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Strategic planning initiative launched

Furman University

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STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

A WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION involving virtually all Furman constituencies has been under way since December as the university prepares a new strategic plan.

Discussions with faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, and community representatives will contribute to the development of a set of guiding principles focusing on four themes: broad strategic directions to guide future growth, institutional identity (including the university's academic mission and religious heritage), external relationships, and resource and programmatic allocations.

"Furman has a strong record of strategic planning, and the efforts over the past decade have provided a detailed roadmap for the university's advancement," says President Rod Smolla, who is chairing a 16-member steering committee consisting of students, faculty, staff and senior administrators. The committee is charged with gathering information and drafting the strategic plan, which is scheduled to be presented to the board of trustees at its mid-April meeting.

"Our intention is to build on the initiatives already under way, to conduct our work in concert with that of existing divisions, departments and offices, and to chart a general course that will provide flexibility in meeting the challenges of a rapidly changing higher education and competitive landscape for Furman," Smolla says.

The process will include open forums on campus, meetings with alumni and community members, on-line submissions, and a general survey, which was administered in January.

Drug Action Council in Greensboro, N.C., and was associated with the Human/Economic Appalachian Development Corporation in Berea, Ky. He was also active as a volunteer youth coach in the Charleston area.

Calvin Wesley Morrow '64, September 10, Rock Hill, S.C. He was a Baptist minister in South Carolina for more than 45 years, retiring from Roddey Baptist Church of Catawba. He was pastor emeritus of Calvary Baptist Church in Rock Hill and was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

Roy Clarence Barnes '65, May 8, Lancaster, S.C. He was minister of music at First Baptist Church of Lancaster for more than 33 years and was also the church's associate pastor and senior adult minister.

He traveled on numerous mission trips and was a soloist with various music groups, including the Singing Churchmen of South Carolina. He was a charter member of the Century Men, served as chaplain of Springs Memorial Hospital, was a past president of the Lions Club, and was a Rotarian.

Joseph Daniel Martin, Jr. '66, October 24, Chester, S.C. He was a retired band director from Chester Middle School, where he was Teacher of the Year in 1997-98. He was former band director of Dorman High School in Spartanburg, S.C., where under his leadership the school was the 1970 winner of the Cherry Blossom Festival National Marching Band competition in Washington, D.C. North Lakes Sertoma Club named him Man of the Year in 1975.

Harriet Lee Gibson '67, November 1, Landrum, S.C. After completing her certification as a registered nurse in 1946, she enrolled in the Army Nurse Corps. She served as a registered nurse for more than 20 years before returning to school to obtain her bachelor's degree. Afterward she taught in Spartanburg District 1 Schools for 20 years. She was a longtime volunteer for Mobile Meals, founded the "Great Friends" program at White Oak Manor, was involved in Landrum Friends of the Library, and played an instrumental role in establishing the Landrum Cemetery Perpetual Care Association. In 2004 she received the Landrum Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year Award.

Donald A. Prewette '67, October 26, Bellingham, Wash. After high school he entered the U.S. Naval School of Music in Washington, D.C. He went on to play in U.S. Navy bands for three years, having the honor of playing "Taps" numerous times at Arlington National Cemetery. He eventually became an ordained minister and was pastor of churches in South Carolina and Georgia for 23 years before retiring to Bellingham in 2004. Active with the Boy Scouts, he also sang with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus. He was a life member of Inman (S.C.) Masonic Lodge No. 201, 32 Scottish Rite Masonry, Valley of Atlanta Orient of Georgia, and Yaarab Shriners of Atlanta.

Frank Arthur Hooper III, M.A. '70, August 27, Hickory, N.C. After military service with the U.S. Navy during World War II, he was a pastor and missionary to Israel from 1956 to 1968. He was also a science teacher and a drug abuse counselor.

Henry Ravenel "Pat" Nicholson '71, September 3, Greenville. A U.S. Navy veteran, he was an art teacher in several South Carolina cities.

Kathy Lee Shell '73, October 15, Towson, Md. She taught for many years at John Ruhrah Elementary School in Baltimore and held an Ed.D. degree in education from Johns Hopkins University.

Caren Gayle McDonald Archer '77, August 30, Atlanta. She was employed as a capital markets specialist at C&S/Nations Bank in Atlanta for seven years and was a substitute teacher for five years at various Henry County schools. She was active in the Woodland High School Athletic Boosters Club and in Henry County community activities.

Ruth W. Brewster, M.S. '82, September 18, Travelers Rest, S.C.

Judith Ann Ford Owen, M.A. '82, November 5, Travelers Rest, S.C. Judy worked in quality control for Digital Equipment Corporation and managed the ISO 9000 certification for Habibat Belting.

Laura Ann Lewis Owens '82, October 24, Atlanta. She was a partner in the Atlanta law firm of Alston & Bird, working in the products liability group, and was recognized nationally for her expertise in drug and product liability. She served on the American Bar Association's products liability committee and the organization's subcommittees on pharmaceuticals, medical devices and consumer products. Prior to joining Alston & Bird, she worked at the King & Spalding firm.

Pamela Hauer Wallace, M.A. '84, November 17, Rockledge, Fla. She retired to Rockledge after a 26-year teaching career in Simpsonville, S.C.

Barbara Morris McAbee '86, October 25, Greenville. She was a pediatric nurse practitioner with the Christie Group for 32 years.

Wesley Marion Lowder '01, November 3, Chapel Hill, N.C. He was owner of the Reservoir Bar.