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FUmerical: Facts and Figures about Furman's Study & Away International Education

Furman University

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ilton. During my eight years as chair there, I really figured out how transformative an excellent strategic planning process could be.

Sometime later, though, you began to take on more administrative duties. Why?

GS: At Hamilton (where he served as chair of the chemistry department for eight years), I really learned how to work with faculty by helping to come up with a shared vision. It really paved the way for me thinking about being a dean. I enjoyed the process of strategic thinking and strategic planning. Working together we wrote a white paper about how we wanted to be better; and then we instituted it. We accomplished all of our goals from our first five-year plan in

two years, and then we wrote another. We went through three five-year plans in eight years. We just kept getting better and better.

Armstrong (in Savannah, GA) really stood out to me because they never had a full undergraduate research program in the summer, and that was a big goal for everybody down there. I went down there in 2008, and of course the economy fell apart, and we had to cut our budget by 30 percent, it was horrible. But we did it, we figured out how to get the money for it, and we created an undergraduate research program that's still growing strong today.

I learned a lot about public higher education. It was good for me in the long run, and I also learned a really important lesson about diversity, which

allowed me, when I went to Bucknell, to help them to diversify the faculty.

I've always gone to a place with the intent of trying to make it better just like my grandparents and my parents taught me: Make the world a better place. It is motivating.

When you were benchmarking for Hamilton, I understand Furman came up.

GS: The university wanted me to choose four schools to benchmark and I said the first place I wanted to see was the chemistry department at Furman. Years before I had read about Lon Knight (who served 33 years as chemistry department chair), and I knew that he had helped develop one of the best undergraduate chemistry departments in the

US. So, back in 2003 or so, I brought some of my faculty down to see how you guys do what you do.

What opportunities do you see at Furman?

GS: Furman's got so many good things going for it—the faculty provide an education that is as good or better as any I've ever seen. I think it's going to be a lot of fun working with so many talented people. There are so many excellent things going on here and there are a lot of outstanding people here.

We need to make Furman better known. More prospective students and parents need to recognize the value of this place. ●

FUmerical

Facts and figures about Furman's Study Away & International Education

500

Furman students study away each year



Round-Trip Airfare Included

In the cost of semester faculty-led programs

Scholarships

Available if financial need is demonstrated

50

Faculty-led programs to 30 countries on five continents in the last two years



Cost of Semester = Furman Tuition

Faculty-led programs

Room & board



Credit-bearing May Experience Study Away programs

Quadrupled

In # of May Experience Study Away programs since 2009

Number 1 Regret

Of college grads: not studying away