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SMOLLA ERA OFF TO AUSPICIOUS START

HAVING JUST COMPLETED a rousing Inauguration Week at Furman October 17-24, beginning with a series of service projects among alumni throughout the Southeast and concluding with Homecoming Weekend, you'll forgive the staff of the Alumni Office if we join together for a collective sigh of relief.

But what a week it was! From the service weekend to the various activities surrounding the inauguration of Rod Smolla as Furman's 11th president (see page 2) and on to Homecoming, it was a period perhaps unsurpassed in university annals for sheer volume of activity and excitement.

What struck me most, though, was the way Furman people — faculty, staff, alumni, students — came together to pull off such an impressive array of projects, many of which had never been attempted before. Who would have believed what a great setting the main campus mall would be for the official installation? The good vibes generated that day and, indeed, throughout the week carried over into Homecoming, where once again the Furman faithful turned out to celebrate the past, marvel at the present and anticipate the possibilities to come.

Those of you who have met President Smolla and his wife, Michele, know that they have inviting personalities and a ton of positive energy, and that they have brought incredible style and enthusiasm to their demanding new jobs.

If the first few months of the Smolla Era are any indication, Furman's future is indeed bright.



RECENTLY I HEARD FROM MAC WALTERS '42, who was among the first people to move into The Woodlands at Furman continuing care retirement community. Located just a mile outside the campus off Old Roe Ford Road, The Woodlands, which has been open for a year and a half, has attracted a diverse population of individuals, many of whom, like Mac and his wife, Donna, have close ties to the university.

Mac practiced tax law for 50 years, including stints as the U.S. Commissioner of Internal Revenue and as an assistant attorney general. Since he's kept tabs on his new neighbors, we asked him to tell us about the variety of folks with Furman connections who now call The Woodlands home.

One is legendary Furman professor Charles Brewer, William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of Psychology. While Brewer isn't ready to retire from teaching, he has already prepared for that eventuality with his new accommodations.

Helen and Moffett Kendrick are other early enrollees at The Woodlands. Moffett was vice president for development at Furman from 1967 to 1987, and Helen also worked at Furman in the audiovisuals department.

Among alumni living at The Woodlands is Ned Mabry '40, who had a distinguished 30-year military career during which he served under George Patton and was awarded the Legion of Merit. In the mid-1960s Ned commanded the largest expansion of the Army's officer candidate program since World War II.

After graduating from Furman in 1960, Martha Crawford Muncrief taught for a time in Atlanta. She went on to a career that took her to the Peace

Corps in Chile and ultimately to a Ph.D. in psychology from Ohio State University. She taught education and psychology at Oklahoma State University, Cornell and the University of Houston, from which she retired.

Chuck Evans '69 (M.A. '71), a longtime teacher in Greenville County schools, is another charter member. As a rabid fan of Furman athletics who is also involved in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, a popular enrichment program for many area residents, Chuck especially enjoys The Woodlands' proximity to the campus.

What draws these and others to The Woodlands? In addition to the cultural, athletic and educational opportunities on campus, downtown Greenville, with its ever expanding attractions, is just a short drive away. Residents also have the opportunity to work with Furman students, many of whom volunteer at the retirement community or engage in research or internship opportunities there.

Moreover, The Woodlands offers a host of residential options. In addition to independent living, it provides long-term, customized care ranging from assisted living apartments and memory support to skilled nursing suites.

The Woodlands describes itself as "the retirement community of choice by nurturing a distinctive culture of enrichment for our residents."

To learn more, call (864) 371-3100 or visit www.thewoodlandsatfurman.org.

— TOM TRIPLITT

The author, a 1976 graduate, is director of the Alumni Association. Photo by Jonathan Andersen '09.