AROUND THE LAKE
We go behind the scenes with Senior Groundskeeper Sheree Wright. pg. 4

Q&A
John Plyler ’56 shares his thoughts on Furman then and now. pg. 10

TINY HOUSES, BIG DREAMS
The embodiment of his passion for sustainability and intelligent design, David Latimer’s tiny homes make minimum feel maximum. pg. 30

NOTES FROM THE FIELD
Allie Bucholz ’18 is Furman’s first All-American runner. pg. 14

THE COMEBACK
Furman and the Greenville Drive celebrate a winning partnership. pg. 42
The Partners Program has not only provided me with scholarship opportunities to pursue my goals, it has also given me mentors who support and challenge me to be a better leader at Furman and contributor to the larger Greenville community. — Jessica Norum, class of 2018

The Partners Program gives Jessica the advantage

The Partners Program supports The Furman Advantage by funding student scholarships and experiences. Investments through the Partners Program enable our students to engage, push and power transformation.

Help ensure that every experience they have produces an advantage. Contact us about supporting a Furman student by calling 864.294.3436 or Furman.edu/Partners.

Partners Program
Table of Contents

Features

STEEPLE SAVERS
by Ron Wagner '93
Three Furman alumnae are working to save Trinity Episcopal Church, the centerpiece of downtown Abbeville. pgs. 20–25

A CHANGE IN THE WEATHER
by M. Linda Lee
Furman's yearlong exploration of climate change engaged multiple disciplines in addressing the national and local impact of climate change. pgs. 26–29

TINY HOUSES, BIG DREAMS
by Ron Wagner '93
David Latimer '05 is making a name for his company, New Frontier Tiny Homes. pgs. 30–35

TEAM PLAYER
by Kelley Bruss
From the field to the courtroom, Richard Cullen '71 fights for his own. pgs. 36–37

A REUNION ACROSS THE POND
by Willard Pate
President Davis joins Furman alumni, students and faculty to celebrate study away in London. pgs. 38–41

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
Elizabeth Davis on ensuring The Furman Advantage delivers. pg. 3

AROUND THE LAKE
Sheree Wright is Furman's senior groundskeeper and unofficial swan whisperer. pgs. 4–5
Furman on Main opens in M. Judson Booksellers in downtown Greenville. pgs. 6–7
OLLI at Furman turns 25. pgs. 8–9
Ruby Morgan leaves a Steinway legacy for Furman's future musicians. pg. 12

Q&A
John Plyler '56, son of Furman's longest-serving president. pgs. 10–11

THEN, NOW, NEXT
Reflections on what was, is and will be important at Furman. pgs. 7, 9, 11

NOTES FROM THE FIELD
Distance runner Allie Buchalski '18 laid the groundwork for the Furman running program's success. pgs. 14–16
Furman Institute of Running and Scientific Training works with professional bike racing team. pgs. 18–19

THE COMEBACK
Furman and Greenville's home team celebrate a winning partnership. pgs. 42–47

SHELF LIFE
Works by Doug Campbell '94, Carolyn A. Day and Matt Olson. pgs. 50–51

CLASS NOTES
Where you have been, where you are going. What life is like After the Aisle for twins Ali Gunn Napier '03 and Jenny Gunn Littlejohn '03. Getting Up Close with Janet Kwami and John Crabtree. pgs. 56–63
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A dramatic cover photo graces this issue, and the article on the campus eclipse experience is so well done. The sidebar on Guy Ottewell, a veritable polymath, fascinated me, and I am honored to have my poem beside his artwork. Since he is also a poet, I hope he thought it was a worthy combination! That his son's name is also the name of one of L. D. Johnson's sons seems a happy and fortuitous coincidence.

The article on Fran and George Ligler clearly exemplifies the incredibly important accomplishments of some of Furman's alumni. That WOW factor surely ripples widely among the scientifically initiated, as well as those who are not. My nephew's significant other is currently a graduate student at NC State in the area of biomedical engineering, and I fervently hope that she will at some point in her studies be exposed to Fran Ligler's light and manifestly intelligent creativity.

Connie Ralston '70

IN THE KITCHEN AT WHITE OAKS

I received my copy of Furman yesterday and, even though I am not an alumnus of Furman, I found it to be of great interest. There is one item I feel should be clarified. As I read your article on "In the Kitchen at White Oaks" it seemed to me to give the impression that Dr. Plyler and Dr. Blackwell had resided in White Oaks. This is not the case. John and Martha Johns were the first couple to reside there. I remember John telling me how Furman had to have exterminators to treat the house before assayers would come in to evaluate its contents. After this, the house was prepared for him to move in. He was followed by the Shis, Kohrts and now the Davises. I may be mistaken, but I remember only four presidents (not five) as having resided in White Oaks.

Sincerely,
W. Eugene Bondurant

EDITOR'S NOTE

As W. Eugene Bondurant points out in his letter above, Presidents Plyler and Blackwell did not reside at White Oaks, but five Furman presidents have lived there as stated in the Furman magazine fall issue. The families of Presidents Johns, Shi, Smolka and Interim President Kohrt called White Oaks home, and it is now home to the Davises.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We welcome letters on any subject covered in the magazine. Letters should be limited to 150 words, refer to a subject from the most recent issue and include the writer's name and city/state. They may be sent to magazine@furman.edu. Although we make every effort to include as many submissions as we can, letters may be edited for length or clarity. Letters that address a topic before the most recent issue of Furman will be published at the editor's discretion.

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We made a promise and we plan to keep it. By now, I hope, you’ve heard about The Furman Advantage. It is our promise to provide every student an integrated four-year pathway, with engaged learning experiences, guided by a community of mentors, that will prepare graduates for lives of purpose and accelerated impact in their careers and communities. We believe this will demonstrate in concrete terms the value of a Furman education.

Now we have to prove it.

This past October, on the one-year anniversary of launching The Furman Advantage, we announced a partnership with Gallup. Supported by a $2.5 million grant from The Duke Endowment, this partnership will help us live up to our commitment and hold ourselves accountable.

We have already seen how The Furman Advantage is raising our national profile in awareness and reputation. Fellow presidents at many of the country’s best universities are noticing. I know this because they tell me at conferences and in emails. This also shows up in media coverage and in various rankings. This year, for example, we saw our U.S. News & World Report peer assessment, a significant portion of the score that determines our ranking, increase by a point. Anyone familiar with the U.S. News rankings knows this is no small feat.

The best part, though, is that we’re increasing awareness and reputation by building on what we know and do well. In an authentic way, we’re changing the narrative about higher education — “how to do it right.” We’re showing how combining the curricular, cocurricular and extracurricular with reflection leads to positive outcomes. We’re showing how placing students at the center of everything we do and guiding them through this ultra-curricular path produces successful graduates.

Again, it’s not enough to just say this, we have to prove it. We have seen from Gallup that certain college experiences lead to greater engagement in life and careers. We are going to measure our outcomes — including alumni engagement, satisfaction and success — so we can show our value and, as needed, make improvements to what we’re doing. We will be reaching out to you soon to ask you about your experience at Furman and beyond. Please take the time to reflect and help us understand the impact of a Furman education.

We knew when we launched The Furman Advantage that we would need to continually assess and ask questions to understand what we are doing. Are the internship opportunities sufficient? What is it that prompts students to take part in engaged learning experiences like study away and undergraduate research?

Furman has promised a high-impact educational experience to each and every student, which is a level of commitment that has never been attempted. We need strong data to make a case for this new approach to higher education.

In fact, when we announced our partnership with Gallup, the firm’s executive director of education and workforce development, Brandon Busted, outlined the enormity of what we’re trying to accomplish.

Furman has promised a high-impact educational experience to each and every student, which is a level of commitment that has never been attempted. We need strong data to make a case for this new approach to higher education.

“Furman’s vision and ambition to provide a relationship-rich and work-integrated learning experience for every single student — as a guarantee, not just an option — is truly unprecedented,” he said at the time. “Gallup has the great privilege of serving as Furman’s strategic evaluation partner in this effort to conduct one of the most comprehensive and multifaceted studies ever done in higher ed. It will help guide improvements to their practice in real-time and document elements of success — as well as struggles — over the long-term.”

We’re not going to hide from the results. We are going to do what we can to make the kind of difference we expect, we have to do good with the bad and constantly work to be better.

The pathway for students is four years long when they’re here and a lifetime once they leave. We have to examine the entire life cycle to assess how we’re delivering on our promise. This first year of the Furman-Gallup study will help us establish a baseline so that in subsequent years we can provide a comprehensive picture of what a Furman education looks like and the results that it produces. It will enable us to identify gaps and turn up or down elements to produce the best results.

We will share and compare this knowledge with our peers to contribute to the national conversation around higher education and providing value.

In the end, we want to ensure that The Furman Advantage is doing what we said it would do. Our students and alumni deserve nothing less.

Elizabeth Davis
Dirty Job, Stunning Results

Sheree Wright is hands on when it comes to caring for the campus

BY M. LINDA LEE

From a career in finance to full-time gardener, Senior Groundskeeper Sheree Wright is one of the people behind Furman University’s beautiful award-winning campus.

Wright, who has devoted herself to Furman’s grounds for the past decade, has found her calling. "I’ve always loved plants," she says. "As a child I was always playing in the dirt."

Now she plays in the dirt for a living, focusing on Furman’s Asia Garden and the Place of Peace. Certified by the American Rose Society as a master consulting rosarian, Wright also helps tend the university’s celebrated Rose Garden.

Caring for plants may keep her on the cutting edge of horticulture, but Wright’s domain encompasses a variety of critters as well – Furman’s black and white swans included. Besides keeping track of the swans, feeding them and taking them to the vet, Wright occasionally has to rescue a swan who has become tangled in discarded fishing line.

Depending on the season, a typical day for Wright might include cutting flowers for campus events, fishing leaves out of the koi pond and designing new flower beds. Weeding, pruning and giving tours of the Asia Garden are all part of her job description. "I’m also the unofficial Furman snake catcher," quips the South Carolina master gardener.

The many facets of her job keep Wright on her toes. "There’s never a dull moment," she happily admits.
A RETURN TO ITS ROOTS
Alumni and community members attended the grand opening of Furman on Main, located at 130 South Main St. inside M. Judson Booksellers.

Early 200 people joined the grand opening festivities Tuesday, Nov. 28, for Furman on Main, the university’s new presence in downtown Greenville at M. Judson Booksellers.

M. Judson Booksellers, which also shares space with the Chocolate Moose Bakery, is located at 130 South Main St.

Furman President Elizabeth Davis, Greenville Mayor Knox White and M. Judson’s co-owner June Wilcox spoke at the event, and Furman First Gentleman Charles Davis was on hand to sign copies of his new part-recipe, part-history book, “In the Kitchen at White Oaks.”

In addition to hosting select lectures and other public events, Furman on Main offers university items like clothing, memorabilia, gifts and books by Furman authors.

Announced in early November, Furman’s new partnership with M. Judson Booksellers allows the university to expand its presence downtown and further connect with its roots.

Furman was located in downtown Greenville for more than 100 years before moving to its present campus in the early 1960s. Mary Camilla Judson, for whom the bookstore is named, was a legendary teacher and administrator at the Furman-affiliated Greenville Woman’s College in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

“We’re excited to establish this new presence on Main Street, just blocks from our original downtown campus,” said President Davis. “We are continuing to strengthen our ties with our hometown community, and this partnership is one more step in that direction.”

The university has also established partnerships in recent years with the Bon Secours Wellness Arena, the Greenville Drive and the Upcountry History Museum.
I come back here again and again.

To this spot, this patch of ground, somewhere between the dining hall and the lake. As a freshman, I'd sit with my bag lunch, partly overwhelmed by schoolwork, partly in desire of it, but mostly wishing I could forever lounge in this spot, feeding the bedecking squirrels and beautiful ducks, a swan or two casually swimming into the mix.

Today, black swans join in, and my bike rests against a bench. The sun bounces off the surface of the lake, rippling in iridescent rhythm as I squint into its glare.

I am now old enough to have a measure of perspective on my alma mater, far enough removed to notice the difference and distance between current students and me. They are young, I think, but also advanced. Mature. Confident. I wasn't as sure during my time at Furman, but then again our feelings are probably closer than they appear. With so much in flux – coursework, future path, the shape of my social circle – my anchor was the lake: walking its edges, sitting on its banks, hearing the dong of the bell tower like a meditation. Being near this body of water soothed my mind, an antidote to chaotic feelings. I went there again and again.

Today, the campus continues to evolve: renovations and new additions and landscape alterations change its form. But, thankfully, the lake remains constant. When it comes into view at the turn-in from the Swamp Rabbit Trail, I stop. After a long pause, I pedal over to the side near the dining hall, dodging students lounging near the PalaDen and families picnicking under the oaks. I wheeze to one of the cement benches near the water, remove my helmet, and sit. Usually this turns to lying supine so that the branches are now in my immediate view, and the low afternoon sun warms my body.

Now, instead of studying for exams, I journal about my life, brainstorm concepts for the publication I edit, and outline presentations I give to current students here. I think about the four important years at this university, and marvel at the fact that they were just the beginning, just the start of my personal journey and my connection to this school that deepens like the water – a place I come back to again and again.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Blair Knobel '03 is the editor-in-chief of Town Magazine, a monthly publication on the culture of Greenville and beyond.
Anything but ‘Retirement’

OLLI at Furman, in its 25th year, celebrates a robust learning and social program with myriad opportunities for community involvement.

BY LINDSAY NIEDRINGHAUS ’07

Stereotypical illustrations of retirement paint pictures of gray-haired seniors who spend mornings completing crossword puzzles and afternoons rocking on front porches. However, take two steps into the Herring Center, home to Furman’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) on the Furman campus, and you’ll meet some folks who are looking for more meaningful experiences in their post-career lives.

OLLI, now celebrating its 25th year, trades cookie-eating, coffee-sipping and domino-playing for class discussions about the relationship between Irish literature and politics, morning spin classes and history lessons about the origins of Japanese culture. At its founding in 1993, the program began with 62 members and seven courses. Today OLLI has grown to more than 2,100 members, with 115 courses offered each term.

In addition to courses spanning every subject imaginable, OLLI also offers many opportunities for retirees to connect with the Furman and Greenville communities, allowing members a better understanding of local issues. One such program is Senior Leaders Greenville.

“We took the Leadership Greenville model and looked at it through a senior lens,” explains Nancy Kennedy, director of OLLI. “Members spend a year learning about issues facing the senior population. For example, we look at health care for senior adults and the fact that not enough geriatricians are being trained … or we look at public transportation and assess how that’s supporting the senior population. The program ends
OLLI member Nancy Story enjoys a class, Six Centuries of the Book, taught by Furman Special Collections Librarian Jeffrey Makala.

OLLI students use the computer lab for courses like Beginning Computer for the Terrified, Safe Computing: Practical Security and Privacy, Enhancing Your Online Skills, Windows 10, and Adobe Lightroom, social media classes and more.

with a course that guides seniors on how they can make a difference."

Several graduates of Senior Leaders Greenville have gone on to be elected to South Carolina’s Silver Haired Legislature, an advocacy group that works with the state legislature to address a variety of issues facing South Carolina.

OLLI member Margaret Clark helped to launch Senior Leaders Greenville. “This program provides a vehicle for retirees to learn more about what the issues are and where they can apply their talents — a win-win for the community and the individual,” says Clark.

Adds Kennedy, “The larger message with OLLI is that retirement doesn’t translate to stagnation. You should never stop learning or being an advocate for your peers, and OLLI provides an outlet for that voice and a means to make a difference.”

To learn more about OLLI, visit furman.edu/oll.

At the start of my freshman year at Furman, I had an idea of how my four years were going to play out. I am a member of Furman’s Direct Entry Program, which allows students to enter the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville following completion of undergraduate studies. Five students were admitted into the program, and five were alternates. This is the first year of the partnership, so I was ecstatic to be one of the first five people chosen.

Because the direct entry program has a set GPA and course requirements, I entered college with a strict plan in mind. I spent weeks over the summer trying to find the “perfect” major for pre-med students, and I thought I knew which classes to take and in what order. Not surprisingly, things did not go as planned.

I thought I would be a biology major because I could complete both my prerequisites and major requirements at the same time. This idea quickly faded when I realized that college biology is very different from high school biology. The work was more intense, and the concepts went into far more detail. After just a few weeks, I was certain that biology was not the major for me. But during this time I developed a love for psychology, a class I just assumed would fill a requirement. I enjoyed everything I learned; the information stuck with me, and I wanted to learn more. This triggered some internal conflict because I felt I might be ruining my plans. I was certain that without biology I had no chance of staying on track for medical school. I immediately scheduled a meeting with both my academic and pre-health advisers. Together they assured me that I could major in something I enjoyed and still meet all of my necessary requirements. And as it turns out, psychology is a great choice for pre-med students.

Within a few months my plan changed for the better. I’m thankful that Furman gave me the opportunity to accomplish my goals while also ensuring that I make the most of my time here. My advisers have been supportive and helpful, and I can’t wait to see what surprises the future holds.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Javonía “Jay” Davis ’21 is a psychology major, a Paladin cheerleader and one of the first participants selected to the Furman University-University of South Carolina School of Medicine Direct Entry Program, which helps accepted Furman students chart a pathway to medical school.
John Plyler ’56
BY JIM STEWART ’76

What were some of your father’s finest qualities?

JP: He knew everything was a team effort . . . he was always careful to give credit to others. He was extremely organized and very good at bringing people around to his way of thinking. He could talk with someone and when they were finished, the person would think everything was their idea. He knew how to strike that fine balance between keeping everyone happy and doing what ought to be done, which wasn’t always easy. And he never compromised his ideals.

Talk a little about your mother, Beatrice Dennis Plyler.

JP: She was just 28 years old when my father became president. (He was 44.) Mother was always young at heart, and people just fell in love with her. She had a real talent for design. She was involved in the decorating and furniture selections for the new campus, and she suggested having fountains. After she mentioned it, the architects determined how to tie them into the air-conditioning system.

What would your father think about Furman today?

JP: He was a forward-thinking man, and he knew what a top liberal arts college could be. He also understood your goals change and evolve over time. He valued the sense of community that a smaller school has and wanted a campus second
“I BELIEVE HE SAW FURMAN AS IT IS TODAY, AND HE’D BE QUITE PLEASED WITH THE UNIVERSITY’S DIRECTION.”

to none in beauty. And he especially knew the importance of a strong faculty, that the faculty makes the school. I believe he saw Furman as it is today, and he’d be quite pleased with the university’s direction. Elizabeth Davis is a wonderful leader. She began her presidency listening to others, then evaluating what could be done in a visionary way, very much like my father.

Speaking of Dr. Davis, how can alumni contribute to the success of her signature program, The Furman Advantage, with its emphasis on transformative education and lifetime connections?

JP: A few years ago, I was talking with a graduate who told me how she had continued to maintain a relationship with a professor. This professor was still mentoring the young lady years after she graduated. I thought it was remarkable. So I went to the professor and thanked her as an alumnus for having such a life-changing influence on students.

Alumni can fill the same kind of role, but we have to be willing to listen to students and understand what their goals are, what experiences they’ve had and where they’re coming from. We can use that knowledge to help guide them or suggest new or different ways of thinking. It’s important for us to listen, though, and not simply direct; it can’t be a one-way thing. If we do it right, Furman is going to be something else.

“Have you heard of The Furman Advantage?” So quipped President Elizabeth Davis at Furman’s September 2017 Opening Convocation. After the collective sighs, eye rolls and eventual laughter subsided, I was struck by a poignant moment of self-reflection: For the first time since I arrived at Furman seven years earlier, I was not adjusting to new classes, learning the names of my students, nor sharing the academic calendar’s peculiar ebbs and flows as a teaching professor. Having assumed my role as The Furman Advantage coordinator on July 1, I officially had, as multiple faculty colleagues teased, “gone over to the dark side” (aka the administration).

Cue the questions. What do I see in The Furman Advantage that makes it more than just another vision statement? How have I been persuaded to leave the classroom space I relish for its dynamic interchange of ideas? What has convinced me to shift away from daily interactions with energetic undergraduates and to embrace an entirely new position?

The Furman Advantage is unified, coherent and transformative. It not only builds upon Furman’s historic strengths — such as outstanding instruction and an abiding commitment to engaged learning — but also facilitates students’ guided discovery, exploration and pursuit of individualized pathways through both conversations with mentors and their own self-reflection. The Furman Advantage approaches education holistically, recognizing, for example, that leadership experiences outside the classroom often prove as influential in determining career trajectories.

Simultaneously with the implementation of The Furman Advantage, Furman has undertaken a robust assessment plan both internally and externally through its Gallup partnership. An immediate challenge with instituting new programs — whether inclusive pedagogy workshops, the Pathways initiative or the Malone Center’s Paladin Career Treks — involves discerning where we are succeeding and where we must make adjustments. Indeed, the Quality Enhancement Plan, submitted as part of Furman’s re-accreditation process; guarantees every student, sometime during his or her four years, one high-impact, engaged-learning experience, studying away, participating in undergraduate research or completing an internship.

Far more significant than reaching this 100 percent participation benchmark (and far more difficult, quite frankly) is ensuring the quality of such experiences — the very quality that distinguishes a Furman liberal arts and sciences education.

Therein lies the boldness of The Furman Advantage — its ambitious audacity. Therein lies the promise of what is next.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Alice Kirkpatrick is an assistant professor in the Furman Department of English and The Furman Advantage coordinator.
Ruby Morgan has always sought a “purpose-driven life.”

During her decades as a professor of piano at Furman, she has worked tirelessly to make connections with her students and their music. Understanding and connecting with the composer, the musical composition, the audience and the piano itself also play key roles, she says.

It’s a gift that her current and former students treasure. “Ruby has the gift of being able to seamlessly integrate practical issues of technique with the more emotional issues of musicality,” says Emily Gertsch ’01, now on the music faculty at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia.

In 1997 Gertsch found herself sitting between two Steinways on the couch in Morgan’s office. From their first conversation, she felt both comfortable and inspired. Since then, Gertsch says she has gained not only a mentor, but also a friend.

“Ruby is a pianist, professor and person of grace and grit,” says Sarah Saba ’17, who earned her Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance and is now a first-year medical student at Wake Forest University. “She brings out the best in her students in a gracious, encouraging and yet demanding manner that inspires and challenges excellence.”

As her teaching career at Furman comes to a close next summer, Morgan has no plans to slow down. First, she is pursuing the publication of an anthology of music for left hand alone, a repertoire she has championed. Second, she will continue her role on the board of trustees of the Brevard Music Center, which she attended as a student and later joined for eight summers as a faculty member.

Third, and most important, she has found a new purpose that she believes will enhance the piano performance program she’s worked so hard to build and maintain.

Starting with seed money she will contribute, Morgan hopes to replace most of the pianos in the Daniel Music Building, making Furman an All-Steinway School for the first time.

“The majority of the grand pianos in studios and classrooms date to 1975 (the completion of Daniel Music Building) and some to the Woman’s College campus decades earlier. The pianos in the practice rooms are also aging and inadequate for our outstanding students, particularly our piano performance majors,” says Morgan.

“Becoming an All-Steinway School will allow Furman to join the ranks of many esteemed music programs in the country such as the Curtis Institute of Music, Yale School of Music and Cleveland Institute of Music,” says Gertsch, who teaches at an All-Steinway School. “More importantly, the powerful, warm and rich sound of Steinway pianos would enhance the musical experience for Furman students, faculty and the community.”
Around the Lake | TRIPtych

TRIPtych

Reflections from Study Away in Denmark
BY LAUREN PRUNKL '18

On the way to class one day in Copenhagen, I sat on a single-speed pedal brake cruiser in a bicycle traffic jam at a red light. Surrounded by other cyclists, I noted that one's financial situation, job or age did not hinder people from cycling.

In my sustainability class, guest speaker Ole Kassow told how he founded the international organization Cycling Without Age. Cycling Without Age's mission is to form intergenerational relationships by using trishaw bikes to provide older adults "the right to the wind in their hair." Volunteers, called pilots, share stories with riders as they pedal through an outdoor adventure.

As Ole spoke, I envisioned taking my friend Karly Johnson and my adopted grandparents from The Woodlands Retirement Community biking down the Swamp Rabbit Trail to have lunch in Travelers Rest. Karly and I are a part of Furman's Adopt-A-Grandparent program.

Excited, I met with Ole at the Copenhagen nursing home where it all began to start my pilot training. Here I met Thorkild, who is 100 years old and the inspiration for creating Cycling Without Age.

As I pedaled with Ole on Copenhagen's streets, I had no idea that in seven months he would be pedaling Karly and me on the Swamp Rabbit Trail for the launch of Greenville's chapter of Cycling Without Age. With Karly's focus on health science and my passion for alternative transportation through my Shi Center for Sustainability Fellowship, we engaged students from across departments in the launch event. Greenville County Parks and Recreation embraced the idea of bringing the community, Furman students and Woodlands residents together to learn about the program.

Learn more at cyclingwithoutage.com/greenville.
NOTES FROM THE FIELD
LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

BY VINCE MOORE

If you want to chart the progress of the running program at Furman University, start with the day in 2013 that Allie Buchalski arrived on campus as an 18-year-old freshman.

She was not an overly heralded high school runner, and she may have recruited Furman harder than Furman recruited her. But she would get significantly better every year, and it’s no coincidence that the program’s rise to national prominence over the last five years has mirrored her own journey.

“We’ve accomplished a lot of firsts here, and most of them have either been through Allie or because of Allie or it is Allie,” says Paladin Head Track and Field and Cross-Country Coach Robert Gary. “She’s been the backbone of the program.”

A distance runner, Buchalski was the first recruit of Gary and his wife, Rita, an assistant coach who works with the women’s running program. They had came to Furman in 2012 from the Ohio State track and field program, and their plan was to make the Paladin distance running program one of the nation’s best.

“Allie didn’t have the best times in high school, and she hadn’t qualified for any national meets,” says Rita Gary. “But she is a true athlete and one of the greatest competitors I have ever coached, and she simply reinvented herself as a runner in college.”

It didn’t take long for the Garys to know what they had in Buchalski. By the end of her first year, she was named Southern Conference Women’s Cross-Country Freshman of the Year, and she represented the U.S. Junior National Cross-Country team in an international competition in Scotland. And this improvement came despite the unexpected death of her father during her first semester, which was a devastating blow.
Notes from the Field

"It was a very difficult time," Buchalski says. "But all you can do is keep moving forward and hope the next day is better than the last."

After being honored as the conference's Cross-Country Runner of the Year her sophomore year, she became the first All-American runner in Furman women's history over the next two seasons, with qualifying finishes in three different NCAA championship events – the 3,000 and 5,000 meter runs, as well as cross-country. She also qualified for the 5,000 at the USA Track & Field championships this past summer.

Buchalski is only the fourth woman in the history of the conference to win three league individual titles and just the sixth to be named All-SoCon first team four times. She has also earned six All-American citations, with still one more outdoor season to run in the spring of 2018.

"Allie is probably the most coachable athlete I've ever been around, and she surprised us all the time with what she's been able to accomplish," says Robert Gary. "There comes a point when you get so good that it's hard to get better. But she has done it every year."

While Buchalski’s personal achievements have been impressive, she's also been willing to set aside personal goals for team ones. She was healthy and in prime running condition during the 2016 cross-country season but sat out so a group of promising freshmen could have a year to mature and be ready to compete in 2017.

The plan worked. The Furman women qualified for their first NCAA Cross-Country championship this past fall, and Buchalski's ninth-place, All-American performance led the Paladins to a seventh-place finish, ahead of such schools as Michigan, Georgia, Penn State and Texas.

"I didn't mind sitting out last season because I knew how good the team could be in cross-country this year," says Buchalski, a Dean's List student who has maintained a 3.65 GPA in business and studio arts. "I felt like a top-10 finish was possible, but for us to do that in our national tournament debut was phenomenal."

Because Buchalski also redshirted during the outdoor season her freshman year, it allowed her to spend an additional year running at Furman. And while the Johns Creek, Georgia native will graduate in May, her legacy will remain on campus.

The Paladin women were ranked as high as second in the Southeast during the fall cross-country season, and the top six runners who finished behind Buchalski at the NCAA championship return for at least two more seasons. The men's team was the top-ranked program in the Southeast for much of the 2017 season and rose as high as seventh nationally. Both programs have been Southern Conference champions for the last five years.

There's even more good news. In October, Furman alum Chris Borch '78 and his wife, Andrea, announced they were pledging $1 million to fund the construction of the "Blue Shoes Track House" at the Irwin Belk Complex for Track and Field. The facility is expected to be completed by the end of the school year.

In many ways, the 2017-18 season for the Garys has been the Allie Buchalski Farewell Tour. They realize it's her last year, and they have found themselves constantly telling one another that this will be the last time they'll watch her run this race, or the last time she'll attend that event. She has meant that much to the program.

"Allie legitimized what we were doing as coaches, and she opened the door for some special runners to come to Furman," Rita Gary says. "She has always done her best, no matter the situation. It's only fitting that she's become one of the most decorated female athletes in Furman history."
While the Paladin cross-country programs dominated their Southern Conference competition in 2017, they were not the only fall sports at Furman to excel. The football team finished second in the conference and qualified for the NCAA FCS playoffs, while both the women's soccer and volleyball teams won their regular season conference crowns. All in all, the teams performed well enough that both the men and women led the league's all-sport races at the conclusion of the fall season. The Commissioner's and Germann cups are awarded at the end of the year to the schools fielding the best all-around men's and women's programs, respectively.

### FOOTBALL

**Paladin fans couldn't be blamed for not expecting much in 2017.** First-year Head Coach Clay Hendrix and his staff inherited a team that had gone 3-8 the previous year and a program that hadn't had a winning season since 2013. But Furman surprised almost everybody by winning seven of its last eight regular season games, qualifying for the playoffs and defeating Elon on the road in the tournament's first round. The Paladins' season ended at Wofford in round two with a loss to the Terriers. A total of 13 players were named All-Southern Conference — running back Antonio Wilcox, offensive guard Terrell Bush, center Matthew Schmidt and tight end Andy Schumpert were first-team selections — and Schmidt received the league's Jacobs Blocking Award. Hendrix was also named Southern Conference Coach of the Year.

### SOCCER

The women's team not only won a share of the regular-season conference championship, it also had a record six players named to the All-Conference First Team — forward Molly Dwyer, midfielder Rachel Shah, defensive midfielder Sanon Williams, defender Jordan Evens, defender Quinn Lombard and goalkeeper Kelsey Weaver. Head coach Andrew Burr was also voted league Coach of the Year. The Paladins fell to Western Carolina in the semifinal round of the conference tournament, finishing the season at 13-3-2 with an 8-0-1 record in league play.

On the men's side, junior midfielder Laurence Wyke was named conference Player of the Year, the first Paladin to receive that honor since Coleton Henning in 2011. Five other players were named All-SoCon, with senior defender Kevin Edelman joining Wyke on the first team. The Paladins posted a 12-5-3 record and finished third in the league. Their season ended with a loss to UNC-Greensboro in the semifinal round of the conference tournament.

### VOLLEYBALL

Head Coach Michelle Young was named conference Coach of the Year as she led the Paladins to a 21-10 record and the regular-season league championship, the team's second in the last four years. The season included a 10-game winning streak in conference play and nonconference wins over Georgia Tech and Liberty. Junior and outside hitter Jamila Johnson, who recorded a team-high 384 kills and was second in digs with 329, was named First-Team All-Conference. Four other Paladins were named to the second team. Furman lost to Wofford in the semifinals of the conference tournament.
DIALING IN THE NUMBERS

PROFESSIONAL BIKE RACING TEAM SEEKS FURMAN’S ASSISTANCE IN MEDICAL TESTING

BY LINDSAY NIEDRINGHAUS '07
The Furman Institute for Running and Scientific Training (FIRST) program is well known in the running world. Led by health sciences professors Scott Murr, Bill Pierce and Randy Hutchinson, FIRST provides training assistance based on scientific principles from the professors’ research, as well as individual data collected in the FIRST lab. The findings and data from the FIRST program have been cited and referenced in numerous scientific publications and also led to a book entitled “Run Less, Run Faster,” which was published by Runner’s World (Murr, Pierce and Professor Emeritus Ray Moss co-authored the book).

All ages and skill levels, from novice runners to professionals, have consulted the professors of FIRST for their knowledge and training programs. Murr explains, though, that findings from the FIRST program are applicable across all sports.

“While most of the folks that we test in our Human Performance Lab are runners, we have tested a diverse population of athletes. In addition to runners, we have tested collegiate rowers, ultra-marathoners, physique competitors, competitive kayakers, elite motor-cross cyclists, as well as road cyclists.

“In regards to prolonged exercise, the factors that influence endurance performance are basically the same; it is the environment in which these athletes compete and the contribution of the various factors of performance that vary,” says Murr. “Having participated in endurance events for most (if not all) of our adult lives, Dr. Pierce, Dr. Hutchison and I are able to apply the science of prolonged exercise to not just physiological testing in the lab but also in actual competitive settings.”

Recently, professional road cycling team Holowesko/Citadel p/b Arapahoe Resources sought out the FIRST program to undergo medical baseline testing that would inform them of the team makeup and how to best plan for the season ahead. The 16-member team, managed by retired professional cyclist George Hincapie, races on the Professional Continental level, competing in races across the United States as well as the world.

The team is a diverse mix of athletes, hailing from as far as Belarus, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Switzerland and Latvia. At Furman, each rider participated in Maximum Aerobic Power testing, and they also received DEXA scans, which provided information about rider bone density and body composition.

Kyle Cassas, the cycling team’s doctor and sports medicine physician from Steadman Hawkins Clinic of the Carolinas and Greenville Health System, sought out the FIRST program to assist with the team. The team’s performance director, retired professional cyclist and Olympic medalist Bobby Julich, also attended the testing to learn from the Furman professors about interpreting the data.

“It’s important to gather this baseline data to know more about the health status of each rider to provide ongoing care and treatments throughout the year. Gathering this information before the season allows us to not only maximize each athlete’s performance, but also to look for ways to reduce injuries during the season,” Cassas says.

Adds Julich, “We’re incredibly lucky to have this resource right here in Greenville. I’m very thankful for the partnership we have with Furman and everything we’ll learn from this testing.”

The cyclists weren’t the only ones who learned something those few days. Also assisting Murr and Hutchison in the lab were Furman students Frank Lara ’18, Mason Coppi ’20 and Jake Ogden ’20.

“I’ve been involved with the FIRST lab since before the start of my freshman year when I arrived on campus and was tested myself,” says Lara. “Through classes and research opportunities at the FIRST lab, I’ve become more and more interested in exercise physiology and biomechanics. This experience is paving the way for my postgraduation aspirations, as well as my own personal improvement as an athlete.”
Steeple Savers

Family of Furman alumnae work to preserve historic Abbeville church

by RON WAGNER '93
Trinity Episcopal Church has been the centerpiece of downtown Abbeville, South Carolina, since 1860, but one of the most unique structures in the country faces an uncertain future after years of neglect.
The family roots of Jean Robertson Hutchinson ‘74, Ann Hutchinson Waigand ‘76, and May Baskin Hutchinson ‘43 run as long and deep in the history of Abbeville as the iconic church they’re trying to save.
Look for the redwood, Ann Hutchinson Waigand ’76 says, and you’ll know you’ve arrived at her mother’s house in Abbeville. That’s a startling thing to hear, considering South Carolina is almost 3,000 miles from where you’d expect to find a redwood. More startling is discovering there is more than one.

At least two other coastal redwoods rise majestically along Abbeville’s North Main Street, looming dark and green over the scrub pines. Why a 110-foot prehistoric tree native to the Pacific Northwest stands sentinel outside the residence of May Baskin Hutchinson ’43 is a question with no obvious answer, though, making it precisely the kind the family specializes in answering.

“Less than two months before he left for the Mexican War, Captain Jehu Foster Marshall signed the deed to purchase 12 acres in the village of Abbeville Court House in upstate South Carolina,” Waigand wrote in the Summer 2014 edition of Magnolia, a publication of the Southern Garden History Society. “Little did he know that he would be starting a landscape legacy that would unveil fascinating secrets five generations later.”

As a historical researcher, Ann has been doing a lot of that unveiling in recent years, in no small part because she is that fifth generation and her family now owns some of those 12 acres. While unable to find records to support the legend that Marshall returned with the redwood sapling in his saddlebag after fighting in the Mexican-American War, Ann’s digging concludes that one way or another he is responsible for planting the tree that is now approximately 167 years old and has spawned at least three other saplings.

But that isn’t the only Abbeville legacy of Marshall’s that May, Ann and her older sister, Jean Robertson Hutchinson ’74, are fighting to protect.

The ladies are seated around May’s dining-room table, notes laid out, ready to advocate for their shared cause: the preservation of Abbeville’s Trinity Episcopal Church, which was built in 1860 and, thanks to a steeple donated by Marshall, happens to be the only thing in downtown taller than the tree in the front yard.

“In Abbeville, they refer to it as ‘our church,’ even if they’re Baptists,” Jean says, which is significant since most everyone in Abbeville is Baptist. “You’ve got to come and see our church.”

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1971, Trinity is a stunning example of Gothic Revival architecture that remains as originally constructed, right down to some of the rarest stained-glass windows in the U.S. – though nobody knew just how rare until recently when Ann debunked another bit of local folklore. It was always assumed the windows had arrived from England and eluded Union blockades to reach Trinity, but evidence shows they are the second largest collection of windows made by renowned glass painter William Gibson, and Trinity is one of only five places in the U.S. where William Gibson windows have been found.

But the Civil War and decades of mismanagement since, starting with Marshall’s wife investing their money in Confederate bonds, have been unkind. Trinity has been closed to the public for more than a year because of instability in the 125-foot-high steeple, and if a way can’t be found to raise the money required
May is the church historian and an unrivaled source of knowledge. Ann, who lives in Camden, Maine, is president of the church’s fundraising body, Friends of Trinity, and Jean, who resides in Charleston, South Carolina, is writing, designing and costuming a documentary short on Trinity’s Civil War history. They were in Abbeville together to see a presentation by students in the College of Charleston/Clemson master’s in historic preservation program’s Mitigation in Historic Preservation class offering ideas on how to save the structure. Unfortunately none addressed funding. Repair estimates are pushing $3 million. That’s a huge amount for a church with 28 mostly elderly members, and begs the question: Why take on such a daunting task? Understanding history, as is often the case, helps us understand the present, and shows that “daunting” is a relative term.

Members of the family have worshipped at Trinity from the day it opened.

Marshall was killed at the Battle of Second Manassas, and his property was sold in a bankruptcy proceeding in 1868. The purchaser, Sallie Martin, owned the property for about two years until she was foreclosed on, at which time May’s great uncle bought the house and then sold it to May’s grandmother, Eugenia Miller Robertson. May’s mother and aunt grew up in the house, which was built in 1881 after the original structure was destroyed by a fire. And though May raised her children in Charleston she’s slept in the bedroom where she was born since she retired 40 years ago. Jean and Ann were baptized at Trinity and spent the summers of their youth roaming the eclectic gardens Marshall planted.

“Daddy would go off on active duty – he was in the Air Force – and we would come up here, and we had the run of this huge yard. We would get so dirty that my grandmother would squirt us off with the hose before she would let us into the house,” Jean remembers as the sisters show off the now overgrown paths that still meander through some of the oldest crape myrtles and magnolias in the Southeast. “And we’d just have a wonderful time.”

That was how May, who earned a history degree, often describes her experience at Furman.

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Because of instability in the steeple, the church has been closed to the public for more than a year. These ladders are used for emergency, temporary repairs to mitigate water intrusion.

For those repairs the building will remain closed forever.

If it can reopen it will be the centerpiece for heritage tourism in Abbeville, which has the distinction or ignominy, depending on one’s perspective, of being both the birthplace and deathbed of the Confederacy. A lot of rich history comes with that.

“If the church building is lost, it affects the whole economy here,” Ann says. “It’s a religious structure, and that’s important, but it’s also a historic structure, a community structure, and an economic driver.”
"(Virginia Thomas) conducted a course that every woman in the freshman class had to take, Education 11, and that molded my college, I think. She was such a wonderful woman and so human, and that’s what I liked about Furman," May says. "It was a place where you could be yourself and be somebody."

May also met her husband, Rufus Hutchinson ’38, at Furman, and Hutchinson’s brother was also a Paladin. Her enthusiasm rubbed off, at least on Jean. Ann was a bit more resistant, however, insisting she’d “go anyplace but Furman” and attended The College of William & Mary. That lasted three whole semesters until she transferred to Furman.

They laugh at memories like Jean having to overcome struggles with PE in order to graduate with an art degree, as well as Ann’s still-wounded pride at John Crabtree’s stinging critique of her early writing.

Jean went on to earn a master’s degree, but after years as a vocational expert in court what she learned from art professors Tom Flowers, Glen Howington and Jim Lawless has helped her burgeoning second career as a costume designer. Ann, meanwhile, took advantage of Furman’s individualized curriculum program to earn a diploma in history, German and political science. And she credits Bill Lavery’s ability to make history come alive with riveting stories for her lifelong interest in the field.

Ann also met Fred Waigand ’75, a physics major, whom she later married in the family’s Abbeville house.

Abbeville and Furman are two powerful bonds holding the three together, but there’s yet another that could be the strongest of all: All three are breast cancer survivors.

"As Mama says, we did it backwards: I was diagnosed stage 3 at the age of 37, (Jean) was diagnosed stage 2 at the age of 54, and she (May) was diagnosed stage 1 at the age of 85," Ann says with a smile that masks how dire her own situation was. She was hospitalized five times and doubted her daughters would see her turn 40.

"Ann getting sick was the worst thing that ever happened to us," May says, ignoring the fact that she and Jean battled the disease simultaneously. But, like Ann, they won. That’s a truly daunting task. Saving a church? Not so much for these women. Not now.

"I took a lot out of the pot when I was sick 26 years ago, and I’ve been doing my best to put back in," Ann says. "The people in this church prayed for me when I had cancer, and that really meant a lot to me. And a lot of those same people are struggling to keep this church alive."

"It’s important to do something," Jean adds, and that something right now is helping a place they love. Emphasis on right now.

"Mama and I made an agreement when I turned 60 and she turned 90," Jean says. "We shook hands, had a glass of wine, and said, ‘If you make a hundred I’ll make 70.’ And we’re almost halfway there."
A CHANGE IN THE WEATHER

BY M. LINDA LEE
Polar glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, and extreme weather events are more frequent. These are but a few of the dire signs of climate change.

To highlight this critical issue, the Riley Institute, the Shi Center for Sustainability and the Institute for the Advancement of Community Health (IACH) have banded together to present a yearlong exploration of climate change at Furman. The initiative was spearheaded by Don Gordon, executive director of the Riley Institute, in response to a request from President Elizabeth Davis that Furman’s three institutes collaborate on an issue relevant to all of them. Gordon contacted Weston Dripps, his counterpart at the Shi Center, and they agreed to zero in on climate change.

“Climate change has that broad-based, cross-disciplinary impact that allows folks from IACH to hone in on health-related issues, while the Riley Institute looks at it from a public policy angle,” says Dripps, executive director of the Shi Center. “At the Shi Center we focus on the science of climate change and how we can inject that into the curriculum across all disciplines.”

Gordon and Dripps presented the idea to Eli Hestermann, executive director of IACH, who was quick to come on board. “Health is heavily tied to climate change,” Hestermann acknowledges. “In fact, the American Public Health Association proclaimed 2017 as the Year of Climate Change and Health.”

**SPOTLIGHT ON SUSTAINABILITY**

As one of 13 U.S. hub institutions for sustainability selected by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, the Shi Center constantly addresses factors that contribute to climate change on a local and regional level.

“Most people in the community don’t know that for the last seven years, the Shi Center has performed an annual assessment of Furman’s campus greenhouse gas inventory as part of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment,” says Dripps. “Campus energy use and waste both factor into that.”

Furman’s Community Conservation Corps (CCC) helps reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions on a local level by providing free home weatherization to low-income families in the greater Greenville area. “The CCC helps us to be proactive in the regional sense,” Dripps explains. “As part of this, we consider how we can engage Duke Energy in broader discussions about reducing the local effects of fossil fuels, and what will be future sources of energy in this rapidly growing area.” Furman’s 6-acre solar farm further illustrates how the university is actively pursuing renewable energy.

As a nonpartisan organization that strives to bring everybody in to take a common-sense, data-based look at the world, the Riley Institute takes a public-policy approach
CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL: NOW WHAT?

A panel of experts discussed the impact of climate change on human life during Furman’s two-day national conference on climate change.

...to the issue through its Center for Critical Issues. “We are trying to cut through the ideological and move public thinking to the real world of what is happening in terms of climate change,” Gordon says.

In the arena of public health, there are many ways that climate change impacts human health. People too often see certain things, such as the increased incidence of flu and the opioid crisis, as strictly health-care problems. “More and more in the health-care industry, we see these as community problems that take concerted efforts from all vectors to address,” Hestermann says. “The impacts we see of climate change — mosquito-borne disease, the effects of drought on agriculture, sea-level rise creating an increase in refugee populations, elderly people dying of heatstroke during unusually hot summers – are perfect examples of that.”

All three directors agree that there’s no time to waste in shining light on this issue. “The data on climate change is overwhelmingly clear now,” asserts Dripps. “We’re not going to debate whether climate change is happening. It is happening, so let’s focus the discussion on what to do next.”

TACKLING THE PROBLEM

Their initiative, “Climate Change is Real: Now What?,” kicked off in early November with a national conference at Furman’s Younts Conference Center. “We wanted to bring in the best experts in various fields so people understand that climate change is having a huge impact nationally and locally,” Gordon explains. Jill Fuson, director of the Riley Institute’s Center for Critical Issues, was in charge of putting together the high-profile two-day event.

On the first night of the conference, Major General Charles Bolden Jr., former astronaut and administrator of NASA, took a global look at climate change, while Dana Beach, founder of the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, presented a regional focus. Other panelists included Allison Crimmins, an environmental scientist in the EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation, Climate Change Division, and Tony Bartelme, special projects reporter for The Post and Courier.

The second night examined the effects of climate change on national security with Sherri Goodman, former deputy undersecretary of defense and senior adviser at The Center for Climate and Security. Weighing in on what coastal cities can do were South Miami Mayor Phil Stoddard and Mayor of Beaufort, South Carolina, Billy Keyserling. Former U.S. Congress-
PUTTING SUSTAINABILITY INTO PRACTICE

The Shi Center for Sustainability is a hub for curricular development, student exploration, research, and partnerships in the community and around the world.

man Bob Inglis delivered the closing address. “We also created unique opportunities beyond the conference for these experts in the field to talk with students in small groups,” Fuson points out.

“The consensus was that although the conference would be a capstone component, we wouldn’t want it to be a one-and-done event where people talk about it and then it’s over,” says Dripps. “In the process of planning the conference,” Gordon adds, “we realized we could run with it and make it a yearlong exploration, connecting to students in a wide variety of ways.” So programs throughout the academic year will include a four-part film series, a cross-disciplinary faculty climate change panel next January and an alumni panel in March.

In March, the Riley Institute hosted Jeffrey Ball as its Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. Ball, a former environment editor for The Wall Street Journal, is currently studying how boosting solar energy can reduce carbon emissions globally. “The idea,” according to Dripps, “is to pepper the year with events so climate change is an ongoing dialogue.”

HOPE FOR CHANGE

The point they are trying to drive home is that climate change is having a huge impact both on a national and local level. “Knowing students with families in Houston who were affected by the recent hurricane has made it much more personal,” Dripps says. “Climate change should matter to you because it is impacting you.”

“When you look at circumstances in coastal cities like Beaufort and Charleston, you see an impact not only on coastal businesses and populations, but on military bases as well,” adds Gordon. “Large portions of American bases around the world are in coastal areas or on islands. Those won’t be usable in 25 years, and that diminishes the U.S. presence in those parts of the world.”

So where do we start? “The biggest thing is getting people talking about climate change, even outside the classroom, with their friends and family,” says Fuson. “Once our habits begin to change, we can begin to effect change in our own circles.”

“We constantly preach that to really grasp a problem you have to be able to see it from all sides, and this collaboration illustrates that concept,” Hestermann says.

“We want this yearlong initiative to seed a much broader conversation,” adds Dripps. “We want to infuse climate change into the curriculum so it has a longer-lasting impact. And we’re running out of time, because climate change is getting worse.”

BILL DEBISON
TINY HOUSES,

Big DREAMS

BY RON WAGNER '93

David Latimer '05 is making national waves with his company, New Frontier Tiny Homes.
WHEN DAVID LATIMER

started New Frontier Tiny Homes in 2015, he didn’t envision The Alpha, his flagship model, sitting in the Oculus Plaza at the World Trade Center being broadcast on ABC’s “Good Morning America.” But that’s exactly what happened in December.

Freeform, formerly known as ABC Family, unveiled The Alpha as one of its “25 Days of Christmas” presents that were given away to families impacted by hurricanes, fires or other natural disasters.

“It was so surreal to have my tiny house pull up to the World Trade Center in the middle of downtown Manhattan,” he says.

New Frontier, based in Nashville, Tennessee, wasn’t featured by accident. Freeform selected The Alpha after a national search.

“They looked at every tiny house company they could and said ‘We want this one,’” Latimer says.

There’s a certain irony to a tiny house being given away in the shadow of the tallest building in the United States, and that dichotomy is what prompted Latimer to immerse himself in the tiny homes movement in the first place.

Everything about Nashville right now screams “more.” More people (the metropolitan area grew nearly 10 percent from 2010 to 2015, climbing to over 1.8 million). More buildings (glittering new construction has transformed the once-dormant skyline). More coming (so many cranes loom on seemingly every corner that the Nashville Business Journal has created an interactive map just to keep track of all the new structures).

As he spoke, Latimer was sitting at a table he pulled from under The Alpha’s kitchen floor. At approximately 245 square feet, The Alpha has no rooms to fill up with unneeded stuff because there’s just one room.

Seven other people could join Latimer at the table, however, and above the kitchen space is a king-sized bed. The ceiling is made of reclaimed barnwood, the floor of recycled pallets, the exterior Shou Sugi Ban-treated cedar. Every detail screams mid-century modern with an Asian flair. Quite simply, it’s beautiful, and Latimer’s designs have gained a cult status in the tiny home community.

New Frontier has been featured by dozens of media outlets, including Architectural Digest, the New York Post, the Huffington Post and Country Living, while showing up twice on HGTV’s “Tiny House, Big Living.”

The term “tiny house” describes dwellings that range from 100 to 400 square feet while also describing a social trend focused on downsizing and

An English major who was one class short of a philosophy double at Furman, Latimer is not what you’d call an in-the-box thinker. So perhaps it’s not surprising that all of that “more” makes him see . . . less.

“I’m a big sustainability person, and the amount of materials we use in our construction process is grotesque. So much waste,” Latimer says. “And we wind up building all these rooms that we don’t need to fill with stuff that we don’t use.”
simplifying life. It caught Latimer’s attention after he faced a career crossroads when an upscale bar he opened failed, dealing an ego blow to the self-described competitive perfectionist.

“This was going to be the flagship of what would become a national brand, and it was a disaster,” he says. “I did a lot of soul-searching, and during this time I came across the tiny house movement. It just reached out to me.”

An outstanding high school football player who scored a remarkable 40 touchdowns as a senior at Christ Presbyterian Academy in Nashville, Latimer went to Furman on a football scholarship. Almost immediately, however, he struggled with a litany of physical ailments that plagued him throughout his career and nearly led to a transfer.

“I had an injury right before our first game and wound up redshirting, and that was a game-changer for me. It took all my passion out,” Latimer says. “I didn’t like Furman at the beginning socially, and I wasn’t really engaged academically.”

However, perseverance paid off.

“I wanted to pursue other things that were more creative. I was sick of football and wanted to quit. But I didn’t, and a lot of really good things came from that,” he says. “I learned to find joy in the midst of misery and of great challenge. I learned to take one day and one moment at a time.”

Latimer went on to play three seasons under coach Bobby Lamb, winning a Southern Conference championship in 2004. After graduation, he traveled the world and spent a year in Mutungu, Uganda, where he helped build an orphanage before winding his way back to his hometown and partnering with Zac Thomas, a well-known local builder, to form New Frontier.

Interest has been overwhelming, with a constant bombardment of inquiries about their products from all over the country and the world, but New Frontier’s sales have proven to be much more elusive. Latimer faces a challenge not unlike that faced by Elon Musk with his Teslas: often being unable to sell
Latimer designs all of the New Frontier Tiny Homes’ models, which have drawn rave national reviews.

people a product they want to buy because of entrenched institutional hurdles. Tiny homes, which have wheels, are banned from many areas because of zoning restricting mobile homes, and even if there’s a place for one, banks often refuse to finance their purchase because they’re classified as chattel — personal property — or simply not valuable enough if they rest on a foundation.

“People keep telling me you’ve created a great product, and that was the hardest part. I’m like, no, selling the product’s been the hardest part,” Latimer says. “I would have sold sixty to a hundred homes in the past six months if it weren’t for zoning. These things are changing. It’s a matter of when, not if.”

Instead, he sold five in 2017 and turned his attention to finding other revenue streams.

“How do I make them standard and affordable?” Latimer says. “You start with the luxury market, sustain your business, pay for the growth and the expansion and the economies of scale with revenue until the market can catch up.”

To that end, New Frontier has created a division offering custom spaces. Rhino, an online men’s fitness apparel company, uses one as a mobile retail center, and Latimer is supplying two new designs for the artists’ retreat that renowned children’s book author Cornelia Funke is building in California.

The most ambitious project, however, is a tiny house hotel the company will own in Nashville and hopes to open by the summer of 2018. The idea is to drive prices down without sacrificing quality, generating more sales and buying more time for Latimer to realize his ultimate dream of working with the city to create an affordable housing community out of tiny homes.

“Starting a business is hard. Starting a new business in which your product is illegal and unfinanceable? Yeah, I’ve had a few headaches,” Latimer says with a smile. “I’m terribly idealistic, and a surefire way to bankrupt your business is to only rely on your ideals to guide you… It helps that I’m stubborn and determined, and I believe in tiny homes.”
The same things that almost made Richard Cullen ’71 a football coach make him the lawyer he is today: teamwork, competition and people who need him.

Cullen is a partner at McGuireWoods, where he recently completed eleven years as chairman. A political observer calls him “one of the most prominent lawyers in the nation,” a statement confirmed by his client list, which includes Vice President Mike Pence.

Cullen, a member of Furman’s Board of Trustees, is known for his commitment to personal engagement with everyone from family and friends to clients and colleagues.

“Richard has a remarkable ability to stay connected with many people who want to be connected with him, who seek his advice and good judgment,” says Anne Marie Whitemore, one of his McGuireWoods partners.

He’s also a father who takes a call in the middle of an interview to hear how a work situation is playing out for one of his children. “He’s so good at relationships and caring about others,” says his son Richard Cullen ’07.

His father taught him by example that people and professional passions aren’t mutually exclusive. “You can work hard and have a successful career and also be a good dad and a good husband and a good son and a good brother,” the younger Cullen says.

Cullen still finds the work as invigorating as he first did 40 years ago. “I love solving problems,” he says. “I don’t stress out over taking people’s troubles and making them mine. I enjoy that.”

But he also recognizes the role his ability to connect has played in his career. “To the extent that I’ve been successful as a lawyer, it’s been about relationships,” he says.

The student
Law wasn’t always his passion. If anything could lay claim to that title, it might be football.

Cullen grew up in Staunton, Virginia, and was being recruited by the Virginia Military Institute during high school. But when they suddenly lost interest, he was adrift. His coach made a call to a friend, who happened to be Bob King, the head football coach at Furman. There were no scholarships left, but Cullen was invited to come on his own dime and play.

He studied political science. But the truth is, his Furman years were primarily about the team. “I was just a jock, basically,” says Cullen, a wide receiver who spent a fair amount of time warming the bench.

“I thought I was better than the coaches thought I was,” he says, laughing.
After graduation he was offered a coaching job at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. The offer included an enticing scholarship to Cumberland Law School. But Cullen sensed it was time to choose. "I needed to decide: Was I going to be a football coach or was I going to be a lawyer?"

He made the call and enrolled at the University of South Carolina School of Law.

One year into the program, the dean brought Cullen into his office and observed that he could use some time to mature. The dean suggested he take a year off. But Cullen said he didn't think he would. "And the dean said, 'I'm not really asking.'"

Cullen went back to Staunton and his old summer job as a stringer for the local paper, The News Leader. He'd said goodbye to football and, it seemed, to law as well.

As a young reporter, he had nowhere to hide when a politician came to town, as the senior writers didn't like to cover the visits. One day, Cullen took such an assignment and met M. Caldwell Butler, a Republican candidate for Congress.

Two weeks later he was asked to serve as press secretary for the remainder of the campaign. He stayed on after Butler's victory and was working for him when the congressman cast a key Republican impeachment vote against President Richard Nixon.

Butler was instrumental in encouraging Cullen to go back to law school. "It felt like unfinished business," Cullen says. "It was something I needed to do because of the South Carolina experience."

He enrolled in the University of Richmond's T. C. Williams School of Law and graduated in 1977.

The lawyer

One of Cullen's adjunct professors worked at McGuireWoods and encouraged him to interview with the firm when he finished school. Whittenmore was a member of the hiring committee at the time. "I remember him as a very bright young man," she says. "And I mean bright intellectually and in his enthusiasm and energy."

And that's the same man she still works with today.

Cullen has held appointed political positions twice, serving about eight months as Virginia's attorney general and two years as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, until Democratic President Bill Clinton took office and cleared the way for his own nominees. It's a date Cullen won't forget. "I was fired by Bill Clinton on March 25, 1993," he says, smiling.

Except for those periods, he has spent his entire career with McGuireWoods. As his prominence has grown, so have the titles attached to his clients: mayor, governor, senator, and now, vice president.

Last June, Cullen visited the White House three times for interviews before being retained by Pence to represent him in the Russia probe. "You can't pretend that was normal," he says.

Still, he's doing the same job he always does: aggressively representing a client he believes in. "Fundamentally, it's the same thing," he says.

The mentor

For about a decade Cullen has helped provide a summer internship for a Furman student at McGuireWoods Consulting, an arm of the law firm.

Brandon Boykin '12 was studying pre-law and political science, and playing football, when someone introduced him to Cullen, who then invited Boykin to intern in Richmond. He also shared meals with Cullen's family and went to church with them.

After finishing law school in 2016, Boykin spent a year at the Raleigh office of McGuireWoods. Then, on Cullen's advice, he pursued a position in the district attorney's office to gain trial experience. "He was helping me grow, not only as a person but as a lawyer," Boykin says.

Cullen possesses a powerful combination of skills in both relationships and the law. He fuels them with a work ethic that people can't help but notice.
A Reunion Across the Pond

President Davis joins students and alumni to celebrate study away in London  BY WILLARD PATE

At approximately 8 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7, 1969, an Air India plane carrying 28 Furman students touched down at London's Heathrow Airport. These students were pioneers who blazed the trail not only for Furman's first fall term program in the British Isles, but for Furman's first credit-bearing program in what is now a long list of study away destinations.

The program in the British Isles was the brainchild of former Vice President and Dean Francis Bonner, whose visionary leadership laid the foundation for Furman's now global presence. Dean Bonner, Phil Elliott of the English department and Ed Jones of the history department wrote the letters, visited the sites and did the groundwork in the planning stages. So when the students, accompanied by Jones, left Heathrow that September morning to begin their travels, things went smoothly.

The group started in Canterbury and went counterclockwise through Thomas Hardy country, the Lake District, and back down the east coast before reaching London. During their eight-week stay in London, they lived at the Kenilworth Hotel in Bloomsbury and walked to their classes at Birkbeck College. In November, John Crabtree, then dean of students and professor of English, accompanied them to Stratford-upon-Avon, where they studied at the Shakespeare Institute for four weeks before returning home on Dec. 10.

Forty-eight years later, about 1,500 students and more than 30 members of the faculty have made this journey. Over the years much has changed, yet much remains the same. The groups still tour and then settle into the Bloomsbury district in London for lodging and classes at Birkbeck College. In Stratford, classes are now held at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, but the
program format is the same – lectures from renowned Shakespearean scholars like Sir Stanley Wells and Robert Smallwood, visits to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, and chats with actors both in the more formal classroom setting and in the Dirty Duck pub. Perhaps the biggest change came when Furman adopted the semester system and thus made offering a fourth course imperative. Beginning in 1970, the tour usually started with five to seven days in Ireland, so a logical choice most years has been to extend the stay on the Emerald Isle.

Whether it’s the theater, museums, glorious landscapes or something unique to the culture, the British Isles have always drawn fall term participants back across the Atlantic. Some enroll in graduate programs (The London School of Economics, Cambridge, Oxford, The Shakespeare Institute), or find internships, like Maddie DePree ‘20, who landed an opportunity at the

Sophie Harris ’19 and Campbell Sullivan ’19 pose at Stonehenge during a group tour from Bath to London in September.
Shakespeare Centre in Stratford. Many, however, get the travel bug and return just for the pleasure of going to the theater or walking the streets of London and Stratford once again.

This past autumn, several projects came into alignment and allowed Furman to sponsor a return trip. Mike Harley '82, an alum of the trip, suggested that all alums from 1969–2016 be invited to a reunion in London. Second was President Elizabeth Davis’s enthusiasm for sampling some of our many study away programs that can be counted among the rich offerings of The Furman Advantage. In May, she and her husband, Charles, had joined the slow-food Italy group in Rome for a few days; now she would visit a semester-long program for a week. Third was the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement’s desire to begin sponsoring travel programs. Because the first two projects were already underway, London was selected as the first destination. In late June, Leo Fackler '03, associate director of Alumni and Parent Engagement, sent out an invitation to alumni and parents to join the Davises and the students participating in the 2017 program for their own travel experience and a London reception on Oct. 27.

By the evening of that reception the Davises had spent five days with the students, attending three plays (including the Tony award-winning “Oslo”), taking a coach trip to Canterbury, where Chaucer had his pilgrims “from every shires ende/of England... wende [their way]/The holy blissful Martir for to seke...,” taking in the Harry Potter and Magic exhibit at the British Library, and touring backstage at the National Theatre.

Approximately 60 people gathered to greet the Davises and to swap stories. Alumni ranged from 1950s graduates to Kaitlin Parham '13. Other attendees were Furman alumni who are now living in London or the surrounding area. Beth Brougher '86 fit both categories. Falling in love with the British Isles while a student on the trip in ’84, she took up residence...
abroad almost immediately after graduation. She lives just outside of London, but maintains a flat in Covent Garden, where she stays when she pops into the city to attend theatrical productions.

Robin Reid Tidwell '91, who participated in the program in 1989, has a full schedule as an attorney, but when Fackler's message about an alumni trip to the British Isles came, she knew she had to find time to participate. She could not pass up the opportunity to share the experience with her son Reid '19, who would be there as a student. In the four days Robin was in London, she and Reid visited sites such as the British Museum. Then on her final day, Robin joined the student group for a trip to Cambridge to visit the beautiful King's College Chapel she had seen 28 years earlier.

Catherine Day '84, Elizabeth Partridge '84 and Julie Bledsoe Thomas '85, friends on the trip in 1983, had stayed in touch since graduation and jumped at the chance to have a mini-reunion. Their excitement was palpable as they talked about retracing old steps and exploring new venues: visits to the theater, a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon to pose in front of the guest house where they had stayed 34 years ago, indulging in a "sinful" tea at Harrods, and riding the Tube to the Sunday morning Columbia Road Flower Market, where Catherine, now a master gardener, thought she was in heaven.

As the British Isles program and study away at Furman approach a 50th anniversary, participants will come home with their own memories. And with the alumni office sponsoring more trips, Furman alums will be able to reconnect with those memories as Kaitlin Parham '13 did. "Revisiting one of my favorite cities with fellow Furman alumni made for a trip of a lifetime. It almost felt like I was studying abroad again!"

Associate Professor of History Jason Hansen led an alumni and parent trip to Vietnam in March, and more Furman faculty-led travel experiences will be offered in 2019.
Paris Mountain rises on the horizon behind Fluor Field at the West End as the sun sets in downtown Greenville. It has officially been 10 years since the Greenville Drive became upstate South Carolina's only minor league baseball team, but the Fenway Park-replica is still recognized as one of the finest stadiums in the country.
THE DRIVE WAY

BY RON WAGNER '93

FURMAN AND GReENVILLE'S HOME TEAM CELEBRATE A WINNING PARTNERSHIP

As hard as it may be to believe, the Drive has entered its second decade in downtown Greenville. But before owner Craig Brown is ready to delve into the past, he wants to show off the present.

"Let's get in the baseball mood. Come out and take a look at this," he tells a visitor before opening the back door of the team's offices at 945 Main St. and leading the way outside. Fluor Field at the West End bursts into view, still resplendent green in late November as it spreads panoramically. Mission accomplished.

It's the same view fans enjoyed for the first time last season after a hundred seats were installed on the 30-foot-high leftfield wall as part of a $10 million upgrade. The project earned an award from Ballpark Digest for Best Ballpark Renovation and mimicked a similar expansion at Boston's Fenway Park, which Brown replicated when the field was designed over a decade ago.

That bold idea and flawless execution—incridibly, the first game was played only 11 months after ground broke—prompted Ballparks.com to name Fluor Field the Ballpark of the Year.
“IT STEMS FROM OUR DESIRE . . . TO BRING AWARENESS TO EVERYTHING THAT FURMAN HAS TO OFFER”

when it opened in 2006. The home of upstate South Carolina’s only minor league baseball franchise still looks brand new. That fits nicely with all the new development outside its gates.

Another thing hard to miss from atop the wall are prominent Furman logos on the Furman on Deck Picnic Pavilion beyond the right-field foul line and the roof of the dugout the Paladins use when they play there. You can see one or the other from almost anywhere in the stadium, which meant that last year alone the Furman name was seen by more than 28,000 people in the ballpark.

Both outcomes are exactly what Brown dreamed of when he reluctantly moved the old Capital City Bombers up I-26 after negotiations for a new stadium in Columbia failed.

David Shi ’73 was Furman’s president at the time.

“It was literally the first partnership I sought out,” Brown says. “When you’re new to a community, from a business sense, you’re trying to find the institutions and the people that are most influential. . . . (It started) out first from a baseball side to kind of be Furman’s home away from home, and it’s evolved into a full-scale partnership that’s covered both sponsorship, community messaging, baseball, athletics, academics and many of the community-based institutions that Furman has.”

Latham Stadium, Furman’s home baseball stadium, features a video scoreboard donated by the Drive, and the Paladins have played to crowds of more than 6,000 at Fluor Field. Fluor Field also hosted the Furman Football Fan Fest, and the Drive sponsored the Furman baseball team’s fundraiser, the Upstate Diamond Classic, for the 11th straight year while allowing the Paladins to host games there. But many other less-visible events are just as important.

“We’ve held several May X classes that have gone down to the Drive to learn about the history of baseball, the economics of a minor league team, what it means to be a partner in a community,” says Liz Seman, Furman’s chief of staff and liaison to the Board of Trustees.

Top: The Boston Red Sox send their top prospects to Greenville to get the experience they need to become major leaguers.
Bottom left: Fans enjoy the view from atop the single row of seats recently installed atop the 30-foot-high left field wall at Fluor Field. Bottom right: Drive owner Craig Brown sought out a partnership with Furman soon after he moved the team to Greenville from Columbia, South Carolina.
The Comeback

We have done everything from a mock trial to continuing education events there. Our graduation party is held there. We’ve celebrated Heller Service Corps’ 50th anniversary at the Drive.”

Seman describes the Drive as one of Furman’s “keystone partnerships,” joining the Furman entrance at Bon Secours Wellness Arena, the Upcountry History Museum and the recently opened Furman on Main in the M. Judson Booksellers building. These partnerships further the university’s goal of becoming a more visible part of Greenville.

“We’re not that far, right? Seven miles from downtown to here, but somehow that Poinsett Corridor seems longer,” Seman says. “It stems from our desire to reclaim Greenville since we are Greenville’s university, to bring awareness to everything that Furman has to offer and to provide opportunities for our faculty, staff and students to be engaged in things outside of our gates.”

Every year, Furman plays in front of some of the largest college baseball crowds in the country when it takes on Clemson at Fluor Field.
Brown is a Michigan State graduate, and his strong ties to Lansing have turned MSU and Furman into frequent opponents. He helped set up the football clash between Furman and MSU in 2016, as well as the annual First Pitch Invitational at Fluor Field that always features the Paladins, Spartans and two other teams.

“High school kids all come to college hoping to get a chance to play professional baseball,” says Furman Athletics Director Mike Buddie, a one-time major league pitcher. “And to get to play in a replica of Fenway Park, and to get to play South Carolina and Clemson and Michigan State in that ballpark are definitely recruiting advantages.”

Brown had never been to South Carolina when he and his business partner made the decision to purchase the team after more than two decades working in advertising in New York City. But now he’s as invested in Greenville and the Upstate as anyone.

“Each year you realize more that, yes, this is baseball and you love baseball and everything to do with sports, but fundamentally as a business it’s a community engagement platform, and there are so many things you can do that really can better the community and make the Upstate a better place,” he says. “Our strongest desire is to be part of the fabric of the community,
and if you're part of the fabric of the community that really defines who you should partner with... Furman was very much at the top of that list.”

The Furman Advantage, Furman’s ambitious effort to guarantee every incoming student an engaged learning experience that is tracked and integrated with his or her academic and professional goals, only makes Brown more enthusiastic.

“To have Furman hang their hat on that student experience while at a liberal arts school, but differentiating from the work experience in the community, was a great match with what we try to stand for,” he says. “Partnership is like any relationship. You always need to invest in it. You never should take it for granted... I think we can really help make it come alive, not by talking about it but by showing the end product, the result of what comes from The Furman Advantage.”
W

hat does it mean to be a fan? From the word "fanatical," a fan is motivated by extreme enthusiasm and loyalty. We do not have to look far to find fans of universities, teams or causes. At Furman University, our fans are part of the fabric of our institution.

Being a fan goes beyond celebrating the accomplishments of our sports teams. At Furman a fan is engaged and excited about the many accolades the university receives and proud to celebrate the accomplishments of fellow alumni. A fan serves as an ambassador in the community and takes pride in Furman University. A fan is loyal.

In 2016, we launched The Furman Advantage as the strategic vision for the university. Critical to the success of this vision is the support and loyalty of our fan base. This is why we have created the Furman Advantage Network, or FAN, to drive engagement within our community. Students, alumni, parents, donors, friends, OLLI students, Paladin Club members, Diversity Leadership Initiative graduates, Women's Leadership Initiative graduates and so many more are all a part of the Furman family. Regardless of your connection to Furman, you are a part of our network and help energize and strengthen the Furman community.

We all have a part in delivering on the promises of The Furman Advantage. For us, this means that we must provide valuable connections to all of our fans. Whether you are an advocate for Furman among prospective students, provide an internship, mentor Furman students or alumni, or serve on a Furman board or council, you are a part of the Furman Advantage Network. Being a FAN of Furman now has new meaning. This network of ambassadors will help us deliver on our guarantee that all students receive a transformative education where every experience produces an advantage and every interaction allows an opportunity for discovery.

In the coming months you will hear more about our Furman Advantage Network and the important role you can play as one of our most loyal fans.

Mike Wilson ’88
Executive Director, Alumni and Parent Engagement
LEAVE YOUR MARK ON THE FUTURE—
STARTING TODAY.

YOU CAN MAKE A FINANCIAL PLAN THAT LEAVES A LASTING IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE AND PLACES YOU LOVE MOST.

A planned gift through your will or trust takes care of your family, while establishing a legacy of hope for future generations of Paladins.

Contact plannedgiving@furman.edu or visit plannedgiving.furman.edu to explore our free planning resources.
LISTEN AND LEARN
Jazz, fashion and teaching teachers

BY JEN BOBO

ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR CLASSROOM SUCCESS: 365 WAYS TO BECOME A BETTER EDUCATOR
Doug Campbell ’94

“Essential Tips for Classroom Success: 365 Ways to Become a Better Educator” is a book by an educator for educators. After teaching in public schools for over 20 years, Doug Campbell ’94 decided he wanted to give back. This work is the result. It is a thorough list of 365 tips for teachers who want to become better, covering everything from discipline, relationships at school, wellness, mental health and general success in an education career. He drew on what he learned from his experiences, successes and failures. Campbell hopes that educators are better off after reading this book. A high school educator, he has taught
CONSUMPTIVE CHIC
Carolyn A. Day, associate professor of history at Furman

Long before “heroin chic” made headlines, the emaciated figure and feverish flush associated with tuberculosis victims were admired as beautiful. As the disease spread throughout Europe in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, it became commonplace to regard tuberculosis as a positive affliction, one to be emulated in beauty practices and dress. While medical writers believed that the fashionable way of life of many women actually rendered them susceptible to the disease, Carolyn A. Day investigates the deliberate and widespread flouting of admonitions against these fashion practices in the pursuit of beauty. Day, who joined the Furman faculty in 2012, teaches courses in British and European history as well as the history of medicine.

DON'T BLINK
Matt Olson, co-founder and leader of the Unhinged Sextet and professor of music at Furman

Unhinged Sextet, a jazz ensemble comprised of six leading jazz educators from across the United States, is dedicated to recording the original compositions of its members. They released their second recording, “Don't Blink,” in August 2017, on OPA Records, a Seattle record label. Like their first recording, “Clarity,” “Don’t Blink” has received worldwide radio airplay and numerous positive reviews in jazz publications like Cadence magazine and All About Jazz. Matt Olson, co-founder and leader of the Unhinged Sextet and a professor of music at Furman, has performed with a number of renowned artists, including Aretha Franklin, Natalie Cole, Lou Rawls, Johnny Mathis, Wayne Newton, the Temptations, the Four Tops, children’s entertainer Shari Lewis, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble and the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.
Students, parents, alumni and friends attended the Atlanta Furman Business Breakfast in early February to hear how the Malone Career Center is collaborating with alumni to expose students to various career opportunities. Pictured (from left to right) Jim Ney '64, Frances Robertson—parent, Paul Robertson '82—parent, Carol Ney '67 and Jim Custer '80.

Nearly 700 people gathered at the 2018 Bell Tower Ball on February 24 to celebrate members of the Furman community. This year’s event honored several alumni, a corporate partner and friends of the university for their professional achievements, and generosity, service and leadership to the university and community. Parents Council members Arti Pandya-Jairath and Sanjeev Jairath with their daughter, Meera Jairath ’18.

Christen Cullum Hairston '01 and Steve Hairston.

Ed ’67 and Peggy Ellison Good ’67, Curt and Donna Graham Rene ’67, Sharon Hillhouse McCullough ’67 and Robert Balding
A Nashville holiday gathering was generously hosted by Stephanie and John Ingram, parents of Martha '20, on Dec 15. More than 100 Furman alumni, parents and friends attended the holiday celebration. Marti Morris Judy '06, Meredith Donahue '15, Linsey Crow Osier '02, Emily Leahy Walker '00, Bill and Elizabeth Hawkins, Parents of Caroline '16 with Laura and Richard Jones, Parents of Catherine '16. Stephanie Ingram, parent of Martha '20, and Tricia Carswell '82.
Postings from the Interwebs

Future students, Furman University will change your life and future. If you want to grow in all areas of your life, Furman is the place. @RockyCouch

(My daughter) is happy, challenged, involved and having a tremendous experience in all that Furman has to offer. I am amazed at the opportunity ahead of her with her study away this fall in New Mexico and Africa. The Furman Advantage is simply a gem.

–Margaret Freeman
Parent of a student in the class of 2019

As so many, I remember the moment I drove through the Furman gates as an incoming freshman as if it were just yesterday. I was a little nervous and not entirely certain it was real! Those next four years shaped the person I am today, and I wouldn’t trade my experience for anything. To the class of 2021, welcome home, and I hope you will take advantage of all that Furman can do to shape your future.

–Mark B. Horner ’00

I was a student-athlete on the softball team at Furman. It shaped me into the person I am today. I give to Furman because I want current student-athletes to have the best experience possible.

–Jessie Homesley ’12

Sandra Snow Snipes and I met in Dr. Bates’ English class. We started dating about a year later and married after graduation in 1969. Both of us worked at Furman, worked summer jobs, and borrowed money to attend. I accepted a scholarship of $600 to play football, but tuition increased by $200 before I could enroll. We give because the funds will always exceed the scholarships.

–Frank and Sandra Snow Snipes ’69

Furman provided me with experiences and education that completely opened my world. I want to do the same for others.

–Melinda Long ’82

Andrew ’93 and Carolyn Cook ’92 weeks:
Parent of student in class of 2021
I believe in this institution and the newly developed Furman Advantage. Both my husband and I are alumni, and now our daughter Ashley is going to be a member of the class of 2021!
#furmanlegacy
New at FU

Get an inside look at life at Furman with the new vlog and The Furman :40 video series. Engage with students, alumni, faculty and staff through the new community Instagram account where you can share your stories and photos with other Dins. And make sure to tour the new furman.edu.

FURMAN.EDU HAS A NEW LOOK!

Our new website highlights all things #TheFurmanAdvantage and the university's strategic vision. With more dynamic videos and photos and less text, you can quickly scan pages and find exactly what you're looking for.

FURMAN VLOG

"Hi everybody, my name is RJ Rogers. I'm a current sophomore communications and poli-sci major, and I want to invite you to check out the Furman University vlog. This season you'll see everything from application to graduation and all things in between. We're showing you what it's like to be a Furman Paladin. Head over to our Vimeo channel at Vimeo.com/furman to view installments of the Furman vlog."

@YOURFURMAN

Visit Furman's new community Instagram account @yourfurman and share your Furman experiences by tagging us @yourfurman and using #myfurman.

THE FURMAN :40

Want to stay in the loop with Furman? Check out what's been going on each week with The Furman :40, a 40-second video recap of campus happenings posted weekly on all of our social media channels.

yourfurman We always thought Furman was as pretty as a picture, but @wheatonwhaleydesigns really made it come to life. 🌟 (Bonus: This custom drawing comes as a pillow!)

yourfurman There's no better feeling than being #FurmanBound! 😊 (Tag: @ryan.travis)

ryan_travis Hey that's me!
1963
Colonel Dave Barry (USA Ret.) '63 was inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment, U.S. Army Transportation Corps at Ft. Lee, Va. During his 28 years of active service, Col. Barry served overseas tours in Korea, Vietnam, Germany and England. He now divides his residency between Va., Colo. and Fla.

1967
Carole Coates '67 has received the High Country Writers’ Book of the Year award for “Boyhood Daze and Other Stories: Growing Up Happy During the Great Depression,” a scholarly memoir of her father’s youth and young adulthood during the years of the Great Depression and World War II. Her blog, livingonthediagonal.com, features her personal essays and poetry. She also blogs for Mother Earth News magazine. She is married to Ron Wynn '67.

1968
Hugh Hughes '68 attained the rank of Platinum Life Master in the American Contract Bridge League. He is in the top one-half of 1 percent of masterpoint holders in the ACBL. He has also become the top masterpoint holder for Furman alumni.

1970
David Norman '70 has been initiated as one of the 2017 Academic Fellows of the International Council of Management Institutes. This award is made in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the management consulting profession. Norman is the first recipient of the Academic Fellow of CMC-Global in the United States. Norman founded his own consulting firm, Traction Matters/David Norman & Associates, in 1995 to offer results-oriented management consulting and executive coaching services to small and mid-sized companies and nonprofit organizations.

1974
Pamela Weatherly Carter '74 recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a Ph.D. in special education. She is interested in the clinical side of teacher education, particularly serving as a field placement university supervisor for special education preservice teachers at the internship and student teaching levels.

1979
Bren McClain '79 published her first novel, “One Good Mama Bone,” with Story River Books, the imprint Pat Conroy founded at the University of South Carolina Press.

Filmmaker Felicia Furman speaks on campus
Felicia Furman visited the Furman campus Nov. 1 to discuss her film “Shared History: Families Linked Through Slavery.” Furman, who is a descendant of Richard Furman, has researched her family’s history of slaveholding on both sides, and after a screening of her film, she discussed her efforts to reconcile that past, drawing connections between her experiences and Furman’s current effort to investigate its history and intersections with slavery. The lecture was part of a yearlong series, Seeking Abraham: A Project on Slavery & Justice, organized by Furman’s Task Force on Slavery and Justice. The task force, which was established in the spring of 2017, will examine the university’s historical connections to slavery and create educational programming that can help Furman better understand this part of its past.

Continued on page 59
Sisters Ali Gunn Napier and Jenny Gunn Littlejohn '03 did not want to go to the same college. Like many twins, they were eager to strike out on their own. "We didn't want to be compared - who's the smartest? Who's the prettiest?" Jenny says.

Then they both fell in love with Furman. And, even more unexpectedly, within days of arriving, they both met their future spouses.

As high school seniors in Gainesville, Georgia, most of their friends were heading to the University of Georgia, but Ali and Jenny wanted something smaller and a little farther from home. They both felt right at home at Furman. Each desperately tried to convince the other to go to any other college, "but neither of us would budge," says Ali, laughing.

They arrived ready to forge different paths and requested different rooms, but both were placed in Blackwell Hall, "so we ended up having the same friends," Ali says. One of the first people they met - Will Littlejohn '02 - would marry one sister and play a key role in introducing the other to her future husband.

Even before classes started, Jenny met Will, who was on the Furman orientation staff. "He was working at a carnival on the lawn outside Blackwell, and he spilled a strawberry smoothie on me," she says, grinning. "I like to think he got flustered by my charm." They were soon a couple.

Ali met Billy Napier '03 during orientation week, but it took another twist of fate for them to spark a relationship. Sophomore year, Ali was placed in Montague Village housing, which was quite a trek from campus. She didn't have a car, so Will introduced her to Joe Wilson, who lived at Montague and could give her a ride to class.

Wilson, who was an offensive lineman on the Paladins football team, reintroduced her to Billy Napier, the all-Southern Conference quarterback, and their fates were sealed.

As with most young relationships, it wasn't always smooth sailing. Jenny and Will broke up on graduation day in 2003 and went their separate ways. Jenny moved to Charleston, worked for an accounting firm and then earned a master's degree in English at University College of London. Will earned a law degree at Charleston School of Law.

By 2009 they were both in Charleston and decided to meet at Poe's Tavern on Sullivan's Island to catch up. "When he fell back into my life, it was like seeing your best friend again," Jenny says. Two years later, they were married.

For Ali and Billy, a similar story was playing out. Ali worked in marketing in Charleston, while Billy went to Clemson University to work as a graduate assistant, later becoming offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach there through 2010. They reconnected, and she moved upstate, working at Erwin Penland until they married.

After stints coaching at Alabama and Colorado State, Billy was recently promoted to associate head coach and offensive coordinator at Arizona State. Ali and Billy have been in Arizona for just six months with their children, ages 5, 3 and 1.

Will and Jenny live in Charleston, where Will is an attorney at Holder, Paddock, Littlejohn & Pickett. Jenny is focused on raising their 4-year-old and 18-month-old and is considering baby No. 3.

Though they once craved separation, now the far-flung sisters look forward to the times they can get their growing families together. "Our kids love each other," Jenny says. Though with five kids under 5, "it's a lot louder when we get together now."

All four still reconnect with their college friends as often as they can. "Those friendships - they last," Ali says. "We hold onto those the best we can."
Ronald “Dee” Vaughan ’79 has released a new book, “Seeing in the Dark: Biblical Meditations for People Dealing with Depression,” with Smyth and Helwys Publishers. Vaughan, pastor of St. Andrews Church, Columbia, wrote a devotional resource for people dealing with the emotional and spiritual darkness of depression. Based on his study of Scripture, his own experience with depression and his work with depression sufferers as a pastor, counselor and group leader, “Seeing in the Dark” offers the reader a daily insight into depression and the road to recovery. Each reading includes a prayer exercise based on the day’s theme and ends with a truth to affirm, a short statement of the reading’s main idea to help the reader remember and apply new insights.

1993
J. Benedict Hartman ’93 was recently recognized as 2017 Legal Elite by Georgia Trend. A statewide business publication, Georgia Trend recently published its annual issue honoring Georgia’s leading attorneys for their achievements in various practice areas.

1994
Raymond Neal ’94 is now the continuing education coordinator for NEFLIN (Northeast Florida Library Information Network) in Orange Park, Fla.

2000
Stephanie Gastonoley ’00, a partner based in the Raleigh office of CSH Law, has been reappointed to the position of chair of the DRI Retail and Hospitality Committee. Stephanie began a one-year term as chair of the committee in Oct. 2016 and has been reappointed to the position for a second one-year term beginning Oct. 2017. Stephanie previously served two terms as the committee’s vice-chair and also served as the Women in the Law SLC Liaison for the DRI Retail and Hospitality Committee. She serves as the chair of the CSH Law Retail, Restaurant & Hospitality Practice Group.

2005
Elliott Tapp ’05 was elected a partner at King & Spalding LLP in Atlanta.

2006
Daniel H. Ennis ’06 was elected to partnership of Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP law firm in Atlanta. Ennis is a member of the firm’s Commercial Finance practice group. He represents banks, finance companies and other lenders in a variety of secured lending transactions, including negotiation and documentation of both single lender and syndicated credit facilities.

2008
Matt Kuhn ’08 is now deputy general counsel to Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin. Matt and his wife, Elizabeth Goss Kuhn ’08, live in Louisville, Ky.

2012
Helen Cave ’12 recently completed her Master of Economics degree from the University of Leuven in Belgium.

2014
Emily Jeske ’14 graduated cum laude from Wake Forest University School of Law in May 2017. She is a member of the Order of the Coif and received the National Association of Women Lawyers’ Outstanding Student Award. In law school Emily was an executive editor of the Wake Forest Journal of Law & Policy and a member of the Moot Court Board. She begins her legal career at Smith Debnam Narron Drake Slanting & Myers, LLP, in Raleigh, N.C., as an associate attorney in family law.

2016
Reese Hannon ’16 was inducted into Greer High School’s Athletic Hall of Fame (Oct. 2017). Hannon started from the third game of his freshman year at Furman, was a four-year captain and set school records for total yards (7,922) and passing yards (7,750). Hannon is currently pursuing an MBA at Clemson University while working for Furman’s Paladin Club.

Continued on page 61
The Challenge to be Human

As I answer a phone call from Janet Kwami, I notice muffled conversations and noise in the background.

"Can you hear me OK?" asks Kwami. "I apologize. I'm just sitting down for a treatment."

I can't help but be amazed at the irony of the situation. A professor is taking a call from me at the hectic post-Thanksgiving break time. Also during a time when she's receiving a chemotherapy treatment. And she's the one apologizing.

But such is the nature of Kwami, who (I realize after only five minutes of speaking with her) is the epitome of strength, grace and quiet confidence.

Originally from Ghana, Kwami began teaching at Furman in 2009 after studying and researching in Ghana, then the United Kingdom, and finally at the University of Oregon. With a background in international communication, Kwami focuses much of her research and teaching on communication systems globally and the use of digital technologies by marginalized communities in Africa and China, for which she's received a multiyear National Science Foundation research grant. Kwami also leads a May X study away program in Ghana, where students experience true "backpack journalism," learning the principles and ethics of multimedia storytelling.

"There's a tendency by many in the Western culture to think they know best, and I want to encourage cultural humility in my students," explains Kwami. "Storytelling is an extremely effective tool. A single story can empower or disempower an entire culture or people. I encourage my students to listen, to collaborate and to really question to ensure they're telling a multifaceted story."

Kwami makes her point through the stereotypical illustration of the African child: "How many times have you seen the image of the barefoot, dirty, naked African child, belly protruding? At least a dozen, I'm sure," she says. "That's the easy narrative, the one everyone is familiar with. They treat the diverse cultures of the continent of Africa as 'other' and keep them in that space because it's comfortable.

"The Ghana May X trip is eye-opening for my students because they realize that, unintentionally, they've bought into the narrative that's been told to them. Sure, Ghana has its impoverished areas, but it has many developed areas as well, and the students are always amazed to realize that they have been influenced by an uninformed story."

But for Kwami, it goes beyond teaching her students to be good communicators and storytellers. More importantly, she aims to teach them to be ethical; to be brave; to question; to push for the truth; and then to communicate that truth to an audience who may not want to hear it. She challenges them to be—in her own words—"human."

"To be a good communicator, you must be open with yourself and open to others," she explains, citing how she's dealt with her current battle with cancer.

To be sure, her efforts haven't been lost on her students. Says Emily Stokes, a 2017 graduate and former student of Kwami, "Dr. Kwami has been very forthcoming with her students about her battle with cancer...she even hosts classes over video chat while getting her treatments and makes herself available at all times—no matter what else she is dealing with personally."

"Life can be difficult, but we are all built very strong," says Kwami. "I continue to teach through it all because my students give me strength and energy...We are all learning together—through our research, through what we study and through life."

—Lindsay Niedringhaus '07
BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

Lindsay May Gracey '07, a son, Oliver Michael Gracey, June 16, 2017

Peter and Heather Wilson Morash '05, a son, Luke Elliot Morash, March 17, 2017

Ryan and Grace Herlong Loveless '01, a daughter, Carson Loveless, May 2017

Eric '04 and Kristen Mullins '06 Devine, a son, William Raymond Devine, Sept. 11, 2017

OBITUARIES

Ethel R. Wright '37, Sept. 1, 2017, Greenwood, S.C.


Julia B. Hopkins '40, Sept. 9, 2017, Hartsville, S.C.

John W. Fowler Jr. '41, Aug. 21, 2017, Mullins, S.C.

Mary Jolly McDavid '41, July 17, 2017, Greenville, S.C.


Betty A. Thompson '43, Nov. 13, 2017, Asheville, N.C.

June Kennedy Higgons '45, Oct. 5, 2017, Irvington, N.Y.


Anne M. Parks '46, Nov. 22, 2017, Greenville, S.C.


Ralph Z. Boroughs '47, Sept. 15, 2017, Pickens, S.C.


Ann Harding Bettis '48, Nov. 29, 2017, Greenville, S.C.


Barnett O. Hiott '49, July 16, 2017, Wilmington, N.C.

Paul D. Gallant '50, Sept. 9, 2017, Greenville, S.C.


James Dwight Johnson '54, Aug. 11, 2017, Chapel Hill, N.C.

William C. Miller Jr. '54, Sept. 4, 2017, Fayetteville, N.C.


Nancy Drew '56, Aug. 16, 2017, Raleigh, N.C.


Jimmy R. LaBoon '56, Aug. 4, 2017, Greer, S.C.


MARRIAGES

John Nelson '10 and Kelly Jones '11, May 6, 2017

Austin Bradham '12 and Jennifer Dawson '12, May 19, 2017

Brian Boyd '06 and Kati Lake, Aug. 12, 2017

Continued on page 63
UP CLOSE

Back to School
Sixty years of teaching leads John Crabtree to a new role – student.

On special days, he takes dance classes – hip-hop, jazz, ballroom, even Bollywood.

In 1957 John Crabtree arrived at Furman – still at its downtown location – to teach English. Six decades later, at age 92, he can still be found in the classroom, this time in the role of student.

“I enjoy being a student, especially a student in a class taught by a gifted teacher,” Crabtree says. “And Dr. (Judith) Bainbridge is a gifted teacher.” After decades of pacing at the front of classrooms, he became one of 140 students in a course on mill towns, which meets at the Herring Center in the Crabtree Classroom, named in his honor.

Crabtree served as chair of the English department, academic dean and vice president for academic affairs, and taught many classes at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Founded in 1993, OLLI was designed to help senior adults stay intellectually and physically active. From its founding through fall 2014, he taught Shakespeare as well as American dramatists.

Gladys Spiak, who graduated from Furman in 1966, enjoyed Crabtree’s classes as an undergraduate and then again at OLLLI, where she took five of his Shakespeare courses. “When I retired and joined OLLI, I was pleased to see that he was still going strong and loving to teach,” she says.

Crabtree moved into the Woodlands at Furman three years ago with his wife, Anne, who passed away in May 2017. A longtime advocate for lifelong learning, he then decided to become a student again.

Of the 106 OLLI classes offered that fall, he chose Bainbridge’s course on mill villages. “I’ve always been interested in the mill economy of the South, and particularly South Carolina, and the kinds of lives these people lived in these company-owned villages,” he says.

Bainbridge, a retired English professor who has written 13 mill histories, covering 1819 through the 1990s, and Crabtree enjoyed learning about a time when he heard stories and controversies about local mills but didn’t know the details. “I was finishing my Ph.D. and teaching classes and had four children, so I had too much to do,” he says with a laugh.

Bainbridge was a professor when Crabtree was department chair and dean. She says she always admired his teaching talent, “so it is really flattering that he enrolled in the class.”

– Leigh Savage
Horace B. Free '58, Sept. 9, 2017, Greenwood, S.C.


Alva Waddington '58, Aug. 25, 2017, Murphy, Texas

Kay West '58, Sept. 28, 2017, Spartanburg, S.C.


Mary Anne Kell '59, Sept. 23, 2017, Bowling Green, Ky.


Elaine J. Carver '61, July 11, 2017, Greenville, S.C.


Gary R. King '62, Aug. 8, 2017, Greer, S.C.


Edy Parker Bosworth '63, Nov. 3, 2017, Queen Creek, Ariz.


Daniel Mushegian '63, July 19, 2017, Greenwich, Conn.


Lawrence Lathrop Kapps '67, May 29, 2017, Mooresville, N.C.


Martha M. Woodruff '67, July 18, 2017, Greenville, S.C.


Susan B. Morris '69, July 21, 2017, Greensboro, N.C.

Drennan Thompson '69, Oct. 9, 2017, Charlotte, N.C.

Barbara L. Downey '70, Sept. 6, 2017, Meridian, Miss.


Robin T. Bohn '72, Nov. 22, 2017, Aiken, S.C.

Elizabeth W. Croft '73, Dec. 9, 2017, Greenville, S.C.

Kenneth G. Goode '73, Nov. 28, 2017, Winnsboro, S.C.


James A. Merritt Jr. '78, July 12, 2017, Raleigh, N.C.


Jenkins S. Crayton Jr. '84, Sept. 15, 2017, Greensboro, N.C.

Arianna Wardlaw Galey '84, Sept. 16, 2017, Greenville, S.C.

Margaret C. Davis '86, July 24, 2017, Hendersonville, N.C.


Jennifer L. Mangels '95, Sept. 16, 2017, Greenville, S.C.

David B. Medlin '00, Sept. 22, 2017, Nashville, Tenn.


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**CLASS NOTES POLICY**

We welcome your submissions to Class Notes. Due to the amount of material Furman receives for this section — and the time needed to edit that material — items are often not published until six months after they are submitted. However, please be advised that we rarely publish items more than 18 months old and no announcements of things that have not yet occurred. When sending news of births, please include the parent name(s), child’s name, birthdate, and city of birth; for marriages, include the city and date of the event, the new spouse’s name, and his/her year of graduation if from Furman. News about couples who graduated from Furman in different years is listed under the earliest graduation date. It is not listed with both classes. Incomplete information for any of the above may result in the submission remaining unpublished. The magazine reserves the right to edit submissions.
Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP named Furman senior **John Derek Parsons** the winner of the company's third annual Furman University Juried Art Competition. From Dec. 15, 2017, to Jan. 11, 2018, Furman art students displayed their work in the lobby of Smith Moore Leatherwood's Greenville office.

Parsons' woodblock prints were purchased by the firm and will become part of Smith Moore Leatherwood's permanent art collection.

Winning honorable mention for his collection of acrylic paintings was Furman senior **Jackson Goode**.

*Top Left: “On the Trail” | Bottom Left: “Summertime on the Trail”*
*Top Right: Tami McKnew, Smith Moore Leatherwood; John Derek Parsons ’18; and Art Department Chair Ross McClain*
*Bottom Right: Jackson Goode ’18*
FUrmerical
Fun facts and figures about The Furman Advantage

Furman is improving access to and the quality of high-impact engaged learning experiences as part of The Furman Advantage.

In October 2017, the internships office and the alumni office developed a new program, Engaged City, piloted in Greenville, which connects sophomores to alumni. The students then spend a day exploring their interest in an organization while learning and applying networking skills.

This program will be repeated and expanded to more cities.

26 sophomores
AND
19 alumni/employers
PARTICIPATED IN ENGAGED CITY - GREENVILLE

36 students
HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE CAREER TREK

The Malone Center for Career Engagement launched the Paladin Career Trek Program in the 2017-18 academic year. The program provides students with the opportunity to travel to cities throughout the country to explore career paths, identify job opportunities and connect with Furman alumni and parents working at top companies.

Up to 5 first-year students
ACCEPTED INTO THE DIRECT ENTRY PROGRAM WITH THE USC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE GREENVILLE

33% increase
IN APPLICATIONS FOR STUDY AWAY MAY X PROGRAMS
Paladins are making connections at some of the nation’s biggest companies. The Malone Center for Career Engagement hosted a Career Trek in Atlanta in February for students to visit and network with Furman alumni who work at The Coca-Cola Company, The Home Depot and Chick-fil-A headquarters.