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Constituent Relations Office unites programs

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CONSTITUENT RELATIONS OFFICE UNITES PROGRAMS

AFTER A PERIOD OF RESTRUCTURING, we are pleased to announce that the former Furman Alumni Office is now part of an expanded group, the Office of Constituent Relations.

The restructuring brings such development programs as donor relations, parents programs and the Advisory Council under the same umbrella with alumni relations. It also almost doubles the size of our staff and improves our ability to share information and support each others' efforts.

The newest member of this revamped team is Leo Fackler '03, who joined the office just before Homecoming as associate director. He previously worked in student affairs at Erskine College, and is already making major contributions to our efforts.

Leo, one half of an all-star Furman couple (his wife is Adelaide Duffey '03), describes his return to Furman as "an inspirational experience. In many ways it still feels just like home. Most campus traditions have not changed, and the fountains are still crisp and clean.

"But there are new buildings, programs and, obviously, faces. And it's clear that President Smolla's vision and the advancements being made across campus are going to propel Furman to new heights.

"A major component of all this will be the level of engagement of our alumni, and particularly our young alumni. In the coming months we'll be hosting events for young alumni and working to revitalize volunteer leadership around the country, so alumni should watch for news about Furman people coming to their area — and be ready to attend."



Constituent Relations staffers, from left: Tom Triplitt '76, Patty White, Leo Fackler '03, Tina Hayes Ballew '78, Nancy Liebezeit, Judy Wilson, Allison McCann Foy '05, Theresa Cureton.

One program everyone in our office is already knee-deep in planning is the Leadership Summit, scheduled April 19–21. The summit will bring together all of Furman's leadership groups — from the Alumni Association Board of Directors and Young Alumni Council to the university's trustees and other boards and councils — for a weekend of meetings and programs. The capstone event will be Friday, April 20, when we have our annual "Night of the Stars" for major donors at Greenville's Westin Poinsett.

AFFINITY CARD CHANGE: A big thank you to everyone who has used the Furman Alumni Association Bank of America credit card. For years the affinity card program has paid Furman a small amount based on usage, with the proceeds going into an account to support scholarships for children and grandchildren of alumni.

Unfortunately, with new credit card regulations and changes in the banking industry, Bank of America is canceling the affinity program because Furman is not

a large enough customer. I am currently working to arrange a similar program with another bank. In the meantime you may continue to use your Bank of America card, assuming you've kept up your payments. (That's a joke, folks.) But Furman will no longer benefit.

WHAT'S CALLING YOU NOW?: This summer, the Center for Vocational Reflection (Lilly Center) will sponsor the fourth installment of its popular Alumni Retreat. Scheduled July 19–22, it will feature talks and discus-

sion sessions with current and former members of the faculty and staff, while offering participants the chance to reflect on their lives and career journeys. It's a great opportunity to spend a weekend at alma mater, and to build and renew relationships with members of the Furman family. Visit www.furman.edu/lilly or write rolyn.rollins@furman.edu to learn more.

RECOGNIZING MENTORS: The next time you visit <http://alumni.furman.edu> (the Alumni Association website), look for the "Tribute to Furman mentors" link. There you'll find stories by alumni about the most influential person from their Furman days. A few of these stories have already been published in this magazine. Maybe they'll inspire you to submit an article about your own favorite Furman mentor. If so, we'll be glad to add it to the page.

— TOM TRIPLITT

The writer, a 1976 graduate, is executive director of constituent relations and alumni programs.