Quotable: Fran Ligler ’72

Fran Ligler ’72
been a mainstay of large animal care in the area for the past 39 years.

Amy Kern (MA) of Greenville has been named principal at Mitchell Road Elementary School.

Eric Williams (MA) has been named principal of Wade Hampton High School in Greenville, SC.

Steven Edward Buckingham has joined the Perkins Law Firm in Greenville as an attorney in the corporate, employment, and litigation groups. He has also taught trial advocacy for five years as an adjunct professor at Furman, and is a coach of Furman’s award-winning Mock Trial program.

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Yendelela Neely Anderson, a partner with Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton in Atlanta, GA, is serving a three-year term on Families First’s board of directors.

Fran Ligler ’72

“I have been married 42 years and am convinced that women have generally different perspectives, but increased teamwork has helped us understand each other better. Men are much more involved with their families now and there is less pressure to be ‘tribe leader.’ Women don’t have to ‘be men’ to succeed professionally, and men get to ‘have feelings’ now, too. In my field in particular, bioengineering, women are about 50 percent of the students and 30 percent of the young faculty—a trend that is spreading to other fields of engineering. Bioengineering is so collaborative it is chopping down the barriers between disciplines.”

Fran Ligler ’72, PhD, has been called a pioneer in the fields of biosensors and microfluidics, having the opportunity to prove biosensors can be used for addressing a wide variety of detection problems from food safety to environmental pollutants to infectious disease diagnoses. Ligler is the Lampe distinguished professor at the NC State/UNC-Chapel Hill Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering. In 2014, she was elected as a Councilor of the National Academy of Engineering. Ligler is married to George Ligler ’71, PhD, and is an accomplished equestrian, completing two 50-mile races on horseback this fall with George as her pit crew.