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Commentary: Selected quotes and observations from Furman programs and personalities

Furman University

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Commentary: Selected quotes and observations from Furman programs and personalities

“I believe the speed of change will continue to accelerate even faster in our world — and higher education must be defining and leading such change. The challenge for higher education is to clearly define its role for leading change, or risk being subject to the pace of change that questions both our value and relevancy.”

— CHUCK AMBROSE '83, PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY, IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

“I’m leery about placing very young children in any form of organized activity at a time of development when they should be allowed to have spontaneous play. Children need to have experiences where they develop a joy at their own pace. I don’t believe in teaching toddlers through formal instruction.”

— LORRAINE DEJONG, COORDINATOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT’S EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM, IN A *GREENVILLE NEWS* STORY ON THE PROS AND CONS OF SOCCER PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOLERS.

“Mr. Obama’s challenge in 2012 is not the ideological fervor of Tea Party conservatives, but rather the recognition by many working-class and middle-class voters that both parties favor Wall Street over Main Street. While activist groups on the right and left compete to portray big government or big business as the enemy, the silent majority is still out there in the volatile political center, up for grabs.”

— MATTHEW D. LASSITER '92, HISTORY PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND AUTHOR OF A BOOK ON THE EMERGENCE OF THE SILENT MAJORITY, IN A *NEW YORK TIMES* OP-ED.

“One of the great strengths of our country is that our states can pass laws independently, at different times than one another. We basically have 50 different laboratories to test the efficacy of various policies.”

— GREENVILLE ATTORNEY KIRBY MITCHELL '90, DURING A CAMPUS PROGRAM ON SOUTH CAROLINA’S IMMIGRATION LAW.



“It gives me added incentive. It’s a great thing. It’s a way all students can give back.”

— MELANIE SHUMATE '12, IN AN ASSOCIATED PRESS ARTICLE ON FURMAN’S REREV PROGRAM, WHICH CONVERTS ENERGY FROM ELLIPTICAL WORKOUTS INTO CARBON-FREE ELECTRICITY.

“As recent research into teenage bullying and its incipient causes shows, we have to begin by educating our kids. We have to talk with them. We have to interact with them in the media where they interact. That means we have to be on Facebook (even though some of them will tell you that Facebook died the day their parents got on it!). We have to text. We may even, God forbid, have to tweet. We have to have honest conversations with our kids about how adults in a civil society disagree.”

— TROY TERRY, DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES, IN A *GREENVILLE NEWS* COLUMN TITLED “WE MUST TEACH OUR CHILDREN HOW TO TREAT OTHERS.”

“Do you drink water? Do you eat food? Do you breathe air? If you answered yes to two of those three questions, then you’re an environmentalist.”

— ROBERT D. BULLARD, CALLED “THE FATHER OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE,” DURING A CAMPUS TALK.

“Sports teaches you about overcoming adversity and sticking with something when things don’t go well. Sports teaches that to be ultimately successful, there is a lot of work and struggle.”

— GREG LAETSCH '79, FORMER FURMAN FOOTBALL CAPTAIN, NOW MANAGER OF MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY’S SEVEN-BRANCH COMPLEX IN LOS ANGELES, IN A PROFILE IN *RESEARCH MAGAZINE*.