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Sorority Challenge: Furman groups respond in style

The Furman Fund received an early Christmas gift with the successful completion of the first "Sorority Challenge."

Sponsored by Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, the challenge was designed to foster alumni participation in annual giving while helping the participating sororities raise funds and awareness for the philanthropic causes they sponsor. The challenge also helped Furman move toward meeting its annual goal of 50 percent participation in annual giving by alumni for the sixth straight year. Reaching this goal is important, as foundations and corporations increasingly focus on levels of alumni support when selecting grant recipients.

The Sorority Challenge, held the last week in September, was simple. The sorority whose alumnae had the highest percentage of participation in annual giving by October 31, 2002, would receive a cash prize, designated for its local philanthropy, from Northwestern Mutual. Five of Furman's eight sororities enthusiastically agreed to participate, and in the end all received financial support for their respective causes.

Each sorority had the opportunity to design its own mailer and was given one evening to contact alumnae, inform them about the challenge and solicit their support for Furman. The results: Chi Omega emerged on top, earning \$2,150 for the Make a Wish Foundation. Second place went to Alpha Delta Pi, which received \$1,400 to support the Ronald McDonald House. Delta Gamma earned \$1,100 for the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, and Kappa Delta and Delta Delta Delta received \$450 each to support the efforts of Prevent Child Abuse America and St. Jude's Children's Hospital, respectively.

Clearly, everyone was a winner in this effort — Furman, the sororities and the worthy causes they support.

Special thanks go to David Ellison '72, a member of the board of trustees and chair of the Furman Fund Council, and to Northwestern Mutual Financial Network for sponsoring this effort to increase participation in annual giving at Furman.

— Phil Howard
Furman Fund

Majority of grant from Duke Endowment to go toward library construction project

Furman has received a \$2.5 million grant from The Duke Endowment, \$1.9 million of which will go toward the renovation and expansion of the James B. Duke Library.

The foundation pledged \$9.5 million toward the project three years ago, and this year's gift represents the third payment on that pledge.

The total cost of the library project is approximately \$25 million.

Another \$100,000 of the grant goes to the James B. Duke Scholarship program, and \$86,000 has been earmarked for Furman's Office of Community Relations. The remaining \$428,000 will be used to support the Northwest Crescent Child Development and Family Services Center, a program in northwest Greenville County that The Duke Endowment has funded with grants over the last several years.

The Northwest Crescent Center, which was established through the joint efforts of Furman, The Children's Hospital of the

Greenville Hospital System, the School District of Greenville County, and the United Way's "Success By 6," offers a number of free health and educational services to people living in the surrounding area. It received the 2002 Max Heller Neighborhood Improvement Award from the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

Furman is one of four educational institutions in the Carolinas that receive annual financial support from The Duke Endowment. The others are Davidson College, Duke University and Johnson C. Smith University.

The Duke Endowment is a private foundation established in 1924 by industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke. Its mission is to serve the people of North Carolina and South Carolina by supporting selected programs in higher education, health care, children's welfare and spiritual life.

Paladin Plaza

Home entrance to football stadium will have new, sculpted look

The main entrance to Paladin Stadium will have a new look by the beginning of the 2003 football season.

A 17-foot bronze statue of a horse and knight will be the centerpiece of a new area just outside the stadium's home entrance. The lighted, 12,000-square-foot area, which will include brick walkways with granite set edging, a replica of the Diamond "F" and custom landscaping, will be known as Paladin Plaza.

Sonny and Keeter Horton of Greenville and Melvin and Dollie Younts of Fountain Inn, S.C., are the primary donors for Paladin Plaza. The statue is a gift from Irwin Belk of Charlotte, N.C. The artist is John Hair of Cornelius, N.C., who has replicated a number of mascots for other universities across the South.

The university plans to break ground in May for the \$500,000 project, which is expected to be finished by July.

The horse and knight statue will have a bronze patina. When mounted on a six-foot pedestal, it will rise 17 feet into the air. The names of athletic donors who have created fully endowed scholarships will be engraved into the pedestal, and the names of members of the Order of the

Paladin (contributors to the Paladin Club at the quarter-, half- or full-scholarship levels) will be engraved on a plaque attached to Paladin Stadium.

"It is a pleasure for us to help with the project," says Sonny Horton '52. "Furman has done so much for our lives that we feel blessed to be able to give back to such a wonderful athletic department that emphasizes academics and integrity as well as winning."

Melvin '50 and Dollie Younts have been avid Furman football fans for many years and are convinced that Paladin Plaza will create additional financial support for the athletic program. "We especially like the idea of engraving on the base of

the statue the names of those who have provided fully endowed athletic scholarships," Melvin says. "This will reward prior contributors and encourage future donors to endow a scholarship in memory of a coach, teammate or family member."

Chris Stewart and Marty Priore, 2002 Furman graduates and All-American offensive linemen during their student days, have donated and will install the material for the statue's pedestal. They are now in the granite business in Odessa, Fla.

