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Women lawyers' group taps Furman grad

Furman University

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and worked for Cullum Galleries. She was also an accomplished bridge player.

Obera Byars Pruitt '37, April 28, Anderson, S.C. She taught home economics at Girl's High School in Anderson and at Pendleton (S.C.) High School. She was an assistant home agent of Anderson County and was home agent for York County, Lowndesville High School, Belton and Belton-Honea Path High School. She was a member of Theta chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, the Anderson County Woman's Club, Anderson County Education Association and Golden Hour Garden Club.

Charles Alvin Batson '38, May 20, Columbia, S.C. A veteran radio and television broadcaster, his 45-year career began in 1936 at an NBC affiliate in Greenville. He was one of the first military draftees from Greenville in 1941. He was sent to England and became part of the force invading North Africa, after which he was assigned to Allied Force Headquarters in North Africa as radio officer

on General Eisenhower's staff. After being transferred to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., he became executive officer of the radio branch in the War Department Bureau of Public Relations. He left the military in 1946 with the rank of major. That same year his television career began at the National Association of Broadcasters in Washington and New York City, where he was director of television. He returned to South Carolina in 1951 as director of television for the Broadcasting Company of the South (later Cosmos Broadcasting) and was instrumental in putting WIS-TV in Columbia on the air in 1953. He rose to the position of president, chairman and chief executive officer of Cosmos and held all three offices when he retired in 1981. He was the first television broadcaster to be president of the S.C. Broadcasters Association and was later inducted into the group's Hall of Fame. Active in the community, he served on a host of boards for professional and charitable groups.

Frances Wertz Owings '38, October 13, Virginia Beach, Va. She was a retired teacher with Norfolk (Va.) Public Schools, where she taught for 30 years. She was a member of the Fidelis Epsilon chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa.

Louise Bolt Alverson '40, March 16, Paris, Ky. She held a variety of editorial positions with the *Paris Daily Enterprise*, a newspaper started by her husband in 1942. Following the sale of the newspaper in 1975, she became associated with the Paris-Bourbon County YMCA where she worked until retiring as head of public relations in 1997. Active in her community, she served three years as chair of the Crippled Children's Society, as an officer in the Bourbon County Women's Club, and as a member of the library board. She was also a member of the Jemima Johnson Daughters of the American Revolution chapter and was an avid golfer.

Goldie Wood Christopher '40, April 29, Greenville. She was a retired vice president with First Citizens Bank of Great Falls, S.C.

Wilbur T. Reid '40, April 19, Darlington, S.C. He was a Baptist minister.

Margaret Ashmore Johnston '41, March 27, Lexington, N.C. She taught briefly at Berea High School in Greenville.

W.E. "Gene" Curry '43, February 26, Munroe Falls, Ohio. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War and was employed by the B.F. Goodrich Company for 41 years.

Henry J. Gambrell '43, April 6, Greenwood, S.C. He was a Baptist minister for churches in South Carolina and Georgia. He was a Mason for 60 years.

Nancy Elizabeth "Bettie" Powe Christopher '44, April 26, Greenville. She was a teacher in the Greenville County School District. A talented violinist, she was a past president of the Greenville Music Club and performed with the Foothills Philharmonic Orchestra. She also played with the Scoopers, a string ensemble.

WOMEN LAWYERS' GROUP TAPS FURMAN GRAD

The oldest women's bar organization in the United States has a Furman alumna at the helm.

Lisa Stevens Gilford, a 1990 graduate and an attorney with Alston and Bird LLP in Los Angeles, was installed July 23 as president of the National Association of Women Lawyers, the nation's leading voluntary organization devoted to the interests of women lawyers and women's legal rights. During her one-year term she will preside over the group's executive board, help oversee the organization's daily operations, and serve as the group's principal media contact on noteworthy legal issues.

According to Gilford, the NAWL, founded in 1899, played a key role in the women's suffrage movement and other women's rights matters during the 20th century. It is an advocate for women in the legal system while providing programming and support for women lawyers, law students and other professionals.

"I am honored to lead such a longstanding and significant group," says Gilford. "NAWL's mission of advancing women in and under the law is personally important to me."

After earning a degree in political science from Furman, where she was a Truman Scholar, Gilford earned her J.D. from the University of Southern California and a Master of Laws degree from Georgetown University. She has more than 15 years of experience in trial law and is a partner in Alston and Bird's Litigation and Trial Practice Group.

Active in many bar, civic and trade organizations, she is a frequent lecturer on such topics as California tort claims, diversity issues and professional development concerns for women lawyers. She has been named a "Rising Star" by *Southern California Super Lawyers* and is chair of the DuPont Minority Job Fair for the Western Region. In 2008 she received the



J. Michael Brown Award from DuPont for her commitment to diversity, recruiting and mentoring in the legal profession.