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One alum's Furman hero story

Furman University

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David and Megan **Mathis**, twin sons, Coleman Richard and Carson Thomas, July 1, Minneapolis, Minn. David is a theological assistant to pastor-author John Piper.

Eugene and **Anne Marie Tominack '02 Sibal**, a daughter, Lennox Marie, February 5. Eugene is a dental student at the Medical University of South Carolina. Anne Marie is an attorney in the U.S. Air Force stationed at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Russell and **Mary Beth Lemmons Young**, a daughter, Emary Claire, March 16, Greenville.

04

Cameron Howard of Tampa, Fla., graduated from Nova Southeastern University in June with a certificate in endodontics and a master's degree in dental science. His wife, Haley, graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia. Cameron has joined a group in the Tampa area, and Haley is pursuing a pediatrics internship at the University of South Florida.

Matt Lynn is Latin American project coordinator for BiblioWorks, an organization based in Asheville, N.C., that provides funding to equip and build rural libraries in Bolivia, train library workers and teachers, and promote literacy. Before joining BiblioWorks, Matt served in the Peace Corps for two years. Visit www.biblioworks.org.

Art work by **Nikki Pressley** is featured in the California Biennial exhibition, which runs through March 13 at the Orange County Museum of Art. Nikki is one of more than 40 artists and collaborative groups included in the exhibition, whose goal is to present new developments in contemporary art and showcase emerging artistic talent.

Lori Ann Forrest Ricklefs has graduated from West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine with a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. She is pursuing an internship at Charleston (W.Va.) Area Medical Center.

Franklin E. "Trey" Warren III has been promoted to vice president of Q10|Professional Mortgage Company.

He has been with the Greenville-based commercial mortgage banking firm for six years. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute and is active in the Upstate ULI Young Leaders group.

MARRIAGE: Mandy Atkinson and Gordon Stallard, April 3. They live in Simpsonville, S.C. She teaches French at Laurens District 55 High School.

BIRTH: Christopher and **Joyce Monforte Hollins**, a daughter, Meredith Joyce, February 11. They live in Franklin, Tenn.

05

Caroline Bentley has been named assistant women's tennis coach at Furman.

A three-time all-Southern Conference selection in both singles and doubles during her undergraduate days, she recently earned an MBA degree from the University of Alabama, where she was a volunteer assistant coach. She has also been an assistant at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

Justin William Cash earned a Master of Laws degree in taxation from American University's Washington College of Law.

Michelle Kannan has become manager of alumni relations at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Va.

Kristin LaRoche has been named grants administrator in the Office of Sponsored Programs at Clemson University.

Jessica Hawley Sharp graduated from Converse College in July with a Master of Arts degree in teaching in early childhood education. She is interim director of the Child Development Center at the YWCA of Greenville.

MARRIAGES: Tina Denmark and Justin James Myers, August 21. They live in Prairie Village, Kan., where Tina is a healthcare information technology consultant and Justin is a chef for the Hyatt.

Jim Eubanks and **Komal Patel '06**, August 21. Jim, who was profiled in the spring 2009 issue of *Furman* magazine for his work as the youngest abbot of a Buddhist order, completed chiropractic study at Logan University in St. Louis, Mo., while earning a master's degree in sports science and rehabilitation and becoming a certified strength and conditioning specialist. He and Komal have moved to

ONE ALUM'S FURMAN HERO STORY

IN THE SUMMER ISSUE of *Furman* magazine, we asked you to send us your story (or stories) about your Furman hero — the professor, administrator or coach whose guidance, influence or counsel had a lasting impact on your life.

Among the earliest responses we received was one from John James, a retired Baptist minister and member of the Class of 1944. Now 87 years old, James, who lives in Charlottesville, Va., recalls a seminal moment from his senior year.

"The one person who actually changed my way of thinking was [sociology professor] Laura Ebaugh,"



he writes. "On one of her tests, she asked, 'Who are the Negroes?' Like a nut, I answered, "The Negroes were put on Earth to serve white people." When she returned the test to me, she scribbled on it something like, 'Where did you get this idea?' This began a remarkable change in my attitude toward African-Americans."

John James told his story in one short paragraph. Even after 66 years, he still remembers how one pointed question from Miss Ebaugh (photo) led him to rethink his attitudes and reconsider his opinions.

Isn't this a major aspect of what a liberal arts education is supposed to do — teach us to think

about, examine and re-examine ideas, however uncomfortable the process may be? To take what we learn and apply it in our daily lives?

These are the kinds of stories that we're continuing to collect. If you are willing to share your tale about the person (or persons) who set the standard for a Furman education in your mind — who inspired an "aha" moment in you — we'd like to hear about it.

Please send your story to jim.stewart@furman.edu, or mail it to Jim Stewart, Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. 29613. We plan to publish the stories in some form, either on-line or in the magazine.