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Furman University

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Parents, grandparents accept challenge, surpass \$1 million in gifts

THE 2009-10 FISCAL YEAR proved to be a milestone in fundraising among current and former Furman parents and grandparents.

For the first time, they combined to contribute more than \$1 million to the university to support annual operating needs.

"Furman parents and grandparents continue to see firsthand the difference their contributions make in the educational experiences of their students," says Judy Wilson, director of parents programs. "These funds support a wide variety of programs, including study away, athletics, undergraduate research and internships,

sustainability, student life, performing and fine arts, scholarships, and service learning."

Much of the impetus for the success of the Parents Fund drive came from a challenge introduced by the Parents Campaign Committee, chaired by John and Ellen Yates. The committee issued a \$50,000 challenge to members of Parents Council, the volunteer leadership group of current Furman parents. Parents Council, chaired by Buck and Debbie Wearn, matched the PCC challenge with an additional \$50,000 in leadership gifts.

Says Buck Wearn, "Furman recognizes the

great commitment parents and grandparents make to support the university's mission. We are proud of the strong support we've shown, and we look forward to providing continued support for daily operations."

In all, Furman parents and grandparents have contributed almost \$25 million toward the \$400 million Because Furman Matters campaign.

Visit www.furman.edu/parents or e-mail judy.wilson@furman.edu to learn more about parents programs.

Campaign progress to date

FURMAN IS MORE than three-quarters of the way toward completing the \$400 million Because Furman Matters campaign.

At the close of the 2009-10 fiscal year June 30, the university had raised \$307.5 million in gifts and pledges, and had celebrated such achievements as the dedication of the Townes Center for Science, the launch of a permanent endowment for the Lilly Center for Vocational Reflection, and the creation of Furman United, a scholarship fund to aid students who are facing financial hardships.

In the coming year, Furman will be revitalizing the campaign under the direction of new president Rod Smolla. The campaign will refocus on such ongoing goals as building the university's endowment, boosting scholarship support, and expanding internship, research, study away and faculty development programs.

