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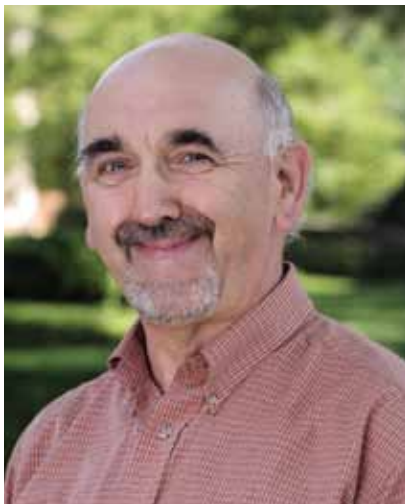
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Faculty retirees: Former students offer insights, tributes



STANLEY CROWE was the first professor I met at Furman. I still laugh when I remember him explaining to our group of prospective students and parents that the upcoming renovation of Furman Hall — which, he said, was promised to be a seamless process — was in fact going to be a disaster. His candid opinion was funny at the time, but I would learn over the next few years that it was delivered in true Dr. Crowe fashion.

As my academic advisor and English professor at Furman, Dr. Crowe, a native of Scotland who joined the faculty in 1974, offered honest advice on everything from the quality of a paper to career choices. I have always valued his insight and his willingness to share it.

He is also a fantastic teacher, with specialties in Irish and Romantic literature. He is passionate about helping students understand the literature they read — and showing them how to write skillfully and insightfully about it.

That brings me to another great thing about Dr. Crowe: He has an intense interest in his students and colleagues. It was common to wait in line to speak with him in his office. But no matter how many duties he had to balance — grading papers, advising students, serving as department chair, planning study-abroad trips — he was readily available for a meeting and never gave you the feeling that he was rushing you out the door. I have kept up with Dr. Crowe since graduating from Furman, and he is always willing and available to answer e-mails or talk over a cup of coffee when I'm visiting campus.

I'm sure that, given his lengthy career at Furman, there are many students and colleagues who are grateful for Stan Crowe's teaching, leadership, advice and friendship. He was an integral part of my Furman experience, and things will not be quite the same now that he is retiring.

However, I'm sure that, as usual, he will continue to go out of his way to share his time and advice with anyone who asks.

— MEGAN SLEMONS

The author, a 2008 graduate, is pursuing a master's degree in library science at the University of North Carolina. This year she received the Ethel Carlisle Southern Librarian Scholarship, awarded to a Furman graduate enrolled in a program accredited by the American Library Association.



JOHN POOLE'S teaching is meticulous and passionate. He strives to bring the beauty of mathematics to students who are not math or science majors. In this quest, he fights years of fear and loathing, poor instruction, and basic laziness.

But his Great Ideas in Mathematics course, developed over his 43-year Furman career, expresses his purpose. The class moves through human history, showing how mathematics has been used to define and solve the problems of different eras. Students learn to appreciate

the structure, harmony and depth of mathematical thought.

Poole's passion is also expressed in his Web-based presentation of Euclid's *Elements* (math.furman.edu/~jpoole/index.htm), the first geometry textbook. The reader feels as if the text is actively helping to communicate the geometry proofs, and it deserves wide attention.

John also holds the distinction of being the only Furman faculty member whose existence has been "proven." It happened in the spring of 1977, after he had presented a proof of the existence and uniqueness of solutions to certain differential equations. It took him a week — and was the first time anyone in the class had seen a major proof in its entire scale and intricacy. Just realizing that I could follow this proof was an important confidence boost for me.

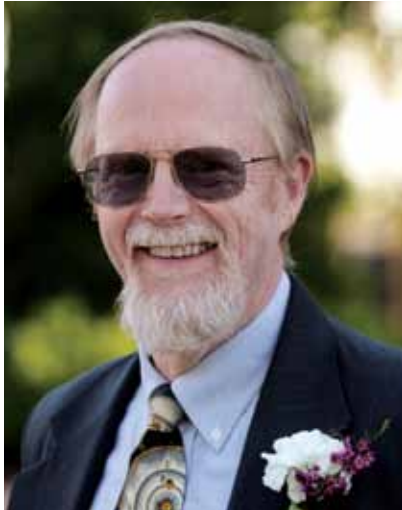
Some of us responded by declaring a holiday. We decorated the math offices with toilet paper and papered over John's door with computer-printed signs proclaiming "Happy April Poole's Day!"

In class that day, I presented the proof of the existence and uniqueness of the JTP (John T. Poole). Not only did its structure parody the proof John presented, but I managed to parody the man himself. It was two weeks before he could get through a lecture without doing something that made the class giggle.

John and I have kept in touch through the years. He took a sabbatical to study computer graphics and computer vision with me in 1985, and we published a paper from that experience. This May, at his departmental retirement dinner, I crashed the party and told this story — and wished everyone a Happy Special May Edition of April Poole's Day.

— JAMES COGGINS

The author, a 1977 graduate, is a senior principal research engineer with Alphatech, Inc., in Burlington, Mass.



HAYDEN PORTER began his career at Furman in 1979, when time-sharing access to large, expensive mainframe computers was the norm. Furman and its relatively young computer science program were immeasurably richer for his decision.

The hallmarks of Hayden's time at Furman have been rigorous, demanding classroom teaching and constant involvement in undergraduate research mentoring. If you talk to his students, the stories, like the verses of a song, are all

different, but the chorus is the same. He was tough — really tough — but supportive. He expected a lot, but if you had a question or needed help to understand a tough concept, he was always there.

It's a model I have tried to emulate and pass along to younger faculty in my academic career.

Hayden has mentored many undergraduates who have won research awards at the regional, national and international levels. Those students have proven to be remarkably well prepared for the challenges of industry and academia.

In recognition of his excellence as a teacher and mentor, he received the Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching in 1991. In addition, family and friends have endowed a fund in his name to support undergraduate research at Furman. (Learn more from betsy.moseley@furman.edu).

Hayden is also known for his insatiable curiosity. From the punch-card early days to the current world of ubiquitous mobile computing, he has tracked developments in our fast-moving discipline — and brought his students along on the journey. All the while he stayed current in his original discipline, astrophysics, continuing to publish research in that area.

What makes Hayden stand out is his deep, personal involvement in the intellectual development of students. In my case, he was the first person to suggest that I consider graduate study — just the push to start my own journey of discovery.

Hayden has remained a valued friend and advisor. He was and is a model of the teacher-scholar that I strive to emulate. In our business, the praise doesn't come any higher than that.

— LEWIS BARNETT

The author, a 1981 graduate, is chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Richmond.



JEREMY FLEMING

Wayne King: 30 years of service

WAYNE KING WAS 23 when he came to Furman in 1980 as area coordinator for men's housing. After two years he returned to his alma mater, Mars Hill, where he worked for 18 months before Furman lured him back in 1984 as housing director.

The second time, it took. For the next 15 years King's calm demeanor, sense of humor and good cheer served him well as he supervised the residence halls and their occasionally rowdy occupants. He presided over a liberalization of the university's visitation hours, and in the late 1990s he played a key role in the planning and development of the North Village apartments. In 1999 he made a shift into the development office, where he put the close relationships he'd established with students to good use while working in annual giving and donor relations and as a regional development officer.

"What I have really enjoyed is reconnecting with alumni I knew as students," he says. Indeed, King has often been the first person alumni contact when letting the school know of a birth, marriage or job change.

Now, after 30 years at Furman — and after overcoming a serious health issue — King has decided to take early retirement. He says, "When friends comment on my longevity here, my sincere response is that Furman has been very good to me and I have been very good to Furman. It's been a great marriage."

Perhaps "cutting back" is actually a better term than "retiring." King, who has a funeral director's license, will work part time at Gray Mortuary, an Anderson County funeral home where he has assisted for 20 years. He also looks forward to spending more time with his 92-year-old father.

In a note to Furman friends, he said, "To those of you who have loved me, prayed for me when I needed it, and graciously allowed me to victimize you with my sense of humor, thank you from the bottom of my heart."

— JIM STEWART