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Dan Foster was one of journalism's finest

Furman University

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Josephine “Jo Jo” Sheppard Rogers Engler ‘46, March 15, Augusta, Ga. After graduating from nursing school at Vanderbilt University, she trained at Johns Hopkins University to be supervisor of the first premature infant nursery at University Hospital in Augusta. She also taught pediatric nursing at the Barrett School of Nursing and served as a medical missionary in Liberia.

Joan Flandreau Wernsing ‘46, November 5, Hendersonville, N.C. She was a teacher and a community volunteer.

Earl Paulk ‘47, March 29, Atlanta. He was founder of the Cathedral at Chapel Hill in Georgia’s DeKalb County and was for a time a national leader among independent charismatic churches. He wrote a number of books and was invited to

a White House prayer breakfast by Ronald Reagan. His public housing ministry was named by George H.W. Bush as one of his thousand points of light.

Christopher Jefferson Futrell, Jr. ‘48, March 7, Laurens, S.C. After graduating from seminary, he served as pastor of Baptist churches in Kershaw County, S.C., and Blythewood, S.C. He went on to serve on the staff of the South Carolina Baptist Convention as an associate director of discipleship training and as a media library consultant. In 1993 he retired from the convention to become director of missions for the Ridge Baptist Association. He was the associational director of Discipleship Training for Lexington Baptist Association for many years and served for a time as president of the Pastors Conference

in Kershaw and Columbia Metro Baptist associations. He was chosen the Outstanding Alumnus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for South Carolina in 1993 and was recipient of the Church Media Library Award from the Southern Baptist Convention.

Samuel Neely Smith, Jr. ‘48, May 12, Columbia, S.C. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and then worked for the Burroughs Corporation for 31 years before retiring. He was a member of the American Legion and the Civitan Club.

Ansel L. “Ace” Bridwell ‘49, May 15, Greenville. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and was employed as the human resources director at the Poe Plant of Burlington Industries for 25 years.

Jane Alexander Carson France ‘49, March 16, Greenville.

Floyd Fredrick Griffin, Jr. ‘49, March 22, Greenville. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and went on to be a family physician. He was past president of the Lion’s Club and volunteered with Meals on Wheels.

Jean Sedberry Lawrence ‘49, April 14, Greenville. In 1965 she started the kindergarten program at White Oak Baptist Church, where she taught and served as director for 25 years.

Cecil Phillips Satterfield, Sr. ‘49, May 6, Greer, S.C. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and a retired employee of Liberty Life Insurance Company.

DAN FOSTER WAS ONE OF JOURNALISM’S FINEST

Dan Foster’s death

May 22 at the age of 80 left a gaping hole in the journalistic world, locally and nationally.

Generations of Greenvilleans enjoyed Foster’s newspaper stories and columns during his 52 years of covering sports in the state, region and nation. When he retired as sports editor of *The Greenville News* in 2000, he received a host of awards, including the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest civilian honor. He was also elected to the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame.

Upon his death, Foster, a 1949 Furman graduate, was remembered as much for his personality and friendliness as for his works. The *News* described him as “a man who loved life and lived it to the fullest. He was a master storyteller — [whether] penning one of his thousands of columns or spinning a yarn in the elevator . . . he had a kind word for everyone, and if he had time, a story that would leave you in stitches.”



And although Foster didn’t practice his craft in the nation’s media capitals, he was highly respected by his peers. He was a former president of the National Football Writers Association and was enshrined in the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Hall of Fame. He covered everything from Super Bowls to the Masters to the NCAA Final Four. His most memorable event, he once said, was the earthquake-marred 1989 World Series between Oakland and San Francisco.

Foster was sports editor of *The Hornet*, Furman’s student newspaper, during his undergraduate days, while also working at the local paper. After graduating he wrote for the *Greenville Piedmont*, the afternoon paper, before entering the Air Force during the Korean War. He returned to Furman as sports information director during the era of basketball standouts Frank Selvy and Darrell Floyd. Soon, though, he resumed his newspaper career, where he would remain.

The *News* credited Foster with playing “an undeniable role in helping young black athletes during a time when our Southern culture was defined by a separate, and surely unequal, way of life. Long before it was expected, Foster covered black athletes in [Greenville]. In doing so, he gave many young blacks

a chance at a college scholarship and opportunity to break through racial barriers.”

The *News* quoted Jesse Jackson, the Greenville native and civil rights leader whom Foster assisted in landing a football scholarship to a major university, as saying that Foster’s “role as a journalist, to open doors for all Americans, is just legendary.”

For Foster, sports writing was a labor of love, something he felt fortunate to do for a living. Upon his retirement he told *Furman* magazine, “I never thought that getting free tickets, parking in reserved parking, and sitting in a climate-controlled press box to watch sports was all that noble.”

But if anyone represented nobility in sports writing, it was Dan Foster.

Dan Foster is survived by his wife, Kay Floyd Foster; two sons and daughters-in-law, Max and Mary Foster of Charlotte, N.C., and Beach ‘78 and Maria Foster of Greenville; three step-daughters; 11 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Memorials: Paladin Club, Furman University 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or Salvation Army, P.O. Box 237, Greenville, S.C. 29602.