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## Thanks for everything, CD

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JEREMY FLEMING

## THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, CD

“BECAUSE I KNEW YOU, I have been changed for good.”

Carol Daniels ended her remarks at her June 10 retirement party with this line from the musical “Wicked.” Those in attendance — and hundreds of Furman students through the years — could easily have responded with one word: “Ditto.”

Since arriving at Furman as a secretary in the early 1970s, and especially since 1974, when she moved to the Office of Student Affairs/Services/Life, Carol may well have “saved” more students than anyone at Furman.

Whether it was a hand to hold, a shoulder to cry on (or cry with), a gentle nudge or a kick in the butt, Carol had a knack for knowing exactly what a student needed at exactly the right time. And she was always on call. As was noted at her party, she would often quote one of her Furman mentors, the legendary Marguerite Chiles, who said, “There is no piece of paper on my desk more important than the student in my office.”

Her official title at retirement was coordinator of student life, a catch-all moniker that allowed her to wear many hats and to oversee or advise everything from freshman orientation to student publications and sororities and fraternities. She was also an academic advisor, and in 2005 she became the first non-faculty member to receive the Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for

Meritorious Advising. She is the only two-time winner of the Chiles-Harrill Award for devotion to students and is an honorary member of Senior Order, the select women’s leadership society. She is also an alum, having earned her degree while working full time.

A colleague once said of Carol, “There are numerous students who would not be alumni without her experience and expertise. She has a very warm and inviting presence that makes even the most troubled student feel comfortable with her.” Carol herself has said, “It’s those students who for whatever reason are not performing as well as they can that I seem most drawn to. It’s wonderful to see them make progress and become more confident. And it’s such a pleasure to have a job in which I can devote my time to students’ interests.”

Many were on hand June 10 to enjoy the festivities, which included a rather excruciating serenade, a performance of “YMCA” by the semi-hunky men of Student Life (pictured), and a slide show featuring a cavalcade of Carol hair-dos and don’ts through the years.

They came to celebrate her years of service, to show their appreciation for her faith and support, and to demonstrate that she had made a difference in their lives.

— JIM STEWART