

# Furman Magazine

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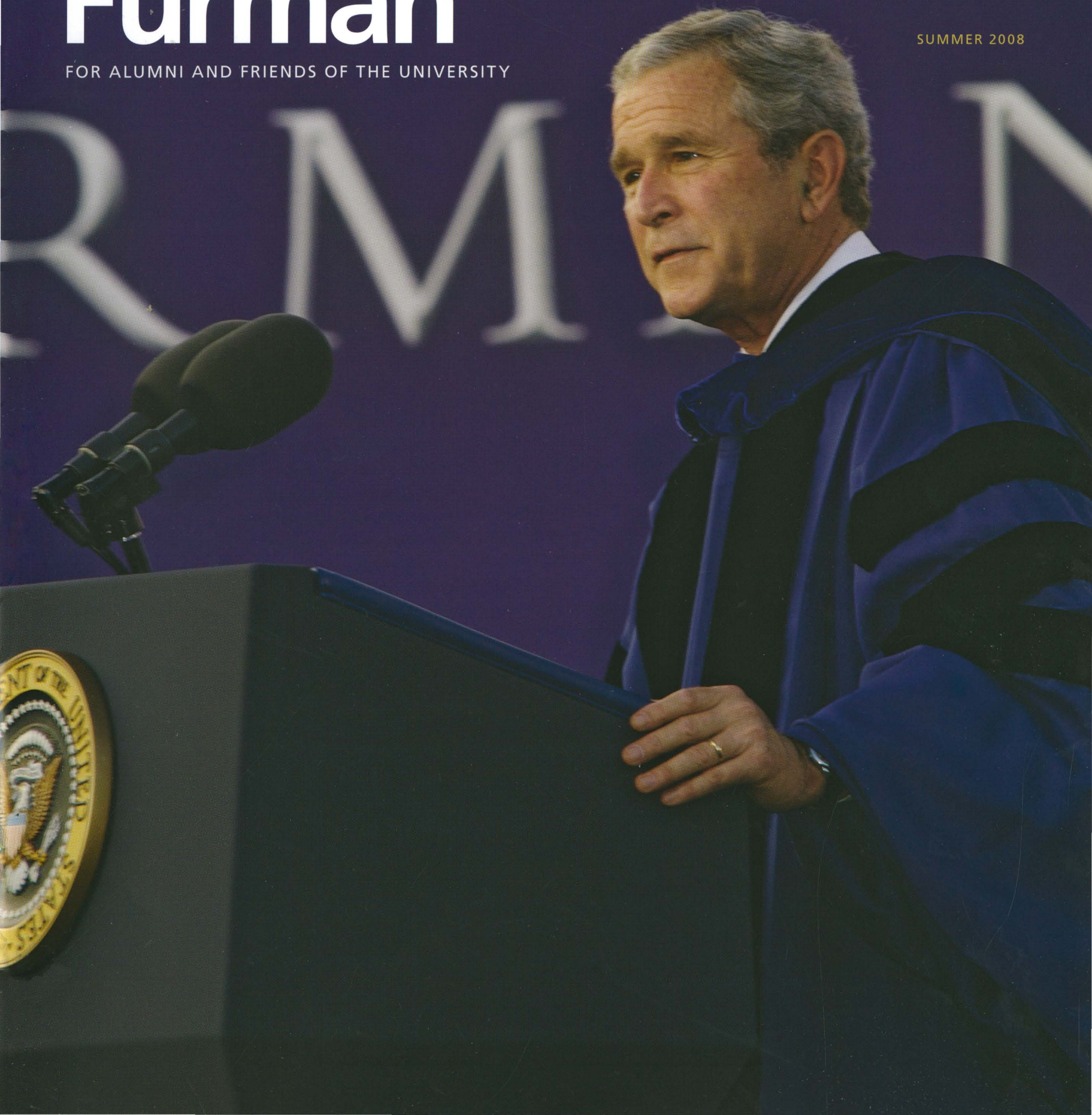
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# Furman

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2008



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Volume 51, Number 1

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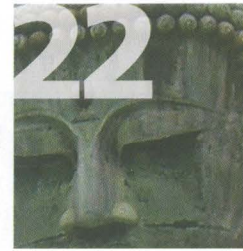
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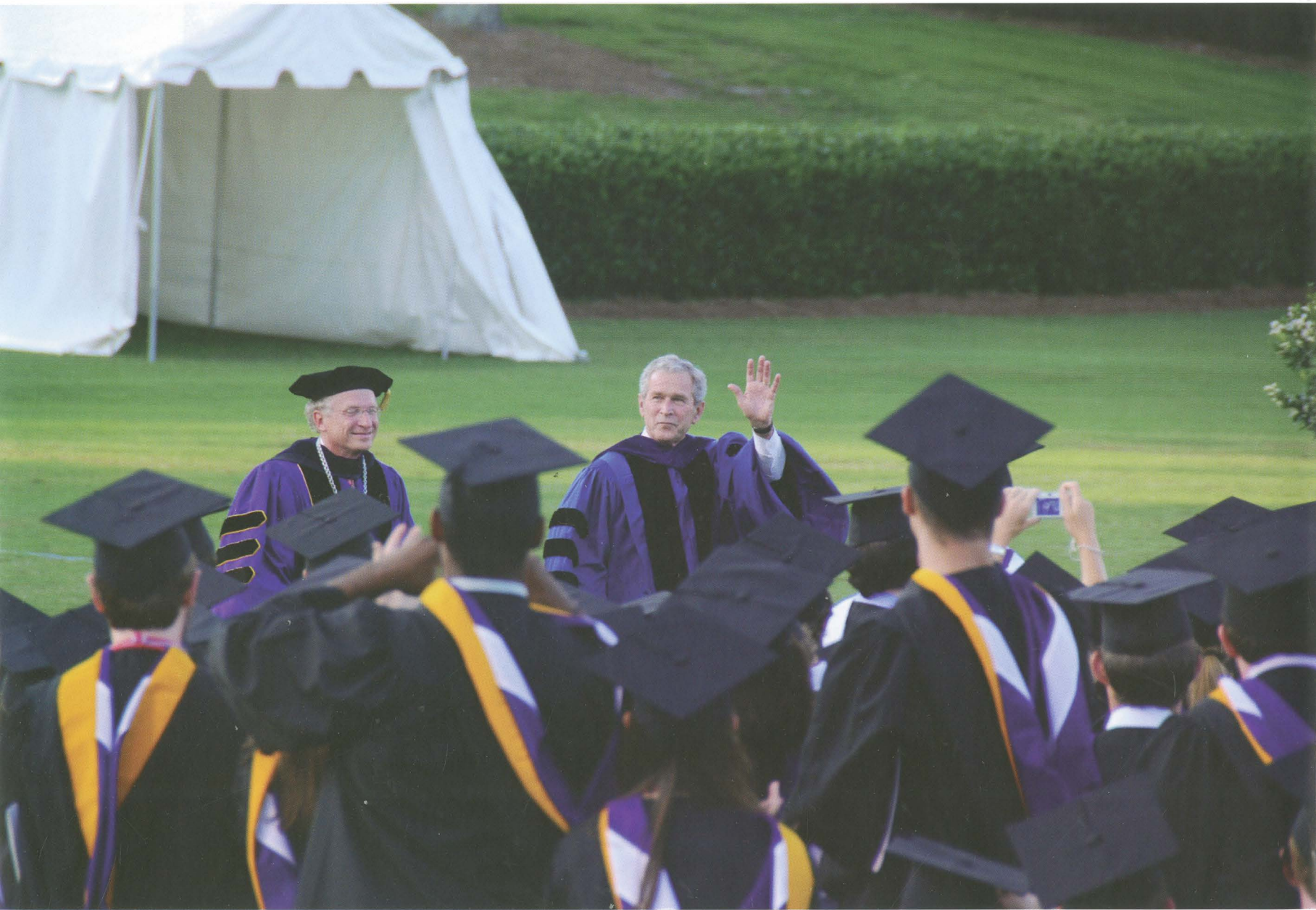


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JANE DORN

BY JIM STEWART

# Sound & Fury

The heated debate over President Bush's appearance at Commencement raised questions about the state of civil dialogue and discourse on campus.

Commencement 2008 has been over for more than a month now, but it will not soon be forgotten.

President George W. Bush, the first sitting president to visit Furman, arrived on campus May 31 precisely at 7:30 p.m. and, before an enthusiastic crowd of more than 10,000 people, addressed the Class of 2008 for 18 minutes, using his last Commencement speech as president to emphasize the values of civic responsibility and service to others.

Then, as quickly as they arrived, the president and his motorcade were gone, leaving the spotlight to more than 600 graduates gathered to celebrate their momentous day.



JONATHAN ANDERSEN

Not surprisingly, however, the White House announcement on April 12 that Bush would be speaking at Furman generated both excitement and anger among the university's various constituencies.

The impassioned reactions to the news played out in the local and national media, from the op-ed pages of *The Greenville News*, where Furman faculty traded opinions with alumni and other columnists, to Internet blogs, National Public Radio, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Washington Post* and Fox News, among others.

Respect for the office. Respect for the graduates. Freedom of expression and dissent. The proper way to model professionalism and civic engagement. The debates flew back and forth, fast and furious.

The most pointed and inflammatory exchanges took place on the discussion board of FUnet, the university's internal Web site. Because FUnet allowed comments to be posted anonymously, a common practice on-line, many took advantage of the opportunity and, using pseudonyms, rebuked the professors who signed a letter titled "(W)e Object," which began circulating on campus in late April and was posted on the Furman home page ([www.furman.edu](http://www.furman.edu)) May 5.

The letter, which stated it was written "in the spirit of open and critical review that is the hallmark of both a free democracy and an institution of higher learning," was signed by current and former professors, students, alumni and friends. It listed a host of Bush administration policies to which the signers objected and said that they were "ashamed" of the president's actions.

The response, at least on FUnet, was swift. Although there was some support for the letter, the preponderance of comments were critical. Many arguments were framed in terms of "liberals" versus "conservatives;" the sharpest darts were aimed at the professors involved and were heightened by rumors about a faculty protest at graduation.

Some professors were taken aback by the vehemence of the comments. A few attempted to engage their detractors in substantive dialogue, but their efforts failed to defuse the criticism.

The "(W)e Object" letter also prompted a counter petition, sponsored by a student group called Conservative Students for a Better Tomorrow. It lambasted the letter and expressed embarrassment in those faculty members who had "sacrificed professionalism for publicity" and appeared to value tolerance and open-mindedness only when it fit their world view. The petition further questioned whether professors had the right to request to be excused from attending graduation. (The Furman administration confirmed that faculty have always had that right.)

Once Commencement arrived, however, all ran smoothly. A small group of protesters, most of them from the Greenville community, lined Furman Mall, held signs and made their opposition to President Bush known — and cheered the graduates as they marched past. Some students and faculty wore white armbands, and 14 professors wearing "We Object" T-shirts stood in silent protest at the rear of the faculty section during Bush's speech. But the ceremony itself proceeded without disruption — in keeping with the clear consensus of the Class of 2008, whose primary concern was that their graduation not be marred by unnecessary dramatics.

And although the furor over the president's appearance led to heated discussions and bruised feelings on all sides, it did produce constructive dialogue. A series of forums analyzing the Bush presidency, arranged by faculty in the two weeks before graduation, dealt with the war in Iraq and administration policies regarding torture, education and the environment, among other topics. The programs were well attended and generally well received, and prompted forthright discussions. Faculty and students also found themselves talking more both in and out of the classroom, and these exchanges provided further opportunities to listen and grow.

Still, the controversy revealed that there are, in one professor's words, some "rough edges" in the Furman community. Many of the concerns raised during the weeks before Bush's appearance remain — about the nature of civil discourse, the right and appropriateness of dissent, the values of acceptance, respect and tolerance for those with differing opinions, and especially how dialogue and discussion can and should be conducted on a college campus.



President David Shi, himself the target of criticism from faculty upset that they were never consulted about the plans to have Bush speak, dealt with several of these issues in his charge to the graduates. He emphasized that Furman seeks to promote the free exchange of ideas in an atmosphere of civility and respect, and pointed out that “Liberally educated people are those who have learned to practice tolerance and self-criticism and embody civility and humility.” (See page 56.)

But given the ferocity of the debate, questions linger. How does Furman bridge the gap among those clamoring to be heard? How does the university community counter the tendency to follow the prevailing societal attitude that “Those who yell the loudest win?” Can Furman, in an increasingly fractious political climate, maintain a campus atmosphere in which reason and objectivity displace animosity and righteous indignation? How can the university ensure that amid moments of contention or disagreement, all voices feel acknowledged and valued?

These questions will no doubt be the source of discussion and examination in the months to come. How Furman deals with them will determine its ability to mature as a national liberal arts university. |F|

Visit [www.furman.edu/fumag](http://www.furman.edu/fumag) for more on Commencement, including a slide show from the proceedings and links to the speeches by President Bush and Meredith Neville.

*Some graduates turned their mortar boards into billboards for the president, while local residents demonstrated on Furman Mall and a group of faculty stood in silent protest during the president’s speech. Top right: Anna Ready, a White House intern during her student days, shows off her specially autographed Commencement program. Below: Meredith Neville, the student speaker, gets a “well done” from the president after her speech. Photos by Jonathan Andersen ’09 and Jane Dorn.*







COURTESY SOUTHERN LIVING



By Vince Moore

## THE CLIFFS COTTAGE

AT FURMAN

**Even from a distance, The Cliffs Cottage at Furman**

doesn't appear to be an ordinary home. And once you take a closer look at the *Southern Living* Showcase Home, you will quickly realize that there is nothing else quite like it.

The Cliffs Cottage at Furman, located near the Bell Tower at the former site of the lakeside tennis courts, is a model of environmentally responsible design, sustainable building techniques and materials, and energy-saving systems. From the bamboo flooring to the insulated windows to the solar panels in the roof, the 3,400-square-foot residential home features the latest innovations in sustainable living.

But the commitment to sustainability doesn't end with

SOUTHERN LIVING'S SUSTAINABLE SHOWCASE HOME

the house itself. The same environmentally sound concepts have been applied

to the landscaping, organic and formal gardens, rainwater collection systems, and even the driveway and walkways surrounding the home.

In short, Cliffs Cottage is a learning laboratory where the public can discover how to implement new, energy-efficient systems in their own homes. The house is expected to be among the first residential facilities in the nation to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, considered by the United States Green Building Council to be the benchmark for design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.



Furman president David Shi says, “We in higher education have a particular responsibility in this area since we educate those who will influence the future of our communities, our nation and our world. We have a responsibility to both model sustainable behavior within our institutions and to inspire our students to dream of and develop more sustainable ways of life.”

The home, which opened in June, will be featured in a series of stories in *Southern Living* magazine and will be open for public tours for the next year. Afterward it will become the Center for Sustainability at Furman, providing offices and meeting space for the university’s sustainability initiatives.

Joining Furman and *Southern Living* as principle partners in the project are The Cliffs Communities (seven planned residential communities located north of Greenville), Duke Energy, and Bank of America.

Scott Johnston of Johnston Design Group, LLC, designed the home, with landscape architecture by Innocenti & Webel LLC, a firm that has a rich history with Furman. Richard K. Webel designed the original master plan for the university 50 years ago.

Thanks to their efforts and those of many others, Cliffs Cottage offers:

- An assortment of features that reduce the need for cooling, heating and daytime artificial lighting. The home is situated along an east/west axis to maximize solar heat gain in the winter

*The great room features the work of local artists. The mantle, crafted by John Wicks '09, came from a piece of reclaimed wood. This page, clockwise from upper left: A pre-cast foundation produces less waste and fewer toxins; the specially treated structural framing provides exceptional protection and durability; extensive insulation blown into the walls and ceilings makes for a quieter home, improves air quality and protects against air leakage, moisture and airborne allergens. All photos by Jeremy Fleming except where noted.*

and minimize it in the summer. A long roof overhang on the south side shades the house in summer and allows the sun to heat the home in winter.

- An energy-efficient, precast foundation and two types of insulation to seal the home and preserve its thermal mass. The natural stone on the exterior absorbs heat that is slowly released after the sun goes down. Spray foam insulation, free of formaldehyde, seals off air leakage, moisture, airborne allergens and noise pollutants. Fiberglass insulation is environmentally sound, with a minimum certified recycled glass content of 25 percent. The pervious concrete and permeable pavers used in parking areas and main walkways allow stormwater to filter back into the soil instead of draining into streams and rivers.



■ A geothermal heating and cooling system, the most environmentally responsible and energy efficient system available. The direct exchange, ground source heat pump uses the earth's constant underground temperatures to heat the home in winter and cool it in summer. Ground source heat pumps can reduce heating and cooling costs by as much as 50 percent and usually last three times longer than air source systems.

■ Two types of solar technologies — solar thermal for heating water and solar electric (photovoltaic) for generating electrical power. Heat from the sun is captured through two roof-mounted flat plate collectors, then transferred to an 80-gallon storage tank. The solar thermal technology can provide up to 80 percent of domestic hot water needs. Photovoltaic (PV) technology is the process through which sunlight is converted to electricity. Two PV modules on the garage roof power the entire house, and another pole-mounted PV tracks the sun as it moves east to west on one axis and north to south on another.

The solar features are tied together by GridPoint, a computer-operated battery system that stores additional power and maximizes energy use throughout the house. The solar technology will actually produce more power than the house needs; the additional electricity created will be funneled to Furman's utility grid.

■ Furnishings that are environmentally sustainable and locally sourced, from the bamboo floors to the kitchen cabinets to tile made from recycled glass. Much of the furniture is constructed from reclaimed or sustainable-harvested wood or from trees removed for real estate development, and fabrics are made without toxic dyes. The bathrooms contain low flow showerheads and faucets.

■ Formal and organic gardens that surround the house feature native plants that are able to tolerate the region's climate and soil conditions, plus ornamental plantings that are drought tolerant and easy to maintain. Landscape irrigation for the gardens is supplied by a 12,000-gallon cistern system that collects rainwater from the roof. The formal garden on the west side of the house (facing the lake) has been named for Furman's First Lady, Susan Thomson Shi '71. [F]





COURTESY SOUTHERN LIVING



*Opposite: The solar technology at the home, including solar thermal for heating water and solar electric (photovoltaic) for electricity, serves to demonstrate the variety of ways solar energy can be generated; walkways are built to filter rainwater and mitigate runoff; large underground cisterns collect rainwater for use in irrigating the grounds and gardens. This page: The main entrance to the 3,400-square-foot home; flooring is made of bamboo, a sustainable alternative because of its ability to replenish itself quickly.*

### Tour information and more

**The Cliffs Cottage at Furman is open for public tours through June 14, 2009.** Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens (62 and over) and \$5 for children ages 6-11. Children 5 and under are admitted free. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

#### Tour hours are:

- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.
- 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

The home is closed on Monday. Visit the Web site at [www.furmancliffscottage.com](http://www.furmancliffscottage.com) for more information or to register for a tour.

Furman has also compiled an 80-page resource guide that offers in-depth articles on the home's sustainability features and the key individuals and companies involved in its creation and execution. Written by Tina Tarkington Underwood, designed by Janice Antley and edited by Carol Anne Langley and Nancy Spittle, the guide is available by mail for \$10 by calling the Office of Marketing and Public Relations at Furman, (864) 294-2185.



## Corporate backing boosts university's sustainability efforts

**Furman's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship** has drawn the interest of a variety of regional and national corporations. Many have stepped up to support Cliffs Cottage or to assist the university in its sustainability initiatives.

One is **Duke Energy**, which has entered a partnership with Furman to create a demonstration laboratory on campus that will showcase the latest technological advances in energy efficiency and sustainability.

In conjunction with the construction of Cliffs Cottage, Duke Energy committed \$1.5 million over five years to highlight the company's energy efficiency and sustainability initiatives. The immediate area around Cliffs Cottage is known as Duke Energy Village.

Ted Schultz, vice president of energy efficiency for Duke Energy, says that the company "has been able to build technologies into Cliffs Cottage that we believe will revolutionize the efficient use of energy in the future. The goal is to save our customers money through innovative energy efficiency programs and reduce our need to build future generation capacity."

David Mohler, the company's vice president and chief technology officer, expects the Furman-Duke Energy partnership to mature over the next five years. He says, "Our vision includes a Duke Energy Solar Energy Learning Center, where we will explore the role this renewable energy source might play in our future."

The **Bank of America Charitable Foundation** has made a \$250,000 grant to Furman to support sustainability initiatives. The gift funds the Bank of America Fellows program, which will provide scholarship aid for students engaged in environmental projects on campus and in the Greenville community.

In addition to the fellowship program, the grant supports completion of Cliffs Cottage.

Beginning this fall and continuing over the next four years, Furman will bring one student to campus annually as a Bank of America Fellow. Each Fellow will receive a \$25,000 scholarship over four years. Candidates must have a proven record of achievement in the environmental arena and bring a diverse background of environmentally related life experiences. The Fellows will



COURTESY SOUTHERN LIVING

Many of the home's furnishings are made from reclaimed or sustainable-harvested wood, and the fabrics have no toxic dyes. This page: The concrete countertops in the kitchen are highly durable, and ENERGY STAR appliances use substantially less energy than required by federal mandates; the long roof overhang helps shade the home in summer and allows the sun to heat the home in winter; locally sourced stone is yet another of the home's sustainable features.

promote sustainable practices on campus, encourage student participation in environmental initiatives, collaborate with faculty on ecological research projects and be ambassadors for environmental action.

"The Bank of America Fellows program presents a unique opportunity to leverage Furman's leadership position in speaking to our region's environmental consciousness," says Kim Wilkerson, Bank of America South Carolina president.

In a related area, the **Waste Management Charitable Foundation** has made a \$10,000 gift to the university to support the restoration of the lake.

Furman unveiled plans in October 2006 to restore the lake's environmental integrity and make it more attractive to visitors. In the past year the university has begun planting vegetation in the lake and on the surrounding border, naturalizing the streams that feed the lake and reducing the waterfowl population.

Beverly Surma, community relations manager for Waste Management, says, "Education and the environment are the company's most important community priorities, and this project combines both of them in a novel way."

To join Furman's efforts to promote environmental stewardship or to learn about naming opportunities for Cliffs Cottage, contact Gary Hassen, director of major gifts, at (864) 294-3691 or e-mail [gary.hassen@furman.edu](mailto:gary.hassen@furman.edu).



# Helping the World Think

Two young alumni  
pursue yearlong projects  
designed to promote  
environmental responsibility.

Because of Furman's commitment to environmental sustainability, the university was invited in 2007 to participate in the Compton Mentor Fellowship program.

Each year the program, sponsored by the Compton Foundation of California, provides \$35,000 awards to eight graduating seniors who then pursue a yearlong environmental project of their choice. The fellowships are considered the most prestigious environmental awards for U.S. undergraduates.

Furman is one of 10 institutions nationwide that compete for the Mentor Fellowships. Each Fellow implements a self-directed project and chooses a mentor who provides "guidance, encouragement and impetus for continued learning and service."

Kartikeya Singh and Colin Hagan, members of Furman's Class of 2007, were awarded fellowships last spring.

Singh, who designed his own major in ecology and sustainable development, chose to spend his fellowship year in India where, under the guidance of Sunita Narain, director of the Center for Science and Environment, he assessed barriers to decentralized renewable energy systems in rural areas of the country.

Hagan, who double-majored in political science and English, remained in South Carolina, working with conservation groups and developing a guide on climate change and its potential impact on the Palmetto State. His mentor was Jennifer Rennicks, federal policy coordinator for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

Again this year, two members of Furman's graduating class were awarded Compton Mentor Fellowships. Elizabeth Cooke, an English and environmental sciences major from Richland Center, Wis., and Angel Cruz, a biology major from Burnsville, N.C., were to begin their projects in mid-June.

# Green

Cooke will work to combat deforestation in Haiti through the introduction of alternative fuel sources designed to help eliminate the need for charcoal fuels. Her mentor will be Georges Valme, founding president of the Haitian American Agro Industries.

Cruz will pursue a project on sustainable agriculture in rural El Salvador. It will be one of that nation's first attempts to approach sustainable agriculture within a community instead of a single farm. Armando Marquez Ochoa, executive director of FUNDAHMER, a service organization, will be her mentor.

In keeping with the university's efforts to promote environmental awareness on campus and off, *Furman* asked Singh to share his impressions from his year in India, and Leigh Gauthier Savage '94 talked with Hagan about his work. Their reports follow.



KARTIKEYA SINGH

*How Indians are adapting: A resident of Rajasthan shows off his solar home lighting system.*



## Hope for India's future: Renewable energy for rural areas

It was not unusual  
for people to mistake me  
for a government official  
who had come to right  
what is wrong.

When I interviewed for the Compton Mentor Fellowship in the spring of 2007, I told the selection committee, “It’s one thing for me to sit here and tell you what I am going to do, but the realities will be quite different once I land in Delhi, and there’s no telling what will happen to me.”

Now, after spending a year in a booming, dynamic, international city in a so-called “developing country,” I realize how accurate my comment was. I had the opportunity not only to get in touch with my past (my family had moved away from India 14 years ago) but to discover a country at the crossroads of determining its own developmental future — and, in many ways, the ecological future of the entire planet.

We’ve all heard of “rising India,” and the nation is growing rapidly. It is, in fact, on a crusade to emulate the industrialized nations of the world. Its ambitions will have both global ecological implications and unimaginable local consequences.

I arrived last August ready to work with my mentor, Sunita Narain, director of the Center for Science and Environment. Reality, as I had expected, set in quickly, and I began to address the complex issue of climate change in a much different way than I had initially planned — one fitting entirely within the Indian context.

In the international arena of climate negotiations, India argues from a platform of having nearly 500 million people with no access to electricity. Because so many of its people lack electrical power, expecting this nation to curb emissions would be ethically unjust.

This is where my project fit in. I looked closely at ways to provide energy to the rural masses in a carbon neutral manner — and in a way that avoids the need to extend the national grid. The government has plans to “electrify” the entire country by 2012, but how it chooses to do so — whether through grid-fed coal power (India has one of the largest coal reserves in the world) or through decentralized renewable energy — will have global implications.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “India lives in her villages.” So I chose to go there, see the “real” India and speak to people about their energy needs.

One of my visits took me to Ranthambore National Park, where nearly 80 percent of the world’s “tigers in the wild” photographs are taken. At Ranthambore one finds tigers rambling among the ruins of a once mighty kingdom that flourished in the middle of the jungle. The area is reminiscent of Rudyard Kipling’s *The Jungle Book*.

However, the only characters like Kipling’s Mowgli that you’ll find in Ranthambore are the villagers living on the fringes of the park, struggling to survive. They come into the park only for fodder for their livestock or to collect wood for fuel.

This India, the wild India, is the reason for my passion for the environment. Until the basic needs of humankind are met (like those of the villagers around the park), how can we begin to imagine a long-term, secure future for our planet’s biodiversity?

Around the periphery of the park, fields of mustard plants with brilliant yellow blossoms stretch as far as the eye can see. In the villages I found residents installing small domestic biogas plants to meet their cooking needs.

The use of biogas plants is encouraged so that residents will not be so dependent on wood collected from the nearby tiger habitat for fuel. (The population of tigers in the country has plummeted to 1,411, less than half of what it was presumed to be five years ago.) Many residents in rural areas own cattle, and the biogas plants enable them to use the dung produced by their herds to generate a secondary energy resource: gas, a cleaner and more efficient fuel than wood. A byproduct of the process is organic fertilizer, which decreases the need for expensive synthetic fertilizers.

The biogas plants are submerged, air-tight tanks two to three cubic meters in size. They break down the organic matter in the dung and

extract methane gas, which is then piped into the beneficiaries' kitchens and burned in modified gas cooking stoves.

The fuel the plants produce is devoid of harmful fumes and smoke. Because the biogas plants also improve cooking efficiency, they increase family productivity and save money and time. They can provide enough gas to cook three meals a day for a family of five.

Ram Karan, a village resident, said, "If you do not build more of these biogas plants, the jungle will be finished," pointing to the villagers' reliance on the park's wood for fuel. "Give us something that will help us run generators with local resources."

He had found a way to use some of the gas from a mini-plant to run a generator powering a water pump. This decreased his need for diesel fuel, the cost of which can consume half a farmer's yearly income. He added, "Give us solar, too. [His family did not have access to the power grid.] We are willing to pay!"

I next made my way to Ameen's place. He welcomed me with fruit from his farm and showed me his vermiculture-generated compost. The compost is made from the excretions of earthworms, which eat manure and other farm wastes and convert them to vermicompost.

"I want to leave farming and get many more cattle to start a dairy. I will have many biogas plants and solar as well to run the dairy," he said. Clearly biogas is fueling big ambitions here.

As I prepared to leave he said, "Don't forget about us." The look in his eyes conveyed his deep trust and faith in my work. It was not unusual for people to mistake me for a government official who had come to right what is wrong.

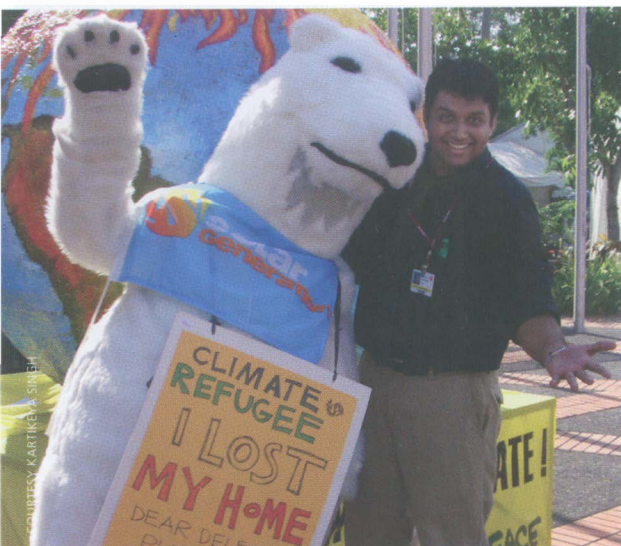
I keep the voices of these people in mind when debating the issue of climate change in the global context. My first chance to do so was at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December.

During the months leading up to the conference, I was drawn to the role and inclusion



KARTIKEYA SINGH

*Biogas plants enable residents of rural areas to produce gas and organic fertilizer from cow dung.*



*The author and friend at the Bali conference.*

of developing countries in the agreement that will signal, in 2012, the end of the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol — a historic international effort that established a framework for reducing global emissions.

The rural people of India have the right to a better livelihood, which will come with improved access to energy resources. But as India attempts to fulfill its ambitions, it must look beyond traditional approaches that rely solely on fossil fuels. Ideally the country could establish a low-carbon plan by helping its citizens “develop” while at the same time minimizing emissions.

I was in Bali as part of the United States youth delegation, but I was also the only Indian youth representative there. Our group attempted to represent the “real” view, as we called it, of the United States — one that was incongruent with that of the Bush administration.

Recent polls have shown that 80 percent of Americans want to see firm action on climate change. Movements such as the “Power Shift” protest of last fall have helped inspire young people to converge on Capitol Hill and demand action. In Bali, we wanted to show other countries that citizens of the United States do want change.

Our delegation questioned the U.S. representatives about the government’s failure to move on climate change since 2001, when the Bush administration declined to sign the Kyoto accords. But the U.S. negotiators highlighted the real problem when they told us we needed the votes, and votes

come only with further campaigns to spread awareness.

While it was important to be in Bali and see how complex climate change negotiations can be, it is equally important to keep fighting the battle back in the States. As a youth representative at the talks — attempting to speak for the 48 percent of the global population who were not represented, but whose future was being debated — I left Bali with yet another resolve: to launch a youth campaign in India.

I discovered, however, that my task would be a daunting one. “Youth? Shouldn’t they have the same view as their elders?” That was the response of one of the Indian negotiators when I told him I was the only representative of “young” India.

If India is indeed attempting to become a global power, shouldn’t it work to redefine the concept of “development?” Shouldn’t it serve as a laboratory to see how the world will establish a new development paradigm, one that leapfrogs the carbon-intensive growth pattern?

To make this happen would, of course, require the assistance of wealthier nations. Furthermore, it would require a push from within India, beginning with the younger generation.

Our generation must think differently than those preceding us simply because the challenge that lies ahead is unlike any the world has yet witnessed. We must rid ourselves of the shackles that restrict our ways of thinking and bind us into inaction.

I do not have all the answers. I simply know that the issue of climate change, steeped in complexity, must be discussed on a more aggressive scale both in India and in the United States.

One thing I could provide during my limited time in India was a platform for Indian youth to be taken seriously. So I worked to establish the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN) — a rope that will bind me between two nations whose environmental futures lie in the ability of their young people to redefine the face of development.

As the Web site (<http://iycn.in>) states, “IYCN is a coalition uniting Indian youth and Indian youth-oriented organizations who are concerned about climate change. We as the future leaders

of the country can generate awareness and establish consensus on what role India should play in the global debate, and how it should address domestic issues of climate justice and adaptation. It is a monumental effort but one with immense potential.”

With my time in India coming to a close, I have contemplated staying for at least another year. Many opportunities have presented themselves, and people have taken me more seriously than I had expected.

The most important reason for staying is that I believe the launch of the Indian Youth Climate Network has put in motion a system that will, over time, bring about monumental change. Before I leave I am organizing a Delhi Youth Summit on Climate Change, in which college students and young professionals will come together to establish a charter that addresses the economic, ecological and social implications of climate change on the country’s capital — and how the city should develop.

There are also plans for a national youth meeting to establish the Indian Youth Charter on Climate Change, with input from all 28 Indian states. And we are working to form a delegation of Indian youth to attend the next United Nations Conference on Climate Change, which will be held in Poland in December.

After much deliberation, however, I have decided to return to the States for another degree. This fall I will begin a master’s program in environmental management at Yale University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Once I complete the program, I plan to come back to India and resume my efforts to address the environmental challenges that the country must confront.

The decades ahead will require us to rethink the concept of development for the entire planet, and especially what energy sources will be used. The words of Ameen, “Don’t forget about us,” help reaffirm my commitment to exploring new energy pathways to support the rapidly expanding economy of a country whose hopes and dreams are growing at an equal pace.

— KARTIKEYA SINGH ’07



## Action on the homefront: A practical guide to climate change

Teachers are often unaware of the impact they have on students — or the resulting impact their students have on the state, the nation and the world.

Take Robert Bradford, a high school biology teacher in Texas who once suggested that Colin Hagan read the novel *Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit*. Daniel Quinn's 1991 book won the Turner Tomorrow Fellowship, which goes to writers who seek "creative and positive solutions to global problems."

The book altered Hagan's world view and ignited his passion for environmental issues. The most recent result, *A South Carolina Guide to Climate Change*, could help shape the state's future.

Hagan's guide, the first of its kind in the region, takes an in-depth look at how climate change will affect the state's plants, animals and people. The guide offers tips for reducing greenhouse gases and other practical ideas that people in South Carolina can add to their daily routines.

Hagan (above), a 2007 Furman graduate, spent the last year traveling the state and compiling research thanks to a Compton Mentor Fellowship. The Compton Foundation award, worth \$35,000, allows recent college graduates to work with a mentor on yearlong projects related to the environment.

While many Compton Fellows choose assignments that send them to far-flung locales, Hagan's idea was to bring global warming closer

to home. "I didn't see a lot of action taking place on energy and climate change issues in South Carolina," he says. "In talking to people, I began to get the sense that they thought it was far away, it couldn't impact us, and we couldn't do much about it. I wanted to describe what could happen here — that global warming isn't just about polar bears."

Since he embarked on his journey, he has been pleased, he says, to witness something of a turning point, with more groups and individuals in the state taking interest in the issue. "A lot of people recognize that South Carolina has a lot to lose," Hagan says.

Through his research, he found that the average temperature in the state is expected to rise as much as five degrees within the next 100 years. Such a seemingly small number could have devastating ramifications for the state's climate when coupled with increased precipitation and sporadic drought conditions.

Hagan's guide, which is available on-line ([www.scclimatchange.org](http://www.scclimatchange.org)) and in a printed version, describes how small changes in wildlife habitats could affect the state's entire population. Fishing enthusiasts may be concerned about the loss of the Southern Brook Trout due to warming waters, and hikers may worry about forests threatened by growing populations of pine beetles, but Hagan says health and economic issues should concern every citizen — even those who are skeptical about global warming or feel people aren't the cause.

"Tourism is South Carolina's No. 1 industry," he says, pointing out that it brings in millions of dollars annually and employs 200,000 people. Thus the need to protect natural areas that attract visitors looking for hiking, camping, fishing or golf.

Public health concerns include the potential for more heat-related injuries, smog-induced asthma and favorable conditions for tropical diseases.

A large part of Hagan's mission has been to find practical ways South Carolinians can make

a difference. He suggests such simple approaches as washing clothes in cold water, using the air-dry setting on the dishwasher, keeping window blinds closed during the summer, and weatherizing homes to prevent leaks. "What's good for the climate is good for your checkbook," he says.

Although some might say a few shuttered blinds and weather strips won't make a dent in the problem, Hagan says his experience at Furman showed him otherwise. He helped start a residence hall energy contest in which students competed to see who could reduce their energy usage the most. In less than one year, 11 buildings saved 150,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. "It goes to show that small actions taken by a large number of people can add up," he says.

Hagan, who grew up in Tyler, Texas, discovered Furman on-line and decided to attend after visiting the school and sitting in on a class, where he was impressed by the intimate atmosphere and interactive approach. At Furman he found like-minded students, joining organizations such as the Environmental Action Group, the Year of the Environment Committee and the Southern Energy Network.

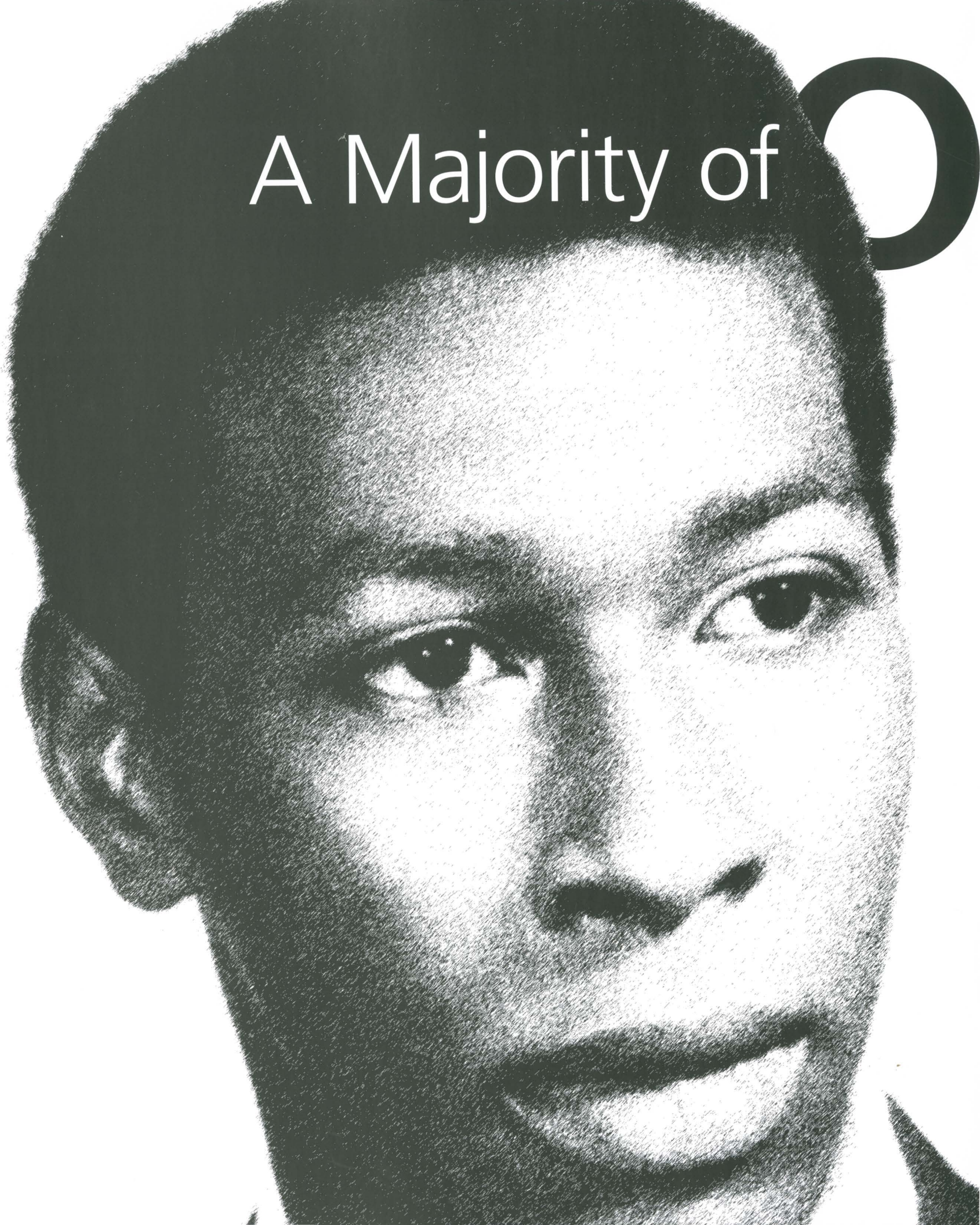
After majoring in political science and English, he planned to attend law school until he received the Compton Fellowship. He may still pursue a law degree at some point, but his global warming project has fanned the flames of his interest in environmental activism.

"The experience I've gained over the course of the last year has really convinced me that my time would be more valuable working in this field," he says. "Given the severity of the situation we are in now, we have only 10 or so years to make a dramatic shift. I might be of better service if I keep on working."

— LEIGH GAUTHIER SAVAGE

*The author, a 1994 Furman graduate, is a freelance writer from Simpsonville, S.C.*

A Majority of



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**Joseph Allen Vaughn's** matriculation into Furman in February 1965 represented both a culmination and a beginning for the university.

But how Vaughn became Furman's first African-American student was no accident. His enrollment was the result of a search conducted, at the behest of the university, by the now deceased Sapp Funderburk '39, a Greenville businessman and loyal Furman supporter.

Funderburk's assignment was to find the best graduating senior, but both he and Francis W. Bonner, Furman's vice president and dean and a leading advocate for desegregation, knew the student also needed to be able to handle the attention and scrutiny that would come with assuming such a pioneering role.

Funderburk recommended Vaughn — a Greenville resident, president of the senior class at Sterling High School, member of the school's honor society, and a Baptist.

**Forty years after his graduation, Joe Vaughn's trailblazing influence is still felt on the Furman campus — and beyond.**

Bright, witty, gregarious and confident, Vaughn was described by Xanthene Norris, one of his teachers, as "a jewel." Norris had seen Vaughn's potential early on and for years supervised his selection of classes in hopes that he would someday have just such an opportunity.

At a 1985 banquet commemorating 20 years of desegregation at Furman, Vaughn said, "I was good for Furman University, and vice versa. . . . I understood some of the risks, knew that there would be some isolation, maybe. But, luckily, there was not even any mental violence. . . . The press kept hounding me, to see how things were going, but I told them, 'I need to study. I came to Furman to be a student.'"

This February the Furman community came together once again to recognize Vaughn's legacy, in a program marking the 40th anniversary of his graduation. During the evening, those who knew him had the chance to reflect on the times and the man — and to put his contributions in historical perspective.

**Joe Vaughn's presence** in a Furman classroom was the result of years of strategy undertaken by the university's administrators, trustees and alumni.

Furman was established by the South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC) in 1826 as an "academy-seminary" to train young white men for the ministry. As Furman's parent institution, the SCBC was responsible for appointing individuals to Furman's board of trustees, a practice that continued until Furman and the convention parted ways in 1992. For decades before the separation, however, control over the university's governance had been a central theme whenever Furman and the convention disagreed about a course of action, and the admittance of African-American students was a prime example.

At Furman in the late 1950s and early '60s, student and faculty opinions regarding racial issues were more progressive than mainstream sentiment in South Carolina, and certainly more progressive than that of most members of the SCBC. Many Furman students were members of the Baptist Student Union, and at the BSU statewide meeting in 1961, the delegates voted to suggest that their schools' trustees give "careful study to this responsibility to open the door of knowledge and service to all students, regardless of race or creed." They passed a resolution stating that BSU students across the state supported the acceptance of all qualified applicants regardless of race.

BY COURTNEY L. TOLLISON

The same year, a poll of Furman faculty concluded that 90 percent supported an admissions policy that did not discriminate on the basis of race. Bonner presented these results to the Furman trustees, but they took no action.

Furman administrators recognized the importance of desegregation, both from an ethical and practical standpoint. Failure to desegregate was a major reason the university had repeatedly been denied a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's leading academic honor society, and school officials also worried that continued segregation would affect their ability to recruit a top-flight faculty.

Throughout higher education, desegregation at Southern colleges and universities was becoming synonymous with an institution's commitment to progress. Bonner later said that he and President John L. Plyler had wanted Furman to be the first college in South Carolina to admit African-American students, but the trustees had been reluctant because of concerns about how the convention would react.

In January 1963 Clemson University admitted its first African-American student, Harvey Gantt, under a court order, and in September the University of South Carolina admitted a handful of African-Americans, also under court order. That October the Furman trustees adopted a resolution to eliminate race as a barrier to admission. Among private colleges in the state, the trustees' decision was second only to Our Lady of Mercy Junior College in Charleston, and it received much media attention.

The SCBC reacted with shock to what it perceived as Furman's abrupt display of independence. At the convention held a few weeks after the trustees passed the resolution, the messengers voted to ask Furman to delay implementation for one year so that the convention could study the issue. Furman agreed.

In the meantime Bonner had asked Funderburk to find a student with a strong academic record, a history of leadership and a personality that could handle the pressures of desegregating an institution. Once he met Vaughn, Bonner single-handedly admitted him to Furman.

Vaughn graduated from Sterling in the spring of 1964. Furman arranged for him to spend the fall semester at Johnson C. Smith University, a historically black institution in Charlotte, N.C., with the expectation that the SCBC would approve the trustees' action on the admission policy and that Vaughn would enroll at Furman in February. Xanthe Norris recalls that, although Vaughn was disappointed that he would have to wait, he "understood the challenge."

The SCBC executive committee charged with evaluating the revised admission policy had recommended that the convention support the decision. However, at the annual convention in November 1964, the messengers rejected the recommendation by a margin of almost two to one.



Suddenly, the trustees were caught between the needs of the institution they were obligated to lead and the expectations of the group that elected them. And another factor weighed on their minds.

Gordon Blackwell, a 1932 Furman graduate and president of Florida State University, had recently accepted the call to be Plyler's successor. Upon hearing of the convention's vote, Blackwell sent a letter informing the board he had taken the job with the understanding that desegregation was "a condition" of his coming to Furman. Continued segregation, he wrote, would do "irreparable harm" to Furman.

At a called meeting of the board on December 8, 1964, Bonner, who had served as the university's chief administrative officer since Plyler's retirement at the end of August, stepped forward. Sensing that the trustees might be wavering under pressure from the convention, he delivered a powerful speech in which he recounted Furman's efforts to desegregate and the support of the faculty and students for doing so. Further inaction, he said, would endanger many of the university's hopes for the future. He urged the board to uphold the revised admission policy and closed with a passionate plea: "Don't let us down!" His efforts proved successful, as the trustees decided to stand by their earlier vote.

Vaughn and Blackwell both arrived at Furman on February 2, 1965, along with three African-American non-resident graduate students in education. Of his first few days on campus, Vaughn once said, "Everyone [was] very nice to me, but they didn't seem to be going out of their way just to be that way. I was glad they seemed to accept me as another student and not as some sort of symbol."

And from that time on, Joe Vaughn would leave an indelible mark on the institution.

**Vaughn's career at Furman** defied the typical experience of the handful of African-American students who desegregated Southern colleges and universities. Most of those young people preferred to diminish the attention already paid to them due to their race.

But Vaughn neither avoided the spotlight nor downplayed his commitment to progressive social issues. As he once said, "I felt like a majority of one."

His sense of humor helped endear him to his fellow students — and defuse potential problems. He flashed that wit at the 1985 banquet when he said, "I even burned a cross on the balcony of McGlothlin dormitory. I had heard you were doing it before I got here, and I just wanted to show I was one of the boys."

A natural leader, he majored in English and minored in French. He was a cheerleader (some have even credited him with introducing the "FU All the Time" cheer) and a member of the Baptist Student Union and the Collegiate Educational Service Corps, for which he helped develop a support program for high school dropouts. This work would foreshadow what would become his lifelong commitment to South Carolina's youth.

In addition, he was a member of the Furman chapter of the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC), a group whose political activism sparked intense campus debate and controversy during the late 1960s.

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*In 1985, Vaughn headlined a program recognizing 20 years of desegregation at Furman. Opposite: In 1990 Vaughn and trustee Alester G. Furman III helped Collegiate Educational Service Corps work on a Habitat for Humanity home.*

As a member of SSOC, Vaughn helped plan and recruit student participation in a demonstration in downtown Greenville in February 1968 after three students were killed and 28 injured in an event, now referred to as the Orangeburg Massacre, at historically black South Carolina State College. Two months later he recruited students to join him in a march down Greenville's Main Street in the days after Martin Luther King's assassination.

He also chaired the "Talk a Topic" committee that planned forums on issues such as race relations and the military draft. One forum on race brought undercover FBI agents to campus because the committee had invited the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan to participate.

Lillian Brock Flemming '71, one of the first African-American women to graduate from Furman, knew Vaughn from Sterling High. He helped recruit her to Furman, and they were longtime friends.

At the commemorative program in February, Flemming said she believed that Vaughn's success was due in part because he told his white friends, "I want the same things that you want. I have the same dreams and aspirations that you have. And I have the same intellect that you have."

Like Vaughn's former teacher, Xanthene Norris, Flemming also pointed to his keen mind: "People talked about Joe's intellect, but they didn't understand the magnitude. He could embarrass you in three different languages and you didn't [even] know it."

When a sense of isolation crept in among the small group of African-Americans at Furman in the late '60s, Flemming said that Vaughn encouraged them to stay positive and remain focused on academics. She recalled him saying, "You're not here because you're black. You're here because you're a student."

Vaughn was a senior when Furman's current First Lady, Susan Thomson Shi '71, enrolled. She said that her main memory of arriving on campus was "the feeling [of] absolute normality. This was not a deal at all. Joe was here, and Joe was in charge of everything. It didn't occur to me that there was any other way.

"Joe had done such a phenomenal job of transforming this place that student- and faculty-wise, my sense was that everything was the way it was supposed to be. Joe created that feeling for the rest of us."

Harry Shucker '66, recently retired vice president for student services, was a junior when Vaughn enrolled. He remembered the "remarkable evenness of disposition Joe carried his entire life. He understood the significance of his role as the first African-American student to be admitted, but he never took himself too seriously."

**After graduating from Furman** (and subsequently earning two master's degrees), Vaughn taught in Greenville County from 1969 to 1982 and also served as a visiting lecturer at the University of South Carolina.

Charles Gardner, a childhood friend, remembered Vaughn's "sense of caring for others. He was a teacher and a reacher. It is one thing to teach.



A. DAVID CROSBY

It is a little bit deeper to reach. Joe was a reacher."

One of Vaughn's former students, Neil Harris, said that Vaughn introduced him to "the idea that being black was something special and something to be proud of." Harris also echoed Garner's remarks: "Joe didn't segregate. He reached out to every student

at Mauldin High School. He saw potential where we didn't see it. When everybody else saw chaos, Joe could slow it down and say, 'You're gonna be something, just a little bit different. Come with me and let's see what we can make of you.' Joe took responsibility for each and every one of us."

In 1982 Vaughn was elected president of the South Carolina Education Association. He would go on to serve on the Governor's Task Force on Critical and Human Needs and on a Blue Ribbon Task Force on the South Carolina Education Improvement Act. He worked as a drug education consultant, coordinated the Greenville County School District's substance abuse program, and developed an in-school suspension center to assist with social and academic problems.

Years after they had both graduated, Susan Shi remembered watching Vaughn galvanize an entire football stadium while leading a cheer during a home game against South Carolina State. "Joe could walk in a room and take over or change the sense of how things were moving," she said. "It was one of the rare times during our football season where we had a truly desegregated-integrated experience on our campus. You could sense as everyone was moving into the stadium the determination [that] this was going to be fun and this crowd was going to love each other.

"I looked up in the stands to see Joe Vaughn in the middle of the S.C. State crowd with all his Furman stuff on, and he single-handedly had us together on the same page, pulling for something a whole lot bigger than a football game. That is my last memory of that wonderful man."

Flemming emphasized, "Joe wanted everyone to understand that there were four things in this world that he loved — one, his Mama Clara; two, Sterling High School; three, Greenville's Southernside community [where he grew up]; and the fourth one became Furman University. He was a great ambassador for Furman."

Joe Vaughn died on May 31, 1991, at the age of 45. Six years earlier, in February of 1985, he had encouraged students and others in the university community to "Make sure you are a part of Furman's greatness."

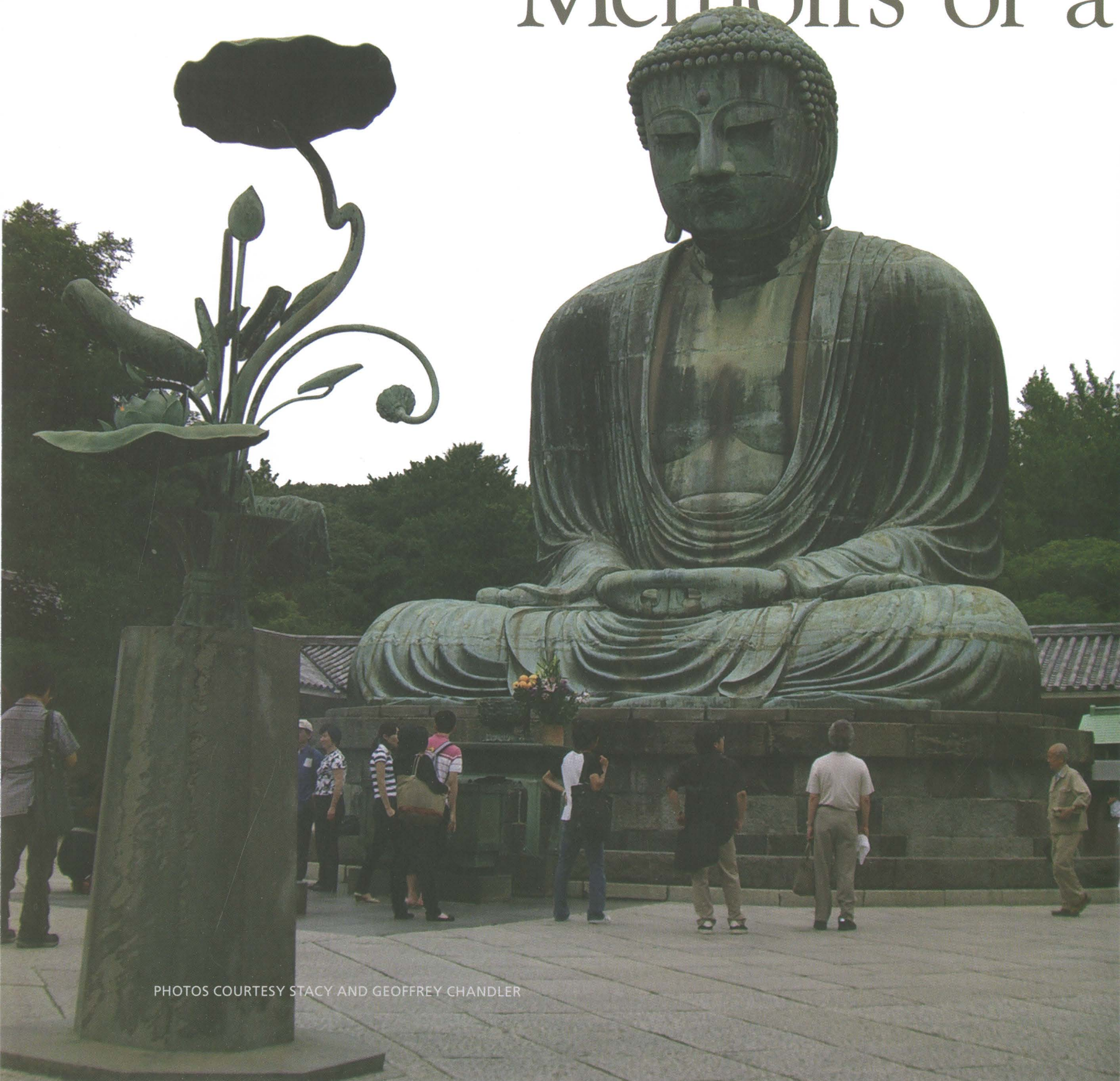
He certainly was. |F|

*The author, a 1999 Furman graduate, holds a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. She is assistant professor of history at Furman and museum historian for the Upcountry History Museum.*

*The Joe Vaughn Scholarship at Furman is awarded each year to a student who demonstrates financial need, exemplifies high moral character and shows academic promise. To support the scholarship, contact the development office at (864) 294-2475 or e-mail [betsy.moseley@furman.edu](mailto:betsy.moseley@furman.edu).*



# Memoirs of a



PHOTOS COURTESY STACY AND GEOFFREY CHANDLER

# Gaijin

*My three years in Japan, or How I learned to cope with meat on a stick, bridge the communication gap and ultimately go with the flow.*

**In Japan**, you frequently hear the phrase “Shoganai,” meaning “It is inevitable.” Some would even call it the unofficial national motto. It’s a shrug of the shoulders, a nod to the forces of the universe, an understanding that sometimes our puny plans are no match for fate.

It must have been fate that led my husband and me to Japan. Because it certainly wasn’t planning.

Before we moved there in 2004, Japan to us was just a blob on a map, a mention in a history book, an amusing place that gave the world sushi and video games and crazy robots. But in a matter of weeks, Japan as an idea transformed into Japan as our home.

Our journey started with a routine e-mail sent around the office — the Washington, D.C., newsroom of *Stars and Stripes*, the newspaper for U.S. service members stationed overseas — sharing news of an opening for a copy editor in the Tokyo bureau. My finger hovered over the delete key, but something made me stop.

And think.

Instead of asking myself why I would want to move to Tokyo, I grappled with a greater question: “Why not?”

We had nothing tying us down — no kids, no pets, no house to sell. We were newly married, and a particular line from our wedding vows was still fresh in my mind: “I promise to do my part to ensure we never lose our spirit of adventure.”

So I applied for the job, which set everything into motion. And as our emotions careened between wild excitement and abject fear, there was a certain current flowing steadily underneath: Shoganai (though we didn’t yet know the word).

It was inevitable.

**I**t was September 2004, and we were about an hour from landing in Tokyo — approximately 15 hours into a 16-hour series of flights — when the captain came on the intercom and announced that he had some good news. There had been no further aftershocks from the earthquake that had hit Japan earlier in the day, and the volcano that had been spewing ash for the past several weeks seemed in no danger of erupting before we landed.

My husband, Geoffrey, and I looked at each other as if to say, “What have we done?”

We landed safely, claimed the suitcases we would live out of for several months before the

rest of our worldly possessions caught up with us, and climbed into a van that would take us downtown.

Despite my bone-deep exhaustion, I was glued to the window for the entire ride. I marveled at the cars around us. They were tiny by American standards, and in every color of the rainbow. The makes were familiar — Honda, Toyota, Nissan. But the model names, including “Cube,” “That’s,” “Cedric” and the giggle-inducing “Naked,” were not.

Trucks were incredibly compact and in some cases ornately decorated. I learned later that the most hard-core truck drivers made their rigs into “dekotora,” or decoration trucks. They were decked out in steel attachments and multi-colored lights, and painted with elaborate murals depicting such national icons as samurai or Mount Fuji. Seeing one in a rearview mirror felt like being followed by a casino on wheels.

Beyond the highway, much of which was built several stories above ground level, stood an endless sea of apartment buildings and office

BY STACY SCHORR CHANDLER



*The Daibutsu, or Great Buddha of Kamakura, towers over visitors; vendors sell popular snacks outside Yoyogi Park in Tokyo; a fashionable teen-age girl in the trendy Harajuku neighborhood of Tokyo; prayers in dozens of languages are written on wooden tiles and tied to a wall at Tokyo's Meiji Shrine.*



towers, with train tracks looped among them like noodles. And on the sidewalks below were people. Everywhere.

We were dropped off at our hotel, where we found in the bathroom perhaps the greatest of all Japanese innovations: the heated toilet seat. A panel of buttons on the wall controlled the seat's every function — and there were many, including heat, bidet (adjustable for manly or womanly needs), and a pleasant, recorded flushing sound to hide shameful noises.

We were beginning to think we might like this place.

**Before** long the natural disasters our pilot had been monitoring were just part of life. Earthquakes became minor annoyances, and volcanic dust was merely something to be swept off our balcony periodically. We got used to bowing, and being bowed to. We learned a little Japanese, but mostly we learned to be experts at charades. A little gesturing can go a long way when you're trying to find the train station.

It can help when you want to identify food, too. Meat on a stick is standard fare at Japan's cultural festivals, but it's not always easy to identify. We stood before one vendor, trying to figure out whether the cubes on skewers were pork . . . or chicken . . . or beef. Or something else.

The vendor noticed our confusion. He spoke a Japanese word several times, at ever-increasing volume, but it was no help.

"Chicken?" I asked, hoping he'd recognize the word.

No dice.

So I stuck my hands in my armpits and started flapping while looking inquisitive.

It worked. The vendor erupted in a wonderful belly laugh, then shook his head, stuck out his tongue and pointed to it.

After a few more awkward seconds of confusion, Geoffrey figured it out.

"Oh! Tongue!"

Which wasn't exactly what we were hoping for. But because the vendor had been so patient, and because he was so happy that we had finally communicated, and because he was holding two skewers of tongue in our faces, we bought our snacks and went in search of beer — another festival staple and a word we definitely knew — to wash it down.

Our progress at settling in was marked by small achievements: Taking the train someplace new without getting lost. Learning to feel comfortable slurping noodles in a restaurant (considered polite in Japan). Navigating crowded sidewalks without bumping into everybody.

*Earthquakes became minor annoyances, and volcanic dust was merely something to be swept off our balcony periodically. We got used to bowing, and being bowed to. We learned a little Japanese, but mostly we learned to be experts at charades.*

Tokyo's famous crowds were daunting at first. I'd enter a train station only to find the platform full of people. I'd consider turning around and heading back home, but then, as a train pulled in and opened its doors, I'd be swept into the crowd and become one of seemingly thousands of people cramming onboard. Every now and then, white-gloved train workers would come by and shove as many people as possible into a car, until I was pinned so tightly against my neighbors that I could barely breathe.

Early on this was terrifying, and every bit as awkward as you might imagine. But after a while it became just a minor annoyance of rush-hour travel. I'd squeeze out of the train at my destination and be deposited into another station teeming with people preparing to walk out to jam-packed sidewalks. Somehow the crowds moved smoothly, like currents in the ocean, and I got used to going with the flow.

Then there were the big adjustments.

Driving on the left side of the road, for one. Paying the equivalent of \$9 for a beer without flinching. And probably the largest adjustment: navigating through life not being able to read, write, speak or understand.

I picked up some Japanese, of course, and even took a couple of basic classes. I have to admit, however, that I abandoned hope in the face of a language that has thousands of characters in its alphabet. Once I realized that most people in Tokyo spoke at least a little English, and that most barriers to communication could be bridged by gesturing, pantomiming or making sketches

and pointing, I let my study of Japanese fall by the wayside.

As much as I regret not becoming fluent in the language of my home for three years, there were perks to illiteracy. I could sit (or stand, more likely) in a train car filled with people and get lost in a book or in the music on my iPod. Not being able to understand the yammering around me made it easy to tune things out.

Then there was the night I was pulled over while driving home from work. I wasn't speeding (promise!) and I'd stopped for every red light. But I spotted red flashing lights in my rearview mirror and heard from the loudspeaker on the police car a polite (of course) request to stop.

I stopped and braced myself for hours of frustration. Although Japanese police don't carry guns, they can kill with their love of lengthy forms and elaborate bureaucracy. When I rolled down the window, it was quickly evident that

the two officers who approached spoke no English, and that my limited Japanese wouldn't be helpful.

So I took out my wallet, handed over my driver's license and ID card and any other scrap of paper I guessed they might be interested in, then smiled and shrugged and tried to look contrite. The officers conferred, and there was much sucking of teeth — a classic sign of distress caused by a departure from *The Way of Things*. I turned off the car and settled in for a wait.

Within minutes the officers returned my documents, nodded and turned to leave. When they started their car and drove away, I knew I was off the hook. I still don't know what, if anything, I did wrong, or whether I got away with anything. But I do know — or suspect, anyway — that my ignorance of the language made me too much of a hassle to deal with.

Of course, there was a downside to navigating life in Japan without being able to speak the language. Easy, routine tasks — going to the post office, getting a haircut, buying a movie ticket — became difficult. Trying a new restaurant meant first finding out if it had an English menu, or at least a menu with a lot of photos and a wait staff willing to interpret our pointing.

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*Opposite: Geoffrey and Stacy model the yukata, a summer kimono traditionally worn to festivals; a traditional Japanese meal includes everything from sushi to bowls of cooked food with eggs, tofu, noodles and daikon radish; a couple dressed for their wedding walks the grounds of Meiji Shrine. Below: Mount Fuji climbers set out at sunrise toward the summit, 12,388 feet above sea level.*



In almost every potentially difficult situation, we were saved by the Japanese people's famous congeniality. If we happened to peek into a restaurant that did not have an English menu, we rarely were allowed to slip away. Instead we were welcomed and seated, and the staff tried hard to make us comfortable and to discover what we liked. If we found ourselves wandering lost along the sidewalks, we were soon swamped with offers of help, sometimes in the form of a stranger guiding us all the way to our destination.

Japan's reputation for politeness is no exaggeration. But it's more than just chilly formality. The people possess a genuine warmth and a sincere desire to learn about other cultures and to show off the best of their own.

We made many Japanese friends. Some spoke perfect English and others spoke barely a word of it, but they never seemed to tire of helping us order pizza, mail packages or make restaurant reservations.

I think they enjoyed watching us discover their country. We were invited into homes, offered traditional food, taken to festivals and complimented lavishly on our Japanese vocabulary and pronunciation, no matter how pitiful it actually was. Our friends answered our endless questions and asked just as many about our lives and American culture.

Thanks to our Japanese friends, and to our own love of exploring, the weekends were never boring. If we weren't seeing the sights (Mount Fuji, Meiji Shrine, the giant Buddha), we simply ventured out of our apartment and let adventure find us. We'd stroll through a park and chance upon a knot of pop bands battling it out, or a ring

of pompadoured businessmen in black leather twisting away to rockabilly songs. Or we'd wander through downtown, admiring Tokyo's funky street fashion, discovering beautiful temples in unlikely places and finding great bars that were crammed past capacity — with only eight people inside.

But Japan's culture wasn't the only one we were discovering. *Stars and Stripes'* financial (but not editorial) relationship with the U.S. military meant we were assigned an apartment on an American Air Force base in western Tokyo. So we had to get used to showing IDs to armed guards every time we returned to the base, and to being surrounded by guns and uniforms.

We became experts at filling out forms in triplicate and grew accustomed to visiting multiple offices and receiving multiple answers whenever we needed to get anything done. In short, we had to learn the language of government bureaucracy, which made Japanese seem like a breeze.

But we had access to a military grocery store stocked with American goods at American prices, and there was a small food court with a Taco Bell — an object of intense envy for our expatriate friends who did not have military ties. Our apartment itself, a two-bedroom of a size and design you'd find anywhere in America, was palatial by Japanese standards, so we weren't coming home to the legendary Japanese shoebox after our adventures.

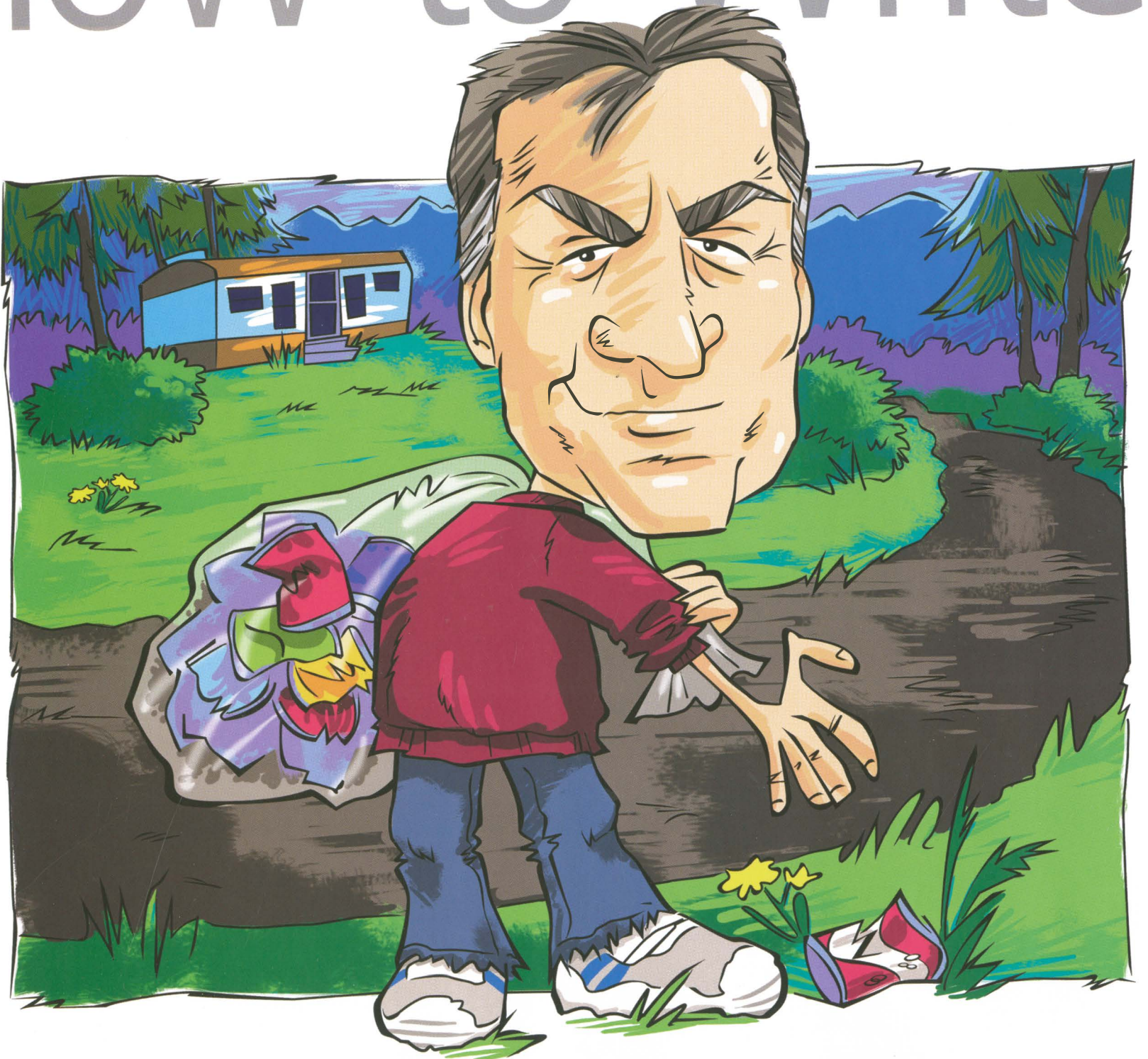
In short, Japan was wonderful. But it wasn't home. And, in what some call a downside to Japanese culture, it never would be for us as foreigners. So after three years, we decided to come back to the States.

Once again we sold our car, packed all our belongings and boarded a plane for 16 hours of air travel. This time we didn't have earthquakes, volcanoes or a language barrier to worry about — only the daunting task of re-acclimating to our homeland, and coming to terms with the realization that at least part of our hearts will always be 7,000 miles away.

*Shoganai.* |F|

*The author graduated from Furman in 1999 with a degree in English. She and Geoffrey now live in Raleigh, N.C., where she is a copy editor for the News & Observer.*

# How to Write



# Stories

BY GEORGE SINGLETON

And lose weight, clean up the environment and make a million dollars.

Illustrations by Julie Speer

**T**his plan will work if and only if the writer-to-be is, say, 25 years old and intends to live another 50 years. But it's fun to play even if you start at age 30 or 40. Maybe it'll give you the incentive to live past 90.

## DAY ONE

Wake up early and sit in front of the computer, or open up a nice Mead composition notebook. It doesn't matter. I will assume that you know what a short story is — basically a 5,000-word piece of fiction with a recognizable beginning, middle, and end that involves a protagonist trying to best an antagonist. There will be rising action, and conflict, and dialogue, and maybe even a beautiful lyrical passage shoved somewhere in the middle when you're not quite sure where the story's headed.

On the first day, put two characters in an uncomfortable situation. Maybe you're writing about the time you were 16 years old and buying condoms, and your boyfriend or girlfriend's mother walked up behind you. That's pretty awkward, if you ask me. This is fiction, though, so you need to make up some crap. Make the mother limp, for instance. Have her holding a package of bunion pads.

Anyway, write 1,000 words on the first day.

Now go out — this will work *if and only if* you live out in the country, in a state that doesn't offer a nickel for cans, seeing as no one in those states throws nickels out the open truck window, I doubt, like they do where I live in Dacusville, South Carolina — with a plastic bag and pick up at least 50 aluminum cans. This might take as much as a quarter-mile of walking.

Come back home and place the cans upright. Stomp on them. This will reduce space. Throw the cans in some kind of container with a top — a rubber garbage can, for instance. If you live in an apartment complex, make sure that your neighbors don't snoop around and steal your cans. Wait. You live in the country. You live in a place like Dacusville, South Carolina. Maybe I should've mentioned that you might be living in a trailer.

Anyway, put up the cans. Start thinking about tomorrow.

## DAY TWO

Reread your first 1,000 words. Rewrite. If you chose to write in the notebook, type up the rewrite on a computer. I'm not going to mention this again.

Make sure your characters' names didn't change somewhere in the middle. Pick right up where you left off, and add another 1,000 words. Then go out and gather another 50 cans, which might take you as much as a half-mile of walking. Stomp. Add to the first batch.

## DAY THREE

Reread your first 2,000 words. Rewrite. Write another 1,000. Go out on that walk and retrieve 50 cans, which might now take three-quarters of a mile. Don't forget to wash your hands when you get home. I should've mentioned that earlier, too.

## DAY FOUR

Reread 3,000 words. Rewrite. Write another 1,000 words. Go walk a mile and pick up 50 cans. Stomp them when you get home. Make a note to change the antagonist's name, because you don't want to get sued later on in life by people who don't have the tenacity to become famous, rich, skinny, and environmentally conscious the old-fashioned, difficult way. Add your cans to the bin and realize that you've picked up 200 aluminum cans already. Good job. You're doing your part. If you want to celebrate, make sure to drink beer out of a can so you can add it to your collection.

## DAY FIVE

Reread 4,000 words. Rewrite. Write another 1,000 words. Finish up that first draft of your story. You've probably been thinking up possible titles while taking your aluminum-can-gathering walks, so make a decision. First off, ditch the first two or three titles that came into your mind. One of them will probably be something like "The Lesson." It's been used. One of them might be "Good Country People," seeing as you're happy about good country people throwing out their empty PBR cans. You can't use that title, either. So settle on something like "Captain of the Solitaire

Team,” because you’ve been thinking about how all these home-schooled kids living in the area don’t have sports teams or after-school activities.

Okay. Now go out, walk a good mile and a quarter down the two-lane road, and get your 50 cans. Bring them home, stomp on them, etc.

#### DAY SIX

Reread the finished story. Make some changes. Print out a few copies. Go out and get another 50 cans, which might take you 1.5 miles of walking. When you get home, stand on the scales and notice that all this walking has caused you to lose almost four ounces of weight. Maybe you shouldn’t have been eating all those Little Debbie oatmeal pies while you wrote.

Now gather your cans and take them down to a place that buys scrap metal. Turn in the cans. On average, 34 cans weigh about a pound. Turn in 10 pounds of aluminum cans — which will come to about \$5 on today’s market. Use that money to buy stamps. Buy six 42-cent stamps and as many subsequent-ounce stamps as possible. I realize that in the future, postal rates will go up. But then again, maybe the price of recyclable aluminum will skyrocket.

Always be optimistic, like I am.

A 5,000-word story usually runs about 18 pages. Every four pages of typing paper weighs an ounce. Your story, plus the cover letter — which will only read “Dear Editors, Please consider the enclosed story ‘Captain of the Solitaire Team’ for an upcoming issue” — will cost less than a buck-fifty to mail. And you’ll need a regular business-sized SASE enclosed for response. So that’s, say, \$1.92, tops. You’ll almost be able to send your story out to three places, which for some reason is frowned upon by some editors, but what the hell — you wouldn’t apply for one job at a time, would you? And the editors are way up in New York, more than likely, and won’t send down their unpaid interns to rough you up, seeing as the unpaid interns will stay for good once they notice how you live in one of the cleanest square miles in America.

The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* has called George Singleton ‘80 the “unchallenged king of the comic Southern short story.” Singleton has published four collections of short stories and two novels. This essay will appear in *Pep Talks, Warnings, and Screeds: Indispensable Wisdom and Cautionary Advice for Writers*, coming this fall from *Writer’s Digest Books*. Visit [www.georgesingleton.com](http://www.georgesingleton.com).



A dollar and ninety-two cents times three comes to \$5.76. Maybe you should’ve picked up more than 50 cans a day. I should’ve mentioned that it’s easy to find empty aluminum cans in the garbage bins at the convenience store, gas station, in most parking lots, and so on. Maybe you understood that already. I hope so. I’m hopeful that you got obsessed about picking up aluminum, and that you have enough for extra stamps. I know it happened to me. When people ask me — rudely, I think

— about my retirement plans, I say that I have all my money wrapped up in the aluminum market.

Now send out your story to *The New Yorker*, *Harper’s*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Playboy*, *Esquire*, or any of those slick magazines that pay upwards of \$3,000 a story. The chances of two of those magazines wanting the same story are slim. Don’t sweat over it.

If you do sweat over it, just think of it as another way to lose weight.

#### DAY SEVEN

Start over. Start a new story. Write 1,000 words. Go out and pick up cans and notice how you’re now walking farther. Or further. Make a note to get out the dictionary and look up the difference between those two words when you get home, stomp, and wash your hands. Do the same for “lay” and “lie” so you no longer have to write sentences like, “I reclined on the couch” or “You’re telling a big fat untruth!”

#### DAY EIGHT

Don’t be discouraged by the rejection from *The Atlantic Monthly*. How did the post office get the manuscript to the fiction editor, and he get the answer back so quickly? you’ll wonder. It’ll seem like the editor rented a Learjet to get you the bad news. He’s that fast.

Rewrite the first 1,000 words of the second story, write another thousand, and realize that you need to get the first story back out in the mail soon. You might have to jack the number of cans up, for you’ll need more postage.

#### END OF YEAR TWO

You finally hear about that first story you sent off from those magazines that weren’t *The Atlantic Monthly*. Because you’ve sent a story a week to them, you think, “Man, they’re still holding 103 stories of mine.”

Meanwhile, you’ve taken each story and sent off to literary journals that pay 50 bucks a page, or 25, or 10. You’ve also started sending off to places that just offer you contributor’s copies.



But that's all right. You're up to walking anywhere from six to 10 miles a day in order to find cans. You've lost 20 pounds or more.

#### YEAR EIGHT

*The Atlantic Monthly* takes a story. Or *Harper's*. No matter what or where, you get three to five thousand bucks upon signing the contract.

Do not go out on a 15-year drinking binge. Promise me that you'll not go on a 15-year drinking binge.

Take the money and invest it in either a CD getting five percent interest, or in a mutual fund that's not Putnam Voyager B.

#### YEARS NINE THROUGH FIFTEEN

You've sold stories now to a few of the slick magazines, you've been in a number of literary magazines, you've been anthologized, you've told a number of agents that you were "thinking about" writing a novel, and so on.

You still live in a trailer, but the countryside is *spectacular*.

You've invested all that money and now can boast about being a twenty-thousand-dollaraire.

#### YEARS SIXTEEN TO NINETEEN

Surely someone will take a chance on publishing your first collection of stories. You've now written about 832 of the things, 10 of which are okay.

You look good, except for all those nasty sores and lesions on your hands from forgetting to properly wash them after getting cut by aluminum cans.

#### YEAR TWENTY

Sign the book deal, no matter what. Like the rest of your money, stash 90 percent of the picayune advance into a CD or mutual fund that's not Putnam Voyager B. Take what's left over to wash and wax your trailer.

#### AFTER TWENTY YEARS

You'll never understand the workings of interest rates, but over time — notice how you don't have kids with which to bother, or a spouse, seeing as you've been slightly focused on your work — your savings will grow and grow and grow. You'll get more book deals, and a chance to leave the trailer in order to speak to people at colleges. They'll pay you more money than the magazines, somehow. And you'll speak at writers' conferences, even though you never even attended one over the years.

You never attended because A) they cost way too much money; and B) you wrote over that time instead of *talked* about writing.

#### CAVEATS

This little outline, of course, must be adjusted if you have a full-time job on the side. Maybe you have medical problems that need to be looked into. Maybe you live in a dry county where there's not enough discarded beer cans. Maybe you live in a county with a high rate of diabetes and there aren't Coke or Pepsi products laying or lying around. Maybe it's difficult to write a story a week — one every month is fine, but you'll have to multiply all those years above by four. Maybe the trailer gets hit by a tornado and you lose the will to live. Maybe you went on that 15-year binge like I've heard that most writers do. Maybe you fell in love with someone coming from the other direction, picking cans up off the side of the road, and now there's a bad jealous rivalry going on between two writers.

Well, then, don't write. |F|

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# Because Furman Matters.

## Furman's investment in him compels young alum to respond in kind

**S**teven Buckingham admits that when he applied to Furman almost 10 years ago, he didn't know much about the university, its academic reputation or the quality of the student body. But after visiting the campus, he was convinced that Furman was the place for him.

In fact, he didn't apply to any other college. And Furman was glad to invite him to join the family.

By the time he graduated in the spring of 2003, he had captained the university's nationally ranked Mock Trial team, been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, earned a degree in political science and attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Mexico, where he had the opportunity to meet world leaders, including then Secretary of State Colin Powell. Buckingham was also invited to deliver the Commencement address at graduation.

He went on to attend law school at the University of Richmond. There he distinguished himself in the classroom, was editor-in-chief of the *Law Review* and, upon graduation, received the Law Faculty Award.

He says, however, that his proudest moment came after his law school graduation. During a ceremony recognizing the success of two other Furman alumni who were then first-year students, the dean of the law school remarked that the honorees were the latest examples of the fine tradition and reputation that Furman graduates have established at Richmond.

Buckingham went on to pass the South Carolina Bar exam, then served as a law clerk to the Hon. James R. Spencer, Chief United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, for the 2006-07 term.

Buckingham is now back in Greenville, where he is an associate with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP, practicing in the



areas of business and commercial litigation, class action defense, consumer finance litigation and products liability defense. This summer he is a temporary law clerk to the Hon. Henry M. Herlong, Jr., United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, after which he will resume his practice with Nelson Mullins.

Of his work, Buckingham says, "The practice of law is mainly a business. But every now and again, you get to do things to help others that few people can. In those situations, you can put yourself into the grander scheme of our system to see where you fit in and how you can use that system to the advantage of the interest you're protecting and promoting."

To him, the legal profession represents a call

to service: "There are so few things that matter these days. But one thing that will always matter is people having a fair opportunity to resolve their disputes peacefully.

"This country could survive without either an executive or a legislature. It would crumble without a judiciary. It's the only thing that stands between civility and anarchy."

Buckingham is quick to credit Furman for much of his success. "Furman is great at teaching you how to think for yourself," he says. "Other colleges focus on learning the opinions and facts presented by others, but at Furman you engage in a higher level of analysis. You learn what you believe, and what is true and accurate."

With his return to Greenville, he has become an active volunteer in the community and at Furman. He is a member of the board of directors of the Rape Crisis & Child Abuse Center, and he is a coach for Furman's Mock Trial team.

He continues to support alma mater in other ways as well. Inspired by the \$400 million "Because Furman Matters" campaign, he pledged an annual gift that qualifies him for membership with the Young Benefactors and the Presidents Club, for donors of \$1,000 or more.

"Furman matters," Buckingham says, "for so many reasons. Furman invested so much in me. I feel compelled to give back.

"A large part of who I am is because of other alumni who gave their time to help with my development. I'm helping those who are now where I once was."

— **NANCY MELTON '05**  
Associate Director, Annual Giving

On the Web: [www.becausefurmanmatters.com](http://www.becausefurmanmatters.com).



## Psychology professor's planned gift recognizes influence of Furman mentors

**M**elissa Guynn decided to become a psychology major at Furman before she ever took a class in the subject.

A native of Aiken, S.C., she enrolled at the university in 1987 thinking she would be a business major or pre-law student. But an encounter with a junior psychology major changed her mind.

"I remember looking through her psychology texts and finding that I was intrigued by the great variety of topics that fell under the psychology umbrella — that they were real-world topics and could be studied scientifically," says Guynn, now an associate professor of psychology at New Mexico State University. "So I decided to become a psychology major before I'd even taken a psychology class."

Her introduction to the subject couldn't have come from a better instructor: legendary Furman professor Charles L. Brewer. Guynn recalls Brewer telling one class that "we would never find better teachers than what we had at Furman. He was right. I'm trying to be as good, but I'm certainly not there yet."

Guynn, who graduated from Furman in 1991, specializes in cognitive psychology with a primary interest in human memory. She says she patterns much of her classroom work after her models in the Furman psychology department: Brewer, Gil Einstein, Elaine Nocks and John Batson.

"The four of them really were the icons of the department during my time there," she says. "They were all exceptional in every respect — their knowledge of the material, their preparation for class, their enthusiasm for their subject, their high expectations, and their enjoyment of their students and the processes of teaching and learning.

"They created the impression, in and outside of the classroom, that the students were their most important concerns. Since then, I've tried to emulate their collective teaching style in all of my interactions with students."

She has also decided to recognize her mentors by establishing a planned gift at Furman that will endow several professorships in the Department of Psychology. The words of the formal agreement state that the professorships are "in appreciation for Charles L. Brewer, Gilles O. Einstein, Elaine C. Nocks and John D. Batson and their dedication to top quality undergraduate education."

Guynn's generous bequest is just one of a number of planned gifts that have been established during the early phases of the \$400 million "Because Furman Matters" campaign. A donor from the Class of '56 has made a bequest of real estate, an IRA and residual cash that will ultimately endow another psychology professorship, and two members of the Class of '59 have included in their wills funding to establish a scholarship for students to use in a language-intensive study away program.

Although in years past planned giving was

considered the realm of the 65-and-over demographic, Furman is now starting to benefit from a variety of deferred gifts from younger alumni and friends. For example, a 1974 graduate has endowed a football scholarship in his will, and a member of the Class of '78 has created a \$1.2 million charitable trust.

As Melissa Guynn says, "My experiences at Furman were some of the most formative in my life in terms of a pretty direct influence on my educational and career choices, which in turn have influenced my life more broadly. The faculty members were all so down to earth and approachable that I could actually envision myself pursuing the same kind of career that I saw them pursuing every day. I suspect many other graduates would say they have benefited in similar, positive ways.

"So making Furman psychology a part of my estate planning seemed an appropriate thing to do — a way to say thank you to them, to help them to influence many future generations of students in the way that they influenced me, and to feel confident that the assets will be put to good use."

— JIM STEWART

*To learn more about planned giving options and how to meet your financial, philanthropic and estate planning goals, call Steve Perry '78, director of planned giving, at (864) 294-2458, e-mail [steve.perry@furman.edu](mailto:steve.perry@furman.edu), or visit the Web, [www.furman.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.furman.edu/plannedgiving).*

*Above: Melissa Guynn's mentors, clockwise from top left, Charles Brewer, Gil Einstein, John Batson, Elaine Nocks.*

## Time passages: Retirees combined to provide 165 years of service to Furman

Furman's 2007-08 class of faculty retirees includes two alumni — chemistry professor Tony Arrington '60 and economics professor Richard Stanford '65 — and two language teachers, David Parsell (French) and Norman Whisnant (German).

The quartet, all of whom have been granted emeritus status, combined to teach at Furman for 165 years. Whisnant, who joined the faculty in 1964, earns the prize for the longest tenure. Parsell is the junior member of the group in terms of service, having begun his Furman career in 1969.

*Furman* magazine asked colleagues and former students for comments on each of these distinguished professors and scholars. Their reflections follow:

Tom Stephenson '78, James Hammons Professor of Chemistry at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, didn't take a **Tony Arrington** class until his senior year, when he took two — and realized what he had been missing.

"Many people at Furman are responsible for my interest in pursuing an academic career devoted to teaching and research," Stephenson says, "but Tony is surely at the top of the list. His combination of teaching ability, complete mastery of his material and research accomplishments make him a true teacher-scholar. This is a tricky balance, but one he always seemed to pull off with humor, compassion and an unflappable calmness.

"A successful teacher motivates and inspires students toward their own independent investigations and contributions. This description fits Tony to a T."

Stephenson says he especially admires Arrington's "ability to shift research interests as new targets of opportunity have arisen. For

many years, his research focused on a project at Los Alamos National Laboratory. This work addressed a problem in the critically needed clean-up of leftover waste at nuclear weapons facilities and provided superb opportunities for Furman students to spend their summers working and living in New Mexico."

In 1983, Arrington, who retires as the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of Chemistry, delivered one of the first "What Really Matters" talks in the L.D. Johnson Lecture Series. (The text can be found under the Johnson Lecture Series link at [www.furman.edu/chaplaincy](http://www.furman.edu/chaplaincy).) Arrington's lecture focused on five exemplary individuals — Francis of Assisi, Roger Williams, J.W. Gibbs, Anne Sullivan, and his father, Charles Arrington.

"The talk encompassed much of what is so admirable about Tony — his appreciation of history, love of family, fascination with science, devotion to faith and his overwhelming decency as a human being," says Stephenson. "Furman gave much to Tony during his student years, but he has repaid those gifts many times over by enriching the lives of multiple generations of students."

**David Parsell** likes to say that his Furman career was "bookended" by the university's 3-2-3 academic calendar, which began the year he interviewed for his job and ends this year, as he retires.

William Allen, professor of French and chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, says that after Parsell's arrival at Furman in 1969, it didn't take long for him to become a favorite among students. Allen notes that his colleague brought to the classroom an original style and a passion for modern French literature, particularly theatre.

"Not only did he enjoy teaching it and writing about it," Allen says, "but he was an accomplished stage actor. . . . David estimates that he has played the role of Hamm in Samuel Beckett's *Endgame* some 200 times, and he has also inhabited roles written by Molière and Sartre, among others."

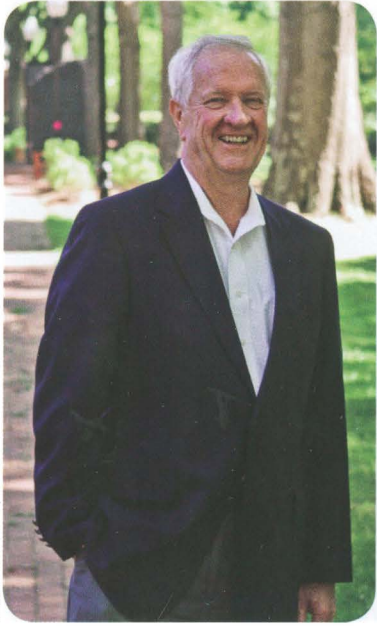
Parsell's scholarly pursuits have resulted in books on American novelist Louis Auchincloss and Belgian playwright Michel de Ghelderode, as well as articles and critical essays on more than 30 writers. He has been an active participant in National Endowment for the Humanities seminars and has frequently served as a reader of Advanced Placement French exams for the Educational Testing Service.

"Ask any of Parsell's colleagues about him," Allen adds, "and they will invariably evoke his prodigious memory. He has long been understood by his peers to be an inexhaustible repository of facts and figures as well as of Furman institutional history and lore."

Parsell also played a pioneering role in the development of Furman's study abroad programs. "He led the first French immersion program to Paris in 1971," Allen says, "and through contacts made during that first trip, the long-running Versailles program was established. David has frequently directed the program, which has been a model for many Furman programs established in the years since."

"In a time when it seems that leadership qualities are characterized by arrogance and ignorance, **Dick Stanford** is the polar opposite," says Jim Pitts, retired Furman chaplain. "He represents genuine humility and wisdom."

Stanford, David C. Garrett Professor of Economics, has spent most of his academic career studying development economics. He



JEREMY FLEMING (2)



*They made it! Sharing the joy of impending retirement are, from far left, Norman Whisnant, Dick Stanford, David Parsell and Tony Arrington.*

has attended seminars in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Cuba, Russia, China, Turkey and West Africa and has directed Furman study abroad programs in England and the Eastern Mediterranean, including several with Pitts.

“Dick’s enthusiasm for travel was complemented by thoughtful orientation so that participants would have a background for meaningful engagement,” Pitts says. “His mission was to move students beyond their cultural confines to a more comprehensive world view.”

Pitts points out that, as both a teacher and author in “the murky world of economics,” Stanford helped to enlighten four decades of undergraduate and graduate students. “He is an expert in helping students to make connections between theory and practice, ideals and reality, technology and humanity, and his bridge-building gifts coupled campus life to the larger community.”

This has been evident, says Pitts, in Stanford’s extensive civic contributions, which have included work with the Greenville Urban League, Greenville Sister Cities International, Piedmont Economics Club and the Western South Carolina International Trade Association.

With his wife, Louise, Stanford has also been a deacon and lay leader at Greenville’s First Baptist Church. “The Stanfords demon-

strate, in word and example, the importance of the life of faith undergirded by thoughtful Biblical study and meaningful service,” says Pitts. Indeed, much of Dick Stanford’s recent work has focused on the connection between economics and religion.

“Following the ordeal of removing the clutter and collection of a career housed in his modest office,” Pitts says, “I am confident that Dick will embrace his new chapter of life and leadership with enthusiasm.”

**Norman Whisnant’s** love for German literature and culture began in his 11th-grade world literature class in Asheville, N.C. For the last 44 years, he has shared his love for Goethe, Schiller, Heine and many others with Furman students, instilling in them an appreciation for the enormous contributions that German culture has made to Western civilization.

Spanish professor David Bost, Whisnant’s Modern Languages and Literatures colleague since 1981, says, “Norman often found himself engaged in a wide array of activities typical of our profession, such as translating and directing study away programs. He is one of Furman’s most seasoned study abroad veterans, having led (or co-led) 10 programs to sites in both Austria and Germany.

“Norman especially excelled in accompanying his students on land tours within the countries, providing deep, engaging historical and cultural commentary at every stop along the way. Martin Luther and Ludwig van Beethoven came alive as Dr. Whisnant lectured expertly on their timeless work.”

Bost adds that Whisnant’s Furman legacy also reflects his global view of higher education. “As one of the original architects of our Language House program,” Bost says, “Norman’s vision many years ago finally became reality in 1998, the first year of this innovative educational experience.” Whisnant also chaired a special task force that studied international education at Furman and established the foundation for what has become the Office of Study Away and International Education.

Noted for his skills at translation, Whisnant is finishing a project for Harvard University Press — an English-language version of *The Early Roman Historians* by noted classical scholars Hans Beck and Uwe Walter. And although he is retiring from full-time teaching, he will return to Furman Hall in the fall to teach a first-year seminar on German literature in translation. Perhaps, says Bost, “Norman has come full circle, returning to the roots of his first world literature class.”

## Special recognitions highlight Founders Convocation

An alumnus, a valued employee and a late trustee received major honors April 2 at the university's annual Founders Week Convocation.

William King "B.K." Bryan, who died in early 2007 after serving for several years on the board of trustees, was a posthumous recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. A man of exceptional wit and infectious energy, he was a business and civic leader in Greenville.

At Furman he chaired the Advisory Council, the Richard Furman Society and the trustees' student services committee. With his wife, Frances, he provided naming gifts for the Bryan Center for Military Science and the Frances Jones Bryan Garden Room in the Charles Ezra Daniel Memorial Chapel.

His daughters Ann P. Bryan, Katherine B. Anderson and Betsy Bryan Jones, who have helped to establish a scholarship at Furman in their father's name, accepted the award.

William H. Bellinger '72 received the Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award, which recognizes a Furman graduate who reflects Baptist ideals by thinking critically,

living compassionately and making life-changing commitments.

Bellinger is chair of the religion department at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he holds the W. Marshall and Lulie Craig Chair of Bible. He has published a number of scholarly articles on the interpretation of the Psalms and the theology of the Old Testament. His books include *The Testimony of Poets and Sages*; *Jesus and the Suffering Servant: Isaiah 53 and Christian Origins*; *Psalms: Reading and Studying the Book of Praises*; and another forthcoming commentary on the Psalms.

He has been president, executive committee member and program chair (Hebrew Bible) for the Southwest Region Society of Biblical Literature, and he served as president and executive committee member of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion.

Theresa Cureton, department assistant in the Office of Student Services for the last 10 years, was presented the Chiles-Harrill Award, which goes to a member of the faculty or staff who has made substantial contributions to the



Honorees Bill Bellinger '72 and Theresa Cureton.

JEREMY FLEMING

lives of students. The award was established in 1998 by Frank Keener '64 to honor Marguerite Moore Chiles, former vice president for student services, and Ernest E. Harrill, professor emeritus of political science and a former dean of students.

Cureton joined the staff in January of 1992. After working in the post office for two years she moved to academic records, where she was employed for four years before assuming her current job. Students hold her in such high regard that she has twice been named staff member of the year by the Association of Furman Students. In 2003 she was inducted as an honorary member into Senior Order, the select women's leadership society.

## English professors Allen, Chevalier earn major awards

Two members of the Department of English earned distinguished honors this spring.

Gilbert Allen, a member of the faculty since 1977, received the Robert Penn Warren Prize in Poetry from *The Southern Review*. The award, which carries a \$1,500 honorarium, goes to the best poem or group of poems published in the journal during the previous volume year. Allen won for a poem titled "The Assistant."

Allen is the author of poetry collections titled *In Everything*, *Second Chances*, *Commandments at Eleven* and *Driving to Distraction*. Visit

[www.furman.edu/press/assistant.htm](http://www.furman.edu/press/assistant.htm) to read his winning poem.

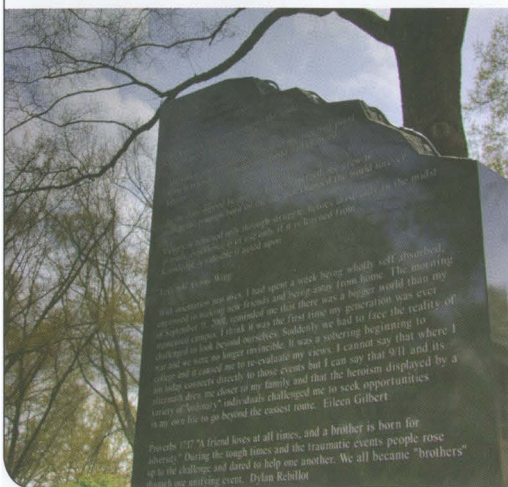
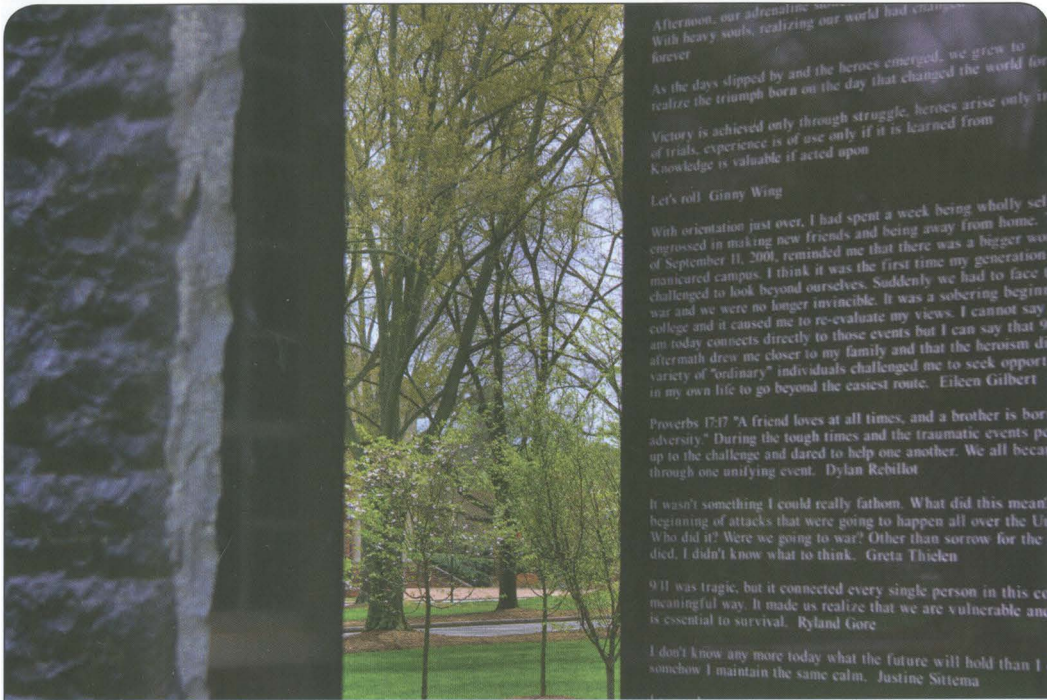
*The Southern Review*, published quarterly by Louisiana State University, also awards The Eudora Welty Prize in Fiction and The Cleanth Brooks Prize in Nonfiction, given annually to the best short story and work of nonfiction, respectively.

Allen's departmental colleague, assistant professor Victoria Chevalier, has received a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Career Enhancement Award. She will use the fellowship to support her work on a book

titled *Black Things: Memory and Material Culture in Twentieth Century American Literature*.

The Career Enhancement Fellowship goes to 20 junior faculty nationally. It supports the tenure process for minority junior faculty and other faculty members committed to eradicating racial disparities across their disciplines by funding research for the Fellows at full pay for a year, including funds for travel.

Chevalier, who joined the Furman faculty in 2005, will return to her native New York City for the year to write her book.



## In remembrance

When it came time for the Class of 2005 to determine its senior gift to the university, its members chose to establish a memorial to September 11, 2001 — their first day of classes as Furman students. The memorial, designed by Anna Martin Winter '05, was installed this spring on the mall side of Furman Hall at the building's central entrance. It features two large granite stones representing the World Trade Center towers. The stones are set in pools of water and face each other; water trickles down the back of each stone. The top of one is rough while the other is whole to represent, respectively, the brokenness caused by the attacks and the resulting unity in the country. Class members' memories of the day are engraved on the stones. Photos by Nathan Guinn.

## Student film named best in national competition

*The Lifestyle Project*, a 12-minute film produced by seven Furman freshmen about living "green" on campus, earned the grand prize and \$15,000 at the Student Conservation Association's "Earth Vision Summit" in Washington, D.C., in April.

*The Lifestyle Project* documents the students' efforts to reduce their impact on the environment. It follows them over a three-week period in which they adopt a vegetarian diet, limit their use of water and electricity, work to generate less trash, and stop driving their cars. As the time passes, the project becomes increasingly rigorous.

The film, which took top honors in the 15-19 age group, emerged from an Introduction to Environmental Science course taught by Weston Dripps as part of the Environmental Community of Students (ECOS) Engaged Living Program. It had earlier earned a \$2,000 regional award to qualify for the national competition.

The contest was sponsored by Mazda and the Student Conservation Association (SCA), a non-profit organization that promotes conservation leadership. SCA offers conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities to more than 3,000 people each year.

Those involved in *The Lifestyle Project* were Ben Dauten of Northfield, Ill., Grace Tuschak of Pennington, N.J., Courtenay Stroud of The Woodlands, Texas, Corrie Ferguson of Simsbury, Conn., Reece Lyerly of Roswell, Ga., Desmond Lee of Ellenwood, Ga., and Daniel Balo of Lenoir City, Tenn.

Visit [www.thesca.org/contest](http://www.thesca.org/contest) and click on the link to view the film.

## Ornate Bible a special addition to Special Collections

On a Friday afternoon in early spring, a small but enthusiastic group gathered on the second floor of the James B. Duke Library to celebrate a gift to Furman that, according to Special Collections director Debbielee Landi, “defies category.”

The object of their affection: a Greek Orthodox Bible encased in an intricately crafted cover molded from gold, platinum and other precious metals. The front of the Bible casing depicts the crucifixion; the resurrection of Christ, surrounded by the apostles and angels, is hand-carved on the back side.

The cover is set against a velvety scarlet

was mounted on a clear pedestal, with an overhead light shining down on it. The display enhanced its brilliance. It took me less than a nano-second to tell myself, ‘I want that!’”

The Schwartzes, both art enthusiasts, returned home with the Bible. But while they enjoyed showing it to friends, they eventually became uneasy about showcasing it in their home.

The Schwartzes are Jewish. Their oldest son, in fact, is studying to be a rabbi. After much thought, they decided to donate the Bible to charity. But where?

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*“It could be classified as a religious artifact or religious art. It defies category.”*

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background. Like most great works of art, it’s a piece you can get lost in.

“It could be classified as a religious artifact or religious art. It defies category,” says Landi. “Regardless, the Bible and cover [appraised at \$19,800] represent the most significant donation to Special Collections in recent memory.”

More compelling than the gift, though, is the story of how it came to the university.

During a July 2006 trip to Santorini, Greece, to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary, Robert Schwartz, a Greenville physician, and his wife, Sheri, were window shopping when they discovered a jewelry store owned by Kostas Antoniou, a famed artist and jeweler.

Venturing into the store, the Schwartzes befriended Antoniou, who invited them to join him at his home for dinner. When they arrived they saw the Bible on display — and learned that it had taken Antoniou nearly two months to complete.

“I was enamored by its sheer beauty,” says Schwartz. “It was encased in a glass box that

At the time their second son, Austin, was a senior at Greenville Tech Charter High School and was preparing to write his senior paper — an intense academic project required for graduation — on the topic of religion and science.

While searching the Internet for information, he happened upon the name of David Rutledge, chair of Furman’s Department of Religion and an authority on the subject. Austin sent an e-mail to Rutledge, and while many professors might ignore an unsolicited note from a high school student, Rutledge did not. He ultimately agreed to serve as Austin’s advisor for the paper.

During the 2006-07 academic year, Austin and Rutledge attended several lectures together. Rutledge also introduced the young Schwartz, who is now a rising sophomore at Clemson University, to Nobel Laureate Charles Townes ’35.

Austin eventually mentioned the Bible to Rutledge. The Furman professor, who speaks Greek and has traveled to Greece, arranged



JEREMY FLEMING

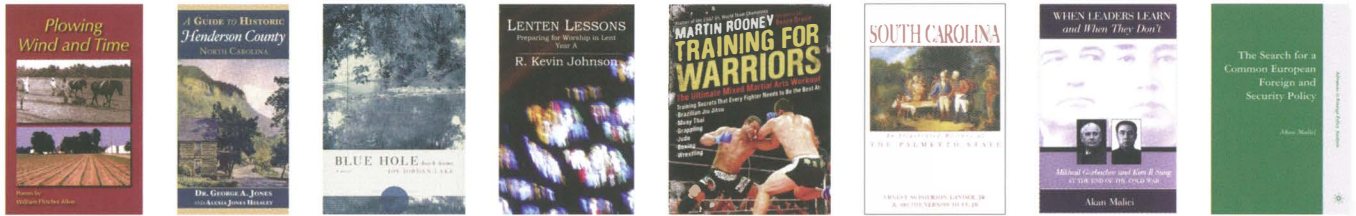
a meeting with Robert Schwartz. Later, he helped connect the doctor with Landi.

“We decided to donate it to Furman and have been deeply honored by the warm reception it has received ever since,” says Schwartz.

While the gift is currently in storage, Landi is planning an exhibition for early 2009 that will feature the Bible as its centerpiece.

— JOHN ROBERTS

*This article appeared in the spring edition of Inside Furman, the internal campus newsletter.*



## Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of books by alumni and faculty

### FROM ALUMNI

Fletcher Allen '54, *Plowing Wind and Time* (Fields Publishing, 2008). The author, who served for a time as director of public relations and alumni magazine editor at Furman, spent most of his career working for three Southern Baptist state newspapers. He retired in 1998 as editor of the *Tennessee Baptist and Reflector*. This book, his third, looks at his life and includes poems he began writing at Furman, where he edited *The Echo* and *The Hornet* (student newspaper). He says, "The English faculty had a deep influence on my love for words. R.N. Daniel introduced me to Robert Browning and others, and William Hatchett whetted my appetite for Browning and similar champions of free verse. Those were years of honing and shaping a young man with a lust for writing."

Alexia Jones Helsley '67 and George A. Jones, *Guide to Historic Henderson County, North Carolina* (The History Press, 2007). This book provides a general overview of a county located less than an hour from Furman, in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It includes information on the area's historic towns, provides images and illustrations of important sites, and features a timeline of the county's history. Alexia Jones Helsley, an archivist and genealogical consultant, teaches part time at the University of South Carolina-Aiken, where she was awarded a teaching prize in 2007. Her co-author (and father) founded the Henderson County Genealogical and Historical Society and directs the county's history center.

Joy Jordan-Lake '85, *Blue Hole Back Home* (David C. Cook, 2008). A 15-year-old Sri Lankan girl moves to an all-white Appalachian town in the summer of 1979 — and winds up affecting the lives of everyone in the provincial mountain burg. *The Tennessean* in Nashville praises the book as "a moving story of racial intolerance and youthful disillusionment," and novelist Bret Lott describes it as "a fast-paced mystery . . . a fine tale of racial conflict and healing, [written] with a fresh and engaging voice." This is the fifth book and first novel from Jordan-Lake, who teaches at Belmont University in Nashville and frequently speaks at retreats, workshops and conferences. Visit her Web site, [www.joyjordanlake.com](http://www.joyjordanlake.com).

R. Kevin Johnson '93, *Lenten Lessons: Preparing for Worship in Lent — Year A* (Micah Publishing, 2007). The publisher says the book "provides a fresh approach to studying the lectionary scriptures for each Sunday during the Lenten season. On the journey toward the remembrance of Christ's death, burial and resurrection, readers are inspired to study the scriptures in preparation for the corporate worship experience at their churches on Sunday. This preparation facilitates a Lenten discipline of daily prayer and allows for a more thorough understanding of the scriptures when worshipping in community." The author is associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Boone, N.C.

Martin Rooney '93, *Training for Warriors: The Ultimate Mixed Martial Arts Workout* (Harper Collins, 2008). This book builds on the popularity of mixed martial arts and, in the publisher's words, "is essential

for all fighters but can also help any athlete or coach looking for an athletic-training advantage. Rooney shows how to perform hundreds of exercises designed to specifically target each area of your body" and provides "a proven, comprehensive system to get you fit for whatever battle life throws at you." Rooney is performance coach for the New York Pitbulls of the International Fight League, COO and director of training of the Parisi Speed School, and an international fitness and martial arts consultant. Visit [www.trainingforwarriors.com](http://www.trainingforwarriors.com).

### FROM FACULTY

A.V. Huff, Jr., and Ernest McPherson Lander, *South Carolina: An Illustrated History of the Palmetto State* (American Historical Press, 2007). Huff is professor emeritus of history and a former vice president for academic affairs and dean at Furman. In this book he joins with Lander, alumni professor emeritus of history at Clemson University, to update Lander's original text. They examine the politics, culture and economic forces in the state, as well as the contributions of people and events that helped shape the South Carolina of today.

Akan Malici, *When Leaders Learn and When They Don't: Mikhail Gorbachev and Kim Il Sung at the End of the Cold War* (State University of New York Press, 2008) and *The Search for a Common European Foreign And Security Policy: Leaders, Cognitions, and Questions of Institutional Viability* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2008). The author, who holds a Ph.D. from Arizona State University, joined the Furman political science faculty in 2005. In *When Leaders Learn*, the publisher says

that Malici develops a dynamic new theory of foreign policy by investigating how Gorbachev and Kim "redefined the theory and practice of international relations and left a heritage that we face today — a unipolar world in which security threats no longer emanate from the rivalry of two superpowers but rather from the existence of rogue states such as North Korea."

Of *The Search*, Malici says, "One of the goals [of the European Union] is to create a continuous and stable common foreign and security policy of the member states. Yet, the foreign policies of the three major states within [the EU] — Germany, France and Great Britain — often continue to diverge. Scholars have argued that the European Union is a complex political and legal phenomenon and spent much time analyzing these aspects. Contrary to this scholarship, I argue that the manifestation of unity on the European continent is also, and perhaps even first and foremost, a psychological phenomenon, and it is here where much more attention is warranted."

Nicholas Radel, editor, *The Taming of the Shrew* (Barnes & Noble, 2007). The Barnes & Noble Series features newly edited Shakespearean texts prepared by leading scholars. The texts are done in collaboration with one of the world's foremost Shakespeare authorities, David Scott Kastan of Columbia University. Radel, who has taught English at Furman since 1986, is co-author of *The Puritan Origins of American Sex: Religion, Sexuality, and National Identity in American Literature*. He is also editing *As You Like It* for the Shakespeare series.



## A professor's ongoing legacy: 40 years of good reading

**Book clubs** have become more and more popular in recent years, and one connected with Furman just marked its 40th anniversary.

In 1968, Rudy Bates, professor of English from 1964 to 1991, was teaching a course about the American novel in the university's evening division. As many of his students over the years would testify, Rudy could be a challenging and often daunting instructor. But he was a great

teacher, especially of the novel.

The students in this particular class enjoyed their studies

and their teacher so much that, at the end of the course, they asked Rudy if they could continue to read novels together. He agreed, and they formed what was informally known as "The Book Club."

When the first meeting was held in June of 1968, Rudy and his wife, Joyce, weren't sure what to expect. As they prepared to leave their house for the meeting, Rudy said, "I don't know why we're going. Nobody else will be there."

But about 15 folks attended the first meeting. Every month since, with only rare exceptions, the club has met to discuss a book and to enjoy each others' company. Through June The Book Club had read more than 400 books, almost all of them novels. See the list of books at <http://fcweb.furman.edu/~john.batson>.

Each club meeting draws about 12 to 14 people. Members have come and gone through the years, but two regulars remain from the original group: Joyce Bates and Edith Cox '74. I was invited to join in 1995, after becoming friends with Rudy while sharing beekeeping duties with him for several years.

We are often asked, "How do you choose your next book?" Joyce usually answers, "By whoever yells the loudest." Although we read a variety of recently published works, every now and then someone will say, "It's time for a classic." That triggers thoughts of such writers as Faulkner, Steinbeck, Hemingway and — of course — Rudy's favorite, Charles Dickens.

We rendezvous at members' houses, discuss the book over a glass of wine, then have coffee and dessert. When the meeting is over, Edith adds the latest title to the list that she has kept all these years.

For our December meetings, we gather at a restaurant and often celebrate Dickens' contributions to Christmas. Sometimes these holiday meetings feature readings from Dickens. At one gathering we toasted each other with "Smoking Bishop," a warm drink that the reformed Ebenezer Scrooge merrily shared with Bob Cratchit at the end of *A Christmas Carol*. And we always end with a quote from Tiny Tim: "God bless us, every one."

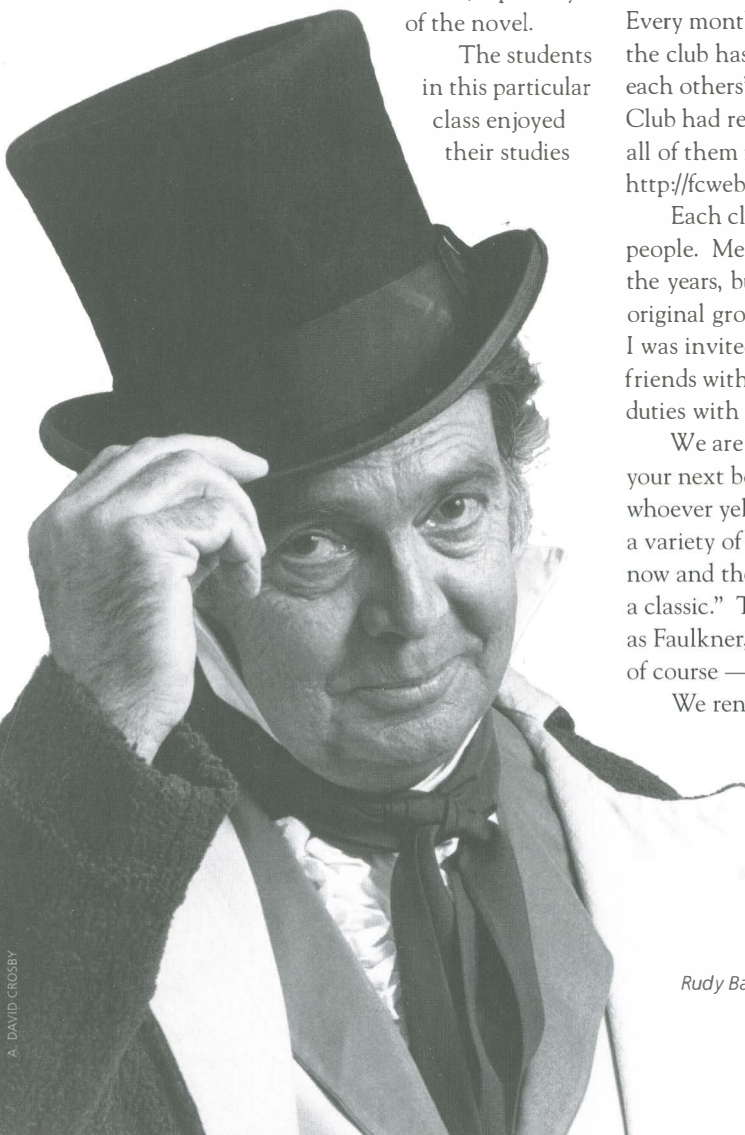
When Rudy Bates died in 1996, all of us felt a great loss. But we never considered ending our monthly book club tradition. Instead, we established the R.D. Bates Memorial Scholarship Fund at Furman. Each year since 2000 the English department has presented this cash award to a rising junior or senior who shows a demonstrated interest in the works of Dickens or Victorian English literature. We always invite the recipient to join us at our next meeting.

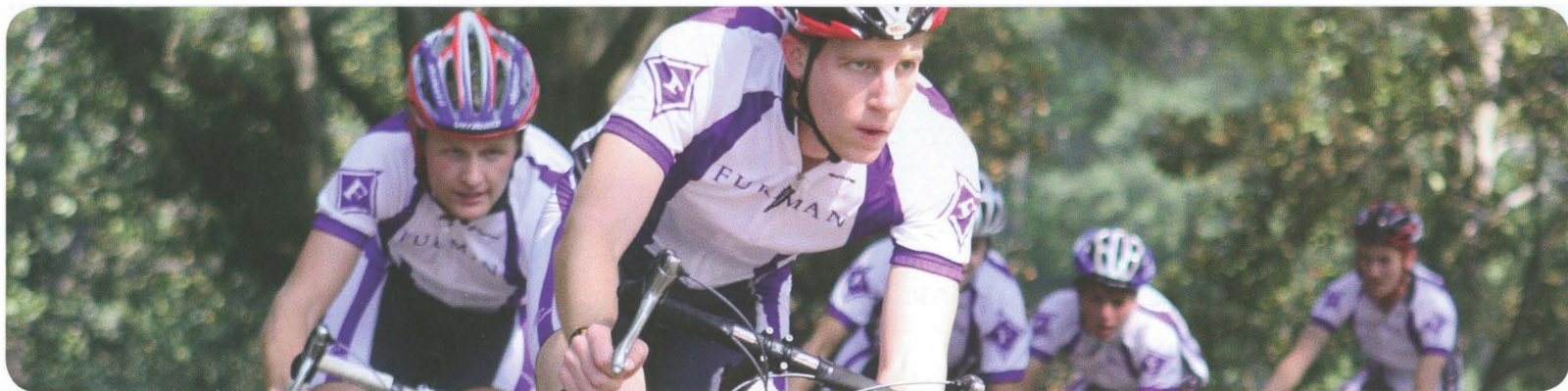
This June, to celebrate four decades of reading pleasure, we chose to re-read the first book the club selected: William Styron's *The Confessions of Nat Turner*. As usual, we enjoyed the lively discussion. And we raised a special glass in appreciation for the man who helped us start it all: Rudy Bates.

— JOHN BATSON '74  
Chair, Department of Psychology

*Contributions to the Bates Memorial Scholarship Fund may be sent to the development office at Furman, 3300 Poinsett Hwy., Greenville, S.C. 29613.*

*Rudy Bates posed in Dickensian garb in 1987.*





JEREMY FLEMING

## Sports shorts: Latham Stadium, cycling success and student honors

The home of Furman baseball has always been known simply as the “baseball stadium.”

Until now.

When **Tom Latham '70** and his wife, **Gina**, began looking for a way to honor Tom's parents, John T., Sr., and Gloria Latham, they turned to Furman — and to the sport Tom played during his student days. He was an all-Southern Conference outfielder in 1970 and played for the Paladins in the 1969 NCAA playoffs.

After graduating with a degree in biology, he went on to medical school at Vanderbilt University. Today he is president of Upstate Pathology in Greenville. His father was a dermatologist in Greenville for four decades and a big baseball fan.

Given Tom's experience at Furman and his family's love for the game, he and Gina decided to provide the naming gift for the John T. and Gloria Latham Baseball Stadium. The dedication ceremony was held May 3 before a 13-9 victory over Davidson.

Tom, a member of Furman's Advisory Council, says of the gift, “When the opportunity presented itself to honor two of my greatest loves, my parents and baseball, I felt compelled to jump at the chance. The fact that this opportunity allows me to help yet another great love, Furman University, makes the blessing to give all the more special to me.”

The Lathams have also endowed a baseball scholarship at Furman and provided support for the production of Shakespeare lectures by John H. Crabtree, Jr., former vice president and dean and revered professor of English.

Cycling may not be a varsity sport at Furman, but the club cycling team is putting the university on the map in its own way.

At the USA Cycling Collegiate Road Nationals, held in Fort Collins, Colo., in May, the team of Spencer Beamer '10, Chris Butler '10, Todd McClure '08 and Craig McKinney '10 captured the Division II team time trial over a 20-kilometer course. The victory gave them bragging rights as the “Fastest Four in the Nation.”

As a follow-up, Butler went on to win the 68-mile Road Race, and Beamer captured second in the National Criterium, a shorter, faster-paced event on a circular course.

All this is pretty heady stuff for a team that has existed for only two years. But the hard-training group has developed a strong following among interested alumni and the Greenville community, where cycling is extremely popular. And they are fortunate to have a savvy veteran on site to serve as coach: Glenn Thrift, who works in Furman's Physical Activities Center and is a legend in local cycling circles.

To learn more about the cycling team and read their report on the nationals, visit <http://furmancycling.blogspot.com>. To purchase a Furman cycling jersey (proceeds go to support the team), visit <http://alumni.furman.edu> and click on the link.

When **Page Bridges '08** wasn't winning cross country races or setting school records in the steeplechase, she was garnering her fair share of academic awards.

Bridges, a chemistry major, joined **Joe Watson '08**, a receiver on the football team, in earning two of the six graduate awards given by the Southern Conference to top student athletes.

A Beckman Scholar and holder of the Furman Bisher Academic-Athletic Scholarship, which is awarded to an outstanding student-athlete at Furman, Bridges received the conference's David Knight Graduate Scholarship. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she also received an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. She plans to enroll in the joint M.D./Ph.D. program at the University of North Carolina.

Watson, a political science major, earned the conference's Bob McCloskey Insurance Graduate Scholarship. He plans to attend law school at the University of Tennessee.

Also a member of Phi Beta Kappa, he volunteered with the Meyer Center for Special Children and the Clubhouse Kids after-school program for at-risk youth. He was a four-year letter winner in football and four-time member of the league's Academic Honor Roll.

In addition, the NCAA honored six Furman athletic teams this spring for their Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores. The teams cited were football, men's golf, men's indoor track and field, men's and women's outdoor track and field, and women's basketball. All posted multi-year APR scores in the top 10 percent of all squads in their respective sports.

The APR, developed by the NCAA's Committee on Academic Performance, rewards a school's record in regard to eligibility, retention and graduation.

## ON THE ROAD: MAKING THE CASE FOR TRAVEL PROGRAMS

The winter of 2008 found Furman alumni and friends taking two highly successful and extremely different university-sponsored trips. The Alumni Association hopes these excursions will mark the beginning of a revitalized alumni travel program.

In January a group traveled to the Cliffs at Patagonia in Chile, an ecological resort being developed by Jim Anthony of the Cliffs Properties in Greenville. Jim is a good friend of Furman, and the 18 people in our entourage were the first sizable group to visit the resort, which opened in December.

We were led by Frank Powell, longtime professor of health and exercise science, and his wife, Jane. Our travelers included Carl Kohrt '65 and Bill Howes '59, the last two chairs, respectively, of the Furman board of trustees, and their wives Lynne and Mary; a father/daughter alumni pair; suitemates from the '70s; a set of current parents, one of whom is an alum; and two alumnae from the '60s. My wife (Diane Wedgworth '78) and I had the privilege of accompanying the group. We were a diverse lot, but with our shared Furman experiences we bonded immediately.

The Cliffs at Patagonia is beautiful beyond description. The trip to get there is arduous, taking almost 24 hours, but once you arrive the scenery is so breathtaking that any fatigue melts away. We stayed in cabins on cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, and each cabin had its own wood-fired hot tub with a magnificent view.

The food and activities were well planned and offered something for everyone. Among the trip's highlights was a bumpy boat ride to view penguins, sea lions, cormorants, whales and abalone fishermen. We enjoyed hiking, bird watching, horseback riding,



*The Cliffs at Patagonia offers stunning scenery and exceptional accommodations.*

poetry readings, and incredible food and entertainment by local performers. We also paid a visit to a girls' home, where we donated computer equipment we had brought from the States.

As much fun as the sights and sounds of Chile were, the people on the trip and our hosts at the resort were what made the week so memorable. I renewed friendships, made new friends, and learned how talented and funny some of our alumni really are.

The staff at the Cliffs at Patagonia became our extended family, and we all wanted to bring them back to the *Estados Unidos* and show them some Furman hospitality. On one of our last nights there, we gathered the staff, told them the story of "Brown Eyes," and serenaded them. On departure day, more than a few tears were shed as we said goodbye to our hosts.

Only a few days after I returned to Furman from South America, Jane Dungan, my colleague in the Alumni Office, took 13 alumni and friends on a four-day trip to Charleston, S.C.

With the help of Bill Lavery, professor emeritus of history, and Steve O'Neill '82, a current member of the department, the group enjoyed an inside look at the culture, commerce and history of the Charleston area and examined the city's ongoing efforts at preservation, restoration and renovation. They stayed at the historic Francis Marion Hotel, visited museums, art galleries and plantations, and enjoyed a lowcountry dinner at Lavery's new home in Mount Pleasant.

The Charleston School of Law allowed the Furman group to use one of its classrooms for a lecture by O'Neill, a local product, on his hometown's myths and legends. The group took

private tours of Charleston Harbor and the Gibbes Museum and visited the Charleston Tea Plantation, the only active tea plantation in North America. They also enjoyed a reception at the Smith-Killian Gallery and a lowcountry cuisine cooking class at the famous Charleston Cooks.

The trip was unique in that it brought together alumni from several different decades. The planned activities were of interest to everyone, and before the week was over they wanted to know where we would be going on our next trip.

We hope you'll be interested in future travel programs, because the success of these two ventures has encouraged us to develop more opportunities for Furman folks to see the world together.

Stay tuned for details. We look forward to having you join us on our next trip.

— TOM TRIPLITT '76  
Director, Alumni Association

## CLASS NOTES, SUMMER 2008

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48

**K. Lee “Chunk” Atkinson** has been honored by the Elbert County (Ga.) Historical Society with the publication of *K. Lee Atkinson: The Legend of the Granite Bowl*. The book details his work from 1948-64 as football coach at Elberton High School and from 1965-77 as superintendent of the county schools.

56

An organ has been donated to Mount Herman Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., in honor of **Mitch Carnell**. A celebration service was held at the church April 20, during which Mitch was recognized for his work with the Charleston Speech and Hearing Center, his teaching, lecturing and writing career, and his involvement in community and church activities.

58

### THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

**Ben Rogers** has retired from the pastorate of Hunt’s Memorial Baptist Church in Easley, S.C. During more than 40 years in the ministry, he served as pastor of a number of churches in South Carolina and Virginia.

62

**Fred Hasher** was inducted into the Gloucester County (N.J.) Sports Hall of Fame in March. He was one of south Jersey’s top all-around high school athletes in the 1950s, excelling in football, baseball, basketball and track. He was for many years an Atlantic Coast Conference basketball referee and is retired as a project manager with Harper Brothers Office Supply Co. in Greenville.

65

Poems by **Michael Lucas** appear on the University of South Carolina Poetry Initiative Web page at [www.cas.sc.edu/engl/poetry/Chapbook\\_Poets/LucasM.html](http://www.cas.sc.edu/engl/poetry/Chapbook_Poets/LucasM.html). Michael lives in North Charleston and is a professional golfer and teacher.

69

**June Aiken Wise** of Johnston, S.C., has been selected the 2008 Teacher of the Year for Palmetto Unified School District 1. She is the first teacher of the year in the history of the district, which consists of teachers from across the state who work within Department of Corrections prisons. She has taught for 27 years, the past 10 as a high school English instructor at Trenton Correctional in Edgefield County.

72

**Rich Mays**, owner of Sonare Recordings in Savannah, Ga., engineered a recording of the Houston Symphony for Naxos Records last November. Among his other recent projects are work with Christ Church Cathedral (Nashville, Tenn.), jazz guitarist Howard Alden, the American Brass Quintet and several Savannah Music Festival presentations for National Public Radio’s “Performance Today.”

73

### THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

**Chris Hunkler** has been named president of the San Diego Golf Academy. Previously he was managing director of membership programs for the PGA of America. After leaving her faculty position in the Department of Family Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina, **Carolyn Thiedke** completed a six-month tour in Malawi with Doctors Without Borders, working for an HIV project. She is co-founder of South Carolinians for Universal Health Care.

74

*Lake of Fire*, the third novel in **Linda Heatwole Jacobs’** series of books set in Yellowstone National Park, was a finalist for the 2008 Spur Awards, sponsored by Western Writers of America, in the category of best original mass market paperback. *Lake* also won the New Mexico Press Women’s 2008 Excellence in Communications competition in the novel category. Linda wrote about her work in the Summer 2007 issue of *Furman*. Visit [www.readlindajacobs.com](http://www.readlindajacobs.com).

**W. Lindsay Smith**, an attorney with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, has been named to the Greenville regional board of directors of First National Bank of the South.

76

**Judy Hearn Green** was selected the Clarke County (Ga.) District Teacher of the Year and also received the Mae Whatley Teaching Award from the county’s Foundation of Excellence in Public Education. She has taught for 32 years at Alps Road Elementary School in Athens, Ga.

77

**John Cottingham** of Del Mar, Calif., has been elected to the board of directors of the California Healthcare Institute, a public policy research organization. John is senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Invitrogen Corporation. **Mark Powers** of Columbia, S.C., has become the worship and music director for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. He has been involved in music ministry in the state for 27 years.

78

### THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

**Paul Huffman** has been named general manager of nuclear project engineering for Xcel Energy in Minneapolis, Minn. He is responsible for all capital nuclear plant projects.

**John F. Mulholland, Jr.**, was nominated by President Bush to command U.S. Army Special Operations at Fort Bragg, N.C. Once confirmed, he was scheduled to be promoted to three-star general. He most recently served as commander of Special Operations Command Central at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla.

79

**Lisa Baroody Culpepper** graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in May 2007 with a Master of Divinity degree. She is now pastor of Marion (S.C.) Presbyterian Church.

**Robert Pendergrast** has opened Aiken-Augusta Holistic Health for the practice of integrative medicine. The new practice also offers weekly on-line health bulletins at [www.realfoodsthatheal.com](http://www.realfoodsthatheal.com). He remains on the faculty of the Medical College of Georgia and provides health workshops for the community.

80

**Monte Dutton** was named writer of the year by the National Motorsports Press Association during its annual convention in January. He received the George Cunningham Award. Monte, a former sports information director at Furman, has been motorsports writer for the *Gastonia* (N.C.) *Gazette* since 1996. He is the author or co-author of nine books, and his stories appear regularly on AOL Sports and in other syndicated fare.

**Donald Locke**, legal counsel for Connectyx Technologies, has been named to the company's board of directors. The company is a provider of business and consumer intelligent software.

Since receiving her Master of Divinity degree in 2006, **Leslie Branch Raymer** has been engaged in the ordination process of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. She was voted ordainable pending a call to ministry in October and is currently in chaplaincy training (clinical pastoral education) at an Atlanta hospital.

**MARRIAGE:** **Stan Harlow** and Margie Winkle, November 18. They live in Elizabethtown, Ky. Stan is a chaplain in the U.S. Army and was promoted to lieutenant colonel April 2.

## 82

**MARRIAGE:** **Alexander Bullock** and Elizabeth Avery, March 15. They live in Alexandria, Va.

## 83

### THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

**Vicki Boyer Denfeld** of South Riding, Va., has been promoted to senior vice president of sales and marketing for Crestline Hotels & Resorts.

**Lynne Daniel Ivey** is director of continuing education (accreditation and professional development) for Duke University's Medical Center, Health System and Schools of Medicine. She previously worked at Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C.

**Cathy Carlson Johnson** of Little River, S.C., is a sixth-grade teacher at North Myrtle Beach Middle School. The Horry Soil and Water Conservation District named her the 2007 Conservation Educator of the Year for her leadership in conservation education.

Soprano **Karen Parks** has released a CD titled *"Nobody Knows: Songs of Harry T.*

*Burleigh,"* featuring spirituals and compositions by Burleigh, a composer, arranger and soloist considered by many to be the "father of spirituals." The CD debuted at No. 2 on *Billboard* magazine's traditional classical music chart in February. Karen has presented concerts of songs from the CD at Furman and at New York's Carnegie Hall. Visit [www.karenparks.com](http://www.karenparks.com).

## 84

**Ray Langdale** accepted a civilian position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as an operations officer in Wiesbaden, Germany, in February. He and his wife, **Monica Allen Langdale**, a personal trainer, relocated after he completed an active duty assignment with the U.S. Army Reserve. He is now an active reserve lieutenant colonel.

## 85

**Rick Fleming** (M.A.) of Anderson, S.C., is safety director and instructor for Swift Transportation. He previously taught in the public schools and was assistant director of continuing education at Tri-County Technical College.

**John Gardner**, formerly a senior planner for Greenville County, is now economic development coordinator for the town of Mauldin, S.C.

**Matt Martin**, professor of English and holder of the Knox Chair of Humanities at Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga., was awarded a Fulbright grant to lecture at Vilnius (Lithuania) Pedagogical University from February to June. He taught a survey course in American literature to third-year undergraduates and led a creative writing seminar for master's level students.

**Linda Petrakis**, who has been in real estate sales for seven years in South Florida, achieved top 1 percent selling status internationally in 2007 for Caldwell Banker. She lives in Boca Raton.

## 86

**Leonard Brown** of Greenville runs Advanced Media Systems, a company that helps churches enhance their worship experience by installing multimedia projection systems, high definition displays, new lighting and digital sound equipment. The company was named one of the Top 50 Systems Integrators in the United States by *Systems Contractor News Magazine*.

**Edward Earl** has moved from San Diego, Calif., to Lynnwood, Wash., and now works as a consultant for 4ward Sciences, Inc.

**Terri McCord** of Greenville was awarded the 2007 Don Russ Poetry Prize by the *Kennesaw Review* for her poem "Seen Through." She has two chapbooks scheduled for publication this year, *The Art and the Wait* from Finishing Line Press and *In the Company of Animals* from the University of South Carolina Press.

**B. Carter Rogers** has been reappointed chief of surgery at Newton Medical Center in Covington, Ga.

**Kathy Hart Wood** is golf instructor and teaching professional at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster Township, N.J. She was included on *Golf for Women* magazine's list of Top 50 teachers and is the founder of LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of South Florida.

**BIRTH:** Peter and **Suzanne Smith Klingelhofer**, a son, Wilson Sharp, January 18, Columbus, Ohio.

## 87

**Laura Roberts Adair**, media specialist at Irmo (S.C.) Elementary School, has earned national board certification.

**Christopher Brasher**, a judge for the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, has been appointed to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council of Georgia.

**Jane Harris Downey** has been named a 2008 South Carolina Super Lawyer. She is living in Shenzhen, China, for the second half of this year.

## 88

### THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

**Chris Atwell** of Austin, Texas, has become a partner in the law firm of Kasling, Hemphill, Dolezal & Atwell, LLP.

**Mariam Weber Dittmann** has become vice president of academic affairs at Bainbridge College in Georgia. She previously worked at Georgia Perimeter College in Clarkston.

**Kevin Moore** recently was named managing director of Arizona Theatre Company, a professional regional theatre operating in Phoenix and Tucson.

**MARRIAGE:** **Nathalie Coté** and Jim Scott, January 12. Nathalie is chair of the psychology department at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, N.C.

**BIRTHS:** **Tommy** and **Jenifer Little**, twin sons, Barrett Brandt and Traynor Wells, January 14, Tampa, Fla.

**ADOPTION:** **J. Scott** and **Deborah Derrick**, a daughter, Gracie Christine, born January 31. Scott is director of student activities and the University Center at Furman.

## 89

**Roger Courtney Krueger**, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pendleton, S.C., won the Baptist History and Heritage Society's 2008 Baptist Heritage Preaching Contest for his sermon on the topic of religious liberty, titled "Until Moss Grows on My Eyebrows." He was scheduled to preach his winning sermon at the Baptist History and Heritage Society's meeting in Atlanta in May.

**BIRTHS:** **Keith '90** and **Amy Taylor Bender**, a daughter, Lucy Jean, August 18, 2007, Glendale, Wis.

**Ted** and **Dawn Saad Bibbes**, a daughter, Charlotte Jane, September 3, Cumming, Ga.

## 90

**Brian Williams** of Taylors, S.C., is employed by KeyMark Inc. He designs and implements document scanning and automated data capture solutions.

**BIRTHS: Julius and Tawanda Cooper**

**Dixon**, a son, Devin Wesley, March 23, 2007, Greenville.

**Bill** and **Jacque Foster**, a son, Reece William, February 25, Greenville.

## 91

**Andy Beam**, a corporate banker with BB&T in Knoxville, Tenn., was named to the *Knoxville News-Sentinel's* list of 40 business and community leaders under the age of 40 who are making their mark in East Tennessee.

**MARRIAGE: Max Austin** and Shannon Necaise, February 16. Max is president and owner of Austin Mortgage Group, a mortgage brokerage firm in Mountain Brook, Ala.

**BIRTHS: James and Kristi Smith Cavin**, a son, Emory James, July 10, 2007, Norcross, Ga.

**Michael and Michelle Parks Wyatt**, a son, Lucas Dunton, February 18, 2007, Columbia, S.C.

## 92

**Barbara Emener Karasek** received the 2008 Outstanding Alumnus Award from the University of South Florida School of Mass Communications, where she earned her master's degree. She is director of corporate marketing for the PGA TOUR.

**Rick Owens** received his Master of Music Education degree from Boston University in January. He is director of music at Kannapolis (N.C.) Intermediate School.

**W. Curtis Rush, Jr.**, has been named vice president of the National Bank of South Carolina in Greenville. He joined NBSC as branch manager of the Wade Hampton office.

**MARRIAGE: Ames Asbell** and Todd Alley, November 30. They live in Austin, Texas. Ames performs with the Tosca String Quartet, Austin Symphony and Austin Lyric Opera (principal violist) and teaches at Texas State University. Todd owns Crush Advertising.

**BIRTH: Tracy and Judy Walthall Ireland**, a son, Darcy Durham, May 28, 2007, Cumming, Ga.

## 93

### THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

**Jim Bowling** has been hired as director of consumer insights by Integrative Logic, an Atlanta-based integrated database-marketing service provider.

**Randall Traynham** of Laurens, S.C., has been promoted to assistant vice president and corporate services officer for The Palmetto Bank.

**MARRIAGES: Susan Penick** and Chett Graham, September 8. Susan completed her master's degree in business administration at Georgia State University and works as a human resource business partner with Verizon in Atlanta.

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS PLANS FOR HOMECOMING 2008

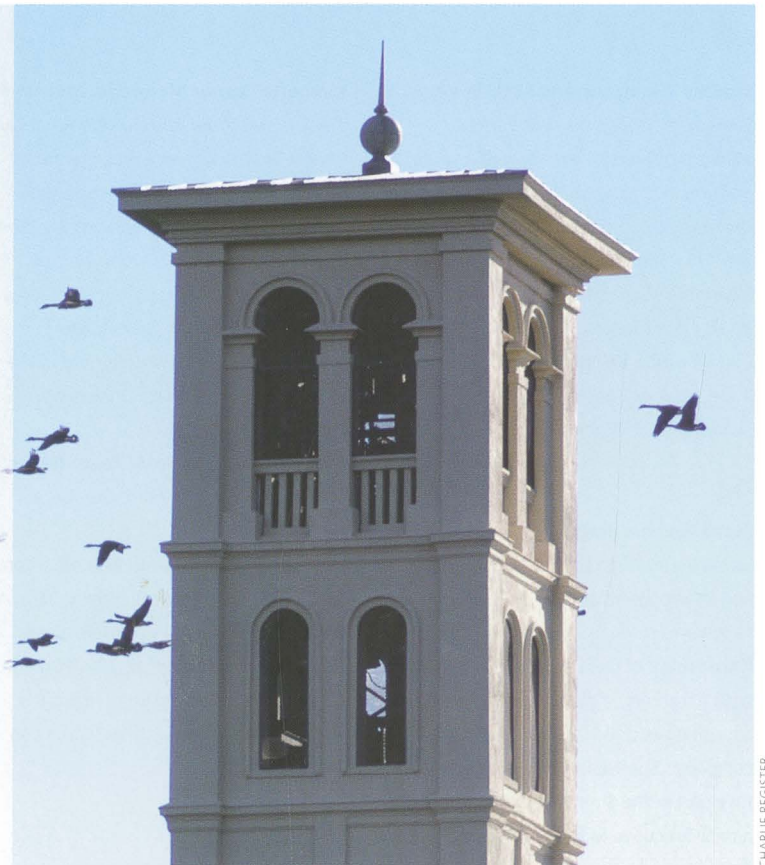
Plans are in full swing for Homecoming 2008 October 10-12, and it is expected to be an extraordinary weekend indeed!

Furman is planning a yearlong celebration of its move to the "new" campus 50 years ago, so the weekend will include special activities tied to that theme. Following Saturday's football game against Western Carolina, the Homecoming party for all alumni will be held at Fluor Field (Greenville Drive Stadium) in Greenville's historic West End, near the site of the "old" men's campus.

Classes in reunion this fall end in 3 and 8. In keeping with Furman's commitment to sustainability, the four youngest reunion classes (1988, 1993, 1998 and 2003) and members of non-reunion classes from 1989 to 2007 will not receive hard copies of the Homecoming brochure. If you are a member of one of these classes, you will receive an e-mail reminder regarding Homecoming, so please be sure that Furman has your current electronic address on file.

Reunion information and registration forms will be available on-line by mid-August at <http://alumni.furman.edu>. Make your reservations early, and we'll see you October 10-12 on campus.

The "new" one, that is!



CHARLIE REGISTER

## 2007-08 ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harriet Arnold Wilburn '74, president; Randolph W. Blackwell '63, president elect; Clare Folio Morris '83, vice president; James H. Simkins, Jr. '78, past president; Rebecca Ann Armacost '89; Lynn Neely Bailey '78; Venita Tyus Billingslea '81; Frank W. Blackwell '90; John M. Block '63; J. Chris Brown '89; Mary Lou Walch Cagle '69; H. Furman Cantrell '61; Bobby E. Church '78; David S. Cobb '90; Paul D. Goebel '63; Vicki Bieksha Johnson '93; L. Yates Johnson, Jr. '59; William A. Lampley '41; J. Cordell Maddox '54; Joseph C. Moon, Jr. '76; Ellison L. Smith '89; Cynthia Black Sparks '80; Heyward M. Sullivan '59; William N. Turrentine '64; Daniel R. Varat '88; 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; Cari Williams Hicks '97, president, Young Alumni Council; Frances Flowers '09, president, Student Alumni Council; Christina Henderson '08, president, Association of Furman Students; Brad Cake '08, president, Senior Class

**Bradley Thompson** and Michelle Diggs, September 15. Bradley has earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in voice performance and pedagogy from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

**BIRTHS:** **Scott** and **Sandy Altizer**, a daughter, Samantha Kate, August 8, 2007, Knoxville, Tenn.

**Carl** and **Julia Willingham Townsend**, a son, Charles Willingham Townsend, September 19, Austin, Texas.

## 94

**Steve Feyl** has been promoted to associate university librarian for outreach, planning and development at Pace University in New York.

**Kara Finley** of Decatur, Ga., is a partner with Accenture, a global management consulting and technology services company. She was recently invited to take part in the Smith College Consortium, a mini-Executive M.B.A. program.

**Kimberly Currier McAdams** works with the national home office of the American Cancer Society as managing director of talent development. She is responsible for nationwide learning and organizational development strategy in line with the American Cancer Society Talent Strategy initiative. She lives in Gilbert, Ariz.

**Jeffrey Westbrook** is a member of the English faculty at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

**BIRTHS:** **Matt** and **Susie Teate Geyer**, a daughter, Jaye Elizabeth, October 8, Dacula, Ga.

**Larry** and **Laura Mayhall Merrill**, a son, Samuel Brent, October 8, Birmingham, Ala.

**Lance** and **Christine Plumblee**, a son, Jordan Cash, February 26, 2007, Greenville.

**Mark** and **Stacey Souther**, a daughter, Keely Amanda, April 1, Cleveland, Ohio.

## 95

**Bo Ferguson**, previously assistant town manager in Black Mountain, N.C., is now city manager of Hendersonville, N.C.

**Jeff Sexton** has accepted a position as senior turnaround manager with Dow Chemical's chlor-vinyl business in Freeport, Texas.

**Jennie Shaw** is regional sales manager for Trimed, Inc., an orthopedic company in Los Angeles.

**MARRIAGE:** **Brett Buzzell** and **Jennifer Hartel**, March 22. Brett is a member of the business department at Hillcrest High School in Simpsonville, S.C.

**BIRTHS:** **Scott** and **Cortney Combs Baker**, a son, Timothy Warren, September 29, Cary, N.C.

**Bryan** and **Beth Fleming Barnes**, a son, Jacob Christopher, March 5, Wake Forest, N.C.

**Michael** and **Jennifer Jackson Deason**, a daughter, Emma Grace, February 21, 2007. They live in Lexington, S.C.

**Greg** and **Cady Holloway Dugger**, a daughter, Christine Elizabeth, April 17, 2007, Duluth, Ga.

**Tony** and **Bridget Kerr Palmer**, a son, Thomas Jerome, September 5, Cumming, Ga. Tony is a clinical psychologist in private practice.

**Langley** and **Diane Whitehead Respass**, a son, James Samuel, March 29, 2007, Atlanta.

**Chris** and **Sarah Cain Statham**, a son, Carson Campbell, April 18, 2007, Portland, Ore. Sarah is chair of the special education department at Centennial High School.

## 96

**Sarah Moses** and her husband, Will Schenck, live in Boston where she is completing a Ph.D. in theological ethics at Boston College.

**MARRIAGE:** **Gina Carreno** and **Greg Lukasik**, March 2. They live in Boynton

Beach, Fla. Both are sociology instructors at Florida Atlantic University.

**BIRTHS:** **Dann** and **Anne-Marie Sanders Angeloff**, a daughter, Mary Kate, December 9, Newport Beach, Calif.

**Adrian '97** and **Victoria Foss Bowers**, a son, Emerson Grant, February 16, Reno, Nev. Adrian earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Nevada and works as a psychologist at High Desert State Prison in Susanville, Calif. Victoria is a foster care liaison with Washoe County Social Services.

**Nolan** and **Tavia Smith Davis**, a son, Jack Henry, November 6, 2006, Hendersonville, N.C.

**Danny** and **Emily Fletcher Kapic**, triplets, Fletcher Daniel, Parker Andrew and Bailey Catherine, January 26. Danny manages the Sacramento, Calif., office of Marcus and Millichap, a brokerage firm.

**Mark** and **Katie Morgan Lester**, a son, Brandon Thomas, January 11, Norcross, Ga.

**Lou** and **Karen Egglund Muzi**, a son, Charles Gregory, December 29, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Lou is a sales manager for Premier Beverage, and Karen works in the luxury real estate market.

**John** and **Sara Mays Nastopoulos**, a daughter, Elizabeth Bellamy, August 14, 2007, Cleveland, Ohio. Both John and Sara are employed in the national office-Professional Practice Group of Ernst & Young LLP.

**Daryl** and **Dana Hess Olson**, a daughter, Hannah Joy, June 3, 2007, Gloucester, Mass.

**Alan** and **Kimberly George Taylor**, a son, Matthew George, September 10. They live in Cary, N.C.

**Justin** and **Sarah Revis Wyatt**, a son, William Creighton, October 4, Clinton, S.C.

## 97

**Todd Edwards** was recently awarded a Master of Business Administration degree by Clemson University.

**Stephanie Hood** of Denver, Colo., is pursuing a master's degree in legal administration at the University of Denver.

**Vernon Huff** was named lead choral director for the Charleston (S.C.) County School District. Last spring he made a presentation titled "Assessment in the Secondary Choral Classroom" at an interest session for the American Choral Directors Association. He is choral director at Wando High School in Mount Pleasant.

**J. Alan Sharrer** of Bakersfield, Calif., is books editor for Hollywood Jesus, a Web site dedicated to examining pop culture from a spiritual point of view. Visit [www.hollywoodjesus.com](http://www.hollywoodjesus.com).

**Katherine Tumlinson** lives in Durham, N.C., and is an associate program officer with Family Health International. She recently completed a master's degree in sustainable international development at Brandeis University. As part of her graduate work she spent a year in Peru doing an assessment of postpartum care and family planning.

**MARRIAGES:** **Lisa DeJaco** and Marc Crutcher, September 22. Lisa is a partner at Wyatt Tarrant & Combs in Louisville, Ky., where she practices commercial litigation, particularly intellectual property and appellate work.

**Barb Lauerman** and Philip Andrews, March 22. They live in Vancouver, Wash. Barb is an elementary school teacher and Phil is an attorney.

**Christopher Joseph Theil** and Karen Lynne Baynard, February 23. They live in Heber City, Utah, where he is manager of a branch of Mountain America Credit Union. She is a neonatal intensive care nurse at Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City.

**BIRTHS:** Ryan and **Cyndee Lee Bonacci**, a son, Phillip Ryan, January 22. Cyndee is director of parks and recreation for the city of Snellville, Ga., and Ryan is the senior sales associate with John Hancock Brokerage in Duluth.

**Brian** and Kelly **Cross**, a daughter, Haley Amber, January 16, Tallahassee, Fla.

**David '96 and Melinda Smith Davidson**, a son, Ryan James, August 29, 2007. They live in Simpsonville, S.C.

**Micah** and Ginger **Hicks**, a son, Micah William, May 7, 2007. They live in Aiken, S.C., where Micah is head golf professional at Houndslake Country Club.

**Brian** and **Dawn Villanueva Levy**, a daughter, Veronica Karin, November 12, Atlanta.

**Nakia** and Sarah **Pope**, a daughter, Eleanor Rose, April 10, 2007, Rock Hill, S.C. Nakia is an assistant professor in Winthrop University's Center for Pedagogy.

**Alan** and **Laura Cave Sanders**, a daughter, Emily Anne, April 3, 2007, Thomasville, Ga.

## 98

### THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Jesse and **Jessica Morris Carlton** live in Tampa, Fla., where he works for Honeywell. She formerly worked at the Pentagon.

**Andy Moorman** has been hired as an associate with Bannister & Wyatt in Greenville. His practice focuses primarily on family law, civil litigation and criminal defense.

**Jaime Gilkerson Scott** is a chief accounting officer with an educational service provider in Columbus, Ohio.

**Trevor Still** of Morganton, N.C., has earned a Master of Arts degree in special education from Western Carolina University.

**MARRIAGE:** **Linda Murphy** and Matthew Kall, September 2. Linda is an assistant buyer with Ralph Lauren. They live in Franklin Square, N.Y.

**BIRTHS:** David and **Mary Katherine Cobb Adams**, a daughter, Katherine McCary, July 24, 2007, Mobile, Ala.

**Michael** and **Ginger Turpen '01 Carnahan**, a son, Declan Alan, October 24, Durham, N.C.

Nathan and **Tanya Bussom Conklin**, a daughter, Sydney Lynn, November 26, Charlotte, N.C.

Stacy and **Julie McAvoy Hover**, a daughter, Isabel Margaret, March 15, 2007, Elberton, Ga.

**Ryan** and **Julie DeCarlo Moore**, a son, Elliott Cheney, July 24, 2007, Silver Spring, Md. Ryan has entered his second year of a neonatology fellowship and Julie works in a dental office.

Ellison and **Kerrie Seltenheim Patten**, a son, Chase James, February 11, Medfield, Mass.

Wesley and **Susan Watson Peck**, twins, a son, William, and a daughter, Margaret Grace, January 2, Nashville, Tenn.

Chris and **Jenny Nissen Pruitt**, a daughter, Emma Faye, July 12, 2007, Birmingham, Ala.

Ian and **Margaret Meyer Stewart**, a son, Thomas Nolan, December 31, Atlanta. Margaret is a merger and integration finance consultant.

John and **Lindsey Jenkins Thompson**, a daughter, Hollis Kimble, March 25, Atlanta.

## 99

**BIRTHS:** **Derek '98 and Amy Maris Bruff**, a daughter, Lucy Jane, January 4, Nashville, Tenn.

Matthew and **Brandi Fuduric Deets**, a daughter, Anneliese Claire, September 8, Johnson City, Tenn.

**Jeff** and **Mary Moore DeLoach**, a daughter, Kathryn MacGregor, February 20, Athens, Ga.

**Ricky** and **Louise Stokes Duval**, a daughter, Kylie Marie, November 26, Lexington, S.C. Louise is a licensed professional counselor and a certified addiction counselor.

**Chris** and **Lindsay Powell Ford**, a son, Miles Martin, August 7, 2007, West Point, N.Y.

**Steven** and **Emily Conlon Getz**, a daughter, Caroline Elizabeth, March 26, 2007. Steve is employed with Palmetto Anesthesia Associates in Greenville.

**Jason '00 and Stacey Hoffert Gilbert**, a daughter, Hayley Belle, October 7, Birmingham, Ala.

**Keith** and **Amy Strickland Gunter**, a daughter, Autumn Lucy, November 4, Kennesaw, Ga.

**Howie** and **Alice Gregory Hartnett**, a daughter, Abigail Parker, July 12, 2007, Charlotte, N.C.

**Matt Holson** and Jenny Chaplinski, a son, Adam Harris Holson, March 5, St. Cloud, Minn. Both Matt and Jenny are public defenders.

**Matthew** and Sandra **Miller**, a son, Alben James, March 10, Greenville.

**Ryan '98 and Wendy Bennis Westberry**, a daughter, Molly Elizabeth, September 26. They live in West Columbia, S.C.

## 00

**Natalie Byars** has joined the Charleston, S.C., law firm of Clawson & Staubes LLC as an associate practicing general civil litigation and workers' compensation defense.

**Mary Martin Gilreath** is technology account manager for Rosenfeld Einstein, a brokerage and consulting firm in Greenville.

**Jennifer Gnann** is the new elementary school director of Pine Lake Preparatory School, a charter school in Iredell County, N.C. Pine Lake is a K-2 school expanding to K-11 for the 2008-09 school year.

**Des Kitchings**, an assistant football coach at Furman the past four seasons, has joined the staff at Western Michigan University as wide receivers coach.

**Tracy Towle** (M.A. '01) of Miami, Fla., completed her first half marathon on January 27 at the 2008 ING Miami Marathon. She was also featured with



singer Enrique Iglesias on a nationally televised commercial on NBC for "Today."

**MARRIAGES:** **Allison Beeson** and Regan Ashley Costello, November 10. They live in Nashville, Tenn.

**Kariss Blalock** and Scott Waite, October 20. They live in Sevierville, Tenn. Kariss is owner of New Pathways Counseling and Scott is an electrical engineer.

**Carl Gregg** and Magin McKenna, October 27. They live in Monroe, La. Carl is the associate pastor at Northminster Church and Magin works in the marketing department at Louisiana Tech University.

**Jo Anna McGehee** and William Franklin Fallaw, November 17. She is the Wesley

Fellowship campus minister at Furman and he is director of music and arts and principal organist at Buncombe Street United Methodist Church in Greenville.

**Charles Merritt Shanlever** and Ashley Kristin Lane, August 4, 2007. Charles was scheduled to graduate from the School of Pharmacy at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., in May.

**BIRTHS:** **Jake and Cara Rhodes Bostrom**, a daughter, Claire Elizabeth, November 6. Cara is a family medicine resident and Jake is an ophthalmology resident in Oklahoma City.

**Steve** and Jessica **Callaham**, a daughter, Madeline, January 3, 2007, Woodstock, Ga.

Benjamin and **Tina Slattery Check**, a son, Mitchell Aiden, June 6, 2007, Greenville.

Chris and **Bethany Barnette Hansz**, a daughter, Evelyn Mallory, May 21, 2007, Greenville.

Brian and **Melody Cadenhead Hunter**, a daughter, Ella Suzanne, September 17, Charlotte, N.C.

**Michael '95 and Christine Powell Kellett**, a daughter, Mattie Caroline, August 30, 2007, Charlotte, N.C. Christine earned a Master of Divinity degree with an emphasis in Christian education from Baptist Theological Seminary.

Patrick and **Allison Stack Nugent**, a son, Quinn Joseph, December 20, Lake Worth, Fla.

Blair and **Stephanie Spottswood Scurlock**, a daughter, Pope Kathryn, May 8, 2007. They live in Greenville where Blair is a director of marketing for Consolidated Tires, Inc., and Stephanie is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Sciele Pharma.

**Tim '01 and Melanie Gladding Van Steenburgh**, a daughter, Lucy Leigh, July 30, 2007, Gainesville, Fla.

David and **Carrie Lyle Williford**, a daughter, Claire Gracen, July 1, 2007, Greenville.

## BORCHS' GENEROSITY SPURS GROWTH OF BLUE SHOES FUND

When Furman recognized Chris Borch '78 with the Gordon L. Blackwell Alumni Service Award April 11, he responded with a compelling announcement of his own.

Borch, whose leadership has made the Blue Shoes Scholarship Fund the most successful athletic fund-raising effort in Furman's history, announced that he and his wife, Andrea, had made a \$1 million gift to the fund.

The Blue Shoes program supports men's and women's cross country and track and field athletes. The Borchs' donation increased the Blue Shoes endowment, established in 2006, to \$2.8 million.

Borch, a California entrepreneur, earned a degree in economics from Furman in 1978. He is founder, chair and CEO of Micro-Mechanics, a company that designs and manufactures precision tools, parts and products used to assemble and test semiconductors.

He made his announcement at the kickoff dinner for the "Blue Shoes Weekend," an annual event that includes an invitational track meet and the "Blue Shoes Mile." The keynote speaker for the dinner was Tommie Smith, 1968 Olympic gold medalist in the 200 meters.

Borch said, "I received a track scholarship at the end of my first year at Furman, and it was that support that allowed me to complete four years at the university. The scholarship opened the door to a great education, and running provided me with invaluable



President Shi presents Andrea and Chris Borch a gift signifying their induction into Benefactors Circle.

JEREMY FLEMING

lessons. I've always been grateful for the support Furman gave me, and my wife and I have looked forward to the time we could give something back to the university."

The Blue Shoes program is named for a pair of blue ASICS "Onitsuka Tiger" running shoes Borch and his teammates wore while attending Furman.

In presenting Borch the Alumni Service Award for loyal and dedicated service to the university, Furman cited his business success, generous spirit and congenial nature. The university also inducted the Borchs into Benefactors Circle, which honors donors who have participated at the highest levels of giving in the university's history.

## 01

**Allan and Carrie Smith Burns** live in Richmond, Va., where Carrie is national employee benefits resource coordinator for Hilb Rogal & Hobbs, the nation's eighth largest insurance brokerage firm. Allan is an attorney with Cravens & Noll, P.C.

**Meg Flannagan** has become associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville, Tenn.

**Reagan Singletary Flemming**, a 2007 graduate of the Charleston (S.C.) School of Law, has joined the school's Office of Diversity Initiatives as its first Fellow. The fellowship introduces recent law school graduates to careers in diversity management. She is involved in community outreach and works to encourage members of underrepresented groups to consider legal careers.

**Marcie Hocking** is now a project director with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in Washington, D.C.

**Carley Howard** has joined the Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center as a pediatric hospitalist and general pediatrician.

**Beth Reuschel** earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from East Tennessee State University.

**MARRIAGE:** **Edward Waller** and Genevieve Ann Nissen, October 13. They live in Lexington, S.C.

**BIRTHS:** Leander and **Gabrielle Ferguson Cannick**, a daughter, Elizabeth Ann, September 26, Charleston, S.C.

**Corey and Meredith Jonas Clinton**, a daughter, Brenna Leigh, December 29, York, S.C.

Joseph and **Jennifer Neal Gabriel**, a son, Joseph, Jr., October 5, Chapin, S.C. Jennifer has earned a doctorate in physical therapy from the University of South Carolina.

Chad and **Morgan Morehead Hodson**, a daughter, Darcy Piper, January 25, Maryville, Tenn.

Aaron and **April Shaw Howell**, a son, Noah Joe, August 2, 2007, Greenville.

Gonzalo and **Karen DeCastro Lopez Jordan**, a daughter, Camila Diana, November 1, Miami Beach, Fla.

Eric and **Erika Walker Knott**, a daughter, Julia, January 25, Alexandria, Va.

Will and **Kristie McWilliams Oliver**, a daughter, Mary Helen, March 26. They live in Duncan, S.C.

**Brad and Jenny Phillips**, a son, Hudson Matthew, July 13, 2007, Suwanee, Ga.

Anibal and **Laurie Moskow Sepulveda**, a son, Matias Leon, June 25, 2007, Marietta, Ga.

Chandler and **Sara Norman Todd**, a son, Noah Samuel, October 14, Greenwood, S.C. Sara is a physicians assistant for a family practice.

## 02

**Alex Fernandez** is a psychiatry resident at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

**Amy Godfrey** is an associate attorney in the Columbus, Ga., office of Pope, McGlamry, Kilpatrick, Morrison & Norwood, LLP. She focuses on class action litigation, business litigation and catastrophic injury/wrongful death cases. She previously served as judicial law clerk to Georgia District Court Judge Clay Land.

**Janelle Hicks**, a kindergarten teacher in Rock Hill, S.C., has earned a master's degree in early childhood curriculum and instruction from Winthrop University. **Kristy Palmer** and her husband, Ian Abernethy, live in Laramie, Wyo., where Kristy is an environmental consultant and Ian is a forensic analyst. Kristy holds a master's degree in zoology and physiology and environment and natural resources from the University of Wyoming.

**Bryn Rose Robison** is enrolled in the M.B.A. program of Wake Forest University's Babcock School of Business branch in Charlotte, N.C.

## BAND PROGRAM GETS ITS DUE

The tribute to Dan Ellis in the winter issue ("Man with a golden heart") was impressive, but it contained a glaring error about the start of the band program.

I am a member of the Class of 1960 and joined the Furman band under the direction of Sam Arnold in the fall of 1956. We had about 30 members who marched during football games at Sirmine Stadium and also toured in the spring of '57. In the fall of '57 we did not have a "real" director, but Bob Moorer '58, Frank McCravy '58, drum major David Daniel '58, Proctor Hawkins '59 and Oran Nabors '59 were asked to keep us functioning until a director could be hired.

The article is correct in that Ellis came in time for the spring tour in 1958. Even the library's "Furman Traditions" blog indicates that there was a band in '57!

Your magazine is really inspiring! I look forward to reading it cover-to-cover every issue. The "winner" in the winter issue for me was Bill King's article about the Virginia Tech shootings, "Hope in the Shadow of Despair."

— **BARBARA WEST BILLERT '60**  
Carrollton, Ga.

**Rebecca Rush** earned a Master of Arts degree in international affairs at American University in Washington, D.C. After completing a two-year Presidential Management Fellowship with the federal government, she was scheduled to enter the University of South Carolina in July to complete the International M.B.A. program.

Having earned her Ph.D. in social psychology at the University of Florida, **Kate Sweeney** is joining the psychology faculty at the University of California-Riverside. Under the auspices of the Greenville Literacy Association, **Anna Mobley Woodham** has joined the Greer (S.C.) Learning Center team. She holds a master's degree in social work and previously was employed as a social worker for the Upstate Dialysis Center. **MARRIAGES:** **Julie Fellabom** and Brian Kapusta, June 23, 2007. They live in Wexford, Pa.

**Lindsey Hancock** and Sam Williamson, October 13. They live in Nashville, Tenn.

**Jeff Larkin** and Carla Hatmaker, July 14, 2007. They live in Knoxville, Tenn.

**Matthew McIver** and Carrie Ann Pearson, August 2, 2007. They live in Marietta, Ga.

**Andrew Snavelly** and Gretchen Crabb, October 6. Andrew is employed by Northrop Grumman. They live in Falls Church, Va.

**Megan Theiling** and Trevor Draper, December 1. They live in Cabin John, Md.

**BIRTHS:** Shane and **Angela Jones Alexander**, a daughter, Paula Grace, December 14, Nashville, Tenn.

**Matt and Melissa May Bateman**, a daughter, Emery May Bateman, April 5, Greenville.

Brad and **Sara Ann Ingram Cain**, a daughter, Anna Katherine, August 2, 2007, Orlando, Fla. Sara is an independent consultant with Southern Living at Home.

**Allen '01 and Jill Bryant Cothran**, a son, Edward Rhett, August 3, 2007, Anderson, S.C.

Jason and **Elizabeth Kelly Simmons**, a son, Jason Paul, July 5, 2007, Savannah, Ga.

**Ryan '04 and Becky Rank Stone**, twin sons, William Ryan and John Colton, February 13, Greenville.

## 03

### THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

**Matthew Goodwin** (M.A. '04) is a bowling instructor at Auburn (Ala.) University.

**Abigail Simon Lyle** is a commercial litigation associate with the Miami, Fla., office of Hunton & Williams. She graduated from the University of Miami School of Law *summa cum laude* and was the writing and research editor of the *University of Miami Law Review*.

**Linda Bertling Meade** earned her J.D. degree from the University of South Carolina and is now an attorney/tax associate with the WTAS firm in New York City.

**Liz Snipes** has joined the faculty at Missouri State University in Springfield as an assistant professor of painting and drawing.

**MARRIAGES: Rebecca Bryant Coomer** and Micheal Dickerson, November 11. They live in Tampa, Fla., where Rebecca is a title agent for Flagship Title of Tampa, LLP. She also works with Micheal in their new company, Above & Below Pest Control.

**Jessica De Graffenreid** and Michael Goodman, November 3. Jessica is a communications and marketing consultant and Mike is in money management. They live in Memphis, Tenn.

**Leo Fackler and Adelaide Duffey**, June 23, 2007. They live in Orlando, Fla., where Adelaide is a high school counselor and Leo is completing his master's degree in higher education.

**Timothy Larkins and Danielle Merida** '04, September 1. They live in McLean, Va.

**Ashley Ann Patton** and James Rufus Bratton III, January 12. She teaches at Savannah Grove Elementary School in Florence, S.C., and he is an attorney.

**Holly Towle** and Seth Felice, March 1. They live in Miami, Fla. Holly is an academy manager at Shake-A-Leg Miami and is pursuing a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction in education at Barry University. Seth is in his third year of podiatry study at Barry Medical School.

**BIRTHS: Mark and Erin Bumgarner Goettsch**, a son, Nathan, July 26, 2007, Raleigh, N.C. Erin arranges non-profit travel for mission and humanitarian organizations.

**Ben '00 and Diana Rich Hall**, a son, Mason Linvil, January 30. Diana teaches physical education in Gwinnett County, Ga. Ben owns his own business and coaches the offensive line at Flowery Branch High School.

**Rad and Adrienne Neale Lowery**, a son, Isaac Matthew, October 22, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

**Josh '04 and Vanessa Goings McWhorter**, a son, Joshua Alan, Jr., November 28, Cartersville, Ga.

**Roger Williams and Adelaide Sykes**, a son, Luke Adair, September 25, Charlotte, N.C.

**Rob '01 and Amanda Brackett Warren**, a son, Zachary Michael, March 24, Greenville.

## 04

**Justin and Julie Baldwin** were ordained into the priesthood of the Anglican Church on November 25. Justin is a priest in the Convocation of Anglicans in North America: Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion and, with Julie, is an associate pastor at St. Patrick's Anglican Church in Lexington, Ky. In May they received Master of Divinity degrees from Asbury Theological Seminary. Justin intends to serve

as a chaplain in the U.S. Army and Julie as a church planter.

**Rosalind Banks** has completed a Master of Arts degree in management and leadership at Webster University. She began a Ph.D. program at Walden University in February. She is co-founder of Orin Community Health Center, a non-profit in Spartanburg, S.C., and recently started Banks, Gibbson and Young LLC, an organizational development firm.

**Elizabeth Carroll** earned her law degree from George Washington University and has joined Thompson Hine LLP in Atlanta as an associate practicing in the areas of commercial real estate and capital markets.

**David Nischwitz**, marketing and public relations manager with The Phoenix (Ariz.) Symphony, is one of five people selected for the 2009 class of the Orchestra Management Fellowship Program, the country's premier training program for orchestra administrators. Sponsored by the League of American Orchestras, the program offers its Fellows a comprehensive overview of the concert music industry and hands-on experience through residencies with a variety of host orchestras throughout the country.

**Shannon Norbet** graduated with honors from Elon University in December with a doctorate in physical therapy.

**Terry Wells, Jr.**, recently received his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Vanderbilt University. He is employed with Skadden Arps Slate Meagher in New York City.

**MARRIAGES: Meagan Anderson** and Bill Longley, February 9. They live in Austin, Texas.

**Elisabeth Bowden** and Jeff Gabor, June 16, 2007. Elisabeth was scheduled to receive her medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in May. Jeff is an officer in the U.S. Air Force.

**Rebecca Holder** and Robert Sutton, May 19, 2007. They live in Herndon, Va.

**Carl Matthew Johnson and Sarah Sylvia Crosby** '06, December 22. They live in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Kristin Neal** and Shane Fast, February 17, 2007. They live in Spartanburg, S.C., and work with Campus Outreach, ministering to students at Wofford College.

**Molly Zeiler and James Britt Lassiter**, April 5. They live in Houston, Texas, where Molly is in a pharmacy residency program at the University of Texas Medical Branch Hospital and Britt is studying for his Ph.D. degree in physics at Rice University.

**BIRTH: Brian Dandurand** and Wendy Hu, a son, Ian Huxiaoying Dandurand, October 20. Brian has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Clemson University.

## 05

**Brent Blankenship** now lives in New York City, where he is head of business development for Pluris Valuation Advisors, an illiquid securities valuation firm. He is taking post-graduate classes at Columbia University.

**Matt Cain** recently earned a Master of Education degree from Vanderbilt University.

**Jessie Cochran** has become the development events coordinator at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. MidTen Media, an internet media company in the Nashville, Tenn., area, has named **Barbara Ebert** to its on-line sales and marketing division.

**John Hanley** works at CB Richard Ellis Indianapolis, where he was recently promoted to a new position focusing on industrial leasing and sales. He has received his graduate certificate of business from Ball State University.

**Mary Kovarik** of Greenville has been named an account executive with Furay Insurance. She previously worked with the Greenville Drive, the city's minor league baseball team.

**Molly Mungovan** earned a Master of Education degree from the University

of Notre Dame and is teaching high school level students at St. George College in Santiago, Chile.

**Jordan Teague** has been promoted to Web analytics manager in the Epinteractiv division of Erwin-Penland Advertising in Greenville.

**MARRIAGES:** **Nicole Aquino** and **Jonathan Davis**, May 19, 2007. They reside in Columbia, S.C., where Jonathan is in medical school at the University of South Carolina and Nicole works for The Cason Group.

**Kelly Criss** and **Matthew Felten** '03, September 3. They are associated with the Atlanta Shakespeare Company, he as

an artistic associate and she as a teacher. Matthew played the role of Curley in the company's production of "Of Mice and Men" this spring. Kelly is also an associate producer with Laughing Matters, an improv and entertainment company.

**Lauren Fryer** and Scott Tucker, May 26, 2007. They live in Atlanta where she is a campaign manager with Coxe Curry & Associates.

**Mary Hedges** and Matthew Ward Stackpole, June 3, 2007. Mary earned her master's degree from the University of Colorado and works as an underwriting services manager for ICAT Managers in Boulder, Colo., where they live.

**Grant Hendrickson** (M.S. '06) and **Lee Evans** '07, November 17. They live in Atlanta.

**Jim Jenkins** and **Kelly Ann McLaughlin** '06, December 28. Jim has completed law school at Stetson University, where Kelly Ann just completed her second year.

**Michael Orr** and **Morgen Young** '06, December 30. They live in Columbia, S.C., where Morgen is a graduate student in public history at the University of South Carolina and Michael works for Airline Information Research, Inc.

**Janine Carruthers Rogers** and David Courreges, January 19. They live in Piedmont, S.C.

## 06

**Vance Arthurs** is pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy at the University of South Carolina.

**Ian Calhoun** has moved to Tamarindo, Costa Rica, to work as a project manager for Frontera Properties & Developments.

**Hale Edwards** (M.S.) has been named the national middle school social studies Teacher of the Year. She has taught seventh grade at Riverside Middle School in Greenville County since 1999. In 2006, the South Carolina Council for the Social Studies named her a Middle School Teacher of Excellence.

## TRUSTEES RECOGNIZE EMERITI AT SPRING MEETING

During the spring meeting of the board of trustees in May, trustees with emeritus status were honored in a special ceremony at the home of outgoing board member Emilyn Sanders and her husband, Dan.

In 1997 the trustees approved the emeritus title to recognize board members for their devotion, leadership and length of service to Furman. Thomas S. Hartness, a Greenville businessman who served as a trustee across four decades, was the first person elected to emeritus status.

Trustees emeriti serve as special ambassadors and liaisons on the university's behalf. The tribute was organized by Leighan Rinker, a current trustee and former board chair.

The 2007-08 trustees emeriti recognized at the meeting were, back row from left, Hartness, Lloyd Batson '47 of Easley, S.C., Ralph Hendricks of Simpsonville, S.C., and Elizabeth Peace Stall of Greenville. Front row, from left, Mary Peace Sterling and Max Heller, both of Greenville, and Sarah Belk Gambrell of Charlotte, N.C. Hardy Clemons of San Antonio, Texas, has been elected an emeritus trustee for 2008-09.

In addition to recognizing the emeriti, the board elected six new members for 2008-09. They are Robert Buckman of Memphis, Tenn., C. Jordan Clark of Atlanta, Randy Eaddy '76 of Winston-Salem, N.C., David Ellison '72 of Greenville, R. Todd Ruppert of



Owings Mills, Md., and Peace Sterling Sullivan of Miami, Fla. Buckman, Eaddy and Ellison have previously served as trustees.

In addition to Emilyn Sanders, board members

who completed their terms June 30 were H. Neel Hipp '73 of Greenville, William Howes '59 of Flat Rock, N.C., Stanford Jennings '84 of Alpharetta, Ga., and Carl Kohrt '65 of Columbus, Ohio.

**Stacy Simpson Lyons** is pursuing a master's degree in occupational therapy at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

**Julie McGrath** earned a master's degree in education from Furman and now lives in Charlotte, N.C., where she teaches second grade at St. Patrick's Catholic School.

**Elizabeth Meeker** is working in administrative support with Fehrer, a German company that supplies foam seating for upscale cars. She is assigned to the Fountain Inn, S.C., location.

**MARRIAGES: Bryan Stanton and Jennifer Kattman '07**, November 17. They live in Charlotte, N.C., and are employed at Charlotte Country Day School.

**Ashley Elizabeth Brennan** (M.A. '07) and Craig Lowell Sarratt, December 28. She is a second grade teacher in Greenville County and he is studying mechanical engineering at Clemson University.

## 07

**Margarete Linsay Allio** teaches at Camperdown Academy in Greenville.

**Anna Bartolini** works in southern Africa as an intern with Augsburg College's Center for Global Education. Based in Windhoek, Namibia, she is a teaching assistant, resident adviser, program coordinator and administrative assistant for CGE's study abroad programs and travel seminars.

**Caleb Coker** of Atlanta is a financial analyst with SeedAmerica, a real estate investment company.

**Galen Collins** lives in Birmingham, Ala., and works as a sales counselor with LA Weight Loss.

**Elizabeth Crockett** spent the last year in England as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, pursuing a master's degree in public policy at the University of Bristol. She plans to enroll in law school this fall at Yale University.

**Erin Lee McDermott** is a shipboard cast communications representative with Disney Cruise Line. Her duties include facilitating communication between shipboard crew members and shoreside cast members and providing company information to cast and crew via Web and print communications.

**Devon Michael** is an account maintenance administrator with Pershing Managed Account Solutions in West Chester, Pa.

**Chris Priedemann** has received a Knowles Foundation Young Scholars Teaching Fellowship for Secondary Science Education. The fellowship provides professional and financial backing for up to five years, including support for travel, professional development and completion of teaching credentials. He will pursue a master's degree in education this fall at State University of New York.

**Julianna Rogers Rue** works for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta as foundation program coordinator. Her duties include events planning and volunteer coordination.

**Jamie Stephens** attends the University of Florida College of Law in Gainesville.

**Jessica Taylor** is a research associate with *The Almanac of American Politics* and the *National Journal* in Washington, D.C.

**Kim Tonkin** is a sports information assistant at Furman, with responsibility for marketing and public relations for the athletics program.

**MARRIAGES: Patrick Ryan Smith and Lee-Wilson Steen**, January 5. Patrick is pursuing a master's degree in software engineering at the University of Texas-Dallas.

**Lindsay Timmerman** and Steven Niedringhaus, October 27. They live in Cayce, S.C. Lindsay is an assistant editor with *Columbia Metropolitan Magazine*.

## FURMAN ON THE WEB

Laura Glish '06 has spent the last year volunteering, working and traveling in Africa and Asia. When, a few months back, she offered to write an article for the magazine about her impressions of India, we were already planning to publish Kartikeya Singh's story from India in this issue (page 12).

But we quickly realized that Laura's story would work well for the *Furman* magazine Web page at [www.furman.edu/fumag](http://www.furman.edu/fumag). It would offer a different view of life in India and would complement without duplicating Kartikeya's piece.

You'll find Laura's article under the Special to the Web feature on the Web page. You'll also discover another Web-exclusive feature from Anna Bartolini '07, who describes her work in Namibia for the Center for Global Education.

That's the beauty of having a magazine Web page. When space in the print version is tight, the Web provides an outlet for more stories from Furman alumni about their lives and adventures, or to expand on stories from the printed magazine.

[Furman.edu/fumag](http://Furman.edu/fumag) provides other services as well, including a quick survey that asks for reader input on the magazine, a "Send Your News" tab for submitting class notes items, and archived stories from past issues. So when you have the chance, visit [www.furman.edu/fumag](http://www.furman.edu/fumag).

## DEATHS

**Blanche Lorene Southern '24**, April 14, Greenville. She taught at Parker and Greenville high schools and was a librarian in the Greenville County school system for 35 years.

**Minnie Elizabeth Brockman '33**, November 30, Greenville. She was retired from Stone Manufacturing Company. She also worked with the Greenville Baptist Association as women's director for 10 years and as assistant Sunbeam director.

**Myrtle Ballenger Corbin Lee '33**, February 16, Tigerville, S.C. She was a teacher in several Upstate rural schools. She later became a librarian and driver of a bookmobile with the Greenville County library system. She also worked in the library of North Greenville College (now University) and retired as the school's

postmistress. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**Louise Lee Ballenger '34**, December 14, Batesburg, S.C. She practiced optometry for 56 years and was a lifetime member of the American Optometric Association. She was active in civic clubs and organizations in the Batesburg-Leesville community.

**Jessie Smith Barton '35**, January 28, Columbia, S.C. She was an instructor of English at Furman for six years and was employed by the School District of Greenville County for 20 years as a principal at three elementary schools. She had been president of the Greenville County Education Association, served on the board of the South Carolina Education Association, and was active in Democratic Women of Greenville.

**William S. McDonald** '35, January 9, Georgetown, S.C. He taught school before becoming regional manager of International Paper Co., Container Division, in Georgetown. He retired in 1979 as manager of the company's Uniwood Division in Statesville, N.C.

**Arthur Lewis Bozeman** '36, March 1, Lexington, Va. He was a veteran of World War II, with a specialty in wiring aircraft carriers. He also served with the Harbor Patrol. He was co-owner and president of B.W. Burdette Hardware until his retirement. He was a volunteer fireman and a member of the Lions Club.

**Ann Harrison** '36, December 25, Morristown, Tenn. She was employed for many years as office manager at Praters in Morristown.

**Robert Edward Bowen** '37, February 7, Pickens, S.C. He was retired from the Pickens County Tax Assessors Office and was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He was a Shriner and a lifetime member of the Keowee Masonic Lodge.

**Corinne "Coty" Branyon Burton** '37, February 5, Winnsboro, S.C. She worked for U.S. Rubber Company and later taught at Richard Winn Academy. She also worked with the American Red Cross Blood Mobile

and served on the board of the Fairfield County Library. She volunteered at Fairfield Memorial Hospital and with Meals on Wheels.

**Dorothy Bozard Fowler** '37, February 16, Greenville. She retired as a teacher from the Greenville County School District and Christ Church Episcopal School. She was a member of the National Honorary Teachers Organization and of Alpha Delta Kappa.

**James Wilson Brockman** '38, February 5, Chester, S.C. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and saw action in Northern France and in the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded a Purple Heart and the EAME Theatre Ribbon with four battle stars. After his military service, he was the owner of Brockman Poultry Farm.

**Edward Wimberly Clay** '38, February 21, Greenville. His career in pharmacy spanned 50 years. He served as a Naval officer aboard the USS Philadelphia during World War II.

**Emma Lena Martin King** '38, February 12, Greenville. She worked for the U.S. Marshall's office for 10 years and was a legal secretary in Greenville County government.

**Gladys Moore Rountree** '38, April 12, Barnwell, S.C. She was a retired employee of the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

**Evelyn Owen Ford** '39, March 4, Edisto Island, S.C.

**John William Johnston** '39, December 30, Charlotte, N.C. He was a meteorologist in Charleston, S.C., and Greensboro, N.C., and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. The Army assigned him to India to serve as an aircraft maintenance officer for three years and then to the Long Beach, Calif., Airbase, where he was on a military tribunal. After his retirement from the military, he obtained a law degree and joined the Helms and Mullis law firm in Charlotte, soon becoming a senior partner. He stayed with the firm (now Helms, Mullis and Wicker) for 34 years and was involved in securities and merger work for a number of prominent Charlotte banks and businesses. He served as a board member of the Mint Museum of Art.

**Eleanor Mullinnix Ramseur** '39, January 15, Greenville. She was active in civic and service organizations in the Greenville community.

**Anne Newby Riddle** '39, December 11, Greenville. She taught at Slater-Marietta Elementary School and Parker High School.

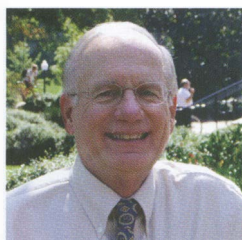
**Margaret E. "Betty" Willis** '39, January 14, Gastonia, N.C. She retired as vice president and secretary of First Federal Savings and Loan of Gastonia.

**William Boroughs Bolt** '41, January 9, Taylors, S.C. After his ordination in 1943, he was pastor of South Carolina Baptist churches in Greenville, Gray Court and Spartanburg. He was moderator of the North Spartanburg Baptist Association and the North Greenville Baptist Association.

**Mildred Mower Maynard** '41, October 21, Sandy Spring, Md. She got her professional break after World War II at *New Yorker* magazine, where she worked with longtime editor William Shawn and humorist/cartoonist James Thurber, among others. Her career in publishing spanned more than 40 years, and she edited manuscripts for such well-known writers as John le Carré and Michael Crichton. After her retirement in 1998, she became involved in Democratic politics and the Alzheimer's Association.

## LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS NAMED FOR SHUCKER .....

His retirement dinner in late January marked the formal end of the Harry Shucker Era at Furman — but certainly not the end of his legacy to the university.



After more than 40 years as a Furman student and administrator, the last 22 as vice president for student services, Shucker, a 1966 graduate, began the "retired" phase of his life January 1 — as a temporary volunteer for the Furman development office. One of his tasks has been to help

raise \$500,000 to endow the university's leadership programs, which have been named in his honor.

Shucker says he considers establishment of the leadership programs one of his greatest accomplishments at Furman. Directed by Kim Keefer, the programs promote the ideals of citizenship and community service and are designed to help students develop and pursue leadership opportunities on campus and off. They reflect Shucker's belief that "leadership is an action, not a position."

Emilyn Sanders, an outgoing member of the board of trustees, has said, "After serving as a trustee representative on the Student Services Committee

for more than 10 years, I can say that at all times student issues were Dr. Shucker's issues. He was never affected by the success of an undertaking. If he felt it the right thing to do, he was for it regardless of the possible outcome."

Certainly the marks of a true leader. And given Shucker's pride in the success of the leadership programs, naming them in his honor is the perfect way to extend his legacy at Furman.

To join students, alumni, colleagues, friends and family in supporting the Shucker Leadership Programs, call Betsy Moseley '74, director of special projects, at (864) 294-3491, or e-mail [betsy.moseley@furman.edu](mailto:betsy.moseley@furman.edu).

**Sarah Donald Robinson** '41, February 11, Greenville. She had worked as corporate secretary for Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan, which later merged into American Federal Bank.

**Vera Lee Blackmon Smith** '41, February 22, Spartanburg, S.C. She volunteered with Total Ministries.

**Charles Bondurant Dudley** '42, December 19, Greenville. He was an Air Force veteran of World War II. He worked as a cotton broker and was a competitive golfer, winning the North-South championship in 1947, the South Carolina State Championship in 1948, and the Carolinas Championship in 1952. He qualified for eight U.S. Amateurs, played in two U.S. Opens and was inducted into the South Carolina Golf Hall of Fame in 1989.

**Barbara Sawhill Smith** '42, January 13, White Plains, N.Y. She served in the WAVES (U.S. Navy) during World War II.

**Nancy Welch Cartwright** '43, December 26, San Antonio, Texas. She taught elementary school in Aransas Pass, Texas, for more than 30 years.

**Felix Levi Finley, Jr.** '43, January 29, Pickens, S.C. He was the owner of Finley Law Firm P.A. He was a former director

and vice president of Pickens Savings and Loan Association, attorney for Pickens County, attorney for the city of Pickens and director of Pickens Bank. He was a U.S. Army veteran, a Mason and a Shriner.

**Mary Gault Curry** '44, February 6, Akron, Ohio.

**Catherine Mackey Hendrix** '44, March 5, Greenville. She retired from the Greenville Hospital System as a medical technologist.

**Sarah McLaurin Milford** '44, January 1, Greenville. She was involved in various civic and service activities.

**Clyde Ernest Sullivan, Jr.** '44, March 9, Calabash, N.C. He was in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and was active in American Legion Post 380, where he was commander and national child welfare chair.

**Jane Vaughan Eastland** '45, March 25, Greenville. She spent much of her teaching career in Greenville County public schools.

**Helen Farmer Sweat** '45, December 31, Augusta, Ga. She was a first grade teacher.

**Marian Smith Samuel** '45, December 10, Beaufort, S.C.

**Jean Jennings Eargle** '46, February 23, Prosperity, S.C. She began teaching reading at Carlisle Military School in Bamberg, S.C., in 1956 and then moved

to Dade County, Fla., in 1961, where she was the faculty union representative for Parkway Junior High School until her retirement in 1984.

**Sherodd "Sherry" R. Albritton** '48, December 22, Winchester, Va. He was a retired clergyman with the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. After he was ordained in 1966, he served in parishes in Corning, N.Y., Macon, Ga., and Alexandria, Va., and then became professor of homiletics, speech and music at Virginia Theological Seminary, retiring in 1983. He also served as chair of the music department at Goucher College. As a member of the U.S. Army during World War II, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

**Daniel Bates Gaskins** '48, January 30, Seneca, S.C. He was a retired school principal, a Mason and a U.S. Navy veteran.

**Carolyn Slemmons Hatfield** '48, January 31, Dallas, Texas. She had been employed by Pacific Lyman Mills.

**Miriam Harrison Murff** '48, February 2, Columbia, S.C. She taught business classes in Pendleton, S.C., and Allendale, S.C., and worked at Fidelity Federal in Greenville. She later became executive secretary to the president of Columbia Junior College. She had been a member of the Symphony

League, was a volunteer at Palmetto Hospital and worked with the homeless.

**Clyde Kemsy Bizzell** '49, April 5, Louisville, Ky. Following two years in the U.S. Army, he attended seminary and went on to serve for more than 50 years in Baptist churches in Louisiana, Florida and Texas.

**E. Dupre Lancaster** '49, April 5, Greer, S.C. He was a retired production engineer for J.P. Stevens and Co.

**Walter Edwin McDaniel** '49, January 31, Greenville. He served during World War II as a U.S. Army Ranger and was a prisoner of war for 15 months. He was a retired United Methodist minister and was pastor of a number of churches throughout South Carolina.

**Lewie H. Miller, Jr.** '49, February 13, Greenville. He was retired from the U.S. Air Force, in which he served as a chaplain during World War II and Vietnam. He was also a retired Baptist minister and was a member of Rotary International and the International Society of Bible Collectors.

**Richard Benton Osborne, Jr.** '49, December 16, Greenville.

## STUBB APPOINTED FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER

**Alexander Stubb**, the 1993 Furman graduate who has served as a representative to the European Parliament from Finland since 2004, was appointed the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs in April.

In his new position he is responsible for foreign and security policy and matters related to the Foreign Service. Stubb, 40, also serves as chair of the 56-state Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the world's largest regional security group.

Born in Helsinki in 1968, he received the Bradshaw-Feaster Medal for General Excellence when he graduated from Furman. He went on to earn a doctorate from the London School of Economics

and is the author of a number of books and articles on the European Union.

He has been a counselor on institutional affairs at the Finnish Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels and was also an adviser to Romano Prodi when Prodi was president of the European Commission. He spoke at Furman last spring at a conference sponsored by the Richard W. Riley Institute.

The Fall 2005 issue of *Furman* featured an article on Stubb, reprinted from *European Voice*, titled "The Smile." Read it on-line at [www.furman.edu/fumag](http://www.furman.edu/fumag).

To learn more about Stubb's current work, visit [www.alexstubb.com](http://www.alexstubb.com).



PERKA MUSTONEN

**Robert Glen Revis** '49, December 24, Chester, Va. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and was an avid golfer.

**Gary Evan Douglas, Jr.** '50, January 18, Charlotte, N.C. He taught for four years at the Hawaiian Baptist Academy and retired as an elementary school principal after 32 years of service. He was an organist, pianist and composer and served in the U.S. Navy.

**Charles Van Sikes, Sr.** '50, March 18, Lillington, N.C. After service in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he began his business career with M and J Finance Corporation before joining the Bank of North Carolina in Lillington, where he worked as a manager for 20 years. He was twice president of the Lillington Chamber of Commerce, was president of the Lillington Lions Club, was Lillington town commissioner for eight years and was head of the Harnett County Heart Association for five years.

**Henry Marco Tezza** '50, January 8, Spartanburg, S.C. He was the founder and president of Tezza Tile Company and was president of the South Carolina Tile Association.

**George Manning League** '51, July 8, 2007, Spartanburg, S.C. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and a former employee of Milliken & Company.

**Sam Edward Strauss, Jr.** '53, February 24, Anderson, S.C. He retired as a school teacher from Dixie High School in Due West, S.C. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War and served as a missionary in the Dominican Republic with the West Indies Mission.

**J. Paul Ross, Jr.** '54, January 11, Elgin, S.C. After retiring from the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, he became a master woodcraftsman and was owner of Paul's Wood Craft.

**Leona Parker** '55, October 31, Williamston, S.C. She was an elementary school teacher in Anderson (S.C.) District 1 for many years.

**Henry Lee Taylor** '55, December 18, Anchorage, Alaska. After serving as a drill instructor in the U.S. Marine Corps, he settled in Alaska during its territorial days. He worked as an insurance claims adjuster and became a private investigator. He later obtained his law degree and became a prominent Alaska attorney. He was a pioneer in remote Alaska sports hunting and fishing and was featured in *Alaska Magazine* and in two books, *More Alaska Bear Tales* and *Some Bears Kill*.

**Ann Cudd McGuire** '56, March 11, Auburn, Ala.

**Martha Leathers Wennerberg** '57, March 5, Pensacola, Fla. She served as youth director at Baptist churches in Washington, D.C., and Montgomery, Ala., after receiving her master's degree in religious education. She was State Young Women's Auxiliary Director with the Alabama Woman's Missionary Union. She was president of the Florida Baptist Convention's Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and was national recording secretary for the WMU of the Southern Baptist Convention. She was also on the WMU Foundation Board of Trustees.

**Gail Lamb Edwards** '60, March 6, Raleigh, N.C. She retired from the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles as an administrative assistant.

**James Neil Mathews** '60, December 10, Asheville, N.C. He worked for Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. and later in the trucking industry. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

**Roy O. Forrest** '61, February 10, Taylors, S.C. He was a U.S. Army medic during the Korean Conflict. A Baptist minister, he served several churches in South Carolina before retiring from Locust Hill Baptist Church in Travelers Rest, S.C. He was a three-time member of the S.C. Baptist Convention's General Board and spent 20 years as a discipleship training consultant for the Southern Baptist Convention. He was moderator of North Greenville Baptist

## TRANSITION — AND RECOGNITION

President Bush's Commencement appearance spurred us to do something we'd been wanting to do for a while — shift the publication dates for *Furman* magazine. By moving the print date of this issue back six weeks to include coverage of the president's visit, we are able to alter our schedule for future issues.

For the past nine years, the summer magazine was printed and mailed in late August. Similarly, the fall, winter and spring issues were produced in late November, February and May.

Thanks to the schedule transition, we plan henceforth to publish the magazine a little earlier each quarter. This does mean we have no official spring issue this year; technically, this edition is a spring/summer compilation. But we believe we'll now have greater scheduling flexibility.

As for recognition: At the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District III meeting in February, *Furman* received two Grand awards — one for publication improvement, based on the redesign introduced in the fall of 2006, and the other as the district's best magazine for institutions with 5,000 students or less. Grand awards are the top honors in each category.

CASE is the leading national organization for college advancement professionals. District III consists of more than 4,000 members from institutions in nine Southeastern states.

The lion's share of credit for the awards goes to designer Jane Dorn, who provides the clean, crisp look for the magazine's editorial content — and whose serenity and grace under pressure ease the way during times of deadline pressure. Thanks as well to Nell Smith, who doubles as class notes editor and eagle-eyed proofreader.

Of course, we realize we can't guarantee this level of achievement every year. As one of my colleagues charmingly put it, "There's nowhere to go from here but down."

Maybe so. But we can guarantee that we won't stop trying to raise the bar.

— JIM STEWART, editor

Association and was on the board of advisors for North Greenville, Gardner-Webb and Campbell universities.

**Lois Ann Duncan** '62, February 5, Greenville. She worked as a medical social worker with the Greenville Hospital System and then as a caseworker with the Department of Social Services before becoming a Title 1 school social worker in the Greenville County School District, where she

remained until her retirement in 2003. She was a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the South Carolina Association of School Social Workers.

**Linda Mae Roper Patton** '62, December 18, Fountain Inn, S.C. She taught in the Greenville County school system for 31 years.



## 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 Hwy., Greenville, S.C. 29613, or e-mail to [alumni@furman.edu](mailto:alumni@furman.edu). Selected information submitted to the on-line alumni registry (<http://alumni.furman.edu>) is included in class notes.

**Henry Hoffman Reynolds, Jr.** '62, October 17, Chattanooga, Tenn. He retired from IBM with 29 years of service. He was frequently a member of IBM's 100 Percent Sales Club and was a pioneer in the application of computerized technology in the carpet industry. He also worked with Chadwick and Associates for seven years.

**Harley G. "Buddy" Babb, Jr.** '64, November 23, Fountain Inn, S.C. A veteran of the European Theatre in World War II, he was wounded multiple times and was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. After his military service, he was called into the ministry and was pastor of several Upstate churches before becoming chief of counseling with the Greenville County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

**Allen Franklin Cantrell** '64, February 22, Black Mountain, N.C. He began his ministry by directing music at West Hendersonville (N.C.) Baptist Church and playing gospel music on the piano at a local radio station. Following seminary, he served

for 21 years as minister of music at North Carolina Baptist churches in Asheville, Hickory and Black Mountain. After he retired in 1991, he assisted Pleasant Gardens Baptist Church in Marion and First Presbyterian Church in Swannanoa with their music programs.

**Sarah-Patsy Miller Knight** '64, January 5, Greensboro, N.C. She taught English at Sequoyah and Peachtree high schools in DeKalb County, Ga. She also taught at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C. In North Carolina she worked at Guilford Technical Community College and at Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University, where she was director of the Dorothy Carpenter Archives. She co-authored several publications and served as a loaned executive to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County United Way. She was a member of Delta Omicron national music honor society, American Association of University Women, Society of American Archivists, North Carolina Association of Archivists, National Council

of Teachers of English and the American Library Association.

**Claude Thomas Wilson** '64, M.A. '67, December 5, Greenville. He was director of the children's program at Marshall I. Pickens Hospital for 12 years and directed the Greenville County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse for 17 years. At the time of his death, he was employed at Greenville Middle Academy. He served on many community boards.

**Donna Sanders Painter** '68, April 30, Asheville, N.C. She was minister with senior adults at First Baptist Church of Asheville.

**Jerry Wayne Davis** '69, February 14, Fort Mill, S.C. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he was a former employee of Duke Energy and was retired from The Compass Group.

**Steven Douglas Reddick** '70, March 18, Merritt Island, Fla. He was a research analyst with the U.S. government and had served in the U.S. Army.

**Delane Baker Wood**, M.A.'72, February 26, Travelers Rest, S.C. She taught at North Greenville College (now University) for 31 years. She was a member of the Beta Alpha Club, National Education Association and Business Club.

**Patty Lee Burch Hass** '73, January 15, Durham, N.C. She was president of Chatham Research, LLC, at the time of her death. She contributed to the development of the world's first high throughput analytical chemistry laboratory and to projects that led to environmental and human health improvement.

**Mary Herring Sansone**, M.A. '73, March 8, Greenville. She taught high school science before going to work during World War II at the nuclear research facility in Oak Ridge, Tenn. She later worked for 25 years as a librarian for Greenville County Schools.

**Sharon "Kay" Thompson Plyler** '76, March 8, Matthews, N.C. She was assistant town manager for the city of Matthews for 13 years and twice served as interim town manager. She was an

equine enthusiast and won many Hunter Jumper events.

**Carroll Gray Jones** '78, January 20, Taylors, S.C. He was the owner of Instant Photo Systems.

**Gary M. Clonts** '79, January 19, Chattanooga, Tenn. After receiving his medical degree, he completed his residency in Memphis, Tenn., and Orlando, Fla. He was board-certified in occupational medicine and family practice and was director of health services for the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando.

**James Douglas Beddingfield** '84, March 29, Greenville. He was a former Furman football player and active in the Letterman's Association. He worked as a licensed securities and insurance broker, was a stand-up comic for two years, and most recently was a founding partner of Youth Sports Live.

**Charia "Shara" Annette Styles** '87, February 26, Columbia, S.C. She was employed by NCR.

**Carolyn Sue Hartman Shealy**, M.A. '89, January 18, Easley, S.C. She had taught at Holmes Bible College in Greenville since 1974.

**Patrick Gregg Ramseur** '90, February 4, 2007, Hickory, N.C.

**Jessica Pety** '08, February 3, Palmer Lake, Colo. She was killed in an automobile accident while working with Mission Training International in preparation for an 18-month experience in Spain as a missionary with World Harvest Missions. This spring she was inducted posthumously into Furman's Gamma chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

**Shirley Gruber Mangels**, March 3, Greenville. She was a longtime employee of the Division of Continuing Education at Furman and received the university's Chiles-Harrill Award in 2005 for her contributions to the lives of students. She was a member of Pi Omega Pi honorary fraternity and Phi Gamma Nu professional sorority.

## HE'S THE ONE BEHIND THOSE FOSTER GRANTS — FOR REAL

Alec Taylor is old enough to remember when the likes of Raquel Welch and Sophia Loren were behind those Foster Grants. Today, however, it's safe to say that nobody is more behind the famous shades than he is.

Taylor, a 1975 Furman graduate, was named the CEO of FGX International, the company that manufactures Foster Grants, in October of 2005, marking the latest step in a life journey that began in Johnson City, Tenn., during the heyday of one of the most famous ad campaigns of all time.

"Not in my wildest dreams," Taylor says when asked if heading the leading eyewear operation in the world was where he thought he would be three decades after he earned a political science degree from Furman. "I was a lawyer for 20 years."

In fact, Taylor says he was lucky to have been admitted to Furman. "I got put on the waiting list, which is exactly where I belonged," he says. "I got in by the hair of my chinny chin chin. [University president] Gordon Blackwell had mercy on me."

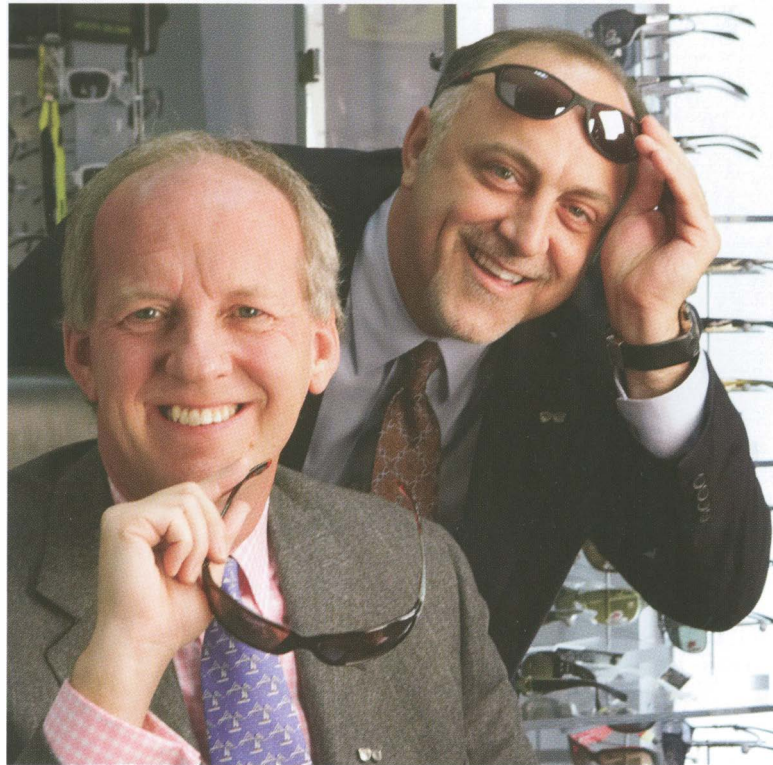
Taylor went on to prove that the hunch Blackwell had about his potential was on target, as he did well enough at Furman to gain entrance into law school at Vanderbilt University. That sparked a long and successful career in the legal field.

Taylor says he wasn't really thinking about changing anything until a client, impressed by his work, asked him to make the jump to the business world by offering him a high-ranking position with Chatterm Chemicals Inc. in Chattanooga, Tenn.

"He said, 'Come here and run this company and be my president, my No. 2 guy,'" Taylor recalls. "I had all types of reservations about it and wondered if I was capable of doing it. But it was kind of the midpoint of my legal career, and I thought if I was ever going to do anything different, it was now."

After taking the job in January 1998, he quickly discovered that advertising and bottom lines intrigued him. And rather than being a hindrance, his law background proved to be hugely beneficial.

"Lawyers are terrible business people," he says. "They struggle running their own checkbooks. But law also teaches a very logical thought process. You do a lot of A-to-B-to-C thinking. You learn not to do A and skip to Z."



Alec Taylor '75 (seated) and FGX executive vice president Anthony DiPaola display their company's signature item.

MARK JOSEPH

He took to his corporate role like a seasoned veteran, and it wasn't long until he was ready to take another big step. FGX was planning to go public, and another friend thought Taylor would be the perfect choice to spearhead the transition.

"I'd taken companies public as a lawyer, so I knew that process," he says. "I hated to leave [Chatterm], but I wanted to be a CEO and have a chance to run my own gig."

Taylor says one of the things he insisted upon when taking the job was that the company make a commitment to spend more money on advertising. FGX agreed, and soon the ads he remembered from his youth were revived — only this time with regular people replacing celebrities. The effort was designed to put Foster Grant on a new generation's radar and to keep the company at the forefront of the industry.

"We asked people under 40, 'What does Foster Grant mean to you?' And they said a government aid program," Taylor says with a laugh.

In addition to the challenge of running a high profile company, Taylor also had to adjust to moving

to Rhode Island (Smithfield), where FGX is based.

"People in Rhode Island have this deep, thick accent. My first three months I had to carry a translator around. I wondered if they were speaking English," Taylor says — then points out that his colleagues felt the same way about his Southern accent.

"But I've really enjoyed it," he adds. "We do a lot of kidding about Southernisms. People wanted to know if we were going to add catfish and grits to the cafeteria. I haven't imposed any of that yet."

Taylor says he doesn't get back to Furman often, but he counts his years at what was then still the "new" campus as critical to the person he is today.

"I remember the first time going through those gates and having the 'wow' event we all had," he says. "It starts there. It's a really special place."

"Furman nurtured people and made you feel like you could be somebody."

— RON WAGNER

*The author, a 1993 Furman graduate, is a free-lance writer based in Hendersonville, N.C.*



FURMAN



ROB BELKNAP

## What does it mean to be liberally educated?

*President David E. Shi '73 delivered this "charge" to the graduates at the 2008 Commencement:*

**On behalf of all of us** who have the privilege of working at Furman, let me express our collective gratitude for the many contributions this class has made to the university, the community, and to one another.

We have been inspired by the amazing things you have mastered, produced, performed and accomplished, and we are about to give you diplomas that certify your completion of a liberal arts education.

So perhaps it is worth asking: What does it mean to be a liberally educated person?

A liberal education means, among other things, that you've been exposed to a wide range of ideas, opinions, perspectives and personalities in an effort to hone your capacity for understanding — and dealing with — different people and points of view.

This year alone, Furman has manifested its commitment to free expression by welcoming speakers as diverse as Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, James Carville, Tommie Smith, Mike Huckabee, Ann Coulter and President Bush.

For all of the contentiousness and controversy their appearances aroused, those speakers and others also enriched the learning environment.

Coping with difference has always been an essential human skill — and a primary goal of a liberal education. But as you leave Furman and begin significant careers of leadership and service, you must cope with not simply an increasingly diverse society.

It is also an increasingly fractious society, overflowing with conviction yet often lacking in civility and humility.

Modern American culture celebrates pride and power, certainty and assertiveness, competition and confrontation. Polarization prevails, and shouting often displaces listening. We delight in demonizing our opponents, caricaturing them so as to create scapegoats and hate-objects.

By contrast, the almost forgotten virtue of intellectual humility seems pale and timid. It has an antiquated feel to it. On the surface, this may seem surprising, since all of us, including college presidents, have much to be humble about. Many very smart people are prone to take their opinions too seriously.

But regardless of our diplomas and degrees, none of us has all the answers, no matter how loudly we speak or how certain we seem or how brashly we behave.

The humility embedded in our imperfection should prompt us, at least occasionally, to reassess our dogmas, harness our arrogance and slow our keystroke rush to judgment. Liberally educated people are those who have learned to practice tolerance and self-criticism and embody civility and humility.

This doesn't mean that we shouldn't be confident or forthright in our convictions. It does mean that we shouldn't contemptuously dismiss the convictions of others.

Michel de Montaigne, the 16th-century French essayist, centered many of his writings on the dangers of excessive conviction. "It is right," he wrote, "that things should touch us, providing they do not possess us. . . . It is enough to dip our pens in ink; there is no need to dip them in blood."

The subtle distinction he made is worth noting — and remembering.

So on this majestic occasion, when justifiable pride appropriately sets the mood for our fellowship together, let's also reaffirm the gentler virtues of civility and tolerance, humility and empathy.



# Furman

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The Cliffs Cottage: If you think this looks nice, you should see the rest. PAGE 6



JEREMY FLEMING