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Furman Standard builds on legacy of exceptional mentoring

Furman University

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New building to house lifelong learning programs

LIFELONG LEARNING, the process of gaining knowledge and skills throughout a person's life, is alive and well at Furman. In fact, you could even say it's thriving — and not just in undergraduate classrooms.

Since 2000, the Division of Continuing Education has doubled in size and now serves thousands of students each year through its five core programs: Undergraduate Evening Studies (a liberal arts degree program and pre-MBA and pre-CPA courses for 290 working adults); Bridges to a Brighter Future (a pre-college academic enrichment program for 75 at-risk teens); the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (a wide-ranging selection of enrichment courses for 1,200 senior adults); Learning for You (creative educational programs for more than 1,500 children, youth and adults); and the Center for Professional Development (customized training for more than 800 executives).

To accommodate this growth, plans are under way to construct a new building dedicated solely to lifelong learning. The 20,000-square-foot building will be located near the Younts Conference Center and



Timmons Arena on the south end of campus, and will house all lifelong learning programs under one roof. The building will feature multiple offices and classrooms, a crafts room, teaching kitchen, computer lab, and other gathering areas.

The total cost of the yet-to-be named structure is \$6.4 million. Earlier this year an anonymous donor made a \$1.8 million challenge gift for the project on the condition that the university raise \$1 million by June 30. With that condition met, fundraising for the building is nearly complete.

Contact betsy.moseley@furman.edu or visit www2.furman.edu/sites/OLLI to learn more.

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FURMAN BOASTS A LONG TRADITION of excellence in teaching and mentoring. Furman professors, known for their willingness to help others, often maintain lifelong relationships with their students, and alumni continually share stories of how a Furman mentor's influence, advice or sympathetic ear helped pave the way for their future success.

To preserve this tradition, the university is planning a major investment in professional development for faculty. By offering them greater support and expanded opportunities to pursue their research interests, involve more students in their work, and remain current in their disciplines, Furman is demonstrating its commitment to maintaining a faculty that is second to none, and to supporting both current and future mentors.

The Furman Standard is the new fund that will build on the university's legacy of exceptional instruction and guidance. Its goal is to raise \$3 million by the close of the Because Furman Matters campaign in 2013.

Donors to The Furman Standard may honor one or more individuals by pledging \$25,000 (payable over five years) or by establishing a \$100,000 planned gift. The contributions will be pooled to help provide professors the materials, training, development and other opportunities they need to remain leaders in their fields. Donors and those they honor (or their families) will come together at an annual dinner on campus.

Under the chairmanship of George Ligler '71, The Furman Standard already has received more than \$250,000 in commitments. Ligler

and his wife, Fran Smith Ligler '73, have chosen to honor three professors: Dan Boda (music), T. Ray Nanney (computer science) and Lew Stratton (biology). Other designations have come from Jim Ney '64, to honor J. Carlyle Ellett (economics); Don Anderson '66, who chose to recognize Ernest Harrill (political science); and Steve Perry '78, in honor of Don Aiesi (political science).

Excellence in all areas should be celebrated and supported. Through The Furman Standard, the university will ensure that its tradition of outstanding instruction and guidance will live on in perpetuity.

Contact susan.brady@furman.edu to learn more. To read about one Furman professor's impact, see page 45.