Borchs' generosity spurs growth of Blue Shoes Fund

Furman University
singer Enrique Iglesias on a nationally televised commercial on NBC for “Today.”

MARRIAGES: Allison Beeson and Regan Ashley Costello, November 10. They live in Nashville, Tenn.

Kariss Blalock and Scott Waite, October 20. They live in Sevierville, Tenn. Kariss is owner of New Pathways Counseling and Scott is an electrical engineer.

Carl Gregg and Magin McKenna, October 27. They live in Monroe, La. Carl is the associate pastor at Northminster Church and Magin works in the marketing department at Louisiana Tech University.

Jo Anna McGehee and William Franklin Fallaw, November 17. She is the Wesley Fellowship campus minister at Furman and he is director of music and arts and principal organist at Buncombe Street United Methodist Church in Greenville.

Charles Merritt Shanlever and Ashley Kristin Lane, August 4, 2007. Charles was scheduled to graduate from the School of Pharmacy at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., in May.

BIRTHS: Jake and Cara Rhodes Bostrom, a daughter, Claire Elizabeth, November 6. Cara is a family medicine resident and Jake is an ophthalmology resident in Oklahoma City.

Steve and Jessica Callahan, a daughter, Madeline, January 3, 2007, Woodstock, Ga.

Benjamin and Tina Slattery Check, a son, Mitchell Aiden, June 6, 2007, Greenville.

Chris and Bethany Barnette Hansz, a daughter, Evelyn Mallory, May 21, 2007, Greenville

Brian and Melody Cadenhead Hunter, a daughter, Ella Suzanne, September 17, Charlotte, N.C.

Michael ’95 and Christine Powell Kellett, a daughter, Mattie Caroline, August 30, 2007, Charlotte, N.C. Christine earned a Master of Divinity degree with an emphasis in Christian education from Baptist Theological Seminary.

Patrick and Allison Stack Nugent, a son, Quinn Joseph, December 20, Lake Worth, Fla.

Blair and Stephanie Spottswood Scurlock, a daughter, Pope Kathryn, May 8, 2007. They live in Greenville where Blair is a director of marketing for Consolidated Tires, Inc., and Stephanie is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Sceile Pharma.

Tim ’01 and Melanie Gladding Van Steenburgh, a daughter, Lucy Leigh, July 30, 2007, Gainesville, Fla.

David and Carrie Lyle Williford, a daughter, Claire Gracen, July 1, 2007, Greenville.

When Furman recognized Chris Borch ’78 with the Gordon L. Blackwell Alumni Service Award April 11, he responded with a compelling announcement of his own.

Borch, whose leadership has made the Blue Shoes Scholarship Fund the most successful athletic fund-raising effort in Furman’s history, announced that he and his wife, Andrea, had made a $1 million gift to the fund.

The Blue Shoes program supports men’s and women’s cross country and track and field athletes. The Borchs’ donation increased the Blue Shoes endowment, established in 2006, to $2.8 million.

Borch, a California entrepreneur, earned a degree in economics from Furman in 1978. He is founder, chair and CEO of Micro-Mechanics, a company that designs and manufactures precision tools, parts and products used to assemble and test semiconductors.

He made his announcement at the kickoff dinner for the “Blue Shoes Weekend,” an annual event that includes an invitational track meet and the “Blue Shoes Mile.” The keynote speaker for the dinner was Tommie Smith, 1968 Olympic gold medalist in the 200 meters.

Borch said, “I received a track scholarship at the end of my first year at Furman, and it was that support that allowed me to complete four years at the university. The scholarship opened the door to a great education, and running provided me with invaluable lessons. I’ve always been grateful for the support Furman gave me, and my wife and I have looked forward to the time we could give something back to the university.”

The Blue Shoes program is named for a pair of blue ASICS “Onitsuka Tiger” running shoes Borch and his teammates wore while attending Furman.

In presenting Borch the Alumni Service Award for loyal and dedicated service to the university, Furman cited his business success, generous spirit and congenial nature. The university also inducted the Borchs into Benefactors Circle, which honors donors who have participated at the highest levels of giving in the university’s history.