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Fine arts initiative helps strengthen town-gown ties

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Athletics upgrades illustrate donor dollars at work

“IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME.”
This quote, made famous in the 1989 film Field of Dreams, is also applicable to Furman. Only in the Furman version, it plays more like, “If they fund it, it will come.”

Furman relies on the generosity of donors to support capital projects and building upgrades. Several athletics projects have recently benefited from designated contributions, and are still seeking support.

**REK Center for Intercollegiate Golf:**
Phase I of the golf center revitalization is complete, with a new short-game facility and renovated practice putting greens. Phase II of the $1.32 million project focuses on expanding the REK Center and a proposed learning center.

**Baseball:** This spring baseball unveiled a spacious new clubhouse, located down the first base line at Latham Stadium. It features indoor batting cages, coaches’ offices and locker rooms. Other additions to the complex will include an expanded press box and improvements in concussions and seating. To date, $1.85 million has been raised toward the $3.5 million goal.

**Pepsi Stadium:** The recently completed, $615,000 softball stadium press box provides enhanced coaches’ offices and additional game-day amenities.

**Soccer Fieldhouse (coming soon):** The $1.5 million, 5,300-square-foot facility will be located between the west end of Stone Stadium and Latham Stadium. It will have locker rooms, an officials room, concession stands, and a second-story viewing deck. Furman has raised approximately $1.2 million toward its goal, with a $450,000 lead gift from Graham Seagraves ’00 and his wife, Jarrell Starnes Seagraves ’00.

**Football Complex:** Late November brought the demolition of the Paladin Stadium press box. Taking its place will be a $12 million, four-story complex (see page 35).

To support the athletics upgrades, contact clint.hill@furman.edu or ken.pettus@furman.edu.

Fine arts initiative helps strengthen town-grown ties

**WHEN FURMAN WAS BASED** in downtown Greenville, it was the epicenter of the city’s cultural scene, frequently playing host to orchestral productions, concerts, plays and festivals. Now, through the impetus of Furman’s Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, gifts from university benefactors and two major grants — $800,000 from the Mellon Foundation and $2 million from The Duke Endowment — a fine arts initiative reconnecting Furman and Greenville is under way.

A key aspect of the initiative is Partners in the Arts, coordinated by Anna Barbre Joiner of the music faculty. It connects Furman to the Peace Center for the Performing Arts, the Upcountry History Museum and other organizations to strengthen students’ access to the professional arts field. More Furman arts events will be held downtown, and Partners in the Arts is collaborating with the Peace Center to sponsor such programs as February’s appearance by the Boston Pops, conducted by Keith Lockhart ’81. At the Upcountry History Museum, campus departments will have an ongoing presence through exhibits, speaker series and other collaborations.

Mellon Foundation funds have allowed the music department to hire a musicologist, and it is working to add a position in arts administration. Theatre arts has used grant funds to provide enhanced acting instruction for students and upgrades of its stage equipment.

Thanks to a donation from trustee Todd Ruppert and his wife, Karen, the art department is involved in a major project with Peter Wexler, a New York artist and Broadway set designer. Furman is digitizing much of Wexler’s professional work, including sculptures, set models, sketches, paintings and photos. An exhibit of Wexler’s work is scheduled this fall at the Upcountry History Museum.

Furman also recently hired Marta Lanier, an admission counselor devoted to recruiting fine arts students, and adopted a marketing strategy to highlight the university’s strength in the arts.

Contact anna.joiner@furman.edu to learn more about Partners in the Arts. To learn more about the overall arts initiative, contact john.beckford@furman.edu.