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## Helping each other in times of need

Tom Triplitt '76  
*Furman University*

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## HELPING EACH OTHER IN TIMES OF NEED

I was on campus with some prospective students on the Sunday evening in March that Furman students were returning from spring break. There was a palpable feeling that students were happy to see each other and be back “home.”

It made me appreciate even more the nebulous concept of the “Furman Family.” Here are some ideas to make it a little less nebulous.

We are in one of the most uncertain economic times in our history. Knowing that, Furman is here to help all members of its close-knit family.

The Office of Career Services, headed by John Barker, offers free assistance to alumni. To learn what the office can do for you, visit the Web at [www.furman.edu/ocs](http://www.furman.edu/ocs) or contact Larry Hudson, alumni career counselor, at [larry.hudson@furman.edu](mailto:larry.hudson@furman.edu). The Alumni Office can also provide lists of alumni working in specific areas.

In the Office of Internship Programs, Susan Zeiger can work with you to set up an internship for a current student. Students even have access to funding to support their internship through the Furman Advantage program. Learn more at [www.furman.edu/intern](http://www.furman.edu/intern) or by writing [susan.zeiger@furman.edu](mailto:susan.zeiger@furman.edu).

These are the kinds of services Furman provides. But you can reciprocate. If a Furman student or alum gets in touch about career possibilities, please take the time to share your wisdom. Any advice or suggestions about whom they could contact or where they might look would be most valuable.

Furman also sponsors a career networking evening for students and alumni. This year’s event took place in



February, when the Young Alumni Council, the Office of Career Services, the Student Alumni Council, the Alumni Office and the Office of Internship Programs hosted an on-campus event attended by about 100 alumni and an equal number of students.

We will be holding similar programs around the country in the coming months. If you receive an invitation, we hope you will attend. Even if you’re not in the job market, it’s a great opportunity to meet and greet Furman friends — and you never know what kind of contacts you might make.

### HOMEcomings: OCTOBER 16-18

Plans are in full swing for Homecoming 2009, October 16-18. Classes in reunion this fall end in 4 and 9.

In keeping with Furman’s commitment to sustainability, the five youngest reunion classes (1984, 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2004) and members of non-reunion classes from 1985 to 2008 will not receive hard copies of the Homecoming brochure. Instead, they’ll receive a postcard and e-mail reminders regarding Homecoming.

Along with the traditional events — football, lunch at Cherrydale, departmental gatherings, Friday night fun on Furman Mall — the university is introducing a special activity for alumni who took part in the Church-Related Vocations/Exploration of Vocational Ministry program. Former CRV/EVM students are invited to the Bryan Garden Room of the Charles E. Daniel Chapel on Friday evening, October 16, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for a reception hosted by the Office of the Chaplains.

More information on Homecoming will be coming your way soon, either through the mail or on the Web at <http://alumni.furman.edu>.

Homecoming also calls to mind thoughts of your class gift. One way to boost your class gift — and

invest in future generations — is through a gift annuity, which provides an income tax deduction, guaranteed annuity payments for life, and the satisfaction of knowing that the remaining principal in your fund will benefit Furman in the future.

Visit <http://furman.planyourlegacy.org> to learn more, or contact the Office of Planned Giving at (864) 294-3461, [planned.giving@furman.edu](mailto:planned.giving@furman.edu).

### A SPECIAL SINGERS REUNION

June 1 is the deadline to register for this year’s Furman Singers reunion. Bingham Vick, Jr., director of the Singers since 1970, has announced that he will retire after the 2009-10 school year, so this marks his final reunion as the active director of the Singers.

Most of the weekend’s activities will take place on campus, with accommodations in North Village. The culminating performance will be Sunday morning, July 26, at First Baptist Church in Greenville.

Visit <http://alumni.furman.edu> and follow the Furman Singers reunion link for registration details.

### THE PERFECT MEETING PLACE

Many of you are in leadership positions in your companies, so remember Furman’s Conference and Event Services if you are planning business-related meetings or conferences.

The Younts Conference Center provides great service and wonderful food at competitive prices. In addition, in May of 2010 Furman will have extra space available in North Village to accommodate overnight meetings.

So think about your next conference or retreat in G-Vegas rather than Las Vegas.

— TOM TRIPLITT '76

*Director, Alumni Association*