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Department of Classics, Chemistry earn awards

Furman University

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Service Corps completes Cargo of Dreams project

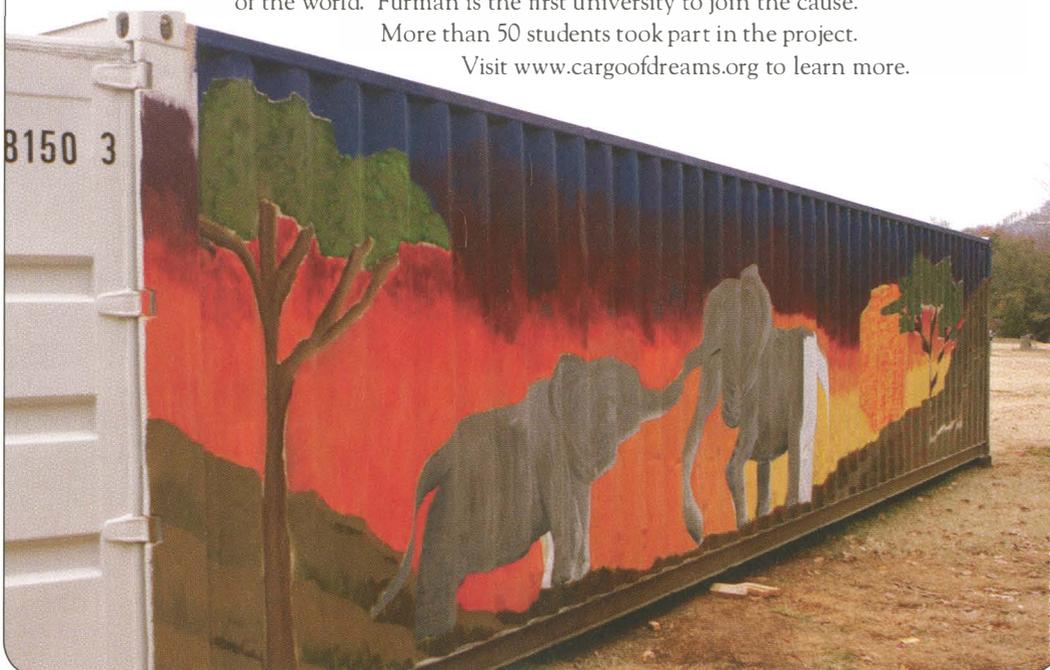**Throughout fall** semester, a 40-foot-by-8-foot cargo container sat on E-Field outside Blackwell Hall.

It wasn't there to hold equipment or serve as storage for a campus construction project. It was being renovated — to become a future classroom for children in South Africa.

Heller Service Corps enlisted the help of students and other groups to convert the container as part of the "Cargo of Dreams" project. Before being shipped to a rural area outside Cape Town in late December, the 320-square-foot container was partitioned into a small bathroom, kitchen and classroom, complete with plumbing, wiring and insulation.

Cargo of Dreams is a California-based non-profit that transforms shipping containers into schools, clinics or other facilities for use in impoverished areas of the world. Furman is the first university to join the cause.

More than 50 students took part in the project.

Visit www.cargoofdreams.org to learn more.

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Furman was well represented at the 2008 InnoVision Technology Awards November 19 in Greenville, winning both the Innovation in Education Award and the Hall of Fame Award.

Classics received the Hall of Fame Award, which is given for an extraordinary accomplishment in innovation and the development or application of technology in any category. The award recognized the work of classics professor Christopher Blackwell, who helped make three ancient manuscripts of Homer's *Iliad* available digitally for students and scholars to study on-line. The manuscripts, which date from A.D. 950, are so highly restricted that fewer than 20 scholars have been able to study them over the past 150 years.

Furman magazine published an article on Blackwell's work in this area, "The Venetus A Project," in its Fall 2007 issue.

The chemistry department received the Innovation in Education Award for developing a high quality e-textbook for a bio-organic chemistry course in which no textbook existed. Using a free wiki engine, a piece of server software that allows users to create and edit content, professors Brian Goess and Greg Springsteen created a platform through which students could write, referee and modify an e-textbook with as little faculty input as possible.

More than 100 students collaborated to complete the e-textbook.

The InnoVision Technology Awards, founded in 1999 by Deloitte LLP, recognize and honor area businesses, individuals and organizations that have demonstrated significant advancements in the areas of innovation and technological progress.