Get in touch. Get ahead.

Get the Furman App Now!

Connect with fellow alumni, parents, and friends

Network with Paladins in your career field and area with the Class Ring feature

Get the latest Furman news, personalized just for you

Stay in touch with everything Furman

Go to the app store and search for “The Furman App” to download.
“Hope is the thing with feathers”
—Emily Dickinson

“It is difficult to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack of what is found there.”
—William Carlos Williams

What if Emily Dickinson was wrong...

and there were no feathers—
only accidental hollows holding hope interrupted,
hidden debris of bare wings, a bruised insufficiency?

Emily would have a lot to answer for in that case, except poetry’s sufficiency elides that whole answer (dare I say hoped-for?) imperative

preferring, instead, to plume itself sometimes in the hard raptures of reasonless flight, the airy real estate of both poet and metaphor

that gives ground to the unsayable.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Connie Ralston ’70 enjoys pursuing the
avanced art of the table tennis smash and European traveling.
She is a retired editor and writer. ARTWORK I’m a bird now, 2015 by
Furman True Inspiration Artist in Residence Janke Klompman