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QUOTABLE

Blaine Hart '08

Iwish I had applied myself [at Furman] like I do today in the real world. I think I actually would have had more fun with the subject matter. I was a 'late bloomer,' but I am cool with that. Furman was the best place for me. I also would have taken more language classes and studied abroad. Our world is becoming increasingly international, and I have had numerous incidences where a stronger understanding of international culture would have helped."

Hart is vice president of CBRE, Inc.'s Greenville office, the largest commercial real estate firm in the world. What started as an internship through Furman after his junior year became "great exposure to change and movement in the Upstate." Hart is also involved in the United Way as chair of the YP20's program (Young Philanthropists in Their 20s), and in 2012 was recognized for his volunteerism and leadership in Greenville Business Magazine's Best and Brightest Under Age 35. "Greenville is growing and I want to make sure it grows the right way," he says. At Furman, Hart was a member of the baseball team and a business major. "One thing I took from my Furman experience was from my coach, Ron Smith. I won't ever settle and I just try to get a little better each day."

1998

Christopher Lassiter, an associate professor of biology at Roanoke College, was recently appointed as director of undergraduate research for the college.

1999

Melissa Branchetti Atkin is working in the manuscript editorial department at W.W. Norton & Co. in New York City. She anticipates having the opportunity to work on former Furman President **David E. Shi's** ('73) 10th edition of *America, A Narrative* to be published early in 2016.

Stephen B. Long has been granted tenure and promoted to associate professor of political science and international studies at the University of Richmond (VA).

2000

Laura Wahoske Benz has opened her law firm, Laura W. Benz, LLC, which specializes in environmental law.

2001

On May 1, 2015, **Kelly Ownby** was welcomed to the full-time, on-site psychiatric team of Brookhaven Retreat®, LLC, a unique residential treatment facility in Knoxville, TN, exclusively for women with emotional and mental health challenges and/or substance abuse issues. She brings nearly a decade of psychiatric experience to Brookhaven Retreat's team.

Allison Sullivan, a partner with Bluestein, Nichols, Thompson & Delgado in Columbia, SC, has been named chair of the 2015-2016 Leadership Columbia Alumni Association Advisory Board. Leadership