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Alumni giving tops 50 percent again

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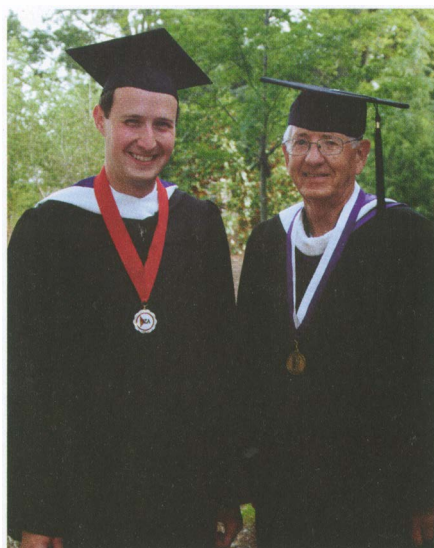
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Furman philanthropy

Class of 2005 designates gift to establish 9/11 Memorial Plaza



*Different generations, same heritage:
Chase Samples '05 and David Mauldin '55.*

Each year the members of Furman's graduating class demonstrate their appreciation for their college experience by presenting a class gift to the university. In recent years, the graduates have designated their gifts for academic programs or scholarships, or to support such projects as the Bell Tower renovation, amphitheater, lighting for intramural fields and the Timmons Arena gate.

The Class of 2005 chose to tie its gift to a memorable event. Their first day of classes was September 11, 2001 — and so the graduates designated their gift toward a memorial recognizing that fateful day. The 9/11 Memorial Plaza, currently under construction, will be located in front of James C. Furman Hall.

Anna Martin '05 won a competition to design the memorial. Her concept features an interactive fountain with two

large black stones, which refer to the World Trade Center towers and are engraved with class members' memories of the event.

The top of one stone will be broken while the other stone will remain whole, representing, in Martin's words, "the brokenness caused by the attacks of September 11, but also the resulting unity in our country."

Class president and head agent Chase Samples says, "September 11, 2001 was an emotional day for America, but it particularly resonated with our group of anxious college freshmen whose idealism and optimism suddenly found perspective. For all its tragic consequences, September 11 brought Furman's Class of 2005 together in a way that allowed us to positively impact the university and the larger community."

The class gift drive began in January with a goal of \$40,000. At Commencement, Samples presented Furman president David Shi a check for \$48,486.

Martin's design sketches are on-line at www.furman.edu/seniorgift, as are the names of the leading class agents.

The Class of 2005 was able to share its Commencement with some special guests: members of the Class of 1955. Borrowing from the traditions of Ivy League institutions, Furman invited the 50th reunion class to lead the procession at graduation, thus recognizing the members of the golden anniversary class and helping the Class of 2005 realize that they are part of an ongoing tradition and legacy.

As President David Shi told the '55 graduates, "You represent a tangible reminder of the heritage and history that all Furman graduates share. We thank you for your support, commitment and loyalty."

The two classes share additional common ground, as the Class of '55 has also designated its 50th reunion gift to support a plaza on campus — in this case, the new plaza behind the James B. Duke Library. The 50th reunion class is joining with the Class of '54 to endow the area, with a goal of raising \$50,000.

— **Judy Wilson**

Director, Parents Programs

Alumni giving tops 50 percent again

Thanks to the generosity of a record 11,027 donors in 2004-05, more than 50 percent of alumni made contributions to Furman for the eighth consecutive year. This level of giving helps set Furman apart and demonstrates that alumni appreciate and value Furman's progress in recent years.

Among the highlights from a banner year in fund-raising:

- More unrestricted dollars — \$2,143,817 — were raised than ever before. This money supports the university's budget, which includes financial aid for students (80 percent of whom receive some sort of assistance), classroom technology, faculty salaries and other operating expenses.

- Alumni, parents and friends set records for memberships in top gift societies, from the Presidents Club (for donors of \$1,000 to \$2,499) to the Richard Furman Society (for donors of \$10,000 and up).

- Furman welcomed seven donors as founders of the Richard Furman Society Sustaining Members program, for those who make annual unrestricted contributions of \$25,000 or more.

- A total of 192 alumni, parents and friends took advantage of the Hollingsworth Initiative to augment their three-year pledges and move to a higher level gift society.

- A total of 132 alumni who graduated within the past 20 years became Young Benefactors (contributors of at least \$1,000).

- For the fifth year in a row the Class of 1941, led by head agent Lige Hicks, had 100 percent participation from its 70 solicitable members.

Although it would be impossible to hand-write 11,027 personal thank-you notes, I hope in the coming months to thank in person as many of you as possible for your generous support.

— **Wayne King**

Director, Annual Giving