and the Office of Admission have always had a good working relationship. The Admission staff pays close attention to applicants recommended by alumni and reviews all legacy applicants — students whose parents or grandparents are alumni — with special care.

Now the two offices have teamed to develop a scholarship program for legacy students who are accepted to Furman. The scholarship, worth \$5,000, will be available to each accepted legacy student beginning with this fall's Class of 2014. There are two stipulations: The student must be the child or grandchild of an alumnus or alumna, and the award is not "stackable," which means that if the student is already receiving at least \$5,000 in aid from Furman, the scholarship does not apply.

Figures compiled by the Office of Admission confirm that legacies are traditionally strong achievers at Furman and are highly competitive in the overall application pool, no doubt because of their exceptional ancestry.

Furman believes legacy students bring unique and desirable qualities to the university. It is hoped that the legacy scholarship program will help the university continue to foster strong relationships with alumni and their students.

Visit www.engagefurman.com or contact brad.pochard@furman.edu, (864) 294-2034, to learn more.

Arthur Norwood "Woody"

Dickerson, Jr. '69, October 9, Cayce, S.C. He was a retired federal probation officer (sentencing specialist). He served as a juvenile probation officer in Orangeburg, S.C., for nine years before moving to the Columbia area.

Laura Jean Block Michael '70, May 11, Chicago Heights, Ill. She was a library paraprofessional for Garfield Elementary School and Bloom Township High School.

Russell O. Winters '70, August 24, Easley, S.C. He was retired from Ryobi as a marketing manager. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict.

Clinton Walter Kersey, Jr. '71, September 19, Gaithersburg, Md. At the time of his death, he was pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and was former assistant pastor of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church.

Paul L. Vincent '71, September 2, Shelby, N.C. An artist, he was known for his botanical watercolors and fabric collage portraits. His most recent exhibit of spring flowers was at the Blue Spiral Gallery in Asheville, N.C., which, with the Hanson Gallery in Knoxville, Tenn., was the main gallery that featured his work.

Troy L. Tyson '73, September 5, Belvedere, S.C. He served in Christian ministry for many years in Florida, Georgia, Texas and South Carolina, and at the time of his death was transition pastor at Berlin Baptist Church in Wagener, S.C.

Margaret Parks, M.A. '74, September 6, Greenville. She retired in 1981 after teaching English at Greenville High School for 28 years. She was a longtime director of Camp Burgess Glen in Cedar Mountain, N.C., and was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, the honorary organization of women educators.

Elizabeth Kerstetter, M.A. '76, August 24, Omaha, Neb. She taught at Armstrong Elementary in Greenville for

31 years and was known for her work with underprivileged children. After she retired from day-to-day employment, she continued to work as a tutor.

Gail Wilie Whitmire '76, October 6, Greenville. She was owner of Gail W. Whitmire CPA.

Kenneth Franklyn Ellington III, M.A. '78, October 27, Goshen, N.C. He was a music educator and served as associate director of arts education and student activities with the Cumberland County School System in Fayetteville, N.C. He went on to work with music companies in Indiana, Florida and Utah. Since early 2009 he had worked for Buffet Crampon USA Inc. He was active as a program evaluator, festival/contest adjudicator, guest conductor, string clinician, consultant to instrumental music programs, and clinician for numerous teacher workshops on orchestra program development and implementation.

Robert G. McDonald, Jr., M.A. '84, October 24, Liberty, S.C. He was on the faculty of Southern Wesleyan University for 20 years, prior to which he taught at the University of Georgia, served as campus administrator at Connie Maxwell Children's Home and worked as program director at The Coastal Center for Mentally Challenged Children and Adults. He was a professor emeritus at Southern Wesleyan.

Bryan Keith Holt '86, November 12, Orlando, Fla. He was a longtime employee of IBM.

Robin Dale McDaris '89, October 8, Greer, S.C. He formerly worked with Eastern Industrial Supplies.

David DeWitt Wilson '90, October 13, Piedmont, S.C. He was a computer analyst with Resurgent Capita Services and was formerly employed with Wangner Corporation.

FURMAN-INSPIRED SCRIPT COULD LEAD TO TV DEAL

From the landmark Bell Tower to the lake's lone black swan, from game day pearls to the signature kickoff key jingle, our alma mater is home to a number of quirks and curiosities that make it uniquely Furman.

And now, thanks to Adam Morgan '07, Furman may soon serve as fodder for a television show based on his award-winning comedy script, "Liberal Arts."

Morgan's script, about life at a small liberal arts school nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, took top honors over more than 700 entries in the Fox/Procter and Gamble Script Contest at the New York Television Festival in September. He earned \$25,000 and the chance to have his show developed as a pilot for Fox.

"Furman is its own world," says Morgan. "For the most part, you and your friends all live, work, study and play within its borders for four years. A complete environment like that, with its own history and mythology, is a perfect setting for a television show."

Morgan, a first-year graduate student in the creative writing program at Roosevelt University in Chicago, entered the contest at the urging of a friend and completed his script in less than a week — devoting just two nights to actual writing. "It sounds crazy," he says, "but I work best under pressure, and real TV writers don't even have that much time, especially mid-season."

Furman alums from the years 2005-08 may remember *The Seventh Day*, a movie Morgan wrote and produced his sophomore year. The film received much advance publicity, but heavy rains on location in nearby Linville Gorge, Jones Gap and Paris Mountain stalled shooting and pushed back post-production work, leaving Morgan just three days to edit 18 hours of footage in time for the ballyhooed opening in the university's amphitheater.

"It was torturous to watch," says Morgan of the unfinished product that premiered even though it was missing scenes, music and sound editing. "It was definitely my greatest failure, but it taught me a lot about perseverance and made me realize I didn't want to be involved in the physical production of film or TV. I just wanted to write."

As for "Liberal Arts," Morgan says he never expected to win. In fact, he hadn't planned to attend the New York awards show until the festival president called and convinced him that it would boost his writing career whether he won or not.

"I was completely shocked when they called my name," he says, "not because I wasn't confident in my script, but because there are so many talented writers out there and it's exceedingly difficult to stand out."

Now, though, he's getting plenty of attention from folks like Marcus Wiley, vice president of comedy development at Fox, with whom Morgan met to discuss the script. Says Morgan, "Wiley talked about what kinds of things he was impressed by in the pilot and said they were shocked to see a fresh take on such a well-tread concept as college life."



JEAN LACHAT / CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

For that, Furman gets some of the credit, says Morgan. "Furman is a uniquely special place that made a huge impact on me as a writer. Its natural beauty, supportive community, and almost ethereal sense of tradition and history really struck me as fascinating and helped me see the value of other special places in space and time, which are now usually the centerpieces of my writing."

Rather than focus on what Morgan calls the "over-the-top, drunken-frat-boy antics" of most college-themed movies and shows, the "Liberal Arts" script looks at the lives of a diverse group of students during Orientation Week at "Fitzgerald University."

What might Furman alums recognize in the script? "The spirit of Furman is definitely maintained, at least in the first draft," says Morgan, who earned his degree in philosophy and religion. "There's no telling what direction Fox will want to take it, but as it stands right now, it's a pretty faithful tribute to Furman."

And for those who may fear that the pilot will poke fun at Furman, Morgan says don't worry. "There are certainly a few jabs at the inherent qualities of most private liberal arts colleges, but nothing directed specifically at Furman," he says. "I loved my time in Greenville and would wholeheartedly recommend Furman to any student who wants to be academically and personally challenged."

One caveat: Don't start checking for show times just yet. The journey from pilot script to production is slow, and the likelihood that a purchased script will make it to air is only 20 percent.

For now, Morgan is hoping for the best while focusing on his career goals.

"If they decide to produce the pilot, it actually goes to series and they decide to keep me creatively involved, I'll move to Los Angeles and write for the show," he says. "It would be a dream come true, but if that doesn't work out I would be blissfully happy teaching writing at a four-year university like Furman. That's my current career plan, so I'm going to keep aiming for that."

— KATIE LEVANS

The author, a 2007 graduate, lives in Greenville and is the brand strategist for 10Best Solutions. Read her blog at <http://sweettater.wordpress.com>.



Paladin Pride still comes through

Amid the sea of orange and blue in the stands at Auburn University's football game November 7, there were a few specks of purple.

It was Homecoming for the Southeastern Conference powerhouse, and we, the Paladins, served as the obligatory underdog. Make that the under-under-underdog.

But despite the odds — an SEC team with a behemoth recruiting budget and regular bowl trips versus, well, us — the stadium was dotted with Furman faithful. And we weren't there to be shy.

I was one of those specks of purple, a little out of place deep in Jordan-Hare Stadium's home seating with my father, Bob Schorr, as diehard an Auburn fan as you'll ever meet.

I grew up going to Auburn football games. I know the Auburn fight song by heart. I became fluent in cursing by observing my dad and those around him during losing seasons.

But although it pained me a bit, I had to follow where my heart and my student-loan payments led me. I donned a purple T-shirt emblazoned with the word "Paladins" and headed to Auburn with my dad to watch my team get crushed by his.

Wandering the campus before the game, I encountered several Auburn fans who welcomed me to their turf. A friendly, sportsmanlike gesture, no doubt, but one that often came with an ulterior motive: information.

At least three times, the pleasantries were followed by a question: "Just where is Furman, anyway?"

After answering, I took it upon myself to extract a little information in kind. My informal, highly unscientific poll (I was an English major, after all) found that the percentage of Auburn fans who know what a Paladin is was closely akin to the odds of Furman pulling off an upset that day.

But thanks to my bright purple shirt and the conversations it sparked, a few more people now know that Furman is in Greenville, S.C., and that a Paladin is a knight on a noble steed. And that fans of our football program may be fewer in number, but no less bursting with pride.

Once I entered the stadium and found my seat, I realized I was a lone voice in my particular section, but I wasn't alone among the enemy.

On the way in, I had passed the occasional purple shirt and became increasingly relieved that I would not be the only Furman fan in the crowd. The view from my seat confirmed it: There, across the stadium, was the visitors section. And while it was more of a puddle of purple than an endless sea, it was lively.

I went into the game with two main hopes. One, that we'd put some points on the board. Two, that

our team would escape heinous injury at the hands of an SEC squad not known for playing daintily.

Less than two minutes in, Auburn scored its first touchdown. But then a funny thing happened. Furman answered almost immediately with a field goal.

I started to breathe easier and settled in to watch the game unfold. The quick-paced exchange of points — though by no means an even one — kept things interesting.

In the end, the Paladins finished with a respectable 31 points. Sure, that was up against Auburn's 63. But still, points are points, and avoiding ridicule on the sports networks' evening recaps is always a good thing. And no one was hurt, not even my pride.

I wasn't the only Paladin fan who left the stadium with my head held high. On my way out, I passed a man in Furman gear and gave him a nod and a shrug. He nodded back, but there was no shrug.

Instead, his simple comment offered irrefutable proof that Paladin Pride is forever, as our fight song says, "floating on high:"

"Maybe next time."

— STACY SCHORR CHANDLER

The author, a 1999 graduate, is a copy editor with the Raleigh (N.C.) News & Observer.

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