

# Furman Magazine

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# Furman

WINTER 2005



**MUSIC ALUMS:** THE BEAT GOES ON

**FURMAN MAGAZINE**  
Winter 2005

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 4

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**Editor**

Jim Stewart

**Contributors**

Terri Bright  
Jane Dungan  
Karen Guth  
Alice Gregory Hartnett  
Wayne King  
Mike Overby  
John Roberts  
Bruce Schoonmaker  
Carl Sullivan  
Paul Thomas  
Tom Triplitt

**Editorial Assistant/  
Class Notes Editor**

Nell Smith

**Sports Editor**

Vince Moore

**Photographer**

Charlie Register

**Editorial Advisory Committee**

Tish Pearman Anderson  
Randall David Cook  
Nancy R. Fullbright  
Sam Hodges

**Design**

Copia Design

**Printing**

Hickory Printing Group, Inc.

**E-mail**

[jim.stewart@furman.edu](mailto:jim.stewart@furman.edu)

**Telephone**

(864) 294-2185

**Fax**

(864) 294-3023

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# Furman

Winter 2005

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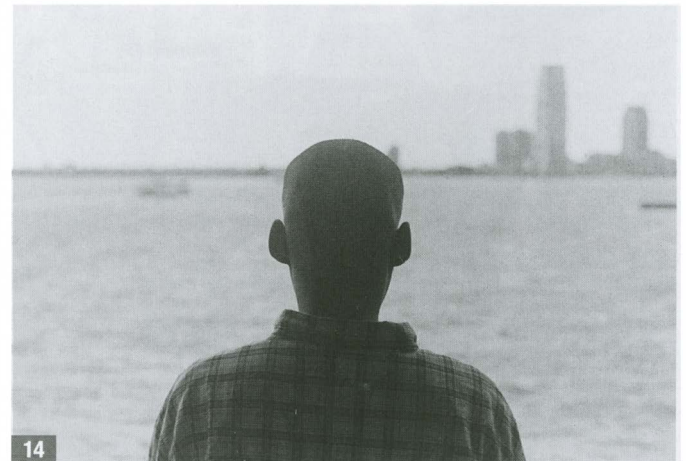
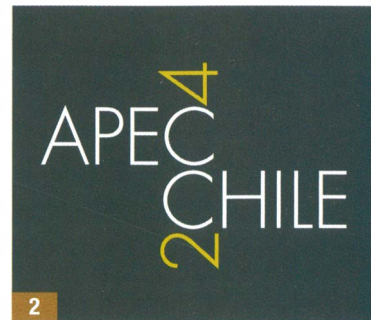
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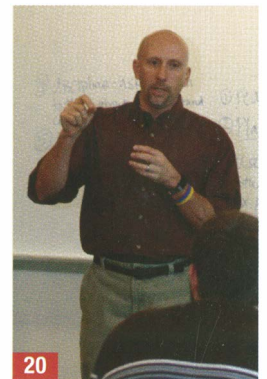
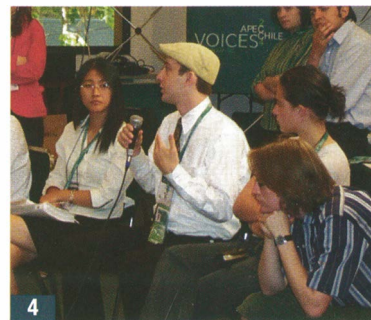
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### ON THE COVER:

John Parks '93 is a rising star in the world of percussion.  
Composite photo by Charlie Register



# APEC CHILE 2014



## Furman students and faculty emerge from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit with a deeper understanding of how U.S. policies affect other countries.

### AS AN ECONOMICS MAJOR, JORDAN

Teague '05 understands that the United States is a driving force in the world's economy. After all, America accounts for approximately 30 percent of the world's gross domestic product.

But the opportunity to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, held in November in Santiago, Chile, helped her gain a deeper understanding of how U.S. policy impacts other countries.

Established in 1993, APEC works for economic cooperation that facilitates bilateral trade and investment. The APEC countries represent 2.5 billion people with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of \$19 trillion, or 58 percent of the global total. They account for more than 50 percent of world trade.

The organization's signature event is an annual summit hosted each year by a member nation. Representatives from 21 countries attended the 2004 summit, which generated headlines around the world and featured appearances by President Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and the presidents of China, Japan, Russia and South Korea. Government corruption, terrorism and international trade policy were popular topics, as was the development of a standardized shipping system that would allow countries to track freight and to monitor content.

Teague and six other Furman students — Amer Ahmad '06, Dan Ennis '06, Monica Handa '07, Mike Overby '05, Chris Schoen '07 and Cindy Youssef '07

— were chosen to attend the international conference through a program sponsored by the Richard W. Riley Institute for Government, Politics and Public Leadership and conducted under the auspices of the Virtual Trade Mission (VTM) Foundation. The Washington, D.C.-based foundation is dedicated to educating students, educators and business people about the emerging global economy.

The Furman trip was made possible by a grant from the John I. Smith Foundation.

The students, who were accompanied by political science professor Cleve Fraser and economics professor Ken Peterson, were considered "citizen diplomats." While rubbing elbows with international business executives and trade officials, they lived, worked and socialized with their peers from APEC member countries and helped to create a digital video of their experiences.

Says Teague, "After talking with students from various nations of the Asia-Pacific region, I began to better understand the degree to which U.S. policy affects not only our country, but also the functioning of the rest of the world's nations."

In all, 120 students from around the world participated in the program. They were granted press passes and had access to government officials, trade ministers

and business executives. The Furman students spent much of their time interviewing conference attendees and mingling with their international peers, but they also had the chance to tour the area and learn how Chile, once ruled by military dictator Augusto Pinochet, has developed one of the fastest-growing economies in Latin America.

Don Gordon, director of the Riley Institute, says that Furman plans to participate in future VTM trips to South Korea and Vietnam, which will host APEC summits in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

"The VTM program is going to be an increasingly important resource for Furman over time and in a variety of ways," he says. "It will engage our students, help us recruit international students by introducing them to Furman representatives, and help to expand Furman's national and international reputation."

— John Roberts

*On the following pages, Mike Overby, a political science/Spanish major from Cary, N.C., reflects on his experience at the APEC conference.*



BY MIKE OVERBY

## VIEWS FROM THE SUMMIT

**AS WE GRABBED OUR LUGGAGE UPON ARRIVING IN THE** Santiago airport, I braced myself for the long lines of tourists going through Chilean customs inspection. Having traveled abroad before, I knew that standing in line at customs could be a pain, especially after sitting for 10 hours in one uncomfortable position.

I headed over to the “Aduanas/Customs” sign along with the rest of the Furman crew, only to be stopped by smiling attendants in APEC clothing who informed us that as student delegates, we were to follow the special customs procedure for diplomats. Not only did we get an official welcome to Chile by APEC coordinators, we didn’t have to wait in line with all the other passengers from our plane!

The global importance of the summit began to sink in as we entered Santiago, and at the hotel we received formal press and media credentials which, to us, cemented our status as important people. The flashy green tags, complete with our picture IDs and labeled “APEC CHILE 2004,” definitely made us feel official.

But when I went to my first interview at the media center, I soon discovered that my green tag wouldn’t let me follow the man with a red tag, and that his red tag couldn’t compete with a blue tag. And even if I had found a blue tag lying around, I still would not be as important as the people with black tags.

Seeing all these multicolored credentials helped me understand that I had access to some of the most important diplomats and international figures in the world. These were

government leaders and directors of major corporate enterprises, and it was my job to learn from them. I might have been given only the lowly green pass, but it provided me the opportunity to learn firsthand about the role America plays in the Pacific economy.

I’m already working on getting a red tag for next year’s conference.

### CIRCLING THE WAGONS

Because the Furman students were the only students from an American university participating in the APEC “Voices of the Future” program, we often bore the brunt of criticism leveled at the United States during debates and discussions on international trade and economic policy. American high school students were there, representing excellent institutions from Texas, Indiana and North Carolina, but they had yet to benefit from the kind of in-depth study that those of us majoring in political science and economics possessed.

Thus, among the youth of APEC Voices, the Furman crowd assumed the role of defenders of American foreign policy. And we circled the wagons, as Amer Ahmad has said.

Presenting a united front proved interesting. The seven people in our group held a wide variety of opinions on the current administration’s policies, so debating as a cohesive unit wasn’t easy. Imagine taking a staunch Democrat and the vice president of College Republicans into a room full of students from universities around the world, then asking them to jointly explain

As the only students from an American university participating in the conference, we bore the brunt of criticism leveled at the United States during discussions on international trade and economic policy.

why the United States has yet to sign the Kyoto Protocol, which proposes to limit the production of greenhouse gases among developed nations.

Through both group debates and informal conversations, we quickly learned the extent to which American decisions affect other nations — and the value of understanding all sides of an issue. We learned a lot by listening to people our own age describe how U.S. policies created serious challenges for their countries. For example, a Mexican friend of mine argued that while NAFTA provides the United States with cheap labor and an open market for the sale of American goods, Mexican products are often excluded from the mainstream U.S. marketplace due to tight restrictions on international trucking.

However, we also came to realize something else: that our government, regardless of which party runs the Oval Office, operates to serve and protect the American people above all others.

While a crucial element in strengthening our own economy is stabilizing the economies of our trading partners, in the end we are committed to the success of the United States. Despite our disparate political opinions, we Furmanites closed ranks in an effort to help our friends from other nations understand why our country makes certain choices.

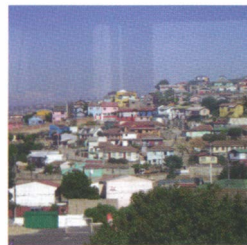
Not all of us agree with every action America takes, but as a result of attending APEC, we have a better understanding of the commitment we hold as Americans to our fellow citizens and to the world around us.

### **ADMISSIONS OWES US**

One of the most interesting aspects of the APEC conference was that, among all the international students, the Furman group was actually the most diverse!

What, you say? The “Harvard of the South,” with its country club campus and upper-middle-class students, a symbol of diversity?

Indeed. With the possible exception of the Malaysian



delegation, no group brought such a cross-section of people from such diverse circumstances. We were Americans, but we drew our heritage from Pakistan and India; from Islam, Hinduism and Christianity; from Egypt and France; from Iowa and Arizona and New Jersey and the Carolinas.

In recent years the Furman student body has become increasingly diverse, and I would argue that it is not exclusively due to admissions policies or administration goals. Furman has worked extremely hard to expand the racial and international mixture on campus, but students have also labored for similar results. In fact, during our stay in Chile, we spent as much time recruiting for Furman as we did studying globalization.

While Cindy Youssef and Monica Handa spent the most time actively convincing high-schoolers from APEC countries, many of whom were already investigating colleges in the United States, to consider Furman, all of us hung out in the hotel lobby, ice cream shop, tango club or shopping mall, exchanging stories and becoming friends with these potential recruits. Invariably, they were impressed with what we had to say about Furman, and we even convinced two amigos from Chile and Peru to come for a campus tour this spring.

The diversity of our delegation and the impression we left on those around us resulted from what the Riley Institute calls

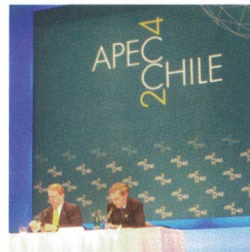
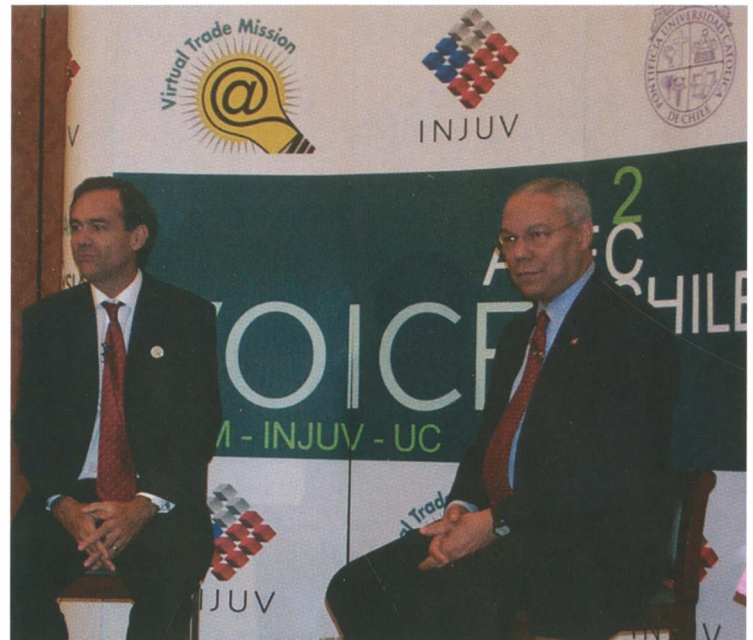
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*Opposite: The Furman delegation (from left), Cleve Fraser, Jordan Teague, Monica Handa, Ken Peterson, Amer Ahmad, Dan Ennis, Cindy Youssef, Christopher Schoen and Mike Overby.*



Ignacio Walker (left), Chilean foreign minister, and Colin Powell held an exclusive meeting with the APEC Voices students. Opposite: A select group was invited to a luncheon and question-and-answer session with Roger Noriega, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Photos courtesy Dan Ennis, Monica Handa, Ken Peterson and Mike Overby



“educational diplomacy.” On these kinds of trips, while studying international issues and developing career goals, we are also representing our school and our country.

Opportunities like APEC Voices are unique benefits of a Furman education — I couldn’t have attended this program with any other school — and significantly improve both Furman and the students within it.

### THE BIG CHEESE

There he is! If I squint a little and position my gaze in just the right spot between the heads on the four rows in front of me, I can see Colin Powell perfectly!

While students from other countries had already met their foreign ministers, I got to watch Secretary Powell in action on the last day of the APEC Summit.

We filed into an exclusive press conference for Voices students given by Powell and Ignacio Walker, the Chilean foreign minister. Powell had recently announced his decision to resign from the Department of State, and his presence was in great demand among diplomats and the media. For me, standing 20 feet away from America’s senior diplomat was a big deal and a priceless opportunity.

While listening to Powell and Walker discuss such topics

as the recent United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement, I was pretty sure that their answers were carefully crafted, routine responses. But even rehearsed lines are interesting when someone important is saying them.

When one of the questions caught Powell off-guard (it referred to his youth, when he graduated from the City College of New York with a degree in geology), I was impressed with his ability not only to respond quickly, but also to make connections between his studies in geology and his current position. I have been known on occasion to put my foot in my mouth, so I can only imagine the difficulty of a job in which one’s spontaneous response to a question could literally inflame violence or significantly alter our relationships with other countries.

But since I aspire to a career in foreign policy, the best I can do to improve myself is to study the leaders around me and the decisions they make. As the students crowded around Secretary Powell and Minister Walker for a group photo — giving a heart attack to the American and Chilean security forces, I’m sure — I smiled for the camera, pleased with my experience at the press conference and further inspired to pursue my career goal.



## CONNECTING THE DOTS

Great experiences seem to link themselves together in unexpected ways. Last summer, through the Furman Advantage Program, I had the opportunity to intern with the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., the regional diplomatic body that oversees relations between North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Think United Nations, but on a smaller scale.

While in Washington, I also took a part-time job as a waiter at a Cuban restaurant. One day, between trips to the kitchen for black beans and fried plantains, I began talking to a customer and came to realize that he worked in the Department of State as an advisor to Roger Noriega, who as Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs is the top diplomat for U.S. relations with Canada and Latin America. As a typically desperate summer intern, I immediately dropped my role as waiter and calmly begged my new friend for his contact information. When I got in touch with him later, he continued to be extremely kind and helpful, providing me with excellent advice on achieving my career goals.

When I learned in September that I would be attending the APEC Summit, I called him for information and advice. During our conversation, he informed me that Noriega would

be attending the summit — and that he was interested in meeting with some Voices students. After many e-mails and conversations between Voices leaders, the U.S. Embassy in Chile, and me (!), Noriega agreed to have lunch with a group of about 10 students and five educators.

Chris Schoen and I were the Furman representatives, and after the excellent meal all of us were able to question Noriega about such issues as the growth of Chinese investment in Latin America, the new U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement, anti-Hispanic sentiment in the United States, border security, and the development of fair immigration policies. We received nothing but enthusiastic and engaging answers in return. I could not have asked for a better experience, nor could I have anticipated such a result from my summer in D.C.

Furman talks a lot about engaged learning, but I would say that at APEC, we lived it. 🍷

*The author has been awarded a Rotary International Ambassadorial Fellowship for 2005-06 to study in the Master's Program for Human Rights at La Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City.*

# Young Artists of *Note*

*Three talented alumni appear destined to make their marks in the world of music.*

*It* can be risky to try to single out individual graduates of the Furman music program for recognition in university publications.

One need only visit the music Web site at [www.furman.edu/depts/music](http://www.furman.edu/depts/music) to see the depth and breadth of the department's talented alumni. From conducting to vocal and instrumental performing, teaching and composing, graduates of the Furman program have made an impact on the musical landscape on the regional, national and international levels. Many of them have been featured in past alumni publications.

Stories by Jim Stewart

In this issue of *Furman*, we focus on three young artists whose talents are already bringing them critical attention and acclaim:

■ **Scott Jarrett '97**, conductor of the Back Bay Chorale in Boston and the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte, N.C., and director of music and university organist and choirmaster at Boston University's Marsh Chapel.

■ **Edie Johnson '96**, organist and associate director of music for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Indianapolis, Ind., and instructor at Christian Theological Seminary.

■ **John Parks '93**, assistant professor of percussion at Florida State University and a popular clinician and soloist.

As representatives of an up-and-coming generation of Furman music alumni, they join a long and distinguished line of artists who, through their lives and works, have served as cultural ambassadors for both the university as a whole and for one of its most public and respected programs.



**The remarkable thing about Scott Jarrett is that,** even though he has three full-time jobs in two cities, he seems totally unruffled.

In fact, he thrives on the challenge of juggling his roles as conductor of Boston's Back Bay Chorale; university organist, choirmaster and adjunct faculty member at Boston University's Marsh Chapel; and conductor of the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte, N.C., the resident chorus of the Charlotte Symphony.

"I'm pretty organized, and I do a lot of long-range planning," he says. "It's good discipline for me."

He's also helped tremendously, he says, by having highly capable assistants in all three places. They take care of most of each area's administrative needs, leaving him time to study musical scores.

"I don't feel stressed," says the genial, 29-year-old Jarrett, a 1997 Furman graduate. "The hardest part isn't the travel or the schedule, but the amount of music you have to learn."

Jarrett is clearly delighted (and somewhat amazed) to be in his current positions — especially since, about this time last year, he was "biting his nails" about what his future might hold.

He was finishing his seventh year in Boston where, while doing graduate work at Boston U., he had been active in the bustling local music scene. Having completed everything but his doctoral dissertation, he knew it was time to face the daunting task of job hunting.

His uneasiness didn't last long. About the time he applied for the Charlotte job, he began attracting attention for other positions — which prompted Boston U. to create the chapel position for him.

Then the highly regarded Back Bay Chorale, with which he had worked in the past, called and invited him to be guest conductor for its May



ESSORAS M. SUAREZ/THE BOSTON GLOBE

concert. Turned out that the group's conductor had resigned. Jarrett's talents quickly won over both the performers and the chorale's board, and a brief negotiation led to his signing a three-year contract.

As if all this weren't reassuring enough, Charlotte called to say he was a finalist for its job. After interviewing and rehearsing with the Oratorio Singers, he emerged as the top choice — so much so that to get him, the board agreed to waive its stipulation that the conductor live in Charlotte.

Jarrett is still a bit dazed by how fast it all happened. As he says, "Ten years ago I never would have thought I'd be a professional conductor. It wasn't in the realm of possibility."

He enrolled at Furman in 1993 thinking he would become a high school chorus teacher, and

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*Above photo published with permission of Globe Newspaper Company, Inc.*

he wound up earning his secondary school certification. By the time he graduated, though, he had decided to pursue college teaching, which led him to Boston U. and the mentorship of Ann Jones, the school's director of graduate studies in choral conducting and a longtime associate of Robert Shaw.

Boston is a mecca for the arts, and Jarrett took advantage of the wealth of opportunities available. He worked summers with Jones at Boston U.'s Tanglewood Institute, sang in choruses such as the Boston Bach Ensemble, and became choral director of the Brookline Chorus and at Walnut Hill, a leading prep school for the arts. It eventually dawned on him, he says, that he "could actually make a living as a professional arm-waver."

Furman, he says, was a great place to begin his journey. A native of Lynchburg, Va., he discovered the university through a music department brochure some friends had picked up at a camp where Bingham Vick, Jr., longtime conductor of the Furman Singers, was the clinician.

"A big city conservatory would have been too much for me," says Jarrett. "Furman was the perfect place, a maturing place. When I first drove through that gate, it was like entering a fairy tale. The department rolled out the red carpet. They make you feel really special."

Vick remembers his former student as an "unusually gifted" pianist, baritone soloist and student conductor. "Scott was very personable,

and at the same time demanding on himself academically and musically," Vick says. "He was well-liked by his peers and by the faculty, and he had all the personal and musical attributes to succeed as a professional conductor."

Vick would get no argument on that score from the folks in Boston, where the growing buzz about the Back Bay Chorale conductor has been fed by strong early reviews ("Jarrett established himself as the most promising young figure to emerge on the local choral scene . . . he's tasteful and talented, someone to keep our eyes and ears on") and a follow-up feature story in *The Boston Globe*. Plus, the folks in Beantown are fully aware that Jarrett comes from excellent stock, given that he shares an alma mater with Keith Lockhart '81, now in his second decade as conductor of the Boston Pops.

While Jarrett's schedule includes frequent flights between Boston and Charlotte, where he often stays with Furman friends such as classmates Jay and Kate Kalbas Norton, he embraces the demands of his work — and counts himself fortunate.

"I now know why conductors work until they die," he says. "There's something spiritual about what we do, an energy that comes from the musicians, the music and the community with those in the room.

"Music making is a baffling and wonderful thing, and it's a joy to be able to produce these sounds that are so life-transforming and life-enriching."

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*Positive*voice

*Edie Johnson a dedicated ambassador for organ music*

**Charles Tompkins describes Edie Johnson** as "one of the most talented young organists I've encountered during almost 25 years in teaching."

Tompkins, organ professor at Furman, is not alone in his assessment. *The American Organist* has raved about Johnson's talent, and she has twice been featured on National Public Radio's "Pipedreams" program.

Not surprisingly, when it came time to choose the first Furman alum to present a recital on the university's new, million-dollar Hartness Organ, Johnson, a 1996 graduate, was tapped for the honor. The concert was scheduled for March 8 in Daniel Chapel.

When contacted in December, Johnson was looking forward not only to being part of the Organ

Dedicatory Series, but to playing a Furman organ that was stationed on solid ground. As she said with a laugh, “It’s got to be better than hanging off the side of the wall in McAlister Auditorium,” a reference to her student experiences with the somewhat precariously placed Holtkamp organ.

More to the point, she’s fully aware of the importance of C.B. Fisk Opus 121 to the music program and to the university as a whole.

“The new organ is exciting for Furman,” says Johnson, who serves as organist and associate director of music for St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Indianapolis, Ind. “No doubt it will help attract new students, and it can really enrich the cultural life of the university and the community.”

Community outreach is something Johnson takes seriously. In Indianapolis, where she also teaches at Christian Theological Seminary, she is active in an interdisciplinary program called “PipeWorks.”

Developed by the American Guild of Organists, PipeWorks introduces upper elementary school students to the pipe organ. By taking a “traveling” organ into schools and featuring “guest appearances” by the likes of Johann Sebastian Bach, the program integrates concepts in science and social studies with music in a way that engages and informs.

It’s important, Johnson says, to help coming generations understand the organ’s place in music history — and its continuing relevance. Along those lines, she often showcases new organ compositions, especially by women, during her recitals.

“I see part of my job as promoting organ music and making it accessible,” she says. And while she acknowledges that some think organ music is good for little else but inspiring staccato clapping at sporting events, she counters such talk with a straightforward response: “The organ has been around for centuries, and it’s withstood the test of time.”

She became interested in the instrument as a child in Greensboro, N.C. Her mother played the organ, and her church, Christ United Methodist, actually had its own C.B. Fisk creation (Opus 82).



Fascinated with the sound, she began playing at the age of 13 and says she quickly grew to love the literature.

In high school she studied with Johnny Bradburn, a 1965 Furman graduate who helped steer her to Furman — and vice versa. Charles Tompkins says Bradburn called him in 1989 to alert him to a “rather precocious” 10th-grade organist. “When Edie came to audition at Furman two years later,” Tompkins says, “it was quite evident that she was a ‘must have’ for us.”

Blessed, as Tompkins says, with superior talent, a strong work ethic and “a cheerful, fun-loving disposition that made her a joy to teach,” Johnson went on to earn her master’s degree and, in late 2003, her doctorate in organ performance from Indiana University. During the summer of 2003, she was one of four people chosen for the Summer Institute for French Organ Studies, a select program in which advanced organists

travel to France to practice and perform on unaltered organs.

At St. Paul's, she is an integral part of a prestigious church with a nationally known music program. The church even has its own choir school and an intergenerational choir that features singers from 8 to 80. Johnson has played the organ on CDs recorded by the choir, which has performed internationally.

Johnson's husband, Jason Overall '95, shares her musical interests, although from a different

perspective. A talented organist himself, Overall is president of Goulding & Wood, a pipe organ builder based in Indianapolis. He has worked on recent installations in the Greenville area, at Christ Church Episcopal in 2001 and at First Presbyterian in Greenwood in 2002.

And since *American Organist* has described his wife as possessing "seemingly limitless virtuosity" and being "destined for prominence," it may not be a pipedream to think that one day, he'll be commissioned to build an organ specifically for her.

## Drumroll

*Demand growing for John Parks' percussive talent*

### Watching John Parks perform Joseph

Schwantner's "Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra," one is initially tempted to label him the "Hardest Working Man in Show Business" — if the name weren't already taken.

And if he didn't look as if he's pulling it off so effortlessly.

Moving with a carefully honed rhythm amid the 20-something percussion instruments assembled across the stage, Parks is rarely still during the 30-minute piece. He's darting back and forth, bobbing his head in time with the beat, then pausing on cue to crash the cymbals, offer a melodic interlude on the marimba, tap out a quick phrase on the *almglocken* (Alpine cow bells) or showcase such instruments as the crotales, vibraphone and bass drum. At one point he even plays a water gong (he strikes it, then immerses it).

Schwantner's award-winning 1994 concerto is a tour de force for both orchestra and soloist. For Parks, it's "a lot of fun — aggressive, visceral and physical. It has these schizophrenic moments as well as beautiful, melodic lines."

He could also have described it as "educational." Because the concerto places percussion instruments front and center, the audience enjoys a rare firsthand view of their unique variety and

musicality. And Parks, an assistant professor of percussion at Florida State University, is the ideal instructor.

Parks, a 1993 Furman graduate who returned to campus in October for a weeklong residency and performance of the Schwantner piece with the Furman Symphony Orchestra, is rapidly developing a national name for himself as a soloist and clinician.

John Beckford, his percussion professor at Furman, describes him as "a rising star in this profession. The endorsements he is receiving from major percussion manufacturers, the requests for clinics and concerts, and the caliber of his studio at Florida State all confirm that he is one of Furman's finest."

You can add recording artist/producer/director to the list of Parks' accomplishments as well. A few years back, while teaching at the University of Kansas, he received a grant that led to production of a CD titled "Dusk: Percussion Music from the Heartland."

Parks commissioned original pieces from composers whose talent he admired, then recorded the works with the help of his students at Kansas and, subsequently, at Florida State. Released last year, the CD provides a textured sampling of the

often hypnotic beauty and range of percussion music.

Parks oversaw all phases of the CD's production. "I now have a whole new respect for administration," he says with a laugh. "But everything turned out great. The student performances are fantastic, and they had a wonderful opportunity to discover new music and to experience a professional recording environment."

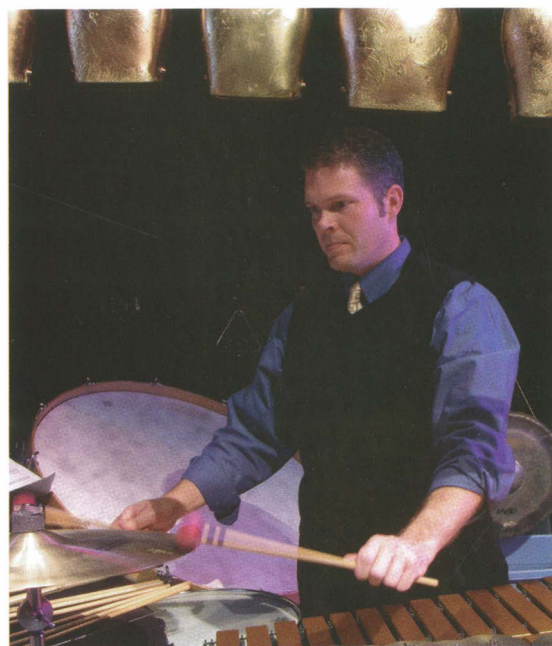
All this is pretty heady stuff for a guy who had never taken a percussion lesson until he arrived at Furman. He taught himself to play a drum set by watching videos on MTV, and although he played in his high school marching band in Gastonia, N.C., he enrolled at Furman thinking he might become a concert pianist.

There was just one catch: While he loved the piano, he hated practicing. Once he started playing percussion in assorted Furman ensembles, he discovered the options and opportunities available to percussionists — and he knew which direction to take.

Beckford picks up the tale from there, saying that when Parks "got serious" about percussion in his junior year, his gifts quickly became apparent. Wanting to capitalize on his student's newfound motivation and enthusiasm, Beckford recalls assigning him a complex Bach prelude and fugue, transcribed for marimba.

"I was hoping to make a connection between his piano background and his interest in percussion," says Beckford. "This was a piece most percussionists wouldn't attempt until late in their graduate studies, but John just assumed it was what percussionists had to learn and went about learning it. To this day, I have not had another student I felt could perform it."

Since Furman, the 33-year-old Parks has made stops at Northwestern, where he earned master's degrees in performance and in jazz pedagogy, and at Eastman School of Music, where he acquired a doctoral degree in performance. Along the way he maintained an extensive performing schedule (including a six-week trip to Japan with the Eastman



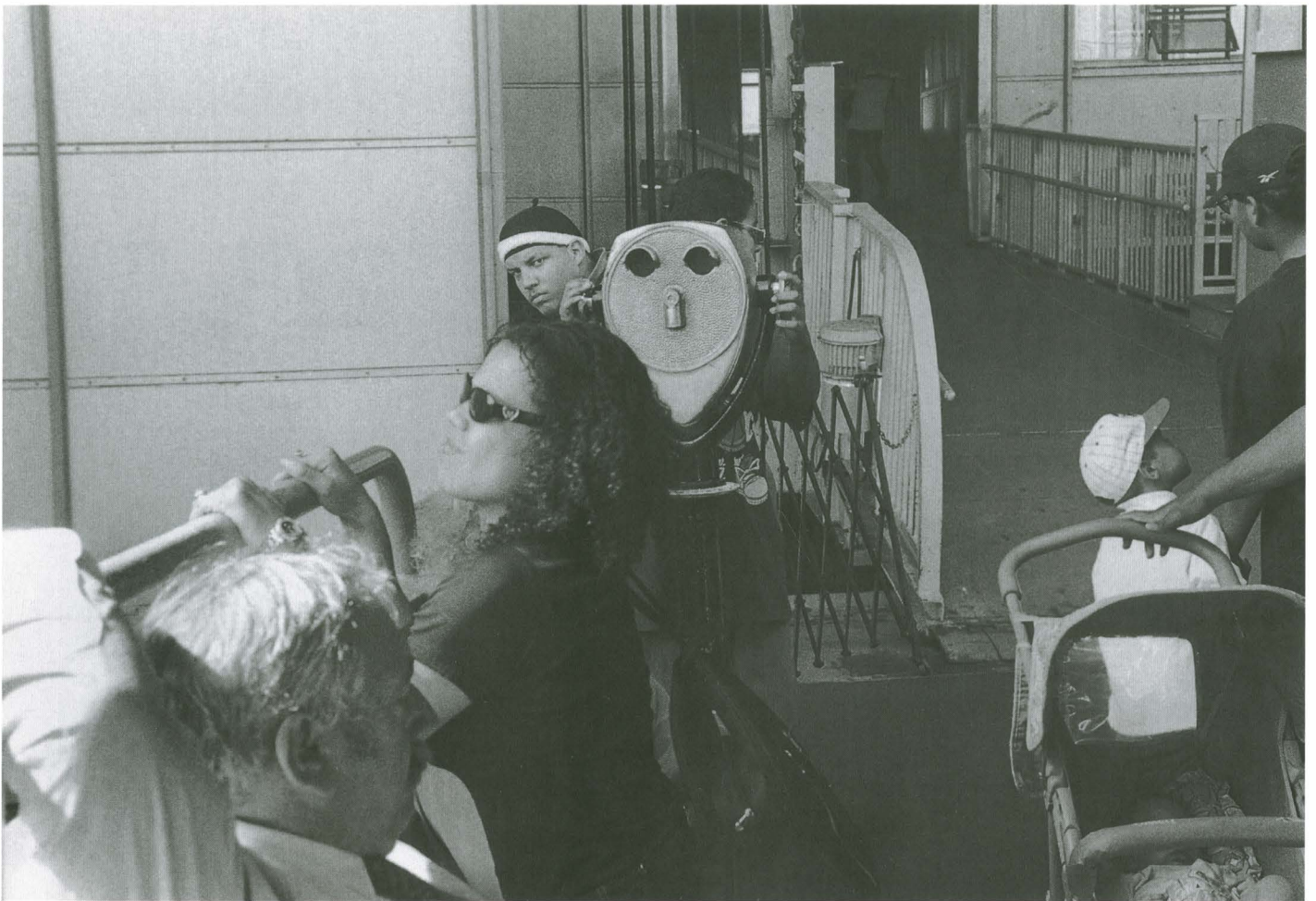
CHARLIE REGISTER (2)

Wind Ensemble) and taught at Samford and Kansas before landing the post at Florida State, which he calls the "perfect match" for his talents and interests.

Furman remains his home, though, and he and Beckford maintain a mutual admiration society. Beckford strongly encouraged Parks to pursue the Florida State position and, in turn, was the first guest artist Parks invited to FSU. "He was and is my most important teacher," says Parks. "I still can't bring myself to call him John."

Beckford, in turn, marvels at Parks' energy and enthusiasm. "Although this may seem a bit presumptuous so early in his career," says Beckford, "I consider him one of the leading percussion instructors in the country." ●





1997

## Private Places, Public Spaces

**New York's** Staten Island Ferry has been transporting people from Manhattan to the borough of Staten Island since 1905. The five ferries in the fleet carry an estimated 65,000 passengers across New York harbor more than 100 times a day, 365 days a year.

Every half hour or so, business executives, students, mothers with strollers, shoppers and blue-collar workers crowd into the waiting area to prepare for boarding. With a clear view of the Statue of Liberty and the recently altered city skyline, the ferry is also a magnet for tourists.

In 1997, while working on her Master of Fine Arts degree, Furman art professor Terri Bright began a photographic project designed to investigate, in her words,

“social spaces, and the separation and presentation of our public and private selves.” Specifically, she says, “I wanted to document the transitional space between the obligations of work and the responsibilities of home.”

The urban commute, she realized, provided the means to pursue her interest. And the Staten Island Ferry, with its revolving cast of characters, diffuse light and mix of interior and exterior settings, seemed a good choice from which to observe and record the intersection between public and private.

Bright spent part of the summer of 1997 riding the ferry — she would often spend several hours per day crossing back and forth — and discreetly taking black and white portraits of selected

subjects. But then the demands of graduate school and, soon thereafter, her first full-time college teaching job at Furman took precedence. She put the project on hold.

Until, that is, the summer of 2004, when a grant from Furman's Research and Professional Growth Committee helped her return to New York, where she had lived and worked in the early 1990s, and resume her project.

This time, she detected a distinct change in the atmosphere on the ferry, which she attributed to the September 11 terrorist attacks. “There wasn't the same comfort level as before, for me or the other passengers,” she says. “People were much more suspicious.”

And indeed, Bright's 2004 efforts



2004

were curtailed after only a few weeks when a security officer approached her, asked what she was doing, and politely but firmly informed her that she would have to stop. Later, after she had packed up her equipment, he apologized while pointing out that he was only enforcing rules that had been in place since the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Still, she emerged with enough material for a compelling documentary series that examines the “private places within public spaces.” In some photos, she catches her subjects catching her in the act. Other photos depict how individuals mimic their environment, or how people within a few feet of each other appear completely unaware of what’s going on around them. The individual

photos are untitled because, Bright says, “The images are meant to be read together, not as separate stories.”

For Bright, whose work has been exhibited throughout the country, the Staten Island Ferry series also provided a self-imposed challenge to step out of her comfort zone and photograph people while documenting images of solitude and contemplation. In doing so, she allows us a brief glimpse at the kinds of moments that have become increasingly rare in today’s busy society.

— Jim Stewart ]

*The following pages feature selected photos from the Staten Island Ferry series, with commentary from the photographer.*

Photos by Terri Bright



2004

In documenting the intersection between public and private, I was able to explore the function of silence and reflection in an increasingly intrusive social landscape and to photograph the barriers that we employ to preserve this solitude.



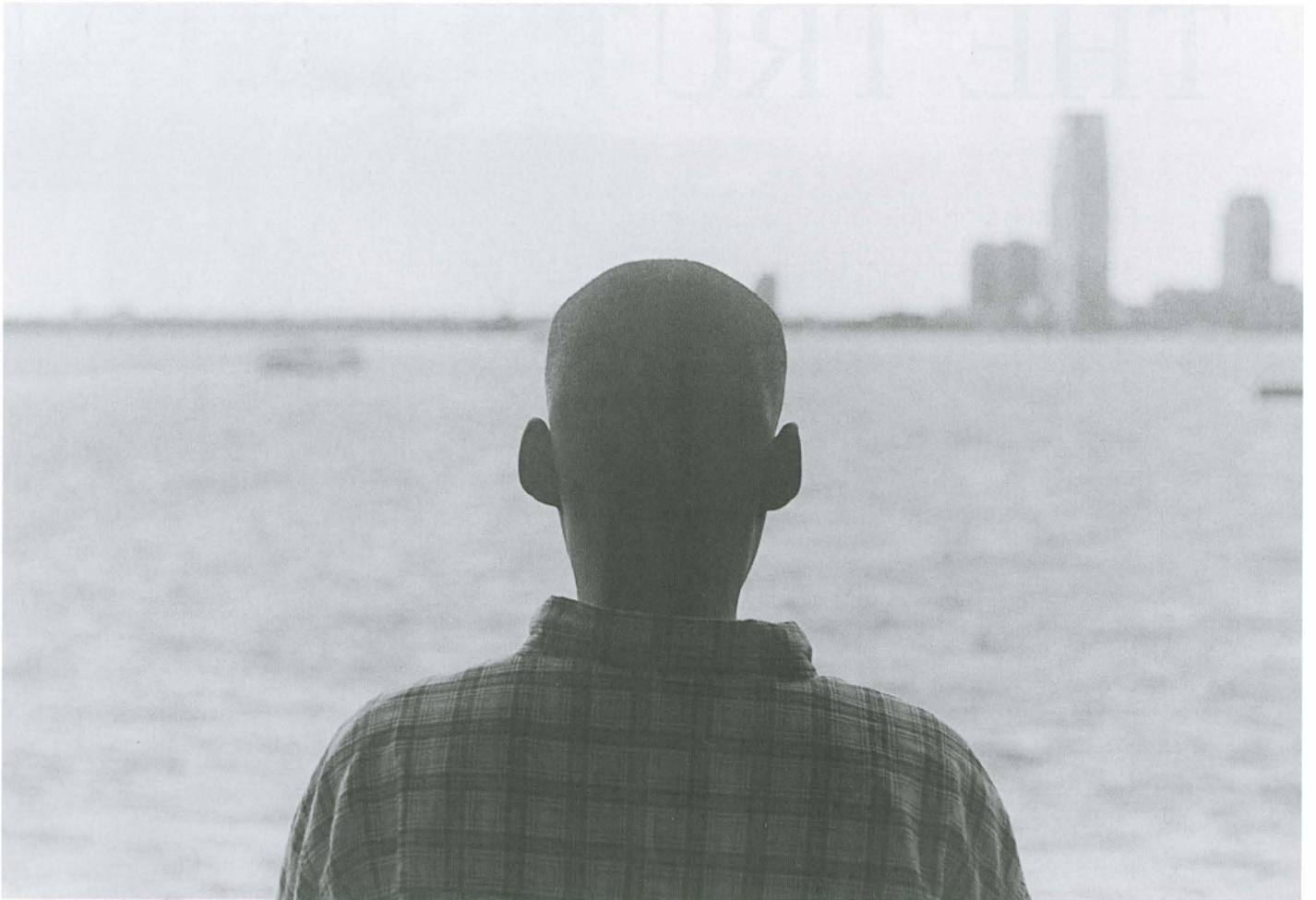
1997



1997



2004



2004

For the urban commuters, the 25-minute ferry ride provides a respite from an otherwise chaotic day. The commute is a chance to be alone, lost in thought, quietly reading or contemplating the day's events.

# THE TRUTH BEHIND

By insisting on quantifying all aspects of public education, we lose sight of what teaching and learning are all about.

In his book *Numbers Games: Measuring and Mandating American Education*, Paul Thomas of the Furman education faculty describes a public educational system that is slowly being paralyzed by a growing reliance on standardized tests as the primary measurements of the effectiveness of schools and the competence of students.

“Teachers and students today,” he says, “labor under the weight of misguided political mandates that ordain test scores with disproportionate power over the work of educators and the lives of children.”

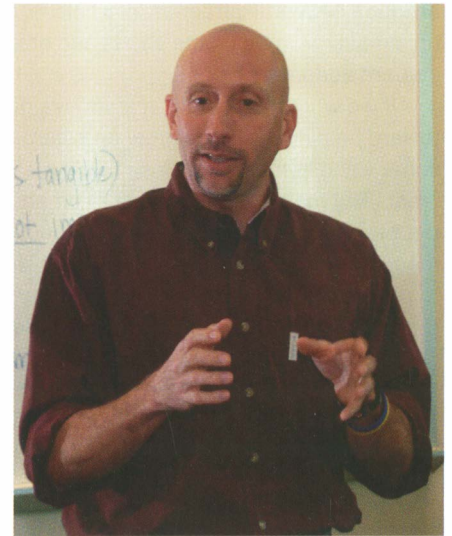
The current dynamic, he says, threatens to dehumanize the educational process by reducing students to nothing more than numbers, and teachers to robotic purveyors of information. We’re so obsessed with comparing the scores of students, schools and states, he says, “It’s as if teaching and learning are competitions to be won instead of investments in people and communities.”

Rather than making tests and test scores the goals of education, Thomas — who taught in the public schools of South Carolina for 18 years before coming to Furman in 2002 — says that tests should be just one of many components that determine a student’s potential and progress, or a school’s effectiveness.

He says, “We need to take a few steps back, re-evaluate our devotion to numbers and rededicate ourselves to each child who enters our classrooms.” Further, he says, educators must reclaim control of their profession from those who want to dictate what is taught and how it is taught.

*Numbers Games* was published in July 2004 by Peter Lang Publishers. *Furman* magazine asked Thomas (pictured opposite) to address his concerns and ideas in this question-and-answer format.

# THE NUMBERS



## **Why have standardized tests emerged as the key measuring stick by which educational success is evaluated, both for individual students and for public school systems?**

This phenomenon has an odd history. America in some ways embraced the scientific revolution wildly and blindly — while simultaneously maintaining a contradictory disdain for science in some areas, such as religion.

The main way that America has embraced science is in our naive belief that because something can be measured, or quantified, then it should be measured, and that the resulting “numbers” don’t lie. But this is an oversimplification. Stephen Gould writes about the mess that we create when we maintain that “intelligence” can be captured with a number or explained as a single entity.

Our belief in and obsession with numbers has evolved and escalated over the last 100 years. In the early 20th century, quantifying intelligence through testing and measuring became accepted as the most objective and accurate way to judge the effectiveness of schools and the achievement of students.

Over the past two decades, politicians have discovered the political capital available within this educational dynamic. Talking about raising standards and testing our students can be highly productive for politicians. Although the public message is, “We can improve schools by increasing testing,” few have noted that simply weighing a pig more often will not fatten a pig. But that is the simplified and misleading message of politicians who use schools for their own gain.

Growth cannot come without nourishment, and today’s students are being fed a steady diet of empty calories when the only meal that matters is a test. Teachers are forced to dole out what students need to pass standardized tests, and students thus learn that school is for testing. The process produces empty numbers, not learning.

The numbers games being played with schools and within schools reduce such complex activities as the teaching of children and the measurement of learning to easily misunderstood and manipulated numbers that become handy campaign slogans or provocative headlines. For example, in the 1998 South Carolina governor’s race, candidates Jim Hodges (Democrat) and David Beasley (Republican) ran on platforms that demonized state schools for ranking last in the country in

SAT scores — even though the College Board itself, producer of the test, disavows the use of test scores in this manner.

To risk being simplistic myself, the main problems with using any standardized test to measure the educational achievement or potential of a child, a school or a state are, first, that reliance on any single measure oversimplifies the truth; and second, testing should be used primarily to support teaching and learning — not to label. We have turned standardized tests into goals in and of themselves instead of seeing them as components in the teaching-learning process.

## **You suggest in your book that efforts to satisfy political mandates have caused us to devalue or even dehumanize students to the point where they are looked at as numbers and not individuals. Could you expand on this thought?**

Look at almost any way we display information about students — report cards, test scores, college applications. What do you see? An array of numbers, as if no individual child even exists.

I agree with Gould that identifying something as complex as “intelligence” in a single number is horribly skewed, and I also agree with educational critics such as Alfie Kohn, who believes we have abandoned any concern for the humanity and dignity of children because of our commitment to quantifying and ranking.

Compounding the problem is that most conversations about education in America are carried on by politicians through the media. In this public discourse, education is measured in terms of “winners” and “losers,” numbers are used to label and rank, and states are pitted against each other, as if they’re in competition to see who can produce the best numbers.

While it may be culturally advantageous for Bobby to score 1560 on the SAT, I would argue that his score tells almost nothing of any value about him as a human being — and it represents little in terms of his potential when he leaves school and enters the real world. Jessica may



produce beautiful ceramics in art class, but her talent shows up almost nowhere on the charts and graphs that represent student accomplishment.

If we would apply the “results” we garner from testing toward helping students grow and learn, then I would concede some value in the way we use these measurements of achievement. But there is no respect for human dignity when we ignore people and see only numbers — especially when the measurements used are questionable, at best. The SAT may be designed to predict college success, but in reality it is no better a predictor than a student’s high school grade-point average.

Tests should not be used as fodder to label and rank but as one of many elements that determine a student’s educational progress and capability. There is a difference, and we need to make that distinction clear.

### What about the calls for “raising standards” and “increasing accountability” in public education?

The idea of raising standards, often coupled with a Back-to-Basics mantra, was actually a regular refrain throughout the 20th century. In fact, at virtually any point over the last 100 years you could have heard arguments about the sorry state of education and how the quality of instruction paled compared to some distant, romanticized era.

The often idealized 1940s and 1950s were punctuated with such works as Bernard Iddings Bell’s *Crisis in Education* (1949), Mortimer Smith’s *And Madly Teach* (1949), and Arthur E. Bestor, Jr.’s *Educational Wastelands* (1953). Notably, these books and others condemned schools as socialistic — especially after it was discovered that John Dewey and other leaders in the field, such as textbook writer Harold Rigg, were socialists.

In 1959’s *Education and Freedom*, Vice Admiral Hyman Rickover, who helped lead the Navy into the nuclear age, criticized the state of America’s public school system and suggested that it imperiled national security. Rickover’s ideas led to the belief that America had fallen behind the Soviets in math and science education and to the advent of “teacher-proof curriculum,” in which teachers followed a scripted approach that reduced them to robotic dispensers of information.

Some today call for a return to this approach to instruction; some schools in Texas are actually trying it. But when instruction becomes uniform and prescribed, the human elements of learning are disregarded and the professionalism of teaching is totally erased. In a society that claims to value individuality and democracy, such standardization is inappropriate.

With George W. Bush’s No Child Left Behind (NCLB) program, another layer, now from the federal government, has been added to the accountability craze, with expanded emphasis on testing and a further proliferation of numbers. Under NCLB, the only things that matter about schools are test scores. Numbers drive policy.

Among the many Furman graduates teaching in Greenville County public schools are Gretchen Levin Marlowe ’86, middle school language arts teacher at League Academy, and Bobby Black ’96, history instructor at Mauldin High.



The result has been a disturbing momentum against the success of public schools. The accountability and high-stakes testing movement has actually oversimplified both teaching and assessment — even though all the political proclamations and proposed solutions are issued under the banner of “improving public education.”

We should also be highly skeptical of the “all-or-nothing” parameters of NCLB. For example, a local middle school received a failing grade under NCLB even though the school met 18 of 19 indicators. Its downfall was that it fell short of attendance guidelines by one-tenth of a percent. Attendance is completely outside the control of a school.

### You also point to the press as a major player in the “numbers game.” What role has the fourth estate assumed in framing the conversation?

Throughout most of modern public schooling, the popular press has echoed — or spurred — the general belief that schools as a whole do not pass muster. Oddly enough, research over the past 100 years shows that Americans in general believe that although public schools as a whole are weak, somehow their local school is fine.

### So what alternative exists for this excessive emphasis on tests and numbers and quantifying student achievement?

We must first change the way standardized tests are perceived. Let's use the SAT as an example.

As a test, the SAT measures only certain types of verbal and mathematical knowledge — both in what is tested and how it is tested. The exam's multiple choice format, though efficient in terms of time and cost, is highly limited. Stated simply, selecting a response is, by its nature, less authentic and less rigorous than creating a response or performing a task. Compare the ability and rigor involved when asking a child to select one of four possible answers to the question "The player who usually receives the ball directly from the center in football is . . ." to that same child actually playing quarterback in a Friday night game.

Although the SAT has been evolving in recent years, with two major changes coming this spring, these changes are mostly public relations moves on the part of the College Board. The primary "change" is designed to raise the bar, as the new mathematics portion is said to assess higher levels of algebra and geometry.

The other key change addresses the College Board's own call for more assessment of writing skills. Beginning this spring, the SAT will include a writing section. Students will be asked to answer multiple choice questions on grammar and usage, then submit a single-draft writing sample that must be completed in 25 minutes and will

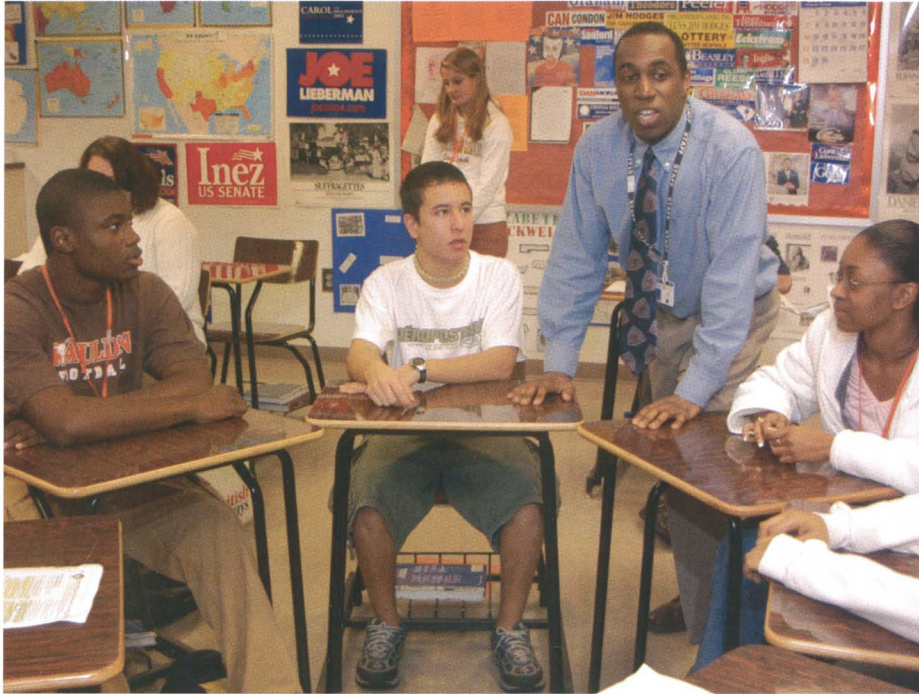
be scored by a computer. There are two significant problems here — the writing sample is far too brief, since authentic writing requires several drafts, and the scoring system, though quick and efficient, is flawed.

A computer cannot assess the most sophisticated (and important) aspects of writing, such as originality, tone or accuracy of content. The writing sample is also prompt-driven, meaning students are told what to say and how to say it.

Why should this limited test carry so much weight in determining the fate of college-bound students? After all, colleges everywhere promote their students' average SAT scores as indicators of quality and talent.

Yet the College Board's own research indicates that SAT scores are not as useful as high school grade-point average (GPA) in determining college success among freshmen. In other words, GPA — a free calculation of student achievement — predicts college success better than the SAT, which students pay \$40 to take. Canadian research shows that a student's grade-point average, courses taken in high school and activities outside of class are far better determinants of collegiate success than the SAT.

While I do not suggest any real malice on the part of the media or of politicians in their treatment of education, I believe that both use the subject primarily for their own gain — and often at the expense of children.



A crucial detail in this element of the debate is that most journalists who report on schools have little or no training in education or educational measurement. In addition, newspapers need readers, and bad news sells better than good. Thus, education is the victim of the inherent weaknesses of the press: a need for customers, and a lack of knowledgeable reporters (whose primary sources are often equally inexpert politicians).

The popular media often have goals that directly impact how the general public perceives issues. Journalists usually make their message as simple as possible and often feed perceptions that already exist. They also enjoy using numbers and charts, and schools are ripe for such displays of data. And journalists continue to rank and evaluate schools based on testing data, regardless of warnings by the College Board and others not to do so.

While I do not suggest any real malice on the part of the media or of politicians in their treatment of education, I believe that both use the subject primarily for their own gain — and often at the expense of children.

Interestingly, some elite colleges do not require students to submit SAT scores. One example: Bates College in Maine, which *U.S. News & World Report* ranks 22nd among national liberal arts colleges, has 20 years of data showing that its students who did not submit their SAT scores had lower average scores on the test but identical college graduation rates to those who did submit SAT scores. In addition, their final college grade-point averages were actually slightly higher than those of the students who submitted SAT scores.

Personally, I question spending state tax money on class time and software packages that teach the SAT — a private test that supports the work of the College Board — as if the test is the goal of school instead of being just one of many measures of learning. Our blind allegiance to the SAT has led to educationally and ethically questionable practices, such as using school hours to teach SAT prep courses, building computer labs and buying software to support these classes, and asking students in art and physical education to use class time to complete SAT practice questions or vocabulary lists.

I've gone into detail about the SAT, but my point applies across the board. Standardized tests should serve as measurements of education, not as goals. And even as measurements, the tests are flawed. They measure only selected responses and narrow kinds of knowledge. In real life, we are most often asked to generate responses or to perform based on our expertise. Tests such as the SAT capture none of that real-world value.

### **So how do we reverse the trend?**

**We** need to stop teaching to the test, we need to stop allowing standardized tests to be the primary measure of the abilities of our schools or our students, and we need to reconsider the spending of tax money to prepare students for these kinds of tests.

Schools and school systems are labeled “excellent” or “failing” based on the results of standardized tests. In South Carolina, the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test is considered the primary determinant of a school’s achievement or failure; thus, everyone works as if the test is the goal. When test scores improve, the school is considered successful; when they fall, the school is labeled “below average.”

But when we reduce the schooling of children to a number that represents a group of students, we erase the humanity of those children and the humanity of the field of teaching. We need to re-evaluate our devotion to numbers and rededicate ourselves to each child. If we do not have a clear set of goals for education, then we cannot have a proper balance as to how to assess those goals.



### **Is it realistic to expect the emphasis on standardized testing to end?**

**Frankly,** I cannot foresee a day when we ditch the SAT, and I certainly see no end to the numbers mania concerning schools. Accountability and testing are as much a part of American schools as desks and pep rallies.

The only hope I have grows from situations I have mentioned already. Colleges and universities have incredible power; if they de-emphasize single, standardized measures of student ability, then perhaps they could influence change in other areas. Another hope is that a growing number of parents, like me, will see how unfair the system is for many bright and gifted children who, for whatever reason, do not “test well.”

One area that I haven’t touched on here is, in an odd way, a possible savior for our schools. More and more data show that the SAT and other standardized tests are unfair to minority populations and to the poor in particular. If these groups can speak out in a unified voice, they might be able to defeat the testing mania under which we currently suffer. Ironically, political pressure could help to save schools from the tyranny of politics!

### **But how should we make schools more accountable? How should we use tests and evaluate the numbers?**

**We** need to address our tracking systems and the conditions of students’ lives outside of school. We can do something about the inequities within schools, but we may never be able to overcome social ills through schools alone. We need to recognize the limits of numbers and to look closely and critically at those numbers. And we need to remember that the goal is not better numbers, but better students.

Should we have high standards for schools? And should we measure how well they are performing? Of course. But accountability and measurement must come from within the system — from educators — and testing, in particular, should be used to improve teaching and learning, not to label and rank.

For example, I have analyzed some of the 2003 SAT data from South Carolina. It is useful as research data, but not as a tool to assess the state’s schools.

A first-grader gets a “well done” from Cathy Whitehill Grills '73, who has taught at Duncan Chapel Elementary since 1989. Photos by Charlie Register

First, it shows that average SAT scores in South Carolina are primarily dependent on socioeconomic status (the Poverty Index of the school) and rates of participation (how many students in a senior class actually take the test). If a school has a low PI, then a high percentage of its students can take the SAT with average scores remaining high. If a school's PI is high, then the participation rate needs to be low. This sort of analysis shows that the quality of teaching and learning mean very little when looking at average SAT scores. Instead, how many students take the test and, more importantly, their socioeconomic status are the key determinants in an individual school's results.

We can also use test scores to identify schools with virtually the same populations in terms of socioeconomic status, but with different SAT averages. Then we can ask questions that could affect our approach to instruction: What is one school doing that differs from the other? And how does that impact the way students learn?

Ultimately, we must measure student achievement and gather data to help schools improve — not to create charts for the local paper, not to issue school report cards, and not to bolster anyone's run for governor or senator.

**In *Numbers Games*, you advocate an educational system that emphasizes “teacher authority for teaching, student-centered learning and authentic assessment.” Please expand on these concepts.**

The field of chemistry is profoundly impacted by chemistry professors (people “within” the profession) as well as by experts in the field from outside of academia. The same holds true for many other fields, including medicine and law.

But in public education, policies and practices tend to be driven by people outside the profession. Educators in the public schools rarely see themselves as “practicing a profession” and rarely function within their field as other professionals do. English professors are likely to be writers and literary critics, but K-12 teachers almost never are called upon as “experts” in education. This must change. Classroom teachers must gain control of their field from the inside instead of conforming to dictates issued by outside observers — or by those who haven't been in a classroom for 20 years.

We also need a shift in our teaching-learning paradigm. Learning that supports democratic values and honors the dignity of all humans has to begin with the student and work toward the larger goals of each course. Historically, schools have tended toward indoctrination, or imposed teaching; we treat learning as imposing onto students a monolithic body of knowledge regardless of their needs, interests or abilities.

Imposed teaching is easier to manage, easier to measure and easier to control, but it is not the type of learning needed in a democracy. Democracies require individuals who are

independent thinkers and who can contribute to the larger discourse. How can students fulfill that obligation after 12 years of being told what to think and how to perform?

Learning must begin within each student, and learning should be driven by the student. A typical example: Many students are assigned *The Scarlet Letter* in high school, but they rarely read the novel because they know the process. The teacher tells them what the book is about, taking great care to cover what's likely to appear on a test or detailing what students should say (and how they should say it) in an essay. Clearly, the teacher is doing most of the work and most of the thinking. That responsibility should be shifted to students. Humans by their nature are learners, but schools tend to squelch that drive by their urge to impose and coerce.

We also need to re-examine student assessment. Learning should be measured by evaluating student responses through essays, short answers and oral responses, or through their efforts to create an original artwork, sing a song, design a small business or tear down and reassemble an engine. Multiple choice tests are limited by their tendency to isolate skills as if those skills exist in a vacuum. Subtracting just to subtract is a pointless mathematical exercise; subtracting as part of keeping an accurate checking account is altogether a different bird.

**Why, after 18 years of teaching in the public schools, did you decide to move into higher education?**

When I began working on my doctorate, I had no intention of leaving public education. I loved teaching high school and still miss those students every day.

But teaching in the public schools is not conducive to professional development. I hate to say that, but ultimately I came to Furman because it is a wonderful university and because higher education treats educators as professionals.

One of the greatest benefits of being at Furman has been gaining a greater public voice through expanded opportunities to publish opinion pieces and editorials, to write for professional journals, to sign contracts for three books, and to serve as an advocate for education on radio and television. By joining the Furman faculty, I gained a professional credibility I never had as a high school English teacher.

I now have a stronger platform and a chance to influence current and future teachers. In those respects, I have the potential to have a greater impact. 🍇

*Paul Thomas' latest book, a primer for teachers titled Teaching Writing, was scheduled to be published by Peter Lang in February.*

# Furmanreports

## A new approach

### *Furman scores well in 'market-based' survey for ranking schools*

Forget SAT scores, yield rates and retention figures as measures of a college's academic worth.

Instead, look at where the nation's most gifted students matriculate when they have the option of attending several top schools. In other words, find out which colleges tend to win in the competition for the best and brightest.

Four scholars have developed a new ranking system based on those matriculation results. In a report titled *A Revealed Preference Ranking of U.S. Colleges and Universities*, published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, the authors — Caroline Minter Hoxby and Christopher Avery of Harvard University, Andrew Metrick of the University of Pennsylvania and Mark Glickman of Boston University — argue that such a system is more accurate and relevant than the rankings published each year in guidebooks and magazines such as *U.S. News & World Report*.

The scholars don't try to determine what makes a good college; they just report which colleges students choose when they are accepted to more than one leading institution.

Furman ranked 30th among the 105 colleges and universities included in the survey, finishing ahead of such institutions as Vanderbilt (35), Davidson (37), Vassar (43), Wake Forest (50), Emory (61), Holy Cross (67), Penn State (92) and Syracuse (103). Harvard was ranked No. 1 and Yale No. 2, with Stanford, California Institute of Technology and MIT rounding out the top five.

Furman's ranking placed it behind only seven other liberal arts colleges in the survey: Amherst, Wellesley, Swarthmore, Williams, Pomona, Middlebury and Wesleyan. Furman was also the lone South Carolina institution on the scholars' list and ranked behind only Duke (19), University of Virginia (20) and Georgia Tech (24) among the Southern institutions included in the survey.

"This is an intriguing survey since it is more about student satisfaction and

institutional appeal than mere statistics," says Benny Walker, Furman's vice president for enrollment.

But that's also the main criticism of the survey: that its findings are based on subjective rather than measurable data, such as that used by *U.S. News* (standardized test scores, matriculation rates, etc.). Furman ranked 38th among national liberal arts colleges in the most recent *U.S. News* survey.

To arrive at their figures, the authors tracked the college choices of 3,240 high-achieving seniors in the Class of 2000, representing 390 high schools. They identified where those students actually enrolled, then ranked the colleges on how they performed when students who were admitted to several of the same schools made their choices.

As Pennsylvania's Metrick told the *New York Times*, "What you are getting in all these other systems is sort of an expert analysis of polling data. This [survey] provides a market-based view."

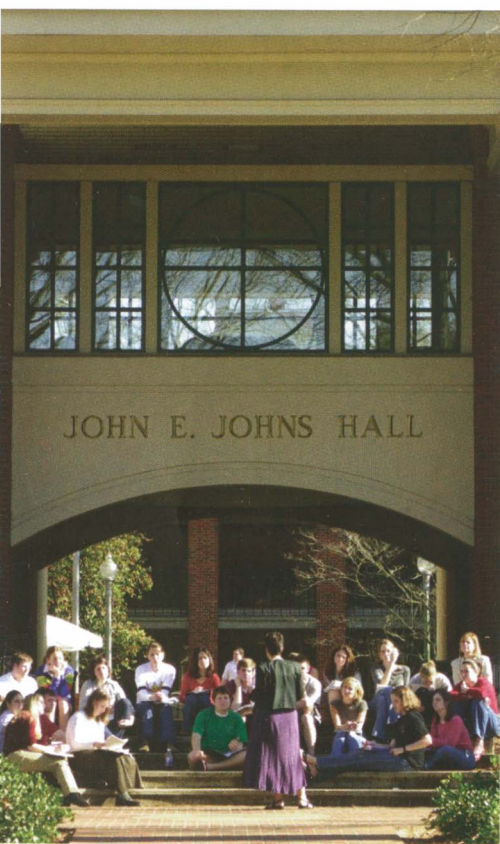
The authors argue that statistics such as SAT scores, retention rates and percentage of students admitted, which are at the heart of the *U.S. News* rankings, are misleading and can be manipulated by schools. In contrast, in their system the only way for colleges to improve their position is for more top students to apply and then decide to attend.

"Our method produces a ranking that would be very difficult for a college to manipulate," they write. "We rank more than 100 colleges . . . and we show how each college is likely to fare in a head-to-head match-up against specific rival colleges."

According to the *Times*, the authors "say they do not intend to commercialize their rating system or produce an annual list; they say they want to offer an unbiased, scientific alternative to existing rankings."

The survey is available on-line at <http://papers.ssrn.com>.

— Vince Moore



## Chief AP Reader

History professor Diane Vecchio has been busy engineering an event of historic proportions.

Every May, United States history professors and high school teachers from around the world converge on Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, to score hundreds of thousands of Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. history examinations taken by high school students. Successful completion of the exam allows the students to earn college-level credit before they get to college. As Chief Reader for the AP U.S. history program, Vecchio has masterminded the entire event for the past five years.

Last spring, 821 historians filled 107 tables, occupying four gymnasiums. They read from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for seven straight days and scored 255,900 exams.

But Vecchio's work begins long before the readers actually arrive in San Antonio. For starters, she must select 900 readers from an application pool of 1,400, along with "table leaders" to train them and "exam leaders" and "question leaders" to set scoring standards for each of the exam's five essay questions. Essays are scored on a scale of 0 to 9, with 9 being the top score.

Four days before the reading begins, Vecchio meets with exam and question leaders to read a representative sample of several thousand exams and establish criteria for grading each question. The readers are then trained and the reading begins.

The reading may seem calm and quiet, but behind the scenes, Vecchio says, "It's bustling. I'm running all day, from the minute we start."

To ensure that the readers finish scoring in seven days, Vecchio stays in constant contact with statisticians at Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J. Their communication enables her to keep track of reading rates — how fast each question is read and scored — and, if necessary, to rearrange readers and reassign questions.

But her work isn't over when each day ends. The week also functions as a professional conference, and Vecchio arranges professional and social events for the group.

When the reading is completed, Vecchio and two ETS specialists hold a videoconference with Princeton statisticians to decide who will receive AP credit according to the exam results. She also writes a number of follow-up reports.

In addition, she makes several trips to the College Board offices during the year to serve on the committee that creates the AP U.S. history curriculum and writes the exam.

Vecchio's colleague in the Furman history department (and first-time reader

*Vecchio completing term as head of national program in U.S. history*



**The hundreds of historians who gather to read and score the AP U.S. history exam essays fill four gymnasiums at Trinity College in San Antonio, Texas.**

COURTESY TOLLISON

last spring), Courtney Tollison '99, is impressed with how Vecchio has handled the position: "It's absolutely remarkable to think about the sheer logistics of organizing something like this. It's a very daunting task . . . but she does it beautifully."

Vecchio's years of experience with the program have contributed to her success as Chief Reader. She started in 1989 as a reader and later became a table leader and exam leader. She was named Chief Reader in 2000.

Her interest in the leadership role developed as she participated in the reading and thought of how she would improve it. "I thought of it as a major challenge, an organizational challenge and an administrative responsibility that I just wanted to get my hands in," she says. "Each year I've made major changes to improve it and to make the scoring more consistent."

Tollison credits Vecchio with improving communication, making the scoring process more efficient and creating a comfortable environment for an increasingly diverse readership. In particular, Vecchio has actively sought to include younger readers and more women readers.

Vecchio points out that, for years, male professors dominated the field of American history. "I've tried to bring more women into the reading and more women into leadership roles as table leaders and exam leaders," she says. She's also "rethought the social activities" in an effort to make them more inclusive.

Tollison says, "People have a great deal of respect for her and have been so happy with her leadership. She's an accomplished historian, she's very

articulate, she's a strong and effective leader, and she holds herself to the highest of standards. I think that's why people admire her so much."

After her final turn as Chief Reader this May, Vecchio, who joined the Furman faculty in 1996, anticipates having more time for her research. Her book, *Merchants, Midwives, and Laboring Women: Italian Migrants in Urban America*, will be published by University of Illinois Press later this year, and her current project examines Italian immigrants from two villages in southern Italy from the 1890s through the mid 1900s.

Nevertheless, her contributions as Chief Reader will continue to have an impact not just on the AP U.S. history program, but on Furman as well. As Tollison notes, Vecchio's role as Chief Reader has provided tremendous visibility for Furman.

"It's good for Furman to have the name of the university circulating among these well-respected historians, and it's great for Furman students in terms of graduate school," says Tollison. "It's also good because these are some of the world's best high school teachers teaching some of the brightest and most capable high school students in these AP classes. When you have the high school teachers becoming more cognizant of Furman, it's good all the way around."

— Karen Guth '01

*The author, who holds a master's degree in religion from Harvard University, is spending this academic year as an intern in the Furman Chaplains Office.*

## David A. Gibson, 1928-2004

On Tuesday, November 30, 2004, Furman lost a treasure when David Gibson, professor emeritus of music, died in Atlanta at the age of 76.

David left Furman a legacy of excellence in teaching, performing and collegiality. He lived life with great zeal and humor.

John Beckford of the music faculty recalls playing percussion at a church service where David was organist. "I was positioned close to him and he was offering some verbal commentary to me throughout the service, even while he was playing," says Beckford.

"At one point in time when he had to play some 'transitional' music between events in the service, he leaned over to me and said, 'Now here's 'Happy Birthday' in retrograde.' He then proceeded to do this lovely improvisation all built on the familiar melody, but played backwards.

"To my amazement, this improvisation went on for quite some time, with no one suspecting that this meditative moment was being driven by this little secular tune. Of course, all the while he's casting a knowing smile at me throughout the interlude."

The Furman community gathered in Daniel Chapel on December 6 to celebrate David's life. His career at Furman spanned 33 years, from 1961 to 1994. During that time, he served as director of the Fine Arts Division, president of Furman's chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda National Honorary Music Fraternity, and as faculty advisor for Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity. In addition to piano and harpsichord, he taught piano pedagogy, music appreciation and the popular interdisciplinary "Ideas in the Arts" course. He was beloved by his colleagues and his students, many of whom have attained significant careers in music.

Randy Hawkins '78 remembers a car ride with David:

"It was a cold, lusterless, rainy afternoon and David, his son Brooks and I were in transit somewhere in downtown Greenville. On this occasion the goal was to take me to a performance event, and there was not time for a leisurely pace. Brooks had somehow been accorded the drivership on this trip, and I believe that his driving experience may have been in a nascent stage.

"I still remember numerous sharp turns, screeching tires, head-on collisions with lake-like puddles and brushes alongside various curbs. David and I were in the back seat, jostled every which way by the careening vehicle, unable to maintain any sense of physical composure. Then, with a rich and measured utterance and that priceless Gibsonian quasi-drawl, we heard the words: 'Brooks, please. I still have a few more Chopin etudes to learn.'"

David performed more than 400 recitals during his career, including New York Town Hall recitals and concerts at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. He also accompanied such acclaimed performers as Nell Rankin, Beverly Wolff and William Warfield. He played for presidents George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan and was a Fulbright Scholar in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1953-54.

David had enough personality for a dozen people. He was jolly. He was witty. He was a nurturing soul who encouraged other musicians to perform their best on stage and in the classroom.

He could recall instantaneously dates, personages and anecdotes of music history, music bibliography and music biography, both the significant and the trivial, the serious and the humorous, enough to fill multiple tomes. He was quick to laugh. He loved music with a passion equaled only by the love he held



for his dear wife, Sarah, and his children, Brooks and Gloria.

He was extraordinary. He was a jolly old soul, an artist, and the dearest friend. He never let life become somber or weighty, but walked in the company of angels. He was young at heart. He was easy to talk to, a generous friend, and he loved a good joke.

We will miss David's performing expertise, his informed lecturing, his wit, his good will and his generosity of spirit.

— **Bruce Schoonmaker '73**  
*Professor of Music*

*Memorials: The David Gibson Recital Series, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Hwy., Greenville, S.C. 29613.*

## Moody's upgrades Furman's bond rating

Moody's Investors Service has upgraded Furman's long-term underlying bond rating from A2 to A1, and indicated the outlook for the rating is stable.

According to the bond rating agency, the A1 rating applies to \$66 million of outstanding Series 1996A, 1996B, 1999, 2000 and 2004 Revenue Bonds issued through the Educational Facilities Authority for Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Learning.

In announcing the change, Moody's said it expects Furman's positive operating performance to continue and cited the university's "significant investments in its capital facilities over the last decade" and growth in its depreciation expense, which has increased 24 percent over the last three years. "With support of its donors," Moody's said, "Furman has been able to create dedicated repair and replacement endowments tied to specific buildings which should help support future operating performance."

The new rating is likely to help Furman save on interest charges the next time it floats bonds.

Among other strengths, Moody's cited Furman's strong regional market position, growing national reputation, success in fund raising, strong fiscal management and increasing selectivity in admissions.

Moody's also noted that, for the first time, Furman's financial statements at the end of the 2004 fiscal year reflected its \$115 million interest in the Hollingsworth Funds. The university is one of several Greenville beneficiaries of the estate of John D. Hollingsworth, Jr., a textile machinery maker who attended Furman in the late 1930s.

Hollingsworth died in December 2000, leaving an estate that has since been estimated at \$260 million. Furman receives 45 percent of the estate's investment income.



## Make way for ducklings

Photographer Charlie Register captured this rainy-day scene near the dining hall of some of Furman's newest residents heading toward the lake.

## University on verge of going wireless

A common sight on campus these days is students sitting at tables outside the University Center's Tower Café, surfing the Internet and checking their e-mail — thanks to the wonders of wireless technology.

Two years ago such a scene would have been unlikely. But today, Furman is on the verge of becoming a completely wireless campus. By 2006, anyone walking through the main part of campus could be able to connect to a wireless access point with a laptop computer.

"Going wireless" means the ability to connect to the Internet without being shackled to a desk. Wireless access points — devices about the size of a large house thermometer and mounted on a wall — emit a signal that can be captured by a laptop computer, much like a cell phone captures a tower signal. This signal can be used to connect to the Internet. Only computers equipped with a special card can tap into the technology.

The signal strength of most wireless access points varies. In general, the access points installed at Furman have a reach of approximately 200 feet and can be accessed by 20 to 30 users simultaneously.

Richard Nelson, director of systems

and technology, says that at present about 70 percent of the central core of the campus is wireless. He points out that demand for wireless technology started to grow about three years ago, when more students began arriving on campus with laptops. Today about 70 percent of Furman students own laptops.

"In all new construction we have incorporated wireless technology," says Nelson. "And over the past several years we've had a lot of new construction."

While wireless technology does give users more flexibility and mobility, the technology can be expensive. Nelson says that most access points, which cost \$400 to \$800, become obsolete in three to five years and must be replaced. And as more users access the wireless technology, Nelson says the university's computer network — the infrastructure of wires, cables and servers — must be updated to handle the demand.

"There is a misconception that if you have wireless, you don't need to worry about the wired network," he says. "But you do. After all, wireless access points are connected to wires. Users still need to access the system. They just get there a different way."

— John Roberts



## Alum's book earns MLA recognition

Dana Phillips '80, recipient of the 2004 Modern Language Association Prize for Independent Scholars for his book, *The Truth of Ecology: Nature, Culture, and Literature in America*, says that he first tried to integrate his interests in ideas, literature and nature during his senior year at Furman.

He recalls spending Friday afternoons that year with philosophy professor James C. Edwards and a philosophy graduate, Tom Turner '73, "talking about Henry David Thoreau not only as a great writer, but also as a thinker of consequence." Ten years later, while in graduate school at Duke University, Phillips wrote a paper on "the ironic relationship between post-modern ideas about nature and professional bass fishing." The paper was titled "Is Nature Necessary?" and, after he presented it at a conference on popular culture, it was published as an article.

Says Phillips, "Without having yet heard the term, I had become an ecocritic."

With *The Truth of Ecology*, he is an award-winning ecocritic. The MLA honor, which recognizes distinguished work in languages and literatures, comes with a

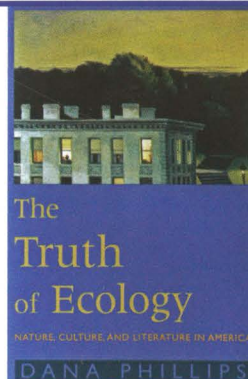
\$1,000 prize and one-year membership in the MLA, the nation's largest learned society in the humanities.

Publisher Oxford University Press says the book provides "a wide-ranging appraisal of contemporary environmental thought. It explores such topics as the history of ecology, radical science studies and radical ecology, the need for greater theoretical sophistication in ecocriticism, the dubious legacy of Thoreau, and the contradictions of current nature writing."

Phillips' former professor, Edwards, says, "To describe *The Truth of Ecology* as a splendid work of literary criticism is, while quite true, to peg its worth too low. It escapes its disciplinary matrix, drawing on the work of Wittgenstein, Wallace Stevens, Thoreau, Ernst Mayr, A.R. Ammons, Richard Rorty, Michel Serres, and many others to produce an astonishing blend of poetry, philosophy, ecological theory, and just plain hard thinking.

"Anyone interested in the deeply American tradition of nature-writing will find Dana's work revelatory and essential."

After earning his degree in philosophy and English from Furman, Phillips earned



his master's in English from the University of Georgia and his Ph.D. in English from Duke. He has taught at Princeton, Bryn Mawr, Brown and the University of Pennsylvania, and he spent the summer of 2004 at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, as a Fulbright Senior Scholar. A native of Graniteville, S.C., he now lives in Philadelphia.

And those Friday afternoon bull sessions from his Furman days? They appear to have left a lasting impression. He recently completed a manuscript titled *Leaving Walden: The Several Constitutions of Henry David Thoreau*.

## Tollison compiles photo history of Furman

Courtney L. Tollison, a member of the Class of 1999 and a part-time professor of history at Furman, completed a labor of love this fall with the publication of a new photographic history of the university.

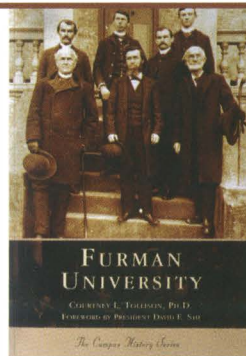
Published by Arcadia Publishing as part of its Campus History Series, *Furman University* features more than 200 photos covering the university's growth and development since its founding in 1826. The book features a foreword by President David Shi as well as Tollison's commentaries on major events and key moments in Furman's history.

Tollison, who holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of South Carolina, became interested in Furman history during her undergraduate days and in recent years has coordinated the Furman University Oral History Project. In writing the book, she combed the Furman archives and those of the Greenville

County Historical Society, while drawing from the knowledge and recollections of those whom she interviewed for the oral history project.

The book offers a pictorial trip through Furman's early years as an academy and theological institution and profiles key administrators, professors and events that influenced the university's course through the years. It includes sections on student life, academics, athletics and campus facilities.

Tollison says, "I wanted to provide a visual tour of the university's history and campus traditions, from Homecoming to May Day celebrations, Orientation and celebratory dunks in the lake. People who have been associated with Furman over the last 45 years have the chance to see photographs from the Greenville Woman's College and the original campus in downtown Greenville. They'll get



a better feel for the history and flavor of 'old' Furman while enjoying the more recent photographs from the new campus."

The book is available from the Furman bookstore, from on-line dealers nationwide, or from the publisher at [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com).

Arcadia Publishing is the largest local and regional history publisher in the United States, with more than 2,000 books in print.

# BOOK MARKS

Featuring summaries of books written by Furman faculty and alumni, as well as reviews of books recommended by faculty and staff as “good reads.”

## RECOMMENDED

Azar Nafisi, *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* (Random House, 2003). The author, an Iranian exile now teaching at Johns Hopkins University, tells of her life as an English professor in the years following the Iranian revolution (late 1970s through the 1990s). She describes how the forces of Islamic fundamentalism took hold of intellectual life at the University of Tehran, despite resistance from professors and students. A popular teacher who persisted in teaching the “decadent” authors of modern Western literature, she was expelled from the university for refusing to wear the veil. Eventually, her class consisted of a group of young women who gathered weekly at her home to read forbidden novels such as *Lolita*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Pride and Prejudice*. In Nafisi’s world, literature becomes an antidote for the rhetoric of an oppressive regime, a window onto other possibilities and, almost literally, the breath of life. Her memoir inspires while breathing new significance into familiar novels.

— Robin Visel, *English*

Paul Starr, *The Creation of the Media: Political Origins of Modern Communications* (Basic Books, 2004). The author, a sociologist at Princeton University, won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* (1984). This book touches on the relationship between free media and government intervention. Its theme — that citizens in Western democracies, and particularly the United States, have been

well served by the mass media — may surprise some. And according to Starr, Americans of past generations could thank a wise mix of free enterprise and government policy. In the 19th century, for example, special postal rates combined with widespread literacy meant that even Americans in remote corners of the republic were receiving newspapers. At a time when giant media companies span the world and government is reluctant to set policies for the mass media, this book shows how past governments encouraged the free flow of information — and sometimes got it right.

— John Armstrong,  
*Communication Studies*

Anonymous, *Imperial Hubris: Why the West Is Losing the War on Terror* (Brassey’s, 2004). Why? Because our leaders prefer to see the world as they imagine it to be. The author, a senior CIA official with nearly 20 years of experience analyzing Afghanistan and South Asia, says that our foes are not terrorists or extremists who hate what we are or think, but insurgents against what we do in the Muslim world. He says the time has come to acknowledge and discuss the long-term consequences of our indifference to the Palestinians, our ties to oil-producing tyrannies, our collusion with states oppressing Muslim minorities, and our attempts to bestow friendly democracies upon divided peoples with long memories. Maintaining current policies commits us to an endless and increasingly desperate struggle.

— Brian Siegel,  
*Sociology*

Carlos Ruiz Zafón, *The Shadow of the Wind* (Penguin Press, 2004). Eleven-year-old Daniel Sempere awakes one day to find that he has forgotten his dead mother’s face. His father, a rare book dealer, consoles his son by initiating him into the Barcelona book guild’s greatest secret: the Cemetery of Lost Books. There he must pick a volume, one that will be his responsibility. After choosing *The Shadow of the Wind*, by Julián Carax, he quickly discovers that Carax has mysteriously disappeared and that someone is hunting down all the copies of his books — and burning them. For 20 years Daniel tries to solve the mystery. Hunted by Franco’s police, haunted by lost love and humbled by his mission, Daniel’s journey is one of discovery and of the enduring power of words . . . and of love.

— Sean Patrick O’Rourke,  
*Communication Studies*

## FROM ALUMNI

Sandy Freeman Jones ’65 and Marcie Jones, *Great Expectations: Your All-in-One Resource for Pregnancy & Childbirth* (Barnes & Noble, 2004). This mother-daughter team provides a week-by-week guide to baby growth and managing pregnancy; a research-based chapter on giving birth; a guide to buying the best baby gear; guides for recovering from childbirth and caring for a new baby; and a comprehensive Web directory and dictionary. Sandy Jones, recipient of a National Media Award “Distinguished Contributor Citation” from the American Psychological Association, is the author of six parenting books and more than 150 articles. Her daughter is a writer, editor and professor of writing at the University of Baltimore.

Hannah Jenkins Keeley ’90, *Hannah’s Art of Home* (Capital Books, 2005). *Publishers Weekly* says that this book, subtitled *Managing Your Home Around Your Personality*, “shows how to de-clutter, clean, decorate and organize a home according to one’s habits.” It also helps readers determine their personality type so that they’ll know how to manage their home in tune with their spirit. The author, a resident of Richmond, Va, and a mother of six, has written for a number of periodicals and has appeared on nationally televised talk shows. Visit her Web site, [www.hannahkeeley.com](http://www.hannahkeeley.com).

R.M. Trammell ’58, *Star Walker* (Xlibris, 2004). According to the publisher, “*Star Walker* is a commentary on life . . . through the merging of word and art. [the author] expresses to the reader a sense of the vastness and majesty of the creation, and the struggle of each of us to find a place of significance in it. *Star Walker* is one man’s journey through life, his attempt to make sense of it, and in the process find his own place in the cosmos.” The author, an Atlanta resident, is also an artist whose work illustrates the book. Visit his Web site, [www.trammellart.com](http://www.trammellart.com).

Jean and Gene Phillips ’52, *Gleanings from God’s Word* (Hannibal Books, 2004). The authors, a husband-wife team who spent almost 50 years as Southern Baptist missionaries in Africa, draw from their experiences to provide a devotional guide to daily Bible study. The publisher describes the devotionals as “succinct and highly practical — ideal for today’s busy lives.” The Phillipses live in Camden, S.C.

# Furman philanthropy

## Young Benefactors

When I served as director of university housing at Furman from 1984 to 1999, I knew them as students. They were bright, creative, adventuresome — and mischievous.

Like many of those who came before (and after), they tossed each other in the lake, complained about winter term, balked at Cultural Life Program requirements, enjoyed Beach Weekend and protested the university's housing policies. Some days, I thought they kept me young. Other days, they aged me prematurely. Nevertheless, they marked my life in a significant way.

What makes this group special is that they're still making their mark at Furman. They are Young Benefactors, alumni who graduated within the past 20 years and who give their time and resources to help Furman continue to thrive. The 95 Young Benefactors contribute at least \$1,000 annually to the university, either as an unrestricted gift, a donation to the Paladin Club or a combination of both.

Last spring, a 20-member Young Benefactors Executive Committee was formed. At their first meeting, they began planning activities to recognize their peers

## Alumni group works to ensure Furman's continued growth



Mary Lou Merkt (second from left), Furman's vice president for business affairs, discusses finances with Amanda Capps '91, Ken Roper '91 (on Merkt's left) and Ed Stein '93.

who give to the university at leadership levels and to involve more alumni in the Young Benefactors program. They adopted a mission statement that says, in part, "We commit our time, expertise and resources to ensure that the university's fund-raising efforts include young alumni and lead to the best possible liberal arts education for students."

And other than their fading youth, they have another thing in common: They want to give something back to Furman.

Ken Roper '91, chair of the group's executive committee, came to Furman from a small town. He was a member of a working-class family and had to be creative and persistent in maximizing loans and grants to finance his education. He says, "The loans are all paid off, but I still owe Furman an immeasurable amount for what it meant to me."

I never dreamed that my reward for a 15-year stint as the university's housing director would be ongoing contact with former students who used to make my life so interesting! Now I get to meet their spouses and children and to hear about their successful careers and contributions in their communities.

They bring honor to the name "Furman," and I am proud to know them.

— Wayne King  
Director, Annual Giving

*Becoming a Young Benefactor is easier than ever because of the Hollingsworth Initiative, which assists donors in moving to a higher giving level by augmenting the first two years of a three-year pledge. For details, e-mail wayne.king@furman.edu or call him at (864) 294-3474.*

## Teaching and technologies center receives Duke Endowment support

As part of its year-end grant of \$2.3 million to Furman, The Duke Endowment designated \$195,000 toward establishment of a Center for Teaching and Engaged Learning on campus.

The CTCL will provide a central location for faculty and students to experience the newest learning technologies and teaching techniques. According to Tom Kazee, vice president for academic affairs and dean, "The center will be distinctive in its commitment to the integration of faculty development, curricular innovation and technological support."

The majority of the year-end grant, \$1.9 million, completed the endowment's \$9.5 million pledge toward the recently completed renovation and expansion of the James B. Duke Library.

The Northwest Crescent Child Development and Family Services Center, a social service agency that provides a variety of free services to residents of northwest Greenville County, received \$100,000. The center was established in 1998 through the efforts of Furman, The Children's Hospital of Greenville Hospital System, The School District of Greenville County and the United Way's "Success By 6" initiative.

In addition, \$100,000 went to support James B. Duke Scholarships, which are awarded to some of Furman's most academically gifted students.

## Golden reunion gift

*Class of '54 helps establish new campus showplace*

Members of the Class of 1954 returned to Furman during Homecoming in November for a special 50th reunion. For some, it marked their first visit to the “new” campus.

Although class members spent their college years on the downtown campus, many feel a strong connection to the new campus. The students of their era enthusiastically supported construction of the new campus and were excited about the possibilities it would provide for growth and expansion. Charles “Bud” Granger, president of the men’s student body, and Jo Ann Perkins Leaphart, president of the Greenville Woman’s College student body, participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new campus on October 6, 1953.

The Class of 1954 could not have imagined how the new campus would serve as a catalyst for Furman’s emergence as a leading liberal arts college. But they were buoyed by the vision of Furman’s leaders, particularly that of President John L. Plyler. As Leaphart says, “Had it not been for Dr. Plyler’s vision and persistence, Furman University would not be what it is today.”

The class began thinking about the 50th reunion celebration long before 2004 arrived, and when the reunion steering committee gathered on campus in March under the leadership of Edna Wells Boyd and Robbie Brown Prince, they began making plans. One of their tasks was to form a gift selection committee, chaired by John Cothran, that would decide what the class would present to Furman to commemorate their golden anniversary. After much discussion, they decided to support the construction of a plaza behind the recently renovated James B. Duke Library.

According to Cothran, the plaza was chosen because it was something tangible that could be used and enjoyed by today’s students and by campus visitors. During the summer and fall,



**Following the Homecoming breakfast on November 6, members of the Class of '54 gathered at the plaza for a group portrait.**

the class raised \$48,000 of the \$100,000 needed to name the plaza. Donations toward the fund will continue to be accepted through June 30, the end of Furman’s fiscal year.

Needless to say, members of the Class of '54 are proud of their efforts to help establish a new campus showplace. And as a result, the university community is enjoying a beautiful addition to the campus.

— Jane Dungan  
Associate Director, Alumni Association

*To contribute to the library plaza project, call Wayne King, director of annual giving, at (864) 294-3474 or e-mail [wayne.king@furman.edu](mailto:wayne.king@furman.edu).*

## \$1 million from Currys designated for Chinese Studies program

Scholarships for students traveling to China. The addition of a Chinese language professor. The opportunity to attract more students from China to Furman.

Thanks to the generosity of trustee Ravenel B. Curry III '63 and his wife, Beth, Furman expects to see these ideas come to fruition in the near future.

The Currys recently donated \$1 million toward the university’s expanding Chinese Studies program. According to Tom Kazez, vice president for academic affairs and dean, the gift is expected to fund scholarships, support the hiring of additional faculty and staff to teach Chinese and to coordinate the study abroad program to China, and provide a permanent endowment for the Chinese Studies program. It will also support the Richard W. Riley Institute’s “China’s Global Rise” program, a series of lectures and conferences about China launched during fall term.

“The Curry gift will allow us to enhance and build upon what is already an outstanding program,” says Kazez. “As China grows in importance in the world, it is especially important that our students have a thorough understanding of China in particular and of Asia in general. The Currys’ generosity has ensured that Furman will be able to provide its students with a variety of exceptional opportunities.”

Furman students who major in Asian Studies focus on one of three cultures — China, India or Japan. Those who participate

in the study abroad program to China attend East China Normal University in Shanghai.

Ravenel Curry is president of Eagle Capital Management, an investment management firm in New York City. He holds an M.B.A. degree from the University of Virginia and is a trustee for the Blanton-Peale Institute and the New York Hall of Science. He has been a member of Furman’s Advisory Council, a class agent and president of the Alumni Association.

“Presidents John Johns, Gordon Blackwell and John Plyler built a strong foundation at Furman,” says Curry. “President David Shi and his team are clearly building upon this lofty platform and helping Furman achieve even greater national recognition.

“I have seen academic excellence drive economic growth throughout the United States, and the Greenville area will benefit tremendously as Furman is increasingly recognized as one of the nation’s top liberal arts colleges. Beth and I are pleased to provide this gift.”

The Currys’ gift establishes the university’s second endowment in support of the Department of Asian Studies. The Ed and Beth Evans Jones Endowed Fund for Asian Studies, created in 2000, is named in honor of Ed Jones, professor emeritus of history, and his wife.

— Vince Moore

# Furmanathletics

## Pressure cooker

Just five months after graduating from Furman in June of 2004, Matt Davidson found himself standing on the 17th tee of the PGA West Stadium Golf Course in La Quinta, Calif. He was playing his sixth and final round of the PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament, and he knew he could achieve a lifelong dream of obtaining a PGA Tour card by simply avoiding disaster during the next two holes.

Not too many people would have expected the 23-year-old Davidson to be in such a prime position, including Davidson himself. But the former Paladin golfer handled some of the most intense pressure golfers can face and played his last two holes 1-under par to join Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh and a host of other millionaires who play the world's top golf tour for a living.

"It was a great feeling that I was able to get my card on my first try," Davidson says. "It gave me a lot of confidence to be able to finish like that."

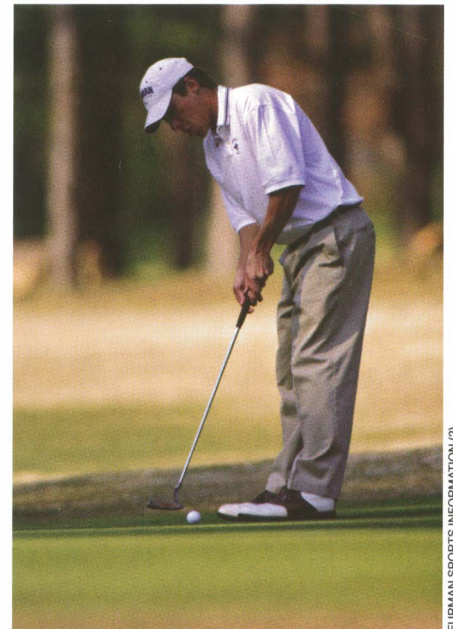
Davidson came into the Q-school well beneath the radar, considering that his competition included a dozen former tour winners, a former U.S. Open Champion, two members of past European Ryder Cup teams and the 2004 College Player of the Year, Wake Forest's Bill Haas. A total of 164 golfers made it to the final stage of Q-school — Davidson had survived elimination rounds in Florence, S.C., and St. Augustine, Fla. — and only the top 26 and ties earned PGA Tour cards.

"I was glad when it was over," Davidson said. "It wasn't much fun, and I think everybody out there would tell you it's not supposed to be fun."

Davidson finished 10-under par for the tournament and tied for 11th place with rounds of 73, 71, 65, 70, 72 and 71. His 65 at the Jack Nicklaus Tournament Course was one shot better than any tournament round he posted during his career at Furman.

He might have caught the golfing world by surprise, but the people who

*Davidson emerges from Q-school with PGA Tour card*



FURMAN SPORTS INFORMATION (2)

***A West Windsor, N.J., native who won his home state's amateur championship in 2003, Matt Davidson earned a degree in political science from Furman.***

know Davidson best weren't surprised by his performance. He had a strong college career, winning three tournaments, including the 2004 Southern Conference championship, and finished with the second best career stroke average (73.46) in school history, behind current PGA player Brad Faxon '83.

"Matt had always been a consistent player, and he just got better every year," says Todd Satterfield, his coach at Furman. "I thought he could be the kind of golfer he's proving to be right now."

David Moore '03, a close friend who caddied for Davidson at the Q-school finals, says Davidson turned up his game a few notches at the tournament. "I had played a lot of golf with Matt, and I knew how good he could be," Moore says. "But it was amazing how well he played in California. He was so focused, and even if he got nervous at times, it didn't show in how he played."

Davidson joined the tour in January, and his first tournament — the Sony Open in Hawaii — proved to be quite

an experience; he was paired with teen-age sensation Michelle Wie for the first two rounds. He plans to play every tournament he can get into throughout the year, and he has until December to prove he belongs. He will have to finish among the top 125 money winners to retain his playing privileges.

In the meantime, Davidson is maintaining his many Furman connections. His home base is Greenville, where he lives with two Furman alumni and a current student about a mile from the Furman Golf Course. He also dates Natalie The '03, a former Lady Paladin tennis player who attends law school at Emory University in Atlanta.

"The better he handles the outside things like travel, sponsors and Monday pro-ams, the better he'll play on tour," Satterfield says. "There's no question he has the game to stay out there."

— Vince Moore

## Sports roundup

### Paladin football players earn host of post-season honors

The 2004 Furman football team was one of the most honored in school history, and for much of the season the Paladins appeared talented enough to add the greatest honor of all, a national championship in Division I-AA. But, in the end, it was not to be.

The team posted a 10-3 record, won the Southern Conference championship and finished the regular season with a No. 2 national ranking. Its three losses all came in the games' waning minutes—in overtime to Fiesta Bowl qualifier Pittsburgh (41-38), in the last 35 seconds to Appalachian State (30-29), and in the last 28 seconds to eventual I-AA national champion James Madison (14-13) in the second round of the playoffs.

Top individual honors earned by the Paladins:

■ Senior offensive tackle Ben Bainbridge was named to the Associated Press I-AA All-America first team. He also made the Walter Camp and Sports Network All-America teams and received the Jacobs Blocking Award, given annually to the top blocker in the league.

■ Junior linebacker William Freeman was the 2004 Southern Conference Defensive Player of the Year and South Carolina Player of the Year (chosen by the Greenville Touchdown Club). He was also named third-team AP All-America and was a second-team selection for the Sports Network All-America squad.

■ Defensive end Roy Ravenell became the first sophomore defensive player in Furman history to earn All-America honors, making the AP and Sports Network third teams.

■ Coach Bobby Lamb was named Southern Conference Coach of the Year by league media.

■ Strong safety Andrew Thacker was named Southern Conference Freshman of the Year by league media.

■ Junior quarterback Ingle Martin, who transferred to Furman from the University of Florida last year, was named Southern Conference Player of the Month for November.

A total of 14 Paladins were named to the media's all-conference squad. Bainbridge, Freeman, Ravenell, freshman placekicker Scott Beckler and three other seniors — free safety Cam Newton, receiver Isaac West and tight end Willis Sudderth — made the first team. Four seniors (receiver Brian Bratton, linebacker Cedrick Ritter, cornerback T.J. Wilson



**Linebacker William Freeman was the league's Defensive Player of the Year.**



**All-American Ben Bainbridge won the conference's Jacobs Blocking Award.**

and punter Bo Moore) were joined by three juniors (offensive guard Patrick Covington, center Corey Stewart and nose guard Brant Glover) on the second team.

#### State shrine tabs Southern

Debbie Southern, women's tennis coach at Furman since 1984, was inducted into the South Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame December 4.

In her 20 years at Furman, Southern's teams have won 12 Southern Conference

regular season titles and 12 league tournament crowns while making five trips to the NCAA tournament. In 2004, she surpassed 300 wins at Furman.

Entering the 2005 season, her teams were undefeated in conference play since 2000. She has been named the league's coach of the year eight times, most recently in 2004, and has twice received Furman's J. Lyles Alley Coach of the Year Award.

Court One of the Minor Mickel Tennis Center is named for her in recognition of her contributions to Furman.

A native of Winston-Salem, N.C., and a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Southern is widely recognized for her administrative skills. In July 1995 she was assistant to the director of tennis at the U.S. Olympic Festival in Colorado Springs; she has also been a member of the NCAA Women's Tennis Committee and has chaired the NCAA Southeast Regional Committee.

Southern joins men's coach Paul Scarpa in the state hall.

#### Burr succeeds Lee

Andrew Burr '91, assistant women's soccer coach since 1998, was named in December to succeed Brian Lee '93 as head coach. Lee, who had coached at Furman since the women's program began in 1994, has become head women's coach at Louisiana State University.

Burr has extensive experience in sports marketing and in coaching. In addition to his work with soccer camps, he was coach for two years of the under-18 and under-16 girls' teams for Greenville's St. Giles United, now Carolina Elite Soccer Academy.

A member of the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame, Burr was a three-time All-Southern Conference soccer selection as a student and a two-time member of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-South Region team. He also spent one season on the football team, earning all-conference and all-state honors as a placekicker.

Under Lee, who captained the soccer team during his student days, the Furman women compiled a 144-80-10 record, including a 76-16-3 mark in Southern Conference action. He was named league coach of the year five times and was a finalist for NSCAA National Coach of the Year honors in 1999. His 2004 squad finished 14-9 and won the conference tournament.

FURMAN SPORTS INFORMATION (2)

# Furman alumni news

## Furman Clubs go international

It started in the spring of 2004 with an e-mail to the Alumni Office from Jan Kiely, professor of history and Asian Studies. Jan had spoken with Kevin Steiner '96, who lives in Taiwan, during a Furman study abroad trip to China, and he wanted us to help Kevin set up a virtual Furman Club.

The result is the Furman in Asia Web site ([www.furmaninasia.taiwanweekly.com](http://www.furmaninasia.taiwanweekly.com)). Kevin designed it to help alumni who are living in or interested in Asia stay connected with Furman.

The Web site was just the start of the university's new ventures in Asia. During fall term, two Furman vice presidents, Don Lineback (Development) and Tom Kazee (Academic Affairs), traveled to China and Japan for several meetings — including a historic gathering initiated by Anthony Lee '70, a resident of Hong Kong.

Anthony arranged a dinner at Anastasia, a restaurant he owns in Hong Kong's finest shopping district. Joining Anthony and the Furman administrators were four other alumni who live in Hong Kong: Robert Young '70, Pui Po '72, Andrew Lee '73 (Anthony's brother) and John Gravley '83. The meeting was historic in two ways: It was the first official meeting of an international Furman Club and, to our knowledge, was the first time that 100 percent of the alumni of record in a city attended a meeting!

The men have diverse professional interests. Robert Young is with Yip's Chemical Holdings Limited, a leading chemical firm, and Pui Po is assistant commissioner of the Hong Kong TV and Entertainment Licensing Authority, which is equivalent to our Federal Communications



Commission. Andrew and Anthony Lee are successful restaurateurs; Andrew owns a chain of 31 restaurants called "Steak Expert" and with Anthony runs a global meat importing business. John Gravley is director of social services with the American Baptist Mission.

They form the 51st Furman Club, which is expected to be instrumental in supporting the university's new China Initiative (see page 33) by helping market Furman to top students in the Hong Kong area. Andrew has offered to put information about Furman on the thousands of placemats he has printed for his steak houses.

With the Furman Club of Hong Kong in place, the Furman in Asia network now includes alumni in Japan, Taiwan, China, Myanmar, Thailand and India. These alumni can be a great resource for Furman students.

If you are interested in learning more about the Furman in Asia network, send an e-mail to me ([tom.triplitt@furman.edu](mailto:tom.triplitt@furman.edu)).

This recent flurry of international activity ties in with one of the Alumni Association's strategic goals: to "create new opportunities for alumni worldwide to become involved with Furman." Thanks to the help of alumni like those in Asia, we're doing it!

— Tom Triplitt '76  
Director, Alumni Association

*Above: Furman Club of Hong Kong founding members, from left, John Gravley '83, Robert Young '70, Andrew Lee '70, Anthony Lee '73 and Pui Po '72.*

## ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

### Save the date: October 21-23

Homecoming 2005 is set for October 21-23. Classes in reunion will be those ending in 0 and 5.

Watch for details in the coming months!

### Furman Clubs gear up for new year

Furman Clubs enjoyed a memorable 2004, which closed with assorted festivities to celebrate both the end of one year and the beginning of another.

The annual Holiday Gala, held in Charleston, S.C., in December, produced another record crowd and has firmly established itself as a premier Furman event. Alumni and parents in Memphis, Tenn., also gathered for holiday cheer. To kick off the new year, the Raleigh/Durham Furman Club held a happy hour in January hosted by John Barker, director of career services.

The new year has just begun, but you may have already heard "Brown Eyes" in your town. The Furman Singers began their annual tour on February 23 and were scheduled to visit Greenwood, S.C.; Birmingham, Ala.; Baton Rouge, La.; and the Texas cities of Houston and Dallas. The tour was to end with a performance at the acclaimed Spivey Hall in Clayton, Ga. The Singers are celebrating their 59th anniversary this year and their 35th under the direction of Bingham L. Vick, Jr.

With the cold of winter pretty much behind us, spring is an active time for Furman Clubs, with plans in the works for dinners, picnics, sporting events and more. To discover what's happening at a club near you, check the Alumni Association Web site at [www.furman.edu/alumni](http://www.furman.edu/alumni).

To learn more about Furman Club events, contact Jane Dungan, associate director of the Alumni Association, at 1-800-PURPLE3 or by e-mail, [jane.dungan@furman.edu](mailto:jane.dungan@furman.edu).

### Trading places in the Alumni Office

Contact Jane Dungan about Furman Club events? That's a switch, isn't it?

Indeed. Jane and Melanie Krone '94 (who just became Melanie Krone Armstrong!), her compatriot in the Alumni Office, switched roles as of January 1, with Jane taking over off-campus responsibilities (such as Furman Club events) and Melanie overseeing on-campus programming (Homecoming, the alumni Web site, etc.).

Jane is an avid sports fan who is excited about attending more tailgates and outdoor events. Melanie, who last year chaired the Class of '94 reunion activities, looks forward to helping alumni with their reunion plans while keeping the Web site fresh and up-to-date.

## CLASS NOTES WINTER 05

51

**Edwin W. "Skip" Ellmers** has been inducted into the Male High School Hall of Fame in Louisville, Ky., for his professional accomplishments and outstanding service to the school and community.

53

Pianist **Richard Cass**, retired Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a past winner of Furman's Distinguished Alumni Award, is a visiting professor of music at Furman this year. His wife, **Susan Bryan '59 Cass**, teaches private piano lessons.

54

**Mary Rudd Powell** is an interior designer and principal with MRP Interiors in Johnson City, Tenn.

59

*Next reunion in 2009*

**Robert B. King**, professor of organ at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, played two organ recitals in Italy last May and two in Scotland in July. He is scheduled to perform in Germany this spring and has presented several recitals in the United States in recent months. He has recorded three CDs. ■ **Milton Parker** of Elberton, Ga., retired June 1 after 50 years in the ministry, 16 of which were in the Hebron Baptist Association. He served churches in North Carolina and South Carolina and will continue preaching as a supply or interim minister.

62

*Next reunion in 2007*

**James Carpenter** of Piedmont, S.C., retired after 30 years with the South Carolina

Employment Security Commission. ■ **Elizabeth Harrill Mitchell** was elected to her first term in the Maine state Senate in November. A Democrat from Vassalboro, she is a former speaker of the Maine House of Representatives and is currently a law student at the University of Southern Maine.

64

*Next reunion in 2009*

**David Zipperer** is director of productions at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City, where he has worked for 34 years.

65

*This year is reunion!*

**James and Karen Olsen '69 Edwards** are both employed in Charlotte, N.C., he as a verifications and loan officer with Fairfield Resorts and she as a realtor/broker with 24/7 Real Estate, Inc. ■ **Harold Newman**, provost at Shorter College in Rome, Ga., has been appointed interim president at the school, where he has headed the academic division since 1985.

66

*Next reunion in 2006*

**Charles Carpenter, Jr.**, a shareholder in the law firm of Richardson, Plowden, Carpenter & Robinson, P.A., in Columbia, S.C., was recently elected treasurer of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, an organization that advances the highest standards and practices of appellate advocacy and recognizes outstanding appellate lawyers.

68

*Next reunion in 2008*

**James Nickless** is vice president of supply chain management with Internet Security Systems in Atlanta.

69

*Next reunion in 2009*

Having retired from Sara Collins Elementary School in Greenville, **Linda Hamby Green** volunteers with Lapsits, an organization that focuses on the literacy needs of the very young.

70

*This year is reunion!*

**Jonathan Clement** recently became vice president of finance with Health Alliance Plan in Detroit, Mich. ■ **Jerry Easler** is business manager of Gary Russ Chevrolet in Greenwood, S.C. He previously taught special education for 16 years.

72

*Next reunion in 2007*

**Carole Clarke Boyce** of Dacula, Ga., has been elected to the Gwinnett County Board of Education.

73

*Next reunion in 2008*

**Anantjai Lauhabandhu** is associate professor of history at Silpakorn University in Thailand, where he has taught since 1977. ■ **Don Spencer** of Roswell, Ga., works for the Georgia Department of Corrections.

74

*Next reunion in 2009*

After serving as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army and then working in the aerospace industry for 15 years, **Ronnie**

**Bagwell** is now an information technology manager with Verizon Wireless. He lives in Roswell, Ga. ■ **Walt Cottingham**, a teacher at Hendersonville (N.C.) High School, was invited to deliver the L.D. Johnson Memorial Lecture November 8 at Furman on the topic "What Really Matters." ■ **Bruce Kleinschmidt** is an attorney with the Community Development Law Center in Indianapolis, Ind. ■ **MARRIAGE: Dodie Burns** and **William C. Rodgers, Jr.**, April. Dodie, a former South Carolina Teacher of the Year, is lead teacher for Richland County (S.C.) School District 2 at Clemson Road Child Development Center.

75

*This year is reunion!*

**Claire Fields Kuhl** is owner of V&R Consulting in Greenwood, S.C.

76

*Next reunion in 2006*

**Sid Hill** of Louisville, Ky., is supervisor of central stores at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. ■ **Suzanne Sloan** is director of music ministries at Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church in Columbia, S.C. ■ **MARRIAGE: Bill Mayville** and **Janine Bouquette**, October 9. They live in Coral Gables, Fla.

77

*Next reunion in 2007*

**Pam Brannon Simmons** has been elected the 2005 president of the Women's Council of Realtors in Nashville, Tenn. ■ **MARRIAGE: Sharon McGuirt** and **Johnny Tanner**, November 22, 2003. They live in Florence, S.C., where



# Furman alumni news

CLASS NOTES WINTER 05, cont.

she is an elementary school music teacher and he is a singer/songwriter and a builder of custom furniture. Both are members of the bluegrass band Borrowed Time.

## 78

**Next reunion in 2008**

**James Coggins** started a new job in September as principal engineer at ALPHATECH in Burlington, Mass., working on automated target recognition in synthetic aperture radar imagery.

## 80

**This year is reunion!**

**BIRTH:** **Jim** and **Zoe Custer**, a daughter, Hannah Zoe Elizabeth, December 1, 2003, Cumming, Ga. Jim is president of Results by Objective International, an incentive and marketing firm.

## 81

**Next reunion in 2006**

**Richard Anzolut** became city manager of Colonial Heights, Va., in November. He previously had served as town manager of Front Royal, Va. ■ **Gregg Duncan** has become cash control manager for Resurgent Capital Services in Greenville. He is also the organist for New Day Christian Community Church. ■ **Peter Manning** was recently recognized as "Small-Business Man of the Year" by the Greenwood County (S.C.) Chamber of Commerce. ■ **David Rice** is a partner with Ford, Simpson, Lively and Rice Pediatrics in Winston-Salem, N.C.

## 82

**Next reunion in 2007**

Carolina First Bank in Greenville recently appointed **Mel Daniel** as a mortgage officer. ■ **Tom Davis**, a Beaufort, S.C., attorney and former chief of staff to South Carolina governor **Mark Sanford** '83, has been appointed to the nine-member State Ports Authority Board of Directors. ■

**Jane Doussard-Roosevelt** has joined the faculty of George Washington University Medical Center's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

## 83

**Next reunion in 2008**

**Charles Ambrose**, president of Pfeiffer University, was named to the board of trustees of Cannon School, an independent college preparatory school in Concord, N.C. He is also president of the Carolinas-Virginia Athletic Conference, is on the executive committee for North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities and is a member of the board of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church. ■ **Scott Brown** of Sunnyvale, Calif., is product management manager in student systems with the Oracle Corporation.

■ **Amy Buttell Crane** of Fairview, Pa., received the Distinguished Service Award in Investment Education from the Investment Education Institute, an affiliate of the National Association of Investors Corporation (NAIC). The author of *The NAIC Mutual Fund Handbook*, she is mutual fund columnist for *Better Investing* and contributes to a number of business publications. She was a founder of NAIC's Online Investors School. ■ After leaving the field of medical research, **Vin Rampey** became an airline pilot. He lives in Greenville and is a first officer with Atlanta Southeast Airlines. ■ **MARRIAGE:** **Linda Jeanette Kirby** (M.A.) and T.E. Underwood, Sr., September 25, Greer, S.C. She is an academic advisor at the Greer branch of Greenville Technical College and he is the retired founder and owner of Underwood Septic Tank and Grading, Inc., in Greer.

## 84

**Next reunion in 2009**

**Thomas Bound** passed the Bar in July and has been admitted to the practice of law in Georgia. He has also started Photographia, a fashion/glamour photography business.

■ **Cindy Davis**, formerly a senior vice president of The Golf Channel, has assumed duties as U.S. general manager for Nike Golf. She will oversee sales, operations, marketing and sports marketing. ■ **Robert Forbes** is a pediatrician with Cobb Pediatrics in Atlanta. ■ **Amy Mears** and **April Baker** '85 have been appointed co-pastors of Glendale Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn. Baker was previously an associate pastor at the church and Mears was a chaplain at University Hospital in Augusta, Ga.

## 85

**This year is reunion!**

**Dacia Weldin Stigler** of Wilmington, Del., is an accountant with American International Life Insurance Company. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Timothy** and **Cindy Mefford** '88 **Hawkins**, a son, Benjamin Eli, September 10, Columbia, S.C. ■ **Bobby** and **Susan Couch** '86 **Roach**, a daughter, Catherine Leigh, February 19, 2004, Irmo, S.C. ■ **David** and **Mary Schilli**, a daughter, Catherine Elaine, March 5, 2004, Charlotte, N.C. ■ **Steve** and **Amy Ward**, a son, Steven Grant, September 1, Greenville.

## 86

**Next reunion in 2006**

**Edward Earl** of San Diego, Calif., is employed with CACI Technologies as principal engineer, developing algorithms and software to support airport surface radar. He is also a private pilot and a member of the La Jolla Symphony Orchestra. An avid mountain climber, he reached the summit of Mount McKinley

last June. ■ **Kevin Esval** is president of VelocityHealth Capital, Inc., in Nashville, Tenn.

## 87

**Next reunion in 2007**

**Dottie Pepper** has retired from the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour and signed a contract with The Golf Channel to be a lead analyst for its tournament coverage. She won 17 tournaments, including two major championships, during her playing days. ■ **BIRTH:** **David** and **Paula Rogers Marooney**, a son, Nathaniel David, April 16. They live in Broomfield, Colo.

## 88

**Next reunion in 2008**

**Christopher Atwell** has become a partner in the Fritz, Byrne, Head & Harrison law firm in Austin, Texas. ■ **Brad Bechtold**, director of continuing education at Furman, has earned a doctoral degree from Clemson University with an emphasis in human resource development. ■ **Richard Thompson** is a Medicare hearing officer with Blue Cross Blue Shield in Columbia, S.C. ■ **MARRIAGE:** **Pauline Peek** and **Ashton Thomas Griffin IV**, June 26. Pauline is a human service clinical counselor with Eastpointe Mental Health. They live in Mount Olive, N.C.

## 89

**Next reunion in 2009**

During November and December, mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth Bishop** performed the role of Venus in a Metropolitan Opera production of Wagner's *Tannhauser*. ■ **Christine Younts Harber** of Weston, Fla., is a computer programmer with Delta Global Services. ■ **Tom Hewitt** has become director of marketing operations with Red Ventures in Charlotte, N.C. ■ **Elizabeth Whitaker Huggins** joined the Augusta (Ga.) State University

faculty this year as an instructor in the Department of Learning Support. ■ **Kristie McCollister** is an inside sales representative for Insight Electronics, a semiconductor distributor in Atlanta. ■ **BIRTHS:** Jason and **Liz Wooten Antaya**, a daughter, Carmen Grace, July 21, Park City, Utah. ■ **Chris** and **Carolyn DeJarnett**, a son, Calvin, August 17, 2003, Homewood, Ala. Chris is a principal with Xerox Global

Services. ■ Kevin and **Diane Thompson Kingery**, a son, David Matthew, July 14, Aiken, S.C.

## 90

*This year is reunion!*

**Sharon Crews Brangers** is a certified public accountant and partner in Alliance of Financial Professionals, an accounting firm in Alpharetta, Ga. ■ **Ellis Carter II**, the

marketing and public relations coordinator at York Technical College in Rock Hill, S.C., has completed a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing through the on-line program at American-Intercontinental University. ■ **Sandy Scoggins Gjertsen** of McDonough, Ga., is a cardiac rehabilitation specialist at Piedmont Hospital. ■ **David Jewell** is in military intelligence with

the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Meade, Md. His wife, **Karen Foster '91 Jewell**, has completed her J.D. degree. ■ **Jana McConnaughay**, chair of elder law practice with McConnaughay, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver in Tallahassee, Fla., has been appointed legislative chair for the Florida State Guardianship Association, a nonprofit corporation for the improvement of guardianship services. She

## Snack food CEO

*Lance's Stroup a loyal company man*

You wouldn't know it by his job title as president and chief executive officer of a nearly \$600 million company, but Paul A. Stroup III started his professional career delivering snack crackers from a truck.

That humble beginning led to several managerial positions and eventually to the post of president and chief executive officer of Lance Inc., a leading producer of snack foods.

Stroup, Furman's 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award winner, says that much of his success in business comes from a foundation he built as a student at Furman.

"I really feel strongly about a liberal arts curriculum," says Stroup, 53. "Learning accounting is a trade, but being able to write effectively and deal with relationships makes a much better rounded person."

He graduated from Furman in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in business and planned to go to graduate school, but found himself backpacking through Europe instead. When he returned to his native Charlotte, N.C., where Lance is headquartered, he took a job in the company's training program. While working he earned his master's degree in business administration at Queens University.

Over the next several years he worked his way up the ranks, moving from Pittsburgh to Burlington, Iowa, and then back to Charlotte in 1989.

The board of directors of Lance appointed him CEO in 1995 and chairman in 1998.

Stroup also has contributed to the community, serving as a board member of several civic organizations in Charlotte. He has been president of the Mecklenburg

County Council of Boy Scouts and vice chair of Charlotte Latin School. He's an elder at Myers Park Presbyterian Church and has served on the boards of Presbyterian Hospital, the Mint Museum and the United Way Capital Campaign.

He is a member of Furman's Trustees Circle and the Furman Advisory Council. He and his wife, Melissa Muckenfuss Stroup '75, have twin seniors in high school.

While many business leaders have moved around to advance their careers, Stroup has stayed with Lance for the last 30 years. He says it's because of the company's good reputation, friendly atmosphere (everyone is on a first-name basis) and the opportunities for advancing the company affords its employees.

"In the food business you've got a great product people recognize, and you have a fun time with it," he says.

Known for its Captain's Wafers, Cape Cod potato chips, Toastchee peanut butter and cheese crackers, and assorted cakes and cookies, Lance produces roughly \$563 million in net annual sales. But the company has not been without difficulties.

Since the early '90s, the snack maker has had to raise its prices every few years. In 1995, the company lost \$7 million, and when Stroup took over as CEO, the company closed baking operations in Texas and Columbia, S.C., and laid off about 500 workers.

Lance tried to rebound and introduced its Poppers line (mini sandwich crackers and cookies) to boost sales in a weak snack market. But after about 10 months, sales were less than half of what executives had expected, Stroup says, so they dropped the product.



*Paul Stroup is a past president of the Biscuit and Cracker Manufacturers' Association.*

The low-carb craze has also hurt cake product sales, and although the company bakes reduced fat snacks, they don't sell well. "Taste is still the most important factor in foods," Stroup says.

But during the last six quarters business has picked up, and the company's earnings have exceeded industry expectations.

Building on that momentum, Stroup is working to establish Lance as a stronger company in the national market and plans to invest more in marketing distribution. As the top executive, he says it's especially important to protect the company's assets while running a reputable and ethical business.

"If you have to think twice, you shouldn't do it," he says. "The legacy of the company will depend on doing the right things."

— Alice Gregory Hartnett '99

*The author, who holds a degree in English from Furman, is a reporter for The Charlotte Observer.*

coordinates communication with the group's members about legislative activities of interest to guardians and their wards. ■ **Scott Sauls** is senior pastor of Greentree Community Church in St. Louis, Mo., and teaches at Covenant Theological Seminary. ■ **ADOPTION:** **Charlie and Lisbeth Wylie '92 Poag**, a son, James Patrick, born March 11, 2004, and adopted in October. Charlie is a senior developer and analyst for Datatel, Inc. Lisbeth is a pediatric dentist with offices in Sumter and Columbia, S.C. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Blair and Hannah Jenkins Keeley**, a daughter, Klara Laine, October 9, 2003, Colonial Heights, Va. Blair is a partner in Special Teams, a sports marketing company. ■ Charles and **Karen Olfert Kuykendall**, a son, William Richard, June 23, Flat Rock, N.C. ■ **James and Erin Lynch**, a son, Ethan Bailey, April 16, Shady Dale, Ga.

## 91

### Next reunion in 2006

On January 1, **Chris Ferrell** became publisher of the *Nashville (Tenn.) Scene*, an alternative weekly newspaper. He is a former member of the Nashville Metro Council and previously worked in marketing and with two Internet companies. He is studying for a Ph.D. in ethics at Vanderbilt University. ■ Southeastern Products Inc., a décor and fixture manufacturing and installation company in Greenville, has promoted **Tracy Garrick** to director of project management. ■ **Robert Marx** of Glen Burnie, Md., is a senior accountant with Regal Decision Systems, Inc., in Linthicum, Md. ■ **David Mohon**, an environmental engineer with Southern Company in Birmingham, Ala., has earned a master's degree in business administration. ■ **MARRIAGE:** **Eden Isbell** and **Andy MacInnis**, September 25. Eden is a human resources director with

Genzyme Corporation in Belmont, Mass. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Terry and Lori Auten Moshier**, a son, James Michael, August 31, Columbus, Ga. ■ **Zack and Heather Dunlap Pace**, a daughter, Emily Caroline, May 21, Lexington, S.C. Zack is band director at White Knoll High School. ■ James and **Barbara Koosa Ryan**, a daughter, Kristin Harriet, July 22, Wedgefield, S.C. ■ **John and Kathy Gibson Taylor**, a daughter, Martha Grace, September 12, Charlotte, N.C.

## 92

### Next reunion in 2007

In August, **Roger Ferrell** became senior pastor at Gwinnett's Family Church in Lawrenceville, Ga. ■ **Matthew and Theresa Harwood Hammond** both work in Atlanta, he at SunTrust Bank and she as an attorney. ■ **Reid Harden** has been named to head the newly established Atlanta office of First Horizon Corporate Financial Services. He previously worked with the banking and real estate finance groups of Wachovia Corp. ■ **Jon Harper** is a fifth-grade teacher in Cambridge, Md. ■ **Amy Henderson** is safety training coordinator at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. She has a new CD, "Back Down," and is working on another. She has been performing lately with The Orderlies, a band that plays original acoustic music with three-part harmonies. ■ **Hope McIlwain** is an associate professor of mathematics at Mercer University in Macon, Ga. ■ **Stephanie Fowler Nichols**, a coordinator with the No Child Left Behind program in the Greenville County School District, has earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of South Carolina. ■ **Kimberlee Fix Young** works as vice president of mergers and acquisitions at First Data Corp. in Denver, Colo. ■

**BIRTHS:** **Brian and Mary Anderson**, a son, Benjamin Rudisill, January 11, 2004, Charlotte, N.C. Brian is director of purchasing for Columbia Beauty Supply. ■ **Robert and Kristi Archer**, a daughter, Kyleigh Elizabeth, September 25, Oceanside, Calif. Rob is director of studies at the Army-Navy Academy. ■ **Richie and Kelly Bagley Barrineau**, a daughter, Kelsie Lowman, January 3, 2004, Summerville, S.C. ■ **Stephen and Karen Hall**, a daughter, Peyton, August 28, Bainbridge Island, Wash. ■ **Tracy and Judy Walthall Ireland**, a son, Clark Winston, March 28, 2004, Alpharetta, Ga. Judy has become a community representative at Sterling on the Lake, a new 1,700-home community. ■ **Greg and Kathryn McCrorey Pisocky**, a son, Alexander Boyd, March 31, 2004, Falls Church, Va. ■ **Frederic and Ashley Norris Ritter**, twins, a son, Garrett Andrew, and a daughter, Riley Grace, June 15, New York, N.Y. Ashley is marketing director with the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation. ■ **Mark and Paige Herrin Stowell**, a daughter, Hope Elaine Kendrick, May 10, Charleston, S.C. ■ **Andrew and Amanda Powell '94 Zorovich**, a son, James, May 26, Belleair, Fla.

## 93

### Next reunion in 2008

**Karla Spelce Thompson** of Marietta, Ga., is employed by Home Depot. ■ **Jay and Jocelyn Shoemaker '96 Urgese** have recently returned to Heidelberg, Germany, from Baghdad. Jocelyn is an attorney in the U.S. Army. ■ **John Whitmire** has been named managing partner of the Greenville General Office of New York Life Insurance Company, overseeing more than 50 agents. He joined New York Life, a Fortune 100 company, in 1993, was named

a partner in 1996 and became a senior partner in 2003. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Dave and Jennifer Horner '95 Bruce**, a son, Connor Slade, September 24. Dave is director of bands at Boiling Springs (N.C.) High School, and Jennifer is an attorney with Thomson-West. ■ **Andrew '91 and Stacy Nations Burr**, a son, Jeremy Drake, September 23, Greenville. ■ **Mark and Caroline Pregonnall McKinney**, a son, Alexander Ryan, February 4, 2004, Mount Pleasant, S.C. ■ **Brent and Jennifer Perkinson Walker**, a daughter, Sydney Rachel, October 9, Raleigh, N.C. Jennifer is a licensed professional counselor with

## 2004-2005 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James H. Simkins, Jr. '78, president; Steven B. Smith '83, president elect; Harriet Arnold Wilburn '74, vice president; Pamela Underwood Thomason '76, past president; Rebecca Hood Becherer '89; Venita Tyus Billingslea '81; Randolph Williams Blackwell '63; J. Chris Brown '89; Rosalie Manly Burnett '49; H. Furman Cantrell '61; John R. Cassidy '62; David S. Cobb '90; Allen Cothran '01; Catherine Hunter Hightower '55; Elizabeth Jean Howard '81; George L. Johnson '68; Vicki Bieksha Johnson '93; William A. Lampley '41; Charles W. Linder '59; Clare Folio Morris '83; Paul B. Nix, Jr. '77; James G. Revels, Jr. '62; Ginger Malone Sauls '75; David M. Schilli '85; Catherine Rakestraw Smith '92; Mickey A. Walker '55; Davin K. Welter '89.

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ValueOptions. ■ **Bill and Shannon Wilkerson Wilson**, a daughter, Elizabeth Rose, October 4, Greenville.

## 94

### *Next reunion in 2009*

**Meredith Allen Belghiti** is manager of administration with General Dynamics in Casablanca, Morocco. ■ **Jim Buckalew** is adventure coordinator of Kanuga Conferences, Inc., in Hendersonville, N.C. ■ **Michele Ballenger Culbreath** of West Columbia, S.C., is an environmental and health manager with the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control. ■ **Kara Finley** of Decatur, Ga., works for Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting) as senior manager, leading a large global software development team. ■ **Kevin Hebblethwaite** of Douglasville, Ga., is director of client development with EDI, Ltd. ■ **Robbie Higdon** has become a master teacher with the Teacher Advancement Program at Bell Street Middle School in Clinton, S.C. ■ The North Carolina State Bar has certified attorney **Rod Kight** as a specialist in consumer bankruptcy law. Kight, principal of Kight Law Office, has offices in Asheville and Sylva. ■ **Kevin McCord** has become a financial risk management consultant in the New York office of KPMG. He previously worked with Liberty International Underwriters. ■ **Hannah Bright Morris** is a self-employed consultant now living in Mount Pleasant, S.C. ■ **Jennifer Frankenberg Parker** has become director of marketing for Bovis Lend Lease, a general contractor in Charlotte, N.C. ■ **David Prophitt** has become Relay for Life state manager with the American Cancer Society in Georgia. He will be responsible for training staff and developing strategic plans for the 170 Relay for Life

events in the state. He was previously assistant director of student involvement for community services at Georgia Institute of Technology. ■ **Jennifer Linvill Scott** of Smyrna, Ga., is a guidance counselor in the Cobb County school system. ■ **Debby Tindall** is principal research chemist with Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport, Tenn. ■ **Jeffrey Westbrook** is teaching English at Pusan University of Foreign Studies in South Korea. He is also lay minister of Crossroads International Fellowship, a small English congregation. ■ **MARRIAGE: Angie Glotzbach** and Chris Bryson, September 25. They live in Columbia, S.C., where she is a pharmaceutical sales representative with Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Inc., and he is a registered nurse with Lexington Medical Center. ■ **BIRTHS: Dustin and Kristen Poremba Cordier**, a daughter, Audrey Jo, October 3. Kristen is a sales director for Mary Kay, Inc., in Naples, Fla. ■ **Peter and Ingrid Kalkofen Kellen**, a daughter, Ulrika Marie, June 15, Birmingham, Ala. ■ **Jason and Sarah Clifford Mullis**, a son, John Samuel, June 11, Greenville. Sarah, a school psychologist, does contract work in Greenville County.

## 95

### *This year is reunion!*

**Nancy Fullbright**, formerly communications specialist with the Economic Development Institute at Georgia Institute of Technology, is now director of university relations and marketing at Mercer University in Macon, Ga. ■ **Tammy Gann** of Lubbock, Texas, became the associate director of the Wesley Foundation at Texas Tech University in July. ■ **Ginny Gaylor** recently joined Pace Communications in Greensboro, N.C., as a managing editor in the company's custom publishing division. ■

**Kimberly Kelly** of Slidell, La., is an oceanographer for the Naval Oceanographic Office at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. ■ **MARRIAGES: Molly Baumgardner** and Markus Wimmer, May 22. They live in Greer, S.C., and Molly is a department team assistant at BMW. ■ **Jennifer Schaming** and Craig Ronan, August 9, 2003. Jennifer was formerly press secretary to U.S. Rep. Nancy Johnson of Connecticut and to former representative and current South Carolina governor **Mark Sanford** '83. She is now a consular officer with the U.S. Department of State. ■ **BIRTHS: Duane** and **Sunny Biasi**, a son, Davis Shelton, August 27, Darien, Conn. Duane is a trader with Soros Fund Management. ■ **Jack and Beatriz Torres Dennis**, a daughter, Olivia, March 2004. Beatriz is a dentist in Greenville. ■ **Ben and Heidi Schrecengost Marlin**, a daughter, Rachel Diane, October 17, 2003. Ben is a captain in the U.S. Army and is deployed in Iraq. ■ **Matthew** and **Melanie Storie**, a son, Owen Kilby, June 16, Roanoke, Va. Matthew is minister to students and Christian activities at Grandin Court Baptist Church. ■ **Zach and Tasha Sims Wade**, a daughter, Gretchen Sidney, May 6, Pittman Center, Tenn.

## 96

### *Next reunion in 2006*

**Melissa Amick** of Taylors, S.C., is a mathematics and computer science teacher at J.L. Mann Academy in Greenville. ■ **Chadwick Gilmer** is a legislative analyst in the Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs for Social Security in Washington, D.C. ■ **Freddy Grahn** is a database escalation engineer with Network Appliance in Durham, N.C. His wife, **Melissa Caron '97 Grahn**, is self-employed in two different businesses. ■ **Sara Jamieson Hammond** of Spartanburg, S.C., is environmental

health manager with the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control. She is also working toward a master's degree in environmental engineering. ■ **BIRTHS: Kevin and Kristin Tankersley Berry**, a son, Landon Riley, October 8, Mount Pleasant, S.C. ■ **Scott '98 and Jane Moody Keefauver**, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, August 9, Easley, S.C. ■ **Mike and Mary Ann Purcell Ridgeway**, a son, Nathan Michael, February 6, 2004, Columbia, S.C. ■ **Jeffrey and Catherine Mabry Shoaf**, a daughter, Caroline Gibson, August 19, Houston, Texas.

## 97

### *Next reunion in 2007*

**Melody Silvers Cook**, research manager for Charter Media in Greenville, was named one of Greenville's "Best and Brightest Under 35" by *Greenville Magazine*. ■ **Shana Ross Dalton** has become the media specialist for Pickens (S.C.) Middle School. She is also pursuing a master's degree in library and information science from the University of South Carolina. ■ **Heather Griffin Kanipe** of Inman, S.C., was named 2004-05 Teacher of the Year for Oakland Elementary School, where she is a media specialist, and for Spartanburg School District 2. ■ **Lindi Eubanks Metcalf** earned her doctorate in education administration and is an assistant principal at Fairforest Elementary School in Spartanburg (S.C.) District 6. ■ **Derek Nimmons** is an information technology specialist with the Newspaper Association of America in Washington, D.C. ■ **Jay Norton** of Charlotte, N.C., is vice president and regulatory compliance manager with Banc of America Investment Services, Inc. ■ **Jeff Pogue** lives in Los Angeles, Calif., and is the high definition consultant and post-production advisor for the feature film

“Venus and Vegas.” ■

**Alan Sharrer** of Rohnert Park, Calif., is finishing his Master of Divinity degree at Golden Gate Seminary. ■ **Claire Thornton** received her nursing degree from the University of Tennessee and is a registered nurse in critical care at Anderson (S.C.) Area Medical Center. ■

**MARRIAGES:** **Jonathan Lewis** and **Ela Bondurant Benz**, June 12. Jonathan is an M.B.A. candidate at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. They live in Hanover, N.H. ■ **Deborah Onley** and **Phil Staley**, July 24. She is a software consultant at the University of South Carolina in Columbia and he is in the U.S. Army National Guard. ■

**Gina Terry** and **Scott Seebohm**, September 18. They live in Canyon, Texas. Gina is a teaching assistant at West Texas A&M University and is working toward a degree in mathematics. ■

**BIRTHS:** **Aaron** and **Heather Peters Collins**, a son, Andrew Michael, July 19, Louisville, Ky. ■ **Jason** and **Angela Cameron Cunningham**, a son, Andrew Cameron, November 15, Johnson City, Tenn. Angela owns a cosmetic dentistry practice, appears frequently on local television and also writes a column for the local newspaper. ■ **Scott** and **Emily Slayton Fritz**, a daughter, Abigail Margaret, February 18, 2004, Leesburg, Va. ■ **Frederick** and **Jana Blevin Heroman**, a son, Prosser James, January 25, 2004, Pfafftown, N.C. ■ **Jesse** and **Patty Walters Laine**, a daughter, Julia Mae, September 21, Flowery Branch, Ga. Patty practices real estate law part time. ■

**Mike** and **Kelly McGinnis Wagner**, a daughter, Elizabeth Ashley, November 16, 2003, Harker Heights, Texas. ■ **Hank** and **Whitney Reynolds Yarborough**, a daughter, Caroline Correen, March 19, 2004, Baton Rouge, La.



## Garden view

Among the paintings by Kathy Stark '85 on display at Furman October 25-December 3 was this spectacular scene of the Janie Earle Furman Rose Garden.

Stark's show included several oceanside scenes and a number of large-scale paintings of flowers, all distinguished by their vibrant colors and technical sophistication. In her artist's statement that accompanied the exhibit, she said, "In general, I choose subject matter from which I can create a window to the natural world through which the viewer has a heightened awareness of its beauty. I especially enjoy painting flowers, whether in a tablescape

or in their natural settings. To me, close-in, heady views of flowers are elegant, sensual and timeless."

A resident of Ortega, Fla., Stark did graduate work at the University of Florida. Now a full-time artist, she has worked as a church youth director and as a designer, illustrator and artist in the motion picture industry. She has also worked with a company that creates environments for entertainment attractions, museums and zoos.

Visit the Web at [www.kathystark.com](http://www.kathystark.com) to learn more about Stark, her work and her approach to art.

## 98

### Next reunion in 2008

**Matt Black** of Smyrna, Ga., is director of operations for Vivid Marketing. ■ **Marie Swann Cope**, an assistant rector in the Episcopal church, has taken a leave of absence from her job in Shelby, N.C.,

and moved to Munich, Germany, with her husband, where they will live until November in fulfillment of a contract with BMW. ■ **Chuck Dillard** is in his third year of teaching in the music department at Furman and has assumed the role of staff accompanist. ■ **Jamie Duncan**

is a student pastor at East Pickens (S.C.) Baptist Church. ■ **Kerrie Selteneim** is a staffing specialist with Fidelity Investments in Boston. ■ **James Sikes** is a graduate student at the University of Maryland, working on a Ph.D. in marine and evolutionary biology. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Scott**

and Christina **Clanton**, a son, Tyler Scott, May 25, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Scott is an assistant vice president with National Bank of South Carolina. ■ **Scott and Virginia Danforth Freeman**, a son, Drew, May 23, Simpsonville, S.C. ■ **Cordes and Emily Ford**, a daughter, Eliza Ann Compere, August 10, Charleston, S.C. ■ **Bart and Katie St. Clair Garrett**, a daughter, Madelynn Clair, April 29, Duluth, Ga. ■ **Jason and Jenny Gilbert**, a son, Carter, August 23, Frankfort, Ky. Jason owns Gilbert's Gun Shop. ■ **Richard and Katie McCord Grice**, a son, McCord Sherman, September 30, 2003, Atlanta. ■ **Travis and Amy Lang Johnson**, a daughter, Lillian, August 24. Travis is a resident in the Hendersonville (N.C.) Family Medicine Residency Program. ■ **Brent and Jayda Biddix Justus**, a son, John Alexander, August 20, Midlothian, Va. ■ **Collie and Kacy Cornwell '99 Lehn**, a son, Carson Whitaker, April 15, Athens, Ga. Collie is in law school at the University of Georgia. ■ **Daniel and Tara Charles '00 Martz**, a daughter, Carsyn Elizabeth, April 11, Marietta, Ga.

## 99

### Next reunion in 2009

**Beth Batten Crocker** of Renton, Wash., is self-employed as a math tutor and has started a scrapbooking business. ■ **Suzanna Wellman Combs** is a senior consultant with Protiviti, an independent risk consulting firm in Chicago. ■ **Allison Gordon** lives in Winston-Salem, N.C., and is a mental health therapist with Daymark Recovery Services. ■ **Matthew Hobbs** was released from the U.S. Army in November and now works in management with IKEA in Washington, D.C. He was scheduled to enter George Mason University in January to pursue a doctorate in history. ■ **Trevor Ream**

recently completed his master's degree in architecture at Clemson University and joined Batson Architects in Greenville. His focus is on the firm's health care projects. He is finishing his first year of an intern development program in preparation for the architectural registration exam. ■ **Laura Rigdon** teaches first grade at E.L. Connolly Elementary School in Atlanta. ■ **Mark Rowe** of Greer, S.C., is assistant legal counsel with Ryobi Technologies, Inc. ■ **MARRIAGES: Troy Albee** and Krista Louise Deutschmann, August 17, 2003. Troy is an assistant pastor at Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church in Greenville. ■ **Megan Fauber** and Brian Klakring, October 24. They live in St. Petersburg, Fla. Brian is a marketing analyst at Raymond James and Megan is in her first year of a pediatric residency at the University of South Florida. ■ **Alice Gregory** and Howie Hartnett, May 15. They live in Charlotte, N.C., and are reporters for *The Charlotte Observer*. ■ **Cameron Alan Runyan** and Jennifer Marie Sackman, civil ceremony September 2 in Sanremo, Italy, and religious ceremony October 16 in Estill, S.C. He is director of development for the Richland County (S.C.) Court Appointed Special Advocates Program and she is employed with Security Services of America. ■ **BIRTH: Jason and Margie Rawls Chambless**, a daughter, Bailey Kathryn, September 12, Savannah, Ga.

## 00

### This year is reunion!

**Allison Beeson** of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., is employed in admissions and marketing at Palm Beach Atlantic University. ■ **Becca Cole Brown** is a pharmacist for Commerce (Ga.) Drug Company, Inc. ■ **Chris Cotton** is a Latin teacher at Arnall Middle School in

Newnan, Ga. ■ **Laura Christian Dempsey** is a mental health therapist for children with Wake County Human Services in Raleigh, N.C. ■ **Tracy Mueller Elliott** is an attorney in the firm of Alston & Bird in Atlanta. ■ **Mark Gomsak** is a first-year law student at the Brandeis School of Law of the University of Louisville. ■ **Marylea Hart** is a staff geologist for Geohazards, Inc., in Gainesville, Ga. ■ **Amy Oakes** works in sales with Ask Jeeves in Chicago. ■ **Leigh Rhoads** is a third-year law student at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. ■ **Mary Robertson McKie** of Cannon Falls, Minn., is in veterinary school at the University of Minnesota. ■ **Emily Roberts** has become office manager for Mississippi congressman Roger Wicker. She previously was a youth assistant at Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tenn. ■ **Katie Gamble Russell** works with Keller Williams Realty in Charlotte, N.C. ■ **Charles Shanlever** is studying for his Doctor of Pharmacy and M.B.A. degrees at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. His wife, **Alice Morrison '01 Shanlever**, graduated from Wake Forest University School of Law in May and has passed the North Carolina Bar. ■ **David and Tiffany Bordelon '01 Walsh** live in Beverly Hills, Calif. He works in accounting and she is acting professionally. ■ **Lizzi Lightner Winter** of Atlanta is an electronic resources librarian at Georgia State University. ■ **MARRIAGES: Erin Carnahan** and Jason Lane, October 23, Raleigh, N.C. ■ **Kari-Kristin Anderson Cox** and Wyeth Baillie Callaway, July 31, Greenville. Both attend graduate school at the University of Texas in Austin. ■ **Eloise Bane Odom** and **Zachary David Morgan '01**, September 18. He is an associate attorney at Vernon,

Vernon, Wooten, Brown, Andrews & Garrett, P.A., in Burlington, N.C. ■ **Jonathan Bohn** and **Emily Wolfe '02**, June 12. They live in Atlanta. ■ **Geoffrey Noel Schoonmaker** and Dayna Michelle Thompson, June 12. Dayna attends Wake Forest Divinity School and Noel is senior pastor at Churchland Baptist Church in Lexington, N.C. ■ **Stephanie Spottswood** and Gregory Blair Scurlock, Jr., May 15. They live in Greenville where Stephanie is employed by Consolidated Tires. ■ **Lauren Tyler** and Brent Wright, September 4. They live in Indianapolis, Ind. ■ **BIRTHS: Scott and Kimberly Whitten Dabels**, a daughter, Cayenne Elizabeth, December 27, 2003, Locust Grove, Ga. Kimberly teaches private music lessons. ■ **Giff and Ashley Clark Ransom**, a son, Gideon Roland, August 2, Elizabethton, Tenn.

## 01

### Next reunion in 2006

**Seth Blackwell**, an officer in the U.S. Army, has been transferred to Germany after a year in Iraq flying Blackhawk helicopters with the 1st Armored Division. ■ **Hannah Blevins** is a graduate student in performance studies at the University of North Carolina. She has conducted field work in southwestern Virginia and northeastern Tennessee, interviewing coal miners for their oral histories and descriptions of low-wall coal mining. ■ **Megan Palmer Camp** is a clinical social worker in the trauma and burn units at Shands Hospital of the University of Florida in Gainesville. ■ **Stuart Connell** attends Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas. ■ **Wes Culberson** is working on his dissertation at the University of Wisconsin. He teaches sailing in his free time. ■ **Bridgett Giles** of Bristol, Conn., is a commercial operations coordinator at ESPN. ■

Having earned her master's degree in clinical psychology, **Jennifer Scholz** is a psycho-metrist in Atlanta. ■ **Nicole Sheppe**, a graduate of Mercer University law school, has been hired as an associate with the Thomerson Law Firm in Savannah, Ga. ■ **Sarah Tollick**, who has been serving as a missionary in China and an English teacher at the University of Yantai, anticipated returning to the States in January. ■ Now in his fourth year of teaching orchestra, **Christian Williams** is director of the philharmonic orchestra at Dorman High School in Spartanburg County (S.C.) School District 6. ■ **MARRIAGE: Heather Lundell** and Paul Dorrance, September 5. Heather received her doctorate from Belmont University and is an occupational therapist. Paul is a pilot in the Air Force, stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. ■ **BIRTH: Brent '02** and **Kelly Benning Huckaby**, a son, Joshua Benning Huckaby, May 19. Brent is director of contemporary worship at St. John Lutheran Church in Winter Park, Fla.

## 02

**Next reunion in 2007**  
**Chris Bainbridge** of Lincoln, Neb., is in the second year of a master's program at the University of Nebraska. He is producing two documentaries, one on eight-man football and the other on Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood." ■ **Kate Hamel** is in her third year at Emory University School of Medicine in Decatur, Ga. ■ **Kelly Hayes** is a student at the Medical University of South Carolina School of Pharmacy in Charleston. ■ **Alexander Kinnaird** is a third-year medical student at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. ■ **Randy Kinnett** lives in Denton, Texas, and is a doctoral student in musicology at the University

of North Texas. ■ **Stefanie Putnam** of Greenville, N.C., is a third-year medical student at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

■ **Kirk Satterfield** won the TaylorMade-adidas Golf PGA Assistant Professional Championship October 31 at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Kirk, who works at Deepdale Golf Club in Manhasset, N.Y., earned \$9,000 and was invited to participate in the 2004 Australian PGA National Futures Championship.

■ **MARRIAGES: Julie Esser** and **Brandon Barrett '03**, December 27, 2003. Julie is an elementary special education teacher in Las Cruces, N.M., and Brandon is pursuing a master's degree in wildlife science in the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Sciences at New Mexico State University. ■ **April Marie Neslund** and **Matthew Ralph Mucci**, November 13. They live in Tallahassee, Fla. She is a legislative assistant to Florida state Senator Paul Dockery and he is the government relations director for Enterprise Florida. ■ **Annabelle Hewett Robinson** and **Eric Dawson Carter '04**, August 7. They live in Greenville, where he is employed at Fluor Corporation. ■ **Bonnie Warman** and **William Byrnes IV**, July 24. Both are high school teachers in Richmond, Va.

## 03

**Next reunion in 2008**  
**Brad** and **Neely Tesseneer Benton** live in New Orleans, La., where he is pursuing a master's degree in Latin American Studies at Tulane University. Neely works in admissions at Loyola University and is taking theology classes. In addition, she sings in a Dixieland jazz band which performed recently for President Bush. ■ **Angela Christian** is a project assistant

at Motley Price LLC in Mount Pleasant, S.C. She also teaches private voice and piano lessons.

■ **Jon Dumitru** of Johns Island, S.C., is in his second year at the Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine. ■ **Chuck Flannagan**

of Hampton, Ga., is corporate sales manager at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. ■ **Clint Hill**, who formerly worked in athletics marketing and game operations at Furman, has joined the university's development staff as associate director of annual giving. ■

**Whitney Jones** joined the staff at Emory University in Decatur, Ga., in the fall of 2004 as an assistant volleyball coach. She was a volunteer assistant coach at Furman during the 2003 season and has taught at a number of volleyball summer camp programs. ■ **Jade Mazarin** attends the Psychological Studies Institute in Atlanta where she is studying for a master's degree in marriage and family therapy. ■ **Adrienne Neale** works in sales with Century 21 Boling & Associates in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

## 04

**Next reunion in 2009**  
**Craig Caudill** works at Milliken in Marietta, S.C. ■ **Russell Deal** is enrolled in the histotechnology program at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. ■ **Stephanie Gunter** is assistant events planner with Scan Source in Greenville. ■ **Shannon Roe** is a Princeton-in-Asia Fellow and is working for a year in Kunming, Yunnan, China, at Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center, a pesticide reduction organization associated with the United Nations. ■ **Elizabeth Snipes** was awarded a Studio Art Centers International (SACI) scholarship to study in Florence, Italy, during the fall of 2004. She was selected from a competitive applicant

pool and received a \$1,000 award in recognition of the quality of her artistic and academic achievement.

■ **MARRIAGES: Cheryl Carnahan** and **Mark Chambers**, October 16. Mark is assigned to the Fort Gordon Army base in Augusta, Ga. ■ **Elizabeth Neely** and **Mark Rogers-Berry**, August 14. Elizabeth works for the Fund for Theological Education in Atlanta. ■ **Katherine Sandoval** and **John Taylor '02**, November 27. They live in Boston, where Katherine is a graduate student at New England Conservatory of Music and John attends New England School of Law.

## DEATHS

**Minnie Carolyn Dowling Till '25**, June 18, Aiken, S.C. She was a retired school teacher, having taught in Swansea, S.C., and Asheville, N.C.

**Helen Riley Hunt Hammett '30**, October 18, Greenville.

**Margaret Spinks Parker '31**, September 21, Greenville. She was head bookkeeper and accountant for Black Electrical Supply Co. for many years, was an amateur photographer and was active in civic affairs.

**Margaret Camp Robertson '33**, September 6, Charleston, S.C.

**Selene Rodgers Pool '35**, October 6, Georgetown, S.C.

**Benjamin Reid Clanton '36**, August 27, Longview, Texas. After receiving his doctorate in chemistry, he taught briefly at Baylor University and then worked in research at Callaway Mills in LaGrange, Ga. He served two tours in the U.S. Army and through the Army's specialized training program earned a medical degree from Tulane University. He opened his own office in 1953 and for 25 years practiced pediatrics in Longview. Active in civic organizations, he was

a member of the American Medical Society, the Academy of Pediatrics and the Gregg County Medical Society.

**Robert Alton Mobley '36**, November 29, Lancaster, S.C. A member of the Furman board of trustees from 1960-64, he retired after a long career as an administrator for the Lancaster, Cherokee and Colleton school districts of South Carolina. He was a former chair of the Lancaster County school board.

**Madison Wyman Breland '37**, September 20, Greenwood, S.C. He was an elementary school principal in Charleston, S.C.; principal and superintendent of public schools in Fair Play, S.C.; and assistant principal and principal of Greenwood High School. He retired from Greenwood School District 50 as assistant superintendent in 1973. He was a life member of the National Education Association and three times a delegate to the national convention. In 1972 he was one of two South Carolina educators chosen by Kent University to attend a seminar in Russia. He served many other educational and civic organizations.

**Hubert Talmage Tucker '37**, September 27, Greenville. He was an Air Force veteran of World War II and had retired from Railway Express after 37 years of service.

**Paula Goodwin Vaughan '37**, October 15, Greenville. She taught school in Virginia for five years before beginning a career in Greenville in which she served as secretary to five mayors. She also worked with the South Carolina Department of Social Services Child Development, was a member of the Secretarial Science Board at Greenville Tech and was a member of the Greenville chapter of the National Secretary's Association.

**Morgan Todd Milford '41**, November 28, Greenville. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania medical school, he received his surgical training at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston, Texas, and practiced at Greenville General Hospital and Hillcrest Hospital until his retirement in 1986.

**Marguerite McCaskill Eaton Purvis '42**, October 13, Florence, S.C. She was a radio broadcaster in the Pee Dee of South Carolina for more than 35 years. She also worked in public relations and owned a Putt-Putt golf course. She was involved in many volunteer activities and received the Order of the Arrow for her volunteer service with the Boy Scouts of America.

**Richard Heller '44**, October 4, Franklin, N.C. He was an ordained Baptist minister and served pastorates in Texas and Florida. He retired in 1985 after 18 years as pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, Fla. He was a master Mason for 40 years.

**Mary Frances Ashmore Walters '45**, October 26, Greenville. She was a caregiver in the nursery at her church, Overbrook Baptist. For many years she was secretary at Greenville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

**Marian Horton Williams '45**, August 22, Jacksonville, Fla. She was an alto soloist and was a member and past president of the Friday Musicale chorus. She served on the board of St. Johns Terrace Home.

**Phyllis Anne Greene Cooper '47**, December 8, Aiken, S.C. She was a retired teacher, having taught in both Aiken County and Greenville County. A talented painter, she was a member of the Augusta Chapter Porcelain

Artist Society and the International Porcelain Artist Society.

**Harold Patrick Duvall '48**, September 9, Houston, Texas. He had worked as an auditor for Washington Gas Co. in Washington, D.C.

**Robert John Baumann '49**, August 24, Richmond, Va. He taught and coached in Virginia for one year before entering the Air Force pilot training program and being assigned to Japan, flying to Korea and Southeast Asia. In 1956 he was hired by Capital Airlines (later United Airlines) and spent his career in the Washington, D.C., area.

**Robert Lee Pou '49**, October 1, Greenville. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Corps during World War II and was employed by Rawlings Oil Company before his retirement.

**John Mark Smith, Jr. '49**, November 5, Rock Hill, S.C. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and was retired from the commercial finance industry. At the time of his death he was employed with Sherer Dental Lab.

**John Marion Hammond '50**, August 29, Greenville. He was a veteran of World War II.

**Blanche McGuire Coppedge '53**, September 27, Asheville, N.C. She taught school in Savannah, Ga., and Warrenton, Va., was a longtime volunteer for Deerfield Retirement Community and was active in a number of civic organizations in Asheville.

**William Marion Corley, Sr. '53**, October 30, Greenwood, S.C. He pastored five Baptist churches in South Carolina before retiring in 1992 from First Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Greenwood. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

## CLASS NOTES POLICY

**B**ecause 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. Birth and marriage announcements for alumni couples who graduated in different years are included under the earliest graduation date (except if requested otherwise); they are not listed under both classes. We ask that you include your spouse's or child's name and the date and city where the birth or marriage occurred.

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

**Frank Pierson '53**, October 7, Greenville. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was employed by Duke Energy as an electrical technician for 43 years.

**James Mattison '54**, October 13, Belton, S.C. He retired from the South Carolina Department of Social Services after 27 years. He was an alderman and twice mayor of the city of Belton. Co-owner of a grocery store/service station, he also owned a small insurance agency and was office manager for Haynie Builders Incorporated. He



# Furman alumni news

## CLASS NOTES WINTER 05, cont.

was a member of the Masons and Hejaz and was an honorary member of the Al Alaska Temple of Anchorage, Alaska.

**Robert Folk Steiger '54**, October 6, Wrightsville Beach, N.C. After college he entered the family luggage and leather goods business in Williamsport, Pa. He later co-founded Sharon Luggage, Ltd., of the Carolinas and served as vice president of the company until his retirement in 1992. He was a U.S. Army veteran and was a Mason and Shriner.

**George Lewis Parsons, Sr. '59**, November 1, Seneca, S.C. He was an embalmer and funeral director for more than five decades with Davenport and Robinson Funeral Homes. He was a Mason, a member of the Lions Club and the American Legion, and co-founder of the Rosa Clark Clinic, which he directed for 10 years. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict.

**Lyman Wilson '59**, April 4, Henderson, N.C. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World

War II and a retired Baptist minister, having pastored several churches in the Henderson area.

**David Bell, Jr. '60**, November 11, Mount Pleasant, S.C. A retired Baptist minister, he served churches in the two Carolinas. After retirement he continued to serve on an interim basis in a number of churches in the Charleston area. He was in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps during the Korean Conflict.

**William Maness, Jr. '61**, September 22, Alpharetta, Ga. He had worked for Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta since 1977 and served as director of recreation.

**Richard Earle Murdoch '61**, September 24, White Plains, N.Y. Senior pastor of Rye (N.Y.) Presbyterian Church at the time of his death, he had also held pastorates in Corfu, N.Y., New Jersey, Nebraska and Michigan. He was active in the Civil Rights movement and Fair Housing movement and helped start a jail ministry at Attica Prison. He was a charter and clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. He was involved in many community causes and served on numerous Presbytery committees.

**Daniel Larry Clanton '62**, October 2, Sunset Beach, N.C. He had been employed with the Plaza Men's Store in Charlotte, N.C., and Rowell's in Raleigh, N.C.

**Mason Edwards '62**, September 20, Taylors, S.C. He was owner of The Music Room in Greer, S.C., was a member of Mensa, was a former radio announcer with WFBC and served as sound engineer at Taylors First Baptist Church.

**Gloria Rollins Batson '64**, August 28, Simpsonville, S.C. She was a nurse and had been a surgical assistant for two local doctors.

**Albert Sams Geddie '69**, August 31, Mauldin, S.C. Before his retirement, he was owner and operator of Al's Gutter Service and had also been director of public works for the city of Mauldin. He was a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and held a number of leadership positions in the organization. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

**Jeffrey Kelley Wood '69**, October 6, Tampa, Fla. He was a banker in Idaho before joining First Union Bank of Florida in 1987, from which he was retired. He was a Mason and a licensed mortgage and insurance broker. With his wife, he established Wood Property Management in the Tampa area.

**John A. Hamrick**, October 24, Charleston, S.C. Recipient of an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Furman in 1953, he was founder of Baptist College of Charleston (now Charleston Southern University) and served as its first president from 1964-84. He was pastor of First Baptist Church of Charleston from 1940-69 and in 1951 became the youngest person to be elected president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. A former member of the Furman board of trustees, he was a co-founder of the South Carolina Baptist Historical Society.

## Campus Directory

Frequently called Furman telephone numbers (area code 864):

**Main University Number**  
294-2000

**Academic Records (Registrar)**  
294-3616

**Admissions**  
294-2034

**Alumni Association**  
1-800-PURPLE3

**Athletic Ticket Office**  
294-3097

**Bookstore**  
294-2164

**Career Services**  
294-2106

**Annual Giving**  
294-3475

**Graduate Studies**  
294-2213

**Parents Programs**  
294-3465

**Student Services**  
294-2202

For other administrative office numbers, call the main number or visit [www.furman.edu](http://www.furman.edu) and follow the faculty/staff link to the campus telephone directory.



## Network monitor

Nickelodeon exec an advocate for responsible programming

Waiting in the funhouse reception area to meet Jean Margaret Smith, it's easy to imagine that her job must be pretty wacky. With whimsical, brightly colored furniture and multiple television sets blaring episodes of "SpongeBob SquarePants," this is the ultimate kids' playroom.

But Smith's job as senior vice president for public affairs and administration at Nickelodeon is anything but child's play. "My job is to be the conscience of the company in many cases and to be concerned about marketing to kids, to keep tabs on what's going on in D.C.," says the 1986 Furman graduate. "We are an entertainment network, but it's not just all about cartoons."

Indeed, since Janet Jackson's infamous "wardrobe malfunction" during the 2004 Super Bowl, the Federal Communications Commission has been under enormous political pressure to monitor more closely what's broadcast into America's living rooms. And TV shows for children have always been subjected to extra scrutiny by regulators. "The media landscape is changing, and there's a lot of concern" about what children are exposed to, Smith says.

During her 11 years with Viacom's Nickelodeon, Smith has been addressing those concerns. She was hired to start the network's "Big Help" campaign, designed to help children feel more connected to their communities through volunteering.

"We have a real strong sense that with great power comes great responsibility — that we have the ability to help kids connect to their world," says Smith, who also works for Nick at Nite, TV Land and Spike TV. Her role is to build relationships for the company, monitor regulation and legislation, develop alliances with consumer groups and monitor academic research about television.

Oh, and she wears one other hat: She manages the interior office spaces for the networks' headquarters in midtown Manhattan, which entails working with architects to create appropriate workspaces for the creative types employed there.

One of her current projects, "Let's Just Play," aims "to empower kids to make healthy decisions in their lives about being active, through public service announcements and an off-channel, non-television infrastructure to support activities on the local level," Smith says. Partnering with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the National PTA and other groups, Nickelodeon is distributing half a million dollars in grants to local organizations. In October, the network's channels went dark for an entire Saturday afternoon to promote the initiative.

"We know that sedentary lifestyles are



Among her many duties, Jean Margaret Smith serves on the board of directors of the National Education Association Foundation for the Improvement of Education.

causing problems such as obesity, and kids know it too," she says. "We believe we have the power to get this message to kids to have a well-rounded life. We believe that what kids watch, what they see, every experience for kids is a learning opportunity."

There was a time not so long ago when Smith didn't even own a television set. Raised in a world of academia in Columbia, S.C., she majored in history at Furman. "Both of my parents are teachers and two of my siblings are, so I think I was planning to be a teacher or work for a museum."

After graduation, Smith considered graduate school but decided at the last minute "to see a little bit of the larger world." First stop: Washington, where she worked for Rep. Robin Tallon (D-S.C.), starting as a receptionist and working her way up to legislative director. She later joined the House Agriculture Committee to work on nutrition issues.

Next stop: Cairo, Egypt, where she lived for 18 months. "I was taking Arabic and thinking about graduate school in Middle Eastern Studies, plus I had never done the semester abroad thing," explains Smith, who helped manage several freelance projects for the United States Agency for International Development, including a desert reclamation effort and a study on the viability of marketing Egyptian produce in Europe.

But while in Cairo, she says, she realized that she'd "be 85 before I came anywhere close to mastering intermediate

Arabic, so I was looking to come back." About that time, her mentor from her Capitol Hill days, Marva Smalls, asked her to come to New York to work for Nickelodeon.

Which brings us to the latest stop of Smith's round-the-world journey. "I was a little naive," she recalls of her move to the Big Apple. "I thought because I adjusted so well in Cairo and had lived in D.C. I could come to New York and be fine, but it was much harder than I thought."

"It's what every new person in New York feels, I think. How do you connect with people? You try to have lunch with somebody and it takes 18 months." On the plus side, she says, the city was a lot safer than she imagined and a perfect place for the solo explorer.

Eleven years later, Smith remains in New York, although she continues to call Columbia home. "I'm really a small-town girl at heart, but to be the unfamiliar one in a place is more satisfying to me," she says.

That curiosity to explore the world was nurtured at Furman. "From my history classes and German language classes to art history, it was a good four years of not just getting all the facts in, but developing those curiosity muscles that have really enriched my life."

— Carl Sullivan '92

The author holds a degree in political science from Furman. Formerly editor of the Web site for Editor and Publisher magazine, he is now an associate editor at Newsweek.com in New York.

# ‘Our Creed’

The Furman Alumni Association strives to provide support, guidance and leadership to the university by offering opinions and counsel, participating in campus activities, supporting the university’s fundraising efforts and promoting Furman whenever possible.

That’s the ideal, in a nutshell, for today’s Alumni Association, approximately 25,000 strong.

And things haven’t really changed that much over the years, as the statement below suggests. It is taken from the Furman Alumni Association Constitution and By-Laws, dated May 23, 1928, and published in *The Furman Bulletin* (precursor to the magazine) of October 1942.

At the time the statement was written Furman had yet to coordinate with Greenville Woman’s College and was still all-male, which explains the references to “sons of Furman.”

Over the years the by-laws and constitution have seen their share of revisions, but after almost 80 years, the sentiments expressed here still resonate. Published under the title “Our Creed,” the statement reads, in part:

■ **We believe** in Furman University, its glorious history, its present efficiency, and its future promise.

■ **We believe** every son of Furman is solemnly obligated to use his utmost influence in the support of the institution and the promotions of its interests.

■ **We believe** every son of Furman should on all available occasions say a good word for his Alma Mater and the work she is doing.

■ **We believe** every son of Furman should exert himself actively to enlist able and promising students of good character and worthy ambition annually for his Alma Mater.

■ **We believe** every son of Furman should put his Alma Mater in his annual budget of gifts as the beneficiary of a reasonable amount of his benevolences.

■ **We believe** every son of Furman is obligated to enlist other benevolent people in the financial support of his Alma Mater. The supreme problem of Furman in the future is financial, and the active support of her sons is her chief hope.

■ **We believe** every son of Furman is obligated to keep in constant touch with his Alma Mater and the Alumni Association, giving to those charged with the conduct and administration of the institution his sympathy, his advice, his encouragement, and his constructive criticism.

■ **We believe** that the sons of Furman by their united support in the ways mentioned above and in other ways that may be open to them are able to keep our beloved institution in the forefront of educational progress and service throughout all the years to come.

Alumni director Tom Triplitt ’76 says, “Other than revising the language to include both men and women, I’m not sure I’d change much of anything. I think the essential message is timeless. It rings as true today as it did in 1928 as to how we hope alumni feel about Furman.”







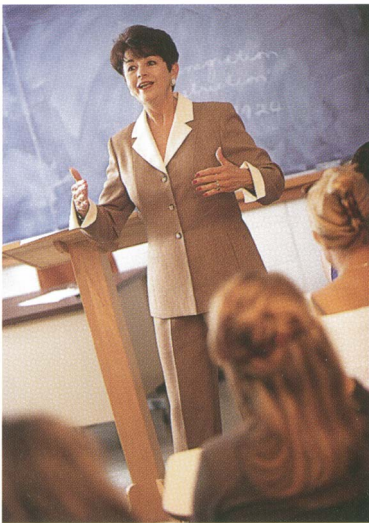
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## Inside



Diane Vecchio is Chief Reader for the AP U.S. history program.

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Furman students and faculty travel to Chile for an international summit.

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