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Deep (?) Thoughts

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Deep(?) Thoughts

I have been asked to impart a few words of wisdom about what I have learned in my four years at Furman. Seasoned veteran that I am, I have carefully combed through my experiences and chosen the five most momentous nuggets of truth that I have acquired.

Perhaps these ideas will make you deeply ponder life. More likely they will make you deeply ponder how I was able to commandeer so much space in this magazine. Whatever the case, sit back, pop on your thinking cap (preferably in a nice Paladin purple), and follow these hopefully enlightening reflections.

Nugget # 5: *The Relative Theory of Chocolate, or $E = MC^2$ (Exercise = More Chocolate²).* Furman students complain about no longer being allowed to drive to class. Well, I am here to preach the benefits of this recently instituted rule. My friends, the more you walk, the more calories you burn — and the more chocolate you must ingest to replenish your energy. The equation couldn't be simpler! So go take a walk, and then eat a pan of brownies. It works out, I swear.

Nugget # 4: *Grass is always greener when you paint it.* We all know that Furman in the spring is the most lush, beautiful campus in the country. However, those who actually *walk around* Furman in the spring discover, when their ankles turn green, that university workers artificially “enhance” this natural state. It seems to me that we can extrapolate a moral from this bizarre landscaping technique: Make the world what you want it to be. Yes, when things don't look the way you want them to look, fix them. Paint them iridescent green. If that's not a lesson for the ages, I don't know what is.

Nugget # 3: *Plan? What plan?* The world has a bizarre preoccupation with expecting people to know at all times exactly what they want to do with their lives. I say to the world, “Fiddle faddle!” I have found that life is much more exciting when I am just barely clinging to it as it gallops along . . . even if it gallops me all the way back home to Orlando after graduation, confused and directionless! At least my mother will be waiting to dust me off and feed me lasagna. Right, Mom? Mom? Hmmm, maybe I *should* go talk to those career counselors. . . .

Nugget # 2: *Spend Thursday nights with “Friends.”* No, this is not a sentimental reference to a weekly ritual with my sorority sisters. I am actually referring to “Friends,” that wonderful NBC sitcom. And before you condemn me as a pathetic recluse who lives vicariously



through the antics of fictitious television characters, I should point out that I do, in fact, watch the show each week with a whole crew of my closest pals (yes, *real* people). Ah, friends and “Friends.” It's the best combination of fellowship and entertainment I can imagine — and as it turns out, the sitcom is totally expendable.

Nugget # 1: *Carpe anatinus! (Seize the duck!)* Perhaps you have heard the phrase *carpe diem*, or “Seize the day.” Well, *carpe anatinus* is simply the Furman version. Furman is, of course, host to the largest community of waterfowl in upstate South Carolina. They herd, they flock, they gaggle, they storm the dining hall seeking discarded scraps of bagels. Nevertheless, my happiest days at Furman have been those in which I have sat peacefully by the lake, amid the ducks, enjoying life. It's worth slowing down from the rapid pace of a Furman schedule and having a ducky moment or two. But watch where you step; those ducks can get a little nervous when you seize them.

So there you have it — five important lessons learned during my four years at Furman. Now, after all that deep thinking, I really need to relax. I guess I'll take one last walk around the lake. My brownies should be done by the time I'm back!

— T.J. Frost '04

The author is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate in English who, believe it or not, has a hard time taking anything seriously and secretly aspires to be Dave Barry.