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2010 graduates head weatherization program through Furman, AmeriCorps

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Wounded Warrior Project receives university support

ON JULY 11, 2007, while on combat patrol in Baghdad, Capt. Wayne Waldon '04 was injured when an IED (improvised explosive device) struck the Humvee in which he was riding.

Waldon, an Army Ranger and platoon leader with the 3rd infantry, suffered a severe injury to his right leg, to the point that it had to be amputated just above the knee. He would go on to receive the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Because of his determination, positive attitude and hard work during and following his recovery, Waldon is credited with being an inspiration to others undergoing rehabilitation for similar injuries at Walter Reed Hospital. He has also testified before Congress about meeting the needs of injured veterans.

Now retired from the military and associated with defense contractor General Dynamics in Fairfax, Va., Waldon is a strong supporter of the Wounded Warrior Project. The non-profit, founded in Roanoke, Va., is dedicated to helping those who have been wounded in the line of duty as they make the transition, both physical and mental, from the front lines to the home front.



JEREMY FLEMING

Waldon (left in photo) returned to campus October 9 for Military Appreciation Day at the Furman-Howard football game. He was accompanied by Harvey Naranjo, the adaptive sports program coordinator at Walter Reed.

During halftime, the two accepted a check for \$1,925 raised by Furman students and friends to support the Wounded Warrior Project.

Visit www.woundedwarriorproject.org to learn more.

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THANKS TO A THREE-YEAR, \$286,000 federal grant from the South Carolina Commission on National and Community Service, two 2010 Furman graduates are working on campus this year as members of AmeriCorps.

Jennifer Guinter and Ricky Harris are working with Furman's Community Conservation Corps (CCC), a group dedicated to energy conservation and financial stability for the Greenville community primarily through the weatherization of low-income homes. The federal grant was awarded to Corps United, a partnership of United Way of Greenville County, United Way of Pickens County, Furman and several area non-profits.

Guinter and Harris led a CCC effort to weatherize 10 homes this fall, with plans to do the same for up to 50 additional homes by the end of July 2011. Weatherization involves such measures as weather stripping doors and windows, adding insulation, exchanging incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescents, installing vapor barriers in crawl spaces, and fitting foam pads behind outlet and



switch plates, all in an effort to promote energy conservation and financial stability.

"You don't really think about weatherizing as a way to boost financial stability," Harris said. "But for the residents who pay up to one half of their fixed income to cover utility bills, these weatherization techniques help them save money, get out of debt or use savings for other essentials."

Furman's pilot weatherization project took place last April, when the CCC joined with Heller Service Corps and the city to weatherize five low-income homes and a community center. The CCC operates through the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability.

AmeriCorps programs engage approximately 85,000 people each year through more than 3,300 non-profits across the country. AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that involves five million Americans in service each year.