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Campaign Co-Chairs Letter

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Dear Friends,

It is with pride and humility that we open this report on the most successful fundraising campaign in Furman’s long history. We are proud that Because Furman Matters surpassed its $400 million goal at the end of 2013, recording over $406 million in gifts and commitments to improve facilities, strengthen the endowment, and subsidize annual operations. And we are humbled that the campaign brought together a record number of over 27,600 alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff, and organizations who share the belief that Furman really does matter and will continue making a difference for years to come.

No achievement of this magnitude is ever accomplished by the few. Furman is fortunate to enjoy the esteem of many who stepped forward at critical times, including the momentous cornerstone bequest from the Hollingsworth estate, which gave us the confidence that we would indeed reach our goal. And the generosity of The Duke Endowment’s ongoing support, which encouraged other donors to participate, sustained us through the inevitable challenges that arise in any ambitious and visionary campaign.

There are leaders too numerous to mention, current and former Trustees of the University who, as a group, provided 23 percent of the campaign total and helped lead discrete projects that connected us with other interested donors. We also are grateful to have worked side by side with the indefatigable volunteers of the Campaign Executive Committee, the Campaign Advisory Board, and other groups.

Our Presidents—David Shi ’73, Tom Kazee, Rod Smolla, and Carl Kohrt ’65—each provided leadership at key times. At the public launch, David and Susan Shi stepped forward with a $1 million commitment. Rod Smolla envisioned the direction of the campaign for its final $100 million push. And Carl Kohrt, Chairman of the Board of Trustees when the campaign began, worked to complete it during his recent tenure as Interim President. He and his wife Lynne, also contributed in excess of $1 million during the campaign. No other university in the nation has had a fundraising effort in which two sitting Presidents made commitments of that magnitude.

Notably, Furman’s own faculty and staff gave generously (over 80 percent contributed to the campaign), one of the surest signs of success and commitment. We are especially grateful to the staff of the Development Office, particularly to former Vice President Don Linebeck who charted the early strategy and led the Townes Science Center effort, and to current Vice President Mike Gatchell ’91.

This report chronicles the many accomplishments of Because Furman Matters—the numerous scholarship funds that have created greater access for talented students, construction of sparkling new academic and student life facilities, upgrades to our athletics facilities, the establishment of academic centers and programs that have placed a distinctive stamp on a Furman education, and ongoing generous support for operating expenses.

Harder to convey is the spirit of this campaign, and what may go down as its lasting legacy: the many faculty, staff, and alumni who have been honored through named gifts and endowments, reflecting the deep and abiding relationships that distinguish the Furman experience.

It has been an honor and great joy to have been a small part of the story that is Because Furman Matters. We look forward with great confidence to the next chapter.

—DOUGLAS K. FREEMAN ’72
—RONALD A. MALONE ’81