Scholarships: A legacy that matters

Furman University

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A legacy that matters

When Tom Triplitt ’76 talks about his dad, you can feel the warmth of decades of memories that made their relationship unforgettable. He has a similar warmth for Furman, first as a student, and now as Alumni Director. So, it’s no surprise that Triplitt chose to merge two of his loves to create an enduring legacy.

Your dad had a tough upbringing.
Growing up during the Depression shaped everything about my dad. His father died when he was 16 and the family had to move so his mom could work; she was a teacher. It made my dad really appreciate the sacrifice his mother made for his education.

What prompted you to start a legacy scholarship?

Once he started working, my father started saving so I could go to college, so his grandchildren could go to college, and his great grandchildren. He was never really a wealthy man, but he was frugal and a good investor. When he was 90, an opportunity to start a scholarship together presented itself, and I knew it was the right thing to do.

What was his legacy?

His biggest legacy was the way he treated people. He was fair, generous, and tried to instill a sense of self-worth in everybody he met. When he died at 94, I lost my best friend.

What’s your hope for the future?

I would like students who receive our scholarship to know about the legacy my father left. And I hope that my family continues to support this scholarship into perpetuity. My legacy. For him.

#WhyFurmanMatters

Furman has something unquantifiable. Beyond great students and great teachers there’s an intangible quality that makes it so exceptional. It helped me find out who I am.

—Tom Triplitt ’76