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Furman once again reaches 50 percent in alumni giving

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Furman once again reaches 50 percent in alumni giving

To say that the 2001-02 year was a difficult one for fund-raisers is an enormous understatement!

Given the impact of world events and the shaky state of the economy, all colleges and universities faced major financial hurdles during the past year.

But Furman alumni stepped forward once again and showed their true colors by supporting alma mater for the fifth consecutive year at more than 50 percent participation.

When the university's fiscal year ended June 30, 50.64 percent of alumni had made unrestricted gifts totaling more than \$1,854,000. Both the Richard Furman Society (donors of \$10,000 or more annually), under the leadership of Jim '64 and Carol Nichols '67 Ney, and the Founders Circle (donors of \$5,000-9,999 annually), led by Les Hudson '61, reached record memberships this year.

No doubt the key factor in the success of the Furman Fund was "Charlie's Challenge." Mary Peace Sterling, a former trustee, issued the challenge last fall, saying that for each of the first 10,000 alumni donors to the university during the 2001-2002 fiscal year, she would donate an additional \$100 toward construction of the Charlie Peace Wing of the James B. Duke Library. Mrs. Sterling provided the funds to build the new wing, which is named for her father.

Alumni responded to the challenge, raising the full total of \$1 million in challenge funds for the library.

Aided by such outstanding efforts, the Furman Fund will continue to provide support for scholarships, academic facilities, teaching technology and day-to-day activities. The high percentage of alumni participation is clear evidence of the Furman family's desire to see the university reach its full potential.

While all colleges have their "fair weather friends," Furman is blessed with a treasure trove of "all weather friends" whose encouragement and support are inspirational. Those of us who work all year to raise the funds to enhance the strategic initiatives of the university want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all participants in the Furman Fund for their unwavering loyalty.

Furman students enjoy one of the finest educational experiences available. This is only possible because of the ongoing support of alumni and friends. On behalf of the many beneficiaries of your generosity, please accept a heartfelt THANK YOU!

— Phil Howard

Director, Furman Fund

GWC memories spur support for university

During the 1920s, the Greenville Woman's College was an exciting place to be a student.

Under the leadership of President David Ramsey, who was deeply committed to the education of women, the school improved its facilities, strengthened its academic reputation and increased the size of its library collection. At the same time, GWC launched an effort to pay higher salaries to the female staff and faculty and sought to appoint a woman to the board of trustees. Students were no longer required to wear uniforms and could attend Furman football games without a chaperone (as long as they were in groups of three).

By today's standards, the students at GWC led a highly organized and restricted life of study, exercise, worship services and social events. However, it is clear that they were also exposed to new ideas, famous speakers and the joys of the fine arts.

Alumnae from this era remember their college careers with great fondness and love for their alma mater, which coordinated with Furman in the 1930s.

Within the past year, three alumnae from the 1920s — Theo Flowers Windham '29, Frances White Smith '26 and Elizabeth White Bailey '20 — have shown their loyalty to GWC by including Furman as a major beneficiary of their estates. The combined total of their gifts exceeds \$2 million. The Bailey and Smith gifts go toward scholarship support, and the Windham gift is being used to name the education department suite in Herman N. Hipp Hall, Furman's new academic building.

These alumnae were obviously proud of GWC and of Furman. With the help of their generous bequests, the Furman tradition of providing a top quality liberal arts education will continue for generations to come.

— Betsy Moseley '74
Director, Planned Giving

For information on including Furman in your estate plans, contact the Office of Planned Giving at (864) 294-3461 or visit the Web at www.furman.edu/plannedgiving.

First recipient of Mlecko scholarship named

When it came time for the Class of 2001 to select a cause for its gift to the university, there was little debate.

The class chose to endow a scholarship in memory of a classmate, Mary Mlecko of Pittsburgh, Pa., who was killed in an automobile accident during the fall of her junior year. Mary was a popular member of the class who had touched many lives on campus and through her work with children at the local YMCA. For those reasons, her classmates chose to have her name forever linked with Furman through a scholarship, and at their graduation they presented the university with a check for more than \$52,000 to support the fund.

Thanks to the generosity of the Class of '01, Yendelela Neely '03 of Laurens, S.C., has been named the first recipient of the Mary Mlecko Memorial Scholarship. A political science and history double major, she is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha and serves on the Orientation staff. In addition,

she is the vice president of business for the Student League for Black Culture and works as a mentor in such programs as Upward Bound and Legacy Peer.

Yendelela's strong academic record and compassion for children reflect the ideals that Mary Mlecko embodied. She says, "I was a freshman when the accident occurred, and I remember Mary. I am honored to be chosen for this award.

"My parents have three children in college now, and scholarship money is critical to my family. I am so grateful to have a chance to be at Furman, and I will always be thankful to those who supported this very special scholarship."

— Judy Wilson
Director, Parents Programs

To contribute to the Mary Mlecko Memorial Scholarship, call 1-800-787-7534 or write judy.wilson@furman.edu.