

4-1-2017

Class Notes

Furman University

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Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2017) "Class Notes," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 60 : Iss. 1 , Article 31.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol60/iss1/31>

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CLASS NOTES



ASHLEY GESS '95, ZACH KELEHEAR '81
AND JUDI (HARRIS) WILSON '90
pg. 63

Quotables



FINDING TIME FOR
REFLECTION
pg. 64



ELIZABETH BISHOP '89
pg. 61



NICK KLINE '07 AND
BRITTANY DEKNIGHT '07
pg. 58

1958

Harry Eskew was recently honored by the Georgia Baptist Church Music Conference with a Lifetime Ministry Achievement Award. He is retired from the faculty of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

1962

Cartoonist and humorous illustrator **John R. "Jack" Cassidy** was recently presented the Jack Davis Award (Cartoonist of the Year) for his lifetime achievements and contributions to the funny business and education of cartoon art. Presentation of the award, named after the nation's late premier humorous illustrator and *MAD* magazine artist Jack Davis, was made at the annual meeting of the

Southeast Chapter of the National Cartoonists Society in Roanoke, Va. Cassidy started cartooning around age 5, and as an undergrad at Furman became cartoonist for *The Paladin*, the student newspaper. A decade later, as a graduate student, he researched and designed the university's official academic banner. He is an expert on the copyright law for visual communicators, is former chair of the Department of Sequential Art at Savannah (Ga.) College of Art and Design, is producer and host for the national Public TV Series "Funny Business, the Art in Cartooning," and is a regular contributor to *Heartland Boating Magazine*. His freelance visual humor has appeared in hundreds of national and international publications and books.

1964

Nancy Barker DuPree continues to work at the University of Alabama Libraries where she is curator of the A. S. Williams III Americana Collection of books, maps, manuscripts, photographs and other materials accumulated by A. S. Williams III of Eufaula and Birmingham, Ala.

1968

Nelda Christine Leon is completing her third and final year on the vestry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Charlotte, N.C., where she has helped organize the church's social justice ministry and has been active in the areas of racial justice, immigrant rights and voter protection.

1970

When the annual conference of the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys was held in San Francisco in May 2016, **Richard B. Collins** of Tallahassee, Fla., was elected to serve as president of the organization for a two-year term. Collins, who has been a member of the Florida Bar since 1973, has served in many leadership roles and is currently president of the Tallahassee Bar Association. He is a member of the Perry & Young law firm, with his practice primarily focused on medical malpractice claims.

1973

Furman's Riley Institute named **Hayne Hipp** to receive the David H. Wilkins Award for Excellence in Civic Leadership. The annual

ceremony for this award was held Jan. 10, the first night of the South Carolina legislative session in Columbia, S.C. Wilkins, who served as speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives and as U.S. Ambassador to Canada, cohosted the event with former U.S. Secretary of Education and former two-term Governor of South Carolina Dick Riley '54, and Furman President Elizabeth Davis. Hipp is former CEO of The Liberty Corporation and founder of the Liberty Fellows. His civic and community leadership is far-reaching, but no greater impact has been made in the community than through his vision and creation of the Liberty Fellowship, an incubator for exemplary leadership in South Carolina.

Frances Smith Ligler has been elected to the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), an organization established several years ago to recognize and foster innovation and invention in academia and nonprofit research institutions (like the Naval Research Laboratory, where she was on staff for 27 years). Ligler holds 28 issued U.S. patents, a number of which have been important to the development of the field of optical biosensors.

1975

Baptist minister **Paul J. White Jr.** has written a book titled *The Tater Family*. It is a Christian, family-oriented book, illustrated by members of White's family and a friend. Copies are available

for purchase from: The Rev. Paul White Jr., 215 Pine Street Extension, Greer, SC 29651.

1979

Barry Hall, along with his wife, Vania, and their five children, founded and run two orphanages in the Amazon region of Brazil. They currently take care of 50 children, all of whom were rescued from high-risk situations by the authorities. Read more at www.thefathersheartbrazil.org.

1980

David A. Merline Jr. has been selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2017. He has also been named as the Best Lawyers® 2017 Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Greenville. *Best Lawyers*® only honors a single lawyer from each community in each high-profile legal specialty as a "Lawyer of the Year."

1984

Karen Miller Boda recently accepted a call as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Clay, Ala.

1986

Cindy Davis Weathers has been named president of the Greenville County Childcare Association. Weathers is the owner and director of Park Place Children's Center, a nationally accredited pre-school in Simpsonville, S.C.

1991

Mark Bakker has joined Nexsen Pruet in Greenville, S.C., an employment and labor law group listed among the top practices in South Carolina by the leading legal publication *Chambers USA*. Bakker brings more than two decades of employment litigation and human resource counseling experience to the firm.

1993

J. Benedict Hartman, an attorney with HunterMaclean, was recently honored as a 2016 Georgia Trend Legal Elite. *Georgia Trend* is a statewide business publication that honors Georgia's leading attorneys for their outstanding achievements in various practice areas.

1994

Sarah Watkins Satterfield has been awarded the prestigious Gladys Webber Memorial Chair, an endowment that will fund an outreach program exploring the therapeutic usages of music, art and dance. Satterfield is chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at the College of Central Florida in Ocala where she teaches courses in music history and humanities.

Jonathan Souther of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, was promoted to professor of history at Cleveland State University in August 2016.

1995

Jeffrey Sexton of Missouri City, Texas, is an associate

engineering director for the Dow Chemical Company.

1996

Andrea McMahan Damewood received her Ph.D. in adult learning from the University of Tennessee in August 2016. She is employed at the university as information technology director of the school's college of nursing.

1997

Jason Searl was recently selected to serve on IBERIABANK's Central Florida Advisory Board for a one-year term. In this role, he will give legal counsel to the bank's senior members. His extensive experience with real estate and corporate law, as well as insight into local market conditions, will provide significant value to the bank's Central Florida team.

1999

Mary Wannamaker Huff was named interim director of the Lake Junaluska Singers, a prestigious choral group that has been part of Lake Junaluska's history for more than 60 years. The legacy of this choral group includes national and international performances for conferences, dignitaries and major events. After graduating from Furman, Huff received a Master of Music degree from Yale University in 2001 and furthered her postgraduate studies in music education at Westminster Choir College, specializing in training children's choirs. She is the

Continued on page 59

John Campbell, a 20th century American writer and lecturer, was most famous for coining the phrase “follow your bliss.”

But he also wrote, “When you make the sacrifice in marriage, you’re sacrificing not to each other but to unity in a relationship.”

It’s a sentiment that **Brittany DeKnight ’07** and **Nick Kline ’07** have lived since the couple began dating during their sophomore year shortly after setting eyes on one another by accident.

DeKnight was going through sorority rush and was forbidden to speak to sorority members during the short bid period in the winter term. As she explains, some sorority friends were in her Introduction to Politics class. Instead of speaking, she waved and smiled to them each morning as she entered the class. Kline, who sat nearby, mistook DeKnight’s gesture.

“He thought I was waving to him,” laughs DeKnight. But soon, she began flirting for real.

Career-minded professionals with advanced degrees, both have taken sidesteps to give their partner a step up. After earning a master’s degree in social work from the University of Georgia in 2010, Kline limited his job search to Greenville where DeKnight had landed a plum first job as the associate director of the Shi Center for Sustainability.

Both had endured the travails of long-distance dating and had come to the same conclusion: If they were going to make it work, they had to do it together.



Brittany DeKnight ’07 & Nick Kline ’07

It took seven years for their careers in social work to intersect.

By John Roberts

So while DeKnight, who earned a master’s degree in sustainability from Arizona State University, managed the student fellows program and coordinated community outreach for the Shi Center, Kline took a job with Furman’s catering services.

“It was important for me to move to Greenville and put the time into the relationship.

It was tough because I could not contribute to the household (income) as I would have liked,” says Kline, who played rugby at Furman and earned a B.A. in philosophy.

In 2012, Kline was offered a job in Lexington, Virginia, as a program manager for Father’s First. He would be in charge of seven staff members, manage a healthy annual budget and

develop outreach programs to help fathers separated from their children develop healthy family relationships.

The couple, married in 2013, moved to the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, and DeKnight took a job as a restaurant server and hostess.

“We had always agreed that both of our careers are equally important and that, at times, we would each have to take time and sacrifice for the other,” says DeKnight.

A little more than a year later, their professional careers finally intersected when Kline was promoted and the couple moved 45 minutes away to Roanoke, Virginia, where DeKnight took a job as program manager with the United Way of Roanoke Valley. A political science and earth and environmental sciences major, DeKnight manages a program that works to improve the health and wellness of low- to moderate-income community members. Kline continues to work with men, many of whom have served time in prison, to improve parenting and secure employment.

An affable giant with an easy smile, Kline helped connect them quickly to neighbors in their urban neighborhood, which offers a scenic view of the city. And DeKnight has made connections through her work with the United Way.

Now Kline, who grew up in Indonesia and New Orleans, and DeKnight, a Columbia, South Carolina, native, have made Roanoke theirs.

“We have really developed a close community of friends here,” says Kline. “It feels like home.” ●

founding director of the New York City Children's Chorus and associate director of music at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. Her choirs have performed in Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Radio City Music Hall, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, as well as for national broadcasts on "Good Morning America," the "Today Show," and "CBS Sunday Morning." She also plays the organ for liturgies, accompanies and conducts the church choir and Saint Andrew Chorale and manages the church concert series.

2001

Karen Guth was recently hired at the College of the Holy Cross as an assistant professor of religious studies. Guth followed her studies at Furman by earning a Master of Theology in literature, theology and the arts from the University of Glasgow, a Master of Theological Studies in religion and society from Harvard University Divinity School, and her doctorate in religious ethics from the University of Virginia. She is the author of *Christian Ethics at the Boundary: Feminism and Theologies of Public Life* (Fortress Press, 2015), as well as several articles and essays published in peer-reviewed journals and publications such as *Theology Today* and the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*. Guth also serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*.

2003

LaJoia M. Broughton has taken a new position as director of the South Carolina legislative black caucus.

Vanessa Koestner Torres has received the Milken Educator Award and a \$25,000 cash prize for her outstanding contributions in elementary academics. She and her school were unaware she would receive the award and were surprised in December by Milken Educator Awards Senior Vice President Jane Foley, South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman, and Lexington-Richland School District 5 Superintendent Stephen Hefner coming to her school to make the presentation. Torres, who teaches grades K-5 at Nursery Road Elementary School in Columbia, S.C., is the only Milken Educator Award recipient in South Carolina this year. She has invigorated the Spanish program at her school by engaging students, parents, teachers and the community.

2004

Robby Hendry completed a fellowship in neurocritical care at Duke University in 2016 and is now a practicing neurologist and neurointensivist with Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C. His practice focuses on patients in the intensive care unit with severe brain injury and critical neurological illness.

2005

George Campbell and Elizabeth Jordan Teague opened a new law firm, Campbell Teague LLC, in Greenville, S.C., in December 2016. Prior to starting the law firm, they both had careers in other fields—Campbell in trusts and private equity and Teague in Web analytics for a marketing firm and software company setups. Along with their new business, they just might have the best "law-firm band" around. George is a drummer and Jordan plays guitar.

Allen Mendenhall has been named associate dean and executive director of the Blackstone & Burke Center for Law & Liberty at Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law. His recent books include *Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., Pragmatism, and the Jurisprudence of Agon* (Bucknell University Press, 2016), and *The Southern Philosopher: Collected Essays of John William Corrington* (University of North Georgia Press, 2017).

2008

Kristen Nicole Pitts completed a Master of Divinity degree at Virginia Theological Seminary in May 2016 and was ordained to the transitional diaconate in the Episcopal Church in June.

2009

David Ehrlich has joined the Bryan Cave LLP international law firm as an associate in the transactions group in Atlanta.

Ehrlich focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance and corporate governance. He advises public and private companies in the public and private issuance of equity and debt securities, as well as mergers, asset purchases and sales, joint ventures and divestitures. Before attending law school, he worked in health care compliance. He is also a logistics officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, holding the rank of first lieutenant.

2011

Courtney Orr has accepted a position as assistant attorney general in the Criminal Appeals Division of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General.

2012

After **Jason Terrell** graduated from Furman, he participated with Teach for America and is now a cofounder of Profound Gentlemen, an organization established to support the careers of male teachers of color. Profound Gentlemen has been named Forbes 30 Under 30: Social Entrepreneurs, Class of 2017. They were selected by *Forbes* for their work to build a community of male educators of color who provide a profound additional impact on the lives of boys of color.

Continued on page 60

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS



Daniel R. and **Carroll Carter '99**, a daughter, Elizabeth Louise Carter, Sept. 15, 2016

David and **Jenny Milhous '01 Scott**, a son, John Riley Scott, March 2, 2016

James '04 and **Sara Burnett '03 Granberry**, a daughter, Mary Alice Granberry, July 21, 2016

Glen S. Jr., and **Sarah-Ann Turpen Davis '04**, a son, William Turpen Davis, Sept. 29, 2016

Robby and **Sydney Hendry '04**, a daughter, Larkin Celeste Hendry, July 30, 2016

Penn '06 and **Marissa Coffers '10 Garvich**, a daughter, Emma Grace Garvich, Aug. 25, 2016

Ryan and **Dixie Clayton McClure '06**, a daughter, Hadley McClure, May 2015

Brian and **Mary Ellen Suitt '07 Barnwell**, a son, Robert Ford Barnwell, Aug. 12, 2016

Phillip and **Laura Padfield Braun '07**, a daughter, Diana Catherine Braun, May 15, 2016

Emmanuel '07 and **Joinné Ruff '09 Chandler**, a daughter, Isabella Alise Chandler, Oct. 19, 2016

John and **Marjorie Dornette '07 Connell**, a son, George Kells Connell, May 27, 2016

Bartley and **Katy Carlson Sides '07**, a daughter, Emery Lucille Sides, March 31, 2016

Ron and **Ashley Berkland '07 VonderBecke**, a daughter, Olivia Elizabeth VonderBecke, Aug. 11, 2016

MARRIAGES



David Sibley '07 and Emily Larson, Oct. 1, 2016

Kristen Capogrossi '08 and Anthony Giombi, Oct. 22, 2016

Kristen Nicole Pitts '08 and Elizabeth Tossell, April 29, 2016

Sophia Persusquia Jaso '12 and Peter Lehmann '13, Jan. 16, 2016

Sara Beth Melick '13 and Coty Schneider, Aug. 27, 2016

Rep Penny '13 and Katherine Lee Schuitema '13, April 16, 2016

Heather L. Erdmann '15 and William R. Lorenz '16, Oct. 1, 2016

OBITUARIES



Pholia Emerson King '35, Nov. 28, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Ruby Klintworth Henson Preacher '39, Sept. 27, 2016, Summerville, S.C.

John Roy Folsom '40, Nov. 4, 2016, Columbia, S.C.

Willie Mae Brumley Witcher '40, Dec. 8, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Monique Whelpton Harrison '41, Nov. 22, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C.

James Hart Long Jr. '41, Oct. 6, 2016, Conway, S.C.

Emmala Louise Young, M.A. '42, Jan. 3, 2017, Spartanburg, S.C.

James Robert Brooks '43, Aug. 24, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Donald Stewart Robinson Sr. '43, Oct. 15, 2016, Lyman, S.C.

Margaret Sloan Drake '44, Aug. 10, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Mable Sawyer Jenks '44, Sept. 28, 2016, Durham, N.C.

Louise Wells Wilbur '44, Oct. 21, 2016, Athens, Ga.

Ellen Holston Denny Gallant '45, Aug. 2, 2016, Charlotte, N.C.

Dorothy Rabb Hammond '45, Sept. 17, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Jack P. Lowndes '46, Nov. 28, 2016, Atlanta, Ga.

Mary Elizabeth Roper Posey Meadows '46, Nov. 7, 2016, Fairburn, Ga.

Anne Ballenger King McCuen '47, Oct. 27, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Thomas Cade Sherwood '47, Nov. 8, 2016, Louisville, Ky.

Sarah Lee Hegler McGee '48, Sept. 7, 2016, Mount Airy, N.C.

Geraldine Hayes Nantz '48, Sept. 25, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C.

Harold Larry Dillard '49, Nov. 6, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Lester C. Garner '49, Nov. 14, 2016, Lansdale, Pa.

Suzanne Maxwell Faris Heape '49, Aug. 28, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

James Edwin Hall '50, Aug. 13, 2016, Anderson, S.C.

Eleanor Ruth Patton Mayfield '50, Nov. 20, 2016, Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Helen Elizabeth Goodwin Roberts '50, Aug. 24, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Continued on page 62



UP CLOSE

Diverging Pathways

Bishop's career has moved from opera to teaching and back again.

Elizabeth Bishop '89 is nothing if not practical.

When her opera career stalled, she skipped the obvious opportunity for drama and evaluated her options. The break from her own work provided the space she needed to create the Potomac Vocal Institute, a nonprofit that will celebrate its two-year anniversary in May.

It's a classic example of how Bishop handles challenges.

Her father, John Bishop, graduated from Furman in 1967 and it was the only place she wanted to study music. But money was tight and Bishop knew it wasn't going to happen unless she "had skin in the game."

She cobbled together multiple scholarships in music and academics, and a random check from Wal-Mart that she earned for writing a short

essay. She worked three jobs. When you put every piece together yourself, "you begin to understand the worth of things," Bishop said.

She started as a music major but "followed a boy" into political science.

"The boy got away but the poli sci stuck," she said, laughing.

It's the degree she ultimately earned, along with her degree in music—and the kind of education that builds a better musician, Bishop said. Young artists excel when they don't pigeonhole themselves early.

"What makes you musical is who you are," she said. "You need to know a lot . . . Otherwise, you're just a technician, and nobody cares."

With her voice not yet mature, she focused on violin. But at some point, the practical side kicked in again and she ac-

knowledgeed she wasn't willing to practice enough to make a living as a violinist. She played first violin in a Furman performance of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1 and decided it was the perfect high point. She hung up her violin and turned her attention to her voice.

In 1989, Bishop left Greenville, her hometown, for New York City's subways, a tiny apartment and Juilliard School. Her Furman education had been so thorough that during placement exams, she tested out of all but the last semester of graduate music theory and most of Juilliard's music history classes; she knew the material already.

"I was very, very lucky," she said. "I had no frame of reference up until then on how well I had been prepared."

Her first professional job was for New York's Metropolitan Opera, in a role so small, Bishop couldn't find it in the score without help.

She went on to perform across the country for years, from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon, and numerous cities in between. Like most full-time American opera singers, she was a contract employee, taking jobs for weeks at a time with one company after another.

And then she had a chance to be practical again.

"I was given the gift of unemployment for about nine months one year," Bishop said.

It wasn't shocking. Older voices cycle out and new ones rise to leading roles. But the lack of work came sooner than she had expected.

Still, she'd learned long ago the lesson she passes on to young musicians now: "There

was more than just one place for me."

Her time at Furman, studying across disciplines, contributed to that perspective.

"When you're aware of a bigger world, it makes a bigger world less scary," Bishop said. "I believe in educating yourself outside the bounds of just your narrow world."

The professional lull gave Bishop time to turn her attention to her handful of private students. Many showed great promise but hadn't made the cut for elite programs where they could train further and launch professional careers.

Bishop created the Potomac Vocal Institute in May 2015 to offer a la carte workshops so these students and others like them would have a way to stay sharp and ready.

"Otherwise, they simply stall out at the last place somebody said, 'No,'" Bishop said.

Her passion for the work surprises even her. In its first six months, nearly 300 students attended classes at the institute.

"I would have never thought that I'd be OK if I stopped singing," Bishop said.

Meanwhile, the job offers started coming again. These days, she's balancing singing, the institute and time with her husband, pianist and conductor Ken Weiss, and their 14-year-old daughter, Katherine, at their Virginia home.

"It's a good problem," she said.

When the balance shifts again, somewhere down the road, you won't find her fretting. It's the old lemons-into-lemonade adage.

"You might find you like lemonade better," Bishop said. ●

— by Kelley Bruss

Jack W. Thames '50, Aug. 2, 2016, Randallstown, Md.

Benjamin W. Thomason Jr. '50, Aug. 26, 2016, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Thelma Thurman Venters '50, July 31, 2016, Chesterfield, S.C.

Evelyn Jones Agnew '51, Aug. 8, 2016, Concord, N.C.

Richard B. Jones '51, Sept. 7, 2016, Wilmington, N.C.

Harry Stewart Kuper '51, July 30, 2016, Norfolk, Va. Kuper taught at Furman from 1955 to 1958 and 1960 to 1968.

Alice "Mickey" Gresham Erwin '52, Oct. 12, 2016, Easley, S.C.

William David Herring '52, Sept. 19, 2016, Columbus, Ohio

Marvin Tomkins Mauldin Jr. '52, Aug. 11, 2016, Eastanollee, Ga.

Robert Samuel Chambers '53, Dec. 9, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Mary Frances Cater Greever '53, Jan. 19, 2017, McKinney, Texas

Jacob Preston Miller Pope Jr. '53, Nov. 20, 2016, Shallotte Point, N.C.

Dorothy Anne Greene Owen '54, Aug. 19, 2016, Columbia, S.C.

Bobby Delorme Graham Sr. '55, Sept. 14, 2016, Fayetteville, Ga.

Spero "Speedy" Steve Petrakos '55, Oct. 16, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Joseph Shepard Sublette '55, Oct. 9, 2016, Sumter, S.C.

Barbara Smith White '55, Sept. 29, 2016, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Charlie Edward Brock '56, Nov. 8, 2016, Greenville, S.C. Charlie was director of admissions at Furman for 25 years and associate dean of academics for five years. He retired in 2005.

Charles Ray Robbins '56, Aug. 10, 2016, Union, S.C.

Patricia Mealing Setzer '56, Sept. 23, 2016, Columbia, S.C.

Billy Bruce Gaines Sr. '57, April 7, 2015, Old Hickory, Tenn.

Faye Grainger Worley '57, Nov. 4, 2016, Loris, S.C.

Ernest C. Bolt Jr. '58, Nov. 3, 2016, Richmond, Va.

Thomas Stewart McCraney '58, Nov. 30, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Frank E. McCravy Jr. '58, Aug. 20, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Homer Leroy Stewart '58, Oct. 27, 2016, Six Mile, S.C.

Riddick Cornelius Trowell Jr. '58, Nov. 12, 2016, Beaufort, S.C.

Thomas H. Conley '59, Aug. 25, 2016, Atlanta, Ga.

Robert Burns King '59, Sept. 25, 2016, Burlington, N.C.

Raymond Talley Stone '59, Dec. 8, 2016, Simpsonville, S.C.

Frank Gilliard Allison Sr. '60, Sept. 28, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

James William Boroff '60, Nov. 7, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Walter Edward "Bubba" Eaves '60, Sept. 4, 2016, Elberton, Ga.

Joel P. Jenkins Sr. '60, Nov. 13, 2016, Piedmont, S.C.

James Martin Ryle '60, Aug. 5, 2016, Richmond, Va.

Joseph W. Alfred '61, July 30, 2016, Olathe, Kan.

James Givens Carpenter IV '62, Sept. 27, 2016, Anderson, S.C.

Charles A. Pfaff '62, Dec. 27, 2015, Charleston, S.C.

Burl Hunter Ashley '64, Aug. 19, 2016, Taylors, S.C.

Mack M. Gault Sr. '64, Aug. 21, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

William Young Davis Jr. '65, Aug. 3, 2016, Kings Mountain, N.C.

Marion Wynette Fore Jr. '65, Dec. 15, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

John Beverly League Jr. '65, Dec. 12, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

T. Dewey Goin Jr., M.A. '66, Sept. 23, 2016, Abbeville, S.C.

Ronald William McKinney '70, Nov. 1, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

James E. Newmeyer '71, Aug. 13, 2016, Miami, Fla.

George Eison '73, June 19, 2016, Pineville, N.C.

Helen Barbara Lawson Merritt, M.A. '73, Aug. 23, 2016, Simpsonville, S.C.

John Randall Hall Sr., M.A. '75, Nov. 5, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Rhonda Edge Buescher '80, Oct. 10, 2016, Nashville, Tenn.

Sarah Jacqueline Austin, M.A. '86, Nov. 3, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C.

William Henry Napier Ellis Jr. '98, Sept. 7, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Myron L. Kocher Jr., Dec. 31, 2016, Greenville, S.C. Myron taught at Furman from 1959 to 1992 and retired as professor of modern foreign languages emeritus.

CLASS NOTES POLICY

We welcome your submissions to Class Notes. Due to the amount of material Furman receives for this section—and the time needed to edit that material—items are often not published until six months after they are submitted. However, please be advised that we rarely publish items more than 18 months old and no announcements of things that have not yet occurred. When sending news of births, please include the parent name(s), child's name, birthdate, and city of birth; for marriages, include the city and date of the event, the new spouse's name, and his/her year of graduation if from Furman. News about couples who graduated from Furman in different years is listed under the earliest graduation date. It is not listed with both classes. Incomplete information for any of the above may result in the submission remaining unpublished. The magazine reserves the right to edit submissions.



Judi Wilson '90, Ashley Gess '95 and Zach Kelehear '81 on the Augusta University campus.

UP CLOSE

The Furman Connection

Three alums are leading the way at Augusta University.

Zach Kelehear '81, Judi (Harris) Wilson '90 and Ashley Gess '95 share a common bond as teachers and Furman alumni.

Though they graduated at separate times over nearly 15 years, their Furman connection binds and guides them as they lead the education program and train future teachers at Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia.

Kelehear, a native of Dalton, Georgia, came to Furman on a football scholarship, earned B.A. degrees in history and Latin (1981), and an M.A. in education (1982). After

earning his Ed.D. from North Carolina State University, he returned to Furman to teach in the education department.

He later taught at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and then at the University of South Carolina, where he was promoted to associate dean for academic affairs in 2011. Kelehear joined Augusta University in 2015 as dean of the college of education. Augusta University's College of Education offers undergraduate and graduate degrees to about 1,100 students.

When he arrived in Augusta, Kelehear saw in Wilson a "remarkably powerful" edu-

cator and appointed her as associate dean in July 2016.

"Dr. Wilson is a steady and thoughtful educator. She is committed to her students and provides impactful teaching every day, in each class," says Kelehear.

Wilson, who spent a decade as a public school teacher and administrator in Georgia, says her career in higher education was directly influenced by a talk with her advisor at Furman, Doris Blazer, associate professor of education emerita.

"I had never considered teaching in higher education,

but that powerful conversation altered the trajectory of my whole life. I will always be grateful to her for taking the time to invest in me through her words," says Wilson, a Durham, North Carolina, native who graduated with a B.A. in elementary education. "That day, Dr. Blazer cast a vision for me much larger than I might have ever cast for myself. I do my best each day to 'pay it forward' and do the same for our students at Augusta University."

When a position leading the university's science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (STEAM) initiative was created, Kelehear again looked to a Paladin who was also one of his former students.

Gess, a native of Fort Mill, South Carolina, earned her M.A. in secondary education with an emphasis in biology from Furman in 1995 and completed her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in integrative science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education from Virginia Polytechnic and State University in 2015.

"The professors at Furman empowered me to teach from my heart, using research to inform my practice," says Gess. "I know what kind of experience Zach and Judi have been through—the dedication and drive that it took to excel at Furman—because I did it too! We are all bringing that drive and our skills and work ethic to Augusta University every day. In my mind, the Furman connection gives us an edge and makes us stronger."

— by Kelley Bruss