Student film named best in national competition

Furman University
In remembrance

When it came time for the Class of 2005 to determine its senior gift to the university, its members chose to establish a memorial to September 11, 2001 — their first day of classes as Furman students. The memorial, designed by Anna Martin Winter ’05, was installed this spring on the mall side of Furman Hall at the building’s central entrance. It features two large granite stones representing the World Trade Center towers. The stones are set in pools of water and face each other, water trickles down the back of each stone. The top of one is rough while the other is whole to represent, respectively, the brokenness caused by the attacks and the resulting unity in the country. Class members’ memories of the day are engraved on the stones. Photos by Nathan Guinn.

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The Lifestyle Project, a 12-minute film produced by seven Furman freshmen about living “green” on campus, earned the grand prize and $15,000 at the Student Conservation Association’s “Earth Vision Summit” in Washington, D.C., in April.

The Lifestyle Project documents the students’ efforts to reduce their impact on the environment. It follows them over a three-week period in which they adopt a vegetarian diet, limit their use of water and electricity, work to generate less trash, and stop driving their cars. As the time passes, the project becomes increasingly rigorous.

The film, which took top honors in the 15-19 age group, emerged from an Introduction to Environmental Science course taught by Weston Dripps as part of the Environmental Community of Students (ECOS) Engaged Living Program. It had earlier earned a $2,000 regional award to qualify for the national competition.

The contest was sponsored by Mazda and the Student Conservation Association (SCA), a non-profit organization that promotes conservation leadership. SCA offers conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities to more than 3,000 people each year.

Those involved in The Lifestyle Project were Ben Dauten of Northfield, Ill., Grace Tuschak of Pennington, N.J., Courtenay Stroud of The Woodlands, Texas, Corrie Ferguson of Simsbury, Conn., Reece Lyerly of Roswell, Ga., Desmond Lee of Ellenwood, Ga., and Daniel Balo of Lenoir City, Tenn.

Visit www.thesca.org/contest and click on the link to view the film.