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Planned gift offers opportunity to impact others' lives

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Furman BECAUSE FURMAN MATTERS

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I REMEMBER WELL how my college search went in the early 1980s.

My parents and I left our home in Columbus, Ohio, and began our tour with universities in the North. My reaction: too cold. We visited schools in the Northeast — too pretentious. We headed South, stopping first at Duke — too big.

Then we arrived at Furman. A family friend who taught there had convinced us to take a look.

I fell in love immediately. I applied Early Admission, and much to the dismay of my parents, didn't have a backup plan. I had no doubt that Furman was where I was meant to be.

Furman provided an environment that was simultaneously protective and liberating. I was a political science major, and while the department

was my family, all my professors made me feel at home. I traveled to Howard University in Washington, D.C., with political scientist Don Gordon — and learned that I had leadership potential. I went to dinners at history professor Bill Leverette's home in the mountains, where we discussed both history and life. I still have the spaghetti recipe English professor Judy Bainbridge gave me.

A speech class at Furman taught me that I had a gift for instruction, and an education class directed my career path away from law school and into both social work and teaching. I have spent the past 28 years as an educator and a clinical social worker. I am currently a high school principal and love every minute (almost) of it.

My husband and I have no children and are both only children. As we began the process of estate planning, we had lengthy conversations about the legacies we wanted to leave. My main thought was to contribute to the institution that fundamentally altered and shaped my life.

It is my hope that my planned gift will impact many lives by providing scholarship opportunities to students who may not otherwise have the financial capacity to consider Furman. I am proud that I am a Furman graduate and that I have the ability to give back.

— JACKIE NELSON JACOBSON

The author, a 1985 graduate, lives in Peoria, Ariz. Reprinted from the 2012 issue of The Advisor, produced by the Office of Planned Giving.

Campaign priorities, closing phase

