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## Barry funds scholarships to honor Furman friends

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**TWENTY YEARS AGO**, a Nike shoe commercial built around the words “Bo Knows” featured Bo Jackson, the football/baseball standout and Heisman Trophy winner from Auburn University.

Furman’s version of Bo didn’t come close to winning college football’s top individual honor, but he was a football/baseball player who graduated in 1954 with something as priceless as a Heisman.

Furman’s Bo knows friendship.

“Bo” is Ret. Army Col. F. Pelzer Barry, whose generosity toward alma mater has resulted in football and baseball scholarships, two of which honor friends from his college days. Barry is from Summerville, S.C., and is a descendant of two distinguished South Carolina families. He and his family were known as “the Barry Boys” for their prowess as state skeet champions.

He attended Furman on a football scholarship and after graduation entered the military. A pilot of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, he spent 10 years on active duty and 15 in the reserves. Afterward he went into real estate and real estate development.

He did well in business and decided to share



some of his good fortune with Furman. The university has established the Bo and Mickey Barry Football Scholarship and soon will set up the Bo and Mickey Barry Baseball Scholarship, named for the benefactor and his wife.

Barry also stipulated that Furman use some of his gifts to create baseball scholarships honoring two college friends and teammates, Lucius Weeks ’54 and Russ Sutton ’54.

Ken Pettus, director of athletic development, says of Barry, “He’s very generous. He loves Furman dearly and attributes his success to the lessons he learned while playing sports at Furman and to lifelong friends like Lucius Weeks and Russ Sutton.”

Of Barry’s generosity, Pettus says, “[Men’s tennis coach] Paul Scarpa has a scholarship set up by many kids he coached. The parents of [women’s tennis coach] Debbie Southern honored her with a scholarship. I’d guess 30 percent of our endowed scholarships honor other people. But as far as teammates go, that’s pretty rare.”

Barry, who lives in a retirement community in Summerville, says, “I’m just glad I could help. Furman gave me a four-year football scholarship. I appreciated it at the time. I don’t know if I would have gone to college or not. I felt it was time to pay back a little bit.”

As for honoring his college friends, he says, “Russ Sutton was my roommate. He lives in Greenville. I talk to him on the phone but haven’t seen him in a good bit. Lucius Weeks was a [KA] fraternity brother of mine.”

Barry, who is recovering from a stroke, enjoyed a recent visit from the Furman baseball team, which stopped by to see him on a trip to play Charleston Southern. “They are fine young men,” he says.

— ANN GREEN

*To learn more about supporting athletic scholarships, contact [ken.pettus@furman.edu](mailto:ken.pettus@furman.edu).*

## Furman football mourns loss of Spear Sedgley

**SPEAR SEDGLEY**, Furman’s highly respected football equipment manager for two decades, died April 1 following a yearlong battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. He was 65.

“We’ve lost a fine man and loyal, dedicated member of the Furman football family,” said Paladin football coach Bobby Lamb. “Spear was loved and respected by every player who put on the Furman uniform over the past 20 years and by everyone who had the pleasure to know

him and work with him. He faced his final battle with great courage and dignity, reminding us all of the true blessing of each day we are given.”

Sedgley was born in Portland, Maine, and after high school entered the U.S. Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam for four years. He joined the Furman staff in 1988 as part of the university’s film crew before taking over as football equipment manager in 1990. He remained in that job until retiring in August 2009.

The football team honored him with a

plaque and a helmet decal bearing his name during the 2009 season finale against Wofford.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl, of 205 Old Saluda Dam Rd., Greenville 29611; and by three daughters, several grandchildren, two sisters and a brother.

*The Paladin Club has established a fund in Sedgley’s honor to benefit current and future volunteer football equipment managers. To learn more, contact [ken.pettus@furman.edu](mailto:ken.pettus@furman.edu).*