Transition -- and recognition

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Robert Glen Revis '49, December 24, Chester, Va. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and was an avid golfer.

Gary Evan Douglas, Jr. '50, January 18, Charlotte, N.C. He taught for four years at the Hawaiian Baptist Academy and retired as an elementary school principal after 32 years of service. He was an organist, pianist and composer and served in the U.S. Navy.

Charles Van Sikes, Sr. '50, March 18, Lillington, N.C. After service in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he began his business career with M and J Finance Corporation before joining the Bank of North Carolina in Lillington, where he worked as a manager for 20 years. He was twice president of the Lillington Chamber of Commerce, was president of the Lillington Lions Club, was Lillington town commissioner for eight years and was head of the Harnett County Heart Association for five years.

Henry Marco Tezza '50, January 8, Spartanburg, S.C. He was the founder and president of Tezza Tile Company and was president of the South Carolina Tile Association.

George Manning League '51, July 8, 2007, Spartanburg, S.C. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and a former employee of Milliken & Company.

Sam Edward Strauss, Jr. '53, February 24, Anderson, S.C. He retired as a schoolteacher from Dixie High School in Due West, S.C. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War and served as a missionary in the Dominican Republic with the West Indies Mission.

J. Paul Ross, Jr. '54, January 11, Elgin, S.C. After retiring from the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, he became a master woodcraftsman and was owner of Paul's Wood Craft.

Leona Parker '55, October 31, Williamston, S.C. She was an elementary school teacher in Anderson (S.C.) District 1 for many years.

Henry Lee Taylor '55, December 18, Anchorage, Alaska. After serving as a drill instructor in the U.S. Marine Corps, he settled in Alaska during its territorial days. He worked as an insurance claims adjuster and became a private investigator. He later obtained his law degree and became a prominent Alaska attorney. He was a pioneer in remote Alaska sports hunting and fishing and was featured in Alaska Magazine and in two books, More Alaska Bear Tales and Some Bears Kill.

Ann Cudd McGuire '56, March 11, Auburn, Ala.

Martha Leathers Wennerberg '57, March 5, Pensacola, Fla. She served as youth director at Baptist churches in Washington, D.C., and Montgomery, Ala., after receiving her master's degree in religious education. She was State Young Women's Auxiliary Director with the Alabama Woman's Missionary Union. She was president of the Florida Baptist Convention's Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and was national recording secretary for the WMU of the Southern Baptist Convention. She was also on the WMU Foundation Board of Trustees.

Gail Lamb Edwards '60, March 6, Raleigh, N.C. She retired from the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles as an administrative assistant.

James Neil Mathews '60, December 10, Asheville, N.C. He worked for Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. and later in the trucking industry. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

Roy O. Forrest '61, February 10, Taylors, S.C. He was a U.S. Army medic during the Korean Conflict. A Baptist minister, he served several churches in South Carolina before retiring from Locust Hill Baptist Church in Travelers Rest, S.C. He was a three-time member of the S.C. Baptist Convention's General Board and spent 20 years as a discipleship training consultant for the Southern Baptist Convention. He was moderator of North Greenville Baptist Association and was on the board of advisors for North Greenville, Gardner-Webb and Campbell universities.

Lois Ann Duncan '62, February 5, Greenville. She worked as a medical social worker with the Greenville Hospital System and then as a caseworker with the Department of Social Services before becoming a Title 1 school social worker in the Greenville County School District, where she remained until her retirement in 2003. She was a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the South Carolina Association of School Social Workers.

Linda Mae Roper Patton '62, December 18, Fountain Inn, S.C. She taught in the Greenville County school system for 31 years.

TRANSITION — AND RECOGNITION

President Bush’s Commencement appearance spurred us to do something we’d been wanting to do for a while — shift the publication dates for Furman magazine. By moving the print date of this issue back six weeks to include coverage of the president’s visit, we are able to alter our schedule for future issues.

For the past nine years, the summer magazine was printed and mailed in late August. Similarly, the fall, winter and spring issues were produced in late November, February and May.

Thanks to the schedule transition, we plan henceforth to publish the magazine a little earlier each quarter. This does mean we have no official spring issue this year; technically, this edition is a spring/summer compilation. But we believe we’ll now have greater scheduling flexibility.

As for recognition: At the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District III meeting in February, Furman received two Grand awards — one for publication improvement, based on the redesign introduced in the fall of 2006, and the other as the district’s best magazine for institutions with 5,000 students or less. Grand awards are the top honors in each category.

CASE is the leading national organization for college advancement professionals. District III consists of more than 4,000 members from institutions in nine Southeastern states.

The lion’s share of credit for the awards goes to designer Jane Dorn, who provides the clean, crisp look for the magazine’s editorial content — and whose serenity and grace under pressure ease the way during times of deadline pressure. Thanks as well to Nell Smith, who doubles as class notes editor and eagle-eyed proofreader.

Of course, we realize we can’t guarantee this level of achievement every year. As one of my colleagues charmingly put it, “There’s nowhere to go from here but down.”

Maybe so. But we can guarantee that we won’t stop trying to raise the bar.

— JIM STEWART, editor