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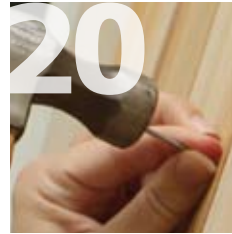
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FEATURES

2 **Dreaming Dreams, Living Life**

BY LIZ SMITH

Transitions, aspirations and transformations: A professor shares her thoughts on vocation and calling in this essay from a Lilly Center publication.

8 **Strength in Numbers**

BY LAURA WRIGHT

A Furman chemist describes the importance of mentoring and support networks for women in the sciences — followed by additional perspectives from alumnae.

14 **A Tough Act to Follow**

Who will succeed David Shi as Furman's president? How the search process is likely to unfold.

16 **Can We Agree to Disagree?**

BY A. SCOTT HENDERSON

Given the harsh and severe tone of recent campus debates over high profile speakers and programs, a committee is formed to study the problem — and offer solutions.

20 **MAY X**

It's a hit! Participants in Furman's inaugural "Maymester" share their experiences.

DEPARTMENTS

24 BECAUSE FURMAN MATTERS

26 FURMAN REPORTS

34 ATHLETICS

36 ALUMNI NEWS

48 THE LAST WORD



Liz Smith's husband, David Sanford, holds 5-year-old Smith Sanford, with Jack (7) beside his mom. Photos by Jeremy Fleming.



Dreaming Dreams, Living Life

ONE FURMAN PROFESSOR'S
TAKE ON VOCATION,
CALLING
AND
PURPOSE.

BY LIZ SMITH

Usually around the middle of their junior year, my advisees and the students I am close to stop by for a casual chat that turns into a longer discussion of what they are going to do with their lives.

They have reached a precipice that I remember from college. For the first time, these students are facing an unpredictable future. It is impossible for me to give them the definite answer they are looking for — what job they should take, whether they should go to graduate school — but I do try to share with them some of the lessons I have learned in my own struggle to try answering for myself the questions that are facing them:

What in the world am I going to do with my life? What is my purpose in the world?

First, I ask them, “What is your passion? What do you think is fun? When you have some free time on your hands, what do you gravitate toward? What is the class whose reading and homework you do first or save for last because it is your favorite?” What I am really asking them is, “What is your calling?”

The day I decided to become a political science professor was in the fall of my junior year at the University of North Carolina. I was walking through the arboretum, a green oasis among the dormitories and academic buildings. I was thinking about Dr. Pam Conover’s course in women and politics and about what I had learned about the difficulties women faced in the political world.

At that time, only 29 women served in the House of Representatives, and only two women (Barbara Mikulski and Nancy Kassebaum) served in the Senate. Today 72 women serve in the House and 17 in the Senate.

I was also thinking about the discrimination women face in employment. At that point, women made about 69 cents for every dollar a man made. Today, women have crept up to making about 76 cents for every dollar a man makes.

I was also thinking about how much fun it was to study politics — how much I loved talking about politics with my new boyfriend, how energizing and exciting and important it had felt to be part of something as I marched down Franklin Street chanting “No Blood for Oil” in opposition to the first Iraq War.

Especially, I was thinking about the obvious fact that Dr. Conover was a female — like me. She was the only female political scientist I had had for a class. She was smart and confident and an expert on something that really interested me.

I also knew that she was more than that. She had a family. She was married to another political science scholar at Chapel Hill, and they had two sons she had told us about, boasting about how at ages 8 and 10 they were actually making money playing their violins on Franklin Street.

It was a cliché, but I had found a role model. If she can be a Ph.D. and teach and study political science and have two children, I asked myself, why could I not do the same?

Politics was what I did when I had free time. I loved to follow the news. I started a study group on nuclear issues in high school. I had always loved school. Now, I thought, I could just stay in school forever. I could become an expert in an area that I really loved. It was the perfect decision.

Perfect, except for one thing. Graduate school was absolutely awful. I went to the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis — apparently the coldest place in the contiguous United States. I went there because that was where Dr. Conover had gone. After visiting nine other graduate programs, and meeting the man who had been her advisor there, I knew it was where I needed to go. And by all indications, I was right.

At the time, the U, as it is known, had a political science program ranked in the top seven. In political psychology — the area I thought I was most interested in — it was probably ranked first or second. I had been advised, by the way, not to pigeonhole myself as a scholar of women in politics — an interesting reflection in hindsight on women’s status in the discipline itself.

So it was the right decision, except that I cried nearly every day from homesickness and loneliness. The boyfriend I loved to talk politics with was in Miami, starting his new job as a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Sometimes, there would be a 100-degree difference in the temperature between our two locales.

Neither my boyfriend nor my mother thought I would survive, given how miserable I was. But I did. I was able to do the one thing that is really what getting a Ph.D. is all about: stick to it. Really, we should call it the sticktoitiveness degree. I saw a lot of people who were a lot smarter than I fail to get a Ph.D., just because they were not willing to stick to it.

In the end, the torture of graduate school was worth it. I had my eyes on the prize.

I tell my students this story because I think that it is important for them to understand that what is worthwhile is not easy. But when I got out of graduate school, I got the first job I applied for, and I have since had a fulfilling and meaningful career at a school that values strong scholarship, excellence in teaching and strong teacher-student relationships.

And that leads me to a second piece of advice that I give my students. I tell them to surround themselves with friends and colleagues who share the same morals, values and priorities that they have or, in their ideal vision of themselves, that they would like to have.

This does not mean that they should just hang out with people who come from the same narrow range of experiences. It means to choose friends, acquaintances and workplaces that exemplify those things they think are most important in life. For me, those things are wisdom, humility, tolerance, justice, equality, empathy and respect for others.

I am truly fortunate to be surrounded by people who model every day what I should strive to be, what really matters, what true courage and wisdom really are. I am a better person because I am surrounded by people who for the most part really have their priorities straight, who honestly and truly



are not impressed by the kind of car I drive, the kind of purse I carry or how big my house is. I am thankful that I have found a vocation that allows me to learn something new every day, to tell others what I have learned, and that challenges me through example to be a better person than I am.

Lastly, I try to tell my students to find and give love — in particular, that they find something greater than self-love. For some, that means finding religion. For others, that means simply finding that one true human love. I try to tell them that, ultimately, success means nothing if it is only about oneself. One must find a way to be about something more than oneself. For me this has happened both through my family and through my vocation.

In terms of family, sharing this advice with my students is always a bit tricky. I find myself always wanting to push back against the trend here at Furman

to get engaged, quite often before graduation. I worry especially about the young women who get engaged so early, knowing what marriage often does to a woman’s life by narrowing choices and creating significant responsibilities.

And, yet, at the same time, I hesitate to question or criticize. I often think back to my own experiences and how things have turned out for me and how important love has been to me — love for my husband and children and family most especially.

I was not so different from those female students who yearn for love and a family. I remember my interview, at age 17, for the Morehead Scholarship at UNC. I had made it to the final round at Chapel Hill, and I was feeling pretty confident. The committee was giving me positive vibes — until Doris Betts, a renowned author and award-winning English professor who had held my hand as she walked me into the board room for the interview, asked me, “Where do you see yourself in 10 years?”

I said the first thing that came to my mind: “I see myself married with a family.” As soon as it came out, I knew by their faces and their body language that it was not the answer they were looking for. It was the 1980s. They wanted to hear about my plans to cure cancer or play in the New York Philharmonic. I had just given them a 1950s “Saving Mona Lisa” kind of response. What was I thinking?

I ended up getting the Morehead, but only after being

on the alternate list. To this day, I have always been sure that it was that question and that answer that put me there. I did follow up with the answer I knew they were looking for — engaged in a successful career, contributing positively to society — but I knew that my first focus on family indicated to them a moral failing, a lack of proper priorities for a young woman in the post-feminist era who should be beyond thinking about marriage and family first. I thought of myself as a feminist and still do. How could that have been the first thing that came out of my mouth?

Today, though, I am a mother of two beautiful children, and I am married to the love of my life, the boyfriend from college. And I ask myself: How could that *not* have been the first thing out of my mouth?

Should family and the ones we love not be our top priority in life? Should they not be what comes to mind first, what comes before all else? When I put it that way, it seems to me the obvious answer is yes. And yet, I worry about those young female students in particular who are so eager to get engaged.

I struggle every day with making sure I have my priorities straight, that the things that matter most come first. I am an over-achiever in many ways. I want to do things right. I love my job and my students. I love doing research and interacting with my colleagues. I enjoy almost all of the time I spend at work, and it is hard for me, at the end of the day when I see work still stacked on my desk, to leave.

How do we achieve the right balance in our lives between work and family? As a working mother of two young sons, I am amazed by how hard it all is. My husband and I wonder: Why did no one tell us how hard parenting is? We agree that parenting even not so well is the hardest job we have ever done. Why do children not come with an instructor's manual?

Balancing work and careers is a constant struggle. What does one do when it is the last day of class, when one has to complete that last lecture before the final, when one's husband is in North Carolina because of some explosion in a Wal-Mart, and the school calls to say that one's son thinks he has strep throat, which as a 6-year-old he is probably able to diagnose accurately since he has already had it four times that year?

And yet, despite the challenge and struggles, I am constantly amazed by the beauty of it all. I am amazed by how much love I feel for my children. These are people I would not hesitate to throw my body in front of a bus to save.

I think about the time I canceled class so that I could go to my 6-year-old's school and be the mother who helped the kids put their costumes on for the Halloween parade. I remember how my son held tightly onto my hand as we walked through the school, not because he was scared or shy, but

because he was so happy I was there. I remember how after the parade, during snack, when the children were giving their blessing for the day, my son said, "I pray for my mommy."

I treasure the shrieks of laughter, the huge smiles as we play monster with me chasing my 4-year-old around the Children's Garden at 8:15 in the morning, in the in-between time after I drop the 6-year-old off before the 4-year-old's pre-kindergarten program begins. I relish the sweet-smelling good night kisses, the spontaneous "I love you, Mommy," the daily discoveries of things adults take for granted — lightning bugs, rainbows, pigeons.

But I also am confident that the struggle is worth it. I think I am a better mother because I am a teacher, and I am a better teacher because I am a mother. My patience with my children is greater after a satisfying day at work. My empathy for my students is greater because I could imagine any one of them as my child.

Being a parent is being about more than just oneself. My vocation, too, allows me to be about more than just myself.

The focus of my research has shifted over the course of my career. My dissertation was about creating social capital in American citizens, social capital being those networks and norms that allow people to work together mutually to solve collective problems. More recently, I have worked on issues regarding stereotyping, including sexism and ageism. But no matter the particular focus, I try to make sure that what I research and write about will in fact contribute in some small way to making the world a better place.

My vocation allows me to share with my students the importance of leading a life that is about more than just themselves. In particular, I hold dear a service-learning course in which students work two hours a week teaching adults how to read or use the computer, or teaching new immigrants how to speak English. The course has proven to be a meaningful way for students to step out of the Furman bubble, to interact with people they might never have interacted with, and to understand government and politics in a whole new light.

In a political behavior class that I taught a few years ago, after studying the question of America's role in the world, I rented a van and drove my students to Washington, D.C., to a rally on the Mall to raise awareness of the plight of the people in Darfur. This spring I taught a first-year seminar on the politics of good and evil, during which I challenged students to think about why people engage in malevolent acts toward others, how genocide, torture and terrorism occur, and how the good in each of us can be harnessed to prevent these atrocities. I am thankful to have a career that allows me to try to make a difference.

A couple of years ago, I found myself in what felt like

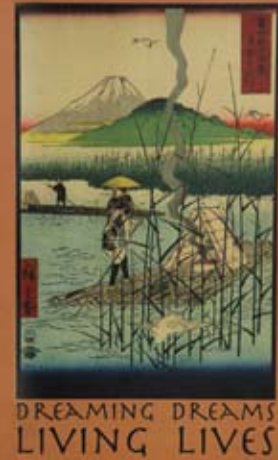
This article comes from the book *Dreaming Dreams, Living Lives*, a volume of essays published this spring by Furman's Lilly Center for Theological Exploration of Vocation. The author, political science professor Liz Smith, has taught at Furman since 1998.

The essays, edited by William Rogers, Bennette E. Geer Professor of Literature, are adapted from presentations delivered by past and present Furman faculty members at Lilly-sponsored alumni retreats in 2006 and 2008. The third such retreat, with the theme "What's Calling You Now," is planned for the summer of 2010.

Each faculty presentation addressed such issues as life aspirations, transitions and transformations. In addition to Smith, others featured in the book are Linda Bartlett (Spanish), Charles Brewer (psychology), Albert Blackwell (religion), Jim Edwards (philosophy) and Bruce Schoonmaker (music).

Cost of the book is \$12. To order, send a check and mailing instructions to Ann Quattlebaum, Lilly Center coordinator, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613.

To learn more about Lilly Center programs, visit www.furmanlilly.com.



a mild mid-career crisis. I had reviewed my mental list of things to do: finish college, get the Ph.D., marry the love of my life, get a job in the Southeast at a prestigious liberal-arts school, buy a starter home, sell it and build my probably permanent second home, have two beautiful healthy children, and get tenure. And I was asking myself: What's next? What matters to me now?

I again felt very much like those students who come to my office wondering what they are supposed to do. What is my purpose in life? Where is Dr. Conover when I really need her?

And then, I was in Charlotte with my family for the Christmas holidays. My 42-year-old sister, Sara, and I had just returned from a fun-filled afternoon at the children's science museum with my two boys and her three girls ages 11, 7 and 5. We were greeted by my father, who told us that he had spoken to Sara's physician, and that the lump under her armpit was in fact breast cancer. We would discover in the following awful weeks that the tumor was high grade, invasive and in her lymph nodes.

Interestingly, my vocation intersected yet again in unexpected and beneficial ways with my everyday life. Sometime during those early months of this family crisis, a student happened to stop by my office right after I had just gotten off the phone with my sister. The student was an extremely bright young woman who, despite excelling at Furman, had worried about whether she really fit in and whether she should transfer. She and I had become quite close as she struggled with this decision. Ultimately she decided to stay, and the decision was a good one for her.

On this particular day, she found me distracted and worried. She knew something was wrong, asked me, and I told her about my sister. A couple of days later I returned

to my office and found a Ziploc bag of warm chocolate chip cookies on my desk chair, with a kind note. Suddenly, at least for a moment, the tables had turned. Now I was the student and she was the advisor, the supportive mentor.

About the same time, I was involved in a Lilly faculty seminar on religion and science. These interdisciplinary seminars typically begin with a summer of intense reading, followed by a week in August of lectures and discussion, then monthly meetings, and a concluding week in June. It is an incredible opportunity to be a student once again and to interact with colleagues outside of one's own discipline.

I was being forced to think about the connections among our minds, bodies and souls. I was being forced to consider the questions, "Are we more than meat puppets?" "What is the soul?" "What is personhood?" "How do we explain both scientifically and in a religious sense why we are here?"

The seminar came at the right time in my life. The seminar and my sister's illness challenged me to think in ways I had not previously thought about my faith, my relationship with God, my relationships with my students, family and friends. I realized with renewed understanding what incredible gifts I have been given: a career that is so rewarding, as well as loving family, friends, students and colleagues.

While I am still not sure what in fact is the next step for me or in what direction my research or interests will turn, I know that I need to enjoy the journey and to feel thankful for the opportunity to struggle every day with placing the right priorities on the right things. And I know that I am truly blessed to have a profession that is a true vocation — a calling — and that I am loved, and that I love.

I guess in the end that is all anyone can really ask for. ¹



Strength in Numbers

A timely NSF grant helps women scientists discover the value of networking and mentoring to their careers — and their lives.

AT VARIOUS POINTS IN YOUR CAREER YOU may find that you need to ask someone how best to proceed. The questions may be about job expectations, project management, personnel problems, or how to obtain necessary resources.

When you start a new job you face many unknowns, and having someone to provide guidance or advice is critical to success. In many instances a formal mentoring system can help, but often informal interactions between colleagues provide even greater insights into how an organization works and how to progress in that organization.

As your career advances, if you are fortunate, you find colleagues with whom you can talk freely about any topic — people who have similar backgrounds and interests and talk the same language that you do.

In my case those colleagues turned out to be a group of four other women chemists scattered across the country.

In 2004 Kerry Karukstis, a chemist from Harvey Mudd College in California, asked if I would like to be part of a career development initiative to be sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The project would focus on providing opportunities and resources for women chemists at liberal arts institutions to explore the next phase of their careers

and determine how they could contribute the most to their institutions.

Surprisingly, only five of us in the targeted Mellon cluster of eight colleges had achieved the rank of professor, and several of us were still the only woman ever in a tenured or tenure track position in our departments. In most cases we were the first women faculty hired at our institutions in departments with few, if any, female role models.

I agreed to participate. But I could hardly have anticipated that suddenly I would have access to the most amazing resources of my academic life.

As the members of our group became acquainted, we began to reflect on our careers — past, present and future. Working with a career counselor, we began to develop goals based on our individual strengths, and to establish steps to achieve these goals.

One of the most valuable aspects of the Mellon project has been the opportunity to sit and talk with women chemists about issues that each of us have faced in our professional and personal lives, such as sexism, equal pay, and balancing work and family. Having a group with whom to share opinions and ideas has made our professional lives more rewarding.



BY LAURA WRIGHT

Because we now know each other so well, we can recognize when someone is about to pass up an opportunity that is a perfect match for her abilities — or commit to a project that does not fit her career aspirations or personal interests. We serve as an informal check and balance system for each other.

It didn't take long for us to realize that women scientists at other liberal arts colleges could benefit from similar opportunities. Four of us decided to submit a proposal to the National Science Foundation's ADVANCE Program that would allow us to further explore how our mentoring project could be adapted for others. When word came that we had received \$500,000 to support our proposal, we were ecstatic — and a bit awed by the responsibility to investigate whether our model would work with other women at similar stages in their careers.

THE UNDERLYING GOAL OF OUR ONGOING

project is to promote the advancement of senior women science faculty at liberal arts institutions to the highest ranks of academic leadership. Five-member mentoring alliances, representing institutions across the country, engage in discussions and workshops about career and leadership development.

While there have been many studies of the needs of women scientists at research institutions, no studies have focused on the environment they face in the liberal arts setting. The NSF was interested in evaluating our group's strategy, as well as in seeing whether it would be of value in disciplines other than chemistry. With this in mind, we established three new alliances, two comprised of chemists and one of physicists. These alliances are working to enhance the leadership, visibility and recognition of the participating faculty members.

We are now completing the third year of the NSF project, and its impact is evident.

One woman, seeking an opportunity to use her leadership and administrative skills, accepted her colleagues' nomination and subsequent invitation from her institution to serve as department chair. A second gained the confidence to write a research proposal that was funded by the NSF. Another raised the intensity, scope and visibility of her contributions to a national professional organization to the point that she was elected the group's president.

Two participants recently were appointed to endowed chairs in their departments; one was the first woman to be awarded an endowed chair in her institution's science division. Another woman received a prestigious endowed research chair at her university, and yet another was named Professor of the Year for her state.

These women used the professional skills they had identified during our project's workshops to increase their visibility on their home campuses. They had always been worthy of these types of awards, but they had just assumed people would know it. Taken individually, each is a major accomplishment in a career. As a group, they show that a network of horizontal mentors who provide support and encouragement can produce positive results.

I presented some of our initial findings at the 2008 Southeast Regional meeting of the American Chemical Society. Many women dropped by to hear about the project and to ask how we had gotten started — and how they could become involved.

The first part of their question was easy to answer; the second, more difficult. The NSF grant supports only the initial group of 20 participants. Judging by the number of women who expressed interest, it is clear that many need guidance on how to advance their careers. And it isn't just women at liberal arts schools. I spoke with women at large state universities and at technical colleges, all of whom would benefit from access to an alliance.

The most unexpected encounter I had came toward the end of my presentation. A man had been standing in the background listening as I talked with two women. When we finished, he stepped forward and began to describe his own informal alliance.

A number of years earlier, he said, he had developed health problems that precluded him from continuing to direct a traditional graduate research lab at his university. He had looked around for a new way to contribute to the discipline and realized that he could do research in chemical education pedagogy. Although no one on his campus focused on the same area, he was able to find a group of four chemists doing similar work at other institutions who were also looking for a peer group with which to share ideas and concerns.

As he talked, I realized that any time an individual, man or woman, is working in isolation, there is a need for some type of support network. This man from a major research institution was so excited about our project that he was considering adding a new monthly column to a journal about chemical education to showcase strategies for career development.

Our project has provided a lifeline for senior women scientists at liberal arts colleges. But others, in different disciplines and professions, are seeking the same thing. Our project can perhaps serve as a model for them to emulate.

Being part of a mentoring alliance can become an amazing resource to help you find a better way forward in your career. And you might just end up with some of the best friends of your life!

The author has taught chemistry at Furman since 1983. She received the 2008-09 Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching.

On the following pages, four alumnae/academics offer their perspectives on mentoring in their professional journeys.

Finding the right path

I COMMEND THE EFFORTS OF LAURA WRIGHT and her colleagues in establishing the NSF ADVANCE mentoring alliance. Clearly, they recognize the challenges facing women academicians and the need to build avenues of support.

As a fellow woman academician and administrator in higher education, I find considerable relevance in the ongoing, urgent need for guidance for women in general in advancing their careers.

After graduating from Emory University with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, I initially plotted a career path that would focus primarily on establishing a clinical practice. As fate would have it, my first job offer was as an assistant professor of psychiatry in a small medical school. Although I had not initially planned to pursue a career in academe, I welcomed the opportunity to teach and build a practice through the medical school faculty practice plan.

One advantage of being in a small institution was the ability to quickly demonstrate competence. Without any plan, or clear guidance, I advanced in my career, but often felt “led” and “defined” by circumstance. I did not have a road map and, to some extent, was simply riding the train wherever it took me.

Looking back, however, I realize I never really planned a particular career path. Perhaps I was lucky and happened to land in the right place at the right time.

Throughout my career, I have found that many women struggle to find a clear plan or path. They tend to allow others — or circumstances — to “define” what the next step may be.

I was able to take full advantage of all the opportunities presented to me, and the “train” actually led me to a place that I believe I was destined to arrive. Now, as a full professor and executive vice president and provost at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., I can truly say that I am headed in the right direction.

My path has been a bit unique, given the type of institutions I have served, and I still sometimes reflect on a phrase I often used with my children: “Mama doesn’t know what she wants to be when she grows up.”

The NSF ADVANCE program resonates with me in that I rarely had the benefit of like-minded, similarly destined individuals with whom to share stories.

There were often times that I longed to consult with someone who would understand my frustrations, my challenges and my desire to find purpose. At all levels there is a need for camaraderie, and we should all do more to help, advise, support and push each other forward.

Whereas there are many workshops, fellowships and academies to “train” and direct individuals toward a particular career direction, these opportunities sometimes fall short in providing follow-up and guidance. A well-defined mentoring alliance clearly provides a targeted effort to assist and guide for the long term.

Given my own experiences, I now wish to help other women who are looking for guidance and purpose. Perhaps it is my training as a psychologist, or my genuine desire to give back. Regardless, there is a need for building alliances, identifying and selecting advisors and mentors, and sharing stories that may help another person find purpose.

Everyone faces challenges in advancing their careers, but it surely can make the walk more pleasant if there is someone to join you along the way. Therefore, I fully support the idea of a mentoring alliance and applaud the



efforts of Laura Wright and her colleagues in providing a resource for women in the sciences.

We should all learn from this and strive to create opportunities for women in other disciplines, emulating the model that has now been established.

— ANGELA WALKER FRANKLIN

The author, a member of Furman’s board of trustees, earned her degree in psychology in 1981. She was for many years a professor and administrator at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta before moving to Meharry.

Staying on track

ONE OF THE MOST TRANSFORMATIVE

experiences of my career came during three workshops that I attended in the spring of 2005, while I was pursuing my postdoctoral fellowship at Rockefeller University in New York City.

The workshops were titled “Making Sure That Academia Includes You: A Career-Building Workshop for Women in Science.” For three Saturday mornings, women from multiple academic ranks — graduate students to junior faculty members — and from diverse scientific disciplines gathered to learn about coping and advancing within male-dominated academia. The workshops, sponsored by the Gender Equity Project at Hunter College of the City University of New York and by the New York Academy of Sciences’ Women Investigator Network, were intended to help increase productivity and the likelihood of women receiving tenure and promotion.

The first session, “Gender and Basic Foundations,” uncovered one of the defining lessons that I took from the program: the need to build and maintain a circle of advisors.

During this session, we did an exercise where we listed areas in which we needed mentoring and advice. As a postdoctoral fellow, I listed such things as scientific direction, writing papers and grants, technical help in the laboratory, and networking in my field. After developing our lists, we then identified individuals who could help us in these areas. I included a few of my postdoctoral colleagues, my husband (who is also a scientist), and my current postdoctoral advisor, each beside a different need.

Through this exercise, I immediately realized that one single person could not — and cannot — provide advice for every aspect of my career. Each person on my list had certain abilities (and time) to advise me in specific areas.

During my days as a biology major at Furman, I had one advisor, Joe Pollard, who helped me develop my class schedule and assisted me in choosing a graduate school. When I began as a graduate student at Emory University in cell and developmental biology, I joined the laboratory of Grace Pavlath to study muscle development.

The graduate student-mentor relationship resembles your relationship with your parents, where you learn about multiple aspects of scientific training and career development. A scientific committee directed my progress in the laboratory, and I garnished additional career advice through interactions with other faculty members. However, these relationships tended to be casual and informal, as opposed to the ongoing, organized relationships that the Women Investigator Network workshops promoted.

When I joined the faculty of Yale University earlier this year as an assistant professor, the lessons from those workshops suddenly came flooding back to me.



Faced with many new decisions and responsibilities — teaching undergraduates, hiring and managing technicians, students and postdoctoral fellows, organizing a laboratory — I remembered the list of mentors I had generated during the workshop. I immediately began writing down the aspects of my new job where I needed advice.

Once I began to make my list, I realized that I had a network of individuals who could help me work through these new responsibilities. Some of them were a part of my formal mentoring committee in my department, but others were colleagues from outside the department and from other institutions.

Each week, one of my former postdoctoral colleagues and I have an informal video conference where we discuss what we do — science — and how we do it — managing our new jobs as assistant professors. It is these kinds of interactions that will help keep me on track in academia, in keeping with the focus and the intent of the NSF ADVANCE project.

— VALERIE HORSLEY

A 1998 Furman graduate, the author earned her Ph.D. from Emory University. Her specialties are molecular, cell and developmental biology.

WHEN I WAS A CHEMISTRY MAJOR AT

Furman, Laura Wright was the only woman professor in the department. I never thought much about being a woman in chemistry, perhaps because Laura was there or perhaps because the faculty in the department seemed to care only about whether you loved chemistry, not about your gender.

I did not realize how rare it was for her to be the sole tenured woman until I was in graduate school. But knowing that there was at least one female chemistry professor out there provided proof that it was possible for me to be a chemist, too.

Laura was my first mentor and first role model, the first female working chemist that I knew. At the time, in the early 1990s, it was insignificant that she was a faculty member. She was a woman in chemistry.

I met other women in graduate school, but they were mostly graduate students, not chemistry professors. Soon I began to understand the

Building on mutual respect

rarity of women in the academic ranks in chemistry.

My mentors in graduate school were men and women. My advisor and my colleagues provided me with job training. My colleagues offered much needed support. They were also friends. We respected each other as we worked toward the same goal — enough research to allow us to move to the next phases of our careers.

Graduate school was a heady time for a self-professed geek. Every day was a new opportunity to learn. When things would go well, my fellow graduate students would offer praise; when things went south, they provided much needed commiseration. And I did the same for them.

When I left graduate school, I realized how valuable a support group my lab mates had been. My first academic job was at a brand new college — Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University — which did not have most of the infrastructure you take for granted at an established institution like Furman. I yearned for the collegiality, the solidarity and the joy of being surrounded by people who understand where you are going and what you need to do to get there.

At the time, I did not have anyone close by to offer the support I desperately needed. Laura Wright helped me make a valuable contact — her sister Amy, who is currently the director of the Center for Marine Biomedical and Biotechnology Research at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute of Florida Atlantic University. In subsequent years, Laura has

provided me with much needed advice on how to handle sticky issues. Her support has been invaluable.

Now, as a tenured professor at Butler University, I still have mentors. Some are colleagues and some are former associates. Some are men, some women. They all supply a much needed support network. But, in some ways, the women offer an additional level of support. They understand the challenge of childbearing (especially as a synthetic chemist), the difficult balance of family and work, and the isolation of women in science in academia.

When I think about the cohort that Laura has joined as part of her NSF grant, I realize she has found a group of people much like my friends from graduate school. This cohort is built upon mutual respect. They are friends, cheerleaders, critics and sounding boards. Her group provides the truthfulness needed from a mentor, with a healthy dose of good will to keep everyone going. Most importantly, her group is cooperative. They mentor each other.

I do not know how my career will continue to evolve. But I would like to believe that I will have help along the way. If it is possible for Laura and her group to find each other, then it should be possible for others, including myself.

— LUANNE McNULTY

Having earned her degree from Furman in 1993, the author has taught at Butler since 2003. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.



Empowering others

JUST IMAGINE! IMAGINE WHAT AN

undergraduate can achieve! Imagine what an undergraduate can become!

Just imagine! Amanda, a biology major, using statistics and databases, analyzed the relationship between diet and birth defects during a summer internship at a genetics center and presented her research at a national conference. After a year-long fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, she pursued doctoral studies of genetic associations with obesity.

Just imagine! David, a double major in computer science and mathematics, helped develop software for the science operations interface of Mars Rovers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. In part because of this research, he was awarded a National Science Foundation Fellowship to study computer graphics in a doctoral program at Columbia University.

Just imagine! Diana, a double major in computer science and Spanish, was an intern at Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories. After completing a master's degree, she returned to Los Alamos to work in the International Space and Response Division — and to run her own Web design company.

Just imagine! Lena, a biology major, interned with the Cardiac Mechanics Research Group at the University of California-San Diego. Her work on optimization of large-scale computations in electrophysiology helped to change the direction of the group's research. She is now attending medical school.

Just imagine! Frank, a double major in physics and mathematics, completed two internships at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). He developed software to access images of specific moving objects from JPL's extensive observational archive. The breakthrough resulted in the naming of an asteroid in his honor. Since completing his Ph.D., Frank

has done research at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

These stories of undergraduates I have taught and mentored bring a rush of memories: encouraging, reassuring and sometimes prodding those who do not know their own capabilities; contacting scientists to ask that they mentor the students; sharing their joy at obtaining positions; helping them gain funding; arranging presentations on their research; encouraging them to network with others; celebrating their acceptances for post-graduate opportunities; and hearing stories of exciting work that would not have been possible without their internships and their education.

Small liberal arts colleges such as Furman and my institution, Wofford College, foster this kind of mentoring between faculty and students. The education that Wofford has provided these students is in a revolutionary new academic discipline, computational science, which is at the intersection of computer science, mathematics and the traditional sciences.

Much important scientific research today involves computation as well as theory and experiment. Realizing this, I have had the joy of being present at the formation of one of the first undergraduate programs in this field (Wofford's Emphasis in Computational Science). I have helped others develop programs, written educational materials for such programs, and collaborated with others to advance education in this new area.

Collaboration has been most rewarding with my husband, George Shiflet, chair of the biology department at Wofford. Little did we know when we sat together in calculus class at Furman that we were forming a career path as well as a close relationship!

Sharing a passion for learning and for helping others to learn, George and I wrote the first textbook designed specifically for an introductory course in computational science and engineering.



Introduction to Computational Science: Modeling and Simulation for the Sciences was published in 2006 by Princeton University Press.

As partners and colleagues, we have experienced the excitement of learning new things, making connections among disciplines that have often been too isolated, helping others develop their own computational science programs and, in particular, empowering undergraduates to participate in a revolutionary new field — and imagining what they can achieve.

— ANGELA BUZZETT SHIFLET

The author earned her doctorate from Vanderbilt University. She is the Larry H. McCalla Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Wofford.



A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

With David Shi planning to step down next spring, Furman launches the quest for its 11th president.

Shortly after David Shi announced May 13 that he would retire as president of Furman at the close of the 2009-10 academic year, university trustees formed a committee that will play a leading role in selecting the next president.

The university's new leader, they acknowledge, will have large shoes to fill, as during the 15 years of the Shi administration Furman has solidified its stature as one of the nation's finest liberal arts colleges.

Under Shi's direction the university has moved to the national forefront in such areas as engaged learning, energy conservation and environmental stewardship. Since he assumed the presidency in 1994, applications to the university have increased 75 percent, faculty salaries have improved dramatically, the endowment has quadrupled, the academic profile of the student body has risen, and the 50-year-old campus has been transformed by more than \$210 million in new construction and renovation. Shi, a 1973 Furman graduate, and his wife, Susan Thomson Shi '71, have also strengthened ties between Furman and the Greenville community.

Kathleen Crum McKinney, chair of the Furman board of trustees, says, "No amount of praise can accurately convey what an incredible leader David Shi has been on campus, in the Greenville community, and in prominent national higher education organizations. We will miss him tremendously, but we also know that he and Susan have worked tirelessly on behalf of the university these past 15 years. He has earned his retirement — and the opportunity to simplify his life."

The 16-member committee, which includes

representatives from all Furman constituencies, will provide direction for the presidential search.

Trustee Richard Cullen '71 chairs the committee. He is joined by six other trustees — McKinney, David G. Ellison '72, Angela Walker Franklin '81, Carl F. Kohrt '65, Richard W. Riley '54, and Baxter M. Wynn — and former board member William B. Howes '59. Ellison, Kohrt and Howes are past chairs of the board.

Professors Brian Goess (chemistry), Kailash Khandke (economics/Asian Studies and assistant dean for study away and international education) and faculty chair Suzanne Summers (business and accounting) are also on the committee. Other members are Connie Carson, vice president for student life; Clare Folio Morris '83, president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors; and student liaisons Chadé Franklin '11 and Patrick Wallace '11. Susan Zeiger, the university's internship program director, is the staff liaison.

The committee began meeting in early June and held campus forums during the summer to seek input from faculty, staff and students. "Our thought is that we would do the really hard screening of candidates in August and September and begin interviewing soon thereafter," McKinney says, adding that a decision could come by the end of the calendar year.

McKinney says that Furman is following search guidelines established by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, a Washington, D.C.-based association that serves academic governing boards and senior level administrators. Susan Resneck Pierce of Academic Search, Inc., president emerita of the

University of Puget Sound, is a consultant to the search committee.

Shi, who turned 58 August 19, joined the Furman administration in 1993 as vice president for academic affairs and dean. He had spent the previous 17 years at Davidson College, where he was the Frontis W. Johnston Professor of History. He holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Virginia.

A widely read newspaper columnist and essayist, he is the author of several books, including *The Simple Life: Plain Living and High Thinking in American Culture* (1985) and *Facing Facts: Realism in American Thought and Culture* (1996). He is co-author of the best-selling textbook *America: A Narrative History*.

In 2006-07 he chaired the board for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He is currently a member of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*/*New York Times* Higher Education Cabinet and is on the board of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. He is also a board member of Second Nature, the non-profit organization responsible for administering the Presidents' Climate Commitment. He received a Presidential Leadership Award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 2003.

For a list of highlights of David Shi's tenure at Furman, visit www.furman.edu/president. For additional information about the presidential search and how you can provide nominations, visit www.furman.edu/newpresident.

Compiled by Jim Stewart from reports by Vince Moore and John Roberts.



Can We Agree to

In the aftermath of inflammatory campus debates over controversial issues and speakers, a task force examines the state of civil discourse at Furman — and how to improve it.

BY A. SCOTT HENDERSON

The French philosopher Voltaire is often credited with stating, “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

Although Voltaire never used those precise words, few would dispute his broader point: Freedom of speech is crucial for intellectual inquiry and debate. Indeed, the spread of knowledge itself cannot occur without free speech.

Freedom of speech, however, is rarely unlimited. Even on college campuses — institutions where pursuit of truth demands openness to virtually every viewpoint — ill-chosen words can sometimes stifle instead of promote dialog.

Because such an outcome would defeat the central purpose of higher education, academic communities should regularly review how they discuss important issues. Furman’s Constructive Disagreements Task Force (CDTF) did just that during the winter and spring of 2009.

Reactions to two events in particular provided the impetus for the creation of the task force. In the spring of 2007, the Furman University Student Activities Board (FUSAB), the Residential Life Council and the student group Encour-

aging Respect of Sexualities (EROS) funded an appearance by the Kinsey Sicks, an *a cappella* group of four men who perform bawdy satirical songs in drag (women’s clothing). Another Furman group, Conservative Students for a Better Tomorrow (CSBT), launched a petition objecting to the use of student fees to bring the Kinsey Sicks to campus. In response to CSBT’s petition, more than 60 faculty signed their own petition, which asserted that withdrawing funding for the Kinsey Sicks would be a form of censorship.

Within two weeks of these developments, more than 11,000 words had been posted on a discussion board on FUnet, Furman’s internal Web site, about the evolving controversy. Students and faculty hurled charges and counter-charges between and among one another. Some claimed that it was wrong to use students’ money to sponsor what they considered a “politically motivated” group that was “hostile” toward Christianity, while others — without endorsing defamation or libel — insisted that free speech would be meaningless if Furman funded only non-controversial events.

Ultimately, funding was not rescinded, and more than

Disagree?



JEREMY FLEMING



JANE A. DORN

1,400 people attended the Kinsey Sicks' performance in McAlister Auditorium. Bitter feelings nonetheless lingered on both sides.

A year later, Furman announced that President George W. Bush had been invited to speak at graduation. A group of faculty responded by drafting and circulating a letter titled "We Object" that criticized various actions taken by the Bush administration. The letter was posted on Furman's external Web site, www.furman.edu. CSBT immediately objected to the faculty letter and received permission to add its own statement, "Support Our Seniors," to the Web site.

As with the Kinsey Sicks, the most acrimonious discussions about Bush's visit took place on FUnet. The exchanges soon created their own controversy, primarily because some faculty were troubled by what they believed were belligerent postings. Elsewhere, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* published an article about the student-faculty feud that generated more than 200 on-line comments, including some from Furman alumni.

Back on campus, several educational programs were

conducted that focused on the Bush administration's record; community members protested on Furman Mall prior to Commencement; and 14 faculty stood in silent protest during Bush's remarks. Rancor remained even after Commencement, with a follow-up FUnet article generating more than 60 heated postings.

The imbroglios over President Bush and the Kinsey Sicks left many on campus feeling demoralized and dispirited. In the space of just a year, two relatively innocuous events had precipitated an outpouring of vituperation and accusations. Meanwhile, other visitors to campus, such as conservative pundit Ann Coulter and liberal firebrand James Carville, generated similarly heated if less extensive discussions.

Some at Furman began to worry that, if the tone and conduct of campus discussions about controversial or inflammatory issues remained unexamined, future conflicts might produce even greater — and potentially long-lasting — enmity.

With this concern in mind, Tom Kazee, the university's provost and executive vice president, created the Constructive Disagreements Task Force in the fall of 2008. Composed



JONATHAN ANDERSEN



JEREMY FLEMING

Conservative pundit Ann Coulter's appearance in the spring of 2008 generated plenty of publicity and a packed house in McAlister Auditorium, even if it didn't quite match the uproar caused the previous spring by the Kinsey Sicks. Different student groups were involved in bringing the programs to campus, but both had two co-sponsors in common: the Furman University Student Activities Board and the Residential Life Council. Previous page: James Carville, the tart-tongued Democratic strategist, spoke on campus just three weeks before President Bush addressed the 2008 graduates.

of 10 professors, three staff members and three students, the task force was charged with formulating recommendations on how the Furman community ought to engage in discussions and debates.

One of the CDTF's ongoing challenges was that its own membership reflected many of the same fault lines that had emerged during the Bush and Kinsey Sicks incidents. Thus, the first thing the CDTF had to do was to agree on how to disagree. In essence, it had to practice what it would subsequently preach. The need to do so underscored the importance of being open to the possibility that the views of others might influence one's own opinion, an assumption that eventually informed several of the CDTF's final recommendations.

Among the toughest problems the CDTF confronted was the issue of language itself. Exactly what kinds of discussions should be promoted on college campuses? Plenty of adjectives came to mind: *Civil, constructive, critical, mindful, reflective, respectful* and *thoughtful*. None was perfect. Each has meanings that are hard to operationalize. For example, while most people would think that it is disrespectful to say, "President Smith is an idiot," they might feel differently about the statement, "President Smith is an idiot because he supports massive deficits."

Shortcomings notwithstanding, the CDTF decided to use the words *civil* and *constructive* in describing the kinds of discussions that ought to be fostered at Furman. Although neither term is actually defined in the CDTF's recommendations, *civil* generally refers to speech that avoids threatening, harassing, intimidating or *ad hominem* language. *Constructive*

refers to speech whose tendency is to advance a particular conversation by agreeing or disagreeing with specific points that have been raised.

The CDTF believed that these attributes could serve as relatively clear, reasonable guidelines for debating salient issues within the Furman community. These guidelines also seemed consistent with Furman's Statement of Character and Values, which asserts that the university seeks "to strengthen community ties through open communication and mutual respect."

The CDTF did not recommend an actual speech code, believing that such proscriptions can lead to excessive self-censorship and are often hard to enforce. For example, partial spellings and asterisks can always take the place of banned words.

Instead, the CDTF recommended creation of an internal communications advisory board. This board, composed of faculty, students and staff, would provide regular advice concerning the content and operation of Furman's internal communications, including FUnet and *Inside Furman*, the faculty-staff newsletter. It could also help ensure that internal news coverage would represent a broad cross-section of campus groups and interests.

Perhaps no issue consumed more of the CDTF's time than the question of whether to permit the use of pseudonyms — a common practice on Internet boards and chat rooms — in FUnet postings. Some students, leery of potential retaliation from faculty, administrators or peers, might be more inclined to post candid comments — or any comments at all — if they

Recommendations of the CDTF

could use pseudonyms. This might be especially true for GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender) students, who are often wary of publicly revealing their sexual or gender orientation.

On the other hand, an analysis of the postings made during the debates over Bush and the Kinsey Sicks revealed a fairly high correlation between pseudonyms and the most disrespectful comments. Moreover, research suggests that anonymous electronic communication significantly diminishes an individual's perceived obligation to refrain from abusive, antagonistic language.

The CDTF also strongly believed that university communities should serve as models of reasoned, logical dialog. In short, conversations promoted on a college campus should not be confused with those in a locker room or a local bar. As a consequence, the CDTF recommended that pseudonyms be prohibited on FUnet.

The student members of the task force provided valuable insights and suggestions. They urged us to consider ways of broadening opportunities to address issues of concern. The idea of regular town-hall forums for the entire Furman community emerged from this discussion. These forums, the students reasoned, might help to diffuse possible conflicts and reduce the likelihood of misunderstandings by renewing the lost art of face-to-face conversations.

The CDTF recognized that diversity of thought and action can and probably should result in a certain amount of disagreement. Forced consensus on every issue is not a victory, but a defeat, for academic freedom and free speech. Yet the CDTF also realized that the process of resolving disagreements — which might include accepting their irreconcilability — is perhaps more important than the substance of those disagreements. By stressing this point, the CDTF affirmed the proposition that people of good will can remain true to their own beliefs without preventing others from practicing theirs.

In her book *Talking to Strangers*, Danielle Allen argues that the “appropriate metaphor with which to discuss the aspirations of a democratic populace” is “wholeness, not oneness.” Oneness denotes homogeneity but potential incompleteness and coercion, while wholeness suggests coherence and integration of multiple perspectives. Following Allen's lead, the CDTF's recommendations seek to bring about wholeness when disagreements emerge, recognizing that the more limited notion of oneness is not always possible — or desirable. [F]

A. Scott Henderson is an associate professor of education. He served as chair of the CDTF and is a former president of the South Carolina Conference of the American Association of University Professors.

The Constructive Disagreements Task Force was charged with formulating recommendations to promote civil and constructive discussions and debates of issues deemed important by the Furman community. The results of its deliberations:

1. The university's rules, policies and other guidelines for students, faculty and staff should explicitly reject sexism, racism, homophobia, intimidation and harassment. While acknowledging that religious and other cultural norms may provide grounds for objection to others' beliefs and practices, university policies should be clear that such objection to others' beliefs and practices is no excuse for intimidation, harassment or *ad hominem* attacks. Such policies may go further and counsel that objections should be phrased in ways that promote tolerance of others' right to practice their beliefs, even or especially when one does not agree with them.
2. First-year Orientation should reflect Furman's Statement of Character and Values (www.furman.edu/personnel/vpaa.htm). In particular, Orientation should not sponsor events that marginalize certain students, but instead create an environment that fosters and celebrates diversity and difference.
3. The university administration (the president and/or provost) should issue timely and decisive responses to any incident or issue that seems intended to make members of the university community feel unsafe or otherwise unwelcome. Such responses should be grounded in Furman's Statement of Character and Values.
4. There should be consistent enforcement of Cultural Life Program policies requiring a commentator, moderator and/or other sources of information to ensure that any given CLP event is placed within an appropriate intellectual, cultural and/or educational context.
5. Students and faculty should be made more aware that a faculty sponsor and/or moderator has the ability to terminate a CLP event and/or rescind CLP credit for an event if behavior during that event is disrespectful or otherwise inappropriate.
6. CLP events should, whenever possible, be organized in response to urgent issues generating significant concern or distress on campus. Proposers, sponsors and the CLP committee should act quickly on all such proposals, recognizing that the four-week deadline for proposals can be waived by a two-thirds vote of the committee.

MAY

Three hundred forty-six students. Thirty-seven courses. Three weeks in May. Two hours of credit.

Such were the numbers for Furman's first "May Experience" — or "May X," as students quickly dubbed it. The optional program, part of the university's revamped academic calendar, offers students (including members of the graduating class) the chance to devote themselves fully to one area of study while picking up two extra credits without the "distraction" of other courses.

It all begins the Monday after Commencement. Start date for 2010: May 10.

This spring's May X pioneers chose from on- and off-campus offerings in 20 academic areas. The eight travel programs included a trip to China to examine the country's business practices, which with 21 students proved to be the first year's most popular course. Among the other travel options were a service learning program in New Orleans to assist with the ongoing Hurricane Katrina cleanup, a geologic field study in the Appalachian Mountains, and visits to Scandinavia and Germany.

On campus, students delved into research methods and techniques in such areas as chemistry, neuroscience, psychology and biology, developed their own video documentaries, studied creative writing with novelist Bret Lott, and engaged in an in-depth examination of Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*.

Furman officials deemed the program a success and, given the rave reviews students offered, expressed confidence that its popularity will grow as word of mouth spreads. History professor Lloyd Benson says he expects the May Experience to "create new kinds of course-related academic encounters between students and our broader Furman community of alumni, donors, parents, businesses and non-profit organizations."

Furman magazine invited several students to offer their reflections about the inaugural May X. Their accounts follow.

The simple cabin by the Furman lake

Twelve Furman students left their mark on campus during this year's inaugural May Experience, participating in a course that represents the best of what engaged learning offers.

During the first week of our "Replicating Walden" class led by David Bernardy of the English department, we read and discussed Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*. This book describes Thoreau's experiment living for two years in a rustic cabin he built in the woods by Walden Pond in Massachusetts in the early 1850s.

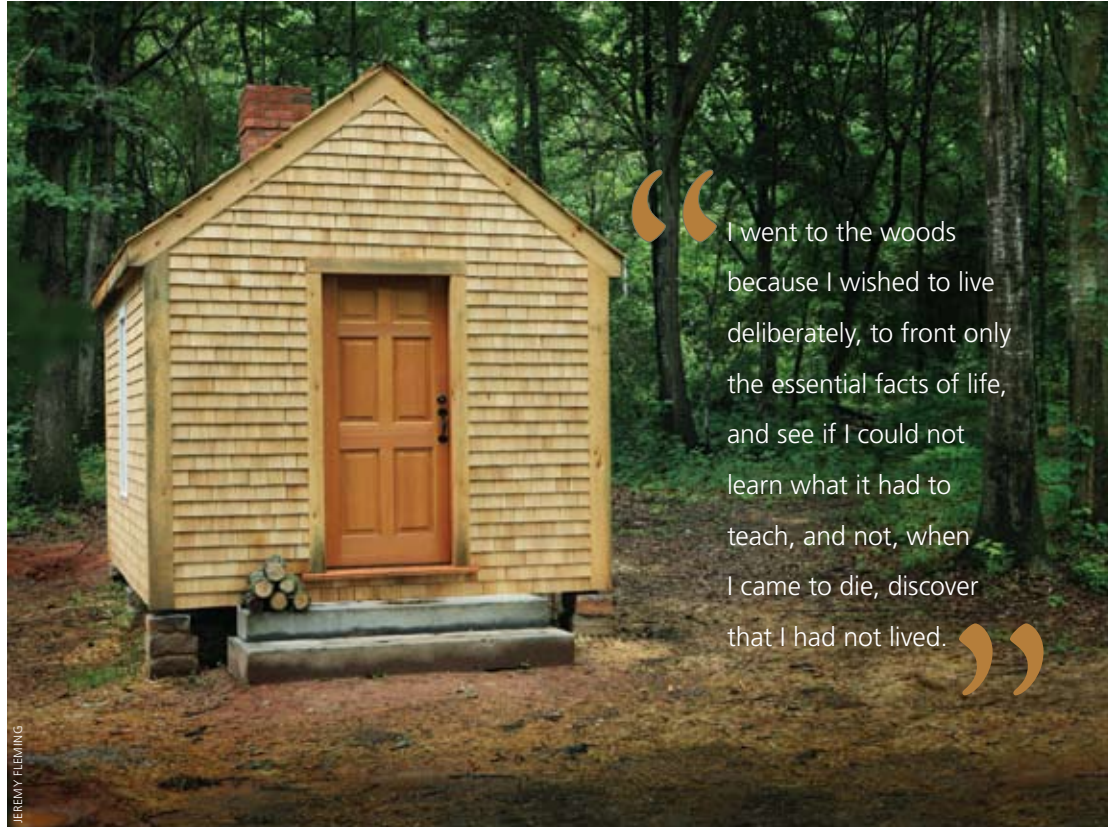
Explaining the experiment, Thoreau wrote, "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. . . . I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life." By simplifying his existence so drastically, Thoreau aimed to make time to write and reflect on life and nature. *Walden* has been inspiring others to do the same ever since.

Our week of exploring Thoreau's philosophy in the classroom was preparation for what was to come. Thoreau believed that students "should not *play* life, or *study* it merely . . . but earnestly *live* it from beginning to end."

For the final two weeks of class, we lived the physical part of *Walden*. Our group, with the help of experienced carpenters from Furman's facilities services department, built a replica of Thoreau's cabin provided, in kit form, by the New England Nests company.

Each day we came together on the far side of the Furman lake to frame and roof the simple house, nail hundreds of shakes to the exterior, and furnish the inside. What better camaraderie is there than a group of students swapping Thoreau quotes amid the pounding of hammers?

As the cabin started to look less like a pile of wood and more like a house, I began to think about what it would be like to live in this shady spot and watch the surface of the lake sparkle from my front door. Could I be like Thoreau and spend a day sitting in a chair in the doorway, simply listening to the natural world around me? Could I remove the superfluities of life and



JEREMY FLEMING

“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.”

instead look within myself, and at nature, for both intellectual challenge and amusement?

Thoreau created an experiment, and we were called to repeat it. In the breaks between hammering and cutting shakes, I found the need to make my own experiment — to step back and reflect on the way I live and how that compares to the way I think I should live. I do not want to live a life of “quiet desperation.” I am willing to put in the effort for enlightenment. This was an energizing revelation for me, a rising senior who is considering what career and lifestyle to pursue after graduation.

At the conclusion of *Walden*, Thoreau tells us, “I learned this, at least, by my experiment: that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.”

We hope that by replicating his experiment at Walden Pond, we have honored his sentiments and created a place where others can visit to stop and think a moment about nature and about their own lives. “Replicating Walden” offered me the chance to think about how I want to enter into the “real” world, and for that I will be forever grateful to the simple cabin by Furman lake.

— LAUREN OSCHMAN '10

The author is a history and French major from Knoxville, Tenn.

Food, glorious food

On a sunny Friday afternoon in May, a group of Furman students gathered around an outdoor grill at the North Village apartments.

Some students stoked the fire, while others sliced fresh bread and chopped vegetables on a nearby picnic table. As the students prepared the traditional Spanish dish *paella* and enjoyed each other's company, they couldn't believe they were also actually getting class credit.

This may not seem like the typical Furman class — and it wasn't. Spanish 352 — "Hispanic Cultures Through Food" — was part of Furman's first May Experience. We were lucky enough to take it, as it quickly became the envy of all May Experience classes.

A typical day would consist of a discussion of the previous night's assigned reading, a group presentation regarding a specific Hispanic country, shopping and preparation of that day's *plato* (food), and perhaps an informational DVD or two.

The first week we focused on the culture and food of Spain. Under the direction of professor Ron Friis, we covered a brief history of the country and the cultural influences that affect the different flavors and products of Spanish cuisine. We tasted traditional Spanish cheeses, olive oils and olives, and prepared the *tortilla Espanola*, *pintxos* (appetizers) and *paella*.

The second week was devoted to the food of Mexico, which included chicken and beef tacos and homemade tortillas. We also discussed the important differences between the Hispanic tradition of "slow food" and American fast food, while learning about Mexican culture and business practices. The final week, we focused on Cuban cuisine.

In the true spirit of Furman professors, Dr. Friis took advantage of the long Memorial Day weekend to assign group projects, such as

having us compare our prepared Mexican food to that of a local Mexican restaurant.

Besides the obvious benefits of our culinary work, the class taught us how to work together as a team and to plan for the unexpected.

Oftentimes organizing the tasks that needed to be completed necessitated a list called "*Menú del día*," in which the day's chores were laid out. Certain people would then be assigned to each chore, and we would set to work.

Surprises were few, but when they occurred we discovered the value of improvising. When we overcooked lentils for our salad, for example, we made a soup from the remains.

In some cases, even a well-detailed plan did not account for the amount of time it would take to prepare certain foods, such as tamales. It was not uncommon to have more on our list than could be done during class time, but between presentations, discussions about food-related videos and readings, and shopping for the next day's groceries, we were almost always able to gather afterwards to share our creations.

While we enjoyed the food we made, we were reminded that it is impossible to talk about food without discussing hunger. Among the many controversial issues tackled by our class, several important topics were addressed by guest speaker Adela Mendoza, a community advocate. By hearing about the plight of impoverished Hispanic families in Greenville, we also learned how we could help to improve the conditions of these people, whether through political activism or donations of money or food.

While we cooked, ate, talked and ate some more, we realized the importance of keeping an open mind when learning about and experiencing different types of food — and especially when interacting with other cultures. And isn't that what a college education (and a May experience) is really all about?

For those who are interested — and who can read Spanish — enjoy a taste of our course at <http://archivogastronomico.blogspot.com>.

— EMILY MYERS AND SARAH WEATHERFORD

Emily Myers '10 is a history major from Hagerstown, Md.; Sarah Weatherford '11 is a Spanish major from Decatur, Ga.



JEREMY FLEMING

A trip to Carter Country

I never really understood why Furman insisted on calling the new “Maymester” a “May Experience” — until I had the opportunity to take a course for myself. After my three weeks in Helen Lee Turner’s class titled “Jimmy Carter and Southern Baptists,” I came to fully appreciate the meaning of “May Experience.”

As spring semester flew by and the plans for the course began to solidify, I grew more and more excited to learn about what our small class of nine students would be doing. Not only would we learn about President Carter and the way in which his personal theology had developed and influenced his life, but we were actually going to meet the man himself!

Being the nerd that I am, I tend to be especially star-struck by “presidential sightings,” so I was more thrilled about this aspect of the class than any other. As if I weren’t excited enough, Dr. Turner had one more idea that surfaced only a couple of days before we left for Plains, Ga., the president’s hometown. She suggested that my mother, Charlotte Evans Finnegan ’86 (a former student of hers), come along for the trip. I had told Dr. Turner my mom was jealous that I was going to meet President Carter, so when I called with Dr. Turner’s proposition, Mom said yes immediately.

So it was that on Saturday, May 9, we left Greenville for the five-hour journey to Plains. The time passed quickly as our anticipation built.

Early Sunday morning, we headed to Maranatha Baptist Church where President Carter would be teaching Sunday school. We arrived early so that we could have the best seats in the house, and we were successful. What an amazing experience! At 85, President Carter still has it all together, which was very evident from his personal interactions with the congregation as he tried to get a feel for where everyone was from. His lesson was well taught and was followed by a traditional Southern Baptist church service.

After church, we were able to talk briefly with the president and have our picture taken with him. Later we saw the Carters eating lunch at a local restaurant, and he and Rosalynn once again spoke to us.

We spent the rest of the day exploring Plains

and getting a glimpse into the former president’s life, past and present. We visited the farm where he grew up and the school he attended, as well as his campaign headquarters. On our way home, we stopped at the Carter Center in Atlanta and were able to learn more about his activities in such areas as diplomacy, social justice and Habitat for Humanity.

Upon arriving back in Greenville, our class commenced as would any other, and we engaged in in-depth discussions of President Carter and Southern Baptists in general. We learned that his core beliefs of advancing human rights and alleviating suffering are deeply rooted in his Southern Baptist upbringing and in such traditional denominational principles as “priesthood of all believers” and “unity in diversity.” Yet one

of the main reasons he cited in making the difficult decision to disassociate himself from the SBC after 65 years was that he no longer saw those core beliefs reflected in what he considered the rigid creeds espoused by the national convention.

Although the classroom work was educational and enjoyable, it was the trip to Plains and the personal encounter with President Carter that set this class apart from any that I have taken. It was by no means a typical class, but it is for that very reason that it is one of the best Furman experiences I have had.

— ELIZABETH STELL ’10

The author is a Spanish major from Fayetteville, Ga.

Furman folks meet the president. From left, President Carter, Daniel Spisak ’12, Courtney Orr ’11, Elizabeth Stell ’10, Charlotte Evans Finnegan ’86, Betsy Moseley ’74, Caitlin Sylvester ’12, Helen Lee Turner, Rosalynn Carter. Photo courtesy Helen Lee Turner.



Because Furman Matters.

Furman and affordability: The case for scholarship support

Alyssa Richardson '12 knows what she wants in life. Majoring in economics and political science, she plans to become an attorney — and is already well on her way, having recently been named the outstanding attorney in a Mock Trial tournament.

She is also involved in such campus groups as the NAACP, Student League for Black Culture and Ladies of Distinction mentoring program. But none of this would have been possible had she not received a Hollingsworth Scholarship.

Hollingsworth Scholarships, awarded to selected South Carolina residents who enroll at Furman, provide more than \$100,000 in aid over four years. The renewable scholarships are named for John D. Hollingsworth, Jr. '39, a Greenville businessman whose estate provided the funds to endow the program.

"The Hollingsworth Scholarship has afforded me access into an amazing university that I would not have been able to attend otherwise," says Richardson, a Columbia resident. "I was able to enroll at a price that my family could afford."

Furman is committed to remaining affordable to a broad range of students and to making it possible for anyone, regardless of financial status, to attend. In 2007-08, more than 40 percent of first-year students came from households with incomes of less than \$100,000. Currently 85 percent of Furman students receive financial aid in the form of institutional awards or state or federal assistance.

Each year Furman awards approximately \$40 million in financial aid — \$29 million of which comes from the annual operating budget, which is funded primarily by tuition income. Tuition at Furman for 2009-10 is \$36,296.

"To meet 100 percent of the need of students, we would need to award \$3.9 million in additional aid," says Forrest Stuart, director of financial aid. "That translates into additional endowment dollars of \$86.6 million."

As the economy continues to struggle, students' financial need grows. For 2009-10,

defined student need has increased 17 percent. One hundred six returning students requested a combined increase of more than \$530,000 in aid. Another 63 students applied for aid for the first time, with an average need of more than \$18,000.

Because Furman Matters seeks to help Furman become less dependent on tuition for scholarship support by building endowed and annual scholarships, from academics to the Paladin Club. Some examples:

Furman United

This new program is designed to boost aid for students experiencing extraordinary hardships caused by the economic downturn.

Furman United was established this spring by the board of trustees with a generous lead gift from trustee Peace Sterling Sullivan. The goal is to raise at least \$400,000 in each of the next two years from donors who choose to stretch their annual giving by providing additional financial support to help students remain at Furman.

Says trustee Jim Ney '64, "This is an invitation to all members of the Furman family — trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, friends, even students — to join together and help those who have demonstrated additional financial need."

To learn more, visit www.furman-united.com.

Partners Program

This program links donors and students by allowing donors to name the scholarship and specify the type of student they are interested in supporting, whether through an annual grant or an endowed fund.

Brian Bridges '03, a Partners Scholar during his Furman years, says, "Participating in the study abroad to Chile program would not have been possible without the Partners Scholarship. Most rewarding of all is the relationship formed with the donors. I have great joy in knowing that someone else is concerned for me and my life."

Tom Farmer '50, a longtime supporter of the



- General Operating Funds of the University (74%)
- Revenue From Endowed Scholarships (17%)
- Gifts Designated for Financial Aid or Paladin Club (9%)

Partners Program, says, "The young people I have come to know through my scholarship donations have brought incredible joy to my life. I keep in touch during the year and always look forward to hearing from them."

To learn more, go to <http://alumni.furman.edu> and click the Partners Program link under the "Giving Opportunities" tab.

Endowed scholarships

Furman offers many other scholarships based on merit, community service, leadership or a student's planned major.

Says Bill Berg, vice president for enrollment, "When you endow an existing scholarship, it's like giving twice. Not only does the gift allow a student to attend Furman, but it frees the money that would have gone toward the scholarship to improve other programs."

Donors may also endow scholarships in honor or memory of former teachers or loved ones. By doing so, they ensure that yet another person's name will be associated in perpetuity with providing a Furman education for deserving students.

— LINDSAY TIMMERMAN NIEDRINGHAUS

The author is a free-lance writer and 2007 Furman graduate.

An alum's perspective on annual giving

Furman alumni are a distinctly supportive group, even in tough times. In this Q&A, Kevin Spears '92, volunteer chair of Furman's Annual Giving Council, describes how philanthropy makes a difference at Furman and discusses his motivations for giving back. Kevin is a free-lance organizational consultant in Atlanta.

What drives your financial commitment to Furman? Why is it important to you to support the university?

>> I received a scholarship when I was a student. Those funds were donated by people who had a real commitment to Furman. It seems appropriate and right that, as an alumnus, I should reciprocate by helping to provide similar assistance for current students.

Sometimes people say, "Well, I didn't get any scholarships or financial aid, so I'm not going to give." My response is that I don't know exactly how much financial benefit I received as a student, but I do understand that other people helped make Furman possible for me. It's as though somebody I never met paid thousands of dollars of a student loan for me.

Some alumni may not fully understand how an annual gift helps Furman. How would you explain this to them?

>> Annual gifts provide funding for the existing budget. Because tuition doesn't cover the entire cost of the Furman experience, annual gifts provide the difference.

One thing I appreciate is that I can choose the area that I want my dollars to support — scholarships, Paladin Club, engaged learning, sustainability, any program that receives budget

support. In 2009-10 Furman will need to raise \$4 million to balance the budget. That's a daunting figure, but even small gifts can really add up.

Other alumni considered a Furman education to be a worthy cause for their philanthropy. I would hope that we do the same now that the shoe is on the other foot.

What are the biggest challenges for Furman in reaching its annual giving goals?

>> There are two primary challenges. Furman operates on a fiscal year that begins July 1 and ends June 30. If alumni make a gift or pledge early in the fiscal year, fewer dollars will be spent on mailings and phone calls asking for financial support. It's a win-win situation for the university and for donors.

The other challenge is to encourage, even persuade, younger alumni of the value of including Furman among the causes they support.

How can alumni provide immediate support for today's students?

>> ■ Enclose their 2009-10 gift in the envelope provided in this magazine.

■ Give a few dollars more than their usual annual gift and designate the extra dollars for the Furman United fund (www.furman-united.com).

■ Consider endowing a scholarship or becoming a Partners Scholar sponsor. Contact john.kemp@furman.edu or call (864) 294-3717 to learn how.

■ Thank the members of the Association of Furman Students, Student Alumni Council and Class of 2009 for their support for current students. Encourage them to maintain their spirit of giving as alumni.



COURTESY KEVIN SPEARS

Furman students help Furman students

In these tight economic times, Furman students are pitching in to support the \$400 million Because Furman Matters campaign's efforts to boost retention and scholarship aid.

The Class of 2009's gift of \$45,050, presented at graduation in May, went to establish a scholarship to benefit a graduate of Bridges to a Brighter Future, a three-year Furman program that serves Greenville County high school students who live below the poverty line and show great academic potential. Bridges serves students from all 14 public high schools in Greenville County, plus a charter school.

The Bridges program was recently named one of the nation's best summer programs by the National Center for Summer Learning at The Johns Hopkins University. The Excellence in Summer Learning Award recognizes programs that accelerate academic achievement and promote healthy development for young people.

To learn more about Bridges and its work, visit www.furman.edu/bridges.

Tying in to the theme of students helping students, the Student Alumni Council voted at the conclusion of the 2008-09 academic year to create a SAC Scholarship. The initial donation of \$20,000 was raised through a variety of SAC-sponsored projects. SAC established the award hoping to motivate other student organizations to give back to Furman during this period of financial stress.

Along the same lines, the Association of Furman Students, the university's student government, has committed a portion of its 2009-10 budget toward scholarship support. AFS voted to allocate \$25,000 toward student aid through a program called "Students for Students."

2009 retirees made lasting contributions to departmental and university programs

With the retirements this spring of John Snyder, Robin Visel and Long Xu, Furman lost three faculty members who were trailblazers in their individual departments.

The retirees were granted emeritus status by the board of trustees during its spring meeting. *Furman* magazine asked three faculty colleagues to comment about the retiring professors' impact on their departments and students.

John Snyder, who joined the biology faculty in 1971, is the senior member of this year's retirees. But you wouldn't know it by looking at him.

Department chair Joe Pollard says, "Like the fictional Dorian Gray, the real John Snyder never seems to age, and his teaching and scholarship are as fresh, active and current as ever. The idea that he might be approaching retirement is almost inconceivable to those who know him, and his colleagues find it difficult to imagine what the department will be like without his calm demeanor and dry wit."

A native of Akron, Ohio, and holder of graduate degrees from the University of Michigan, Snyder focused his doctoral research on the isolation and characterization of anti-bacterial enzymes in the skin of frogs. Pollard says that, in hindsight, "This may be seen as an early manifestation of a lifelong fascination with some of nature's less glamorous creatures, which subsequently came to include fruit flies and moths, among others."

During his 38 years at Furman, Snyder taught everything from introductory courses to advanced classes in genetics and developmental biology, and he was known for his highly organized, exacting presentations. He chaired

the department from 1985-91 and was praised for his fairness, consideration of others and, of most importance to his colleagues, his ability to end department meetings on time. He has been at the forefront of developing Web-based tools to archive and retrieve images of insect specimens, and he has supervised the steady growth of Furman's insect collection.

One of Snyder's enduring legacies will be his work in developing the "Research and Analysis" class, a required course for biology majors since 1984.

"The goal," says Pollard, "is to turn students into competent researchers. [But] unlike many so-called methods courses taught elsewhere, it does not simply expose students to a variety of techniques. Instead, students design and conduct original, cutting-edge research projects within the context of an undergraduate class.

"Twenty-five years after it was introduced, the class is still challenging to teach, because it intentionally blurs the line between teaching and research. This is a perfect metaphor for John Snyder's career, in which teaching and scholarship have been integrated and complementary activities."

In retirement, John Snyder will have more time to spend with his family — wife Judy, an award-winning Greenville County teacher and administrator; their children Erin Shelor '92, Ben '95 and Phil, all college educators themselves; and three grandchildren. He plans to continue to sing in the Greenville Chorale and First Baptist Church Choir, and he'll remain active in research, pursuing his studies of the moths of South Carolina.

When Lynne Shackelford, chair of the English department, is asked about **Robin Visel**, she recalls two special gifts that were trademarks of her retiring colleague: an upbeat attitude and an adventuresome spirit.

"Whether serving as president of the Furman chapter of the American Association of University Professors, taking meticulous minutes as faculty recorder or grappling with the complexities of how best to revise the curriculum, Robin maintained an infectious positive outlook and a zest for blazing new frontiers," says Shackelford.

Visel came to Furman in 1990 as the English department's first colonialist. In that role, Shackelford says, "She helped to internationalize the curriculum for English majors, introducing them to literature from Canada, New Zealand, the Caribbean and India. She later developed a course in contemporary African fiction."

Of that course, Jeff Heinzl '09 recalls Visel's "bright enthusiasm" and noted that she "didn't let the wide variety of ideas presented in the often lengthy texts intimidate her. Rather, they invigorated her and all of us who were willing to join in the discussion."

Visel's international perspective was no doubt influenced by her years at the University of British Columbia, where she earned her graduate degrees. She has been invited to East Africa, South Asia, Europe and the Caribbean to present her scholarly work on colonial and postcolonial writers.

As a member of the Associated Colleges of the South (ACS) Global Partners for East Africa initiative, Visel also helped foster collaborations between American liberal arts colleges and universities in Africa. She traveled to Kenya and Tanzania to enhance her knowledge of East African literature, and she initiated



JEREMY FLEMING



ANNE RISSEER LEE



PAT PECOY

Retirees, left to right:
Snyder, Visel and Xu.

a faculty exchange between Furman and Rhodes University in South Africa.

Visel was influential in developing the English department's first courses in women's and gender studies, and in 1993 she was one of the key planners of the first ACS Women's and Gender Studies Conference — a conference that continues to be held every two years.

But as impressive as Visel's professional accomplishments are, Shackelford says her fondest memories are personal. "Robin and I raised our daughters together," she says, "supervising as the girls rolled down the hill during football games and laughing as Robin's youngest daughter, Georgia, dressed to the nines in gold lamé, repeatedly leaped into piles of leaves at the birthday celebration of my daughter, Laurel."

Shackelford recalls how Visel and her husband, Georgios Papatheodorou, were often generous hosts for departmental socials — and were quite talented in the kitchen.

Margaret Oakes, another departmental colleague, echoes Shackelford's comments about the Visel-Papatheodorou culinary team and adds, "I will miss the relaxed, joyous parties that they used to have at their house, with lamb on the barbecue spit and wonderful desserts, children running around the yard, and lots of good storytelling and laughter."

In 1988 Long Xu became Furman's first tenure-track professor of Chinese. It was a time, says Shusuke Yagi, Xu's longtime colleague in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, when, unlike today, few people were interested in the Chinese language — or China in general.

"While pioneering the development of Chinese language and literature courses at Furman," says Yagi, "Xu developed a study abroad program in conjunction with his alma mater, East China Normal University. Measured by the number of participants and their overwhelmingly positive responses, his program is one of the most successful in the country."

Xu also helped introduce such Chinese cultural events as the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Chinese New Year's Festival to the Furman campus, and he contributed to the growth of the university's Asian Studies program by working to establish internship opportunities in China for students.

After earning his bachelor's degree from Shanghai Teachers University, Xu taught English and Chinese in Shanghai for eight years. He completed his master's degree in American and Chinese literature at East China Normal University, then came to America to study for a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska.

A noted translator, Xu has published many translations of modern and contemporary Chinese literature into English. His anthology *Recent Fiction from China, 1987-1988: Novellas and Short Stories* (Edwin Mellen Press) garnered

critical acclaim for illuminating how recent changes in China had been reflected in literature. He was also the editor-in-chief of the *Macmillan Dictionary for Students in Chinese*.

He is currently translating Ba Jin's *Random Thoughts*, a contemplation of the Cultural Revolution by one of China's most prominent modern writers, and *Chinese Fiction Since the 1990s*, a continuation of Xu's efforts to introduce English-language readers to contemporary Chinese literature.

The focus of Xu's work, says Yagi, has been to bridge the cultural gap between China and the United States, and many of his professional presentations emphasize how to teach Chinese language, literature and culture to English-speaking students. His influence has been felt on both sides of the Pacific, as he has led several seminars for East China Normal University professors.

Yagi says, "Xu is famous for being an enthusiastic and effective teacher who is always well-prepared. He will forever be remembered as the pioneer of Chinese language and literary education at Furman. He opened the path to today's highly successful Chinese Studies program in the Department of Asian Studies, which is now one of the best in the country among liberal arts colleges."

Compiled by Jim Stewart from reports by Joe Pollard, Lynne Shackelford and Shusuke Yagi.

Thanks for the tough love, Miss Watson

Marjorie Watson, who taught Spanish at Furman from 1961 to 1980, died June 9 at the age of 98. A graduate of Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga., she earned a master's degree from Duke University. Before coming to Furman, she taught at Kalamazoo College in Michigan and in several high schools, including Greenville High.

She was the first language lab director at Furman and was instrumental in the development of the department's English as a Second Language program. She served as president of the South Carolina Conference on Teaching Foreign Languages, the Department of Modern Foreign Languages of the S.C. Educational Association, and the state chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, which presented her the Cervantes Award, its highest honor.

On May 20, 2007, Stephen Crofts '72, a Presbyterian minister working with the Carolina Study Center near Chapel Hill, N.C., published the following tribute to Miss Watson in The Greenville News. We reprint it here, with permission.

Dear, dear Marjorie Watson. She taught me Spanish.

Single, up in years, married to her teaching, she was known as the hardest foreign language professor at Furman. "Don't take Watson for Spanish," was the most often repeated registration-day warning for underclassmen.

Well, I got her through a "blind registration" deal.

The first day of class she walked in, resolutely glared at us with commitment, and began:

"I'm here to teach. You're here to learn. You will come to class on time, dress neatly, wear shoes and look interested. You will not cut my class without a written excuse and 24 hours' notice or I will flunk you. You will do your homework each day, and I promise you a pop quiz each day.



"I also promise to come prepared, dress neatly and be as interesting as I know how to be, and give you all of the ability my 37 years of Spanish experience has to offer. Shall we begin?"

About half the class quietly dropped her course. The rest of us quit breathing.

I sat on the front row. I tried to look interested and intelligent.

And every day I left her class and went straight to the library to do her homework assignments. I was scared not to!

I often went to class feeling sick or missing some social event that would have been ever so much more fun. Once I missed her class for a funeral, and when I turned in my written excuse, she hugged me and told me how much she appreciated my courtesy during such a time of bereavement.

In her class I saw big, nearly grown men intimidated by her to the point of tears.

"Why don't you know the answer, Mr. Johnson? We covered it yesterday. It was in your work assignment last night. Are you satisfied with the F I'm going to give you for the day?"

"Miss Jacobs, it is obvious to me and those about you that you are not studying. A great opportunity is yours to learn another language and you are letting it slip by carelessly. How do I motivate you? Would you tell me that?"

One hard semester later I got my A from her on my report card. I can't say as I really liked the class or particularly cared for Miss Watson's singular devotion to Spanish and to teaching it to less than zealous students. But one thing she did do. She taught me discipline. She taught me obedience. And she taught me Spanish.

Years later, stepping off a train in Barcelona, the need to speak Spanish was there. I reached into my being for it, and the words were there.

And even now, opportunities still confront me, things that need doing even though there are other things I'd rather be doing. And the discipline and obedience she helped instill in me are there, too.

I never thanked Marjorie Watson, that tough, intimidating professor so married to her labor. She so loved Spanish, and taught me to love it a little, too. But still I never thanked her. Just took my grade and slipped quietly out of her class into obscurity.

But now I'd like to say, "Thank you, Marjorie Watson, for your tough love. Wherever you are, thank you."

Sometimes, it's years later that we come to see it's those who love us best who love us the toughest.

Memorials: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1107 S. Main Street, Greenville, S.C. 29601.



Christenberry, Hipps were former administrators

George Christenberry '36 and **G. Melvin Hipps**, former teachers and administrators at Furman, died within a day of each other in late April.

Christenberry (above left) died April 21 at the age of 93. A U.S. Navy veteran with a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, he taught at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., before joining the Furman faculty in 1946 as professor of biology. He subsequently became dean of the Men's College before being named president of Shorter College in Rome, Ga., in 1953.

He returned to Furman in 1958 and was administrative director and vice president of development until 1964, when he moved to Georgia College in Milledgeville as chair of the biology department and eventually as dean of the college. In 1970 he was named president of Augusta College (now Augusta State University), a position he held until his retirement in 1986. From 1979-80 he was also acting vice chancellor of the University of Georgia system.

At Augusta College he worked to strengthen campus facilities, acquired property to allow for campus expansion, added degree programs and helped stabilize the university while building its reputation. The school named its field house in his honor.

At Christenberry's memorial service, William A. Bloodworth, president of Augusta State, said, "In my own role as president I have often said that I stand on the shoulders of George Christenberry. He laid strong foundations for Augusta State University."

Melvin Hipps died April 22 in Seneca, S.C., a day before his 72nd birthday. He was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of North Carolina (and charter member of Furman's Gamma chapter of South Carolina) and earned his doctorate from Duke University. He served in a variety of roles at Furman from 1960 to 1979, among them professor of English, professor and chair of the education department, and associate academic dean.

Known for his wit, passion for teaching and high standards, he went on to serve in administrative positions at Dallas Baptist University and Baylor University Dental School and Medical Center Library.

He later became director of university libraries at Mercer University in Atlanta before moving to Anderson (S.C.) College (now University), where he was vice president for academic affairs and dean until his retirement in 1999. His leadership was crucial in Anderson's move from a two-year college to a fully accredited, four-year institution.

Berg appointed VP for enrollment; Gabbert named associate dean

Furman has named Bill Berg, former director of planning and institutional research, and Paula Gabbert, associate professor of computer science, to leading administrative positions.

Berg, who served as interim vice president for enrollment for the past academic year after Benny Walker stepped down in the spring of 2008, was formally awarded the job this spring. He is responsible for the oversight of the offices of Admission, Financial Aid and Student Employment.

Before coming to Furman in 1999, Berg spent 13 years at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., the last nine as director of planning and institutional analysis. He also worked in the enrollment division at DePauw University for four years.

He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and holds an M.A. degree from the University of North Carolina. A former chair of the board of directors of the Higher Education Data Sharing consortium, he is a member of the College Board SAT Committee and the New Predictors Committee.

Gabbert, who joined the faculty in 1996, succeeds Linda Bartlett as associate academic dean. Bartlett, who held the position for seven years, has returned to full-time teaching in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, where she is a Spanish professor.

Gabbert has served on a number of university committees and was acting chair of computer science in 2002.

She earned her B.A. degree from Goucher College and her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Virginia.

Yellow Ribbon program backs veterans' education

Furman has agreed to participate in the new Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program, which will allow qualified post-9/11 veterans to attend the university tuition-free.

The Yellow Ribbon program is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, which covers tuition costs for veterans up to the amount of the state's most expensive public university. The new program also allows veterans to attend private institutions tuition-free, with the schools and Veterans Affairs funding equally the costs that exceed the highest in-state public tuition rate.

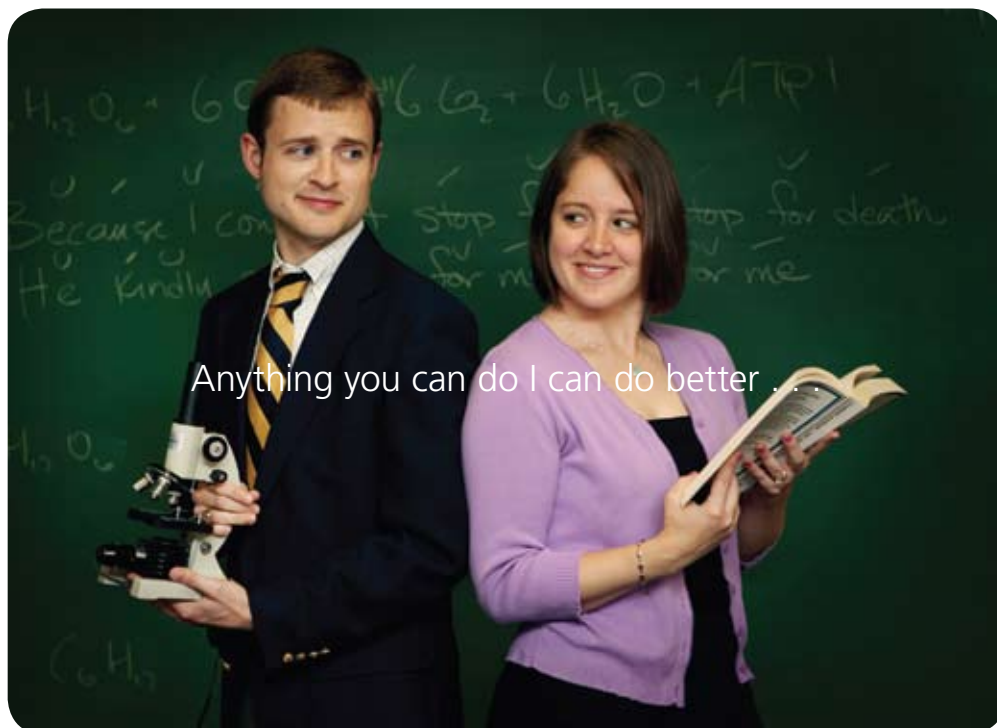
Furman's tuition for the 2009-10 academic year is \$36,296.

"This is a very tangible way for Furman to honor those veterans who have done so much in the service of our country, at great sacrifice to them and their families," says Furman president David Shi.

After meeting the university's requirements for admission, veterans may attend the university on a full-time or part-time basis. The program went into effect at Furman this fall.

To be eligible for the program, the VA says that veterans must have served an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of at least 36 months and be honorably discharged from active duty.

Participation in the program is voluntary. Furman is one of the first liberal arts colleges in the nation to join the program.



Anything you can do I can do better.

JEREMY FLEMING

Ryan and Megan Prewitt Koon aren't yet 30, so they may be too young to have even heard of "Annie Get Your Gun" or the song from the musical that serves as the title of this article.

Nor are they interested in one-upmanship (up-personship?), as are Annie Oakley and Frank Butler in the 1950 Broadway show.

But the title seems to apply, in a light-hearted way, given the Koons' recent accomplishments. As long as you realize that there's no competition in their household — just mutual support.

The Koons, 2002 Furman graduates (she in English, he in chemistry), have taught at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Greenville for the last five years. In April, their classroom talents were recognized by the South Carolina Independent School Association when Megan, a high school English teacher, was named the state's "High School Teacher of the Year." Ryan, who teaches middle school science and pre-algebra, was one of two state finalists for "Middle School Teacher of the Year."

SCISA is an association of approximately

100 independent schools serving more than 3,000 teachers and 34,000 students.

Although their goals are the same — to provide their students the best educational experience possible — the Koons admit that their classroom styles differ. And opposites do, after all, attract.

Megan, a Jane Austen wanna-be, is perhaps a bit more free-flowing in her approach. As she told *The Greenville News*, "I hope one of the things the kids appreciate about me is that I'm not afraid to make an absolute fool of myself."

Of course, she's working primarily with 11th- and 12th-graders. Ryan's charges are a bit younger, so he says a more structured environment tends to be more effective.

A self-confessed Trekkie — which likely boosts his popularity among students — he told the *News*, "In middle school, you have to like what you're teaching. But you have to like the kids, too. If you don't like the kids, you're not going to last."

Evidently that's not going to be a problem for either of the Koons.

In appreciation of Mr. G., students fund the trip of a lifetime

Pat Grills had spent his 37-year teaching career telling students about the art treasures of Europe.

Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Picasso . . . Grills would describe the great works while sharing their back stories, analyzing the artists' techniques, explaining the works' meaning and placing them in historical context.

He knew all about them. After all, he was a 1972 Furman graduate with a degree in art — and a master's to boot.

The only catch: He'd never actually seen them.

Barbara Laffler, a substitute teacher at Greenville's Riverside High where Grills heads the fine arts department, considered this an injustice. She had long thought that, given his knowledge of art history and his love for the subject, Mr. G. deserved to experience the masterpieces in person.

So she enlisted the help of a big Mr. G. fan, Riverside senior Alex Waelde. They arranged with Bank of America to start a "Send Mr. G. to Europe" account. They even had a Web site: <http://sendmrgtoeurope.com>.

And somehow, they kept it all a secret from Mr. G.

Throughout the 2008-09 school year, money poured in. Joey Thompson, now a student at the University of South Carolina, joined Laffler and Waelde as lead conspirators. By the spring their efforts had raised more than \$10,000.

Obviously, Mr. G. was going to Europe. But how to break the news?

Opportunity arose at the Riverside art show April 27. More than 400 of Grills' students, past and present, were in the audience to see the teacher's stunned — and grateful — reaction.

As he told *The Greenville News*, "This kind of thing just doesn't happen to a schoolteacher. It doesn't happen to anybody."

Grills' fans aren't restricted to Riverside, however.

He has been a popular teacher with Furman's Lifelong Learning and Bridges to a Brighter Future programs for many years, sharing his

knowledge and appreciation of art with hundreds.

Now, he's ready to see firsthand the master works he knows so much about. He and his wife, Cathy Whitehill Grills '73 (also a Bridges teacher), plan to take their trip next summer.

"I want to see all of it," he says.



Grills with some of his own art and his trademark art history ties

JEREMY FLEMING

Furman tops in graduation rates among highly competitive schools in South

Furman leads the South in graduation rates among "highly competitive" four-year colleges, according to a study recently released by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research.

The AEI, a non-profit think tank in Washington, D.C., reports that Furman's graduation rate of 83 percent puts the school at the top of public and private institutions deemed highly competitive in the South. The University of Florida is next at 81 percent, followed by the

University of the South (Sewanee), Clemson and Georgia Tech, all at 78 percent.

The report, "Diplomas and Dropouts: Which Colleges Actually Graduate Their Students (and Which Don't)," divided more than 1,300 institutions into regions of the country and into six categories: most competitive, highly competitive, very competitive, competitive, less competitive and non-competitive.

The report said that highly competitive colleges usually accept between one-third and

half of their applicants. The students they enroll typically carried at least a B or B+ grade-point average in high school and were usually ranked in the top 35 percent of their graduating class.

The most competitive institutions graduate, on average, 88 percent of their students, while non-competitive ones graduate 35 percent.

The AEI advises prospective students and their parents to thoroughly examine a school's graduation rate when looking at colleges. The report is available at www.aei.org/paper/100019.

The Woodlands at Furman retirement community opens its doors

When The Woodlands at Furman retirement community held its opening dedication ceremony May 20, it marked both the completion and the beginning of a project that had been 10 years in the making.

Since 1999, Furman had envisioned the development of a community near campus that would allow retired employees, alumni and others with longtime connections to the school to remain involved in university life. With the help of Irving, Texas-based Greystone Communities, Inc., the vision has become reality — and represents the first partnership in South Carolina between a university and a retirement community.

The \$55 million Woodlands at Furman, whose mission is “to be the retirement community of choice by nurturing a distinctive culture of enrichment for our residents,” provides a variety of lifestyle options. It features 132 independent living residences, 32 assisted living apartments, 16 memory support suites and 30 skilled nursing suites.

Independent living residents may choose from 12 different apartment styles, ranging in size from 717 to 2,060 square feet. Other on-site amenities include a fitness room, salon, spa and library.

While The Woodlands has much to offer on its 23-acre site, it also provides residents the chance to expand and enhance their physical, mental and spiritual growth. Through the retirement community’s proximity to Furman — less than a mile out the back gate, off Old Roe Ford Road — residents have easy access to campus events, from concerts and plays to lectures, football games, exercise facilities and programs sponsored by Furman’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. In addition, The Woodlands offers opportunities for ongoing interaction between Furman students and the residents.



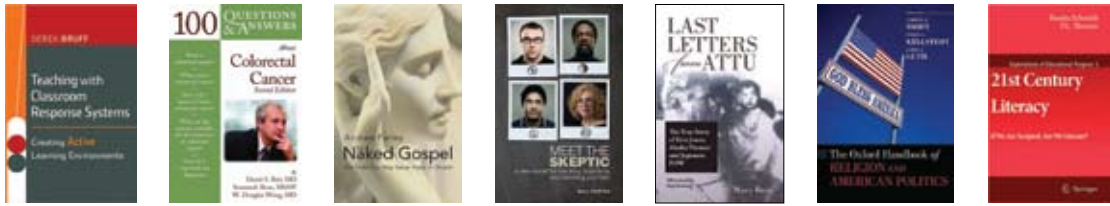
Furman president David Shi said at the dedication, “The relationship between the university and The Woodlands makes so much sense. As I tell freshmen on their first day on campus, Furman is all about nurturing a commitment to lifelong learning.”

And as Troy Cannaday, executive director of The Woodlands, has said, “The relationship between Furman and The Woodlands will grow and develop. We are looking forward to having a close working relationship with the Furman campus on multiple levels.”

The Woodlands is also affiliated with the nearby Cliffs Communities, offering residents access to the Cliffs’ seven residential projects.

As a not-for-profit entity, The Woodlands will funnel its revenue back into the senior living community and the surrounding area, re-investing resources to meet the needs of residents as they move through the continuum of care.

To learn more about The Woodlands, visit www.thewoodlandsatfurman.org or call (864) 371-3100.



Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of recent publications by alumni and faculty

FROM ALUMNI

Derek Bruff '98, *Teaching With Classroom Response Systems: Creating Active Learning Activities* (Jossey-Bass, 2009). According to the publisher, higher education needs a book “that responds to the need for using technology in a classroom of tech-savvy students. This book is filled with illustrative examples of questions and teaching activities that use classroom response systems from a variety of disciplines (with a discipline index). The book also incorporates results from research on the effectiveness of the technology for teaching.” Eric Mazur of Harvard University says the book provides “practical advice on how to make classes more fun and more effective.” The author is assistant director of the Center for Teaching and senior lecturer in the Department of Mathematics at Vanderbilt University.

Susannah Rose '96, David Bub and W. Douglas Wong, *100 Questions & Answers About Colorectal Cancer* (Jones and Bartlett; second edition 2008). The publisher describes the book as providing “authoritative, practical answers . . . about treatment options, post-treatment quality of life, sources of support and much more” for those coping with colorectal cancer. Rose, a Ph.D. candidate in the ethics concentration of the health policy program at Harvard, co-wrote the book while a cancer care social worker at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Her co-authors are oncologic surgeons. Rose, a psychology and philosophy major at Furman, was a graduate fellow in Harvard’s Safra Center for Ethics in 2008-09 and now holds a two-year interdisciplinary fellowship with the National Cancer Institute.

Andrew Farley '94, *The Naked Gospel: The Truth You May Never Hear in Church* (Zondervan Publishing, 2009). The publisher says that in college, Farley “found himself physically and emotionally addicted to street evangelism and Bible study. Yet despite his fervid behavior, he knew something was missing. That something was an understanding of the gospel that is stripped of the compromises and clichés of the modern church.” In his book, Farley, now a professor of applied linguistics at Texas Tech University and pastor of Lubbock Bible Church, addresses those issues. Steve Arterburn, chair of New Life Ministries, calls *The Naked Gospel* “a great ‘textbook’ on how to strip away all the religious fakery and take the challenge to just be a normal person while being a healthy Christian.”

Bill Foster '89, *Meet the Skeptic* (Higher Werks Press, 2009). Designed to create meaningful dialogue between believer and skeptic, *Meet the Skeptic* is a new model for making the Christian faith relevant to those with other world views. It reduces a skeptic’s many possible objections to four basic categories and illustrates philosophical arguments with pop-culture examples. By understanding skepticism as categories and by filtering language, believers can more effectively clarify the skeptic’s world view and share their own. Visit www.meettheskeptic.com.

Mary Breu (M.A. '87), *Last Letters from Attu: The True Story of Etta Jones, Alaska Pioneer and Japanese POW* (Alaska Northwest Books, 2009). When Etta Jones agreed to go to the remote Alaskan island of Attu to teach with her sister, she said she would stay one year. But during that year, the

publisher says, “She met a man and fell in love, and together they spent the next 19 years teaching in remote Alaskan villages.” Everything changed, however, in 1942, when the Japanese invaded the island. She was captured and taken to Japan, where she was held as a prisoner of war until 1945. She was the first white woman taken as a prisoner from American soil since the War of 1812. Breu, Etta Jones’ great-niece and a retired first-grade teacher in Anderson County, S.C., used letters, Jones’ unpublished manuscript and extensive research to compile her great-aunt’s courageous story.

Jerry Bellune '62, *Your Life’s Great Purpose* (Riverbanks Press, 2008). The author, a retired newspaper editor, lives in Lexington, S.C., where he is a community leader and motivational speaker. He says this book is meant “to help anyone, especially young people, find their direction and live lives of achievement.” Nido Qubein, president of High Point University, says the book “will lift you to new heights in your personal and professional life.” Bellune hopes to use the proceeds from the book to raise funds for literacy education and for research into learning disabilities. His ambitious goal: to sell 20 million books and raise \$200 million.

FROM FACULTY

James Guth, Corwin Smidt and Lyman Kellstedt, editors, *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and American Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2009). “Over the past three decades, the study of religion and politics has gone from being ignored by the scholarly community to being a major focus of research,” says the publisher.

“Yet, because this important research is not easily accessible to nonspecialists, much of the analysis of religion’s role in the political arena that we read in the media is greatly oversimplified.” In this volume of essays, the editors attempt to “bridge that gap by examining the considerable research that has been conducted to this point and assessing what has been learned, what remains unsettled due to conflicting research findings, and what important questions remain largely unaddressed by current research endeavors.” Guth is William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of Political Science at Furman. Smidt is Paul B. Henry Professor of Political Science and Director of the Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics at Calvin College, and Kellstedt is professor emeritus of political science at Wheaton College.

Renita Schmidt and Paul Thomas, *21st Century Literacy: If We Are Scripted, Are We Literate?* (Springer, 2008). The authors, colleagues in the education department at Furman, have produced a book that, in the publisher’s words, “offers a call to all who are involved with literacy education. It explores the prescriptions that hinder authentic and effective approaches to literacy instruction.” Schmidt and Thomas “bring their classroom teaching experiences . . . along with their research base to a discussion of literacy spanning elementary through high school” as they seek “to empower both teachers and students seeking literacy growth beyond the scripts that plague twenty-first century commitments to accountability and testing.”

She's got the range: Liebschwager nation's 3-point champ

It didn't quite reach the level of Rodney Dangerfield's familiar lament, but Furman's Melissa Liebschwager definitely wasn't feeling the respect when she showed up in Detroit April 2 to compete in ESPN's 21st Annual College Basketball 3-Point Shooting Championship.

She was the nation's top 3-point shooter during the 2008-09 season, hitting 47 percent of her shots from beyond the arc, but the other contestants from the country's major conferences didn't quite know what to make of her.

Where is Furman, they asked? Do you play in Division I?

The ESPN crew didn't help things. Before the competition, they pulled aside the women from the major conferences — ACC, Big Ten, Big East and Big 12 — and gave them the run-down about what to expect in the competition. They talked to Liebschwager and a competitor from the Mid-American Conference last, and in a fraction of the time. Among the questions to Liebschwager: What conference is Furman in and how do you spell your last name?

At that point Liebschwager decided, as she explained to a gathering of the Furman board of trustees a few weeks later, "I would kick these girls' butts." And kick them, she did.

In front of 20,000 people who had gathered in the Palace, Liebschwager routed her seven opponents in the first and second rounds before burying Arizona State's Briann January in the final. She even pushed the University of Miami's Jack McClinton, the men's winner and the Atlantic Coast Conference's all-time leader in 3-point shooting, to the brink before losing the overall title when her final shot barely missed.

"Everybody was nice enough," Liebschwager says, "but I could tell they believed I couldn't possibly win. I wanted to prove them wrong."



It helped that she didn't have much time to be nervous. She learned only a week before the event that she had been invited to join the competition. Her season ended in early March and she hadn't touched a basketball in the ensuing weeks, so she headed back into the Furman gym for a few days to work on her shooting touch.

Sam Dixon, the Lady Paladins' coach, made the trip to Detroit with Liebschwager, as did her mother, sister, aunt and fiancé, Eliot Paschalis '08, a former Paladin soccer player. Her father, who taught her everything she knows about shooting, couldn't make it because of a work conflict but was watching on television.

"The whole day before and the day of the competition, I was really nervous," she says.

"But as soon as I got out on the floor, I felt a lot more comfortable. I was in my element."

Her performance demonstrated as much. The contestants were required to shoot a number of basketballs from different spots on the floor in rapid fire succession, with 20,000 people watching and a TV camera a few feet away. So a good case of nerves would likely show up in a hurry. But Liebschwager was nearly perfect in the first round, not only obliterating her competition but appearing to have the time of her life while doing it.

"I didn't feel much pressure," she says. "Nobody expected me to win, so I just went out there to enjoy myself. But it wasn't like I didn't expect to perform well. I had been making 3-point shots for a long time, and I was confident I could keep doing it."

Liebschwager, a native of Memphis who graduated in May with a double major in biology and health and exercise science, finished her senior season at Furman on a strong note. Her 47 percent average from 3-point range set a Furman season record, and she ranked among the Southern Conference leaders in scoring (12.7), minutes played (36.7), free throw percentage (89), assists (3.2), assist/turnover ratio (1.4) and blocked shots (1).

She was also named to the league's Academic Honor Roll three times. She planned to enroll in pharmacy school at the University of Tennessee at Memphis this fall.

As for being the 2008-09 women's 3-point champion, Liebschwager received a trophy and "bragging rights" for a year. And where can friends and family find the trophy?

"It's in the attic of my new apartment in Memphis," she says. "I didn't know where else to put it."

— VINCE MOORE

Gioia caps standout career with Athlete of Year award

Women's tennis standout Laura Gioia '09, who advanced to the round of 16 in this year's NCAA tournament to earn All-America status, was named the 2009 Southern Conference Female Athlete of the Year. She is the sixth Paladin to be named the league's Female Athlete of the Year and the fourth Furman women's tennis player to win the award.

The honor capped a remarkable four-year run by Gioia, who was named the league's Player of the Year for the second time. During her Furman career she won 33 of her 36 conference matches, went undefeated her sophomore and senior years, and was first-team all-conference all four years. She led Furman to four regular-season league titles, three tournament crowns and three NCAA tournament appearances.

With 145 victories in singles and doubles, Gioia is the winningest player in Furman women's tennis history.

In addition, she received the conference's Dorothy Hicks Graduate Scholarship. A health and exercise science major and native of Tampa, Fla., she has enrolled in dental school at the University of Florida.

Gioia was also named Furman's Female Athlete of the Year for 2008-09. William Middleton, an All-America cornerback on the football team who was selected in the fifth round of the National Football League draft by the Atlanta Falcons, was named the Male Athlete of the Year after a season in which he had 95 tackles, five sacks and four interceptions.

While Gioia earned the league's top honor in tennis, the women's golf team also had the league's player of the year in Stefanie Kenoyer '11. Fourth-year coach Jen Hanna '98 was named coach of the year after leading Furman to the league championship.

Kenoyer posted a three-round score of 7-over-

par 223 to claim her second straight Southern Conference tournament title. The league crown was Furman's 13th, and the team made its 17th straight appearance in the NCAA regionals. She averaged 74.77 strokes for her 27 competitive rounds in 2009 and went on to qualify to play in the U.S. Women's Open.

Hanna's teams have won two straight Southern Conference titles and made four straight appearances in NCAA regional play.

Former football coach Bobby Johnson, now head coach at Vanderbilt University, was among three Furman greats inducted into the university's Athletic Hall of Fame July 25. He was joined by former wide receiver Desmond Kitchings '00 and soccer star Emily Turgeon '04.

Johnson, who served on the Furman staff for 24 years, was head coach from 1994-01. While compiling a 60-36 record during that time, he won two league titles and led the Paladins to the 2001 Division I-AA national championship game. He was defensive coordinator for the 1988 I-AA national championship team. He is entering his eighth season at Vanderbilt.

Kitchings was a four-year letterman and three-year starter who is Furman's second all-time leading receiver, with 112 receptions. He was also a standout kick returner and an all-league performer. He played briefly in the National Football League and was for a time an assistant coach at Furman. He is now running backs and special teams coach at Vanderbilt.

Turgeon is the top scorer in Furman women's soccer history, with 57 goals and 148 points. She was the Southern Conference Freshman of the Year in 2000 and the Player of the Year in 2000 and 2002. She is a social studies teacher at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh, N.C., where she also coaches junior varsity girls'



basketball and soccer. She is training for the Marine Corps Marathon this fall, where she is running to support the Wounded Warrior Project.

Bill Pierce, chair of the health and exercise science department and Furman's NCAA faculty athletics representative since 2003, has been named president of the Southern Conference. He will serve a two-year term.

A graduate of Davidson College, where he was a member of the basketball team, he earned a master's degree from West Virginia University and an Ed.D. from Virginia Tech. He was head basketball coach at Bluefield College in Virginia for one year before coming to Furman in 1983.

Pierce is a member of the faculty of the Furman Institute for Running and Scientific Training (FIRST), which promotes running as a healthy physical activity and provides training information based on scientific principles. FIRST has been featured in *Runner's World*, *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*. Pierce, who has completed more than 30 marathons, is co-author of the book *Run Less, Run Faster*.

A TRIBUTE TO A TRUE AMBASSADOR FOR FURMAN

There was a grand funeral held in Daniel Chapel on Furman's campus May 16. It was for the president of the Alumni Association — Randolph Williams Blackwell '63, who died May 13 after a brief illness.

Just a few weeks before, Randy had spoken with the board of trustees at its spring meeting, recapping the year's activities. He had only recently been in my office to plan our fall meeting. He was excited about finding volunteers to work in the organic garden near Cliffs Cottage, the *Southern Living* sustainable home.

Randy was the quintessential alumnus. He was from a great Furman family. His father was Gordon W. Blackwell, eighth president of Furman. Both of Randy's children are alumni, and his son, Frank, also serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Two of his three siblings are alumni, and his late brother Gordon had been a member of Furman's board.

Randy had the unique ability to make you feel that you were one of his closest friends. He had hundreds of them. His positive attitude and enthusiasm made people feel good.

As the president of the Alumni Board, his goal was to help all Furman alumni, but especially the Alumni Board, know more about the wonderful things going on at Furman, from Asian Studies to sustainability to athletics to admissions. He was amazed when a professor or staff member would spend time with the board, sharing their enthusiasm for their work at Furman. Randy would catch their enthusiasm and try and share it with everyone else.

Clare Folio Morris '83, who succeeds Randy as Alumni Association president, says, "Randy was one of those larger-than-life people you rarely meet in your lifetime. He brimmed with bonhomie (so appropriate to Furman — right?), and you couldn't help but bask in the glow of his flat-out, full-tilt enthusiasm.



"In the short period of time that we had to know each other, I grew to love him and his beautiful wife, June, very much. Furman is a better place because of Randy Blackwell."

Chris Brown '89, president-elect of the Alumni Association, shared these thoughts:

"It is hard to find the words to express how saddened I am over Randy's death. I developed a deep sense of admiration and respect for Randy once I was elected to the Alumni Board. He was so generous with his time and support when I came on the board, and that support continued as we began to work together on the Executive Committee the past two years.

"He was a 'feel good' person in the sense that I always felt better about myself after having been with him. He had a gift for making others feel special, and it is a trait I have tried to emulate in my own life. I was always impressed by his true passion for Furman and how he loved to talk about it. He was an ambassador for our alma mater in so many ways.

"His leadership and devotion to Furman and our board will be greatly missed. He will be a hard act to follow."

In a fitting tribute to Randy, the farm stand that sells produce from the university's organic garden has been named in his honor. As Angela Halfacre '91, Furman's director of sustainability, says, "Randy planted the first plant in the new organic garden in 2008, and he has been a tireless advocate for our sustainability efforts. His enthusiasm, kindness, energy, friendship, and welcoming and open nature have been particularly appreciated by Furman's Center for Sustainability.

"His ideas and support for our efforts to reach out to the community about sustainable practices and ways of thinking have been a model for our students and all the Furman family. His tireless desire to support the organic garden has helped Furman make great strides in sharing the message of sustainability in real and lasting ways with our students and the greater community. Randy will be sorely missed."

But Randy would not want for us to mourn for him. Instead, we should honor his memory by getting excited about all of the great things happening at Furman now.

The best tribute to him would be for all alumni to capture a bit of his enthusiasm by participating in the annual fund, attending an athletic event, telling a high school student about Furman, volunteering to help on campus, or hosting an alumni event.

The possibilities are as endless as Randy Blackwell's love for Furman!

Memorials may be made to the Randy W. Blackwell Memorial Fund at Furman, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613.

— TOM TRIPLITT '76

The author is director of the Alumni Association.

CLASS NOTES, SUMMER 2009

41

Elizabeth Scarborough Mascia of Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., was honored May 1 by the Louis August Jonas Foundation for her community leadership and service. The celebration, held at the Harvard Club in New York City, was part of a benefit for the foundation and for Camp Rising Sun, with which Lib has long been associated. The camp is an eight-week international, full-scholarship leadership program for gifted and talented students from more than 30 countries. The foundation also recognized Lib for her civic and philanthropic endeavors. Among many other contributions, she was founding president of the Day Care Center of the Tarrytowns, which is named in her honor. She is a founder of Abbott House, which assists abused, neglected and abandoned children and their families, and was a member of the citizens' committee that led to the establishment of the Family Court System in New York's Westchester County.

42

On June 10, Delta Air Lines dedicated its newest Boeing 777LR aircraft to former company CEO **David C. Garrett, Jr.** Dave, a former Furman trustee, became Delta's president in 1971 and CEO in 1978. In 1983 he was named chair of the company's board of directors and held all three of those positions until he retired in 1987. He remained on Delta's board until 1994.

44

John T. James is retired after serving as pastor of seven different churches in Florida over a period of 50 years. He now lives in Charlottesville, Va.

56

Evelyn Cleveland Davis of Black Mountain, N.C., a training consultant for Wycliffe Bible Translators and SIL International, is included in the 2009 edition of *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in American Education* and *Who's Who in the World*.

59

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

William F. "Billy" Cave has been elected to the board of directors of the South Carolina State Museum Foundation, the private support and fundraising arm of the museum. He is the managing principal of Reliance Trust Company in Atlanta.

62

The Rotary Club of Greenwood (S.C.) recently presented **Roger Stevenson** its Community Service Award and made a \$1,000 contribution to Rotary Polio Plus in his name. This is the club's highest award and recognizes outstanding residents for living up to Rotary's ideal of "Service Above Self." Roger joined the Rotary Club of Greenwood in 1975 and started the Greenwood Genetic Center about the same time. The club determined that his vision, determination and inspiration have taken the genetic center and the J.C. Self Research Institute of Human Genetics to the highest levels of medical science, offering medical services to families and children afflicted with genetic birth defects.

65

Trenton Connelly has been called as pastor of Enoree Baptist Church in Travelers Rest, S.C., where he had been interim pastor since last September. He retired from Prater's Creek Baptist Church in Pickens, S.C., in 2003.

66

Edmund LeRoy has retired after 26 years as professor of music at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., and is now professor emeritus. He is relocating to Charleston, S.C.

73

Ronnie L. Jowers of Atlanta, vice president of health affairs and chief financial officer of Woodruff Health Sciences Center of Emory University for the last 18 years, has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for his dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of financial management. He is a member of the boards of several Emory-related hospitals and serves on the planning committee of the Association of Academic Health Centers. Cambridge Who's Who publishes executive, professional and entrepreneur biographies and is a premier resource for business networking.

Ken Shigley was recently elected treasurer of the State Bar of Georgia, moving up from secretary. He practices law with Chambers, Aholt & Rickard, LLP, in Atlanta.

75

Jay Bocook, director of athletic bands and lecturer in music at Furman, has been elected to the Drum Corps International Hall of Fame. DCI, a non-profit organization based in Indianapolis, Ind., is dedicated to promoting drum corps activity and marching music performance for students ages 13 to 21.

79

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Catalyst Telecom, a sales unit of ScanSource, Inc., has named **Bruce Meyer** of Greenville vice president of merchandising. He brings more than 25 years of experience to the position, having previously served as vice president of global marketing for direct accounts with KEMET Electronics.

Joe Riley, previously vice president for television for the Maine Public Broadcasting Network, has become president and CEO of the Brazos Valley Public Broadcasting Foundation in central Texas. The foundation runs Waco public television station KWBU and radio station KWBU-FM.

80

David A. Merline, Jr., of Greenville, a shareholder in the firm of Merline & Meacham, P.A., was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of corporate law, employee benefits law, tax law, and trusts and estate law. He was also named a Super Lawyer in the Corporate Counsel edition of *Super Lawyers Magazine*.

George Singleton, author of two novels and four collections of short stories, is the recipient of a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. The awards go to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or outstanding creative ability in the arts. George, who teaches creative writing at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville, will use the \$40,000 award to work on his forthcoming novel *Side Notes for a New Grudge*.

81

Hal Hanlin has rejoined the Columbia, S.C., law firm of Callison Tighe & Robinson, LLC. He is a member of the South Carolina Bar Association, the Richland County Bar Association and the Columbia Tax Study Group.

2009-10 ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Clare Folio Morris '83, president; J. Chris Brown '89, president-elect; Harriet Arnold Wilburn '74, past president; Rebecca Ann Armacost '89; Lynn Neely Bailey '78; N. Staten Bitting, Jr. '75; Frank W. Blackwell '90; John M. Block '63; Mary Lou Walch Cagle '69; Bobby E. Church '78; Paul D. Goebel '63; Michael L. Guynn '91; Shannon Scruby Henderson '75; L. Yates Johnson, Jr. '59; Gwinn Earle Kneeland '89; J. Cordell Maddox '54; James N. Martin '79; Herman A. Matherson, Jr. '79; Andrew C. Medlyn '97; Matthew A. Miller '99; Joseph C. Moon, Jr. '76; William P. Morrow, Jr. '54; Emmett L. Patrick '56; Scott W. Raeber '92; Gordon D. Seay '61; Ellison L. Smith '89; Leslie L. Smith '91; Cynthia Black Sparks '80; Heyward M. Sullivan '59; William N. Turrentine '64; Connie Gartrell Williams '74.

Ex-Officio and Other Members: David Shi '73, president; Michael Gatchell '91, vice president for development; Tom Triplitt '76, director of Alumni Association; Jane Dungan, associate director of Alumni Association; Tina Hayes Ballew '78, associate director of Alumni Association; Andrew Yowler '10, president, Student Alumni Council; Ben Able '10, president, Association of Furman Students; Rick Harris '10, president, Senior Class.

84

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Chip Wilson has joined Johnson Capital in Denver, Colo., with responsibility for launching and managing a new hospitality division, Johnson Capital Lodging Advisory. He was previously a partner with Dakota Ridge Development and a managing partner at Dakota Ridge Real Estate Advisors. In 2004 he was interim chief executive officer for The Savoy Group, the owner and operator for four of London's finest luxury hotels.

85

Bart Dredge, a former Furman professor who is now chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Austin College in Texas, has been named a 2009 Piper Professor by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. The foundation annually honors 15 Texas college professors for superior teaching, based on nominations

by the state's colleges and universities. Bart has taught at the school since 1994.

Jeffrey M. Kuntz has been hired by Spartanburg (S.C.) School District 7 as orchestra coordinator and conductor of the Spartanburg High School Symphony. He is nearing completion of his doctorate in music education from Boston University.

Dianne Barnett Steinbeck graduated from Regent University with an Ed.D. degree in educational leadership. She is an assistant principal at Chapman Intermediate School in Woodstock, Ga.

86

Marcus Johns has been appointed an assistant regional counsel with the Office of the General Counsel, Region IV, Social Security Administration in Atlanta. OGC attorneys provide legal advice and representation supporting the administration of SSA's programs and the development of national policies and procedures.

Eugene H. Matthews, an attorney with Richardson Plowden & Robinson, P.A., in Columbia, S.C., has been included in the 2009 list of *South Carolina Super Lawyers*, a magazine listing of lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. He is a shareholder in the firm and practices employment, administrative and regulatory law, civil rights mitigation and appellate litigation.

88

BIRTH: **James, Jr.**, and Stacey Dennis **Looper**, a son, James Wesley, April 20. They live in Nashville, Tenn.

90

Patrick Mahoney has been appointed as partner, president and chief operating officer by the Orlando, Fla., firm of NAI Realvest, one of the largest full-service commercial real estate companies in central Florida. From 1990 to 2007 Patrick was president of Orlando-based Intercoastal Distributors Inc., a ceramic tile and stone distribution company.

BIRTH: Terry Vaughn and **Stephanie Allison Eller-Vaughn**, a son, Connor Mathis Eller-Vaughn, February 1, 2008, Tallahassee, Fla.

91

Randall David Cook was the writer for the 2009 Astaire Awards, which annually recognize outstanding achievements in dance on Broadway and film. The awards were presented June 1 in New York City, with stage and film star Alan Cumming as host. Randall's play "LOVE@CentralPark.COM" is being published by Brooklyn Publishers.

BIRTHS: **Terry and Lori Auten Moshier**, twins, a daughter, Caitlin Elizabeth, and a son, Christopher Matthew, January 15, Columbus, Ga.

94

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Brian Edens has joined Sealevel Systems Inc. as sales manager for the western United States. He previously worked at Datastream Systems (now Infor).

Carolyn Ann Yates Rabatin of Nashville, Tenn., has joined Pinnacle Financial Partners as a senior vice president and financial consultant at Pinnacle Asset Management. She was previously a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch.

MARRIAGE: **Debra Tindall** and Thomas Combs, May 2. They live in Kingsport, Tenn.

BIRTHS: Jeff and **Kelly Jackson Davis**, a daughter, Brooke Catherine, April 24, Columbia, S.C.

Eric and **Jeana Samples Yates**, a daughter, Penelope Rose, February 25. They live in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

95

Ernest Abisellan is the consul at the U.S. Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay. He has been with the State Department since 2003, serving in Nicaragua, Moldova and Paraguay.

BIRTH: Laura and **Charles "Tracy" Ballew** (M.A. '97), a son, Charles IV, March 27. They live in Daytona Beach, Fla., where Tracy is the sales and marketing manager for Fabco Metal Products.

96

Alan Alewine, an associate professor of mathematics at McKendree University in Lebanon, Ill., received the William Norman Grandy Faculty Award at the school's Commencement in May. The award, voted on by faculty and administrators, recognizes an individual for community participation, personal commitment to students, and demonstration of the ideals promoted by McKendree.

BIRTHS: David and Bethany Byrne, triplets, a daughter, Olivia Ann, and sons, George Alfred Louis and Samuel Wright, January 28. They live in Beaufort, S.C.

97

Susan Worley Brewer of Greenville received the First Timers Award as the state's best new photographer at the 2009 convention of the Professional Photographers Association of South Carolina, held in February. Visit her Web site at www.susanbrewerphotography.com.

Robert Tims, Jr., of Lexington, S.C., became pastor for preaching and leadership at Lake Murray Baptist Church in January.

BIRTHS: Mark and Christa Bailey Allen, a son, Barrett William, January 27. Christa works for U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez and Mark

is a software architect. They live in Oviedo, Fla.

Bryan '95 and Kirsten Giddings Beard, a daughter, Ashlyn Daniel, July 22, 2008. They live in Smyrna, Ga.

Chad and **Katy Oliver Hutcheson**, a daughter, Adeleigh Belle, March 27, Belmont, N.C.

98

Heather Hatfield Greer, a Greenville resident and member of Furman's Young Alumni Council, has launched Heather's Harmony, a provider of piano and voice lessons and live music for weddings. Visit her Web site, www.harmonyheatherj.com.

Andy Oakes has joined the staff of LeConte Wealth Management, LLC, in Alcoa, Tenn., as a financial advisor. Before joining LeConte, Andy worked with Merrill

Lynch in Knoxville and spent a year as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Ukraine.

MARRIAGES: **Laura Beth Scholz** and Timothy A. Long, February 27. They live in Atlanta where she is president and CEO of Scholz Communications, a boutique firm specializing in arts and lifestyle public relations. Tim is a senior principal with Chicago-based Eloyalty.

Stefanie DeAnne Shute and Leighton Reynolds Kremer IV, November 15. She works with Baker and Taylor in Charlotte, N.C., and he is with Home Depot.

BIRTHS: **Stewart** and Amy **Austin**, a son, Campbell, March 11, Simpsonville, S.C. Stewart works with Objectworld Communications, a Canadian software company.

Cornel Broenner and **Jennifer Lentini**, a son, Alexander Josef, March 13, Toledo,

Ohio. Jennifer is a lifestyle medicine physician and Cornel is a process engineer.

99

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Courtney L. Tollison, assistant professor of history at Furman and museum historian at the Upcountry History Museum in Greenville, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Ukraine in 2010. She will travel early next year and teach American history through the spring at Yuriy Fedkovovych Chernivtsi National University. She also intends to consult with museums and assist them in developing oral history programs.

Katja Wolski recently accepted a position in Melbourne, Australia, as account manager with Invitrogen.

ALUMNI BOARD WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBERS

The Alumni Association Board of Directors has added four members for the 2009-10 academic year.

The **Rev. Herman A. Matherson, Jr.**, of Akron, Ohio, earned his degree in chemistry in 1979. He has been associated with The House of the Lord ministry since 1994 and serves as the church's chief operating officer. He previously spent 15 years in development and project management with General Tire and Rubber Co. A U.S. Army reservist, he is active in many educational and community projects.

Andrew C. Medlyn '97 of Durham, N.C., is planning and finance director with Measurement Durham LLC. An economics major at Furman, he has a master's degree in city and regional planning from Clemson University. He formerly worked in economic development in Georgetown County (S.C.) and in Greenville. He is a board member of the Historic Preservation Society of Durham and a member of the Urban Land Institute and of Downtown Durham, Inc.

Gordon D. Seay '61 has been with The Marchant Company, a Greenville real estate firm, since 1993. He served as development manager until 2005, when



Matherson



Medlyn



Seay



Smith

he became general manager. He previously worked in real estate and the banking industry and also owned a men's clothing store. He is chair elect of the South Carolina Realtor Political Action Committee and a former president of Furman's Paladin Club. He is on the board of the John I. Smith Rite Care Center for children with language disorders.

Leslie L. Smith '91 recently became Southeast finance manager for RailAmerica in Jacksonville,

Fla. She previously played on the Futures Golf Tour for five years before working for CSX Transportation for 10½ years.

A history major at Furman with an MBA from Florida State University, she is pursuing a Master's in Health Administration from the University of North Florida. She is active with the Baptist Health Hospital Auxiliary and Florida Women's State Golf Association and is a mentor for Take Stock in Children.

MARRIAGES: Dawn Loffredo and Kent Lietzau, August 30, 2008. Dawn is executive assistant to former U.S. senator and presidential candidate Robert Dole. Kent is vice president of strategy at Lockheed Martin headquarters. They live in Rockville, Md.

Stacey Rose and Daniel Harris, April 5. Stacey works with the Alexandria, Va., firm of DiMuroGinsberg, P.C., as a litigation and trial attorney. Daniel, a family medicine physician, was scheduled to complete his residency at Georgetown University in June.

BIRTHS: Jonathan and **Rebekah Gentry Gregory**, a son, Jackson, March 25, Greenville. Rebekah is director of the Paladin Club at Furman.

Daniel and Althea **Griesbeck**, a son, Evan Samuel, July 21, 2008, Woodstock, Ga.

Hershal '01 and **Michelle Rogers**

Pleasant, a daughter, Annabelle Elizabeth, April 8. They live in Bonita Springs, Fla. Jim and **Kerri Carter Porter**, a daughter, Macie Pax, October 26, Charlotte, N.C.

Jeff and **Holly Harper-Roberts**, a son, John Daniel, November 21, Woodstock, Ga.

00

Alison Kraigsley has completed her Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of Southern California and received the Trusten Award as the most accomplished graduate student in biological sciences. She has joined the National Institute of Standards and Technology where she will conduct research on how bacteria attach to different materials.

Nicholas Pennington was a member of the first class of graduates from Drexel University's Earle Mack School of Law this spring.

MARRIAGE: **Ansley Campbell** and **Ben Vinson** '99, May 16. They live in Atlanta.

BIRTHS: **Jonathan** and **Emily Wolfe** '02 **Bohn**, a daughter, Caroline Elizabeth, August 7, 2008. They live in Atlanta where

Jonathan has earned an MBA from Emory University and Emily is a wedding planner. T.J. and **June Mee Clark**, a daughter, Elizabeth Grace, November 14. June is a music teacher and church musician in Birmingham, Ala.

Jay '01 and **Robin Thomas**

DiBartolomeo, a son, Gerald Anthony IV, May 29, 2008. They live in Rockville, Md. Thomas and **Ginny Carroll Herrick**, a son, Samuel Dale, May 2, Knoxville, Tenn. Bill and **Dana Steffan Romash**, a son, Charles John, October 23. They live in Sussex, N.J.

Aaron and **Ginger Denison Rothrock**, a daughter, Hailey Jordan, March 11, Durham, N.C.

01

Samantha Donaldson is program manager of communications with Partnership for Public Service, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit that works to revitalize the federal government by inspiring a new generation to serve and by transforming the way government works.

John MacLean has joined the engineering firm of Morrison-Majerle in Montana as an environmental scientist. He holds a Ph.D. in geosciences from the University of Montana.

MARRIAGE: **Jennifer Scholz** and R. Brian Smith, May 16. Jennifer is a doctoral candidate in psychology at Argosy University and Brian is employed with the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget as a policy analyst. They live in Atlanta.

BIRTHS: Jonathan and **Meredith Moore Barth**, a daughter, McKenzie Gene, March 30, Charleston, S.C.

Brandon '05 and **Nicole Malseed Berry**, a daughter, Allie Elizabeth, April 6. They live in Greer, S.C.

Heyward and **Whitney Goodwin**

Bouknight, a daughter, Virginia Blair, February 22. They live in Charlotte, N.C., where Heyward is an attorney at Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson.

Mark and **Kelly Dockter Higgins**, a son, Jack William, October 3. They live in Roswell, Ga.

Will and **Kathryn Connors Johnson**, a daughter, Clara Ann, October 15, Greenville.

Matthew '00 and **Tracy Williams Moore**, a daughter, Caroline Nash, May 6. They live in Dalton, Ga.

Will and **Julie Taft Spearman**, a son, Jacob Locke, February 2, Durham, N.C.

02

Chris Bainbridge won two Tellys for writing and directing in the 30th annual Telly Awards competition, which honors the best local, regional and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions and work created for the Web. He works for BClip Productions in Asheville, N.C.

Adam Marinelli earned his J.D. degree from the Charleston (S.C.) School of Law.

Douglas B. O'Neal has become an associate with the law firm of Merline & Meacham, P.A., in Greenville.

MARRIAGES: **Ginger Melissa Fleming** and Christopher Paul Van Vooren, April 25. They live in Columbia, S.C., and are both employed by BlueCross BlueShield, she as a corporate trainer and he as a direct marketing representative.

Victoria Lace Frasher and Eric Tobias Marshall, April 4. They live in Charlotte, N.C.

Amelia Godfrey and David Helmick, April 18. They live in Columbus, Ga.

ADOPTIONS: Luke and **Shannon Pierce Morrison**, a son, Mendel Lucas III, and a daughter, McKenzie Bella, adopted in December. They live in Easley, S.C.

BIRTHS: Rusty and **Gene Holman Blake**, a daughter, Eugenia Lee, January 29, Charleston, S.C.

Paul and Julianne **Foster**, a daughter, Kendall Joy, May 29, Greenville.

Rob and Laura **Hartman**, a daughter, Anna Claire, November 19. Both Rob and Laura recently completed residencies, Rob in pediatrics and Laura in OB/GYN, at the Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center. Rob was to begin work at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta in July.

Jeffrey and **Karen Jones Kung**, a daughter, Liza Grace Shiang Kung, April 24, Charlotte, N.C.

Andy and Carrie **Pascual**, a daughter, Ella Taylor, December 12, Norcross, Ga.

03

Amanda Owens Banks of Greenville is an individual and family therapist.

Katie Lewis is editorial coordinator and research assistant at the Oregon Social Learning Center in Eugene. She also works as a free-lance writer for various magazines and newspapers.

MARRIAGES: **Holly Constance**

Chudalski and Kenneth Robert Sharp, December 27. They live in Greenville where she is employed at Young Life and he is with Jacobs Engineering.

Lloyd Flores, Jr., and Emily Arnold, April 4. Having passed the state Bar exam, Lloyd is employed as a staff attorney with the South Carolina Supreme Court. Emily works for Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia.

Kristen E. Hankla and Bryce Donovan, June 21, 2008. She covers local government and women's issues for the Charleston (S.C.) *Post and Courier*, and he is a humor columnist for the newspaper.

Carrie Copeland Vickery and **Michael Loring Meisenheimer**, March 21.

Both are employed with Campus Outreach in Greenville.

HOMECOMING 2009 SET FOR OCTOBER 16-18

Homecoming is more than just coming back to alma mater. It's sharing the campus with family and friends, reliving memories with classmates and professors, and choosing from myriad activities that have been planned specifically with alumni in mind.

Classes ending in "4" and "9" will celebrate reunions at Homecoming October 16-18. Samford will be the opposition for the football game.

All Homecoming and reunion information will be available on-line at <http://alumni.furman.edu>. Registration will begin in late August.

Updates will also be sent via e-mail, so if Furman doesn't have your current e-mail address, you might miss out on exciting university news. To avoid such a fate, please send your preferred e-mail address to alumni@furman.edu so that you can stay abreast of the latest news about Homecoming and other areas of interest.



04

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Ryan McAuley completed his Doctor of Medicine degree at East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine and has begun residency training in internal medicine and pediatrics at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

April Robinson graduated from pharmacy school at the Medical University of South Carolina this spring and has begun a pharmacy practice residency at Greenville Memorial Hospital.

Sarah Allison Thomason has earned her doctorate in psychology from Nova Southeastern University.

MARRIAGES: **Michael Evans** and Taemi Young, January 3. Michael received his MBA from Georgetown University and now works for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They live in Arlington, Va.

Dorothy Freeman and **Thomas Self** '05, May 16. They live in Greenville.

Matthew Heathman and Leah Hall, October 25. He completed his Master of Divinity degree at Erskine Theological Seminary and was promoted to Lieutenant junior grade in the Navy Reserve. He is interning at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Greenville and she works at Berea First Baptist Child Development Center.

James Harold Kilpatrick, Jr., and Ashley Elizabeth Meyer, March 28. She graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law and is an attorney in Atlanta. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Public and International Affairs.

Helen Lindsay Keaton and Kevin West Jones, March 28. They live in Greenville where Kevin is vice president of BJ&B Group. Helen teaches seventh grade social studies at McCracken Junior High School in Spartanburg (S.C.) District 7.

05

Ashley Jackson recently received a Master of Science degree in clinical psychology from the University of Memphis.

Marisa Krepfle McIntyre graduated from the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law in May. Her husband, **Rick McIntyre** '04, obtained his MBA degree from Marylhurst University in March. She has begun working at Palmer, Reifler and Associates in Orlando, Fla., and Rick will begin law school at Barry University this fall.

Kathryn Shipp earned her medical degree from East Tennessee State University in May and is now a pediatric resident physician at the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C.

Joe Waters has accepted a position as director of adult education and pastoral

care at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Taylors, S.C.

MARRIAGES: **Greg Dover** and Suzanne Clanton, May 30. Having earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wake Forest University, Greg has assumed duties as associate pastor at Earle Street Baptist Church in Greenville.

Courtney Lynn Prehmus and John Steven Warren, Jr., March 28. Courtney previously worked at the White House as a writer for President George W. Bush, then moved to Buenos Aires to do graduate work on a Rotary Scholarship. John served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was a decorated infantry officer. He is co-founder of GadZeus, LLC. They live in Norcross, Ga.

John Carl Rust and **Mary Virginia "Mivvi" Strickland** '06, November 1. They live in Birmingham, Ala. Mivvi is a middle school physical education teacher

CLASS NOTES POLICY

Because of the large number of submissions and clippings *Furman* receives for the magazine's class notes section and the time needed to review, compile and edit so much information, news items frequently are not published until five or six months after they are submitted.

Furman magazine does not publish dated items (anything more than 18 months old at time of publication) or engagement announcements. When sending news for class notes, please include your spouse's or child's name, whether your spouse is a Furman graduate, and the date and city where the birth or marriage occurred.

When sent electronically, news about alumni couples who graduated in different years is included under the graduation date of the submitter. In other cases it goes under the earliest graduation date. It is not listed with both classes.

Send news to the Office of Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or e-mail to alumni@furman.edu. Selected information submitted to the on-line alumni registry (<http://alumni.furman.edu>) is included in class notes.

and coach with the Vestavia Hills Board of Education. John is a commercial credit analyst with First Commercial Bank and is working toward his MBA at Samford University.

Brian Alan Warth and Valorie Renee Palmer, April 25. They live in Greenville.

06

Kimberly S. Jackson received a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in May.

Lee Ann Wooten has been awarded the 2009 Top Litigator Award at the University of South Carolina School of Law. Presented by the American Trial Lawyers Association, the award was based on her performances in mock trial competitions during her years in law school.

MARRIAGES: Elizabeth Marler and David Armstrong, May 9. They live in Charleston, S.C., where Elizabeth is a student at the Medical University of South Carolina College of Dental Medicine

and David works as a network consulting engineer for Cisco Systems.

Katherine Piburn and James C. Jones, April 4. They live in Phoenix, Ariz., where Katie is a free-lance writer and editor and J.C. is a software engineer.

07

Merianna Neely of Spartanburg, S.C., has been awarded a 2009-10 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Germany. She recently finished her second year as a third-grade teacher at Fairforest Elementary School and was scheduled to complete a master's degree in literacy this summer at Furman.

John Newby, a third-year law student at the University of North Carolina, was a summer associate with the firm of Yates, McLamb & Weyher, L.L.P., in Raleigh, N.C.

Holly Wegman graduated from Wake Forest University in May with a master's degree in psychology.

MARRIAGES: David Robinson

Ballinger, Jr., and Anna Kate Rampey, June 6. They live in Fountain Inn, S.C.

Anna Kate is a kindergarten teacher at Waterloo Elementary School in Laurens County School District 55 and David is an English teacher at Ralph Chandler Middle School in Greenville County. He is pursuing a master's degree in literacy at Furman.

Kimberly Cline and **Jerry Clinton Gibson** '06, November 22. They live in Greenville.

Katie Cornelius and **Donny Pittaway** '05, January 17. Katie works as a production manager for White House Black Market at the company's corporate office in Fort Myers, Fla., and Donny is pursuing a master's degree in secondary education.

Stacy Lynn Jones and **Franklin Everett Warren III** '04, April 4. They live in Greenville.

08

Kristin Feierabend is an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in Montpelier, Vt. She is serving a year in the Montpelier City Planning and Community Development Department where she is working with the community on a long-range plan for the city and organizing neighborhood community groups.

Austin Tucker is a junior consultant in investment banking in Paris, France, with CSC (formerly Computer Science Corporation).

Ryan Wilson recently spent time in Cape Town, South Africa, as a volunteer for the Living Hope Community Center, a faith-based non-profit focusing on HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention. He also worked with the Mobile Music Academy in Cape Town, teaching music to children in underdeveloped areas. He has returned to the States to begin work on a Master of Divinity degree at McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University in Atlanta.

MARRIAGES: Graham Clark and **Josh Mudd** '05, September 6, 2008. They live in Smyrna, Ga.

Hailey Iminger and Gordon Wilson, June 14, 2008. They lived in Scotland for nine months where she worked as a reporter for a local newspaper. They now live in Concord, N.C.

Michael Brett McCarty and Dana Rose Baker, April 25. He is studying for a master's degree at Duke University Divinity School and she is a physical therapist in the Duke Health System. They live in Durham, N.C.

09

Tommy Andrews is a Congressional intern with U.S. House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio.

Kate Hofler is a research fellow at Greenville Forward, a non-profit organization.

Andrew Sample is an analyst with Fixed Income Sales & Trading in Purchase, N.Y.

DEATHS

Virginia Sandel Mood '36, March 21, Sumter, S.C. She retired from the "Green T" Texaco Station, which she and her husband owned and operated.

Claudianna Prevost Evans Rice '36, January 17, Anderson, S.C.

W. Frank Caston '37, February 19, Spartanburg, S.C. He was a retired clinical psychologist and U.S. Air Force officer. He served five years in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and many more years in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He retired after 16 years with the Veterans Hospital in Columbia, S.C. He was also director of the psychology departments of Whitten Center in Clinton, S.C., and the Caswell Center in Kinston, N.C. He was a ham radio operator and a member of the American Radio Relay League and the Columbia Amateur Radio Club, as well as Kiwanis Club, the U.S. Chess Federation and the Palmetto Chess Club.

Napier Tedards Holland '37, May 17, Augusta, Ga. Active in Girl Scouts of America, she was a substitute teacher

and worked for Cullum Galleries. She was also an accomplished bridge player.

Obera Byars Pruitt '37, April 28, Anderson, S.C. She taught home economics at Girl's High School in Anderson and at Pendleton (S.C.) High School. She was an assistant home agent of Anderson County and was home agent for York County, Lowndesville High School, Belton and Belton-Honea Path High School. She was a member of Theta chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, the Anderson County Woman's Club, Anderson County Education Association and Golden Hour Garden Club.

Charles Alvin Batson '38, May 20, Columbia, S.C. A veteran radio and television broadcaster, his 45-year career began in 1936 at an NBC affiliate in Greenville. He was one of the first military draftees from Greenville in 1941. He was sent to England and became part of the force invading North Africa, after which he was assigned to Allied Force Headquarters in North Africa as radio officer

on General Eisenhower's staff. After being transferred to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., he became executive officer of the radio branch in the War Department Bureau of Public Relations. He left the military in 1946 with the rank of major. That same year his television career began at the National Association of Broadcasters in Washington and New York City, where he was director of television. He returned to South Carolina in 1951 as director of television for the Broadcasting Company of the South (later Cosmos Broadcasting) and was instrumental in putting WIS-TV in Columbia on the air in 1953. He rose to the position of president, chairman and chief executive officer of Cosmos and held all three offices when he retired in 1981. He was the first television broadcaster to be president of the S.C. Broadcasters Association and was later inducted into the group's Hall of Fame. Active in the community, he served on a host of boards for professional and charitable groups.

Frances Wertz Owings '38, October 13, Virginia Beach, Va. She was a retired teacher with Norfolk (Va.) Public Schools, where she taught for 30 years. She was a member of the Fidelis Epsilon chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa.

Louise Bolt Alverson '40, March 16, Paris, Ky. She held a variety of editorial positions with the *Paris Daily Enterprise*, a newspaper started by her husband in 1942. Following the sale of the newspaper in 1975, she became associated with the Paris-Bourbon County YMCA where she worked until retiring as head of public relations in 1997. Active in her community, she served three years as chair of the Crippled Children's Society, as an officer in the Bourbon County Women's Club, and as a member of the library board. She was also a member of the Jemima Johnson Daughters of the American Revolution chapter and was an avid golfer.

Goldie Wood Christopher '40, April 29, Greenville. She was a retired vice president with First Citizens Bank of Great Falls, S.C.

Wilbur T. Reid '40, April 19, Darlington, S.C. He was a Baptist minister.

Margaret Ashmore Johnston '41, March 27, Lexington, N.C. She taught briefly at Berea High School in Greenville.

W.E. "Gene" Curry '43, February 26, Munroe Falls, Ohio. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War and was employed by the B.F. Goodrich Company for 41 years.

Henry J. Gambrell '43, April 6, Greenwood, S.C. He was a Baptist minister for churches in South Carolina and Georgia. He was a Mason for 60 years.

Nancy Elizabeth "Bettie" Powe Christopher '44, April 26, Greenville. She was a teacher in the Greenville County School District. A talented violinist, she was a past president of the Greenville Music Club and performed with the Foothills Philharmonic Orchestra. She also played with the Scoopers, a string ensemble.

WOMEN LAWYERS' GROUP TAPS FURMAN GRAD

The oldest women's bar organization in the United States has a Furman alumna at the helm.

Lisa Stevens Gilford, a 1990 graduate and an attorney with Alston and Bird LLP in Los Angeles, was installed July 23 as president of the National Association of Women Lawyers, the nation's leading voluntary organization devoted to the interests of women lawyers and women's legal rights. During her one-year term she will preside over the group's executive board, help oversee the organization's daily operations, and serve as the group's principal media contact on noteworthy legal issues.

According to Gilford, the NAWL, founded in 1899, played a key role in the women's suffrage movement and other women's rights matters during the 20th century. It is an advocate for women in the legal system while providing programming and support for women lawyers, law students and other professionals.

"I am honored to lead such a longstanding and significant group," says Gilford. "NAWL's mission of advancing women in and under the law is personally important to me."

After earning a degree in political science from Furman, where she was a Truman Scholar, Gilford earned her J.D. from the University of Southern California and a Master of Laws degree from Georgetown University. She has more than 15 years of experience in trial law and is a partner in Alston and Bird's Litigation and Trial Practice Group.

Active in many bar, civic and trade organizations, she is a frequent lecturer on such topics as California tort claims, diversity issues and professional development concerns for women lawyers. She has been named a "Rising Star" by *Southern California Super Lawyers* and is chair of the DuPont Minority Job Fair for the Western Region. In 2008 she received the



J. Michael Brown Award from DuPont for her commitment to diversity, recruiting and mentoring in the legal profession.

Josephine “Jo Jo” Sheppard Rogers Engler '46, March 15, Augusta, Ga. After graduating from nursing school at Vanderbilt University, she trained at Johns Hopkins University to be supervisor of the first premature infant nursery at University Hospital in Augusta. She also taught pediatric nursing at the Barrett School of Nursing and served as a medical missionary in Liberia.

Joan Flandreau Wernsing '46, November 5, Hendersonville, N.C. She was a teacher and a community volunteer.

Earl Paulk '47, March 29, Atlanta. He was founder of the Cathedral at Chapel Hill in Georgia's DeKalb County and was for a time a national leader among independent charismatic churches. He wrote a number of books and was invited to

a White House prayer breakfast by Ronald Reagan. His public housing ministry was named by George H.W. Bush as one of his thousand points of light.

Christopher Jefferson Futrell, Jr. '48, March 7, Laurens, S.C. After graduating from seminary, he served as pastor of Baptist churches in Kershaw County, S.C., and Blythewood, S.C. He went on to serve on the staff of the South Carolina Baptist Convention as an associate director of discipleship training and as a media library consultant. In 1993 he retired from the convention to become director of missions for the Ridge Baptist Association. He was the associational director of Discipleship Training for Lexington Baptist Association for many years and served for a time as president of the Pastors Conference

in Kershaw and Columbia Metro Baptist associations. He was chosen the Outstanding Alumnus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for South Carolina in 1993 and was recipient of the Church Media Library Award from the Southern Baptist Convention.

Samuel Neely Smith, Jr. '48, May 12, Columbia, S.C. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and then worked for the Burroughs Corporation for 31 years before retiring. He was a member of the American Legion and the Civitan Club.

Ansel L. “Ace” Bridwell '49, May 15, Greenville. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and was employed as the human resources director at the Poe Plant of Burlington Industries for 25 years.

Jane Alexander Carson France '49, March 16, Greenville.

Floyd Fredrick Griffin, Jr. '49, March 22, Greenville. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and went on to be a family physician. He was past president of the Lion's Club and volunteered with Meals on Wheels.

Jean Sedberry Lawrence '49, April 14, Greenville. In 1965 she started the kindergarten program at White Oak Baptist Church, where she taught and served as director for 25 years.

Cecil Phillips Satterfield, Sr. '49, May 6, Greer, S.C. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and a retired employee of Liberty Life Insurance Company.

DAN FOSTER WAS ONE OF JOURNALISM'S FINEST

Dan Foster's death
May 22 at the age of 80 left a gaping hole in the journalistic world, locally and nationally.

Generations of Greenvilleans enjoyed Foster's newspaper stories and columns during his 52 years of covering sports in the state, region and nation. When he retired as sports editor of *The Greenville News* in 2000, he received a host of awards, including the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor. He was also elected to the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame.

Upon his death, Foster, a 1949 Furman graduate, was remembered as much for his personality and friendliness as for his works. The *News* described him as “a man who loved life and lived it to the fullest. He was a master storyteller — [whether] penning one of his thousands of columns or spinning a yarn in the elevator . . . he had a kind word for everyone, and if he had time, a story that would leave you in stitches.”



And although Foster didn't practice his craft in the nation's media capitals, he was highly respected by his peers. He was a former president of the National Football Writers Association and was enshrined in the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Hall of Fame. He covered everything from Super Bowls to the Masters to the NCAA Final Four. His most memorable event, he once said, was the earthquake-marred 1989 World Series between Oakland and San Francisco.

Foster was sports editor of *The Hornet*, Furman's student newspaper, during his undergraduate days, while also working at the local paper. After graduating he wrote for the *Greenville Piedmont*, the afternoon paper, before entering the Air Force during the Korean War. He returned to Furman as sports information director during the era of basketball standouts Frank Selvy and Darrell Floyd. Soon, though, he resumed his newspaper career, where he would remain.

The *News* credited Foster with playing “an undeniable role in helping young black athletes during a time when our Southern culture was defined by a separate, and surely unequal, way of life. Long before it was expected, Foster covered black athletes in [Greenville]. In doing so, he gave many young blacks

a chance at a college scholarship and opportunity to break through racial barriers.”

The *News* quoted Jesse Jackson, the Greenville native and civil rights leader whom Foster assisted in landing a football scholarship to a major university, as saying that Foster's “role as a journalist, to open doors for all Americans, is just legendary.”

For Foster, sports writing was a labor of love, something he felt fortunate to do for a living. Upon his retirement he told *Furman* magazine, “I never thought that getting free tickets, parking in reserved parking, and sitting in a climate-controlled press box to watch sports was all that noble.”

But if anyone represented nobility in sports writing, it was Dan Foster.

Dan Foster is survived by his wife, Kay Floyd Foster; two sons and daughters-in-law, Max and Mary Foster of Charlotte, N.C., and Beach '78 and Maria Foster of Greenville; three step-daughters; 11 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Memorials: Paladin Club, Furman University 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or Salvation Army, P.O. Box 237, Greenville, S.C. 29602.

Julia Fields Agee '50, April 15, Greenville. Holder of a Ph.D. in cell molecular biology from the Medical College of Georgia, she worked as a research scientist at the Veterans Hospital in Augusta, Ga.

Charles Brooks Johnson '50, March 30, Walhalla, S.C. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a retired school administrator in Oconee County.

David Norman "Sonny" Wilburn '50, March 19, Union, S.C. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, where he rose to the rank of captain and served in the Korean Conflict. He went on to practice law in Union for many years until he was appointed a judge by the South Carolina General Assembly. He was family court judge for South Carolina's 16th Judicial Court, which encompasses Union and York counties. Following his retirement, he was a member of the board of the Salvation Army and volunteered with Meals on Wheels.

Juanita Hart Bacon '51, May 4, Lexington, S.C. She earned a master's degree in nursing and retired from BlueCross BlueShield after many years of service.

Floretta Richardson Boyd '51, March 30, Mullins, S.C. She taught in junior and senior high schools in the Carolinas. She also served as a home missionary in Arkansas, New Mexico and Louisiana. In 2008 she was recognized by her church, Mullins First Baptist, when a Women's Missionary Union group was named in her honor. She was a past member of the Marion County Historical Society.

Martha "Pete" Self Thomason '51, April 30, Anderson, S.C. A member of the Mimosa Garden Club, she was a certified flower show judge and participated in many flower shows.

Victor Morgan Dukes '52, May 2, Maggie Valley, N.C. He was pastor of First Baptist Church in Bath, S.C., before being named

director of religious activities at Furman in 1958, a position he held until 1965. He went on to serve as pastor of First Baptist Church of Walhalla, S.C., before moving in 1970 to Brookland Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. (which later merged with Hyattsville Baptist Church in Maryland). He also worked for a time with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. He moved to Charleston, S.C., in 1985, and in 1990 was named superintendent at the Star Gospel Mission, the state's oldest Christian welfare organization. He retired in 1997.

Rebecca Moore Kay '52, April 16, Charlotte, N.C. She taught music at elementary schools in Union County, S.C.. She also taught private piano lessons in her home and was a church organist for 27 years. She was a member of the Hickory Grove Christianaires and was a hospice volunteer.

Lester L. Bates, Jr. '53, January 14, Columbia, S.C. He was a distinguished civic and community leader, as well as an influential judge and businessman. During law school at the University of South Carolina, he served as executive vice president of the American Law Student Association. After two years in the U.S. Air Force as a legal officer, he practiced law in Columbia for 46 years, including 12 when he served as president of the New South Life Insurance Company. He was a judge of the Columbia Municipal Courts for more than 13 years and a chief administrative judge for more than seven years, during which time he promoted a specialized criminal domestic violence court and later assisted the state attorney general in developing such courts throughout the state. He was on the S.C. Bar Association Pro Bono Board and was president of the Richland County Bar Association, which named him Lawyer of the Year in 2001. The same year he was named Rotarian of the Year in Columbia and received the Distinguished Service Award from

DON'T FORGET THOSE SIX-WORD MEMOIRS

The magazine is still collecting the six-word Furman memoirs we requested in the spring issue. We've received a variety of entries thus far — and a number of people have sent multiple phrases. Because of the large numbers of submissions, we decided to delay publication an issue so that we could review them all carefully.

Many alumni (and a few parents and friends) tell us they've been inspired by this idea. Even those who haven't shared their memoirs with the magazine have described exchanges with old roommates and friends. So at least we've jogged some memories.

There's still time to send yours. You have until September 10 to craft your statement and submit it to jim.stewart@furman.edu, or mail it to Jim Stewart, Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613.

Six words. Furman years. Simple enough.

the Domestic Abuse Center. He was a recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian award, and of distinguished service awards from the Columbia Jaycees and the Business Association of Columbia. He served on the boards of Furman, the Salvation Army, the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce and the University of South Carolina Coliseum, among others. He was also long-time president and board member of the Providence Home, a Christian facility for homeless men; former chair of the Central S.C. Chapter of the American Red Cross; and a board member of the Epilepsy Association of South Carolina for many years.

Augustus Jerome Blalock, Jr. '54, April 10, Charleston, S.C. He was a jet fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force and retired as president of Tidewater Transportation Company. He was a member of the Huguenot Society and the Charleston Museum. He held a 100-ton ocean operator's license with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Joe Cephas Durham, M.A. '54, June 4, Pickens, S.C. He was in the U.S. Army before entering the field of education,

in which he was principal at three schools in Pickens and Oconee counties. He also served as superintendent of the Pickens County School District and retired in 1974 from the South Carolina State Department of Education.

Herman Virgil Thomason '55, May 14, Alexandria, Va. He was minister of education and music at Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Arlington, Va., and Groveton Baptist Church in Alexandria. He taught English for 25 years at Mount Vernon High School in Fairfax County, Va., before becoming guest services manager for the Bethesda (Md.) Marriott.

Mary Dean Edens Winchester '55, March 4, Virginia Beach, Va. She taught in the public schools of Virginia Beach and South Carolina for more than 30 years. She also taught GED classes for the military during her husband's career in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. She was involved in a variety of community endeavors.

Martha Phillips Poore '56, May 11, Anderson, S.C. She spent her career teaching in the upstate of South Carolina and retired from the Greenville County School District.

McCONNELL, 3 OTHER ALUMS JOIN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mike McConnell, former Director of National Intelligence, was one of four alumni who joined the Furman board of trustees July 1.

McConnell, a native of Greenville and a 1966 Furman graduate, served as DNI under President George W. Bush. A U.S. Navy veteran and former top intelligence officer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Persian Gulf War in 1991, he is now a senior vice president with Booz Allen Hamilton in McLean, Va.

The other new trustees, who were announced after the board's spring meeting in April, are David L. Hauser of Cramerton, N.C., Robert E. Hill, Jr., of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and Carl F. Kohrt of Powell, Ohio.

Hauser, a 1973 Furman graduate, is group vice president and chief financial officer of Duke Energy Company in Charlotte. Hill, who graduated in 1983, is president and chief executive officer of Acosta Sales and Marketing Company in Jacksonville, Fla. Kohrt, a former chair of the board and a 1965 graduate, is the retired president and CEO of Battelle in Columbus, Ohio. He received an honorary degree from the university last spring.

Emilyn Sanders of Greenville and Charles H. Townes '35 of Berkeley, Calif., have been granted status as emeritus members of the board.

Charles T. Goodson '58, May 1, West Columbia, S.C. He was a retired general thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon. After graduating from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in 1963, he completed a rotating internship and general surgery residency at Spartanburg (S.C.) General Hospital and then completed a thoracic and cardiovascular surgery residency at MUSC. He was a surgeon in the U.S. Army for two years, one of them in Vietnam. From 1971 until retiring in 1999 he practiced general, thoracic and cardiovascular surgery in the Midlands of South Carolina. He was a member of the American Society of Bariatric Physicians, a diplomat of the American Board of Bariatric Medicine, and a member of the American Society of Aesthetic Mesotherapy.

John R. McKinney '61, April 30, Greenville. He was a U.S. Navy hospital corpsman aboard the USS Bennington from 1955 to 1959. He went on to work for (Texize) Dow Brands in Mauldin, S.C., retiring as a distribution manager.

Charles Robert "Robbie" Sharp '62, April 11, Dawsonville, Ga. He built and flew ultralight airplanes and was an entrepreneur whose most recent venture was Sharp Signs in Dawsonville.

Randolph "Randy" Jennings Griffith '64, May 21, Asheville, N.C. He was a minister and author.

Raymond Erl Campbell '66, May 10, Greenville. He spent more than 30 years in the banking business with the former Peoples National Bank, Southern Bank & Trust and Summit National Bank. He was a past member of the board of directors of Samaritan House in Greenville and was a U.S. Army veteran.

Eula Mae Roaden, M.A. '66, April 11, Greenville. She taught at Grove and Northwood elementary schools and was a reading specialist at Travelers Rest and Gateway elementary schools, all in Greenville County. She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa sorority, the international honorary society for women educators.

Rance Claxton Cobb '71, April 19, Gaffney, S.C. He retired as principal of the school at Leath Correctional Institution in Greenwood, S.C., and was most recently employed by the Cherokee County (S.C.) School District as a principal at Cherokee Community Learning Center. He was also a board member of Lakelands Federal Credit Union.

Nancy Catherine Hamby '71, April 19, Greenville. She was employed with the Greenville County Department of Social Services for 34 years, working with adoptions, child protective services and adult protective services. She retired in 2005.

Alva Eugenia Lee Kennedy '73, January 6, Dallas, Texas.

Edwin Jerry Massengale '76, March 11, Greenville. He worked in civil service for 31 years.

William Bruce Posey '77 and **David Mapp Sloan '77**, May 16. They were killed in an automobile accident in Wilkes County, Ga. Billy Posey was a resident of Columbia, S.C. He was employed by J.P. Morgan Chase and had formerly worked with Nissan Motor Corp. David Sloan lived in Providence, N.C., and was an ophthalmologist in nearby Danville, Va. He was a member of the Christian Ophthalmology Society and the Boy Scouts of America and served on the Medical Ethics Committee at Danville Regional Medical Center. He practiced ophthalmology in New Hampshire at Pease Air Force Base, where he carried the rank of major and was awarded the Meritorious Service

Medal. He was a medical missionary to Mexico and Pakistan and was substitute organist at Mount Hermon Baptist Church.

Rachel "Mamoo" Harbin Holliday '79, April 5, Belton, S.C. She was a retired engineer with BellSouth. A talented singer, she was deeply involved in church missions work.

John W. "J.R." King, Jr., MBA '81, March 30, Lexington, S.C. He started his military career as a medic in the U.S. Air Force, then attended Western Michigan University and entered the U.S. Army Infantry. During his career he taught in the ROTC program at Furman. He retired as a lieutenant colonel after 25 years of service. He was then employed as the commissary branch manager for the South Carolina Department of Corrections for 11 years. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

John Phillip Allen '84, March 30, Greenville. He was a U.S. Army veteran of Vietnam and was employed in the Department of Facilities Services at Furman.

Tara Sue Taggart '88, April 2, Blythe-wood, S.C. She graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1993. She worked with the South Carolina Department of Appellate Defense, the state Guardian Ad Litem program, and in private practice in criminal defense. She was also an animal protection activist and worked to establish the Cotton Branch Animal Sanctuary.

Jennifer Lynn "Jenn" Stefanik '94, March 28, Smyrna, Ga. She was a special education teacher with the Clayton County (Ga.) School System and at the time of her death was employed in Cobb County as a second-grade teacher at Russell Elementary School. She participated in mission trips to Russia and South America, was active in Junior League and was a volunteer with many local organizations.

BEING THE CHANGE

Kartikeya Singh '07 spent the last year addressing the issues closest to his heart: climate change and renewable energy.

Singh, who wrote about his efforts as a Compton Fellow in his native India for the Summer 2008 issue of *Furman* magazine, is a founder and first executive director of the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN), a grass-roots movement among the country's young people. Through its work with like-minded non-profit groups, the IYCN strives to increase awareness about climate change both nationally and internationally.

To illustrate his dedication to the cause, Singh spent part of the last year on a "Climate Solutions Road Tour," a 4,000-kilometer journey across India designed to document and profile solutions to the climate crisis within the country. In the process Singh and his cohorts tested technology by driving the entire distance in specially designed solar-electric cars made by REVA, an Indian company. He also continued his focus, begun during his Compton Fellowship, on bringing renewable resources to the rural areas of India.

For Singh, one tangible culmination of his efforts occurred in April, when solar lanterns were distributed to 70 households in rural villages in Madukkarai District of Tamil Nadu State. The lanterns provided families with more and extended access to light for reading, studying and other activities.

As Singh wrote in a letter to friends and acquaintances, "The next steps will be to bring in some other forms of energy into the villages: biogas, perhaps biofuel for decentralized electricity generation, and maybe even micro-wind.

"The big story is that young people drove this change. They got together, formed a group and adopted a village. They committed to making change . . . and in doing so have set a powerful precedent for what young people across the nation need to be doing. This is being the change!"

Singh himself is an example of renewable energy, as the launch of the rural energy project came only a week after he had returned from a trip to Antarctica to study the effects of global warming.

He was one of 80 young people from throughout the world to take part in the Inspire Antarctica



COURTESY KARTIKEYA SINGH

Singh displays the flag of India on his visit to the frozen plains of Antarctica.

Expedition 2009, run by Project 2041. The expedition allowed the group to see the impact of climate change on the fragile ecosystems of Antarctica, study the challenges that lie ahead and, in Singh's words, "realize the full potential of the kind of drastic changes we need to solve the climate crisis."

Having spent the last two years promoting environmental issues, Singh has returned to the States and enrolled in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, where he will pursue a master's degree in environmental management.

But he is not leaving his activist ways behind. He plans to attend the United Nations Climate Negotiations in Copenhagen this December with the Indian youth delegation. At last year's UN climate summit in Poland, Singh spoke to the plenary session — and urged leaders to act. As he said at the time, "the very survival of humanity" rests on international willingness to address the issues.

He'll likely share the same message with this year's delegates.

THE LAST WORD

Reader reactions

We welcome your letters, and this issue we decided to give a few readers the last word.

As for our letter policy, we ask only that you limit the length to 350 words and include your name, address and class year (if applicable). We do not print unsigned letters, and we reserve the right to edit for length or clarity.

Letters may be sent to Furman magazine, Office of Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or e-mailed to jim.stewart@furman.edu.

PRAISE AND IRRITATION

I thoroughly enjoyed the article in the spring issue about NPR reporter Eleanor Beardsley. She expressed beautifully the differences in European living.

Having lived five years in the United Kingdom in the '70s, I always have trouble expressing to Americans the differences I felt living there. Her last paragraph summed it up! "People eat well, take a lot of time off and really seem to enjoy life and family. And it doesn't seem to be linked to money."

So true. I miss the European mindset.

I take issue with the not-so-subtle jab in the article on Furman's golden anniversary about the class entering Furman in 1958. SAT scores of 992 back then meant LOTS more than the inflated SATs of today.

You will recall that not too many years ago the SAT added 200 points to everyone's scores. I have yet to get a plausible explanation for that ridiculous action. But schools immediately began boasting about the marvelous increase in student scores!

My husband was a professor for 30 years, both in the UK and in the United States. He had to "dumb down" everything he taught here, as the students here were so behind the students in the UK. He knew in 1976 that education was floundering here, but nobody seemed interested. And we still don't "get it," as the first places budgets are cut are in education.

Did you guess the article hit a nerve?

— **BETTY JAMESON DONALDSON '67**

Raleigh, N.C.

NO MORE

Please take me off your mailing list.

The spring *Furman* magazine is disappointing.

- A Buddhist chiropractor — perfect. Do you teach science?
- Celebrate an NPR reporter — I'm sure her reports are as fair and balanced as NPR USA is!
- Promote "social justice?" A code word for "I'll use your money for my justice." Note: Compassion isn't compassion if you use (force) other people's money — e.g., Obama/Biden.

I guess just like America "isn't a Christian nation," Furman isn't a Christian school. Disappointing.

— **CARTER F. MILLER, JR., M.D.**

Sunset, S.C.

REMEMBERING MISS FRANKS

I was saddened to read about the death of Sadie Franks in the winter issue of the magazine.

Miss Franks was my mother's roommate at Greenville Woman's College and then my mentor and French teacher when I was at Furman. She made a major difference for me when I was in her class. I made mostly A's on the assignments, but got a B+ in the class because, she told me, I hadn't done my best.

The next year, I got a 4.0 and later graduated with high honors. I took her words to heart, for she knew that, if professors have high expectations for their students, they will respond. That B+ is, in truth, the best grade that I've ever gotten.

— **KAREN RAMSAY JOHNSON '73**

The writer is an English professor at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis.

