GEORGE SINGLETON ’80
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BOEHNER’S BOYS
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ON MEN, WOMEN, AND SANCTUARY

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JOHN R. CASSADY ’62
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DEBORAH MALAC ’77
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WILL LOWRY ’03
1960

Don Grantham of Augusta, GA, was named chair of the state’s Department of Transportation last fall.

1961

Charlie Busbee of McDonough, GA, was named the 2014 Yancey Ford Award winner. This award is presented annually by Golfweek to an individual who has made significant contributions to senior-amateur golf.

Nick Hallman, fiddler for the NickPickers of Pickens, SC, was awarded the 2014 Bascom Lamar Lunsford Award in October during a Bascom Lamar Lunsford “Minstrel of Appalachia” Festival held at Mars Hill (NC) University. This award is given annually to an accomplished musician who demonstrates leadership, commitment, and dedication to keeping mountain music alive.

1963

Donald O. Brown, vice president of Human Resources for Tindall Corporation in Spartanburg, SC, has been recognized with the Founders Award from the Southern Association of Colleges and Employers, the most prestigious award the organization can bestow on one of its members.

1964

Naples attorney John P. Cardillo has been appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to the board of the Florida Bar Foundation, a statewide charitable organization whose mission is to provide greater access to justice.

1968

David Jeffrey, Jr., has retired as president of California Life & Disability, Inc., an insurance brokerage specializing in quality of life financial products in San Francisco. After leaving the brokerage company, he became an ordained minister in 2012.

1970

Mary Jae Abbitt Sushka has worked in international development in a dozen countries since 1998. She is currently constructing a school for both boys and girls in Afghanistan in Bamyan Province where she worked for USAID from 2009 to 2012.

1972

Bert Strange of Greenville is one of four people to serve on the inaugural board of Veteran Scholarships Forever, an endowment program aimed at helping veterans get needed funds to pursue vocational and skilled trades training that can lead to employment.

Former college and NFL head coach Sam Wyche has been added to the Medal of Honor Bowl’s national board of directors. The mission of this board is to assist and support the Medal of Honor Bowl in their quest to become the premier senior college football all-star game in America. Wyche’s greatest achievement as a head coach was leading the Cincinnati Bengals to Super Bowl XXIII. His 64 wins with the Bengals were the most by a coach in franchise history until 2011.

1973

Mary Jae Abbitt Sushka has worked in international development in a dozen countries since 1998. She is currently constructing a school for both boys and girls in Afghanistan in Bamyan Province where she worked for USAID from 2009 to 2012.

1977

Robert Cuttino of Gainesville, GA, a director of research at Brenau University, has published his debut book. Titled For Goodness' Sake: Principles of an Ecotheology, it explores how religion has affected mankind’s relationship with the environment. The work of nonfiction began 19 years ago as Cuttino’s senior thesis at Furman.

Thomas H. Hart III of Seattle, WA, has become a partner in Bergman Draper Ladenburg, a firm that has been a leading advocate for asbestos victims for nearly 20 years. Hart worked on his first toxic exposure case while a law clerk, and this sparked a lifelong passion to help victims.

1979

Ronald “Dee” Vaughan has published his first book. The Stories of My Life is a collection of personal experiences that revealed to Vaughan some truth about the miracle and mystery of life.

1980

Stith “Tom” Gower, currently professor of forest ecosystem ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will join the College of Natural Resources at North Carolina State University as head of the department of forestry and environmental resources (FER).
1982
Elizabeth A. Niblock, chief information officer for Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government in Kentucky, has been hired by the city of Detroit to be its chief information officer to help implement digital strategy as that city works to revitalize itself.

1984
Cindy Davis, the first woman to be named president of a major golf equipment company and still the highest-ranking female executive in the game, has retired from the presidency of Nike Golf. Most recently, Buffalo Wild Wings named her to the company’s board of directors.

The Pickens County (SC) Museum of Art and History spotlighted 77 mixed-media works by Paul Flint and Greg Flint of Greenville earlier this year.

Jack Johnson has been named director of strategic sales with Securadyne Systems in Dallas, TX.

1985
Joyce Lyn Jordan-Lake, whose first book Grit and Grace: Portraits of a Woman’s Life—a collection of stories, poems, and essays—was published in 1997, has now written Blue Hole Back Home. It is a story about a mysterious girl from Sri Lanka who comes to live in a small Appalachian town whose residents reject the presence of someone different.

1986
Noted Florida artist Donna Duke Morrison was the featured demonstrator at the November 2014 meeting of the Citrus Watercolor Club. Visit her website at www.donnamorrison.net.

1987
Math teacher Linda Haynes has been selected as 2014–2015 Greenville Senior High Academy’s Teacher of the Year, and was one of the top 10 finalists for Greenville County Teacher of the Year.

Dottie Pepper was the professional recipient last fall when Legends of Women’s Golf Awards were bestowed on some of the greats in women’s golf history as part of the yearly tradition at the Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championship.

1988
Ricky Creech has been named president and chief executive officer of the 112-year-old Buckhorn Children & Family Services, an organization founded to provide compassionate and dignified residential care and treatment of troubled youth, male and female, ages 8–17, and their families.

1989

1990
Zac Willis has been named the new football coach at Union College, an NAIA program in Barbourville, KY.

1992
Jean Powell (MA), an instructional specialist at Rice Elementary School in Greenwood, SC, is the new director of the Early Childhood Center.

1993
Victoria Stokely Brannan is never at a loss for using her musical talent in shows with such well-known artists as Jimmy Page and Robert Plant, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, and most recently with a string ensemble for Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Rod Stewart and Carlos Santana. Brannan, an orchestra teacher in the Edwardsville (IL) School District, is a violist, fiddle player, and music educator. She has performed in orchestras with headliners that include Josh Groban; Peter Cetera; Mannheim Steamroller; Frank Sinatra, Jr.; Clay Aiken; and Barry Manilow.

1994
Chris Jentz successfully summited Mount Vinson, Antarctica, on December 16, 2014. This climb marked his fifth of the world’s seven summits. Number six is Mount Everest, scheduled for spring 2017.

Mike Johnson is president and CEO of Orangeburg (SC)-based Cox Industries, Inc. He recently received the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2014 award in the Southeast distribution and manufacturing division.

1995
Sid Parrish, Jr., the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools associate accreditation liaison at Newberry College, was promoted last fall to executive director of institutional effectiveness.

1997
Meredith Wilson Burton, director of the Furman Child Development Center, has been
Southern Gothic...With Jokes
Writer George Singleton has produced a body of work that is at once recognizable and jarring.

Nothing is funnier than unhappiness,” says Nell in Samuel Beckett’s Endgame. This is a premise writer George Singleton ’80 might agree with, although if Beckett’s characters wait to go nowhere, Singleton’s characters aren’t waiting at all—they’re actively going nowhere.

Consider Mendal Dawes in Singleton’s Why Dogs Chase Cars. Dawes has a habit of burying dogs who have been run over in his front yard—their literal tracks stopped on the property he overlooks—even though the story is informed by Dawes’s unhealing ache to flee Forty-Five, his hometown.

“The perfect story is both funny and sad,” says Singleton, “and the reader gets pissed off because they can’t decide how they should react.”

In his latest collection of short stories, Between Wrecks, Singleton once more sets his sight on the convergence of funny and sad, along with the rural South, where he often finds the tragicomic crossroads of the absurd. For those who expect to find front porch rockers, sweet teas, and wide-brimmed hats…look elsewhere.

Singleton’s South is instead full of weird customs, strange ailments, self-proclaimed “talents,” and characters whose peculiarities, however occasionally repellent, prompt insights into our common culture.

For example, in “No Shade Ever,” the wife of Singleton’s main character has lied to her husband about a pregnancy in order to get away for cosmetic surgery. Such details, both uncomfortable and humorous, provide a mirror that Singleton wants—in this case on vanity, shallowness, and the lengths gone to for both—which, even if we resist, we can’t help looking into.

Such hard looking is aided and abetted by an earthy, rhythmic writing style that makes reading Singleton’s stories feel like guilty pleasures:

Because I’d seen part of a documentary on gurus who slept on beds of nails—and because I’d tried to quit smoking before my wife came back home after leaving for nine months in order to birth our first child, though she would come back childless and say it was all a lie she made up in order to check into some kind of speech clinic up in Minnesota to lose her bilateral lisp—I had a dream of chairs and beds adorned entirely with ancient car cigarette lighters.

“I’ve written all kinds of really bad stories,” Singleton admits. “At Furman, I wrote bad poems, bad plays, 450 pages of a bad novel. At page 200 I knew it was really bad, but I kept going. One of my professors, Gil Allen, said that I ‘had the disease.’ And I did.”

Despite all of the manuscripts that were tossed in the trash, Singleton says the efforts were valuable for the “minor characters I would take from one story—or one sentence, or one scene—and start over and over again until I had something better.”

Such laborious salvaging has added up to six collections of short stories, two novels, and an instructional book on fiction writing.

In 2009, Singleton was named a Guggenheim Fellow, and in 2011 he received the Hillsdale Award for Fiction by The Fellowship of Southern Writers. Now the John C. Cobb Endowed Chair in the Humanities at Wofford College, Singleton teaches a variety of courses, including fiction writing, as well as classes focused on “Grit Lit,” a literary movement in which his own works figure.

Grit Lit serves as an alternative to the romanticized stories of the South, attempting to more closely capture the spirit of Southerners, highlighting their candor, authenticity, and bravery.

Or, as Singleton says, these are “stories of the rough South, usually with lower-to-middle class people who drink, smoke, and fight.”

Singleton says he never knows “if something will be considered ‘good’ or not,” but that he’ll continue to write because “it’s a blast.”

An interesting thought, coming from an author who never shies away from connecting the amusing to the abject.

—Lindsay Niedringhaus ’07
Cool Head in the Hot Zone
This past summer, Deborah Malac (pictured in a white shirt) stepped onto the world stage as the voice of the Ebola epidemic.

“We were looking forward to a really good year in 2014,” says Deborah Malac ’77, the United States’s ambassador to Liberia. “We had a lot of great projects that were coming to fruition. Obviously, we had to adjust our expectations.”

In March 2014, the first case of Ebola was documented in Gueckedou, Guinea. By the end of March, the disease had crossed the border into Liberia, and by August 2014, the United Nations health agency declared an “international public health emergency.” At the end of 2014, the outbreak had affected 15,913 people, with the majority of victims in Liberia.

“When I was first informed about the outbreak, of course I was a little terrified,” admits Malac. “But then I did something Furman taught me to do. I educated myself. When you know something backward and forward, you’re able to deal with it, and it doesn’t seem as threatening.”

Malac learned quickly. She had to. She would be challenged with managing accurate information about the disease and the outbreak to the rest of the world, which was frantic from both panic and ignorance.

“Of course the sensational stories get the most attention,” she says. “[But] those of us who live here and deal with it every day have the advantage of perspective. Reporters would come and see all of the dead bodies and see how overwhelmed we were, but they didn’t know about the plan that was in place or the steps we had taken to slow down the spread of the disease. It just couldn’t all happen overnight, and I think they were looking for immediate results.”

According to Malac, previous outbreaks of the disease had been in rural areas, with the most efficient tactic being to burn those areas out. This outbreak, however, occurred in a highly mobile and densely populated urban area, where the disease traveled much quicker. Complex treatment centers needed to be built, which required time to construct. And even when they were constructed, transportation of the infected to the centers was a challenge given the Liberian infrastructure, which can present travelers with no, or merely dirt, roads. Not to mention that the country was in the middle of its rainy season, which meant monsoon-like conditions and mud, day in and day out.

Malac freely admits the scope of the epidemic “was beyond anyone’s imagination...it took a while for all of us to understand what a huge, complex problem we had. When things seemed overwhelming, I would remind my team to stop and step back and identify the positive things.”

What’s positive about an Ebola outbreak? Malac says she saw communities taking ownership, with leadership in rural areas growing organically. Liberians, she says, “understood that they could be a positive force, and that they [would] become the new generation’s leaders. These are all critical pieces of good governance.”

With the epicurve trending downward, Malac looks forward to a recovered Liberia and feels “absolutely confident” that they will see the end of the epidemic.

“In December, case rates were averaging about 20–25 per day from a high of more than 100 per day in the late summer. We are adjusting our strategies to focus on those last cases.”

Malac says she feels a newfound kinship with the people who have weathered the storm alongside her. “Ask anyone who has chosen a career at the embassy, and they’ll tell you there is something about this place that hooks you. I was captured by the amazing potential of the people and the continent.”

Still, after long days like the ones recently spent—many in the presence of the dead—Malac looks for solace in memories of another place near the ocean: her childhood home in Savannah, Georgia.

“I’ll breathe in the salt air here, and I’ll close my eyes, and I’ll feel home. For me, the ocean is home—no matter where I am.”

—Lindsay Niedringhaus ’07
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.
Michael Precht has become senior minister at Crestview First United Methodist Church in Crestview, FL. While at Furman, he helped to found Mere Christianity Forum Inc., an on-campus ministry. MCF recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of Vista House, an international Christian community of which he was the first resident.

Alice Rigdon has accepted a position with Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill, SC, as chief financial officer.

Last fall, Elliott Davis, one of the largest accounting, tax, and consulting services firms in the Southeast, admitted Jeff Walker and five other new shareholders to its firm in Greenville, SC.

Paula Alexander (MA) has been named principal at Hagood Elementary School in Pickens, SC.

Neal Collins has won a seat in the South Carolina State House.

Jamie Smith has been selected as the principal of Southwood Academy of the Arts in Anderson (SC) School District 5.

Melanie Elizabeth Trexler of Richmond, KY, graduated from Georgetown University in May 2014 with her doctorate of philosophy in theological and religious studies. Her specialty is in Islam and Muslim-Christian relations. Her book, Evangelizing Arabs, is being published by Baylor University Press.

The Cincinnati, OH, firm of Keating Muething & Klekamp PLLC announced that Barrett P. Tullis, a real estate attorney, has been elected as a new partner.

In November 2014, Brigette Lindsey Gleason shared her personal experience in combating Ebola disease in Africa when she presented “Overview of the Ebola Epidemic: Insights from the Field on Sierra Leone and Key Features of the Ebola Response in the U.S.” at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond. As an epidemic intelligence service officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, she was deployed to Sierra Leone in September for a month to provide technical assistance in epidemiology and surveillance for the Ebola emergency response.

Jennifer Meisten (MA) is now principal of Beck Middle School in Greenville, SC.

Bailey Edwards Nelson is director of communications with the Spartanburg County (SC) Foundation. She provided marketing and public relations services to the New Baptist Covenant, a national movement convened by former President Jimmy Carter designed to bring faith communities together for education and public service.

Sam Perry is the new head baseball coach at East Henderson High School in Hendersonville, NC, where he has been an assistant for the last three seasons.

Brad Wright has joined the United Way of the Piedmont in Spartanburg, SC, as a campaign associate.

Amanda Armstrong of Nashville, TN, recently finished her ME in education at Peabody/Vanderbilt. She works at the Tennessee Department of Education.
If you told Katie and David Hottel they would be working in similar fields when they met at Furman—ones that value sustainability and an organic lifestyle—they probably would not have believed you. It took a little doing for them to be on the same page on a few fronts.

The two met at a party when Katie, who works as a clean air and water project associate at Upstate Forever, asked David, who focuses on food and farming as a buyer specialist at Whole Foods, to dance. David turned her down. “I liked someone else at the time,” David laughs. “But I was a different person back then, and so was Katie. We didn’t necessarily think we would marry another when we met, or that our lives would look the way they do now.”

Despite a rocky start, David came to his senses, as he says, and took Katie on a first date for sushi in the Paladen on campus. “And six years later, here we are,” says David, brandishing a grin common to those three weeks out from a honeymoon.

The Furman-transplanted Greenvillians were married in a hyper-local celebration exhibiting their shared values at Greenbrier Farms in Easley, SC, on October 25, 2014. “I locally sourced everything but our wedding attire—the food, favors, decorations, even the beer we brewed,” Katie says. The beer, dubbed “Beerly Beloved,” was a collaboration with fellow alumnus Peter Calomoris ’11, who works at newly successful Quest Brewing Company in Greenville. (Thanks to the friendship and David’s connections, Whole Foods of Greenville now carries Quest Beer.)

Although Katie and David dated throughout their Furman years, and a little beyond, love didn’t come immediately.

“I knew I loved him,” Katie says. But David took more time. “I didn’t realize it was love. I knew she was always there for me and I think her love for me made me realize I loved her,” he adds.

Marriage slowly percolated. “I knew she was everything I wanted and needed, but when I first broached the topic with her mom, she suggested I wait to talk to her dad,” David says. He waited, nearly a year, and after getting her father’s blessing, proposed in an apple orchard in North Carolina in September of 2013.

“Marriage shows commitment and accountability. It shows the one you love you are dedicated,” Katie says. David agrees: “It is a partnership and, for us, how you honor God by entering into an ordained relationship.”

In their young marriage, their discoveries of each other as roommates, too, are new. “Katie is definitely the CEO/CFO, and I am learning her ways...I like to think I add good commentary and spontaneity. Although now that our finances are merged, I can’t surprise her as much because she watches the budget so closely,” he jokes. But, David adds, “It is so exciting to have this opportunity to love and cherish another human being.”
When you see Speaker of the House John Boehner anywhere in Washington, D.C., chances are Tommy Andrews '09 is with him.

The Cincinnati native is on his fifth year working for Boehner, a career path he began as an unpaid intern starting two months after graduation. From there, Andrews was promoted to staff assistant, then to legislative correspondent, senior staff assistant, and finally, to his current position, special assistant to the Speaker.

“Anytime he leaves his office, I am on his hip. He could be on the House floor and have 40 different conversations with members of Congress, so it is my role to take notes and help—he can’t take it all at once,” Andrews says.

But Andrews’s role extends beyond sessions of Congress. “I serve as the conduit between all of the staff and the Speaker when he is not here. It is like being the quarterback, anticipating movements when every minute of the day is accounted for.”

Andrews points to an unusual source for his skills: Furman baseball, where he played first base and outfield.

“You balance schoolwork with the time commitment of travel and practice,” he says. He also credits Furman baseball with another reason he’s able to handle the intensity of Washington: his colleague Will Miller ’12.

Miller was a freshman when Andrews was a senior, but the two had struck up a friendship through baseball. As a political science major, Miller was interested in D.C. but as a centerfielder, he was more focused on professional baseball. “The draft was in June so I wasn’t really looking for jobs. But when the draft came and went without me, I was lost. The phone rang from a 202 number and it was Tom on the line. He was offering me [the chance] to come to D.C. and apply for an internship with the Speaker’s office,” Miller says. “Of course I was going to go.”

As an intern, Miller closely followed the “school of Tommy” and took every bit of advice he would give, namely, “Never say no,” and “Always be a guy who can find solutions.”

Miller claims the difference between his remaining a nameless intern and becoming a key employee emanates from the intersection of Andrews’s advice and, well, the Speaker’s trash can:

“I noticed when the Speaker finished fixing his coffee, he always left sweetener packets on the counter. I took Tommy’s advice to heart and went to the Container Store to spend eight dollars on a small trash can for the counter. It was there for a week before the Speaker noticed it, but when he did, it blew his mind. ‘That is the kind of problem solving we need,’ he said. That was a Thursday morning, and I was hired full time that afternoon. You can’t deny the timing.”

Political science professor Danielle Vinson says, “Over the last few years, one of the most rewarding parts of my trips to Washington has been learning from these guys through what they are seeing and doing. Their stories give me a fresh perspective that helps me better understand the things I teach.”

Vinson remarks, in particular, on Andrews’s and Miller’s generosity, especially “their enthusiasm for meeting with individual students who are interested in working on Capitol Hill.”

Miller says the service attitude stems directly from baseball coach Ron Smith.

“He always reminded us to put others before yourself and said if you do, you are destined to have success. That is the kind of attitude you need to have on Capitol Hill, always trying to work for something bigger than ourselves.” (Seasoned politicians could take note of this philosophy.)

While one might think the experiences the two men have had—access to powerful legislators (and brushes with the president)—might make them jaded to the dazzle of the nation’s capital, Andrews quickly corrects that assumption.

“When I pull up to work every day, there is still a shock and awe factor. The view from my desk is the National Mall, and I am never going to have another view like that in my life.”

—Kate Dabbs '09
Leah Coakley went from Furman to the University of Puget Sound from which she graduated last May with a master’s of education in counseling degree.

Daniel Hall (MA) is principal of York County (SC) Middle School.

Peter MacKenzie was featured in the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s list of “Top Financial Advisors Under 40.”

Kate Malone (MA) has been named principal of Riverside High School in Greer, SC.

2007

Weston Belkot is U.S. marketing director for Pushpay Holdings Limited.

Kelly Coxe (MA) was selected as principal of Harold C. Johnson Elementary School in York County, SC.

The law firm of Owen & Owens in Midlothian, VA, has selected Erica L. Giovanni to be included in Virginia Business Magazine’s “2014 Legal Elite.”

Jessica Patterson (MA) is the new principal at Chastain Road Elementary School in Pickens County, SC.

Jessica Rahn (MA ’10) has been named 2014–2015 Teacher of the Year at Monaview Elementary School in Greenville.

A UN Climate Summit was held last fall in New York City. Kartikeya Singh participated in the summit and appeared on NPR to talk about climate change. Singh is the founder of the Indian Youth Climate network, which has served as a forum for voices of the budding youth climate movement across South Asia.

Noah Woodiwiss is currently based in Chengdu, China, with the State Department. He worked on the planning for the recent visit by the First Lady and First Daughter.

2008

Brittany Jean Carr is participating in a residency in canine sports medicine and rehabilitation at Veterinary Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Group in Annapolis Junction, MD.

Ke Ji is an international trade specialist at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

2009

Matthew Cesari was featured in the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s list of “Top Financial Advisors Under 40.”

Jade Lawson Fountain recently accepted a position as the gift administrator in the Office of Gift Planning at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Nathan Guinn has become an attorney with Gibbes Burton LLC, located in Spartanburg, SC. He was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 2013.

Lisa Huffman has been named director of children and discipleship at Trinity United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, NC.

Kathryn Savarese Misenheimer has been named 2014–2015 Teacher of the Year at Dorman High School’s freshman campus in Spartanburg, SC. She is a Spanish/ESOL teacher.

2010

Jonathan Cote has joined Wyche, a full-service law firm that has served the Greenville, SC, community for more than 90 years.

Will Gyauch won the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award for 2013–2014 at the University of Iowa Law School.

Tiffany Osborne (MA) works as an instructional coach at Glenview Middle School in Anderson.

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT

In the weeks before I first arrived at Furman University in August of 1984, I was full of anxiety. I was trying to understand what this college “thing” was going to hold for me. It wasn’t just anxiety about college classes, but also the added pressure of college football and whether I would measure up. Excelling at a small country high school in its classrooms and on its gridiron is one thing, but achieving at Furman’s level in both areas was another. I will not go so far to say I “excelled” in either, but I will say I survived and eventually thrived.

Thirty years later, I have arrived on campus once more as a student—an older and hopefully wiser student who is now also a member of the University’s staff. This time, what I am learning has started the way all learning does: with dialogue. Namely, conversations with you, our alumni, faculty, staff, coaches, parents, and students. As these conversations begin, I am reminded of why my Furman experience was so special—it was the people. Indeed, some things never change. As I meet with many of you today, I am excited to reacquaint myself, from a new vantage, with the specialness that comes with encountering the great people at Furman.

While many of us will always appreciate the beauty of our campus or the excellence of our academic reputation, I know that like me, most of you were affected by the people you met here. Which is why I am excited to once more be part of a team that strives to serve and enrich our most enduring asset—the Furman family. And in doing so, ensure the enduring legacy of what brings that family together.

Mike Wilson  ’88
mike.wilson@furman.edu
Debut with Boston’s Handel and Haydn Society under the direction of Scott Allen Jarrett ’97. This summer she will sing with the Santa Fe Opera.

Emily Bridges has been named editor of the South Carolina Law Review.

Susan Joyner has been accepted into the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

Matthew Critell (MA) has been named program director at the new Fisher Middle School in Greenville County, SC.

Amanda Sparrow (MA) has accepted a position as a reading specialist at Hollis Academy.

Brandдон Benson (MA) has been named assistant principal at Duncan (SC) Elementary School.

Hayly Humphreys is staff assistant for U.S. Senator Bob Corker.

Magee Morrison (MA) is the new instructional coach at Chastain Road Elementary School in Pickens County, SC.

Joy Owens is the current director of Johnson Farm in Hendersonville, NC. Historic Johnson Farm is a heritage education center owned by Henderson County schools and managed by the nonprofit Henderson County Education Foundation.

Carrie Seigler of Greenville, SC, is participating in a one-year term of Mennonite Voluntary Service in New York City as research and policy associate with Urban Justice Center.

Alexa Rancourt, a two-time women’s state amateur golf champion who plays on the Symetra Tour, participated in the Charlie Maine Open at Augusta (GA) Country Club last summer.

Catherine Catan has joined the Ernst & Young consultant firm and is now living in Washington, D.C.

Amanda Sparrow (MA) has accepted a position as a reading specialist at Hollis Academy.

2011

The Columbia, SC, Chamber of Commerce has announced Anna Lee Carlisle Burns as its director of marketing and communications.

Randy Dendy (MA) is now assistant principal at Mary Wright Elementary School in Spartanburg, SC.

In early December 2014, Jacquelyn Stucker made her solo debut with Boston’s Handel and Haydn Society under the direction of Scott Allen Jarrett ’97. This summer she will sing with the Santa Fe Opera.

2012

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Hannah Haas is working as a staff assistant to Congressman Lou Barletta.

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CLASS NOTES POLICY

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 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 in different years is included under the earliest graduation date. It is not listed with both classes. The magazine reserves the right to edit submissions.
Kerry and Will’s love story is the stuff of romantic comedy—old friends who became something more. Over a glass (or two) of wine at Northampton Wines in downtown Greenville, they gushed over their long courtship, the beauty of marriage closer to 30 than 20, and their dog, Chester—a raven-haired lab Kerry included in her official bridal portraits at Furman.

When they first met, Will was a freshman and Kerry was a senior. That wasn’t the only difference between them. “Kerry is the oldest child and I am the youngest,” Will says. “Kerry, a biology major, never skipped a class at Furman except for senior skip day and I, a political science and history major, missed the maximum number allowed per term. That pretty much describes us to a T,” he laughs. “She always goes by the book and I am always trying to broker a deal.” (A valuable trait for an associate attorney at Leinster Law Firm.)

When the two first crossed paths after Furman, Kerry was in D.C. for the swearing in of David Wilkins, former ambassador to Canada, through her work at Smoak Public Relations, where she is now senior account executive. They were friends first, of that they are both adamant. After a short stint in Greenville, Will decided to go to law school at the Charleston School of Law. “I was sad when he left, but we were really just friends then,” Kerry says.

By Will’s third year of law school, the “just friends” line didn’t seem to fit anymore. “I was sad when he left, but we were really just friends then,” Kerry says.

“Friendship first” is a principle many endorse for romance, but what surprised this couple was how they never expected more than that.

By Kate Dabbs ’09

While it took them some time to hit their stride, when the couple became serious about pursuing one another, it happened fast. “It was a change to be two very independent people trying not to be independent. We had to figure out how we each needed to be loved,” says Kerry.

Will proposed to Kerry at his family home on Lake Burton, where his sister-in-law and brother helped set the scene with an outdoor fire and champagne. “I had no idea. I thought someone was in the house and then I thought he was apologizing for something,” Kerry laughs. The two were married on September 6, 2014, at First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, and a reception followed at the Poinsett Club.

“I am glad I waited until 32 to be married,” Kerry says. “I was absolutely sure and it enabled me to eliminate societal pressure to marry before you are ready. Ultimately, I think it is best to wait until you cannot picture your life without that person before you make a commitment like marriage.”

Marriage for the Glenns is a combination of Christian values, commitment, and selflessness. “All through life everyone tells you it is all about you and you can’t think that way in your marriage. You have to die to yourself every day,” Will says.

On how that first year is going, Kerry says, “It is a lot of fun but there are days it requires work. You see each other on your worst and best days.”

“But you are the one I’d want to be with on my worst days,” Will says with a grin before drifting back to a less rose-colored reality. “You have to have the patience to put up with one another. And that might be the best advice we could offer.”
A daughter, Claire Taylor Eldridge, August 3, 2014

David ‘00 and Jami Lee ‘99
Noyce, a daughter, Rachel Marie, November 14, 2013

Adam ‘99 and Christine Hacker
‘01 Stillwell, a son, Jacob Edward, October 16, 2013

Don and Ellen Culbertson
Abramo ‘00, a son, Christian Donald, October 16, 2013

Jonathan ‘00 and Pearce Triplitt
‘02 Butcher, a son John Levi, September 2, 2014

Sakis and Kimberly Petillo ‘00
DeCossard, a son, Dominic Xavier, September 28, 2014

Samuel and Jennifer Coats ‘00
Solorzano, a daughter, Collins Elizabeth, March 27, 2014

Townes Boyd and Marshall
Turnbull Johnson ‘01, a son, Townes Boyd IV, November 10, 2014

Kyle and Laura Moody ‘01
a daughter, Caroline Rose, October 8, 2014

Ryan and Abbey Redfearn ‘01
Plexico, a daughter, Ada Marie Redfearn, November 12, 2013

Brian and Jennifer Scholz ‘01
Smith, a daughter, Maeve Beverly, November 1, 2014

Robert ‘02 and Sarrin Towle ‘03
Warfield, a daughter, Emerson Marie, October 15, 2014

Doug ‘02 and Jody James ‘03
Webb, a daughter, Sally Josephine, October 10, 2014

Chris ‘03 and Kacy Herring ‘04
Babcock, a daughter, Evelyn Mae Elizabeth, December 5, 2013

Chris ‘04 and Casey Hannifin
‘03 Field, a daughter, Virginia Elaine, September 16, 2014

Paige Harden ‘03, a daughter,
Rowan Naomi Tucker-Drob, December 4, 2014

Mike and Carolyn Egan ‘03
Jacobs, a daughter, Ava Amberlee, September 16, 2014

Aaron and Alison Williams
Shurtz ‘03, a daughter, Charlotte Clare, January 6, 2015

Brian and Michelle Smith ‘03,
twin sons, Parker and Kennedy, October 24, 2014

Wesley and Elizabeth Hubbard
‘03 Vance, a daughter, Collins Elizabeth, August 7, 2014

John and Rebecca Beckett ‘04, a
son, William Yates, November 14, 2014

Clay and Kate Burns ‘04, a son,
Clayton Brasington III, September 21, 2014

Eric and Jessica Giles Gray ‘04, a
son Whitley Jackson, November 7, 2014

Hagan and Dena Pope Jordan
‘04, a son, Rhett William, October 1, 2014

Rob ‘05 and Lauren Welch ‘04
Langley, a daughter, Margaret Christine, August 28, 2014

Aden Albert ‘05 and Jean Schwab
‘04, a daughter, Robin Octavia Albert, October 10, 2014

Chris and Jessica Siler ‘04, a
son, Grayson Barden Siler, November 16, 2014

Brian and Jessica Moore Fisher
‘05, a daughter, Annie, September 10, 2014

Adam and Diana Estes Ligler
‘05, a daughter, Alyssa Renee, September 7, 2014

Andrew and Dana Wilson Litke
‘05, a daughter, Rebekah Pauline, September 23, 2014

Nicholas and Lucy Clark Sanders
‘05, a son, Joseph Cote, August 13, 2014

John Mark and Maxi Elli Shiflet
‘05, a son, John Coleman “Tripp,” July 18, 2014

Gaines and Cassie Markham
Sturdivant ‘05, a son, Gaines Peacock III, September 11, 2014

Thomas and Gabrielle Roberts
‘05 Sweets, a daughter, Alice Gates, July 17, 2014

Michael and Missy Dempsey
Hale ‘06, a daughter, Alice
Jeri and Jordan Greene Pilot
‘09, a daughter, Grace Harrison Pilot, December 27, 2014

Joe and Kristen Confer Tenini
‘09, twin daughters, Kate
Heinz and Paige Case, February 25, 2014

Jordan and Meghan Kelly ‘11
Robinson, a daughter, Blythe, October 7, 2014.

Patrick Donald Bridges ‘89 and
Donald Scott Gauch, July 26, 2014

Michael Hauswald ‘03 and Sarah Harkness, August 16, 2014

Lauren Patricia Robbins ‘07 (MA
‘09) and Austin Michael Baker, March 8, 2014

Michael Wise ‘08 and Jennifer Guest, July 12, 2014

Sarah Martin ‘09 and Kelty B.
Richardson, October 4, 2014

Sarah Octavia Ferguson ‘10 and
Paul Michael Sloderbeck, August 30, 2014

John Heron IV ‘10 and Hayley
Duggan ‘11, January 10, 2015

Katy MacDonald ‘10 and James Godley, September 15, 2013

Charlotte Mary Bissell ‘11 and
Zachary Floyd Garner, October 18, 2014

Whitney Cubbage ‘11 and Charles
Ray Coker, Jr., July 5, 2014

Elizabeth Soule ‘11 and Scott Hamilton
Cameron, Jr. ’12, July 12, 2014

Will White ‘12 and Sarah Burke
Sigmon ‘13, July 19, 2014

Miranda Jolliff ‘13 and Sonny
Kellen Hatanaka, August 12, 2014

Adair Martin ‘13 and Marshall
Smith ‘13, August 2, 2014

Kaleigh Ward ‘13 and Grant Cox
‘14, September 21, 2014
Charles Townes, a Nobel Prize-winning scientist, Greenville native, and a 1935 graduate of Furman University, died Tuesday, January 27, 2015. He was 99.

“The Furman community has lost a giant today,” said Furman President Elizabeth Davis. “Charles Townes’s scientific explorations and path-breaking discoveries changed our world in wondrous ways, and new uses of the technology are unfolding even today.”

Arguably Greenville’s most illustrious citizen, Townes received the 1964 Nobel Prize in physics for his pioneering work in the development of the maser and laser. He was a key NASA advisor during the Apollo mission, and held more than two dozen honorary degrees and a trove of awards and honors.

Tributes to Townes grace Furman’s campus. The most visible is the Charles H. Townes Science Center, a $62.5 million facility that houses all of the University’s science departments. The Charles H. Townes Lecture Series on Faith and Reason was launched in 2006. The series, held annually, highlights the common ground between science and religion. The Charles H. Townes Scholarship provides $25,000 per year in scholarship aid.

Charles Hard Townes was born in 1915. His father, Henry, was an attorney and member of the Furman class of 1897. The Townes children grew up in a Baptist household that encouraged intellectual pursuits and discussions of the Bible.

“Charlie” studied physics, mathematics, and biology at Furman, where he graduated summa cum laude at 19. Outside of the classroom, Townes wrote for the college newspaper, and was a member of the swim team and football band.

After earning a master’s degree in physics from Duke University in 1936, Townes enrolled at the California Institute of Technology and earned a PhD. During World War II, he worked on radar bombing systems that could operate in the humidity of the South Pacific. After World War II, he became associate professor of physics at Columbia University and met Arthur L. Schawlow, who became his research assistant. The two would eventually combine their energies (and become brothers-in-law) to make major advances in the field of microwave spectroscopy.

His insights led to the development of the first working maser, a device that amplifies electromagnetic waves, and the invention of the laser. It resulted in an astonishing array of discoveries now in common use in medicine, telecommunications, electronics, computers, and many other fields.

“My greatest debt to Furman is for the opportunity to associate in small classes with a number of interesting, inspiring, devoted men,” Townes once said.

Townes is survived by his wife, Frances Hildreth Townes; daughters Holly Townes, Linda Rosenwein, Ellen Townes-Anderson, and Carla Kessler; six grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.
James Russell O’Dell ’66, September 17, 2014, Jacksonville, FL

John Roscoe “Jack” Fulmer ’67, December 15, 2014, Greenville, SC

Elizabeth Grant Kelly ’67, January 7, 2015, Greenville, SC

Fredrick Manuel “Fim” White ’67, September 17, 2014, Summerville, SC

Edith Wright “Sis” Brummer (MA ’68), December 25, 2014, Greenville, SC

Gabriel Webster Hunter ’68, September 30, 2014, Mauldin, SC

Carrol James “Pete” Calvert ’69, November 1, 2014, Mauldin, SC

Charles Robert Love ’69, January 1, 2015, Fort Walton Beach, FL

Rebecca Moore Rochester ’69, September 21, 2014, Greenville, SC

Thomas Wilson Fort ’70, November 19, 2014, Lugoff, SC

Charles Lester Lamb ’71, October 17, 2014, Greenville, SC

Kenneth Lee Childers ’72, August 26, 2014

Richard Warren Mays ’72, August 29, 2014, Savannah, GA

Robert Rector McGee ’72, August 30, 2014, Winston-Salem, NC

Robert Rector McGee ’72, August 30, 2014, Winston-Salem, NC

Kenneth Wayne McIntosh ’72, July 9, 2014, Rock Hill, SC

Mary Joseph Fuss Mostertz (MA ’72), December 25, 2014, Tampa, FL

Dennis G. Thomas ’72, December 25, 2014, Tampa, FL

Deborah Dobson Heicher ’74, December 2, 2014, Greenville, SC

Kenneth Wayne McIntosh ’72, July 9, 2014, Rock Hill, SC

Wilene Robinson Schumpert Cohen (MA ’75), November 1, 2014, Clemson, SC

Edith Mullen Simpson (MA ’75), August 23, 2014, Winchester, MA

Parniece Brown Allen (MA ’65), September 22, 2014, Williamston, SC

Sandra Jean Stenhouse Cleaver ’65, September 17, 2014, Annapolis, MD


James Walton Simmons III ’65, October 27, 2014, Macon, GA

Harriette Inez Tucker Elrod (MA ’66), January 4, 2015, Williamston, SC


Professor emeritus of chemistry Charles Stuart Patterson ’50 died October 27, 2014. He had taught at Furman from 1954 to 1988. During those 30 years, he contributed greatly to the university and had a lasting influence on the development of the chemistry program. He served as chair of the chemistry department from 1957 through 1967, when he was appointed director of the division of science and mathematics. He held this position until President Gordon W. Blackwell appointed him academic dean for a five-year term ending in 1977. At that time, he returned to full-time teaching and continued to enjoy his students and colleagues until his retirement in 1988.

Professor of English emerita Ann Wyatt Sharp died on October 21, 2014. Sharp taught at Furman from 1973 to 1996. She received the Alester G. Furman, Jr. and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Advising; upon Sharp’s retirement in 1996, Celia M. Millward established the Ann Sharp Award Fund, which provides an annual cash award to a deserving student who is recognized for academic merit and creative writing talent.