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One professor's influence: Ruth Reid

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Jason W. Searl, an attorney with the Orlando (Fla.) office of Gray Robinson, P.A., has been appointed to serve on the 2011 Orange County Redistricting Advisory Committee, which is working to redraw the commission district lines for Orange County based upon the population data gathered from the 2010 Census.

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Tim Aucoin, a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service in Miami, Fla., was awarded the Attorney General's Special Commendation Award during National Missing Children's Day ceremonies May 25 in Washington, D.C. He earned the honor for his part in identifying, locating and arresting a child molester in Miami, and in locating four child victims.

Joey Espinosa recently accepted a job with the newly launched Boys & Girls Club in Allendale, S.C. The club provides after-school programming and all-day summer camp for children who live in Allendale County, a rural and under-resourced region of the state.

Autumn Veazey has joined the staff of the U.S. Senate's Agriculture Committee. She is responsible for specialty crops, food safety, organics and market orders. She previously worked for the United Fresh Produce Association.

BIRTHS: **Greg** and **Yen-Wen Clepper**, a daughter, Molly Claudean, December 22. They live in Evans, Ga.

Cornel Broenner and **Jennifer Lentini**, a daughter, Juliette Sophie, October 5. They live in the suburbs of St. Louis, Mo., where Jennifer has an integrative medicine practice.

Mark and **Melissa Normington**, a daughter, Caitlin Elizabeth, August 2, 2010, Greenville.

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Kimberly Greisch Byrne has earned a Master of Education degree from the Richard W. Riley College of Education at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C.

Mark Rowe of Greenville has been named general counsel and chief compliance officer for Techtronic Industries North America, Inc., and its North American subsidiaries.

Kristin Stultz was awarded her Ph.D. in theatre from the University of Georgia in May. She lives in Greenville and will teach theatre courses at Furman this fall.

MARRIAGE: **Robin Travis Doermann** and Elizabeth Walker Howson, June 4. They live in Charlotte, N.C.

BIRTHS: **Matt** and **Sarah Blosser Blackwell**, a son, Thomas Malcolm, February 16, Matthews, N.C.

Paul and **Megan Foote Monsky**, a son, Jeffrey Nicholas, December 20. Megan is an attorney with the Board of Immigration Appeals of the U.S. Department of Justice. They live in Alexandria, Va.

ONE PROFESSOR'S INFLUENCE: RUTH REID

WHEN I ARRIVED AT FURMAN in the fall of 1959, Ruth Reid was already a fixture in what was then the Department of Physical Education (now Health Sciences).

I was certain that because I was a football player and had to miss class occasionally on Friday and Saturday — yes, back then we had class on Saturday — that Ruth (of course, I never called her Ruth when I was a student and could not for many years afterward) would fail me in all her classes. She expected her students to attend class every day and had no sympathy for football players.

Ruth was a good badminton player and particularly loved to beat those of us who were athletes. It was not until I was a senior that I could beat her. She did not accept that particularly well, but I sure enjoyed it.

Back then, a physical education major also had to take water safety with Ruth. I put this off until my senior year, when I finally had no choice, and managed to get through the course.

When I look back at my time at Furman, I realize how much Ruth meant to my academic and professional development. As a freshman, I didn't like Ruth very much. By my senior year, I thought maybe she was OK. When I went to graduate school, I learned what she had really taught me — and how valuable it was.

Ruth was dedicated to Furman and to the physical education program. She pushed students hard and made it clear when she did not think you were giving your very best.



Jerry Thomas and his mentor reconnected on campus in 1990.

I was the speaker at Ruth's retirement in 1985. I value Dr. Ruth Reid and what she did for students so much that I led the way in establishing a scholarship in her name.

— **JERRY THOMAS**

The author, a 1963 graduate, is professor of kinesiology and dean of the College of Education at the University of North Texas in Denton.

This is one in a series of articles in which alumni describe their favorite Furman teachers and "heroes." If you have a story to share, please send it to jim.stewart@furman.edu. To learn about the Furman Standard, a faculty development program to honor influential mentors, contact susan.brady@furman.edu.