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We're not saying goodbye, just so long for now

Tom Triplitt
Furman University

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WE'RE NOT SAYING GOODBYE, JUST SO LONG FOR NOW

AT THE SPRING MEETING of the Alumni Association Board of Directors in early March, we said goodbye to our outgoing president of two years, Clare Folio Morris '83.

Clare was elevated to the presidency in 2009, a year early, after the unexpected death of Randy Blackwell '63. She stepped in at a difficult time and did an outstanding job. As part of her work, she served on the presidential search committee and spoke on behalf of the Alumni Association at President Smolla's inauguration last October.

Clare was already a member of the Alumni Board when I came to Furman in 2002. Her son, Roe, who graduated from Furman this year, was in middle school when she joined the board. Furman is indebted to her for her loyalty and extended service.

Although we will miss Clare's leadership, we should not miss a beat as we welcome Chris Brown '89 as the new Alumni Association president. Chris is a real estate attorney in Greenville and is well known on campus for his tireless work with the Sigma Chi fraternity.

The board also elected two other members to its executive committee: Leslie Smith '91 as president-elect and Rebecca Armacost '89 as vice president.

Leslie lives in Jacksonville, Fla., and works for RailAmerica, a short-line railroad company. She is originally from New Jersey and came to Furman to play on the golf team. She reconnected with the university a few years back when she attended



an alumni retreat sponsored by the Lilly Center for Vocational Reflection.

Rebecca has been on the Alumni Board since 2006 and received the Alumni Service Award in 2005. She works for World Vision, a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization that helps children, families and communities overcome poverty and injustice. She is preparing to move to Florida from southern California. We're glad she's coming back to this side of the Mississippi.

In addition, the board bid farewell to five members who completed their five-year terms: Yates Johnson '59, Joe Moon '76, Ellison Smith '89, Cindy Black Sparks '80 and Bill Turrentine '64. They were presented a gift in appreciation for their work on behalf of alma mater.

We accept nominations for the Alumni Board throughout the year. If you know someone who would be a good board member, please send the name and supporting information to tom.triplitt@furman.edu.

YOU MAY THINK that I work only with alumni, but I'd like to give a shout-out to some of our best volunteers: Furman parents. We have amazing support from parents and grandparents, a number of whom are, not surprisingly, alumni. In addition to their financial support for the university, they are especially helpful in the admission process by hosting events and being great ambassadors for Furman.

We hope all alumni will consider themselves ambassadors for Furman. We had an excellent applicant pool this year, but Furman could still use your help. Take every chance you can to tell college-bound students and their parents about the university, and consider becoming a part of the Furman Admission

Network (FAN), a volunteer group that works closely with the university to locate and recruit strong prospective students.

I did five FAN interviews this spring and enjoyed it immensely. I met some amazing young people and got to "sell" Furman to them.

REUNION UPDATES: It's never too early to begin planning for Homecoming 2011, scheduled for October 21–23. The opponent for the football game will be Southern Conference foe Samford, a school that is quickly becoming a formidable rival. We will have special reunion events for classes ending in 1 and 6, and of course there'll be plenty of fun for folks of all class years.

While you're here, take advantage of the wonders of downtown Greenville. If you haven't been to the area in a while, you won't believe how downtown has evolved. And for cycling enthusiasts, Greenville is becoming quite the destination, so call the Alumni Office to learn about the city's cycling routes.

On a separate note, the 17th Furman Singers Reunion is set for June 17–19 under the direction of Bing Vick and Hugh Floyd, the past and current conductors. Rehearsals will begin Friday night, and the weekend will culminate in a Sunday morning performance at Greenville's First Baptist Church.

Registrations are being accepted through May 31. Visit <http://alumni.furman.edu> to learn more.

— TOM TRIPLITT

The author, a 1976 graduate, is director of the Alumni Association.