Class Notes

Furman University
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 year-long 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.

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.

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. 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.”

Destined to Be
The words “Furman family” have special meaning for twins Ali Gunn Napier and Jenny Gunn Littlejohn.

By Leigh Savage
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.

1999
Stephanie Gaston Poley '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 Santsing & 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.
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 protruded? 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.


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.


Marriage


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


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


Continued on page 63

FURMAN | SPRING 2018 61
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 OLLL, where she took five of his Shakespeare courses. “When I retired and joined OLLL, 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, Murphysboro, S.C.

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.

Frances Summey Roper '63, Sept. 8, 2017, Easley, S.C.


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, Winsboro, 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 Gailey '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.