Then: Reflection on the Importance of Furman as It Was

Elizabeth McSherry '07

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“Oh, the milk shakes,” laughs Dorriety. “Those are a hit. We have a weekly shake, and we’re always trying something new. We had a Peepe® shake at Easter. We’ve also tried combos like a chocolate bacon shake, a glazed doughnut shake, and an orange dream Creamside® version. Every week our chefs head back to the kitchen, and they’re like mad scientists in a lab, excited to come up with the next variety.”

In addition to the full menu, which includes vegetarian and gluten-free options, appetizers, and “late night” snacks, the Paddock also offers a selection of beer and wine, many of the local variety. Anyone who orders an alcoholic beverage must show a valid ID, and only one drink per person at a time is permitted.

Though some may raise their eyebrows at the idea of a restaurant serving alcohol on Furman’s campus, Dorriety attests that this has not been an issue. “Furman students are responsible,” he says. “We’ve had no problems connected to alcohol.”

Says Vuksta, “We wanted to provide an environment for students and faculty to gather in an informal setting on campus, as well as a place for the community to experience the wonderful food and views of Furman.”

“It’s a great gathering place,” says Danner Washburn ’16. “I’ve had many conversations and discussions with friends and classmates over a meal at the Paddock. It serves as a nice getaway that’s still on campus.”

The Paddock has proven to be the perfect hangout. In fact, patrons can also enjoy weekly entertainment featuring singer/songwriters, jazz trios, and other student performers. Or, they can do as I am, and appreciate the scenery while enjoying a milk shake—banana Nutella®, of course.

—Lindsay Niedringshaus ’07

**THE PALADIN MILK SHAKE**

- 2 oz. acai puree
- 2 oz. fresh blueberries
- 1 oz. agave nectar
- 1 cup vanilla ice cream
- 1/4 cup milk

Add all ingredients to your blender, set to medium-high for approximately 20 seconds to a minute, or until all ingredients are combined.

Lactose intolerant or vegan? Substitute dairy milk with soy or almond milk, as well as lactose free ice cream (Breyer’s makes a good version).—Preston Agnew

**THEN**

Reflection on the Importance of Furman as It Was

I think we tend to focus on the positive, happy-go-lucky moments when we reflect, but it is probably those harder moments that actually meant the most. When I was a sophomore, I was accepted on the Scotland study abroad trip and was planning to intern with a museum or historical site. Then I found out my scholarships would not apply to my study abroad, and my parents could not afford the cost of the trip. I decided to stay on campus and I added secondary education to my list of studies.

I loved my student teaching. I had an amazing mentor, 150 seniors to teach, and more stories than I could possibly remember at the end of every day. But I realized during the fall term that I had been listening to everyone else. They told me I would be a good teacher, and thus that is what I should do. But I wanted to work in museums.

My memory is of a sunny, beautiful afternoon in the fall of my senior year when I was walking back to North Village from Hipp Hall after an education class had let out. I was passing Duke Library when I had a full-on panic attack. I couldn’t breathe, my vision went blurry, my heart was racing. I sat down and started to cry. I knew I was not cut out to be a high school history teacher. I knew I was putting my dreams on hold and listening to other people.

It was there, sitting on the steps of James B. Duke Library, that I did one of the bravest things I had done in my life: I called my parents and told them I was not going to be a history teacher. I then marched back to Hipp Hall and withdrew from the ed class and the program.

To me college is about those contrary emotions. Furman was the place that allowed me to feel safe enough to go toward the unknown.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Elizabeth McSherry graduated from Furman in 2007, after which she completed her master’s degree in museum studies at The Johns Hopkins University. She now serves as director of programs and marketing for the Upcountry History Museum.

Illustration by Jack Dylan