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EDITOR
   Jim Stewart

DESIGNER
   Roxanne Chase

CONTRIBUTORS
   Stacy Schorr Chandler
   Elizabeth Cooke
   Kate Hoffer Dabbs
   Leo Fackler
   John Greenfield
   Erikah Haavie
   Carl Kohrt
   Vince Moore
   George Singleton
   Ron Wagner
   Brenda Fowler Wensil

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT/CLASS NOTES EDITOR
   Nell Smith

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
   Tish Pearman Anderson
   Randall David Cook
   Nancy Fullbright
   Sam Hodges

PRINTING
   Hickory Printing Solutions

EMAIL
   jim.stewart@furman.edu

PHONE
   864.294.2185

COVER: A handstand in a national park is all in a day's work for Martin Rooney, who provided the photo.

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Our Fundamental Mission

As the magazine was going to press, we learned that Rod Smolla had decided to step down for personal reasons as Furman’s president, effective June 30, and that Carl Kohrt ’65 had been elected interim president by the board of trustees. Kohrt is a successful business executive, accomplished academic and longtime member of the board. His comments follow.

I know that the many readers of Furman, in either its digital or print form, look forward to the thoughtful, often provocative “From the President” message as the springboard for enjoying the many features of each publication. I know I always do.

Imagine my surprise — and perhaps yours — to find that I, a kid from rural Illinois who came to a seemingly far-off place at the base of Paris Mountain more than 50 years ago to play football but who left a chemist, would be introducing this issue as the interim president of our beloved Furman University. I do so with a personal enthusiasm for and a deep appreciation of the enormously positive impact that Furman’s distinctive approach to liberal arts education has had on our family and on me throughout a lifetime of international business, community service, athletics, and academic endeavors.

Those whom you will encounter in the following pages will reaffirm, often in a dramatic fashion, that Furman has successfully adapted to a changing world throughout its long history by understanding the future needs of its students and the needs of society. As President Smolla wrote in the winter issue, technology continues to foster dramatic changes in where, when, and how information and communications are used — the digital age is changing industries from journalism to imaging, banking to health care, in unexpected ways. The question for parents, students, faculty and policy makers is how, not whether, it will change higher education.

Today’s entering freshmen are true digital natives whose educational experiences differ markedly from those of most of the faculty whom they will encounter as undergraduates. The opportunity for Furman, in my opinion, lies in the creative adoption of new technologies as tools to enhance and extend, rather than replace, the fundamental mission of Furman.

That mission is to attract the most talented students and to mold them into lifetime “hunters” of relevant understanding, not mere “gatherers” of information as the authors of the recent book Generation on a Tightrope describe. This quest for relevant understanding is rooted in three basic tenets of a true liberal arts education: critical thinking, creativity and continual learning. Each of these is a uniquely human endeavor best accomplished through direct interactions with peers, scholars and the external world, be it in the classroom, on the athletic fields or within the community.

The enduring assets of Furman — its faculty and staff — are dedicated to engaging students day in and day out, often at an individual level, to help them integrate knowledge across disciplines in ways that are relevant to the contemporary world. I, therefore, do not believe that Furman’s consistent dedication to its core mission over its more than 180 years of existence will relegate it to irrelevance in the future. Rather, by seizing new opportunities to improve and change, Furman will educate and graduate students who will continue to confirm the fundamental value of a Furman education as they make their mark on our world.

Finally, it is a tenet of societal progress that one builds upon the discoveries and understandings of others, i.e., “We stand on the shoulders of those who came before,” as someone once remarked. I, too, begin my tenure on the “shoulders” of the work and initiatives begun under Rod Smolla’s leadership. It is an honor for me to be entrusted with Furman’s continuing journey as a liberal arts institution of distinction that attracts and graduates students of character, resolve, spirituality, talent and exceptional ability.

Go Paladins!

— CARL KOHRT
THE LEGEND OF DADDY DORN (AND FRIENDS)

by Vince Moore
Who knows how much of this tale is exaggerated? It happened nearly 80 years ago at Furman, and even those closest to the university can't recall having heard the story. A quick glance through the archives of *The Hornet*, the student newspaper in those days, also reveals nothing about what happened. But something remarkable did occur — especially considering Furman’s seriously Baptist nature at the time — and the story goes like this.

It was sometime after football season in 1933. The Purple Hurricane, as the football team was then called, had gone 6-1-2, beating Clemson and tying South Carolina.

The Furman program was the best in the state during the Great Depression and was highly competitive throughout the Southeast. After the team’s 7-6 victory over Centre College early in 1933, referee Bill Doak, a former star at the University of Pittsburgh, was quoted as saying that Furman was the best defensive team he had seen in his 15 years of officiating.

The Hurricane, coached by Dizzy McLeod, had a combined record of 14-2-2 in 1932 and 1933, beating USC in 1932 and Clemson both years. The team was expected to be better than ever in 1934, and interest in Furman football was as great in the Greenville community as it was on campus. As *The Hornet* wrote in its final issue of the 1933-34 school year, “Our eyes are set on 1934-35. We hereby issue Hurricane warnings to all opposing teams.”

But the 1934 season didn’t live up to expectations. The Hurricane finished 5-4 and dropped close games to USC and Clemson. The reason? The team was missing four players who had been expected to return, three of whom were among the best in the state. But why they were missing wasn’t clear.

Early in the season *The Hornet* reported, almost as an aside, that four “regular stalwarts are absent from the first string roster.” A little later, there was a brief mention that the four had been disciplined, but no further explanation. As the season failed to go as expected, the newspaper’s coverage became a weekly series of lamentations, with many mentions of the team’s diminished firepower and bad luck.

One of the missing players was Drayton “Daddy” Dorn, an all-state offensive and defensive lineman from Greenwood, S.C. The others, according to a story in the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, were Roy “Hardrock” Smith, an all-conference center and defensive guard from Union, S.C.; Trask McCarson, an all-state tackle from Hendersonville, N.C.; and Clarence Scott, a running back from Greenwood.

As it turned out, the players had been expelled from school for the entire year. And while they were allowed to return in the fall of 1935, when they rejoined the football team and led the Hurricane to another outstanding season, there remained a huge, unanswered question: Why had Furman expelled them in the first place?

The answer became a bit clearer when Morgan Blake, sports editor of the *Atlanta Journal*, was invited to speak at the year-end football banquet in 1935 and wrote a column about the triumphant returns of Dorn and Smith. Although he didn’t go into great detail about the boys’ transgressions, he did note that “John Barleycorn” had been at the root of the problem.

Years later, when Daddy Dorn was a successful businessman in Charleston, S.C., with a wife and three sons, his boys somehow learned of the lost season and began asking their father pointed questions about what had happened. Daddy kept refusing to be specific, but eventually gave in and agreed to tell the tale.

“He said he would tell us one time, and that would be it,” says Pete Dorn, his son. “And he never mentioned what happened again.”
In regard to the details of that fateful night eight decades ago, we may never learn how much is legend and how much is fact.

According to Pete, his father, along with several teammates and a group of girls, had gone to Paris Mountain on a Saturday night to celebrate the 1933 season. Pete isn’t sure about the timing; he thinks it was around Christmas. A quick historical check shows that Prohibition ended December 5, 1933, so they might well have been celebrating more than the football season.

The players and girls were up on the mountain, far away from the downtown campus, drinking “corn liquor” and having a good time. It just so happened that two Furman professors were also on the mountain — coon hunting. Their dogs sniffed out the revelers, and before long the professors followed the dogs into the middle of the party. The professors said they liked the boys and wished they didn’t have to report what they had seen to Furman’s president, Bennette E. Geer, but they had no choice.

It was time to go.

What happened next may well have led to the severity of the punishment.

“My Dad said since they knew they were going to be expelled anyway and they didn’t want to waste the rest of the night, they tied the professors to a tree and went on with their partying,” Pete says. “They untied them and let them go the next morning.”

To put such an event into perspective, it’s important to remember what sort of school Furman was at the time. Chapel was mandatory. Dancing wasn’t allowed on campus. And in a straw poll taken by The Hornet in October 1933, the student bodies of both Furman and Greenville Woman’s College voted “overwhelmingly” against the repeal of Prohibition.

When the miscreants made the long walk to the president’s office, President Geer, according to Blake’s account, delivered a stern lecture that went something like this: “If you boys had gone out by yourselves on the bank of the [Reedy] river and loaded up, I would have given you a severe lecture and let it go at that. But you’ve made a public spectacle of yourselves and brought your college into disrepute. I’ll have to expel you.”

The chastened players accepted their punishments and went home. Geer made no promises that they could return, but he quietly asked prominent alumni in the boys’ hometowns to monitor their behavior to see if they learned anything from their expulsions.

Daddy Dorn returned to Greenwood, where he lived with his sister, Lila. He had grown up on a farm in Saluda but moved his sophomore year in high school so he could attend Greenwood High. He had never played football before, but he went out for the team and made an immediate impression on the coaches.

According to Pete Dorn, his father’s first practice came in August, and he was the only player who didn’t complain about the stifling Greenwood heat or had to crawl to the sidelines to recuperate. “After working on the farm all his life, he said practicing football was the easiest work he had ever been involved in,” Pete says.

And it was at that first practice that Drayton Dorn picked up his nickname. The coaches were looking for a punter, and Dorn said, “Give the ball to Daddy and he’ll show you how to punt.” He booted the ball some 50 yards downfield, and the nickname stuck.

Dorn wanted to go to South Carolina after graduation but wasn’t offered a scholarship. Clemson wanted him, but it was a military school at the time and Dorn made it clear he was not interested in attending a military college. Then he was contacted by Clemson assistant Frank Howard, who would later become the school’s legendary head coach.

“Howard told him not to worry, that he wouldn’t have to stay in the barracks,” Pete says. “He could stay in the local YMCA in Clemson and just play football.”
So Dorn went to Clemson. But despite what he'd been promised, he spent his first week in the barracks — which proved to be quite enough. He called Dizzy McLeod and said he'd like to come to Furman. "Dizzy drove over, picked him up, and took him back to Furman," Pete says.

Daddy's mother hardly missed a game during his career at Furman, but his father watched one game and swore never to attend another. "I'm not going to watch a bunch of boys beat up on each other like that," he told the family. "I wouldn't go out on that field unless I had some knives and guns to protect me."

By all accounts, though, opposing players were the ones who needed protection. Furman All-America end Bob King called Dorn "one of the greatest tackles in the U.S.," and the Bonhomie likened Dorn's play to "a wild bull in a China shop."

In the end, loyalty was one of Daddy's traits as well. Even though he would have been welcomed at Clemson or South Carolina had he decided his exile from Furman was too great a punishment, he accepted his fate in hopes that he might be allowed to return.

"He loved Furman," Pete says. "It never entered his mind to transfer to another school."

Of course, there was a happy ending. Daddy and his friends evidently lived exemplary lives during their year away from campus, and Geer allowed them to return to school. As a result, the 1935 football season was a great one. The team went 8-1 with victories over Wake Forest, Clemson and USC, and was once again state champion.

At the football banquet, Dorn received the Sportsmanship Trophy and Hardrock Smith was named the Most Valuable Player. According to the column written by Blake, the Furman president and the two honorees had tears in their eyes as the awards were presented.

"You are real men," Blake quoted Geer as saying. "I am proud of you. Your school is proud of you." There must have been tears all around, because Blake wrote that "this hard-boiled old sports editor had to dry a little himself."

Dorn, who died in 1980 at the age of 68, would ultimately find his way to the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame, as would fellow conspirator Trask McCarson. It is worth noting that Furman never lost to Clemson or South Carolina when Dorn was in uniform. And his memory lives on at Furman in the form of the P.D. "Daddy" Dorn Endowed Football Scholarship, established by Pete Dorn and his wife, Susan.

As for the details of that fateful night on Paris Mountain eight decades ago, we may never learn how much is legend and how much is fact. But knowing his father, Pete says, the story doesn't sound far-fetched to him.

"My Dad was extremely popular when he was in school," Pete says. "He was a ladies' man, he was a prankster, and he enjoyed his liquor until the day he died. His night on Paris Mountain might be exaggerated a little bit, but probably not much." [F]

Opposite: Images courtesy Furman Special Collections and Archives/Digicenter. Other images from Bonhomies of mid-1930s.
WHERE TO START WITH MARTIN ROONEY ’93?

He’s the author of nine books, the chief operating officer of two companies, and an internationally renowned athletic trainer and motivational speaker. He was a three-time Southern Conference champion in the javelin, a straight-A student at Furman, and an Olympic bobsledder — before becoming a martial arts expert.

All are stories unto themselves, but none can stand alone if you’re to understand the man. Because as much as they shaped him, they are merely glowing coals heated by the fire burning inside Rooney, who can’t settle for anything less than the best in himself, or anyone else.

“He’s got a following, and he presents a positive message that I think resonates even if you’re not a National Football League combine guy or a mixed martial arts guy. The average person can buy into it,” says Tony Caterisano, professor of health sciences at Furman and Rooney’s longtime mentor. “His message is there’s a warrior in every one of us, and there’s an athlete in every one of us, and you’ve got to bring it out. You can’t just wanna-be. You’ve got to do what it takes to be. Everything he does he’s excited about, and that becomes a contagious thing.”

Rooney’s enthusiasm about fitness does seem impossible to fake. Type his name into a search engine and multiple videos pop up, any of which will inspire you to push a truck tire down your driveway with a car strapped to your back.

His most recent book (and the third published by Harper Collins), Warrior Cardio, came out last April. It breaks from the tradition of his previous two, Training for Warriors and Ultimate Warrior Workout, in that it reaches out to a broader audience. To that end he enlisted Caterisano as a collaborator.

“The first two [books] are more fighting-centric. The newest one is about fitness. It’s not about fighting at all,” Rooney says. “I needed a science guy to explain the style of training in layman’s terms, and Tony wrote that chapter.”

In fact, as far removed as Rooney’s life now seems from Furman, he credits his time there for everything he has accomplished.

“If I would have had somebody who took an interest in what I could have done, maybe I would have played football or something. But there was a track guy [Bill Scarola, Rooney’s high school coach in New Jersey] who saw what I could do, and that got me a scholarship to Furman,” Rooney says. “That’s why people need coaches. There are so many kids out there who need somebody to see the talent they have and the heart they have.”
Martin Rooney strikes a pose in front of the Vatican in Rome. His businesses take him around the world, and he has spoken about the value of fitness in more than 20 countries.
Caterisano took the baton when Rooney arrived in Greenville, first recognizing the young man’s drive in class and then letting himself be talked into becoming Rooney’s javelin coach — against his better judgment. “I said, ‘I don’t even know which end to throw, and he said, ‘I’ll teach you how to coach me’,” Caterisano remembers.

“Martin was always an over-achiever. I used to teach exercise physiology, and it was one of the tougher courses that we offered. I used to give quizzes that covered material we hadn’t covered in class yet. I told them I would drop the two lowest. Martin got 100s on the first eight, and since there were 10 total I thought surely he was going to coast on the next two. But sure enough, he got 100s on the next two as well. I asked him why, and he said, ‘I don’t like to get bad grades. I knew it didn’t count, but it counted to me.’ It was that kind of attitude that made me think this guy is different, this guy is special.”

Rooney went on to attend the Medical University of South Carolina with the goal of becoming a physical therapist. Instead, however, he pulled a Henschel Walker and made the United States bobsled team through an open tryout at an amusement park in Seaside Heights, N.J.

Rooney happened to be in town visiting his grandmother, and he impressed the coaches so much with his blazing time pushing a 300-pound sled on wheels that he was sent directly to Lake Placid, N.Y., to begin training. This was 1995, and for the next two years he trained with partner Todd Hays while also earning his degree and working as a physical therapist.

Hays and Rooney, racing the two-person bobsled, competed throughout Europe but fell just short of making the U.S. team for the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano. During their time together, however, Rooney learned that Hays, who would go on to win the silver medal in the bobsled at the 2002 Olympics, had been a professional fighter. That set him on the road to training mixed martial arts competitors.

“I got really interested in it and started training with him,” Rooney says.

When he returned home to New Jersey in 1998 he decided to go to mixed martial arts fighter Renzo Gracie’s training academy in New York City. Gracie was impressed with Rooney’s fitness and dedication, and before long Rooney was training Gracie in exchange for Gracie teaching him to fight.

The Gracie family created the modern form of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu that revolutionized MMA fighting. Working with Gracie gave Rooney the idea and the opportunity to pioneer fitness training for fighters. “I was the first one in,” he says. “I carved my niche because no one else was doing it, and I’m regarded as a leader. Some of it was luck, and some of it was hard work.”
His success opened doors. He began to work with other elite athletes, such as former first-round NFL draft pick Chris Long, and did strength training for the New York Jets. Along the way Rooney was also building two companies. He was hired in 1998 by Bill Parisi to be the chief operating officer of Parisi Speed School, created to help athletes of all ages. The same year Rooney launched another company, Training for Warriors, which focused on working with fighters.

Both businesses have grown exponentially thanks to the success of the Parisi School's pupils at the NFL combine and of Training for Warriors fighters in the MMA ring. Rooney now has locations all over the country and, in the case of Training for Warriors, in Canada, Mexico and Europe. His reputation grew with them, to the point that he says he now works with nearly every NFL team and has connections in virtually every corner of the sports world.

It seems that nobody can get enough of his fitness message. Rooney has spoken in more than 20 countries, and he's in such demand that his schedule is booked for months.

"The talks are usually based around coaching, training science and personal development, depending on the audience and what they want. The speeches can be as quick as an hour or up to three days," he says.

"When I was helping build Parisi School, I would speak twice a week, and I cut my teeth on that for a year. It gave me such confidence. I don’t think anybody’s a natural speaker. It’s all about practice. Now I seek out challenges. The last time I went to Germany, I gave the first 10 minutes of the speech in German, and they went insane. They just loved it."

He talks to Olympians and national teams as well as amateurs and people who aren’t athletes at all. But the message is basically the same, and it’s one Rooney is passionate about.

"If you really had to boil it down, the ultimate goal is to feel better about yourself. Most people unfortunately do the wrong things because that makes you feel better in the short term, but that’s also going to be what makes you feel worse in the long run," he says. "I’m speaking in front of crowds of 500 and sometimes 1,000 people, and most of those people aren’t fit at all. I’m speaking in kindergarten classes about broccoli and then discussing the finer details of biomechanics to a top coach in China.

"I can help people. It doesn’t really matter to me who the audience is so long as they’re open to getting better."

He is adamant that getting better, and fitter, is possible for anyone who wants to and, given the obesity rates in America, he knows many people should. With that in mind, he says he’s ready to “crack the code” on the obesity epidemic.

"I only train four days a week, but my diet is really clean. You can work out all you want. If your diet is bad, it won’t work," Rooney says. "The secret is, I never stopped. There haven’t been three days that I haven’t had a workout in 20 years."

"I don’t see that someday I’ll say, ‘I’m done, I’m going to go the next 20 years and not move anymore.’ It doesn’t compute in my brain. But that’s what a lot of this country does, unfortunately. That’s what I’m always trying to teach, to get this to resonate in somebody’s head."

Rooney, who recently moved from New Jersey to Cornelius, N.C., manages all of this while also being a family man. He is married and recently had his fourth girl, all under the age of 10, which has only increased his determination to think outside himself.

"The old rush used to be getting it and keeping it. Now the rush is giving it away," he says. "It’s making me even stronger."

The author, a 1993 graduate, is a freelance writer based in Hendersonville, N.C.

Rooney offers a lift to Kristina, one of his daughters. Opposite: At Japan’s Mount Fuji. Photos courtesy Martin Rooney.
Mark Souther and Andrew Feight are using modern technology to build the historical record — and include the public in the process.

By Elizabeth Cooke

Andrew Feight '92 stands on an earthen dam overlooking Bear Lake, a small reservoir in southern Ohio's Shawnee State Forest. He contemplates the stone inlet below, debating how best to approach it through the tangle of scrub and tall grasses.

"Sometimes I think I need to bring a machete," he says.

He sports brown boots, khakis, a red felt vest and a baseball cap. A hefty camera hangs around his neck. In one hand he holds a clipboard, in the other an iPhone equipped to collect comprehensive geographic data. It's just a typical day in the life of an atypical historian.

Feight, a professor at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio, has been exploring the history of the Scioto River Valley since he moved to the area in the early 2000s. He emphasizes the importance of going into the field to talk with people and to witness history firsthand. "You have to go to the historical sites to understand them," he says, because in doing so "you meet people who know more than you."

Feight also stresses the importance of preserving local history. "Part of my professional responsibility is to create a historical record," he says. He does this by recording interviews with longtime residents and by documenting sites through his photographs. "All history is local," he pronounces, and like any good historian, he cites his source: former Congressman Tip O'Neill of Massachusetts, who famously made the same claim about politics.

Politics was on Feight's mind when he enrolled at Furman in 1989 from Sandy Springs, Ga. At first he thought he would major in political science and maybe go on to law school. Then he took a course with Lloyd Benson.

"I really do credit Lloyd with clueing me in to the possibilities of a career as a historian," says Feight, who soon changed his major to history. He was awarded a Furman Advantage Fellowship, and under the guidance of Benson spent a summer exploring the history of Greenville through its architecture. He created two tours of the city's architectural heritage that included photos and short descriptions of the featured buildings and explained how they fit into the broader history of the South and the nation.

With Benson's help, Feight uploaded his tours to a website. At the time, the Internet was a relatively new development: "It was just sort of a storage place for the driving instructions," says Benson. He and Feight could hardly
imagine that in less than two decades people would be able to access this information from a device the size of their pockets.

Today Feight is building a series of historical tours about southern Ohio that cater to smart phones. To do it, he's following the model developed by another Furman graduate from the early '90s.

Mark Souther '94 was raised with a deep awareness of the past. A native of Gainesville, Ga., where his family has lived for many generations, Souther grew up within a few miles of both sets of his grandparents. They taught him about their family and their hometown.

"I had a big dose of history growing up as a kid," says Souther. He and his parents and grandparents often visited old home sites and the family farm in the mountains, where he remembers digging up Cherokee Indian arrowheads and pottery. "Things like that definitely made the past come alive for me."

However, it wasn't until Souther arrived at Furman that he decided to pursue history professionally. At that point, his story begins to sound familiar. "Honestly, more than anything else, taking Lloyd Benson's classes really turned me on to history," says Souther. "Western Civ — that's the class that made me decide to major in history."

Despite their similar backstories, Feight and Souther were only casual friends at Furman. After graduation, each took his own path toward becoming a historian.

Feight spent his first post-Furman summer at the Atlanta History Museum where he interned with Gordon Jones '84, whose father, Ed Jones, was a longtime Furman history professor. Feight assisted Gordon with research for a Civil War exhibit to be displayed during the 1996 Olympics. At the end of the summer, Feight went on to the University of Kentucky to pursue graduate work in history.

Souther also had a connection to the Jones family. As a senior at Furman he took three courses in Asian history, all taught by Ed Jones. "I still remember his slides from China," says Souther. "By that time, I was kind of a budding graduate student." He followed his academic inclinations, attending the University of Richmond for his master's and Tulane University for his Ph.D.

Feight and Souther first reconnected at a meeting of the American Historical Association.
in 2003, when they were newly minted academics on the job market. Both ended up in Ohio, Feight at Shawnee State in the south and Souther at Cleveland State in the north.

Over the years they built a collegial relationship but maintained separate professional tracks. Then Feight got wind of Cleveland Historical, a project that Souther was designing with his colleague, Mark Tebeau.

Cleveland Historical grew out of an initiative to revitalize Euclid Avenue, a once-glamorous street known as “Millionaire’s Row” that had declined during the 20th century. In 2004 Cleveland Public Art, a nonprofit civic group, invited Tebeau and Souther, who co-direct the Center for Public History + Digital Humanities at Cleveland State, to develop a project commemorating the street’s historic significance. It would be part of a larger urban renewal project led by the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. Tebeau and Souther soon developed a plan to incorporate local history into the streetscape through interactive touchscreen kiosks.

They worked on the project for three years, adding hundreds of photos and audio clips to 19 kiosks and highlighting more than 60 historical sites and figures. The kiosks were strategically positioned at bus stops along a new rapid transit corridor, allowing passengers to peruse the collection of stories and images while waiting for their buses.

Tebeau and Souther enlisted their students to help them research Euclid Avenue and conduct oral histories with local residents. The students, in turn, had a chance to see their work displayed in public.

By all measures, the project was a success. But Souther and Tebeau began to envision something bigger.

“We started thinking that only a small number of people would ever see [the kiosks],” says Souther. They sought a means “to engage a broader community . . . to really empower the public to tell the region’s history.” They decided to merge their collection of local history stories with a rapidly growing form of communication — mobile phones.

“At that point apps were not really that widely used,” Souther says. “The iPhone was not all that old. We really were charting a new kind of mobile app.”

Souther and Tebeau introduced the Cleveland Historical app and its accompanying website, clevelandhistorical.org, in 2010. The website averages 5,000 unique visitors per month and the app, which is free, has been downloaded more than 11,000 times. The app contains information on more than 400 local sites and figures.

The app offers several advantages over the Euclid Avenue kiosks. It includes far more content, covering a much broader swath of the city. Some of the sites now feature mini-documentaries composed of historical footage and expert commentary. Partnerships with schools, neighborhood associations and other community groups have allowed more people to share their histories through the app. Finally, and most importantly, you don’t have to stop reading the stories when you get on your bus.

SPOKANE HISTORICAL. Explore Kentucky History, New Orleans Historical. Explore Baltimore Heritage. These are just a handful of the apps that now run on Curatescape, the mobile app platform developed by Souther, Tebeau, and several partners to “curate the landscape.” Each app is slightly different, but they all have a common feel thanks to the carefully planned design of Curatescape.

As soon as he heard about Cleveland Historical, Feight was hooked on the idea. He licensed a copy of Curatescape and named his app Scioto Historical after the river valley he now calls home.

“[This project] really emphasizes the image,” says Feight, who snaps photos everywhere he goes. He often takes along historical photos and practices the art of “rephotography” — recreating the exact angle of an old photo with a new camera to provide a visual record of change. At Bear Lake, the small reservoir where he wished for a machete, Feight scrambled down to the lake bank and up through the trees, trying to recreate photos taken in the 1930s just after the reservoir was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

“Really what you’re doing is illustrating a story,” says Feight, who organizes his stories into historical tours. “What’s most important
about a tour is that it have a narrative. The first step is figuring out what the narrative is.”

Scioto Historical was scheduled to go public this spring with tours on a variety of subjects, including the pioneer days in southern Ohio, local ties to abolitionism and the Underground Railroad, Morgan's Raid, and the work of the CCC in Shawnee State Forest. Future plans include a tour about the Adena and Hopewell earthworks and a tour to celebrate the bicentennial of the city of Portsmouth.

“A tour is like a chapter in a book,” says Feight. “It’s not like an encyclopedia.” The point, he explains, is not to be comprehensive but thoughtfully selective. If you find a significant story, then you’ve got a location.” And once you have a location, you can find images or, if necessary, create new images.

In addition to including his own photos on the app, Feight commissioned six oil paintings by Herb Roe, a Portsmouth native who contributed to nearly half a mile of historical murals on the city’s floodwalls. “It’s a new golden age for illustrated history,” says Feight.

Souther and Feight have faced a common bias in the academic world against history projects that involve the general public. Both agree there’s a need to strike a careful balance between allowing broad participation in the process of documenting history and guarding against inaccuracies.

“Yes, we edit,” says Souther. “Yes, we check facts, up to a point.” But not so obsessively that stories are locked up forever in dusty archives. “Let the public create content,” he urges. “One of the biggest impediments to doing public history in universities is the fear of giving up some control. That’s one of the things we’ve done the best, I think — giving up some control, taking some risks.”

Feight notes that some historians believe oral histories contain distortions because of the limits of human memory. “That’s true,” he concedes. “But I really believe you can say the same of all the sources. The key is to be skeptical of all sources... Differing stories interest me. It’s OK to have different accounts.”

Perhaps it’s not surprising that Souther and Feight, two products of a liberal arts education, are quick to embrace a bit of uncertainty in exchange for a broader picture of the world. “We find that for many people there is a Truth with a capital T. History is about facts and dates and it’s not open to interpretation,” says Souther. “We take the view that history is all about the interpretation. We’re not giving someone a Truth.” [F]

See clevelandhistorical.org and sciotohistorical.org. The author, a 2008 graduate, lives in Madison, Wis., where she works as a technical writer for Epic, a healthcare software company.
Bhaskar Sharma was looking for a break from the stress of his job as a manager with an information technology company. He found relief in long-distance running. He soon realized he wanted to improve his technique — and his intensity. To help him do so, he devoured a copy of Run Less, Run Faster, a book co-authored by Furman health sciences professors Bill Pierce, Ray Moss and Scott Murr.

The book, which features training programs and nutritional advice for runners, further whetted Sharma’s appetite. He eventually boarded a plane in Bangalore, India, and crossed the Atlantic Ocean to pursue additional training at the Furman Institute of Running and Scientific Training (FIRST).

Sharma, who recently qualified for the Boston Marathon, says the FIRST program gave him the structure and focus he needed. “Bill Pierce is a very responsive and thoughtful coach,” he says. “I could not have qualified for Boston without this program.”

Sharma’s success prompted him to bring two friends with him on a second visit to Furman in July 2011 for a sort of “train the trainer” program. They are now using FIRST methods to motivate other runners in India.

Heading into its second decade, FIRST has gone international, with queries and interest from throughout the world. What began as a simple series of lectures about running has morphed into a global training program reaching thousands of runners.

And its impact is likely to continue to expand thanks to its latest innovation: a training app.

The FIRST app was designed and developed over several months by computer science professor Bryan Catron and his son, Weston, a 2013 graduate of Greenville’s Wade Hampton High School who plans to major in computer science at Wake Forest University. The app outlines comprehensive 12- and 16-week training programs for 5K, 10K, half-marathon and marathon runners.

“FIRST is a good, solid program,” says Weston, who has developed several apps for local companies. “It just seemed like a recipe for a successful app.”

In the first three months after its launch at the end of December, nearly 750 runners from 41 countries purchased the $2.99 app, primarily through word-of-mouth advertising.

Jenny Rikoski, a runner from Boston who has run the New York, Chicago and Boston marathons, attended a FIRST retreat at Furman last May and recently started using the training app on her iPhone.

“The lab tests at the retreat and the feedback from Bill, Scott, Ray and the other experts at Furman helped me realize that with some hard work and discipline I had potential to become an even better runner,” she says.

Since the retreat, Rikoski has set personal records in the mile run, the 5K run and the marathon. “No two runners approach mileage, cross training, nutrition, hydration and recovery the same,” she says. “FIRST recognizes that and, based on science, gives good, practical advice that all runners can benefit from.”
The Furman Institute of Running and Scientific Training has gone international, and a new training app will further spread the word.

FIRST IS DESIGNED to help runners of all ages and abilities achieve their goals and potential and to enjoy lifelong running. FIRST coaches have assisted runners ages 18 to 80.

For each runner, the coaches develop individual training programs based on scientific laboratory and field tests to improve mechanics and maximize performance. In some cases, coaching involves a personal email outlining a training plan for the week. FIRST also offers comprehensive training for groups of runners during intensive four-day retreats on campus.

The concept for FIRST was born on the road, says co-founder Murr, a 1984 Furman graduate who has been Pierce’s running partner since his senior year. One day the two asked themselves, “What can we do to help other runners?”

Drawing on their shared experiences, they began to help friends and colleagues with their running goals, at times writing training plans for them longhand on sheets of lined paper. After a time, Pierce and Murr decided they wanted to formalize the program. Moss joined their team, and with the support of Furman’s administration they established the running institute with a simple theme: training based on science.

A key feature of the FIRST program is the “three plus two” program, or three specific running workouts and two cross-training workouts per week. FIRST coaches also take a number of physiological measurements for the runners they work with, including maximal oxygen consumption, lactate threshold, running economy and body composition, and then develop customized training plans.

The results are backed by research, namely three different studies of 25 runners conducted over a three-year period. “The results were rather remarkable,” Pierce says, as more than two-thirds of FIRST runners improved their best times.

The program’s big break came in 2005, when Amby Burfoot, editor of Runner’s World magazine and winner of the 1968 Boston Marathon, came to campus for four days and wrote a six-page feature about FIRST.

“The Furman FIRST training programs are the most detailed, well-organized, and scientific training programs for runners that I have ever seen,” Burfoot said. “For many runners, especially those hard-pressed to find time for their workouts, the Furman FIRST programs will also be the best.”

After the magazine hit newsstands, the phone calls and emails just didn’t stop. “It just changed everything,” Pierce says. “It continues today.”

To date, Pierce and his colleagues have received and responded to more than 9,000 emails from runners on six continents. A second edition of Run Less, Run Faster, first published in 2007, was released in 2012, and the book has been translated into German and Portuguese.

The title caught the attention of Furman junior Elisabeth Schlaudt when she saw the book on her roommate’s desk. Schlaudt, a Greenville native, said she began running as a high school freshman, not only to be part of a team, but as an excuse to eat more ice cream.

“Running has since become more of a lifestyle, something I do because I want to,” says Schlaudt.

She began training for North Carolina’s New River Marathon in 2011 and used the book as a guide. Pierce created a training plan for her and offered tips on how to prepare. Her five months of hard work paid off, as she won the race in the 19-and-under category.

“As a marathon ‘newbie,’ the FIRST program was a fantastic tool,” says Schlaudt. “It helped turn my rather ambitious running goal into a concrete plan that was easy to follow.”

Which ties into FIRST’s ultimate goal: to promote training with a purpose, and stimulate a love for running.

The author is an assistant in Furman’s education department and a contributor to the university’s online and print publications.

Photos by Jeremy Fleming.
A Scholar's Story

Furman faculty are likely to be talking about Matt Correnti for years to come.

By Eriakah Haavie

There are people who know a little about many things. There are people who know a lot about a few things. And then there’s Matt Correnti. “He’s someone who knows a lot about many things,” says Lon Knight, Charles Ezra Daniel Professor of Chemistry and chair of the department.

Correnti, a native of Springfield, Pa., graduated in May as a triple major, earning degrees in chemistry, mathematics and physics. He actually stayed a fifth year to polish off the math degree.

It’s a decision he’s glad he made. “I like to dip my hands in a lot of different pies,” he says. And he did it all while maintaining a perfect 4.00 grade point average.

Correnti came to Furman in 2008, following in the footsteps of his sister, Christina ’07. He says many students from his hometown, a suburb of Philadelphia, end up at Penn State University, but Correnti was looking for a new experience.

After visiting Furman’s campus, meeting the people and touring the newly constructed Townes Center for Science, he saw no reason to look anywhere else. He enrolled at Furman Early Decision. “I sealed my fate pretty early, so I really enjoyed my senior year of high school,” he says.

His Advanced Placement credits allowed him to jump right into mid-level physics and chemistry courses. He figured one of the subjects would come out the front-runner, but by the end of his freshman year he had already decided on a double major.

As he spent more time taking advanced courses, his interest in mathematics continued to grow and he began to see more connections between the three fields. After discussing the matter with friends and mentors, he decided to add the third major.

“Matt is the epitome of a student scholar,” says mathematics professor John Harris. “He isn’t taking courses just to graduate. He isn’t choosing majors to pad his résumé. He’s taking courses to learn, and he’s making high-level connections in the context of very deep topics.”
Blending the three fields is a path to discovery, Correnti says, and those discoveries have led him to a slew of honors and awards, as well as presentations at national and international conferences. He came to Furman as a Lay Scholar—the university’s highest academic award—and while on campus has been named a Furman Fellow, a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar (the nation’s most prestigious undergraduate award for math and science), and a Beckman Scholar, among other honors.

“Matt is among the most brilliant students I’ve encountered in 30 years of teaching,” says education professor Scott Henderson, Furman’s director of national and international scholarships. “His pure intelligence is incredible.”

DOWN IN THE BASEMENT of the Townes Center, Correnti, under Knight’s direction, has been using and, in some cases, building laboratory equipment that simulates temperatures in outer space. The research, says Knight, is designed to create and study new molecules of astrophysical interest to help understand the cosmos at the very basic chemical level. They use an electron spin resonance apparatus to examine hydrogen cluster ions at temperatures near absolute zero.

Correnti was the lead author on a paper sharing the results of their research that was published in the Journal of Chemical Physics in November of 2012. He was also the sole undergraduate presenter at a Royal Society Discussion Meeting in London in February of 2012.

Despite his intense academic load, Correnti has been diligent about making time for play during his college years. He played several intramural sports and coached an intramural soccer team.

As vice president of the Furman chapter of the American Chemical Society, he organized community outreach events, including interactive activities to help encourage children to become interested in science. One of his favorite projects for children is making ice cream with liquid nitrogen.

“I can’t say it tastes as good as Ben and Jerry’s, but it’s definitely in the spirit,” he says.

Correnti also has a passion for woodworking. “Creating objects of original beauty and craftsmanship is as alluring to me as the process of scientific discovery,” he says.

Two of his pieces have received major recognition. Woodworkers Journal highlighted a contemporary-style desk Correnti built, and a ball-and-claw table he made was showcased in the Philadelphia Furniture Show. “It’s an opportunity to take ideas, persevere through it and turn them into reality,” Correnti says.

One of his greatest joys has been attending Furman with his high school sweetheart, Karen Woods. Woods, a health sciences major, finished her studies in December. They were married May 25, and they’re headed to Richland, Wash., where Correnti will be part of the National Security Internship Program at the Pacific Northwest National Lab. There, he’ll be able to continue what he describes as “the essence of Furman” by working collaboratively with his research advisor, Marvin Warner.

The program will give him flexibility as he decides what course to pursue and what graduate program to attend. Eventually he hopes for a career developing practical technologies to address contemporary international issues, such as clean energy production and storage and pollution reduction.

“Matt is simply a delight,” says John Harris. “Furman faculty will be talking about him for years to come.”

Photos by Jeremy Fleming.
Class of ’13 ‘First Gift’
go to Furman United

THE SENIOR CLASS GIFT is a Furman tradition that for years has represented the personalities and passions of the students who select it. Some classes have chosen to support such projects as the 9/11 Memorial, the patio at Cherrydale, the amphitheater and the Timmons Arena gate. Others have decided to establish scholarships or to designate their contributions to local charities.

For members of the Class of 2013, who began their college careers in the midst of the recession, their decision held extra resonance. They chose to support the Furman United Scholarship Fund, which allocates money to students at risk of not completing their educations because of unforeseen financial circumstances.

Last year alone, Furman United provided aid to more than 100 students. Class president Stephen Tagert says, “We all have known someone who has gone through financial difficulties on campus. We are a family, and we’re here for each other when things are tough.”

He adds, “I think it’s just as important to keep students at Furman as it is to lure students in through scholarships. It is much harder to come to Furman, enjoy its community, and then to give up the experience than it is to never have been able to come at all. Unfortunately, I also know some students who have had to leave because Furman United did not have enough funds, which is a reason I hope this gift will be successful.”

Tagert says the class renamed the project the “Furman First Gift” because it is their first act of giving back to the university. “It’s a reminder that we need to give to Furman after graduation if others are going to have the same wonderful experiences that we’ve had.”

The effort has received an added boost from Greenville’s Daniel-Mickel Foundation, which is matching each first gift of $25 or more with $100. In addition, a group of parents is matching every $50 contributed by other parents of graduating students. To date, the fund drive has raised approximately $56,000.

Contact ashley.baker1067@furman.edu to learn more, or visit furmanfirstgift.com.

Parent leadership, support provide $45 million campaign boost

WHAT DOES IT TAKE to transform a $400 million campaign dream into reality? For Furman, a key ingredient is philanthropic parents. And while some may quake at the thought of being both donors and tuition-paying parents, Furman parents have demonstrated that they are a special breed of supporters.

When the university launched the Because Furman Matters campaign in 2007, parents joined the effort by establishing the Parent Campaign Committee (PCC) within Parents Council. The leadership team set goals, opened new doors and served as advocates for building the university’s endowment, supporting capital projects and providing more scholarship funds.

The results to date: Furman parents have raised more than $44.8 million toward the campaign. Says John Yates, a former chair of the PCC who is now on the board of trustees, “We are very proud of the role parents have played. We knew they would be helpful, but we were overwhelmed by their enthusiasm.” Their leadership is more evident now than ever, as eight current trustees are or have been Furman parents.

Exactly how can parents make a difference? A prime example is the renovated Trone Student Center, made possible by generous lead gifts from two sets of Furman parents: David ’77 and June Trone, and Class of ’83 members Robert and Margaret Platt Hill.

Lynda Panaretos, who chairs the Parents Council with her husband Jim, says, “The cost of tuition does not cover the total cost of providing the excellent educational experiences for our students, so we must do our part to support the advancement of the university. It’s worth it.” And as the campaign nears its December 31 conclusion, parents are likely to continue to play a crucial role in the final push toward the $400 million goal.

To learn more about parent fundraising efforts, contact judy.wilson@furman.edu.
Hanks, Kilstrofle receive first Furman Standard awards

THE BOND between professor and student is one of the hallmarks of a Furman education. It’s that bit of magic that lends itself to creative expression, career paths defined, and dreams revealed.

The Furman Standard, established in 2010 to support faculty development at Furman, pays tribute to those professors who set the standard for teaching excellence. Since the program’s founding, 28 professors past and present have been honored with gifts of $25,000 or more from alumni and parents.

As a result, the Furman Standard recently announced the first two faculty recipients of research grants. Chemistry professor Tim Hanks (left) and music professor Mark Kilstrofle were selected to receive $9,000 awards ($3,000 for three consecutive years) by the faculty’s Research and Professional Growth Committee. Two new recipients will be selected each year.

Hanks’ award will fund his research into anti-corrosion and anti-biofouling coatings for marine environments. His work centers on organisms such as algae, barnacles and mollusks, which form on surfaces in marine environments. This “fouling community” often negatively affects the performances of things like aircraft carriers and power plant cooling systems. The traditional method for counteracting this problem is to coat surfaces with paints containing toxic tin and copper complexes that erode and release toxins into the water. Working with colleagues in Australia and with his student research team, Hanks is attempting to develop an alternative coating that will be more environmentally friendly.

Kilstrofle, an accomplished composer, will use his Furman Standard grant to support work on an opera based on Henrik Ibsen’s Brand, which Kilstrofle says is “the story of a passionate, well-intentioned priest brought to ruin (or cataclysmic redemption) by his uncompromising beliefs.”

Kilstrofle, who also was recently awarded a Fulbright grant, plans to complete a three-act libretto, develop the work’s principal dramatic arc and a series of character studies, compose the score, and orchestrate the piece. He says, “A work of this scale, my most ambitious to date, will demand the synthesis of everything I know about writing for voices and instruments, and about projecting dramatic shape. I’m grateful for the support that will enable me to pursue it.”

To learn more, contact shon.herrick@furman.edu or visit becausefurmanmatters.com. Stories on these pages by Kate Hofler Dabbs ’09. Photos by Jeremy Fleming.

Currys’ gift bolsters Tocqueville program

THE TOCQUEVILLE PROGRAM at Furman promotes the continuing relevance of Western and American political thought, attracts some of the nation’s most prominent scholars to campus, and sponsors a popular student seminar in political thought.

Now, thanks to a $500,000 gift from Ravenel Curry ’63 and his wife, Beth, the program has a firm economic foundation on which to build and grow. “This pledge allows us to turn our efforts to an ambitious project of expanding the number of courses offered by the program,” says Ty Tessitore, professor of political science who, with departmental colleague Ben Storey, is the program’s co-director.

The program, which began in 2008, takes its name from Alexis de Tocqueville, the French writer and statesman who visited America in the 1830s to study and write about the young nation’s experiment with democracy. It was developed, according to the directors, “in response to the growing civic and cultural illiteracy of students and the creeping ideological conformity that pervades faculty and students alike.”

In a recent article on the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy website, the program was lauded as a “model” of intellectual rigor and was compared favorably to similar programs at Duke and Princeton. In 2010, student demand was such that it was necessary to double the space available in the course. Tocqueville Lecture Series speakers have included such scholars as Frans Fukuyama (Johns Hopkins), Lee Silver (Princeton) and Martha Nussbaum (University of Chicago).

“We consider the Tocqueville Program to be the beginning of a much broader effort to invigorate the teaching of the liberal arts at Furman,” says Storey.
TEDxFurmanU speakers addressed topics in design thinking and social enterprise; Ben Riddle ’16 and political science professor Brent Nelsen were emcees; the 100 participants, including students, faculty and staff, were chosen through a competitive application process; Katie Guphilt ’13 offered a running artistic commentary on each presentation.

Students bring TED(x) formula to Furman

TECHNOLOGY. ENTERTAINMENT. DESIGN.
Ideas worth spreading.

That’s what TED, a nonprofit organization known for its innovative conferences, stimulating dialogue and inspirational 18-minute YouTube videos, has been about for the last 25 years: promoting ideas that can change the world.

It’s also the source of several spin-offs, among them TEDx, which allows independent groups to use the TED name and approach to sponsor their own programs. Same format, smaller scale.

Which is where Furman comes in — and, more precisely, Furman students.

This year the Furman Creative Collaborative, consisting almost exclusively of freshmen and sophomores, received permission to bring a TEDx program to campus. The students chose “Redesigning Education” as their theme and attracted 10 high-energy thinkers to speak.

TEDxFurmanU was held in Younts Conference Center March 15 before about 100 students, faculty and staff, all chosen to participate through a competitive application process.

AJ Calhoun ’15, head of the FCC, called the event a “catalytic moment” for the university.

Whether or not he was right, the speakers, who included Danny Stillion ’89, an associate partner with IDEO, an international design and consulting firm, did offer a wide range of possibilities for education in the 21st century. A few examples: Christian Long of Cannon Design in Columbus, Ohio, advocated “human-centered design thinking,” which focuses on reinventing classroom space to spur collaborative work. Alan Webb of Washington, D.C., a founding member of the Open Master’s Program, discussed how education is primarily about creating relationships — and how to reimagine those relationships in a technology-driven world.

Cynthia Lawson with The New School at Parsons in New York City suggested pushing educational boundaries beyond the classroom and into the world, where students learn from hands-on fieldwork and teachers serve as facilitators to help them develop their resourcefulness and observational skills. DeAndrea Nichols, founder of CatalystsbyDesign in St. Louis, addressed the needs of underserved youth and promoted empathy-based learning models designed to establish sustainable connections and eliminate the “failure mindset.”

In all, the evening proved to be a fast-paced, five-hour package of ideas, thoughts, dreams and possibilities. How can you top that? Furman will try on March 22, 2014, with “Stories: The Common Thread of Our Humanity.” The FCC and company are already on the prowl for storytellers. Learn more at tedxfurmanu.com.

— JIM STEWART
**Commentary**

“Kelly and I have chosen to support Furman and to continue to increase our level of funding as a result of our steadfast belief in the enduring value of a liberal arts education. Our Furman experience, and I emphasize the word experience, created the firm foundation we both have relied upon to build two successful businesses.”

— BRIAN McSHARRY ’88 OF GREENVILLE, AT THE RICHARD FURMAN SOCIETY BANQUET IN FEBRUARY, ON WHY HE AND HIS WIFE, KELLY KENNEDY McSHARRY ’88, SUPPORT FURMAN.

“The right-to-life people are extremely smart with their strategy. Go after late-term abortions and chip away, chip away, chip away. You are making an argument on late-term abortions that might end up being very useful to you as a limit on earlier abortions.”

— POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR GLEN HALVA-NEUBAUER, IN A KANSAS CITY (MO.) STAR ARTICLE.

“When I began my career as a sustainability student, it was with a somewhat vague idea of sustainability. I knew that I was interested in living more harmoniously with the environment and making choices that would help everyone live a better life, but I did not then recognize this as the basis for sustainability. Each year here has taught me a new lesson in sustainability, which together created a learning experience I will never forget.”

— ANNE-MARIE MELIER ’13, ON “THE GREEN SCENE AT FURMAN” BLOG.

“The myths of vulnerability are that, one, it is weakness; two, I can opt out; three, it is letting it all hang out, or over-sharing; and four, I can go it alone. In reality, vulnerability is our most accurate measure of courage. It is the heart of all emotions; it isn’t optional. Without vulnerability, there is no intimacy. Vulnerability is about trust, intimacy and connection.”

— BRENE BROWN, RESEARCH PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK, DURING FEBRUARY’S “ENGAGING FAITH” CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE CHAPLAINS OFFICE AND NEXUS CENTER.

“It’s an opportunity for juniors and seniors to live together and orient their lives around the intersection of their faith and their life in the Christian community.”

— RIMES MCELVEEN ’96, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MERE CHRISTIANITY FORUM, IN A GREENVILLE NEWS ARTICLE. MCF PROMOTES CRITICAL EXPLORATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

“This place was highly instrumental in my development as a person and as a musician, and it had a lot to do with where I ended up being.”

— KEITH LOCKHART ’81, BOSTON POPS CONDUCTOR, DURING A VISIT TO CAMPUS IN FEBRUARY, WHEN THE FURMAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMED WITH THE POPS.

“I’ve played a lot of instruments, but the ukulele is best, hands down. Four strings, four fingers, super happy. Get a ukulele. It’ll make you feel better.”

— RUSS MORIN ’84, IN A GREENVILLE NEWS ARTICLE ON HIS WORK AS A LUTHER. VISIT RUSSMORIN.COM.

“Probably around 700 students in Greenville County Schools right now are part of families regarded as homeless — that is, staying in a shelter, staying piled in with family or friends, staying in a motel, or staying in a car.”

— TONY McDADE ’79, DIRECTOR OF GREENVILLE AREA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK (GAIHN), IN TOWN MAGAZINE. GAIHN IS A COLLABORATION AMONG CHURCHES TO PROVIDE THE HOMELESS WITH SHELTER, FOOD AND SUPPORT.

“We had the repeal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ back in the fall of 2011. People thought it was going to be a cathartic change, it was going to be significant, an upheaval of massive social proportions. And it was pretty much a non-event.”

Furman suffers loss of three stalwart members of languages department

During a seven-week period in February and March, the university community was saddened by the deaths of three current and former members of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures: David W. Morgan, and emeriti David B. Parsell and Carey S. Crantford. In recognition of their years of service and contributions to the university, we offer these tributes.

CAREY CRANTFORD had a style all his own.

Maurice Cherry ’65, a sophomore when Crantford arrived at Furman and later a faculty colleague, once described how Crantford “immediately impressed students and colleagues alike with his enthusiasm for teaching and the magnitude of his interests. I recall hearing my peers label Carey variously as a Renaissance man and a Baroque personality. He intrigued us with his considerable knowledge of both popular culture and the more refined worlds of art, music and literature, and we were captivated by his off-the-wall, often irreverent sense of humor and ability to posit logical connections among ostensibly unrelated topics.”

When Crantford died March 11 at the age of 87, Furman lost one of its wittiest and most distinctive personalities — and one of its finest professors and scholars.

He held a number of positions during his 33-year Furman career (1962-95): professor of Spanish and German, longtime chair of the languages department, assistant academic dean, and winner of the 1972-73 Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching.

More informally he was known as the “Master of Furman’s Ceremonies,” a designation he earned because, for almost his entire tenure at Furman, he chaired the committee that planned all major academic events at the university, from convocations and graduations to three presidential inaugurations (Blackwell, Johns and Shi). His meticulous attention to detail and appreciation for pageantry and heraldry brought dignity and refinement to Furman’s special occasions.

He was also influential in developing Furman’s study away programs, and he was well known for his willingness to share his knowledge of language and culture with the community.

Peggy Ellison Good ’67, who in 2001 helped lead a drive to endow an academic chair in Crantford’s name — a position first held by Cherry — recalls how deftly her former professor reached out to students. “He had the uncanny ability to connect with each of us in a personal way,” she says. “We all had identifying nicknames, highlighting some personality trait or talent or just something he made up. He knew who in the class played football or basketball, who was starring in the next play, even who you sat with in the dining hall!”

“Dr. Crantford took great care to help his students see how all of life — the politics, the music, the art — permeated the literature of an era. He valued students, he loved the language, and he made what we were studying relevant.”

A celebration of Crantford’s life will be held at Furman November 9 during Homecoming Weekend. Memorials: Carey Shepard Crantford Endowed Chair at Furman.

“DAVID MORGAN is what those of us from the Midwest would call ‘a great guy.’ Saying someone is ‘a great guy’ is to call attention to that person’s magnanimity.

“He’s someone who is generous and thoughtful of others, someone you would like your parents or your sister to meet. A great guy is to be distinguished from ‘a heck of a guy’ — someone who has done something out of the ordinary, like bowling a 300 game or outrunning a police officer. And to be distinguished again from ‘a good guy,’ which mostly just means ‘friendly.’

“I mention these distinctions because they are the kinds of linguistic differences that would really have interested David. He loved words and meanings, no matter what the language. It was the kind of activity David partook of in his teaching, and even more so in his dictionary of modern Latin, the so-called Morgan Lexicon.”

This was how David Spear, William E. Leverette, Jr., Professor of History, began his eulogy at a memorial service for his friend and colleague, who died of a liver disorder February 6 at the age of 53.

Morgan was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wofford College who went on to earn a law degree from Vanderbilt. After practicing law in New York City for four years he returned to school at Princeton University, where he completed a doctorate in French literature. He joined the Furman faculty in 1994, and in 1998 he received the Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching.
In the last week of his life, Morgan’s former students filled the “French at Furman” Facebook page with testimonials to his warm, caring nature. Their comments described a mentor and friend who, in the words of Leanna Kelley Fuller ’96, had “an infectious love of learning, an amazing gift for teaching, and a spirit of deep kindness that just shone through all he said and did.”

Spear echoed those sentiments in recounting Morgan’s courage in his final days: “I watched David take a number of phone calls from friends while he lay in his hospital bed. And although it was difficult for him to talk, he spoke openly, warmly and candidly about his imminent death. Instead of being concerned about himself, he actually ministered to those he was talking with, putting them at ease, reminding them of their virtues.”

Spear closed by saying, “David Morgan was a great guy. He was a generous spirit both in his life and in his death.”

Memorials: Furman Chaplains Fund, or a charity of one’s choice.

DAVID PARSELL’S intellectual acuity and quirky style were well known among Furman French students from 1969-2008. His death March 29 at the age of 71 prompted the following reminiscence from writer George Singleton ’80:

When I first sat down and watched the situation comedy “Seinfeld” back in the early nineties, I saw this character Kramer blow into the room and, after his first batch of dialogue, said to myself, “David Parsell.” Over the years I thought, well, Parsell is like Kramer, except Parsell is about 100 percent smarter than this character, and he has more heart, and he’s quicker and funnier by a mile.

Parsell influenced me — and I suspect every student he taught — in ways that I’ll never fathom. When he handed me a copy of Ionesco’s The Bald Soprano in the spring of 1977, he said something like, “You seem weird enough to enjoy this play.” And boy, did I. For some reason it never occurred to me that one could write comic work, whether plays, prose or poetry.

As the term continued Parsell pointed me toward other works by Ionesco, and then Samuel Beckett. This may be faulty memory, but I am convinced that he said — or at least thought — “You’re never going to be much of a French scholar, but you might understand the absurdity of life.”

Parsell, for me, was one of those rare professors whose chief strength fell into the “I do not want to disappoint this man” category. I tried to learn my verb conjugations. I spent a term in Versailles — a program he helped develop — even though I majored in philosophy. I took his course in 19th and 20th century French literature. I burst in on his other classes just to see how fast he could unravel himself from his preferred sitting position, atop the desk, in that double-jointed-at-the-hip manner usually perfected by yogis.

Being around Parsell was similar to being involved in an ongoing art happening. It was like being in the midst of a flash mob continually, long before flash mobs became de rigueur.

I showed him my bad, juvenile, plotless, slapstick attempts at plays and fiction. He never — never — made me feel as though a life of writing may be impossible.

I will miss those loud, booming “Ummm” that peppered his impeccable French, his genius English partner. In the afterlife, I hope that the Spirit in charge finds it necessary to say, “You know, we tried to use you for a template when it came to having writers create smart, hilarious characters. They couldn’t pull it off. Here’s a trophy, though, for you being you.”

Memorials: Greenville Humane Society, or a charity of one’s choice.

Thorpe takes reins at history museum

DANA THORPE, who has more than 28 years of experience working in museums and historical societies, has been appointed executive director of the Upcountry History Museum-Furman.

Thorpe was previously executive director of the Building for Kids Children’s Museum in Appleton, Wis. She has also been director of the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio, director of exhibits at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, and deputy director of the Association of Children’s Museums, an international service organization.

Furman and the museum became partners in February of 2012, when the university assumed responsibility for the museum’s operation and management. The museum is located in downtown Greenville near the site of the Greenville Woman’s College; its board of directors owns the facilities and provides membership and fundraising support. Museum staff members are Furman employees.

Furman president Rod Smolla said, “We are pleased to have a person of Dana’s caliber in this position and are confident that the Upcountry History Museum under her leadership will strengthen its role as a cultural and educational resource in new and exciting ways.”

Smolla and Kathy McKinney, chair of the museum’s board, also expressed appreciation for the work of Ken Johnson, who had served as interim executive director since July of 2011.
Crossing the blue-red divide

PRESIDENT OBAMA and Mitt Romney could probably learn something from these guys. Better yet, Mitch McConnell and Harry Reid. Even John Boehner and Nancy Pelosi — although given their genders (and Furman’s housing rules), that might be a stretch in this case.

Still, if 2013 Furman graduates Thomas Hydrick, executive director of College Republicans, and Ben Saul, president of College Democrats, can become friends and roommates, maybe — just maybe — there’s hope for the gridlock, hostility and inter-party bickering that mars today’s political landscape from the South Carolina state house to Washington, D.C.

Can’t we all just get along? Two Phi Beta Kappa Furman gentlemen from the Palmetto State have shown it can be done.

In past years on campus, relationships between groups of opposite political persuasions had not always been particularly cordial. Saul noticed the tension as early as his freshman year, and has been praised for his efforts to bring groups together to co-sponsor events that promote an exchange of ideas.

Since 2011, the College Democrats and College Republicans have joined to organize programs and panel discussions concerning issues such as the federal budget, school safety, and U.S.-Mexico relations, which featured former Mexican president Vicente Fox. And whether they’ve meant to or not, through their bipartisan example Hydrick and Saul have served as models for everyone on campus.

Although they won’t have each other to banter with next year, they’re ready for the next steps in their lives. Hydrick, a history and political science major from Columbia, plans to pursue a Master of Philosophy degree in historical studies at England’s Cambridge University, then enroll at Vanderbilt University Law School. Saul, a Greenwood resident focused on poverty studies, is spending the summer working for the Office of Rural Outreach at the U.S. Department of Education. In the fall he’ll be a graduate fellow with Furman’s Richard W. Riley Institute, working at Scott’s Branch High School in rural Summerton, S.C., part of the state’s “Corridor of Shame.” He plans to attend graduate school and become an educator.

North Village geothermal project nears completion

THE $4.92 MILLION North Village geothermal project, which will provide a new method for heating and cooling the on-campus apartment complex, is scheduled to be virtually complete by the end of August.

A geothermal heating and cooling system uses the water stored amid the earth’s constant underground temperatures to heat residences in the winter and cool them in the summer. “Normally a heating and cooling system exchanges heat by using air,” says Jeff Redderson, head of facilities services. “Instead we’re using the earth, pumping water through wells and releasing heat to and from the ground.”

Furman received a $2.5 million grant in 2009 from the U.S. Department of Energy to pursue the project. The university matched the grant. The system features 24 heat pumps and 20 wells for each apartment building. Each well is 517 feet deep.

Along with improved energy performance, the geothermal system will eliminate the use of outdoor condensing units, reduce the university’s carbon footprint and cut back on maintenance needs. The mechanical equipment could last up to 20 years, with the wells expected to have a lifetime of 50 years.

One building already on the system has reported a 32 percent reduction in kilowatt hours monthly. The project is expected to save the university more than $2 million over the next 20 years.

All but one building in the complex will be on the new system by the end of August. North Village consists of 11 buildings and accommodates 1,020 residents.
Catherine Claire Larson '98, *Waiting in Wonder: Growing in Faith While You're Expecting* (Thomas Nelson, 2012). The publisher says, "With *Waiting in Wonder*, readers are guided through the weeks of pregnancy with devotions for reflection and guided questions for pondering deeper into their experiences both spiritually and physically. Each devotion includes scripture and journaling space for writing personal thoughts, prayers, dreams, even love letters to the growing baby." Larson lives in Ashburn, Va., and is the author of *As We Forgive: Stories of Reconciliation from Rwanda*. Visit catherinclairlerson.com.

Heather Willis Allen '95 and Sebastien Dubreil, *Alliances culturels: La société française en transformation* (Helen Cengage, 2013). Allen has taught French at the University of Wisconsin since 2011. This university-level textbook about contemporary French culture enriches students' knowledge of France and French society in the 21st century through the analysis and interpretation of textual artifacts, while simultaneously developing their advanced linguistic abilities.

Christopher Bundy '88, *Baby, You're a Rich Man* (C&R Press, 2013). This novel, illustrated by Max Currie, follows the story of Kent Richman, a down-on-his-luck, B-level variety star on Japanese television who is forced to go into hiding when he becomes the target of an escaped prisoner. Kent winds up at a Buddhist retreat where, the publisher says, he embarks on a "journey of mishap, paranoia, desperation, and self-discovery that leads to an illuminating showdown as he attempts to right the wrongs of his past. *Rich Man* offers a unique look into contemporary Japan and the ubiquitous struggle for a place to call home." Bundy teaches writing and literature at the Atlanta campus of Savannah College of Art and Design. Visit christopherbundy.net.

Victoria Jackson '81, *Is My Bow Too Big? How I Went from SNL to the Tea Party* (White Hall Press, 2012). The Washington Post once said of the former "Saturday Night Live" star, "if you opened her head, it would be filled with cotton candy." But Jackson has taken full advantage of her daffy comedic persona, and her autobiography describes how she went from a "Bible-believing, piano-playing, TV-free home in Miami" to Furman on a gymnastics scholarship, and eventually to show business fame. It was on the Furman stage, she once said, that she realized the magic of making people laugh, and in the years since she's done just that. More recently she's achieved prominence as a political pundit and "Tea Party Princess." Visit victoriajackson.com.


Gayle Lewis Carson '68, *Wynds over Wylusing* (Tate Publishing, 2013). A dying grandmother, Martha Rutledge, decides to reveal her family's history to her granddaughter. The story begins in the late 18th century at the court of Marie Antoinette, whose second son, Louis-Charles XVL, is smuggled into the United States. From there the book follows the life of the lost Dauphin, his connection to the modern-day Rutledges, and the family mystery that spans two continents and five generations. Carson, a former teacher and business owner, lives in Mount Pleasant, S.C. She based the story on a tale her grandmother told her.

Jack McIntosh '52, *Don't Kill All the Lawyers — I'll Give You a Short List* (McIntosh, 2012). From his childhood in Charleston, S.C. — where he says he shared a bedroom with a ghost — to his adventures in the military and law school and, finally, as a small-town lawyer, the author has collected a host of stories and developed plenty of wisdom. He shares his insights and humor in this book, illustrated by award-winning cartoonist Robert Anial. National Public Radio's Dick Estell featured the book on his "Radio Reader" program in March. Estell said, "Jack tells us that lawyers can be funny and funny, and he writes about his experiences in words even I can understand. He should be proud of this book."

FROM FACULTY/STAFF

Samuel Irving Britt, *The Children of Salvation: Ritual Struggle in a Liberian Aladura Church* (University of South Carolina Press, 2012). The Aladura Church, with nearly one million adherents worldwide, combines traditional Christian liturgy, a theology of the spirit, and creative ritual strategies and social practices. Aladura faith practices emphasize the role of the prophet/healer, who embodies virtue (spiritual power) and guides the faithful along a journey of ritual struggle toward salvation. Britt explores the relationship between worldview and ritual action in the church, as well as the influence of Nigerian and Liberian traditions in shaping its character. In doing so he provides the first in-depth study of an African Initiated Church in Liberia. Britt, a 1973 Furman graduate, is the Gordon Poteat Professor of Asian Studies and Religion and chair of the religion department.

Gail S. McDiarmid and Marilyn S. McGee, *Running for Home* (Sundog Enterprises, 2013). McDiarmid is an assistant in the Furman sociology department. Her sister, and co-author, has spent years observing and writing about the gray wolf in the Northern Rockies. Their story, for younger readers, follows the adventures of Chinook the wolf, Wapiti the elk and Mochani the raven. The authors ask, "What happens when an indigenous animal, missing for more than 70 years, is restored to its natural habitat?" The illustrations by Dunwood Coffey feature hidden animals for readers to discover. Both authors are on the advisory board for the National Wolf Watcher Coalition.
Confident Medved takes command of men’s basketball program

N O B O D Y  H A S  T O  T E L L Niko Medved the challenges he faces as Furman’s new men’s basketball coach. He was an assistant on Larry Davis’ staff nearly a decade ago, and he is familiar with the program’s results over the last 30 years — 10 winning seasons, one Southern Conference regular-season championship, zero trips to the NCAA tournament and five different head coaches.

So why is Medved so excited about taking on the challenge following Jeff Jackson’s resignation after seven seasons? It’s actually Medved’s familiarity with Furman that drives his optimism, because he can’t understand why those numbers shouldn’t be better.

“Furman is a special place, an amazing place,” says Medved, who spent the past six seasons as an assistant coach at Colorado State and whose wife, the former Erica Nesselroad, is a 2006 Furman graduate.

“The campus is beautiful, you can get a great education, and the surrounding community is wonderful. I was gone for seven years, and I come back, and everything is even better than before, both on campus and in downtown Greenville. What is there not to like about this place? There is a lot here to sell.”

That, of course, will be Medved’s basic challenge — to sell a product that has had trouble attracting buyers. The Furman basketball program has stirred little sustained excitement in the Greenville community since the early 1990s, when the team last won the regular-season league title, and poor student attendance at the games has allowed a whole generation of alumni to come and go without developing an allegiance to the program.

Medved, 39, understands all of this and is willing to do whatever it takes to get things moving in the proper direction. He wants to personally engage the Furman students and get them excited about attending games. He wants to be a highly accessible and recognizable figure in the community. And, most importantly, he wants to win games, which will solve any marketing challenge.

“It will take a lot of hard work,” Medved says. “There is no quick fix. We need talented players; we need a talented coaching staff. But we can win here. I know that. I wouldn’t have come back here if I didn’t think we could be successful.”

Medved first came to Furman in 1999 as a member of Larry Davis’ staff and stayed for seven years. It is worth pointing out that four of Furman’s 10 winning seasons during the past three decades came during that period, and the 2004-05 team posted the school’s first winning record in league play in 13 years.

When Davis resigned at the end of the 2005-06 season, Medved moved to the University of Minnesota program for a year, then joined Colorado State as an assistant coach. He was part of a staff that, after consecutive seasons of more than 20 losses, guided the Rams to four straight postseason appearances, including back-to-back trips to the NCAA tournament in 2012 and 2013.

“People ask me about the challenge at Furman, but I can tell you we had a bigger challenge at Colorado State,” Medved says. “There was a tremendous amount of hard work involved in turning that program around.”

He has received his share of credit for Colorado State’s success. When it was announced that Medved would be going to Furman, Matt Stephens, a sportswriter with The Coloradoan, wrote a column saying Rams fans should be grateful for Medved’s six years of service.

“I’d even argue he’s been the most instrumental piece for making CSU basketball what it is today,” Stephens wrote. “Tim Miles
The Corbin-Furman connection

FRANK SELVY ’54 (above, left) is the most storied name in Furman basketball history. Jerry Smith ’63 is not far behind.

But other than their accomplishments on the hardwood, their memberships in the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame and their retired jerseys that hang in the rafters of Timmons Arena, what do they have in common? At least two more things: Both are from Corbin, Ky. And both are featured in a new book, The Boys from Corbin: America’s Greatest Little Sports Town (Acclaim Press), which recounts the stories of a host of athletic stars who came from the little town in the Kentucky hills. “It’s not just a sports book,” author Gary West has said. “It’s about a community and how families banded together.”

The Corbin-Furman connection plays a prominent role in the book. The story of the Selvy clan starts with Frank, the only player to score 100 points in an NCAA Division I basketball game and, in West’s view, “the man who put Corbin on the map.” The university’s all-time leading scorer with an average of 32.5 points per game, Selvy went on to play in the National Basketball Association for nine years, then returned to Furman to succeed Lyles Alley as basketball coach. Several of his brothers would follow him to Furman, either as players (David ’65 and Curly ’71) or as a coach (Marvin).

Smith arrived at Furman almost a decade after Selvy and made his mark as a three-time all-Southern Conference player who averaged 23.3 points per game for his career. He is the school’s fifth all-time leading scorer and was drafted by the Detroit Pistons of the NBA.

Smith and the Selvy boys are featured in photographs on the book’s back cover. West, a freelance writer and former newspaper reporter, lives in Bowling Green, Ky., and has written seven books about various aspects of life in his home state.

The book was released April 13 with a well-attended signing and other events in Corbin. Smith and much of the Selvy family were on hand for the unveiling.
YOUNG ALUMNI GATHERINGS STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY TIES

A GLANCE at the campus calendar reveals that almost every day is full of activity at Furman. All kinds of events are scheduled, but rarely does Furman’s outreach touch multiple cities on the same day.

On February 21, however, Furman celebrated its presence across the nation when the Alumni Office sponsored the second Furman Young Alumni Day, building on the success of the inaugural program in 2012. The first celebration focused on eight cities; this year, with the help of a host of volunteers, we scheduled Young Alumni Day receptions in 10 cities across the country. Turnout for the events was exceptional, as more than 500 young alumni — graduates from the last 20 years — took part.

Events were held in Atlanta, Birmingham, Charlotte, Chicago, Nashville, New York, Washington, D.C., and the South Carolina triad of Charleston, Columbia and Greenville. For the second straight year the “Paladins in D.C.” group led in attendance with more than 120 participants, with Charleston, Atlanta and Greenville close behind. The energy from the events was shared on social media, as participants tweeted and posted pictures and status updates.

The evening focused on strengthening the young alumni community within the targeted cities, which attract the majority of our recent graduates. Furman representatives were on hand for seven of the gatherings, bringing news from campus. All events were stocked with Furman paraphernalia and food provided by the Alumni Association.

The geographic base for our alumni is rapidly expanding, as our graduates are settling farther and farther away from “home.” Recent graduates are making a splash in the most competitive cities and industries across the United States and throughout the world.

For them, events like Young Alumni Day create community and a true family feeling. As Monica Hanga ’07, who helped to plan the Washington event, says, “The benefit of Furman alumni events in the D.C. metro area is their ability to connect alumni in a big city where networking is the key to success. In addition, regular alumni events like Young Alumni Day are a great way for recent transplants to acclimate to the city.”

The gatherings also serve as reminders that Furman is committed to supporting its graduates as they navigate life after college. Events like Young Alumni Day offer a social outlet often needed by newcomers to a city.

But Furman doesn’t stop there. The Office of Career Services offers career counseling and support for life, a benefit often overlooked after alumni secure their first jobs. The Alumni Office can also provide up-to-date custom networking lists to help graduates with job searches and professional development.

Young Alumni Day may be one of the university’s newest traditions, but its success suggests it will have a permanent place on the annual schedule. Furman plans to hold its next Young Alumni Day in July to welcome graduates from the Class of 2013 to their new cities. The goal is to add two new cities, taking the total to 12 locations, and to continue to build participation.

Alumni should make sure that Furman has their current email and home addresses so they can stay in touch about activities in their area. Anyone interested in bringing a Young Alumni event to their town should email leo.fackler@furman.edu.

FAMILY WEEKEND 2013 is scheduled October 4–6. Parents, grandparents and assorted other kin are invited to see what campus life is like for their Furman student (or students), and to enjoy such activities as a student talent show and a football game. This year’s foe is Elon. And it should be pointed out that the tailgating along Furman Mall during Family Weekend is second only to that of Homecoming. Some would say it’s even better!

A brochure describing the weekend’s activities will be mailed to families in the coming weeks. Learn more by visiting furman.edu/parents, or by contacting tom.triplitt@furman.edu.

HOMECOMING 2013 has a late date this year: November 8–10. Classes ending in 3 and 8 will hold special reunions, but everyone is invited to return for a weekend of memories and nostalgia. Samford will provide the opposition on the gridiron.

THE ALUMNI OFFICE is partnering with Furman’s Learning for You program to offer expanded travel opportunities for alumni. New programs are in the works, so watch for information in the mail and at alumni.furman.edu.

— LEO FACKLER

The author, a 2003 graduate, is associate director of the Alumni Association.
Sidney Bland, a retired history professor at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., and a member of Furman’s Alumni Association Board of Directors, published “Alice Paul: Finally Getting Her Due” in The Clarion, the newsletter of the Women’s Suffrage and Political Issues Chapter of the American Political Items Collectors. He has been named to the board of the Edith & Theodore Roosevelt Pine Knot Foundation in Keene, N.H.

Lewis Walker has been named professor emeritus at Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., where he has retired as coordinator of early childhood education programs.

Lloyd Linney of Deland, Fla., a music professor at Stetson University, spent part of her fall 2012 sabbatical studying French art songs in Paris. While there she visited Kathie Brown Thomas and her husband T Thomas ’71. They live in nearby Argent, where T is a minister.

Gary Davis retired this spring as vice president of Chattanooga (Tenn.) Coca-Cola Co., where he had worked for almost 40 years.

David Gibson, a mathematics professor at Spartanburg (S.C.) Methodist College, was recognized as a 2013 South Carolina Distinguished Professor by Gov. Nikki Haley and the S.C. Higher Education Foundation. In addition, he was the runner-up in the 2012 National Scrabble Championship, which he won in 1994.

Ann Millikan Lane and Patrick Arthur Schado, December 22. They live in Charlotte, N.C.

George Singleton, who has taught fiction writing and editing for 13 years at the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville, has been appointed to the John C. Cobb Endowed Chair in the Humanities at Wofford College, where he will begin teaching in the fall. George recently published Stray Decorum, his fifth collection of short stories.

Jens Holley of Seneca, S.C., has been elected vice chair of the United Methodist Church South Carolina Conference Commission on History and Archives.

David Hamilton Ulmer has been named chief information officer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation in Raleigh. He was previously a technology executive at Bank of America.

Vicki Boyer Denfeld of South Riding, Va., has been promoted to executive vice president of sales and marketing for Crestline Hotels & Resorts, where she was previously senior vice president. Crestline is one of the nation’s largest independent hospitality management companies, with properties in major U.S. and Caribbean markets. Vicki is active with Marriott’s Franchise Marketing Communications Advisory Council, Stanwood’s Senior Marketing Roundtable, and the Westin Owners Advisory Board.

Cindy Davis of Portland, Ore., president of NIKE Golf since 2008, was ranked 46th on Sports Illustrated magazine’s list of the “50 Most Powerful People in Sports,” announced in March. She was one of only three women to make the list.

Scott Moore has been named dean of the undergraduate school at Babson College in Wellesley, Mass. He was previously with the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan, where he was the business information technology area chair, held the Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship, and for seven years was the Bachelor of Business Administration faculty program director.

Elaine Rudolph Yancey, a managing editor of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Va., was recognized in March with a national award for her work with the BSA Coalition, a professional organization that addresses issues related to money laundering and other financial crimes. As advisors to the group, she and a colleague accepted the Private/Public Sector Service Award from the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists. Visit bsacoalition.org.

Margaret Lazenby Ritchie of Birmingham, Ala., is executive director of the Alabama chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Edwin Beckham has accepted a call to become priest-in-charge at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Covington, Ga. He was previously associate priest at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Athens.

Richard Coughlin of Greensboro, N.C., has been named by North Carolina Super Lawyers Magazine as a top attorney for 2013. Less than 5 percent of attorneys are selected to the exclusive list. He is with the Smith Moore Leatherwood firm.

Kirby Mitchell, managing attorney at the Greenville office of South Carolina Legal Services, is the 2012 Ellen Hines Smith Legal Services Lawyer of the Year. The award, announced by the South Carolina Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission and the South Carolina Bar Foundation, recognizes a lawyer who has demonstrated long-term commitment to legal services for the poor. Kirby is a member of the South Carolina Bar’s House of Delegates, the state Supreme Court’s Docket Management Task Force, and the South Carolina Judicial Qualifications Committee. He also teaches a course at Furman on poverty and the law.

Keith Morris has been promoted to vice president and national sales manager with Cline Cellars and Jacuzzi Family Vineyards, wineries in the Camaros district of Sonoma Valley, Calif. Keith joined the company in 2007 as regional manager for the Great Lakes territory. He has also worked with Heidelberg Distributing Company in Ohio and as executive director of the Cincinnati International Wine Festival.

Jerry Salley of Greenville is managing editor of Community Journals’ three weekly publications in the Upstate. Jerry joined Community Journals in March of 2012.

Burl Carraway of College Station, Texas, a 20-year veteran with Texas A&M University’s Forest Service, received the school’s 2012 Vice Chancellor’s Award in Excellence for Public Service in Forestry. Burl is head of the sustainable forestry department at the school. The award is presented each year for exceptional contributions and commitment to the agency’s mission.

Clarinetist Kenneth Ellison of Highland Park, N.J., and his chamber ensemble trio@play have released a CD, “In the Sandbox,” featuring works by Dmitri Shostakovich, Gary Schocker and Sir Henry Bishop. The group, which includes Kevin Willos on flute and Lynda Saponara on piano, is donating a portion of the proceeds from sales of the CD to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Visit trioatplay.com.
2012–13 ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Chris Brown ’89, president; Leslie L. Smith ’91, president-elect; Rebecca Ann Armacost ’89, vice president; Claire Folio Morris ’83, past president; N. Staten Bitting, Jr. ’75; Marilyn Mayfield Blackwell ’65; Sidney R. Bland ’59; Tracy Hulsey Bond ’90; Kevin R. Bryant ’85; William M. Burtless ’84; O. Vernon Burton ’69; Mamie Susan Caffey ’81; Michael L. Guynn ’91; Jimmie E. Harley ’58; Charles D. Hardy ’89; Gregory W. Haselden ’94; Shannon Scruby Henderson ’75; Gail Labble Hughes ’83; Gwinn Earle Kneeland ’89; C. Todd Malo ’95; Thomas A. Marshall ’77; James N. Martin ’79; Herman A. Matherson, Jr. ’79; Andrew C. Medlyn ’97; Matthew A. Miller ’99; William P. Morrow, Jr. ’54; Emmett L. Patrick ’56; Scott W. Raeber ’92; Kenneth A. Sargent ’62; Gordon D. Seay ’61; E. Leon Smith ’61; George O. Short ’54; T. David Tribble ’76.

Ex-Officio and Other Members: Rod Smolla, president; Mike Gatchell ’91, vice president for development; Tom Trippitt ’76, executive director of alumni programs and constituent relations; Leo Fackler ’03, associate director of alumni programs; Cal Hurst ’04, president, Young Alumni Council; Kaitlin Parham ’13, president, Student Alumni Council; David Hathaway ’13, president, Student Government Association; Stephen Tagert ’13, president, Senior Class.

Matthew D. Lee has been elected to a two-year term as president of the board of directors of Philadelphia VIP, the pro bono arm of the Philadelphia (Pa.) Bar Association.

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Robert Clifford was one of nine U.S.-based health workers to be presented with a REAL Award at the inaugural Patient Safety, Science & Technology Summit hosted in January by the Masimo Foundation in Laguna Nigel, Calif. The REAL Awards were created by Save the Children and Frontline Health Workers Coalition to recognize the life-saving efforts of dedicated health workers. Robert, who is on the clinical teaching faculty at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, is chair of pediatrics at the University of South Carolina Medical Center in Georgia.

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Kimberly Currier of Atlanta has been promoted to vice president of talent development with the American Cancer Society, Inc., where she has worked for 17 years. She is responsible for the strategy, design and implementation of learning, job training, performance and change management, human performance, and organizational development for staff and volunteers.

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THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Lewis Bozard completed his Ph.D. in counseling and counselor education at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro in May 2012. He is now assistant professor of counseling and college student affairs at the University of Georgia and continues his counseling practice with the Center for Counseling Center of Georgia in Atlanta.

94

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Democrat Mandy Powers Norrell of Lancaster, S.C., is a member of the state House of Representatives representing District 44, which includes southern Lancaster County. She serves on the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee. She is an attorney in private practice with her husband, Mitch.

Sandra Padgett Riddle started her own Tupperware business last October, and for the month of December was the 18th top selling consultant for Tupperware USA and Canada. Sandi and her family live in Goose Creek, S.C., where her husband, Charlie, is administrative battalion chief for St. Paul’s Fire District.

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Brian Greenwood, a singer/songwriter in Los Angeles, has released a single titled “Malibu You,” available on iTunes and Amazon.com. Brian is working on an album and recently performed at such Hollywood venues as the Troubadour and Whisky-a-Go-Go. He was selected as a Spotlight Artist of the Month by Essential Pop magazine. Visit briangreenwood.com.

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Lisa DeJaco, a partner with the Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs law firm in Louisville, Ky., has been selected to participate in the Bingham Fellows Class of 2013. Bingham Fellows is the leadership-in-action arm of the Leadership Louisville Center.

John Scott Gray is an associate professor of philosophy and humanities at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich. During his sabbatical this spring he did research on American pragmatist John Dewey. He is co-author of Introduction to Popular Culture: Theories, Applications and Global Perspectives, published by Kendall Hunt.

Brett Loftis has become chief executive officer of The Crossnore School, a residential school in the mountains of western North Carolina that provides education, hope and healing for children who have been abused, neglected and abandoned. Visit crossnoreschool.org.

BIRTHS: Jeff and Hattie O’Neill ’95 Bollerman, twins, a son, Malachi O’Neill, and a daughter, Honorah Halligan, January 7. Jeff is an investment banker at Houlihan Lokey and Hattie runs the New York office of Speakeasy Inc., a corporate communications consultancy. They live in Brooklyn.

Brady and Jennifer Gilbert, a daughter, Sophie Magnolia, May 15, 2012. They live in Travelers Rest, S.C., where Brady owns a computer business and is president of the Greater Travelers Rest Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the board of the Greenville County Library System and Katy Oliver Hutcherson, a son, Elliot Cash, May 29, 2012. They own The String Bean, a restaurant and retail market in Belmont, N.C. Katy is a risk officer for Wells Fargo Bank in nearby Charlotte.

98

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Addison and Caroline Kocher ’00 Dana have moved to the Washington, D.C., area. Addison is chief investment officer for The Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit environmental organization. Visit nature.org.
Caroline Simpson Whaley of Marietta, Ga., has completed her term as president of the Junior League of Cobb-Marietta and has been elected president and chair of the board for the Youth Museum in Cobb County. She also serves on the board of directors for Cobb Health Futures Foundation and is a visiting professor for the Leadership Academy at Chattahoochee Technical University.

**BIRTH:** **Jeffrey** and **Laurie Youngs**, a son, Parker Mitchell, December 26. They live in Cumming, Ga.

**99**

In January, Christina LaFever Lopez began working as the director of risk management and performance improvement at Cumberland Hall Hospital in Hopkinsville, Ky.

**JUSTIN O’DELL** has opened the O’Dell & O’Neal law practice in Marietta, Ga.

**BIRTH:** Jeremy and Kristin Stultz Pressley, a son, Robert Jones Pressley, October 16. They live in Greenville. Kristin has earned a Ph.D. in theatre from the University of Georgia.

**00**

Emily Roberts Wilson of Raleigh, N.C., is a policy adviser for Speaker Thom Tillis of the North Carolina Legislative Assembly.

**BIRTH:** Frederick and Natalie Byars Fisher, a son, hayward, August 26, Mount Pleasant, S.C.

**01**

Johnlee Curtis was recently appointed senior associate counsel at AeroTurbine, Inc. He lives in Madeira Beach, Fla.

Darcy Walker Krause is executive director of The Center for Grieving Children in Philadelphia, Pa. The center provides support services to children who have experienced the death of a loved one. Visit grievingchildren.com.

Republican Josh McCon of Columbus, Ga., is the new chair of the Georgia State Senate Judiciary Committee.

**MARRIAGE:** Ashley Boland Summer and Danielle Shira Rosenthal, February 23. Ashley is a partner with Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough where he specializes in intellectual property law, and Danielle is an assistant general counsel, focusing on patent litigation, for Honeywell International. They live in New York City.

**BIRTHS:** Greg and Michelle Abraham Curnutt, a daughter, Hannah Kate, October 2, Sugar Land, Texas.

Bryan '03 and Kylie Inman Holladay, a daughter, Ellen Hensley, October 30, Atlanta.

Townes and Marshall Johnson, a daughter, Mary Randolph, December 28, Greenville.

Ed and Ginny Waller, a son, Edward Nissen, October 11. They live in Lexington, S.C.

**02**

Melissa Barnes has been named women’s soccer coach at Eastern Kentucky University. She previously was an assistant coach at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and at Furman.

Eric Loeds of Irmo, S.C., received Allstate Insurance Co.’s Honor Ring award, which designates his agency as one of the company’s top agencies nationwide. The award honors high standards and accomplishments in customer satisfaction, customer retention and profitability.


Rebecca Neal Tompkins of Myrtle Beach, S.C., is director of communications for SPM Resorts, a resort management company.

MARRIAGE: Kevin Trotler and Ashley Pollock, December 31. They live in Athens, Ga., where Kevin is pursuing an MBA degree from the University of Georgia and Ashley is a physician at Athens Regional Medical Center.

**BIRTHS:** Andy and Michelle Muro Heck, a daughter, Caroline Susan, February 9, Greenville.

James and Maria Crole Madden, a son, Sanders John, February 21. They live in Smyrna, Ga. Maria is dean of middle school student life at the Lovett School.

Joseph '03 and Elizabeth Wright Osborn, a daughter, Sylvia Caroline, October 4, Greenville.

Matt '03 and Molly Stokes Staab, a daughter, Madeline Hope, October 18, Greenville.

**03**

**THIS YEAR IS REUNION!**

Amy Lahey of Clarkson, Ga., a registered nurse at the Aflac Cancer Center and Blood Disorders Center of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, received the Laura Smitzer Boozer Nursing Award for professional excellence and leadership in pediatric cancer care. The award provides financial support toward continuing education in the field of oncology.

MARRIAGE: Angela Christian and Jonathan Jones, January 12. They live in Mauldin, S.C.

**BIRTHS:** James '04 and Sara Burnett Granberry, a daughter, Martha Katherine, February 9, 2012. They live in Nashville, Tenn.

Paige Harden and Elliot Tucker-Droob, a son, Jonah Tucker Droob, August 3. They live in Austin, Texas, where Paige and Elliot are psychology professors at the University of Texas.

Stan Sulkowski and Amy Boatright, a daughter, Nadia Boatright Sulkowski, February 16. They live in Charleston, S.C. Both Stan and Amy work at the Medical University of South Carolina.

04

Social studies teacher Ashley Holland Adkins has been selected the 2013-14 Teacher of the Year at Dorman High School in Spartanburg (S.C.) District 6.

Carrie Parker Eaves has accepted a position as assistant professor of political science at Elon University in North Carolina.

Latoya Michelle Mitchell of Raleigh, N.C., recently began a new position as scientific publications manager at Grifols, Inc., in Research Triangle Park.

Lindsey Mecca Nicely was promoted to software compliance lead at Medwesco Corporation in Richmond, Va. She earned her master’s degree in statistics from Virginia Commonwealth University last May and passed the first actuarial exam in November.

**BIRTHS:** Clint and Kelsey Ruebush Grant, a son, Everett Lennon, August 20, Greenville.

Jonathan and Kristen Moore, a son, Adam Riordan, January 18, Greer, S.C.
John Cole has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an attorney in the firm’s Birmingham, Ala., office. He previously worked for the U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services Committee as an advisor to Republicans on bank safety and soundness, regulatory relief, mortgage lending, consumer credit, money laundering and data security.

Elton Daniels is the town manager of Sharpsburg, N.C. He holds a master’s degree in public administration from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

Bernard Frost, a mathematics teacher, is the 2013-14 teacher of the year at Fairforest Middle School in Spartanburg (S.C.) District 6.

Nathan and Karen Sandberg Patton live in Newark, N.J., where Nathan is a ninth grade teacher at People’s Prep Charter School. Karen completed her doctorate in school psychology at the University of Georgia and works as director of special education at TEAM Academy Charter School.

Erin McCormick Tindel has been named 2013-14 teacher of the year at Ralph Chandler Middle School in Greenville County. She teaches sixth and seventh grade mathematics.

Patrick Mainieri earned the 2013 Outstanding Young Music Educator of the Year Award from the South Carolina Music Educators Association. He is band director at Gettys Middle School and Easley High School.

Liz Meeker joined the staff of Unit Ministries in Greenville last July as an employment counselor.

MARRIAGE: Adrienne Emerick and Bryan Hodges, October 20. They live in Charleston, S.C., where Adrienne is a graphic designer at MVP Group International. Bryan is a paramedic.

BIRTHS: Jules and Katelyn Deas, a daughter, Jane Adelé, November 6. They live in Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Michael and Missy Dempsey Hale, a daughter, Charlotte Anne, October 12. They live in Alpharetta, Ga. Michael is a senior associate with Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Jason and Deb Mathis Read, a son, Hudson Richard, November 3, Louisville, Ky.

Aaron and Chrissy Moss Welch, a daughter, Miriam Kathryn, September 26, Florence, S.C.

Darlene Bayless Currier, a third grade teacher at Sara Collins Elementary School in Greenville, was recently named a National Board Certified Teacher. She completed a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize effective and accomplished teachers who meet high standards.

Erica L. Giovanni has joined Owen & Owens law firm in Richmond, Va., as an associate focusing on family law.

Will Glenn graduated from the Charleston (S.C.) School of Law in 2012. He is an associate attorney with the Leinster Law Firm in Greenville.

Cindy Youssef, who was previously with the Riley Institute at Furman, is now the liaison for academic development with the Greenville Health System (GHS). She also manages the Ramege Center for Teaching and Learning (the administrative unit of academics at GHS) and is president of Greenville Rotaract, a young professionals Rotary Club.

BIRTH: Graham and Amanda Griffin Butler, a son, Robert Griffin Butler, November 13, Atlanta.

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Emily Boehnlein Fulp has been named director of administration for the Wilmington (N.C.) Chamber of Commerce, where her duties include database management, research and special projects. She is completing a master’s degree in arts administration at Savannah College of Art and Design.

Christina Henderson of Washington, D.C., has become legislative director on the staff of D.C. Council member-at-large David Grosso. She is responsible for helping to formulate and advance his legislative agenda.

Anna Mathis, a fourth grade teacher at O.P. Earle Elementary School in Spartanburg (S.C.) District 1, was the school’s 2012-13 teacher of the year.

Adam Pajan, a doctoral student (church music emphasis) at the University of Oklahoma’s American Organ Institute, is one of 10 people selected to compete in the inaugural International Organ Competition, to be held at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa., in late June. The finalists will compete for a $40,000 prize, a concert contract and a performance at Longwood. Adam won first prize at the 2011 Arthur Poister Organ Scholarship Competition and the 2009 Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition USA, and was a semifinalist in the American Guild of Organists’ National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance in May 2012.

Russell Guilfoyle has completed the J.D. and MBA dual-degree program at Campbell University.

BIRTHS: Carolyn Stevens and Ian Duggan ’07, December 29. Ian, a captain in the U.S. Air Force, has been assigned to Turkey as a Judge Advocate General officer.

Chris Grande and Jessica Gomez ’10, September 29. They live in Cumming, Ga. Jessie has earned a master’s degree in Spanish literature and works as a U.S. event coordinator for Network TwentyOne.

Rachael Parrish and Jeff Vitkum, June 1, 2012. Rachael is completing a master’s degree in law and diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Tufts University in Boston. Jeff is a copywriter at Arnold Worldwide.

Paulette Torchia and Ben Tomlinson ’11, June 9, 2012. Paulette teaches band and chorus in Columbia, S.C., and Ben is completing his master’s degree in percussion performance at the University of South Carolina.

Margaret Rosebro is the 2013-14 teacher of the year at Jesse Bobo Elementary School in Spartanburg (S.C.) District 6. She teaches third grade.
AS A VIOLIN PERFORMANCE major at Furman, Seth Gilliard spent lots of time with Bach, Mozart and all those powdered-wig types. But there were times when he really just wanted to let his hair down, metaphorically, and rock out.

Nowadays, that's exactly what he does.

Gilliard moved back home to Charleston, S.C., after graduating in 2012 and quickly carved a niche for himself as a pop violinist. He crafts instrumental covers of chart-topping songs by artists such as Ne-Yo, Justin Bieber and Alicia Keys, and composes his own music as well. It didn't take him long to land some steady weeknight appearances at local restaurants and nightspots, and his weekends are filled with gigs, weddings and private events for people who want to hear a violin sing in the hands of a young man with classical skills and a contemporary flair.

He's made a name for himself in Charleston, but as befits this age of connectedness, his fame is quickly spreading beyond his hometown. The YouTube page for Seth G. (that's his stage name) has more than 10,000 subscribers, and the videos that appear there — some in a studio, some showing Gilliard playing to passers-by on Charleston's busy sidewalks — have attracted more than a million views.

Sound, of course, is a musician's main medium. But Gilliard, 22, knows that visuals are an important part of modern music appreciation, too.

"With what I'm doing, it's something different a lot of people haven't seen before," he says. "When you have the video component and they're like, 'Oh, OK, he's actually playing this,' I think it does help as well."

When he plays, Gilliard is backed by a track (or sometimes a live disc jockey) that provides a foundation for his expressive violin work. There's percussion and bass and maybe some electronica effects or subtle chords, but the violin is the star of the show.

Gilliard plays with his whole body, swaying gracefully to a slow song or appearing almost to dance to tunes with stronger beats. His face never betrays when he's playing a technically difficult passage; instead, there's a smile that transmits the pure joy of a musician in his element.

It's a long way from Beethoven. But then again, maybe it's not.

"Without my classical background, I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing now," Gilliard says. "Classical music gets your technical abilities where they need to be so that you can play what you want to play. That's the beauty of it."

Sometimes, he says, he'll tuck a classical passage into one of his pop songs or improvise during a live performance using techniques he learned from his work with Furman jazz ensembles his junior and senior years.

Gilliard's taste for experimenting with instrumental music developed amid his classical training in middle and high school.

"Growing up, and even now, there was definitely a divide between what I was playing on a regular basis and what I was listening to on a regular basis," he says. "I was listening to pop music, listening to what was on the radio just like everyone else. I just started messing around with different things, just trying to play random stuff that I would hear, figure it out on the instrument. And that just kind of went from there."

After a while, he decided to see how his interpretations would strike an audience. So during summers and on weekends, he'd find a spot among the crowds in Charleston's City Market and start to play, leaving his violin case open for tips.

"It was really good money when I was younger," he says, "and it also gave me the opportunity to play in front of people, and a chance to experiment."

When he started college at Furman, he shifted his focus to classical music, logging countless hours in practice rooms and rehearsal halls, playing concerts and auditioning for competitions amid all his other schoolwork. But a semester abroad in Italy during his senior year gave him a more open schedule, and he found time to get back in touch with his passion for pop music. He started recording the songs he composed and covered, and a full-time career was launched.

Gilliard released his first EP, "The Introduction of Seth G.,” in February. Four of its five songs are original compositions — but he couldn't resist just one cover, Ne-Yo’s "Let Me Love You."

Now he's working toward his first full-length album, which he hopes to release this year. And, as any working musician must do, he's concentrating on building his fan base and looking for bigger and better opportunities to perform.

Music-wise, he says, "I'm trying to do more experimental stuff. I don't know exactly how it's going to turn out."

Somehow, though, one suspects that Bach and Mozart would be proud.

— STACY SCHORR CHANDLER

The author, a 1999 graduate, is a freelance journalist in Raleigh, N.C. To see Seth Gilliard in action, visit youtube.com/user/sethgx or sethgmusic.tumblr.com. Photos courtesy Seth Gilliard.
DEATHS

Anne Mae Pickens Collins ’31, January 16, Chester, S.C. After earning a degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina, Anne wrote for The State newspaper in Columbia, the Rock Hill (S.C.) Herald, the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer and the Chester News, where she penned the “Ambling With Anne” column. Active in civic life, she was the founder and organizer of two theater groups in Chester, a trustee of Chester County Library for 24 years, and a member of the Chester City Recreation Board, York Technical College Foundation Board and Chester County Board of Realtors. She was one of South Carolina’s delegates to the first White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C. With her husband, Joe, she established a real estate agency, and after his death she served as its broker-in-charge until her retirement in 1988. She was named a Woman of Achievement and Model for Today’s Girls by the Piedmont Area Girl Scout Council, and she was one of four Chester County citizens honored during Black History Month in 1997. Her family was named the town’s Family of the Year in 1957 and Family of the Year in South Carolina’s Region III in 1987. She was the author or editor of 13 books of family and community histories.

Selina Parker Stoddard Hopkins ’36, January 19, Summerville, S.C. She was a librarian with the Charleston County (S.C.) Library. She was a member of Daughters of American Colonists and the Huguenot Society of South Carolina.

Alice Ives Purser ’36, December 11, Taylors, S.C. She was active in the Joyce Scott Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Numa L. Smith, Jr. ’38, December 10, Arlington, Va. Recipient of Furman’s Brashaw-Feaster Medal for General Excellence at graduation, he went on to law school at Duke University, where he finished first in his class. After serving in the U.S. Army he went to work for White & Case in New York City. From there he moved to Miller & Chevalier in Washington, D.C., where he spent the remainder of his legal career. He was a member of the bars of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and the Federal Circuit, the New York State Court of Appeals, and the Tax Court of the United States, among others. A life member of the American Law Institute and the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, he served on the boards of a number of charitable and religious organizations. At Duke he was a member of the Board of Visitors and was president of the law school’s Alumni Association. A scholarship at the school bears his name.

Dorothy Few Walker ’42, March 14, Greer, S.C. Dot had retired from the Greenville County School System.

George Albert Bowdler, Jr. ’43, January 25, Saluda, S.C. He was pastor of Baptist churches in Louisiana and South Carolina before moving to Guatemala as a missionary for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Upon his return to the States he became chaplain at Baptist Hospital in Columbia, S.C. He also taught at the University of South Carolina-Aiken until 1985. He then moved to Panama City, Fla., where he co-founded Capstone House, a spiritual information center.

Kathryn Wells Herbert ’43, January 31, Greenwood, S.C. Kay worked with the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta and was later employed with the School District of Pickens County and the South Carolina Department of Education.

Annie Margaret McDonald Jackson ’43, January 14, Lexington, S.C. She taught third grade at Lexington Elementary School for 30 years.

Marcia Wyche McIver ’43, December 14, Greenville. She was a professional opera singer from 1943-47. Eventually she began a career as an educator in Columbia, S.C., working her way from elementary school teacher to principal in both elementary and middle schools. Later she became an administrator in Richland County School District 1. After retiring from the field of education she moved back to Greenville, where she was active in the arts.

Bernice McIntyre Coleman ’45, January 11, Latta, S.C. She had a long career in the Pee Dee area, teaching at Latta Primary School and serving as reading coordinator for Marion School District 1. She was past president of the International Reading Association of the Pee Dee and past officer of Delta Kappa Gamma of Alpha Eta State. She was also a member and past regent of the Rebecca Pickens Chapter of the South Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution and a member of the Pee Dee Chapter of the South Carolina Society of Colonial Dames XVII Century.

Garnet Andrew Barnes ’46, February 25, Easley, S.C. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, he was the founder of Barnes Real Estate, Inc., and Barnes Insurance Agency, Inc. He was also affiliated with Pinnacle Associates and was co-founder of Smithfield’s Country Club. He was a board member of a host of institutions, including Furman, the Palmetto Health Board of Directors (founding member), and the South Carolina State Development Board. For 27 years he served on the board of the Baptist Health Care System. He was a recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest civilian honor.

Virginia Hutto Rickborn ’46, February 27, Atlanta. She studied at the Juilliard School of Music in New York; then spent her professional life as an elementary school teacher. She was a sought-after soloist for special events and with church choirs.

Ida Green Vaughn ’47, January 5, Simpsonville, S.C. She had been president of County Store at Vaughn’s Feed and Seed since 1986.

Lina Wilkinson DuBose ’48, December 26, Dillon, S.C. She worked as a bank teller and X-ray technician in Darlington, S.C., and as a teller and school administrative assistant in Dillon.

Frankie Elizabeth Huff Granger ’48, January 6, Greenville. She retired after 23 years as minister of education at Berea First Baptist Church, where she was a member for 64 years.
Dorothy Williams Jameson ‘48, January 5, Easley, S.C. She taught in elementary schools for 35 years, predominantly in the Pickens County (S.C.) School District. She was a member of the Volunteer Auxiliary at Palmetto Health in Easley.

Harry Llewellyn Raley ‘48, January 4, Clinton, Miss. After he graduated from Southwestern Baptist Seminary in 1951, he and his wife served churches in North and South Carolina before being appointed missionaries to Taiwan by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. They worked in Taiwan from 1954 to 1991, with Harry serving at various times as treasurer, business manager, bookstore manager and chair of the Taiwan Baptist Mission. In 1989 the government of Taiwan presented him with the “Good Man, Good Deeds” award for his service, an honor rarely given to foreign residents. After retirement the Raleys continued to serve as ministers to Chinese populations both in the States and abroad. Harry also volunteered as prayer ministry coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Helen Bryson Taylor ‘48, January 13, Richmond, Va. She was a teacher in five states and especially enjoyed teaching courses in the Bible as Literature and in American history at Auburn (Ala.) High School, where the yearbook was dedicated to her numerous times. While teaching history she created and presented, in full period costume, portrayals of various American first ladies.

Jean Carskaden Weaver ‘48, December 11, Morgantown, W.Va. She was active in the Service League of Morgantown, serving as historian during the nation’s bicentennial celebration in 1976, and was a member of the Campus Club at the University of West Virginia, where her husband taught.

Lewis Vincent Wood ‘48, January 14, Snelville, Ga. In 1942 he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He served as a radar navigator on a B-47 during World War II and as a radar officer during the Korean Conflict. After his military service he worked for Prudential Mortgage and Loan in Greenville, Charlotte and Atlanta, retiring in 1985.

Honorees, from left: Dan Joyner’s son Danny, daughter Beth Crigler, wife Katherine, daughter Lynn Freeman; back from left: Joyner’s son-in-law David Crigler, Rodney Johnson, Lillian Brock Flemming, Frank Blackwell.

ALUMNI RECEIVE HONORS AT AWARDS DINNER

FOUR ALUMNI — FRANK BLACKWELL ’90, Lillian Brock Flemming ’71, Rodney Johnson ’03 and the late C. Dan Joyner ’59 — took home major honors at the Alumni Awards Dinner April 19.

Joyner, who died in early 2012, received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Founder of Prudential C. Dan Joyner Co., one of the Upstate’s most successful real estate firms, he was a community and civic leader. At Furman he served as a trustee and as president of the Alumni Association, and he was known as “Furman’s Biggest Fan” because of his unwavering support for Paladin athletics. The C. Dan Joyner Family Athletic Scholarship is awarded each year, and the porch at the Shi Center for Sustainability is named for him and his wife, Katherine Poole Joyner ’60. Joyner previously received the Alumni Service Award and was elected to the university’s Athletic Hall of Fame. His family was on hand to accept the award.

Flemming earned the Gordon L. Blackwell Alumni Service Award. A former Furman trustee and a recipient of the university’s Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award, she was one of the first African-American women to attend Furman. A longtime community leader, she has been a member of Greenville City Council since 1981 and currently serves as vice mayor pro tempore. She is a past president of the Greenville County Education Association and of the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

Johnson, the Outstanding Young Alumni Award winner, is founder and principal of Greenville’s Lead Academy Charter School, which opened in 2010. At Furman he captained the football team and worked with Bridges to a Brighter Future, which helps high school students who have limited financial resources reach their potential. He taught for several years in Atlanta before establishing Lead Academy. Greenville Business Magazine has named him to its list of the city’s “Best and Brightest 35 and Under.”

Blackwell received the Wayne and Ruby Reid Award, which goes to alumni who make major contributions to the career development of Furman students. As director of sales for ScanSource, Inc., in Greenville, he has hired a number of Furman graduates, provided career advice and direction to students, and recommended others for positions within the company. He is a past member of the Alumni Board and is vice president of the Paladin Club.
LETTER POLICY

FURMAN MAGAZINE welcomes your letters and comments. We ask that you limit the length to 350 words and include your name, address, class year and a daytime telephone number. Letters are published when space permits and are subject to editing for length, style and clarity.

The views expressed in the magazine are those of the writers or subjects and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the magazine or the university.

Letters may be sent to the Office of Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or to jim.stewart@furman.edu.

Samuel Perry Greer ’49, February 17, Columbus, Ga. Sam served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean Conflict. He began his business career with Monroe Systems for Business and retired as district manager after 42 years. He was a member and president of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Columbus and initiated the club’s Partnership in Education program.

Sara Jean Hilton Rogers ’49, February 7, Lake View, S.C. A talented musician, she taught in Lake View schools and for 27 years was owner and operator of Campbell Kindergartens. She was a member of the McLeod-Dillon Hospital Auxiliary, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Daughters of the American Revolution. She chaired the Dillon County Crippled Children’s Society, was a charter member of the Huntington Society of Brookgreen Gardens, and was a charter member and president of the Groves and Trow Garden Club.

John Miller Waddill ’49, March 1, Saluda, N.C. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy when he was 17 years old and served during World War II. He was retired from Santee River Wool Combing Company.

Charles Otto White, Jr. ’49, February 11, Greenville. He began his career at The Greenville News before becoming a realtor and owner of his own business. He served on the South Carolina Board of Realtors and was a former president of the Greenville Board of Realtors. He was a charter member of the Augusta Road Kiwanis Club and received a perfect attendance award from the Greenville Kiwanis Club. He was an Eagle Scout with the Order of the Arrow, a Royal Ambassador and president of the Board of Visitors for Southeastern Baptist Seminary in North Carolina.

John David Cave ’50, February 26, Atlanta. He completed a Ph.D. in philosophy of religion at Southern Seminary and was a member of the Board of Visitors for Southeastern Baptist Seminary in North Carolina. He worked as a pastor of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta. From there he moved to East Washington Heights Baptist Church, where he was senior pastor from 1958 to 1962, after which he and his wife became missionaries in Buenos Aires, Argentina. There he worked for 11 years as a professor at the International Baptist Seminary and as pastor of the International Baptist Church. After leaving the mission field he taught at Midwestern and Southeastern seminaries before becoming senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, N.C.

Dan Oliver Rollins, Sr. ’50, February 6, Greenville. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II on the USS Refugio. He retired from Texize/Intex after 27 years in industrial chemical sales and was the owner of Janitor Products & Services. He was a member of the American Legion Drum & Bugle Corps in the 1950s and 1960s.

Jocelyn Ann McDonald McCafferty ’52, February 25, Greenville.

Emory P. Austin, Jr. ’53, January 19, Columbia, S.C. His education was interrupted by the outbreak of the Korean War, and he served three years in the U.S. Air Force. After completing his education he began a career with the South Carolina Highway Department, becoming director of the Motor Vehicle Division in 1968 and serving as principal liaison with the state General Assembly. He was regional and national president of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, a member of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances, and was a charter member of the department’s Highway Safety Committee. In 1986 he retired after 34 years of public service he received the Order of the Palmetto, the state’s highest civilian honor. The Motor Vehicle Division building on Road in Columbia is dedicated in his honor.

Laurin H. Gardner ’53, January 2, Newberry, S.C. After attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary he served as pastor of churches in Indiana, Ohio and South Carolina. In 1965 he was appointed by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to serve as a home missionary, and he became director of missions for the Southern Baptist Convention to serve as a home missionary, and he became director of missions for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Gale Lammey ’53, December 18, Spruce Pine, N.C. He attended Union Seminary in Richmond, Va., and accepted his first pastorate at Elkon (Va.) Presbyterian Church. He went on to serve churches in North Carolina and Virginia from 1980 to 1999. After his retirement he was an interim pastor in Avery County, N.C., and chaplain for the Avery-Mitchell and Mountain View prisons. He was a lifelong member and chaplain of the Spruce Pine Fire and Rescue Department. He was an officer of the board of directors of Community Action and was named board member of the year in 2003. He was a recreation workshop instructor with the Montreat Conference Association and served on the Children’s Home Board in Black Mountain, N.C.

Joseph Foster Bennett ’54, June 30, 2012, Greenville, N.C. He retired after 25 years as a counselor with the Walter B. Jones Treatment Center. He also spent more than 30 years as pastor of churches in eastern North Carolina.

Richard Pollock ’54, M.A. ’62, January 6, Whitehouse Station, N.J. After three and a half years as an officer in the U.S. Army, he became an elementary school teacher. He taught in the Antilles Consolidated Schools of Roosevelt Roads Navy Station in Puerto Rico and at Indialantic Elementary School in Brevard County, Fla., then spent the remainder of his career at Hunter College Elementary School in New York City.

William Louie Summey ’55, January 14, Greer, S.C. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and received the Bronze Star. He was retired from Liberty Life Insurance Company as branch manager of the Greenwood (S.C.) office.

Margie Jane Capell Tilley ’55, December 12, Walterboro, S.C. For many years she directed the Meals on Wheels program for Greater Greer (S.C.) Community Ministries. She also served on the board of directors for Camp Marietta. A gifted pianist, she was a popular accompanist, music teacher and church musician.

Jane Wilson Orr ’56, February 1, Dublin, Ga.
DUKE McCALL WAS INFLUENTIAL BAPTIST LEADER

DUKE KIMBROUGH McCALL, a 1935 Furman graduate who became one of the most influential leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), died April 2 in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. He was 98.

From 1951-82, McCall was president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. His career also included service as chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and president of the Baptist World Alliance. He held honorary degrees from five institutions, including Furman.

McCall was known for encouraging tolerance and cooperation among all denominations. Chris Caldwell, who served Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville after McCall, told the Louisville Courier-Journal, “He had a broader view of the church. He was a larger than life figure, a charming gentleman.”

While McCall dealt with occasional controversies both from within and outside Southern Seminary during his tenure as president, the Courier-Journal described his years at the school as a time of “unprecedented growth” in terms of endowment, enrollment and academic expansion. He was an advocate for African Americans, and in the early 1960s he invited Martin Luther King, Jr., to speak on campus, despite the segregationist views of many Southern Baptists.

Writing for the Associated Baptist Press, Bill Leonard of the School of Divinity at Wake Forest University said that McCall “bridged multiple generations of Baptist life nationally and globally. In some ways he was the personification of the amazing organizational success and regional strength of Southern Baptists in much of the 20th century. In other ways he represented the last of the Baptist denominationalists, a leader who both shaped and was shaped by the cultural and spiritual solidarity of America’s largest denomination . . . he contributed to a denominational breadth inside the SBC. He lived long enough to see that breadth diminish, but died hoping, if not believing, that it would someday return.”

McCall sided with the moderates during the battle with conservatives for control of the Southern Baptist Convention in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and narrowly lost a bid for the SBC presidency in 1982. He was later influential in the formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a moderate alternative to the SBC, but maintained cordial relations with the national convention. A lecture series, academic chair and pavilion at Southern Seminary are named in his honor.

He is survived by his wife, Winona; four sons and 10 grandchildren, several of whom attended Furman; and 14 great-grandchildren.

W. Earle Purkerson, Jr., ’56, January 24, Greenwood, S.C. Earle served for a time as sports editor for the Greenwood Index-Journal, and he continued through the years as a contributing writer to the paper. A veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, he retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1990 after 31 years of service. He was an announcer for Lander University sports, served on the Lander Bearcats Board of Directors, and was active in the Greenwood High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was the author of two books, The Boys of Phoenix Street and Mama’s New Kitchen.

William Fred Chapman, Jr., ’57, January 6, Clinton, S.C. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and a recipient of the Purple Heart and the Silver Star. He retired from Presbyterian College in 1994, having served as academic dean for 10 years and as chair of the business department.

A strong supporter of public education, he was a former chair of the Laurens 56 School Board and a past president of the South Carolina School Boards Association and the Southern Region School Boards Association.

William Thomas Floyd Wilson ’57, January 4, Greenville. Tom was a sergeant in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and received two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. After military service and graduation from Furman, he worked as a postal clerk for 30 years before retiring in 1988. He played baseball in Greenville’s Textile League.

James Glenn Stewart ’58, January 24, Raleigh, N.C. He was retired from American Greetings Corporation.

Sarah Moore Cring ’59, January 23, Greenville.

Jimmy Carl Dixon ’59, February 24, Greenville. He was a sales representative for Mooman Manufacturing, a U.S. Army veteran and a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

James Allen Edwards, Jr. ’59, February 15, Greer, S.C. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran and a member of Bailey Masonic Lodge #146. He was retired from 3M Company.

Walter Glen Hughey, M.A. ’60, January 18, Prague, Okla. He was retired from Anderson (S.C.) University, where he taught mathematics and served as registrar and director of admissions.

James Stephenson Putnam ’60, December 13, Simpsonville, S.C. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, he went on to attend New Orleans Seminary.

Christina Looper Baker ’61, January 18, Bass Harbor, Maine. She served three terms in the Maine House of Representatives in the late 1990s and early 2000s. She was known for her commitment to education, advocacy for historic preservation and support of issues affecting the state’s Native Americans, including her co-sponsorship of a law that requires Maine’s native history and culture to be taught in public schools. She earned a doctorate from The Union Institute and taught English and women’s studies for 25 years in the University of Maine system, which awarded her the Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award in 1992. She served on the New England Board of Higher Education and was the author of In a Generous Spirit, a first-person biography of labor leader Myra Page, and The Conversation Begins: Mothers and Daughters Talk About Living Feminism, co-written with her daughter Christina.
William Joseph Cantrell, M.A. ’62, December 15, Spartanburg, S.C. He was retired from Spartanburg School District 7, having taught and served as an administrator in a number of elementary schools. He was also minister of music and organist at First Baptist Church of Boiling Springs, S.C., for many years. He was a member of the National and the South Carolina education associations, School Masters, the Spartanburg Historical Society, Woodmen of the World, the Spartanburg Wellness Center, and the 50 Year Club of Wofford College. He was an accomplished calligrapher, painter and pianist.

Mary Lee Cheek ’62, December 21, Taylors, S.C. She started her career as a third grade teacher and later became director of weekday preschool ministries at Taylors First Baptist Church, a position she held for 28 years.

Oneida Watts Sibley ’62, February 27, Carmel, Ind. Neida was active in volunteer work, especially in the field of music, and was involved with symphony orchestra associations in several cities. She played a leading role in the founding of the Schott International String Competition for the Allentown (Pa.) Symphony Orchestra.

Jack Nelson Beetha ’64, February 25, Marion, S.C. Jack was employed with Carolina Power and Light/Progress Energy-Duke, from which he retired as line service supervisor after 33 years. A past president of the Swamp Fox Booster Club, he served in the National Guard and was a Little League coach and member of the Lions Club.

Luther C. Eldred III ’64, March 10, Rock Hill, S.C. Luke earned a law degree from the University of South Carolina and began his legal career as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps in Germany. After completing military service, he joined the John Bolt Culbertson firm in Greenville, then moved to Rock Hill in 1979 to start his own practice. He was a member of the South Carolina Bar Association, the Injured Workers’ Advocates and the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association, and was active with the YMCA of Rock Hill.

Catherine Patricia Denny Miller ’64, December 21, Lexington, S.C. Patricia worked with Miller Auctions & Land and was co-pastor of Living Waters Christian Fellowship.

Barry Martin Shaw ’64, January 28, Natick, Mass. After earning a doctorate in physics from the University of Tennessee, he worked as chief executive officer of Engineered Yarns. In 1989 he moved into academics and taught physics and mathematics at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., until he retired.

Helen Hester Porter ’65, February 3, Greenville. An avid reader, Helen was a member of Chapter 76 Book Club. She was also a charter member of the Greenville Legal Auxiliary and was instrumental in starting the PTSO at Travelers Rest High School.

Bruce R. Byers ’70, January 19, Winter Park, Fla. He was a coach in Augusta, Ga., prior to serving a tour of duty in the U.S. Army. He left the military in 1987 and then taught and coached at Lake Bentley High School for 25 years.

Thad W. Herbert, Sr., MBA ’74, March 1, Greenwood, S.C. He worked with CBS National Bank and SCN of Greenville and later was president of Carolina National Bank in Easley, S.C. He was active in church work and treasurer of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Thad was a Paul Harris Fellow, a past president of the Easley Rotary Club and a former chair of the Library Board. He was the first chair of the Pickens County United Way as well as the Easley Planning Commission. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, he served in the South Pacific.

Frank Camden Owens III ’75, February 15, Greenville. Cam’s professional life included work as a real estate agent, financial advisor, and the Garden Bistro restaurant.
BIKING AND BUILDING COMMUNITY, FROM CHICAGO TO AFRICA

“PARTS OF WINDHOEK, Namibia’s capital city, and the South Side of Chicago are actually eerily similar,” says Dustin Gourdin ’10, a Ph.D. student in the University of Chicago’s sociology department. “You see a lot of the same issues, in terms of transportation challenges and youth opportunities. Hopefully we can figure out ways to make things better in both places.”

Since 2009 Gourdin, 25, has made three research trips to Namibia, a nation of 2.1 million people just northwest of South Africa. He’s been studying the Bicycling Empowerment Network (BEN) Namibia, a nonprofit that provides disadvantaged local people with efficient transportation and job opportunities, as well as other non-governmental organizations. Since gaining independence in 1990, the country, with an economy based on mining, agriculture and tourism, has become an upper-middle-income nation. Gourdin is exploring the connection between U.S.-sponsored empowerment programs and Namibia’s recent macro-level growth. Meanwhile, back in Chicago, he’s involved with several groups that encourage cycling in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

Born in South Carolina, Gourdin first got passionate about bikes as a freshman at Furman. After the brake cables on his Walmart beater snapped, he Googled “brakeless bicycle” for repair instructions and stumbled upon a YouTube video called “Mash SF” of guys riding fixed-gear bikes around San Francisco.

“It had an edge to it, like a skateboard video,” he recalls. “I adopted that philosophy: ride a bike the way you want to ride.” He converted his mom’s old road bike into a single-speed and eventually saved enough money for an IRO Cycle fixie. He and his buddies formed a bicycle crew called the Rolling Riot, cruising the streets of Greenville and its Swamp Rabbit Trail.

A rap fan, Gourdin became aware of the African “blood diamond” phenomenon, where sales of diamonds mined in war zones bankroll bloodshed, through the track “Diamonds Are Forever (Diamonds From Sierra Leone)” by Kanye West, as well as the movies “Blood Diamond” and “The Last King of Scotland.” He soon joined the student group Africa Rising, which promoted social justice on the continent, and then got the idea to study abroad in Namibia.

“I was looking for a way to bind my passions for biking and social justice,” Gourdin says. He focused his research on BEN Namibia, which receives shipments of bicycles donated from abroad and distributes them to low-income people via community bike shops housed in converted shipping containers.

Despite the country’s strong national economy, roughly half of the population lives in poverty. “You see a lot of growth that benefits small pockets of the population that doesn’t necessarily translate into opportunities for people at ground level, especially urban youth,” he says. BEN’s shops teach mechanic skills to these young people and help them develop bike-powered businesses.

One of BEN’s most successful programs provides bicycles to the mostly female healthcare workers who tend to Namibia’s large HIV-positive population. Largely desert, the country has the world’s second-lowest population density after Mongolia. Bikes make it much easier for the caregivers to serve their clients in remote villages.

BEN accepts shipments of cycles from sister organizations all over the world, including Working Bikes Cooperative in the Little Village area of Chicago, where Gourdin currently volunteers, sorting spare parts and loading shipping containers. “It’s been really interesting to watch the process play out in Chicago and then see how it turns into results in Namibia,” he says. “I got to see firsthand the people who get employed by these projects and programs and how it changes their lives.”

Gourdin has witnessed the power of bicycles to transform lives through his work at Blackstone Bicycle Works, a community bike shop and youth education program on Chicago’s South Side. “It gives a lot of neighborhood kids an opportunity to learn about bicycles and transportation,” he says. “They gain some independence and autonomy from their ability to travel on their own, and it gives them something positive to do after school.”

He also rides with Red Bike and Green, a group that promotes cycling to African Americans as a path to health, wealth and environmental sustainability. “They’re a really neat organization,” he says. “For me, coming from South Carolina, seeing a contingent of black urban cyclists was something new.”

Gourdin sees many parallels between the economic, health, education and transportation challenges facing low-income folks in the Namibian capital and their counterparts on the South Side of Chicago. “Windhoek has a lot of infrastructure issues,” he says. “There are enough roads but there’s just not a great public transit system and there are virtually no bicycle lanes — that’s been something that the people at BEN have been pushing for.

“It’s similar on the South Side,” he says. “We could use more consistent public transit here, and people could really benefit from using a bike as a form of transportation. You need to take a balanced approach to community development, including things like after-school programming and access to healthcare, which should be a basic human right. But providing good transportation options is really in that holy grail of what needs to be done to build a community.”

Gourdin recently received grant money from the University of Chicago’s Council on Advanced Studies and hopes to return to Namibia this summer to continue his research. “Every time I go I think it’s going to be my last,” he says. “But you end up building a relationship with people and organizations, and you start to get a vested interest in seeing them succeed.”

— JOHN GREENFIELD

Of Ben Bernanke and the timeless connection

IN A SMALL SOUTHERN TOWN he sits in a local café, both leaning forward and over a bowl of soup. He can be found there most any day. So when the café owners needed a name for the soup, which he and his longtime tennis partner asked for every day, Fowler-Carmichael Soup seemed the perfect name.

It's hard to tell if he's thinking about the present anymore, or if he's moving back in time behind the wire-rimmed eyeglasses and perfectly genteel demeanor that has defined John W. Fowler, Jr., for 92 years. For the ripples of his life extend in every direction.

Before lunch in the café became a routine he was a teacher of more than 40 years, from the pre-World War II era until 1981, and was recognized by three South Carolina governors for meritorious service in the field of education. He served on the President's White House Committee on Education and the National Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped.

He was a coach and a tennis champion across the Southeast dating back to his college years at Furman (Class of '41), winning more than 50 state championships. He planned reconnaissance missions as an intelligence officer in the South Pacific in World War II, while an older brother liberated concentration camps halfway around the world in Europe. And before all that he was like many Southern boys in the 1920s and '30s, working on the family farm in just about any capacity to make ends meet. The Great Depression stamped an ever-fixed mark on his life, as it did for so many.

But of all the roles he played in his lifetime, teacher is the one he savors most. It is not unusual for a former student to spot him over lunch in the café. They are drawn to him, and he remembers every single one. Some he taught, others he taught their parents or grandparents, or children or aunts or uncles, brothers or sisters. It becomes nearly impossible to escape the wide web of influence from which his days as a teacher of high school English literature extend.

ALTHOUGH HE HAD many bright students, on occasion he will catch a glimpse of perhaps his most famous former student on the national news. Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve, upon whose shoulders the great market meltdown of 2008 fell, was his student in the late 1960s in Dillon, S.C. He offers memories only when asked, but this one begs for detail.

With clarity he goes back in time as he gestures to his right, recalling where Ben sat in his classroom and how he was challenged by Ben as much as Ben was challenged by the curriculum. He recalls Bernanke's exceptional intellect and knew he was destined for some great purpose. Because Bernanke was already in the midst of drafting his first novel, his assignments were more focused on descriptive sketches, short stories and poetic endeavors. "When grading papers, I used to save Ben's for last. He would use phrases like 'incredulity is as close to ignorance as to great brilliance.' Amazing."

Nearly 40 years later, the two would meet again during a celebration for Bernanke in Dillon. He recalls a phrase written by the teenage Bernanke, "Why can't happy moments be caught as they happen and displayed in a glass case to admire?" Then he pauses and answers, "They can."

It seems there is a timeless connection between some students and their teachers.

One lived the Great Depression; the other studied it and became a scholar and historian of it, uniquely preparing him to lead the nation through what has been called the Second Great Depression.

Around him now in the café, a new generation rushes in and out. They talk on and on about their day, their list of things to do, paying more attention to mobile devices than anything or anyone around them.

Meanwhile this near centurion, still brilliant with his history and memories, sits nearby, kindly overhearing and watching. His longtime tennis partner is unable to join him these days. Hard to tell what he's thinking. But likely he is not pondering the ripple effects of his enormous life that have led across decades, crossing thousands of days and nights to students young and old who have yet to go where he has been . . . or may never go at all.

— BRENDA FOWLER WENSIL

Reprinted with permission from the August 2012 issue of Charlatan, an online magazine. John Fowler lives in Mullins, S.C. Brenda Wensil is his niece.
“Furman United is the reason I’m still here.”

In her sophomore year, Riley McCallus ’14 drove out of Furman’s gates for what she believed was the last time. Unforeseen financial hardship had forced her to withdraw from Furman. Then her friend told her about Furman United, a scholarship fund for students experiencing economic difficulties. Riley applied, and she returned home to Furman’s campus three days later.

Help students like Riley remain in the FURMAN family.

SUPPORT FURMAN UNITED. To watch Riley tell her story and learn more, visit alumni.furman.edu/furman-united or contact Phil Howard, phil.howard@furman.edu.
Freeze Frame

Alexandra Cross ’14 caught this sheep in a neatly framed pose during last fall’s British Isles semester. The photo, taken in Cumbria, England, won the Dean’s Award in Furman’s 2013 International Photo Exhibition.