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ON THE COVER: Jonathan Andersen '09 captured this stunning night scene when a mid-January snow blanketed the campus.
It began with a telephone call from an old friend — and with a plea for help. The caller was vice president Dick Cheney, and he had an important request. He wanted to know if John M. “Mike” McConnell would be willing to serve his country one more time — by accepting a presidential appointment as the U.S. Director of National Intelligence.

“Mike, we need you to come back,” said Cheney during his phone call of December 23, 2006. “We’ve got some serious issues, and we think you can help.”

Mike McConnell takes on the task of overhauling America’s spying network.
McConnell listened carefully to his friend and former boss. Then he asked for some time to discuss this extraordinary request with his family: “Let me think about it over Christmas?”

Cheney agreed. The two men chatted amiably for a minute or two and then said goodbye.

For McConnell, a 1966 Furman graduate whose father had once worked in the shipping department of a Greenville wholesaler while his mother labored in a garment factory on Poinsett Highway, his brief conversation with the vice president would launch the latest chapter in a remarkable life story built around the theme of public service.

It would also present the veteran intelligence officer — a decorated Vietnam War combat veteran who’d risen to the rank of Vice Admiral in the U.S. Navy and had then served for four years (1992-96) as director of the National Security Agency — with what must surely be the greatest single challenge of his professional career.

With the war in Iraq going badly in late 2006, and with the U.S. intelligence community still reeling from its failure to accurately assess Saddam Hussein’s weapons-of-mass-destruction program in the run-up to the war, stepping into the role of America’s “spy czar” would require strong nerves.

But McConnell didn’t blink.

After a critically important conversation with another old friend, newly installed Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, in which he made certain that he would have the full support of the Pentagon and also the authority required to do the job properly, McConnell said “yes” to Cheney’s request.

Within two months of the urgent summons from the White House, McConnell was sworn in as America’s newest spymaster.

He’s also the administration’s point man in the continuing and often contentious effort to persuade Congress to give America’s intelligence agencies the tools they need to protect the country against the growing menace of international terrorism. Describing himself as “apolitical” and “determined to defend the Constitution and the rule of law,” McConnell is nonetheless convinced that the intelligence community must be given enough surveillance latitude to do an effective job of eavesdropping on potential terrorists by intercepting their electronic communications. Although he’s intent on protecting the privacy rights of U.S. citizens, he believes strongly that electronic eavesdropping is sometimes required to defend against the very real danger of attacks.

As he struggles with these challenges and with mastering the rapidly accelerating computer- and satellite-based technologies that are now an essential part of intelligence gathering, McConnell finds himself working 16 hours a day, six days a week in an effort to reshape and reform the nation’s intelligence apparatus.

At first glance, his willingness to carry this heavy load seems difficult to fathom. Why take on such a burden at the age of 63, when he could just as easily have spent his days “putting around” (his words) with his six grandchildren and two...
McConnell’s response: “The needs of the nation.” Then he adds, “I was thinking about public service, that’s all. I’ve always considered my 29 years in the U.S. Navy to have been public service. Looking back, I do think those years left me with a sense of responsibility to the country.

“I also think our country faces a major challenge right now if we’re going to successfully restructure and improve our intelligence capability so that all of the agencies involved can do a better job of helping each other by sharing information more. Accomplishing that won’t be easy, because there’s always resistance to change. But we have to do it. In the wake of 9/11, we simply don’t have a choice.

“It’s clear that intelligence needs and intelligence-gathering methods are changing rapidly today, and we have to change with them. And it’s my job to try and help that process along, while also doing my best to help protect the privacy and the constitutional rights of every citizen in this country.”

Humble beginnings
When McConnell arrived on the Furman campus in the fall of 1964, he was so poor that he sometimes had difficulty getting enough to eat. The son of a family who lacked the resources to pay for room and board, the youthful McConnell managed to solve his housing problem by landing a job as a custodian and equipment manager for the university’s athletic department.

He liked the job a lot. In addition to earning some precious dollars for tuition, he was permitted to live in a room in the old gym, free of charge. Money was still tight, however, and he was sometimes forced to skip meals to make sure all the bills were paid.

But then he got a wonderful break. As he recalls with a nostalgic smile, “One day Dean [Francis W.] Bonner sent for me. So I went over to his office and he said, ‘What are you eating?’

“And I said, ‘Well, I’ve got a hot plate. Life is good down at the gym.’

“He looked at me and said, ‘Not good enough.’ And he handed me a meal card and said, ‘If you’re going to be [living] here on campus, use this. I want you eating in the dining hall.’”

Amazed, McConnell stared at the card —
and realized that it would provide him with three free meals a day for the rest of the year.

"I have no idea what turned him on to my situation, or how he knew I was living in the gym," says McConnell. "And he never mentioned it again. I was stunned by what he did — and I can tell you that I went on to use that card enthusiastically. I am forever grateful."

For McConnell, who had earned a two-year degree from what was then North Greenville Junior College before enrolling at Furman, Bonner's kindness became "a great inspiration." But he also benefited, he says, from several professors who piqued his curiosity about economics and political science.

"I still remember Economics 101," he recalls, "and the way our professor made the theories of banking and the theories of money so fascinating. I didn't know a thing about economics, but that course was so interesting and so exciting that I decided to make economics my major on the spot."

A consummate pro

After earning his Furman degree, McConnell chose to complete his military obligation and volunteered for a three-year hitch in the U.S. Navy. In 1967-68, he found himself attached to a unit of the Navy's legendary Mobile Riverine Force — the famed "River Rats" — which patrolled the inland waters of South Vietnam in support of American combat forces.

McConnell still remembers the sound of "enemy rounds zinging" into the USS Colleton barracks ship, where he spent 12 months on duty. He was later decorated for his service.

Sometime near the end of his Vietnam tour, the youthful ensign discovered that he loved Navy life and wanted to specialize in intelligence-gathering and analysis. What followed was a glittering 26-year career in Naval intelligence. He would serve as the top intelligence officer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff under Colin Powell during the Persian Gulf War in 1991, and in that position he developed professional relationships with Secretary Gates and with Steve Hadley, the President's current National Security Advisor.

As the Joint Chiefs' spokesperson during Operation Desert Storm, his clear grasp of the facts, smooth delivery and ability to explain complex issues earned him widespread respect, especially from the press. Later in 1991, he received Furman's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Having also served effectively as an intelligence officer under Dick Cheney when Cheney ran the Department of Defense for the first President Bush, McConnell was an obvious choice in 1992 to head the National Security Agency. During his four years in that job, he was known as a consummate professional with a knack for streamlining and modernizing massive government bureaucracies.

When McConnell stepped down from his NSA post in early 1996, Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania entered a tribute into the Congressional Record praising McConnell for his commitment to making sure that the agency "had the requisite skills and resources to meet the quickly evolving technological challenges that faced the Nation."

Specter added, "His candor and openness
What's it like to sit down with the President of the United States each morning to review national security issues and the latest international crises?

In his job as Director of National Intelligence (DNI), Mike McConnell '66 is responsible for briefing George W. Bush six mornings a week about potential threats to the nation.

Surprisingly enough, given the critical importance of the topics that are discussed, McConnell says these early morning meetings are actually "very relaxed and very congenial. It's a very brisk pace, but it's friendly, it's give and take."

"The president is very open, very interested in everything you tell him," says McConnell. "But he's also very much in charge. There's never any question who the President is."

"He's also an incredibly fast reader. I'll hand him a four-page article, and a minute later he's asking a question on page three or four, while the rest of us are still on page one or two. But he also has great range. Quite often we'll go through eight layers of information on an intelligence matter — all the way from the strategic level, way up in the stratosphere, down into a lot of very fine detail."

"And three weeks later — or three months later — he still remembers the context of the details."

In addition to McConnell, the briefings usually include Vice President Dick Cheney, National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley and White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten, along with one of two briefers who rotate duty in preparing the President's daily intelligence book and provide insights on the articles. Depending on international circumstances, the group will at times be joined by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Admiral Michael Mullen, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"What typically happens is that we'll design each day's intelligence briefing around a particular theme," explains McConnell. "On Monday we might do Iraq, on Tuesday we might do homeland security and terrorism, and so on. We also like to set up what we call 'deep dives' — longer sessions where we'll bring in a couple of analysts with special knowledge."

Quite frequently these longer reviews will last for 60 minutes or more and will include intelligence operatives who've lived in a foreign country for 15 or 20 years and are intimately familiar with its language and culture. Because they give the commander-in-chief an opportunity to scrutinize international problems and security threats in great detail, McConnell says, "The President has told us that he really likes the deep dives."

— TOM NUGENT
Launched in April of 2005 after several years of contentious national debate about the best way to organize the intelligence community in light of the threat posed by international terrorism, the Office of the DNI operates out of a facility located at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C.

Like the authors of the 9/11 Commission’s final report — who strongly recommended that the DNI should work to improve information sharing and cooperation among the various spy agencies and the Pentagon — McConnell is “absolutely convinced” that protecting America from future attacks hinges on accomplishing a long overdue restructuring of the entire intelligence community.

“There’s no doubt that we have to do a better job of sharing [intelligence] information across boundaries,” he says, and adds that he hopes his hard-earned reputation for being “apolitical” and “a professional intelligence man” will help him convince the leaders of the country’s intelligence community to trust his vision of improved information-sharing and cooperation among the various agencies involved.

“My approach is to change the culture in the community,” he says. “For the past 50 years, that culture was based on ‘need to know,’ where you had to prove that you were entitled to intelligence information in order to be allowed to look at it.”

McConnell says that, while such an approach served the country reasonably well during World War II and the Cold War, it did not prove effective in response to 9/11. “Right now,” he says, “I think one of the biggest challenges we face is to change the ‘need to know’ culture to a ‘responsibility to provide’ culture within all of these different federal intelligence organizations.

“If we can get the information-sharing part done — along with making sure we have the Congressional authority to collect the information we need, while protecting the privacy rights of every citizen — I think we’ll be well on our way to a much more effective intelligence capability in this country.

“That’s a goal we must accomplish,” he adds with emphasis, “and you can be sure we’re going to do everything we possibly can to get it done.”
Struggling in the wake of a bitter political defeat, he was trudging toward his apartment near Capitol Hill. His head was down and his feet were dragging along the sidewalk in front of the giant marble steps of the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this damp, chilly evening in November of 2004, Baron Hill was a beaten man — a three-term U.S. Congressman who'd recently been knocked out of office by the agonizingly narrow margin of 1,425 votes. A conservative, “Blue Dog” Democrat from Indiana’s mostly rural and small-town 9th District, the former Furman basketball player had been upset by Republican Mike Sodrel, a tough-talking trucking company operator.

Hill figured his political career was over. Feeling angry and depressed, he had vowed that he would never again run for public office. But as he hiked slowly along, he was startled to find a congressional colleague falling into step beside him.

The colleague’s name was David Price. A Democrat from North Carolina, Price had enjoyed four successful terms in the House, starting in the mid-1980s, before being bounced from office during the Republican Revolution of 1994. Like Hill, Price had sunk into the depths of political despair for a while — until he pulled out of the doldrums and mounted a furious, and ultimately successful, campaign to regain his seat in 1996.

He understood the misery that Hill was now experiencing, and as the two men walked, Price offered his friend some valuable advice: “Don’t assume that you can’t come back and win again.”

In recalling that moment, Hill doesn’t mince words. “A lot of people in Washington would like to pretend that losing an election doesn’t hurt,” he says with a wince. “But it does. It hurts a lot. And that’s what I told David Price on the night we talked. I told him I’d had the wind knocked out of me, and that I didn’t want to run again. That campaign in Indiana had been ugly and negative, and I just didn’t want to put myself through it again.

“So I told him: ‘David, I’ve had it in politics.’ ”

Price was supportive and empathetic. But then he surprised Hill by describing how he’d managed to rebuild his own shattered political psyche and reclaim his congressional seat.

“I told Baron that I knew how difficult losing was,” says Price, who is still in office. “But then I also urged him not to close the door on a re-election bid. I explained that we needed him in Congress because he’s a terrific legislator, especially on issues related to fiscal reform in government and fiscal responsibility.

“I knew Baron was a fierce competitor, given his athletic background. And so I really urged him to think it over. I reminded him that he was a member that others [in the House] looked to for leadership, and I pointed out that we didn’t want to lose him.”

Hill listened. By the time he reached his one-bedroom apartment, located a few blocks from the Capitol, the spring had returned to his step. He realized that he shouldn’t let a single defeat completely derail his political career.

A few days later he sat down with the legendary Lee Hamilton — a veteran Democrat who’d held the 9th District seat for 34 years until retiring in 1998, when Hill first won the post — and asked him for advice. “Hamilton was very positive, very upbeat,” says Hill. “But he made it clear

**Never Surrender**

With an intense work ethic and a commitment to fiscal responsibility, Baron Hill serves Indiana’s 9th District in the U.S. House.
that I had to move quickly. He told me, 'If you're thinking about running again, it has to happen the next time around.'"

As he weighed Hamilton's words, Hill thought back to his days as a tenacious point guard at Furman. From 1972 through 1975, Hill played under Joe Williams on teams that compiled a 64-25 record and won three Southern Conference championships.

Hill was known for his fiercely competitive nature. As former teammate Russ Hunt '73 says, "He was always the smallest guy on the court, but also the most aggressive." His leadership style was based on a crucial concept: No matter how tough things get, you never quit.

Within a few weeks of his late-night stroll past the Supreme Court, Hill had reached a decision: He wouldn't quit politics. He was going to fight.

But first he had to come to terms with the emotional fallout from his devastating defeat.

For Hill, now 55, the healing process began at the family dinner table. "I went home one night," he says with a quiet smile, "and I told [his wife] Betty, 'I've made a decision. I'm not going to be angry about this loss any longer. I need to get over it. I need to become the Baron Hill I used to be.'"

Having decided to get his act together, Hill set out on a monthlong tour of his congressional district, located in southeastern Indiana near the Kentucky border. "For a while I kept wondering if I had the word 'loser' written all over me," he remembers. "But people kept saying, 'Baron, we think that was a fluke the last time. We want you to run again.'"

So he did. On November 7, 2006, he won re-election, defeating Sodrel, the man who'd knocked him out of office two years earlier. Hill was going back to Congress — and back to the fiscally conservative "Blue Dog" coalition of House Democrats.

He was now a "double freshman" — one of the few House members who are defeated and then re-elected to their seat. The Democratic leadership quickly honored his legislative expertise by handing him a coveted assignment on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Make no mistake: Baron Hill was back.

Born and raised in the small Indiana town of Seymour (population 18,000), Baron Paul Hill was the youngest of seven highly competitive brothers — all of whom did their best to outshine each other on the playing fields.

The Hill boys were jocks, but none of them could match Baron, a three-sport standout at Seymour High School. He was all-state in football and a star sprinter on the track team, but he really made his mark on the hardwood in basketball-crazed Indiana, where bitter high school rivalries are the stuff of enduring legend — and Hollywood blockbusters. (The classic 1986 film Hoosiers was based on the exploits of an Indiana high school team located only a few miles up the road from Seymour.)

Standing only 5-10, Hill set the Seymour High career scoring record. His exploits earned him election, in 2000, to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, where he was inducted alongside another noted hoops star, Larry Bird.

Hill's athletic prowess brought him local fame and a scholarship to Furman, where he played on three NCAA tournament teams. The 1973-74 squad, which included such legendary Paladin big men as Clyde Mayes and Fessor Leonard, upset the University of South Carolina in
the first round of the East Regional and advanced to the Sweet 16 before losing to Pittsburgh.

"The thing about Baron was that he would just never give up," says Hunt, his former teammate. "He was a little guy but really gutty, and he told everybody on the team what to do. Baron gave 110 percent of himself to everything he did."

A history major at Furman, Hill says he wasn't a particularly good student — although he did become passionately interested in the French Revolution while studying under professor William Lavery, a "terrific teacher who cared deeply about his subject and also about his students." Hill says he also "got lots of inspiration and motivation" from then Furman president Gordon Blackwell, who took a special interest in him and "became a father figure to me and a lot of young guys who were attending college far from home."

After obtaining his degree in 1975, Hill returned to Seymour to work in his family's real estate and insurance business. In 1982 he won election to the Indiana House of Representatives. During eight years in the House, he chaired the Democratic Caucus and built a solid statewide reputation. In 1990 he made a run for the U.S. Senate but lost to Dan Coats — whose daughter, Laura, was a 1990 Furman graduate.

Still, Hill earned a respectable 46 percent of the vote in his Senate run. As he told the Louisville Courier-Journal, "I got myself established within the party with that race. It was one of the better things that happened to me."

He went on to work in state government for a while, then became a private investment broker before his 1998 election to Congress.

After winning Hamilton's vacant seat, Hill hit the ground running. During his first three terms in Congress, he earned a reputation as a fiscal and social conservative. He worked to craft legislative initiatives aimed at reforming the lobbying system, implementing new ethical standards for House members, achieving American energy independence, protecting Social Security from privatization and creating "pay as you go" budgeting regulations designed to reduce the burgeoning federal deficit.

Although he says he's "extremely proud" of having co-introduced recent measures that would establish an independent ethics commission to review potential conflict-of-interest issues in the House, plus bills that would increase fuel-efficiency standards for U.S. automobiles and require Congress to make the process of shaping the federal budget more transparent, Hill says that the issue he cares about most in 2008 is the "dangerously out of control federal deficit."

Along with the other 46 members of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of conservative and moderate Democrats that formed in 1994 to fight for fiscal responsibility, Hill worries that the greatest threat to American freedom today may not come from marauding terrorists, but from runaway borrowing.
Spend an hour or two in his office on Capitol Hill and you’ll probably hear a fiery sermon about the perils of “putting all of America’s bills on the charge card.” As he noted in a recent speech on the House floor: “We’re now facing a $9 trillion deficit, and the second-largest expenditure in our nation’s budget is the interest we pay on the national debt. That’s gotta stop! It’s crazy, when you end up with the Chinese government buying our debt and loaning us the money, which affects our foreign policy. “We have to get our fiscal house in order.”

According to Hill’s colleagues, few in Congress can match his efforts to straighten out the deficit mess. “After years of reckless fiscal policies, it takes leaders like Baron Hill who are willing to make the tough decisions necessary to ensure the future economic stability of our country,” says Arkansas Democrat Mike Ross, the Blue Dogs’ co-chair for communications. “Baron brings a pro-business, bipartisan approach to his work on important issues that affect the long-term economic health of our country, and he’s long been a staunch advocate of fiscally responsible policies that will benefit generations to come.”

Adds House majority leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland, “Baron is one of the hardest-working members of Congress. He’s certainly made his mark as an effective leader, particularly on fiscal responsibility. On that issue, I believe he’s one of the strongest advocates in Congress.”

Another of Hill’s pet peeves is the assumption by many Americans that members of Congress enjoy soft, cushy lives full of ease and glamour. Describing his typical workday — and pointing out that he usually sees his wife, Betty Schepman Hill ’74, and their three adult daughters only on weekends, when he flies home to Indiana from Washington — Hill says the cushy image is far from the truth.

“I do think people have a false conception of congressmen as having a real glamorous life,” he says. “A lot of people think that lobbyists are wining and dining us, and we’re riding around in limousines, and we’re not connected to the common man and woman. But it’s not like that at all.

“Believe me, I wouldn’t be doing this if I didn’t believe in the importance of conducting the nation’s business and getting it right. It’s too hard — the 16-hour days, the constant struggle to raise money for re-election, traveling back home every weekend, and being away from the wife and kids,” says Hill, who will likely be pitted against Sodrel for the fourth time in this fall’s elections. “I wouldn’t want any part of it if I didn’t think we were going to accomplish something important for America.”

But does he ever feel disillusioned about the many flaws and bottlenecks in the legislative system? Does he ever feel like quitting and going home to small-town Indiana to enjoy a less stressful lifestyle?

He responds by pointing to a jumbo-sized cartoon that hangs on his office wall. The cartoon features a frantic pelican who’s struggling to swallow a frog twice his size, even as the angry frog chokes the bird for all he’s worth.

“That’s my motto, right there in that cartoon,” says Hill, with a sudden boom of laughter. “That poor pelican can’t possibly swallow that huge frog, but he’s certainly giving it his best.

“No matter what happens, never give up!” [F]
BY BILL KING

Editor's note: In the aftermath of the February 14 shootings at Northern Illinois University, this article takes on added relevance.
Reflections on last spring’s tragedy at Virginia Tech — and the ongoing challenge to heal and forgive.

Who knows what triggers a particular memory! I was waiting to speak at the convocation following the April 16 tragedy at Virginia Tech when I remembered a moment from more than 30 years ago.

On this day when our basketball arena was filled to overflowing with a crowd both raucous and stunned, and CNN cameras prepared to beam the event across the country, I recalled a dreary afternoon in Stratford-upon-Avon, when I was part of Furman’s Fall in England program. John Crabtree was taking us through a scene in Twelfth Night. With obvious love for the work, he infused energy into the stuffy room and overcame the torpor of students who had lingered too long in the pubs the night before. His skilled recitation made these lines drip with irony: “Some are born great . . . Some achieve greatness . . . And some have greatness thrust upon them.”

As nervous as I was, I smiled, remembering that these are the words of Malvolio, Shakespeare’s most pompous prig. Feeling the pressure of speaking in behalf of the entire Christian community — and tempted to take myself way too seriously — that brief memory brought me back to reality. For, of course, it was not greatness that had been thrust upon me, but at most my Warhol-esque 15 minutes of fame.

I was not sitting on that stage because I was particularly insightful or eloquent but because I happened to be the Lutheran campus pastor at Virginia Tech the day the unspeakable occurred last spring. Twenty-three years in one place build familiarity between pastor and administration, so I was asked to speak.

Since that day I have been amazed at how much wisdom is imputed to you because of mere proximity to a major news event. I do not claim to be an expert in crisis ministry, the dynamics of long-term grief or post-traumatic stress disorder. I would not presume to predict how the ongoing recovery of the Blacksburg community will progress. But after almost a year I offer a few observations and reflections arising out of my experiences in the midst of this tragedy.

Sitting in silence
Some years ago (I think at the Furman Pastors School) I heard a famous Old Testament scholar lecture on the book of Job, the Bible’s most extended wrestling with the problem of evil. After Job’s life has fallen apart, the text says, “[Job’s friends] sat with him for seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.” (RSV, 2:13)

“And that,” said the scholar, “is the last thing they do right in the whole book.” For the rest of the book Job’s friends blame him for his suffering and offer neat explanations, which do not touch his pain, for the inexplicable.

Every tragedy prompts questions of “why.” The shootings at Virginia Tech are no exception. We have asked what could have been done to make our campus safer. We have wrestled with the cosmic questions of how to make sense of such carnage. Surely it is natural and appropriate to ask these questions.

But there is a deep wisdom in the Job story that we clergy and counselors have discovered in our ministry to and with the Virginia Tech community. Sometimes all you can do is let go of your need to have an answer and be willing to share the pain of those around you. Only by sitting in the darkness with the devastated do you gain the right to finally point to the shafts of light that a religious tradition can offer to the community as it gropes its way forward.
Although I do not want to oversimplify a complex issue, it seems to me that the choice you make for 32 or 33 victims suggests whether you understand evil as part of the community or something external to it.

The day after the shootings a plague of free-agent clergy descended on our campus, offering amazing and appalling insights into the mind of God: This was God’s judgment on the wild partying at universities. This was part of God’s great plan to turn America to repentance.

I think it is significant that these believers were more comfortable constructing a monstrous (but at least in-control) god than with sitting in humility before the incomprehensible horror.

Our culture assumes every problem has an answer and every event an explanation. Tragedy reminds us that much of life truly is mystery. I believe Christian faith offers a response to such mystery, but it is the paradoxical answer of Emmanuel, “god with us.” It is the hidden hope on the other side of Christ crucified. If we are interested in the healing of the community, rather than in keeping our own anxieties at bay, there is no alternative to sitting awhile in silence.

Longing for Liturgy
I do not know how it felt to those watching Virginia Tech’s April 17 convocation on television, but to those of us in Cassell Coliseum one moment was most electric. After all the music, readings and speeches were over, a student somewhere in the crowd bellowed, “Let’s go Hokies!” His cry was immediately answered by five rhythmic claps — just like on a Saturday afternoon in Lane Stadium, with fourth and inches to go on the goal line.

The call and response grew louder with every repetition until it was impossible to hear anything else. There was something primal in the cheer, as if by yelling loud enough we could vanquish the pain. To join in that chant was to be molded into a community of suffering and buoyed along by its defiance in the face of adversity. Since that day I have thought a lot about why, at a moment of great anguish, we turned to a football cheer.

Positively, the spontaneous cheering speaks to the deep need for ritual and language capable of expressing common pain and hope. The demise of religion has been periodically predicted for a long time. Yet tragedies such as the Tech shootings remind us that there is a deep yearning for meaning that transcends individual experience. Theologian Paul Tillich observed that a basic way we find the “courage to be” is by being part of something bigger than ourselves. We long for need that which joins us to others and allows us to share both our weaknesses and our resources.

That the community turned to a football cheer for its liturgy also emphasizes our lack of language and images sufficiently broad to encompass multicultural communities such as a research university. It was the lowest common denominator, the closest thing to a lingua franca that the campus could find to express its solidarity — and it was football.

There was a time when our culture could draw on a common store of scripture, tradition and prayer to express itself. No more. The prevailing milieu is increasingly secular and religiously diverse. You need not long for a return to militant, imperious Christendom to bemoan the loss of shared language that is robust and profound enough to allow the community to mourn, and ultimately rejoice, together. An ongoing challenge in Blacksburg is finding the words and rituals that will allow us to heal together, and this search reflects a quest in the culture at large.

33 or 32?
Virginia Tech was originally a military school much like Virginia Military Institute or The Citadel, and as such it is built around a drill field. On the edge of the drill field, halfway down the side, is a stone reviewing stand that has long been the place around which most outdoor university rallies, protests and public gatherings center. So it was not surprising when, immediately following the shootings, a makeshift shrine and memorial garden arose at the reviewing stand.

The Tech campus is architecturally unified by the use of gray limestone, called “Hokie stone.” Fittingly, 32 Hokie stone fragments were arranged in a semi-circle in front of the reviewing stand, one for each person killed by Seung Hui Cho. Around each stone mourners placed flowers, pictures, notes and other remembrances. Overnight another stone appeared in the formation, marked for Cho. That stone was stolen — and then restored.

For a few days there was a visible tug-of-war on the drill field over whether the tragedy claimed 32 or 33 victims. That debate continues. And the controversy reflects a deeper struggle with such fundamental questions as the nature of evil and the possibility of forgiveness.

There are many dimensions to the question of whether 32 or 33 persons should be remembered. Whatever you decide, many would argue
passionately for the alternative. Although I do not want to oversimplify a complex issue, it seems to me that the choice you make for 32 or 33 suggests whether you understand evil as part of the community or something external to it.

Since the shootings, there has been a great deal of anguish at Tech over how they could have happened. How could such a disturbed individual have been on campus for so long without someone taking decisive action? There is a certain consolation in imagining that Cho was so wholly other, so totally different from the rest of the community, that nobody could have imagined the depth of his suffering and malevolence. Like some sort of horrible virus, he invaded the campus body and unleashed a virulent poison that took a terrible toll. One does not recognize ties to a virus — or give it a stone.

It is much more troubling to acknowledge Cho as part of the community — as much a part of the campus as the Greeks, the honor societies and the campus ministries. If we do so, then Cho is not an invader. He is a wounded part of the body which we have failed to notice, much less heal. We prefer to think of Cho as totally unlike ourselves. But if we acknowledge him as a part of the university he becomes a mirror of the alienation, rage and despair many of us feel, to a lesser degree, at one time or another.

Cho’s pathology was extreme, but it was not a singularity. As is often observed by those who work in student services, a university is neither better nor worse than the society that sends students to it. Nothing is easier than vilifying Cho as the perpetrator of a heinous crime. When we call him a victim — and give him a stone — we are forced to acknowledge some measure of responsibility for him as a fellow pilgrim in life.

The permanent memorial erected by the university, which replaces the shards of stone, has 32 markers. Given the political realities, I am not sure it could be otherwise. Emotions are so raw and the climate so litigious that compassion for the perpetrator is not something the official memorial may easily express.

One of the gifts of most Blacksburg churches to the healing of the community has been to speak gently, but consistently, of 33 victims. We do so not because Cho deserves forgiveness, but because the alternative to seeing him as the 33rd victim is to be captive to futile rage and party to the lie that he was not part of us. In trying to acknowledge and forgive him, we begin to forgive ourselves for not seeing and responding to his suffering.
THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

Early in my ministry at Virginia Tech I asked an engineering professor if he ever talked about ethics in his class. "Not much," he said. "Every minute talking about that means I don't talk about something that will make our graduates more marketable."

Leaving aside the question of whether ethical engineers are not indeed more valuable over the long haul, his response illustrates a major issue: Is the purpose of a college education primarily training or education? Is the essential responsibility of a Virginia Tech (or a Furman) to give graduates marketable skills, or is it to equip them with the tools and vision to deal with challenges which they cannot yet imagine? The choice is not simply either/or, of course — I'm glad my degree has allowed me to feed and house a family — but the tension exists.

It would be hard to deny that the inexorable trend is toward greater emphasis on training. A well-known national survey indicates that both incoming students and their parents list "being financially well off" as their number one expectation for attending college, and given the skyrocketing cost of education, such a response is not terribly surprising. Colleges are no more immune to market forces than carmakers, and they respond accordingly by hawking job placement statistics.

But a crisis such as the Tech shootings exposes the myopia of offering students only training.

Education is what allows persons to live with complexity, to understand that simple answers are not always forthcoming. Education provides perspective and awareness that others have faced similar challenges in the past and found a way forward. Education makes the treasures of wisdom and knowledge from generations past available in the present. Education frees the imagination to find words to name the common experience. Education creates what you might call the habits of discernment, a way of being in the world which does not fear the new, the unfamiliar or the novel.

The vision that has traditionally marked a liberal arts education is valuable when the world is in flux, as it always is. Each day does not bring the cataclysm of a 4/16, but we are constantly rebuilding meaning out of the rubble of ideas that no longer seem adequate.

I do not remember much information from my time at Furman, but every day I draw on the love of language I learned in John Crabtree's Shakespeare class, the ability to tolerate ambiguity I learned in Doug MacDonald's and Jim Edwards' tag-team introduction to philosophy, and the passion for learning that political scientist Jay Walters embodied. We leave our students horribly vulnerable in times of crisis if all we do is make them marketable.

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

The day the Roanoke Times headline screamed "33 Victims," National Public Radio carried a brief story that 33 had died in a car bombing in Iraq — as they had done the day before, and the day before, and the day before... . . .

I would hardly minimize the suffering of my community, but it is not hard to imagine those living in crime-infested tenements of our inner...
cities, the deserts of Darfur or the alleys of the West Bank saying, “Welcome to our world.”

The resurrection hope I preach in the context of a public university is rooted in the conviction that all suffering can finally be redeemed, that out of death new life can emerge. If there is a gift that 4/16 has given the Virginia Tech community, it is a renewed awareness that we are indeed part of a larger worldwide fellowship that bleeds and weeps and finally looks to laugh again.

Anyone who has spent pleasant hours walking on Furman’s lush campus can appreciate better than most the seductive temptation to retreat from the world’s suffering. But such retreat is ultimately stunting, and it is indeed a bittersweet gift to be drawn out of ourselves by shared pain.

For those who watched Tech’s convocation on April 17, the part they probably remember is Nikki Giovanni’s stirring poem. Giovanni’s concluding words, “We will prevail; we are Virginia Tech,” have become a secular liturgical formula. However, the words I most value, because they put the tragedy in perspective and invited us to feel kinship with other sufferers, came earlier:

“We do not understand this tragedy. We know we did nothing to deserve it, but neither does a child in Africa dying of AIDS, neither do the invisible children walking the night away to avoid being captured by the rogue army, neither does the baby elephant watching his community being devastated for ivory, neither does the Mexican child looking for fresh water, neither does the Appalachian infant killed in the middle of the night in his crib in the home his father built with his own hands being run over by a boulder because the land was destabilized. No one deserves a tragedy.”

“No one deserves a tragedy.” She’s right. Blacksburg and Virginia Tech are in the process of learning a lot of lessons from 4/16. None, I think, is more important than this one — or has greater potential to help us redeem that day.

The author graduated from Furman in 1974 with a degree in political science.
Beth Daniel and Betsy King will always be linked by their remarkably similar, Hall of Fame careers. And it all started at Furman.

BETSY KING AND BETH DANIEL.

The names, spoken in tandem, have been uttered so many times at Furman over the past 30 years they could almost serve as a university mantra. They are very different people with different lives, but their careers tend to be woven into a single thread at Furman — and for very good reason. When it comes to alumnae making good and raising the profile of their alma mater, they may well represent the greatest package deal of all time.

King and Daniel graduated a year apart in the late 1970s, after leading Furman to a national championship in women’s golf. They went on to become two of the finest players the women’s game has ever seen.

They won 67 tournaments between them, waltzed into the Ladies Professional Golf Association Hall of Fame within a few years of each other, and earned every honor there was to win. For a period covering more than 20 years, one or the other was a favorite to win anytime she showed up at a golf tournament.

Furthermore, they didn’t achieve fame and fortune and then ride off into the sunset. They remembered Furman, which was a kind thing to do. Because while they may have helped Furman win its first national...
By Vince Moore

In 1976, they did it without a great deal of support from the university.

It was a time before women's athletics had a prominent role on college campuses, and it seemed they spent as much time asking the school for monetary support as they did on the golf course. Daniel, in fact, became so upset with the direction of the women's program her senior year that she didn't even play on the team. Her final season of college as the reigning U.S. Amateur champion was limited to a few appearances with the men's team.

They could have decided to leave Furman behind and concentrate solely on their own careers and interests. But they went in the opposite direction, contacting the university and offering to put together a pro-am tournament to raise money for the women's golf program. They wanted to be sure that the golfers who followed them would have everything they didn't.

The Furman LPGA Pro-Am went on to become one of the most successful fund-raising stories in school history, raising more than $1.7 million dollars over its 23-year existence. You just have to look at the number of full scholarships the team now enjoys, the REK Center for Intercollegiate Golf, the gleaming practice facilities, and the airplane trips to tournaments to see the Pro-Am's handiwork.

Daniel and King. Betsy and Beth.

The names haven't surfaced as often in the past few years. King has stopped playing tournaments altogether, and Daniel is down to a precious few. But two such outstanding careers shouldn't just fade into the twilight. So it was entirely fitting when, last September, they came together on center stage in women's golf once again.

At the Solheim Cup, a biennial competition pitting the best U.S. women golfers against their counterparts from Europe, King captained the American squad to victory in Halmstad, Sweden — with Daniel as her assistant captain. If you've been following the Betsy King/Beth Daniel story for a while, it was certainly no surprise to hear those names spoken together one more time.

KING ARRIVED at Furman first, in the fall of 1973, making her way South from Reading, Pa., where her father was a doctor and her mother stayed at home to tend to her and her older brother. Coming from a family of golfers, she started playing at age 8. But she was interested in more than golf, playing field hockey, basketball and softball and achieving all-star status in all three.

"My poor brother," King recalls. "He had to take me everywhere, and I played every sport I could. I would even play tackle football with the boys and tag along with him to baseball practice."

She did play golf, taking lessons at the Reading Country Club and...
entering a handful of junior tournaments, but the Pennsylvania climate made for a short season — and golf took a back seat to basketball, anyway.

"I was playing too many other sports to devote all my time to golf," she says. "I played golf mostly in the summer, and it was more about recreation and just having fun."

It speaks to King's athletic ability that despite being a part-time golfer while growing up, she was still a strong player. She was a semifinalist at the 1972 U.S. Girls Junior Championship and was close to being a scratch player when she enrolled at Furman.

King also played field hockey for two years at Furman and three seasons of basketball before injuries to her right knee forced her to give up the other sports and concentrate on golf her senior year. She would be on tour for a couple of years before she learned she had a torn anterior cruciate ligament that required surgery.

Daniel came to Furman a year later, in 1974. She grew up in Charleston, S.C., where she began playing golf at age 6 with her parents and older brother and sister. She played other sports as well — basketball, tennis, softball, track and field — but golf was a priority, and the Lowcountry weather made it possible for her to play all year long.

"I didn't get serious about golf until I was 15 and I realized I might have a chance to go to the next level," Daniel says.

She honed her game in junior tournaments during high school, and by the time she came to Furman, there might not have been a better female amateur in the country.

WHILE IT WAS certainly Furman's great fortune that King and Daniel would decide to enroll, it might have been just as fortuitous for the two future Hall of Famers to spend three years playing golf together. The spark of greatness no doubt existed in both of them, but who's to say that anything less than what the other provided in terms of competition would have ignited the competitive fires they took to the tour?

"When people ask me why Beth and Betsy became such great players on tour, I have an answer," says Cindy Ferro, a 1976 Furman graduate and a key member of that year's championship team. "They are, without question, two of the most competitive people I have ever met in my life."

And they were indeed competitive at Furman. Gary "Doc" Meredith, the coach who led the team to the national championship, knew he had two extraordinary talents and went out of his way to put Daniel and King in situations where they had to compete against one another.

They were, as King acknowledges, widely considered to be the best one-two punch in women's college golf. But who was number one and who was two in the equation? It surely fanned the competitive flames when Daniel won the U.S. Amateur title in 1975 — she would win again in 1977 — and had the hardware to prove she was the best female amateur in the country.

"We were competitive," King says, laughing. "But Cindy was able to keep the peace most of the time."

Ferro remembers serving as a referee on occasion, but says things weren't all that bad. "It wasn't like they were having arguments," she says, "but they were such competitive people that I would have to step in every now and then and remind them about what we were trying to do, which was be a great golf team."
The 2007 U.S. Solheim Cup squad, clockwise from top left: assistant captain Beth Daniel, Sherri Steinhauer, Pat Hurst, captain Betsy King, Laura Diaz, Nicole Castrale, Natalie Gulbis, Juli Inkster, Morgan Pressel, Cristie Kerr, Paula Creamer, Stacy Prammanasudh, Brittany Lincicome, Angela Stanford. Thirty-one years earlier, the women's collegiate champions included, from left, Cindy Ferro '76, Leigh Coulter '79, King, Coach Gary "Doc" Meredith, Daniel, Holly Hunt '79, Sherri Turner '79.

According to Ferro, the competitiveness wasn't confined to the golf course. She remembers taking a bowling class at Furman with King, who treated it as anything but a relaxing form of recreation.

"We were divided into teams for some reason and Betsy kept saying, 'Come on guys, we've got to win,'" Ferro says. "I said, 'Betsy, give us a break. It's only a gym class.' But no matter what it was, she had to win."

Daniel says that neither she nor King cared for those competitive situations that Meredith put them in, but she can see the wisdom of it 30 years later. "We pushed each other, and it certainly made us better," she says. "There is no question that being on that team made me a better player and helped prepare me for professional golf."

The two may have been much alike in their competitive natures, but they were different people with distinct personalities. King was a self-described "straight arrow" in college, while Daniel, by all historical campus accounts, was not. They had different interests away from the golf course and different friends, and they would continue to travel their individual paths after they moved on to the LPGA Tour. But the golf always held them together.

It wasn't all competitive madness, though. It was fun playing on the best college team in the country, and they traveled to tournaments in an old Winnebago that they now recall fondly, although they complained fiercely at the time about not being able to fly like some of their competitors. Daniel said all the girls drove the Winnebago at some point, even though doing so surely violated every university policy that existed.

"I can remember coming back from tournaments and driving at three in the morning," Daniel says. "We didn't have any accidents and I can't remember running anybody off the road. Looking back on it, that was probably more fun than flying anyway."

KING BEGAN playing on the LPGA Tour in the fall of 1977, but if you weren't paying attention you wouldn't have known she was out there. She played in 181 tournaments over six full seasons without winning once. She made enough money to keep her card and make expenses, but she appeared to be anything but a future Hall of Famer.

She won an unsanctioned tournament in Japan in late 1981 but didn't earn her first LPGA title until 1984. After that, though, there was no stopping her. She won 30 tournaments in the next 10 years and became the most dominant player in women's golf.

Her best season came in 1989 when she won six times, including her first of two consecutive U.S. Women's Open championships. King, who
King qualified for the Hall of Fame in 1995, finished her career with 34 tournament titles (including six majors), three Rolex Player of the Year awards and two Vare trophies, given to the player with the lowest stroke average on tour over the course of a year. She played on five Solheim Cup teams.

"I finally learned how to win, and there is a mental side to winning," King says. "It gets easier to win that second, third or fourth time."

Daniel, meanwhile, landed on tour with a flourish in the fall of 1978. She won her first tournament in 1979 and was named LPGA Rookie of the Year. She won four more times the following season and was named Player of the Year, becoming the only player besides Nancy Lopez and Annika Sorenstam to follow a Rookie of the Year season with a Player of the Year award.

Daniel would keep on winning over the next 25 years, even though injuries to her back and shoulder slowed her considerably. When she captured the 2003 Canadian Women’s Open at age 46, she became the oldest winner in LPGA history, an accomplishment of which she is particularly proud. In all she has won 33 tournaments and one major, three Rolex Player of the Year awards and three Vare trophies. She played on eight Solheim Cup teams and qualified for the Hall of Fame in 1999.

"My early success didn’t surprise me," Daniel says. "After winning two U.S. Amateur titles and a national championship in college, I was pretty cocky. In fact, I was more cocky coming out of college than any other time in my career. If you play golf long enough, it will definitely humble you."

King, who has lived in Scottsdale, Ariz., for the past 27 years, played her last LPGA tournament in August of 2005 and doesn’t plan to tee it up again on tour. Her final victory came in 2001, and the slow but steady erosion of her game over the next few years led her to finally call it quits.

"I miss playing [on tour], but I just don’t play well enough anymore to be out there," King says. "It’s hard having been one of the best and then not being able to play to that standard anymore. If I don’t have a chance to win, why would I play?"

If there is anything that clings to King as closely as her Hall of Fame credentials, it is her Christian faith. It has been the central focus of her life since she attended a 1980 conference sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and she has known for some time that her life after the tour would involve some sort of ministry.

During the past three years King has made annual trips to Africa to raise funds for people affected by AIDS. In partnership with World Vision, she is currently leading an LPGA member initiative, Golf Fore Africa, that will assist the people of Mudasomwa, Rwanda in dealing with the AIDS epidemic and the root causes of poverty in the community.

"It was a life-changing experience visiting Africa," says King. "It’s a situation of extreme poverty, and AIDS is a disease of poverty. I came back and said I have to do something."

Daniel has not given up totally on playing professional golf. She played in 15 tournaments in 2006, finishing in a tie for sixth at the Weetabix Women’s British Open, and another five in 2007. But while she has cut back her schedule and is no longer a full-time player, she won’t rule out playing a few select LPGA tournaments in the future.

"I lost that fire you need to compete at this level, which is why I cut back my time on tour," Daniel says. "And if I don’t have that fire, I had to ask myself why am I out here trying to compete?"

Daniel, who lives in Delray Beach, Fla., has also been working as a golf analyst on a few LPGA events for the Golf Channel and CBS Sports. She has already been named Solheim Cup captain for 2009, which will keep her busy over the next two years, and there will no doubt be the odd LPGA tournament in which to play.
"I enjoy commentating, and I felt like I got better with each telecast," Daniel says. "So I would enjoy doing more of that. And it is the ultimate honor to be named Solheim Cup captain after having been part of so many competitions."

**WHEN CAPTAIN** King and assistant captain Daniel led the United States to a 16-12 victory over Europe in the 2007 Solheim Cup, it marked just the second time the Americans had won on European soil. The other "road" victory came 11 years earlier, in Wales, when the U.S. team posted a 17-11 win. If you're looking for the lone connection between the two victories, look no further than King and Daniel, both of whom played for the 1996 squad.

"I felt like Beth and I made a good team [in 2007]," says King, who added to the competition's Furman flavor by inviting Ferro to come to Sweden and assist with the U.S. squad. "I hadn't been playing for two years, and Beth had a lot more knowledge about the younger players."

Daniel and King. Look at the LPGA record books. From the time they joined the tour in the late 1970s through the results of the 2007 Solheim Cup, their names appear an inordinate number of times. The odds seem minute that a single era could produce two such great players with nearly identical records, and it is downright inconceivable that they should have come of age together at a small, liberal arts college in the South.

King tells the story of a good friend and golfer named Donna Noonan, who played at the University of Georgia when King and Daniel were at Furman. "She told us later that she used to say, 'If I can't beat those girls in college, then how can I expect to compete on tour?'"

If Noonan had only known what was in store for those Furman girls, she might not have been so hard on herself.

"Betsy and Beth would never give up on anything," Ferro says. "They would fight to the end, and they both learned how to deal with the stress of playing at the top level. It's been fun to watch them play and rack up their victories and march together into the Hall of Fame. They were the best of their era. Furman should be proud."

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**THE BREAKDOWN**

**BETSY KING**
- Member, LPGA Hall of Fame
- Captain, U.S. Solheim Cup team, 2007
- LPGA Player of the Year, 1984, 1989, 1993
- Vare Trophy winner (lowest scoring average), 1987, 1993
- Victories: 34 (six major titles)
- Co-founder, Furman-LPGA Pro-Am

**BETH DANIEL**
- Member, LPGA Hall of Fame
- Assistant captain, U.S. Solheim Cup team, 2007, captain, 2009
- LPGA Player of the Year, 1980, 1990, 1994
- Vare Trophy winner (lowest scoring average), 1989, 1990, 1994
- Victories: 33 (one major title)
- Co-founder, Furman-LPGA Pro-Am
Seafaring Tale

Beth Tally finds a novel way to honor a longtime friend and her family.

“If there is something you really want to do, you better go ahead and do it, because tomorrow may not give you the opportunity,” says Beth Kendrick Tally.

She explores this statement in The Beacon, a novel she recently self-published through Rosedog Press. But it’s also a recurring theme in her life, which involves exotic ports-of-call, a stream of new cultures and languages, and no permanent address.

“Life is the only story you need,” she says. “Interactions happen to you every day, so don’t discount them. Pay attention, and be aware of your own life, and you’ll enjoy it so much.” Words of wisdom from a once-reluctant “cruiser” — parlance for “one who lives on an ever-wandering sailboat.”

Tally, a 1970 Furman graduate, is speaking by phone from the Rio Dulce in Guatemala, where she has learned about active volcanoes, explored Mayan ruins and been exposed to 23 different dialects. She’ll soon sail with her husband John to Belize. And after that? “I’m not sure what we’ll do,” she says.

This exciting life was never Tally’s ideal. “The water is not my thing,” she says, chuckling at the irony. “I get seasick.”

So imagine her surprise when John, her husband of 26 years, came home from his law practice one day four years ago and announced that his lifelong dream was to sell everything he owned and live on a boat. “I assumed it was a midlife crisis, but it didn’t go away,” Tally says wryly.

With her two grown daughters heading off on their own, she had been concerned about adapting to an empty nest — and then suddenly, she says, “I didn’t even have a nest!”

But these days, she’s grateful that John convinced her to pursue his dream, which so far has taken them up the eastern seaboard to Maine and throughout the Caribbean. “It’s a very different perspective,” she says of her new lifestyle. “This mode of travel is slow, so you see a whole different atmosphere that centers around the water.”

On their 38-foot boat, U'p Jinks, John serves as captain, chief mechanic and photographer for their Web site, www.lifestory.com. Beth has come to relish her role as first mate, as it allows her plenty of time to pursue her primary passion: writing.

Chronicling their experiences helped her adjust to her new, peripatetic lifestyle, and as the months passed she posted increasingly sophisticated entries on the Web site. “It became my way of adopting cruising as what I wanted to do as well — my way of embracing what we were doing,” she says.

Although she didn’t set out to be a novelist, a random trip to a tiny community on Little Exuma Island in the Bahamas inspired her to take a stab at fiction. When they heard a radio advertisement inviting cruisers to a fund-raising bazaar for a church, she and John leaped at the chance for a closer look at the island.

After a delightful visit, full of conversation and barbecued chicken, the idea for a book came to her, fully formed — the main characters of The Beacon and three pivotal chapters. She spent the next year fleshing out her tale of love, loss and redemption, which focuses on the close relationship between Gabriel, a pastor who overcomes a physical disability, and Manuel, his grandson, who survives his own tragedy that challenges his beliefs.

“It’s a simple story about one generation giving the next generation the things it needs in order to manage what life brings, and faith and love are the most powerful of those things,” Tally says. Manuel is able to rely on Gabriel and eventually finds a creative way to repay him for the love and faith he has provided.
After completing her book, Tally realized that its themes kept reminding her of a close Furman friend, Katie Hardaway Burgess ’70, and her family. Tally decided to allocate a portion of the proceeds from sales of the book to Family Connection of South Carolina, a statewide organization Burgess helped found that provides parent-to-parent support programs for special-needs children and their families.

Tally and Burgess became neighbors the summer of 1966, when each was preparing for her freshman year at Furman. Tally’s father, Schaefer Kendrick, was an attorney and adjunct professor at Furman, and Burgess’ father, Eads “Tank” Hardaway, had just become dean of men. Their families built a friendship that has lasted through the decades, complete with births, deaths, triumphs and challenges.

“It’s just been one of those special friendships that you almost can’t define,” says Burgess. “We are forever linked to one another in a very special way, and it’s a real blessing to have that kind of love between two families.”

After graduation, life took the women in different directions, but they came together again in 1986 when both were living in Columbia, S.C. Shortly thereafter, Katie and her husband, Jim, had a daughter, Bryann, who has Down syndrome. Bryann’s birth was “a positively powerful event for them — and for the lives of thousands of other people,” says Tally, who was inspired by the way the Burgesses reached out to other families through Family Connection.

One key message in her novel is about overcoming limitations to achieve a fulfilled life, which is what her character Gabriel does. “He uses his convictions to inspire other people,” Tally says.

Another theme is that love, faith and family are essential. “It immediately came to me — that’s what Jim, Katie and Bryann are all about,” Tally says. She points to the accomplishments of Bryann, now 19, a singer, pianist and public speaker who is involved in community theatre and her church choir. Bryann has also received a United Way Community Impact Award for her work with Family Connection.

Of Tally’s decision to use her book to help raise funds for Family Connection (www.familyconnectionsc.org), Burgess says, “She’s supported us every step of the way. It’s brought wonderful attention to the organization.” And Burgess also sees a parallel between the book’s themes and the purpose of her organization: “The love and support of family and friends and community — those are what life is all about.”

With book signings behind her and sales chugging along at a rate that she calls “very, very gratifying,” Tally is considering her next foray into publishing. She has several manuscripts for children’s stories and is thinking about writing a “tongue-in-cheek diary” about how she was coerced into the cruising life and the adventures that have ensued. “We have many humorous things happen to us,” she says. “I’ve got a lot of stories to tell.”

While she misses her former job as executive director of Central South Carolina Habitat for Humanity, as well as easy access to her children — one of whom lives in Washington, D.C., the other in Charleston, S.C. — she says she and John are enjoying their seafaring life and aren’t sure when, or if, the adventure will end.

But she emphasizes that at least one event would bring her back to terra firma in a hurry. “I don’t have grandchildren,” Tally says, “but John knows that as soon as I do, my days of being permanently on the boat are over.” [1]

The author, a 1994 Furman graduate, is a free-lance writer in Simpsonville, S.C.
The primary emphasis of the four-year, $400 million "Because Furman Matters" comprehensive fund-raising campaign is the university's endowment.

But just what is an endowment, and why is it important?

An endowment is a pool of assets, held in perpetuity. The income generated from the investment of the assets serves as a funding source to support various aspects of a Furman education. As of June 30, 2007, Furman's endowment had a market value of approximately $545 million.

Gifts to the endowment may be designated for anything from strategic initiatives to scholarships, professorships, academic programs or facilities. They may also be undesignated, which allows the board of trustees and the president to apply them to the area of greatest need or opportunity.

The principal of the endowment is intended to remain intact. Each year a portion of the income generated from the investment of endowment assets is used to support various areas; at Furman the average amount spent annually is 4.5 percent of the endowment's total market value.

Oversight of the university's endowment assets is handled by an investment committee consisting of trustees, administrators, alumni and friends of the university. Furman's Department of Financial Services provides additional direction and supports the annual external audit of the endowment.

One of the most telling statistics regarding a university's ability to support and nurture its people and programs is its endowment per student. Through fiscal year 2006, in comparison to a set of 21 peer institutions, Furman's endowment per student of $182,761 ranked 15th — well behind such schools as Richmond, Davidson, Oberlin and Wake Forest, among others.

Which is why "Because Furman Matters" matters so much.

A few examples of how an endowed fund might work:

- An endowed scholarship is the most important way to ensure that deserving students have access to a Furman education. An endowed scholarship may be created with an initial gift of $20,000 if there is the intent to increase the fund to $100,000 or more, either through a pledge or estate plan. The donor may designate the award to support any group, such as low-income students, students on study abroad programs, or students from certain geographic areas. A donor may also make a gift of any amount to existing endowed scholarship funds.

- An endowed professorship underwrites the work and salary of a senior-level professor in the field of the donor's choice. It may be designated for a single department or as a rotating professorship among several departments.

- Because excellent teaching is at the heart of a Furman education, an endowed teaching fund can strengthen students' learning experiences by underwriting such expenses as classroom improvements, technology, and other items that support the teaching-learning process. By focusing on the endowment during the campaign, Furman is working to mitigate its dependence on tuition and fees. Currently, only 27 percent of total financial aid awarded each year is supported by the endowment and annual gifts. The remainder is funded by the annual operating budget, most of which is provided by tuition income. (Tuition and required fees for 2007-08 total $31,560.)

The catalyst for the "Because Furman Matters" campaign was the multi-million-dollar bequest from John D. Hollingsworth, Jr. '39, the Greenville businessman who left his estate to the Hollingsworth Funds, Inc., when he died in 2000. He directed that 45 percent of the annual net income from the Hollingsworth Funds assets go to Furman each year, with the rest of the money to benefit other Greenville County non-profits.

The estate is managed by its own board and does not fall under the discretion of Furman or the university's board of trustees. As of June 30, 2007, interest from the Hollingsworth bequest represented just under $130 million of the total market value of Furman's endowment. The Hollingsworth legacy, through the Hollingsworth Scholarship Program and other initiatives, will increase over time, since the annual distribution to Furman is expected to grow dramatically in coming years.

Furman is now seeking other transforming gifts that will provide similarly lasting benefits and allow the university to fully support the education of any qualified student. For more information contact Wayne King, director of donor relations, at wayne.king@furman.edu or by calling (864) 294-3716.

— PHIL HOWARD
Director, Donor Marketing

I have often been asked, “Why have you selected Furman to support with your time, energy and financial resources? Why does Furman matter to you well after your kids have graduated?”

After all, neither my husband, Dave, nor I attended Furman, at least not as students. However, Furman has been an important part of my life since 1985, when our first child, Traci, enrolled as a freshman. Traci, a 1989 graduate, was followed by Chris ‘94, then Allison ‘96. Each of them considered other institutions, yet at decision time, they chose Furman.

As a parent, I was looking for three things in a college. I wanted a special place where my children could get an excellent education, where their spiritual formation would be nurtured, and where they would be encouraged to develop and strengthen values such as hard work, integrity and service to others. Furman provided all of this.

Furman also set high expectations. Each of our children (and the two Furman graduates who came into our family through marriage) met this challenge. They realized they had to if they wanted to graduate. And the qualities they developed at Furman have served them well since they left the university.

All were well prepared to continue their educations and excel in their careers. Our son, Chris, and our son-in-law, Marc St. John ‘94 (married to Allison), went on to earn master’s degrees and are now successful businessmen, one as an entrepreneur and one as an electrical engineer working for a government think tank. Our two daughters earned doctorates, and our daughter-in-law (Margaret Haskell ‘93 Rinker) is a medical doctor. All of them contribute daily, in meaningful ways, to the world. I believe all of this was possible because of the strong preparation they received at Furman.

But they learned much more than just physics and chemistry and psychology at Furman. During their college years, they discovered the joy that comes through giving of themselves and serving others. They did so through Collegiate Educational Service Corps, now the Heller Service Corps. Today Traci, Chris, Allison, Margaret and Marc work in their respective communities to make life better for others. Some of them provide medical and dental services for migrants and the underserved, some are involved with a children’s home for abused and neglected children, and others help with the homeless and the mentally ill. This is in their “spare” time.

All of them could have earned their diplomas, caps, gowns and hoods elsewhere. But they won’t wear their regalia throughout their lives. Instead, long after the trappings of a graduate have turned to dust, they will wear creativity, kindness, love and service.

It’s these enduring gifts that Furman gave my children, and it’s these gifts that they, in turn, will pass on to their children.

So, why does Furman matter? Furman matters to me because I have seen the impact this university has had on five very special people. Their time at Furman was life-changing and prepared them well for the challenges, magic and wonder the world has in store for them.

This is what I want for my grandchildren. This is what I want for the promising young men and women of the future. This is why Dave and I provide endowed scholarships through which our “extended family” can continue to grow forever.

— LEIGHAN RINKER

The author, a member of the board of trustees, received an honorary degree from Furman in 2004. Through the Marshall E. Rinker, Sr., Foundation, which David Rinker directs, the Rinkers provided the naming gift for one of the new buildings in the Charles H. Townes Center for Science. They also provide ongoing scholarship support through the university’s Partners Program.
Department of Asian Studies makes major strides

Last February, when Furman’s Department of Asian Studies was awarded a State Department grant through the Associated Colleges of the South to conduct a nine-week Chinese language course for U.S. students at Soochow University in China, many institutions with long-established Asian Studies programs took notice.

“I think it woke up a lot of people when we received that grant,” says Jan Kiely, a professor of history and Asian Studies who is currently directing the Hopkins Nanjing Center at China’s Nanjing University. Moreover, three Furman students were among the 20 selected from more than 400 applicants for the tuition-free course.

Furman professor Harry Kuoshu directed the summer program, which featured eight weeks of language instruction and one week of travel. The crash course was equivalent to a full year of study.

The grant was also an indication of how, since its establishment in 1988, Furman’s Department of Asian Studies has grown to the point that it now approaches the status of the country’s leading liberal arts programs, such as those at Middlebury, Wesleyan and Williams.

“What Furman has accomplished would be impressive at any college. Their people have been able to take their program to a new level,” says John Berninghausen, Truscott Professor of Chinese Studies at Middlebury. Berninghausen, who visited Furman last year, says, “I could sense the excitement and growth. There are innovative teachers and scholars with vision. And there has been administrative leadership.”

Much of the Furman program’s strength can be traced to a $1 million gift made in 2004 by Beth and Ravenel Curry ’63. The funds were used to hire two full-time faculty members and to establish several programs that have given Chinese Studies a higher profile.

In 2005 Furman established the Summer China Experience, which funds a two-week trip to China for up to 15 incoming freshmen and two faculty members. The students join a group of their Chinese counterparts at Soochow University for a weeklong comparative cultures seminar, followed by a tour of the country. Furman professors from communication studies, sociology, political science and history have chaperoned the trip — and upon their return added an Asian component to an existing course.

Furman has also sponsored high-profile events in recent years to address economic and political issues in Asia. Among the lecturers have been James Lilley, a former U.S. ambassador to China and South Korea, and several prominent Chinese labor and human-rights activists.

The results? Over the last five years, the number of Asian Studies faculty and majors has doubled. Majors focus on one of three cultures — China, India or Japan.

This September the university became one of just a handful of liberal arts institutions to offer four years of Chinese language instruction. Department chair Kate Kaup says this is a necessary step if the program is to continue to grow.

“We’re attracting students who want to come to Furman to major in Asian Studies,” she says. “Student interest will only continue to grow as we now offer four full years of Chinese language and expand our course offerings. We can now offer an outstanding curriculum with authority.”

The “Because Furman Matters” campaign is targeting support for travel opportunities in the Asian Studies program. This winter, 18 students participated in the university’s first travel-study program in India, co-sponsored by the departments of Asian Studies, economics and history. Accompanied by professors Savita Nair (history) and Kailash Khandke (assistant dean for international education), the students visited Delhi, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Bangalore, Mysore and Cochin, and studied at Madras Christian College in Chennai.

For 2008-09, Furman will add tenure track positions in Chinese philosophy and Chinese language instruction and will host visiting scholar Peng Qian, an authority on ethnic law from Central Nationalities University in Beijing.

The growing focus on Asia comes as China and India begin to play a larger role in the global economy. China’s economy, for example, grew more than 10 percent last year and is now the fourth largest in the world behind the United States, Japan and Germany. China will also host the 2008 Summer Olympics.

Given the growing impact of the Pan-Pacific region on the world stage, college graduates who understand the culture are in great demand.

“I remember when parents would come to me and say, ‘What is my kid going to do as a Chinese major?’” says Berninghausen, who founded the Middlebury Chinese Studies program in 1976. “They don’t ask that anymore.”

— JOHN ROBERTS
Surgical oncologist Steven D. Trocha steps into an operating room at Greenville Memorial Hospital, preparing to perform a mastectomy on a patient with breast cancer. There to observe are three students.

While Trocha works, he peppers the students with questions and grills them on the intricacies of the procedure. And he shows them what an effective and efficient operating room is all about.

This situation is hardly unusual for a teaching hospital. What is unusual, however, is who has scrubbed in to observe Trocha’s work.

One is a medical student. Another is a surgical resident.

The third is Furman student Sarah Asman ’08.

“Asman says, “This is the real deal.”

Asman, a biology major, was one of 10 undergraduates who were part of the 2007 Furman Oncology Research Team (FORT), a summer internship program that offered students the chance to conduct cancer research and gain the kind of practical know-how that could set them apart in the eyes of medical schools and graduate programs.

“This isn’t just another shadowing program where you come in for a few hours and maybe get to see surgery from a distance,” Asman says. “You’re expected to be there at 7 a.m. You’re expected to be prepared. You have to know how to interact with physicians and anticipate their next question before they even ask it. You have to prove yourself in surgery when the surgeon asks you a question that the observing medical student might not even know.”

In recent years medical schools have begun placing a premium on applicants who have clinical experience in a hospital setting. Such experiences, however, are typically abbreviated and limited in focus, says Trocha, who adds, “What students don’t get exposed to are all the things that lead up to an operation.”

After meeting with Furman students and biology professor Christine Schammel, Furman’s health professions research director and FORT program architect, Trocha says they determined that “it would be a lot more fulfilling for the students to do the research, to observe operations up close, to understand how to diagnose, manage and treat a particular cancer, and to complete a research project that might then be published.

“It shows a far different level of involvement — and, in my opinion, a far greater understanding of what medicine is today.”

For their research, the students were divided into two-person teams and assigned a project. They analyzed data on hundreds of cancer patients, studying the surgical procedures, non-surgical alternatives and prognostic factors that affected treatment options. They learned about the intricacies of clinical research and created new sets of data that could enhance ongoing research efforts. They scrubbed in for surgeries. And they observed the lifestyle of medical residents — and the rigors of preparing for a career in medicine.

“It was amazing how quickly they assimilated the information from the medical textbooks, journal articles and other areas,” says Schammel.

To date, the FORT students have submitted four research abstracts for consideration at national and international meetings. So far, one (on melanoma, by Amanda Byrd ’08) has been accepted for a meeting in Sydney, Australia, which Byrd will attend.

Thanks to the high-quality work of the students, Schammel has heard from other doctors who want to institute similar programs with undergraduates. “So the students aren’t the only ones getting value out of this,” says Schammel. “You have really busy clinicians who need to publish — who have a lot of research to do — and this is a great collaborative effort that assists them in this endeavor.”

As for the students, they recognize they’ve been given an opportunity that is rarely available at the undergraduate level. Fifteen more have signed up for the program this summer.

“We’ve gotten it all through this experience,” says Kaylee Nuckolls ’08. “We’ve learned how to extract and find data, incorporate it, run biostatistics and write a medical article, and we’ve observed what it’s truly like to be a surgeon.”

— CARY JORDAN

Adapted from an article in Engage Furman (Volume 3, No. 3), a publication of the Furman Admissions Office.
Dan Ellis: Man with a golden heart

When I rolled into Greenville with my wife and a U-Haul truck on August 2, 1976, the first phone number I learned belonged to Dan Ellis. No one else could have offered the kind of support that Dan provided this new 24-year-old faculty member. By our second day in town, he had found us an apartment. His sons, Keith and Barry, moved us in on the third day. The fourth day I was playing a solo at his lakeside band concert.

Three days later I was traveling with him to the Brevard Music Camp to represent Furman during College Day, and by the middle of August I found myself standing in a field next to Dan at a high school marching band rehearsal in some place called Newberry.

Before the end of the fall term, Dan had introduced me to countless area musicians, scheduled me to play or adjudicate on every weekend Furman didn’t have a home football game, and helped me secure a loan so that I could buy a car.

But the thing about Dan was, he would have done the same for anyone. The world is full of people who could tell stories of Dan Ellis’ generosity and desire to see others succeed.

When he died November 4 at the age of 77, hundreds of former students and colleagues lost a mentor and friend, and Furman lost one of its most colorful and popular personalities — and one of its finest ambassadors.

Dan seemed to know everyone and everyone seemed to know him — even thousands of miles from Greenville. My departmental colleague Gary Malvern tells this story from the band’s trip to Bergamo, Italy, in 1985:

While walking around the city, Gary and Dan’s son Keith happened upon a music store. In the window was a famous brand of trumpet for sale at an incredibly low price. Keith just had to have it, but he ran into a snag as he tried to complete the transaction.

Eventually the clerk called the Furman band’s hotel. After a stream of conversation in Italian, the clerk’s face lit up. “Oh, Dan Ellis,” he said. He hung up, handed the trumpet to Keith and said, “Pay me when you get back to the United States.”

Dan started the Furman band program in 1958 with just 19 students. When he retired 37 years later, in June 1995, the university named the marching band practice field in his honor.

During his career, Dan earned a host of awards from regional and national professional groups, and in 1993 he was inducted into the South Carolina Music Educators Hall of Fame.

As the founder (in 1968) and longtime conductor of the summer lakeside concerts, a series of free band performances held each Thursday evening beside the Furman lake, he established a tradition that has grown stronger and more popular with each passing year. It’s no wonder that The Greenville News referred to him as “Mr. Music.”

Yet it is his students who serve as his most lasting legacy. For one thing, they have their memories of band tours, which Dan organized each year. The stories that emerged from those trips are the stuff of legend.

More significantly, though, his students recall how Dan encouraged, disciplined, coaxed, inspired, comforted and cared for them. Many called him “Daddy Dan.” He celebrated the successes of his most talented students and found ways to rescue those who needed a second chance.

Dan never took himself too seriously and was always able to laugh at his own faults. He loved his family dearly and rejoiced in the accomplishments of his talented sons, both of whom followed his lead and became college professors.

I know I will be forever grateful to the man with the golden heart. He was my lifeline when I first arrived at Furman, and he was a mentor to me and countless others who were fortunate to come under his influence.

—J OHN BECKFORD
Professor of Music

Dan Ellis is survived by his wife, Grace; sons, Keith ’80 and Barry ’82; daughter-in-law, Terri Turner Ellis ’82; and grandchildren, Sarah and Daniel Ellis. Memorials: Dan Ellis Scholarship Fund, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613.
The university welcomed a new vice president February 1.

Connie Carson, a longtime administrator at Wake Forest University, succeeds Harry Shucker '66 as vice president for student services.

A graduate of North Carolina State and holder of an M.A. and an M.B.A., Carson spent one year as an area director at her alma mater before joining the Wake Forest staff in 1986 as area coordinator and summer conference director. She served as associate director of residence life and housing and as executive director of residential services before becoming vice president of campus services and planning in October 2006.

Furman has also announced that Benny Walker '71, vice president for enrollment since 1992, will step down at the end of the academic year to become assistant to the president and senior associate for the Richard W. Riley Institute. In his new role, Walker will assist president David Shi with the "Because Furman Matters" campaign, work with the Riley Institute's Diversity Leadership Academy, and help to promote other local and statewide initiatives.

Walker has worked at Furman since he graduated. He was an assistant director of admissions, director of financial aid and associate dean for admissions and financial aid before being named a vice president. He has been a trustee of the College Board and conducted workshops across the Southeast on financial planning for college.

In addition, the board of trustees has authorized a reorganization of the senior administration.

Thomas Kazee, vice president for academic affairs and dean since 2003, has been named to the new position of provost and executive vice president. Kazee remains the university's chief academic officer while assuming new administrative responsibilities that will allow him to devote more time to dealing with strategic issues. His expanded duties will, in turn, free Shi to focus on the needs of the comprehensive campaign.

Previously, all Furman vice presidents and several area directors reported to the president. Under the new system, the vice presidents for student services and enrollment will report to the provost and executive vice president, as will the director of planning and institutional research, the chief information officer and the chaplain. The director of athletics and the vice presidents of marketing and public relations, business affairs and development will continue to report to the president. The director of human resources will report to the vice president of business affairs instead of to the president.

This is not the first time Furman has had a provost. Francis W. Bonner was vice president and provost from 1972 to 1982.

As part of the reorganization, Furman named professor of music John Beckford, who chaired the faculty from 2005-07, to a new position, dean of the faculty. The dean reports to the provost and executive vice president and will assume various responsibilities for the academic area.

Beckford, who began his new role March 1, has taught at Furman since 1976. He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Iowa.
Distinguished historian Orville Vernon Burton, a 1969 Furman graduate, has scored again with his latest book.

The Age of Lincoln, published by Hill and Wang, is a re-examination of the Civil War era and has been praised for its fresh approach and insights into Lincoln’s character and influence. The book earned Burton, professor of history and sociology at the University of Illinois, the 2007 Heartland Prize for Non-Fiction from the Chicago Tribune. The prize is given annually to a novel and a non-fiction work that reinforce and perpetuate the values of heartland America.

Burton is author or editor of 14 books, including In My Father’s House Are Many Mansions: Family and Community in Edgefield, South Carolina, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. He was named the 1999 U.S. Research and Doctoral University Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). In 2004 he received the American Historical Association’s Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Prize.

At the close of this academic year Burton will leave Illinois, where he also directs the Center for Computing in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, to become the Burroughs Distinguished Professor of Southern History and Culture at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.

Lloyd Benson, Walter Kenneth Mattison Professor of History at Furman, provides this review of The Age of Lincoln.

The Civil War transformed America in ways its initiators never anticipated. In their contests over the meaning of the nation, Americans revolutionized the definitions of both freedom and order. In his magisterial new book The Age of Lincoln, Vernon Burton provides a rich portrayal of the era’s promise and tragedy, recasting the familiar narrative of antebellum sectional conflict, war-making and political reconstruction into a deeper meditation on American democracy, power, faith and values.

Burton tells this history at a human scale. Beginning The Age of Lincoln with the Age of Jackson, he outlines the broader tensions and connections of mid-19th century society across cultural, regional and racial lines. He follows with a lively discussion of the era’s key reform movements, the challenges of industrial development and the political crises of the 1850s.

Burton’s accounts of the secession crisis and the conduct of military operations outline the full complexity of the competing imperatives the participants faced, and he compellingly describes how the home front, the political sphere and the soldiers’ front-line experiences impacted each other. His concluding chapters offer a rich reinterpretation of how the ambiguities and opportunities of community-level reconstruction intersected with emerging corporate capital.

Burton emphasizes Lincoln as a central figure of the age. This is not a biography of Lincoln, per se, but Burton vividly illustrates how the president’s career and death embodied the tragedy-infused metamorphoses of the larger society.

Like Lincoln himself, the nation was sprawling and energetic but sometimes uncoordinated in movement. Like Lincoln himself, the nation brooded, suffered, celebrated and evolved. Like Lincoln himself, the nation proved willing to subordinate specific freedoms and to permit illiberal concentrations of power at the expense of individuals and communities, even while enabling very tangible improvements in American liberty. The book shows how Lincoln’s vision of national redemption (“a new birth of freedom”) suffused far beyond the presidency.

During his career Burton has pioneered the integration of grassroots community-level history with traditional narratives of high politics and military strategy. Lincoln deftly connects issues of social class, race relations, family dynamics and political culture to more surprising insights from agricultural history, labor history and the scholarship of regional distinctiveness.

Uniquely among Civil War histories the book incorporates religion into the core narrative, emphasizing the spiritual ordeal of Americans as they sought to regenerate the national promise. Burton illustrates what could have been possible, notably in such movements as the bi-racial, rural-urban and multi-class political alliance of the Readjusters of reconstruction Virginia, and provides a clear-eyed analysis of the people and movements that resisted or reversed such efforts. No region, class, party or section escapes his humane but critical gaze, and he finds his heroes in places both predictable and unpredictable.

That Burton shows the flaws and foibles of the more heroic characters while dignifying and humanizing the more unregenerate souls only adds to the richness of the account. His depiction of how some found transcendence while others dwelt in bitter vengeance makes The Age of Lincoln a truly innovative contribution to Civil War-era scholarship.
FROM ALUMNI

Joy Jordan-Lake '85, Why Jesus Makes Me Nervous (Paraclete Press, 2007). The publisher says, "In this unconventional, sharp-witted, challenging book, Jordan-Lake explores 10 reasons that Jesus makes her nervous — and why that nervousness is such a good thing!" In examining such topics as resurrection, community and forgiveness, she "explores the potentially alarming, even dangerous implications of actually living out these words" and analyzes "the often uncomfortable path of genuine faith." The author of several books and a novel due this spring, Jordan-Lake has a Ph.D. in English literature and teaches at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. Visit www.joyjordanlake.com.

Philip Belcher '82, The Flies and Their Lovely Names (University of South Carolina/ South Carolina Poetry Initiative, 2007). The Spartanburg (S.C.) Herald Journal says that Belcher’s poems in this chapbook “open up the otherwise fleeting moments in life — hunting as a boy, cutting a finger, tying flies and realizing a love affair has ended. Sadness and regret, joy and absurdity weave their way through his collection.” The author won the Porter Fleming Writing Competition Prize in Poetry in 2005. He is president of the Mary Black Foundation in Spartanburg and was formerly director of the health care division of The Duke Endowment in Charlotte, N.C.

Patricia Webster Stewart '82, Stuck in My Own Family Tree (Lulu Publishing, 2007). The publisher describes this book as "a collection of nostalgic family stories" that extend from Europe to America. “Each new generation produces family stories of their own, some inspiring, some so awesome they are hard to believe, some just plain funny. Stewart uses her knack for storytelling to pass on tales that will inspire and amuse the next generations.” The author, a member of the South Carolina Writer’s Workshop, lives in Nashville.

FROM FACULTY

Linda Heatwole Jacobs '74 (writing as Christine Carroll), The Senator’s Daughter (Medallion Press, 2008). Romantic Times Book Reviews gives this book four stars, and romance novelist Susan Wiggs describes it as “a first-rate page-turner, featuring well-drawn characters and a wonderful sense of place.” The story follows the budding romance of sophisticated Sylvia Chatsworth and up-and-coming San Francisco attorney Lyle Thomas. Their future looks rosy until the romantic Victorian inn where they’re staying burns. Does someone want them dead? Could it be her father? And is Lyle who he seems to be? This is Jacobs’ second novel under her pseudonym and fifth overall, including three set in Yellowstone National Park. She wrote about her work in the Summer 2007 issue of Furman.

Lucinda Secrest McDowell ‘74, Role of a Lifetime: Your Part in God’s Story (B&H Books, 2008). This is the author’s seventh book with a spiritual/inspirational theme. The publisher says she “helps readers better understand their unique part and important purpose in the greater story of God’s kingdom.” Role of a Lifetime outlines “a pathway toward passion and significance, a life marked by radical faith and an ever deepening relationship with God that will make a difference in our own lives and the lives of others.” McDowell lives in Wethersfield, Conn. Visit her Web site, www.encouragingwords.net.

Katerina Katsarca Whitley ’57, Waiting for the Wonder: Voices of Advent (Morehouse Publishing, 2005; audio version, 2007). The publisher says the author “places herself in the hearts and minds of the biblical characters — both real and imagined — who played a part in the Christmas narrative… The voices of her characters lead us closer to the Christ child and deepen the meaning of the season of Advent for 21st-century readers.” Of her audio version, Whitley, an adjunct instructor at Appalachian State University in North Carolina, says, “I was a student [at Furman] of the marvelous Dorothy Rice, who convinced me of the power of my voice and dramatic inclinations. As I was recording this book I was remembering her inspiring teaching.” Visit Whitley’s Web site, www.katerinawhitley.net.

Erik Ching, associate professor of history, co-authored three books about Latin America published in 2007. Ching wrote his dissertation in El Salvador and spent part of 2005 teaching history courses at the National University of El Salvador on a Fulbright Fellowship.

Remembering a Massacre in El Salvador: The Insurrection of 1932, Roque Dalton and the Politics of Historical Memory (University of New Mexico Press) is written with Héctor Linda Fuentes and Rafael Lara Martínez. The publisher says, “The authors provide the first systematic study of the infamous massacre now regarded as one of the most extreme cases of state-sponsored repression in modern Latin American history.”

Las masas, la matanza y el Martinato en El Salvador: Ensayos sobre 1932 (University of Central America Editeors) is co-authored with Carlos Gregorio Lopez-Bernal and Virginia Tilley. The book, written in Spanish, examines the same event, in which an estimated 30,000 El Salvadorans died.

Reframing Latin America: A Cultural Theory Reading of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (University of Texas Press) is written with Angelica Lozano-Alonso, a Spanish professor at Furman, and Christina Buckley, a former Furman professor. The book is designed for use in undergraduate courses in Latin American historical, literary and cultural studies.

Albert and Marian Blackwell, editors, The Psalms of David: 24 Psalms for the Church’s Year, by Heinrich Schutz (Oxford University Press, 2007). This anthology, the product of Albert Blackwell’s final Furman sabbatical, features 24 psalms set to music by Schutz and presents them in new English translations which match the original meter and rhyming scheme. The settings may be sung in unison or in parts as anthems for a choir. Blackwell, Reuben B. Pitts Professor Emeritus of Religion, is the author of several books. He has been assistant director of the Harvard Glee Club, founder and director of the Quodlibet Singers and for 30 years director of the choir at Greenville’s St. James Episcopal Church. His wife, Marian, is a writer and published poet.

Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of books by alumni and faculty
Film study: Watch for Furman faces in *Leatherheads*

*When Leatherheads* fever struck Greenville last winter — the inevitable result, one supposes, when George Clooney, the two-time “Sexiest Man Alive,” comes to town to shoot a movie — Furman people were among the hordes who turned out for casting calls.

The film, a romantic comedy about the early days of pro football, also stars Renée Zellweger and John Krasinski (television’s “The Office”). It’s scheduled to hit theatres April 4.

When it does, watch closely. You might see someone you know.

Like Jim Leavell, professor emeritus of history and Asian Studies. He was designated the “cue guy” for one crowd scene. Leavell’s job was to take off cheering, and the rabble was to follow his lead. Evidently, the part of “cue guy” requires that you have a Ph.D.

Then there’s Will Bouton ’02, a football All-American in his student days. His character actually has a name, if not a speaking role: Big Boy Rawlings, a menacing linebacker who’s out to get Clooney in the film’s big game.

How did Bouton, who works in Greenville for Massachusetts Mutual, land the plum part? “I think they were looking for the biggest, ugliest guy they could find,” he says modestly.

The football extras were on call for a number of weeks, so Bouton got to know many of the cast and crew. During breaks he arranged for Clooney and his cronies to play basketball at Greenville’s First Baptist Church — much to the delight of the FBC Kindergarten’s all-female staff.

“One day there were about 15 or 20 women watching us from the floor above,” says Bouton. “We thought no one knew George was there, but apparently the word got out.”

Bill Berg, director of planning and institutional research, was cast as a barber. After he got into costume, someone shoved a shaving mug at him and said, “You’re going to give George a shave.” And then Clooney bounded in with a “Hey, how ya doin’?”

Before Berg could react, the cameras were rolling. So he began lathering up Clooney, who, in his dual role of actor/director, suggested that Berg pick up the straight razor, pinch his nose and make a few “swoopy” motions across his neck and face.

Nothing like having the star’s life in your hands.

Then Clooney delivered a line from the script, to which the bewildered Berg says he nearly responded, “Are you talking to me?” Fortunately, he managed a more “in-character” response.

“I was just trying not to look at the camera,” says Berg.

And we would be remiss to omit Marketing and PR’s own John Roberts. Roberts, who is also Furman’s rugby coach, plays a referee. His discovery that he’s in the film’s trailer was a high point in recent departmental history: “There I am! That’s me! There I am again!”

Other Furman folks had their moments, such as Tom ’91 and Angela Wood ’90 Riddle, both Greenville County educators, and their three sons.

Tom Riddle was initially chosen to be a football player — only to be cut two days later. The next week, though, he was called back to portray a referee.

After that day of filming, Riddle and his family were asked to be in a scene that would be shot in nearby Ware Shoals, which had a stadium that actually dated from the ’20s. “Ware Shoals is where I played high school football,” says Riddle, who also coached the sport for 16 years, “so I was doubly thrilled to have a chance to work on that set.”

While Tom and Angela were relegated to the crowd at Ware Shoals, their sons Ben, Nick and Jon were in several different shots, working mostly with Krasinski. Ben appears in the trailer and in one of the studio “still” photos. After the day’s shoot, Ben presented Clooney a picture he had drawn for him, and the star — who charmed the locals throughout filming — cheerfully posed for a family portrait.

Two days later, on a Sunday morning, Angela got a call that women were needed to film some scenes in downtown Greenville. Even though the family was “already dressed for church and heading out the door,” Tom says, “for some reason Angela chose to work with Clooney instead. Go figure.”

Hopefully, the talents of these and other Furman folks will make it into the final cut. Whatever the case, the opportunity to be part of a major motion picture — and to work with the stars — was one that none of them will forget.

— JIM STEWART

To learn more, visit www.leatherheadsmovie.com and www.greenvilleonline.com.
Stellar college career propels Leathers onto international scene

It's pretty clear that Furman senior Jon Leathers was the best soccer player in the Southern Conference in 2007. But the best in the country? Now that's just crazy talk.

Or is it?

No, Leathers wasn't bestowed such an honor by any of the organizations that recognize such things. The only defender twice named Southern Conference Player of the Year, however, was also the only college player selected by coach Peter Nowak to be a member of the Under-23 national team that recently played two exhibition matches in China in preparation for this summer's Olympic Games.

That's pretty compelling evidence, even without a big trophy to make it official. At the very least, Leathers' name is now firmly entrenched in the annals of Furman athletics, and it's looking as if the Athens, Ga., native is on the same track that elevated the likes of Clint Dempsey '05, Ricardo Clark '05 and John Barry Nusum '02 into national and even world soccer prominence.

"[The national team] was always a dream. It was just kind of a shock when it came. It came sooner than expected, I guess," Leathers says. "I found out the day before Thanksgiving I was on the final roster. I was ecstatic."

That was shortly before the Paladins' outstanding 2007 season ended in the second round of the NCAA tournament with a loss to eventual national champion Wake Forest. At the time, the match in Winston-Salem was the biggest Leathers had been a part of. But not for long.

"The last game that we played was, like, maybe 4,000 fans, and the first game in China the stadium was pretty much full and there were around 40,000 fans," Leathers says. "I was, like, wow, this is crazy. I was pretty much overwhelmed by it. But it was a great experience."

Leathers did not play in a 0-0 tie December 13, but he was on the field for the entire second half of a dramatic 3-3 draw December 16 in which the United States blew a 3-0 lead — with the caper being a dubious penalty kick awarded to the Chinese with no time left on the clock.

The experience left Leathers, a College Soccer News first-team All-American, with just a taste of the emotion that comes with major international play, and he's hungry to be part of it again. But nothing is guaranteed because in the world of international soccer, rosters can change dramatically from day to day.

The CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football) championships will be held March 11-23, with the two finalists from the eight-team tournament qualifying for the Summer Olympics. Leathers could make the U.S. CONCACAF team or the U.S. Olympic team — or neither. But if Nowak calls him, he'll play.

With Nowak's blessing, Leathers missed a U-23 national team training camp January 6-20 so that he could concentrate on two things: the Major League Soccer combine January 11-15, after which he was drafted by Kansas City (and teammate Shea Salinas '08 was chosen by San Jose), and on graduating with his class in May.

A business administration major, Leathers says that completing his degree will be possible thanks to independent study and the "phenomenal" flexibility of his professors.

Furman coach Doug Allison has no doubt that Leathers has what it takes to follow former Paladins Dempsey and Clark to the national team and into the professional ranks.

"Jon is a different position and he is a different kind of player, but the similarities are that they are very, very tough," says Allison. "And they all train equally as hard. That's why Clint and Ricardo are good pros. Jon's got that attribute of being a good pro. If he keeps his nose clean and rolls his sleeves up and does the job that he's done here, there's no question that he can make it."

If, indeed, Leathers' success comes down to work, it looks like the battle's already won.

"I think every time I go out and train and play I feel I have to prove myself. I don't think there's ever going to be a time where I feel like I'm it," Leathers says. "Complacency, it never allows you to progress. I don't even want to be in that situation."

— RON WAGNER '93

The author is a free-lance writer from Hendersonville, N.C.
LOOKING AHEAD: SUMMER OFFERINGS FOR ALL AGES

Although many might think that the pace at Furman eases during the summer, the truth is that the campus barely has time to catch its breath between the end of school and the start of the “summer programs” season.

From music and sports camps to special seminars and activities, the Office of Camps and Conferences brings as many as 10,000 visitors to Furman each summer.

This year, the Alumni and Admissions offices are doing their part to keep the summer busy by offering several programs that we believe will be of interest to Furman graduates and/or their children. Quick synopses of these programs follow.

> WHAT’S CALLING YOU NOW?
The Lilly Center for Theological Exploration of Vocation and the Alumni Association are offering the second Lilly Alumni Retreat July 24-27. The retreat’s theme will once again be “What’s Calling You Now?”

This weekend event, for alumni who graduated between 1975 and 2000, is an invitation to revisit important dreams, explore the realities of adult life that get in the way of true calling, and share with others life’s wisdom accrued across several decades of experiences.

James Mason ’86, a school district administrator in Raymond, Miss., attended the first “What’s Calling You Now” retreat in the summer of 2006. He writes that it provided him “the opportunity to step off the often relentless treadmill of life and reconsider what really matters most. I found it amazing how the retreat helped to awaken some of my deepest passions about life, family and faith.

“Just as the Furman experience began a transformative journey within me over 25 years ago, the Lilly retreat began another subtle yet seismic shift in how I will view and pursue my vocational calling during the second half of my life.”

We have lined up several Furman professors who will offer their perspectives on the topic “Dreaming Dreams, Living Lives.” You’ll benefit from the tutelage of Charles Brewer, William R. Kenan Professor of Psychology; Jim Edwards, longtime professor of philosophy, Linda Bartlett, associate academic dean; and Elizabeth Smith, associate professor of political science.

The staff of the Lilly Center — Elaine Nocks, professor of psychology; David Bost, professor of Spanish; and Ann Quattlebaum, project coordinator — will lead other seminars and exploratory sessions.

You’ll live in Furman’s North Village apartments and have plenty of free time to reflect on your experience. Cost for the program is $250, plus $15.25 if you want the university to supply bedding and towels.

For more information or to register, visit www.furman.edu/lilly or call (864) 294-2511. You can also go to www.furman.edu/fumag/index-fall06.html and click on the link to read an account of the 2006 retreat by Kevin Spears ’92.

> PLANNING FOR COLLEGE
The Admissions Office is developing a free “Planning for College” seminar for alumni and prospective students on Friday, June 20.

The program will include a primer on selecting a college and will feature tips for students and parents about various aspects of the college search, from what to look for during campus visits to how to build a list of potential colleges. It will also offer advice about preparing applications and helpful instruction on paying for college, including how to search for financial aid and scholarships. A panel of Furman students will be on hand to offer their perspectives about college life.

For those who are considering applying to Furman, there will be an opportunity to learn about the university’s programs. More information is available by e-mailing laura.simmons@furman.edu or by calling the Alumni Office (1-800-PURPLE3) or the Admissions Office, (864) 294-2034.

> SUMMER SCHOLARS
Alumni with rising juniors or seniors in high school, take note: Furman offers a Summer Scholars program of one-week enrichment classes for your students.

The courses are taught by Furman faculty and staff and typically include a variety of learning experiences, ranging from lectures and small-group discussions to debates, laboratory work, field trips, group and individual projects, and other activities. This year’s programs are scheduled July 15-21 and 22-28.

Cost for the one-week courses is $800, which covers room, board, field trips and other fees. Students may participate for two weeks; those taking two classes receive a discount of $300.

Summer Scholars live in Lakeside (women’s) Housing and have access to all university facilities. They also receive group and individual counseling from Admissions representatives and students.

This year’s classes will include such topics as global information systems, ecology and environmentalism, languages (French and Spanish), leadership, acting, writing about films and advertising design. For the full list, visit www.furman.edu/summerscholars.

Deadline for applications is June 15. For additional information, e-mail jean.adams@furman.edu or call Jean at (864) 294-3231.

— TOM TRIPPLETT ’76

The author is director of the Alumni Association.
The Greenville County school board has named one of its administrative centers in honor of M.T. Anderson, a longtime educator and superintendent of county schools from 1960-70. During his decade as superintendent he coordinated integration of the state’s largest school district, and the county also added programs in special education and kindergarten. He celebrated his 100th birthday November 13.

Jeffrey R. Willis, archivist and Andrew Helmus Professor of History Emeritus at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., joined former U.S. Sen. Ernest F. Hollings as one of two recipients of the 2007 South Carolina Governor’s Awards in the Humanities for contributions to humanities scholarship and public humanities programs. Jeff holds a doctorate in British history from the University of Virginia and has worked at Converse for more than 40 years. He is the author of three books and numerous articles and essays on local history and is past president of the South Carolina Historical Association and the Spartanburg County Historical Association. He has also served on the boards of the Greenville Historical Society and Historic Greenville Foundation.

Larry Jepson, a former star football player at Ashatabula (Ohio) High School and at Furman, was inducted into the Ashatabula County Football Hall of Fame during an awards banquet in December. He joined 14 other inductees. Now retired after a career in banking, he and his wife, Cilla (M.A. ‘71), live in Kearney, Neb.

CLASS NOTES, WINTER 2008

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63

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Henry Spencer King of Spartanburg, S.C., a partner in the Ward Law Firm, P.A., has been named a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. The ACTL is composed of the best members of the trial bar from the United States and Canada. Fellowship is extended by invitation only to lawyers having a minimum of 15 years of trial experience. Spencer is president of the Spartanburg County Bar Association.

69

Linda Friddle Hardin, an English as a Second Language teacher at Tanglewood Middle School in Greenville, received National History Day’s Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award in recognition of her dedication to the National History Day program and her success with students. She has twice been named South Carolina National History Day Teacher of the Year.

70

Mary Jae Abbitt recently returned from a year in Baghdad, Iraq, where she worked with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at the Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction Team. She provided training in conflict resolution and implemented town hall-style meetings between members of the newly elected Baghdad Provincial Council and citizens.

71

Kelly Henson has been named executive secretary of the Professional Standards Commission for the state of Georgia. The commission is responsible for the certification, preparation and conduct of certified, licensed or permitted personnel employed in the Georgia public schools. Kelly has been superintendent of Floyd County Schools since 2001.

72

Carole Clarke Boyce, a member of the Gwinnett County (Ga.) Board of Education, was included in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s list of the county’s most influential women.

73

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Atlanta attorney Ken Shigley has been elected to the executive committee of the State Bar of Georgia.

75

Brenda Pruitt has been named executive director of the Atlanta Gay Men’s Chorus. She has been active in the Atlanta arts community as an administrator, teacher and music therapist.

Richard Wedemeyer was recently named professor of psychology at Rose State College in Midwest City, Okla., where he had been an adjunct professor. He also continues to write and maintains a private practice. He specializes in adaptation to chronic illnesses, sexual dysfunctions and relationship dynamics.

76

Paul Carapelloiti (M.B.A. ‘78) of Pittsburgh, Pa., has been appointed to the board of Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. He is an officer, director and shareholder in Anthony Mining Company, Jeffco Resources, Richmond Mill and Fort Steuben Management and is also a board member and director of the Ohio Valley region’s division of Sky Bank.

77

Glen and Clista Adkins are Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries in Pecs, Hungary, working at a school for Roma (gypsy) children. Glen was formerly music minister at Greenville’s First Baptist Church.

John Banka has been made a partner at Colliers International, an international real estate services company. He is based in the company’s Warsaw, Poland, office with the investment advisory group.

Tommy Hays’ 2006 novel The Pleasure Was Mine was selected by the Greenville County Library System for “The Amazing Read,” the county’s first community-wide, one-book reading initiative.

Mont Linkenauger of Lanexa, Va., recently earned a Master of Science degree in biology from the University of Maryland.

78

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Beach Foster has become a financial advisor in the Greenville office of Morgan Keegan & Co., a full-service brokerage and investment banking firm. He was previously a vice president and financial advisor with Smith Barney.

80

Paul Ryan has joined the Atlanta office of the Thompson Hine LLP law firm as counsel in the employee benefits executive compensation practice group. He previously was a partner with Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC.

81

Craig Schoen has become a financial advisor in the Greenville office of Morgan Keegan & Co., a full-service brokerage and investment banking firm. He was previously a first vice president and financial advisor with Smith Barney.

82

Timothy Brown of Charleston, S.C., recently earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in education from Capella University.
Kevin Dunlap, a partner in the Spartanburg, S.C., office of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, has been selected by his peers to be included in the 2008 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation.

Steve Faucette of Williamston, S.C., operates a photography business and produces matted prints, inspirational notecards and postcards of upstate South Carolina sites. View his work, which has appeared in Sandlapper magazine and other publications, at www.faucetephotography.com.

Lisa Horne Stevens of Greenville has been elected to a third term as board chair of Langston Charter Middle School, the only co-ed public middle school in South Carolina teaching all single-gender classes.

MARRIAGE: Anne Allgood and William Peria, August 25. She is an actress and teacher in Seattle and he is a research scientist at the University of Washington.

83 THIS YEAR IS REUNION!
Chuck Ambrose, president of Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, N.C., is the recipient of the national Division II Conference Commissioner’s Association 2008 Award of Merit for his leadership of the “I Chose Division II” campaign that significantly increased awareness of Division II athletics. He is completing his second term as chair of the NCAA Division II Presidents Council.

85 Stephen Leist of Lexington, Ky., has earned a Master of Library/Information Science degree from the University of Kentucky.

86 Charles Davis of Burlington, N.C., senior director of individual giving at Elon University for four years, has been named the university’s assistant vice president for development. Chuck previously worked as interim president of the Medical Foundation in the Division of Health Sciences at East Carolina University and as the director of development for ECU’s Brody School of Medicine.

Shari Bailey Harvey of Alpharetta, Ga., has joined Diversified Trust Company as a principal. Diversified Trust provides comprehensive wealth management services to families and business owners and investment management services to endowments, foundations and employee benefit plans.

Glenda Elmore Inabinet of Goose Creek, S.C., has been appointed director of Trident One Stop Career System. The company helps employers and job seekers meet their workforce development needs. She was most recently vice president of human resources for Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union in Summerville, S.C.

Susan Mangelios earned a Ph.D. in policy studies in education from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Her dissertation was on work-life balance and executive success. For the past 11 years she has been president of Lexington College.

Donna “Shelly” Moore has earned a Doctor of Education degree from the University of South Carolina. She is an administrator at USC-Bluffton.

BIRTHS: Blair Bass, twin daughters, Abigail Graham and Gracelynn Neal, July 5. They live in Charlotte, N.C.

87 Scott Donald of Ewing, N.J., ran the New York City Marathon November 2 on behalf of Fred’s Team, a cancer research fund-raising group associated with Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital. He also ran the New York City Half-Marathon during the summer.

Austin Fleming earned a Master of Health Science degree from Armstrong Atlantic State University and was selected for a post-graduate administrative fellowship with the Veteran’s Administration Health Care System in Augusta, Ga. Last February he was part of an Armstrong Atlantic team that received the Innovation Award at the University of Alabama-Birmingham’s Healthcare Administration Competition.

Robert Mingus is a partner with Anesthesiologists Associated in Chattanooga, Tenn. He competed in the 2007 Leadville Trail 100, a 100-mile mountain bike race in the Colorado Rockies.

Tod Taylor of Dyersburg, Tenn., has been elected to the board of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

88 THIS YEAR IS REUNION!
J. Scott Derrick, director of student activities and the University Center at Furman, has been elected to a two-year term as regional director of the Association of College Unions International Region 5. He is spending this year as regional director-elect.

John Payne joined the Piedmont Reproductive Endocrinology Group in Greenville in September. He is board-certified in general OB/GYN and reproductive endocrinology and infertility and most recently served as chief of the reproductive and infertility division of OB/GYN at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

89 Greg and Samantha Reed Hathorn have opened Sam & Greg’s Gelato Cafe in Huntsville, Ala.

George Quailes, football coach at Maryville (Tenn.) High School, led his 2007 team to its fourth consecutive Class 4A state championship and seventh state title in eight years. His teams have won 60 consecutive games, 99 of their last 100 and 113 of their last 115. Quailes was invited to serve on the coaching staff for the East squad at the U.S. Army All-American high school game, played in January in San Antonio.

90 Edwin Beckham is a senior in the Master of Divinity program at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. He was scheduled to be ordained a transitional deacon on December 21 at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. Upon graduation from seminary, he will be ordained an Episcopal priest.

After spending the last 12 years working with Presbyterian churches in Kansas City, Kan., and St. Louis, Mo., Scott Sauls has accepted the position of senior director of community formation at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City.

91 Eric Walter of Mableton, Ga., has been named vice president of financial planning and analysis for Unisource Worldwide, Inc., one of the leading distributors of paper, packaging and facility supplies in North America.

BIRTHS: Craig and Lori Huffman, a son, Christopher Robert, October 23. They live in Mount Kisco, N.Y.

Tim and Dawn Vorel, a daughter, Clara Marie, October 4, Rincon, Ga.

92 David Bokowy is the Greenville area director for Young Life ministries. He joined the Young Life staff 15 years ago and served eight years in North Carolina and five in Columbia, S.C., before becoming area director in Greenville.

Jill Boggs Denton has earned a doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University. She teaches honors biology, anatomy and physiology and chairs the science department at Pickens (S.C.) High School.

Scott Frein recently earned his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of California-Davis. He is an assistant professor at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va.
Becky Haus (M.A. '93) has been named Teacher of the Year at Hurst Elementary School in Daytona Beach, Fla., where she is in her second year of teaching physical education. She previously taught kindergarten for 12 years.

The Carolinas Hospital System of Florence, S.C., has announced that Evan Lee has joined the Anesthesiology Consultants practice. He became a board-certified anesthesiologist after completing his internship at Eisenhower Army Medical Center and his residency in anesthesiology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He served three years as chief of the Department of Anesthesia at Fort Stewart, Ga., and was deployed for a time to Iraq.

Teresa Skinner has become project manager with the Shafer & Hugley Marketing Communications firm in Greenville. Her responsibilities include project management for local, regional, national and international consumer and trade accounts.

BIRTHS: Jim and Elizabeth Foster Bloodworth, a son, Benjamin Foster Bloodworth, October 9, Greenville. Christopher and Caryn McMahon Hammond, a daughter, Meagan Riley, March 27, 2007. They live in Greer, S.C. Derrick and Jewell Stanley, a daughter, Peyton Rebecca, August 15. They live in Lugoff, S.C. John and Sandy Upchurch, a son, Austin Blase, October 3. John practices law in Daytona Beach, Fla., and was recently elected president of the Volusia County Bar.

94

Robbie Higdon is employed as magnet program coordinator at Hughes Academy of Science and Technology in Greenville. Scott Wild of Flowery Branch, Ga., earned his Master of Education degree from the University of Alabama.


BIRTHS: Jim and Burch Barger, a son, James Fredrick III, May 25, Birmingham, Ala.

Michael and Jennifer Frankenberg Parker, twins, a daughter, Elle Jayne, and a son, Aidan Foster, May 8, Charlotte, N.C.

95

Virginia Gaylor is managing editor for Vitality Communications in Greensboro, N.C. She oversees two publications, LUNGhealth and MedlinePlus.

BIRTHS: William and Michelle Ferguson, a daughter, Grace Anna, June 2, Black Mountain, N.C.

Jeff and Julie Simon Fries, a son, Adam Wesley, June 24, Asheville, N.C. Julie was recently promoted to news director at WLON-AM.


96

Matt Good of Greenville, a senior vice president and shareholder of Professional Mortgage Company, is one of six new board members of Community Bank.


Donna-Leigh Eicher Harmon recently started teaching auditorium field trip classes at Greenville’s Roper Mountain Science Center.

Sean and Leslie Coates ’99 Rogers live in Athens, Ga., where Sean was recently promoted to director of capital budgeting at the University of Georgia. Leslie teaches Latin and is chair of the foreign languages department at Oconee County High School.

Keith Walters, a chemistry professor at Northern Kentucky University, was honored in the fall with the College of Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Award.

MARRIAGE: Brandon Barron and Lindsey Wheeler, June 30. They live in Atlanta.

A BLOG FOR FURMAN TRADITIONS

Do you recognize this little girl? She was evidently a majorette during Homecoming in 1957, but that’s about all we know!

The Department of Special Collections and Archives in the James B. Duke Library would love your help in identifying this and many other pictures now available on-line at the Furman Traditions Weblog (http://furmantraditions.blogspot.com). The blog features a collection of pictures, videos and stories from Furman’s past. Who knows, you might see yourself there!

You can also use the blog to share stories from your Furman days. After all, college campuses change and traditions come and go, but memories endure. If you have a story to tell, visit the blog and leave a comment.

And if you would like to contribute photos or other memorabilia to the archives, e-mail Elizabeth McSherry ’07 at liz.mcsherry@furman.edu or call her at (864) 294-2194. She’s the blog coordinator, and she’s waiting to hear from you.
2007-08 ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harriet Arnold Wilburn ’74, president; Randolph W. Blackwell ’63, president elect; Clare Folio Morris ’83, vice president; James H. Simkins, Jr. ’78, past president; Rebecca Ann Armacost ’89, Lynn Neely Bailey ’78, Venita Tyus Billingslea ’81; Frank W. Blackwell ’90, John M. Block ’63; J. Chris Brown ’89; Mary Lou Walch Cagle ’69; H. Furman Cantrell ’61; Bobby E. Church ’78; David S. Cobb ’90; Paul D. Goebel ’63; Vicki Bieksha Johnson ’93; L. Yates Johnson, Jr. ’59; William A. Lampley ’41; J. Cordell Maddox ’54; Joseph C. Moon, Jr. ’76; Ellison L. Smith ’89; Cynthia Black Sparks ’80; Heyward M. Sullivan ’59; William N. Turrentine ’64; Daniel R. Varat ’88; Connie Gartrell Williams ’74

Ex-Officio and Other Members: David Shi ’73, president; Michael Gatchell ’91, vice president for development; Tom Triplitt ’76, director of Alumni Association; Jane Dungan, associate director of Alumni Association; Tina Hayes Ballew ’78, associate director of Alumni Association; Cari Williams Hicks ’97, president, Young Alumni Council; Frances Flowers ’09, president, Student Alumni Council; Christina Henderson ’08, president, Association of Furman Students; Brad Cake ’08, president, Senior Class

Jeff and Catherine Mabry Shoaf, a son, Davis Alexander, August 7, Houston, Texas. Thomas and Silvia Heise Sims, a daughter, Ashlyn Elizabeth Alida, November 1. Silvia is in her second year with the Memphis (Tenn.) Children’s Clinic and Thomas is completing his research at St Jude Hospital before returning to his surgery residency program.

Jeff and Nicole Ukor, a son, Joseph Riggs, September 20, Richmond, Va.

79

Bill Hayden has been named chief executive officer of FacilitySource, a facility maintenance and management service provider based in Westerville, Ohio.

Adam Lively is a founding partner and chair of the board of directors of Little Steps in Greenville. For the past eight years he has worked with AT&T (formerly BellSouth).

98

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Kiana Matthews Dezelon of Cary, N.C., is user experience designer for CC Intelligent Solutions. She volunteers with a therapeutic riding program for physically, mentally and/or emotionally disabled persons. The Carolinas Hospital System of Florence, S.C., has announced that Thomas Phillips has joined the Anesthesiology Consultants practice. He did his residency at the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans, La., where he was chief resident, and then completed a fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesiology at Emory University in Atlanta.

MARRIAGES: Arch Bell and Sylvia Pin, October 20. They live in Austin, Texas, where he works for ROC Software and she works for JP Morgan.

Peyton Suzanne Burke and Donald Blake Lewis, July 27. They live in Greenville where she is an account supervisor at Erwin-Penland and he owns Concierge on Call.


Trent Reece and Kristina Marie Gaither, August 19. He is sales manager at Toyota of Greenville, and she is with the Department of Health and Human Services.

BIRTHS: Ed and Allison Farnell, a daughter, Clara Grace, November 22, 2006. Both Ed and Allison completed their residencies in family medicine in July 2006. Ed is currently deployed with Operation Enduring Freedom.

Brian and Megan Fauber Klakring, a son, Cole Steven, July 14. Megan completed her pediatric residency in June 2007 and
works part time at All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla. Jim and Kerri Carter Porter, a son, Gavin Alistair Brooks, June 10. They recently moved from London, England, to Charlotte, N.C., where Kerri is vice president of Pavilion Development and Jim is a senior vice president with Mesrow Financial.

Win and Stephanie McClelland Walstad, a daughter, Taylor Elizabeth, May 26, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Anne-Marie Honeycutt has joined Edward Jones investment firm in Tullahoma, Tenn., as a financial advisor. Peter King of Alexandria, Va., owns the Hauswiesner King LLP firm and focuses his practice on estate planning, business and immigration. He is pursuing an LL.M. degree in taxation at Georgetown University.

Brian Reinhardt completed his degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in May 2007 and is in the family medicine residency program at Self Regional Hospital in Greenwood, S.C. Jordan Tidrick earned a Master of Science degree in forensic science last spring from Virginia Commonwealth University. She began work in July at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science as a trainee in the firearms and toolmarks section.

MARRIAGES: Chris Colvin and Megan Elizabeth Pinniger, September 15. Megan is employed at NV Salon and is attending the University of South Carolina-UofSC, majoring in early childhood education. Chris is an associate director of athletics at Furman.

Francis “Brink” Hinson and Meghan Kinnard, October 13. They live in Columbia, S.C. Brink is an attorney with Janet, Jenner & Suggs and Meghan is a reporter with the Associated Press.

BIRTHS: Don and Ellen Culbertson Abramo, a son, Justus Michael, September 29, 2006. Don works for Merck and Co., Inc., and has been promoted to market analyst for Zetia and Vytorin. Ellen works from their home in Gilbertsville, Pa., as a portraitist.

Jonathan and Allison Easley ’01 Hall, a son, Zachary Ray, June 26, Alpharetta, Ga. Robert and Sara Rosenblum James, a daughter, Autumn Elizabeth, May 14. Robert is in the U.S. Marine Corps stationed at Quantico, Va., and Sara owns a small business.

Stephen and Eden Martin, a son, Chappell, February 14, 2007, Charleston, S.C. Steve is a student at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Sarah Lyman completed her Master of Architecture degree at Clemson University and has relocated to Boston, Mass., where she is an architect for Arrowsstreet, Inc. Christine Daniel Morgan has been named marketing director for the Coldwell Banker Cane real estate firm in Greenville.

Ryan Smith recently earned a Master of Music degree in piano performance from the University of South Carolina. Julie Taft Spearman and her husband, Will, have moved to Durham, N.C., where she is a physical therapist at Pettigrew Rehabilitation. He is a software engineer with Network Appliance.

After two years as a federal court clerk focusing on patent laws, Ashley Summer has returned to the Greenville firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in the area of intellectual property law.

MARRIAGES: Steven “Goose” Burdine and Laura Davis, July 14. They live in Anderson, S.C., where Steve is in the second year of a family medicine residency. Laura is a chemist for Perrigo Company.

Margaret Bandy Mynatt and Patrick Ryan Mohan, November 3. They live in Hoboken, N.J. Patrick works as an associate with the law firm of White & Case, LLP, in Manhattan.

Dana Smith and Benjamin Nemec, July 7. They live in Louisia, Va.

Claire Traylor and Mark Haden, December 16. Claire spent a year as a university English teacher in St. Petersburg, Russia, before returning to the States to work in alumni relations at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

BIRTHS: Brandon ’05 and Nicole Malseed Berry, a daughter, Ella Christine, August 5. They live in Greenville where Brandon is assistant director of outreach at Redemption World Outreach Center. Nicole has completed a master’s degree in cross-cultural studies and leadership development at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Jason and Marie Spalding Richards, a son, Maxwell Daniel, November 17, Greenville.

Erin Lyttle Do’s report titled “Mothers and Babies: The Health of Tennessee’s Future” won the 2007 Impact Award from the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society. In October she presented findings from the report at a Congressional briefing on infant mortality. Erin lives in Antioch and is a research analyst with the Tennessee Offices of Research and Education Accountability.

April Neslund Mucci recently received a Master of Arts degree in political science from Florida State University.

Lauren Myers of Philadelphia, Pa., has earned a doctorate in developmental psychology from Pennsylvania State University. She teaches at Bryn Mawr College.

MARRIAGES: Dorothy Elizabeth Coker and James Bradley Hamlett ’04, September 22. They live in Greenville. She is the curator of collections at the Pendleton District Commission and he is in the U.S. Army.

Elisabeth Fisher and Joshua Mark, October 20. They live in Bradenton, Fla.


Andrew MacLeod and Jennifer Ross, August 4. They live in Washington, D.C., where she is in tax school at Georgetown University. He is a contract associate with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP.

Eileen Turalba and Dan Williams ’03, June 2. They live in Charleston, S.C., where Dan is a resident physician at the Medical University of South Carolina Children’s Hospital and Eileen is a registered nurse at Roper Rehabilitation Hospital, working with spinal cord and stroke injury patients.

Sara Watts and Erick Nicholas Miller, September 8. She is the bridal manager for Belk, Inc., in Charlotte, N.C., and he is an independent consultant in the real estate industry.

BIRTHS: Wes and Lauren Heath Bryant, a daughter, Campbell Sage, September 14, Greenville.

Jude and Laura Anthony Linz, a son, Jackson True, July 18, Greenville.

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Steven Buckingham has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Greenville as an associate practicing in the areas of business litigation and product liability. He previously clerked for the Hon. James R. Spencer, Chief United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Matthew Dobbs has graduated from the University of Alabama with a Doctor of Medicine degree.

B2B Media, formerly Bumper2Bumper Media, Inc., of Greenville, has announced the transfer of Rachelle Berube Foster from graphic artist to account executive and the promotion of Nat Shane from graphic artist to creative production director.
CAPITOL IDEAS: WALSTRUM STEPS UP FOR GEORGIA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY

In a world that's been the domain of white men from rural Georgia for more than a century, Joy Spears Walstrum has shown that a woman can hold her own in the game of politics — and even stand up to one of the titans of Georgia's political history.

One of Walstrum's duties as managing director of the Tourism Development Alliance of Georgia is to lobby the state legislature and the governor's office on behalf of golf resorts, hotels and chambers of commerce. Even though Georgia's General Assembly meets only about three months each year, hers is a year-round job that requires travel to every corner of the state. She does everything from meeting with mayors in the towns along the route of the Tour De Georgia bicycle race to co-hosting a meeting of the Senate Republican Caucus at Element, a new restaurant on the main street of the south Georgia town of Lyons.

The most challenging aspect of her job, however, is being the sole lobbyist at the State Capitol for tourism interests. As such, her work requires a diverse range of skills.

Walstrum must understand complex policy ideas, such as a proposal to simplify the law that allows local governments to charge an excise tax on hotel rooms. She has to possess loads of personal charm, for the times when she asks a lawmaker to sponsor a bill. She has to understand how to play the game of politics and how to cut back-room deals.

And she must walk a fine line between being an information resource to lawmakers and being a nuisance. Georgia's legislators typically don't have their own staffs, so they rely heavily on lobbyists to provide information. Sometimes lawmakers want a brief explanation of a complicated topic, rather than aggressive advocacy. At least one legislator thinks nobody in Atlanta handles that aspect of the lobbyist's role better than Walstrum.

"Whenever she talks to you, she'll always suggest someone you should talk to who's opposing her, so you can get the other side of the story. That's very unusual for a lobbyist," says Ron Stephens of Savannah, who chairs the legislative committee that oversees the tourism industry.

This wasn't the career path Walstrum had planned for herself at Furman. The 1995 graduate initially intended to go to law school, but eventually majored in sociology. She cites former sociology professor Bart Dredge's "poverty tour" of Greenville neighborhoods as helping her develop an interest in becoming an advocate.

Her father's business interests also helped steer her professional life. In 1991 David Spears acquired the Sky Valley ski resort in northeast Georgia. After graduating from Furman, Joy went to work for her father, handling the daily operations of the resort, including marketing and promotions.

Her entry into politics came when Walstrum and her father realized the state legislature needed to revise the laws concerning a ski resort's liability for the safety of skiers. Getting such a law passed would be tricky, however, because Sky Valley is the lone ski resort in Georgia and it would mean passing a law for the benefit of only one company.

Walstrum approached the longtime representative from her northeastern Georgia district, the late Ralph Twiggs, and, somewhat fearfully, asked him to sponsor a bill to change the law. Twiggs enthusiastically agreed, even though it meant going against the most powerful man in the State Capitol: former House Speaker Tom Murphy.

As the bill made its way through the legislative process, it became clear that Murphy was going to draw a line in the sand. Murphy withdrew the skiing bill from the agenda of a legislative committee about five minutes before the committee's meeting was to begin.

"Murphy said that if Sky Valley got this bill passed for them, then every other tourist attraction in the state would be at his door next year wanting the same treatment," Walstrum says.

But Twiggs, who was on good terms with Murphy, a fellow Democrat, secured a meeting between Murphy and Walstrum later that morning. Walstrum was able to persuade Murphy to put the bill back on the agenda. It later passed unanimously and eventually became law.

Not long after, the state's tourism interest groups decided they wanted to inject new life into the Tourism Development Alliance, which had become somewhat inactive over the years. In no small part because of her success with Murphy, the groups picked Walstrum to lead their effort.

Walstrum thanks Twiggs for helping her realize that in politics, it's important not to wear your feelings on your sleeve. "He taught me to not take things personally," she says. "But, he said, if it's really important and you really believe in it, then stand up for it."

— ANDY PETERS '92
Erik Huffman, who was featured in the Fall 2007 issue of Furman for his appearance on the CBS television program “Survivor: China,” lasted until the final six before being voted off the show. Erik is a musician and model based in Nashville, Tenn.

Mary Reames Rinehart has accepted a position in the marketing department of Greenville’s Tekgraf Corp., a national distributor of quality digital color solutions.

Kristin Sullivan of Huntsville, Ala., has earned a Doctor of Optometry degree from the University of Alabama.

Justin Traunero of Winston-Salem, N.C., recently earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from Wake Forest University.

MARRIAGES: Steven Baxter Cain and Jessica Marie Gilbert, October 13. They science from Florida State University. She is an associate in the Gwinnett County (Ga.) degree in nursing last August at Vanderbilt University.

Jessica Catherine Yanulavich is a dentist. She works in a dental practice with her father and James Garvin, August 25. Jessica graduated from the Medical College of Georgia with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree and works in a dental practice with her father in Fort Valley, Ga. Cameron is also a dentist.

Jessica Catherine Yanulavich and James Allen Barker, Jr., October 27. Jessica works as a recreation supervisor for the city of Roswell, Ga.

Matthew Heathman, currently a student at Erskine Theological Seminary, was commissioned in the U.S. Navy on December 14, 2006, as a chaplain candidate.

Kevin Majeska is an assistant district attorney in the six-county Toombs Judicial Circuit of Georgia.

David Nischwitz is public relations coordinator with the Phoenix (Ariz.) Symphony.

Courtney Erin Schinke of Cambridge, Mass., received a Master of Arts degree in writing and publishing from Emerson College in May 2007. She is an editorial assistant with Addison Wesley, working on economics textbooks.

Adam Schultz has begun graduate work on a Master of Nonprofit Management degree at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Candii Woodson of Clarkston, Ga., recently earned a Master of Business Administration degree in marketing from Mercer University.

MARRIAGES: Collins Culbreth and Jared Zimmer, September 22. They were scheduled to move to China from Sarasota, Fla., early this year to pursue opportunities in international business.

Ann Claire Felts and Scott Hoch, June 30. They live in Charlotte, N.C.

Lindsey Mecca and Ben Nicely II, July 28. They live in Richmond, Va., where Lindsey is a metrics analyst at MeadWestvaco Corporation and Ben teaches U.S. history and government in the Henrico County Public Schools.

Anna Elizabeth Nissen (M.A. ’06) and Bradley Carl Doyle, September 1. He is director of business development for Earth Source Water in Greenville and she teaches at Anderson Mill Elementary School.

Lauren Fincher completed her master’s degree in nursing last August at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

Keith Johnson is in his third year at Michigan State University College of Law. Among his honors are the Raymond Burr Award, given to the top first-year criminal law student academically, and the Jurisprudence Award in Criminal Law. He is notes and comments editor of the Michigan State Journal of Gender Law and is a member of the Black Law Students Association.

Nancy Kuhne Melton serves as associate director of leadership giving at Furman.

Anna Kirby Ottosen of Bloomington, Ind., recently earned her Master of Arts degree in Spanish from Indiana University.

Dan Schmidt of Silver Spring, Md., has completed a master’s degree in social psychology. He is the Advanced Placement coordinator at Kennedy High School, where he teaches AP world history.

MARRIAGES: Rebecca Bulkeley and Derek Norman ’04, September 8. They live in Charlotte, N.C., where Becca is a senior investment performance analyst for Evergreen Investments and Derek is an account manager for TEKsystems.


Jessalyn Ruth Davis was recently promoted to franchise general manager for Pizza Hut Corporation in Syracuse, N.Y.

Chargon Haynesworth of Knoxville, Tenn., recently earned a Master of Accountancy degree from the University of Tennessee.

Matt Jernigan, who is employed by Childress Klein Properties in Charlotte, N.C., was promoted to property manager for Wachovia’s Leased Properties and The Green Uptown. He is also responsible for sustainable building initiatives for Wachovia’s new Charlotte office tower.

Ian Philips is pursuing a master’s degree in agency counseling at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Baritone Joshua Taylor was one of the featured soloists for the Boston Pops 2007 Holiday Concert. Josh is studying for a master’s degree at Boston University.

MARRIAGES: Carolyn Caldwell and Robert Craig Peters, June 23. Carolyn teaches in Spartanburg County (S.C) School District 6 and Craig is a writer/copy editor at the Spartanburg Herald-Journal.

Amanda Lynn Jones and Chad Michael Phillips, September 22. They live in Greenville where she is the Upstate team leader with the Disability Action Center and he is a bulk route delivery driver with Pepsi Corporation.


Lauren Vann and Caleb Coker ’07, June 23. Lauren is pursuing her law degree at Georgia State College of Law and Caleb is a research analyst for SeedAmerica in Atlanta.

Bonnie Baird has joined Commercial Carolina Corporation/Cushman & Wakefield in Charlotte, N.C., as a commercial real estate broker.

Emmanuel Chandler is pursuing a medical degree at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

Brian Landoe has been hired by the Erwin-Penland agency in Greenville as a public relations account manager on the Firehouse Subs, Southern Exposure and Greenville Humane Society accounts.

Thomas Louie is an underwriter with Canal Insurance Co. in Greenville.

Diana Maley is a development associate with the Peace Center for the Performing Arts in Greenville.

Cailin McDuff works with Teach for America in New York City.

Paul Ortenzo has become corporate marketing manager with the Greenville Drive baseball organization.
Elizabeth Wetmore is a technical associate with Milliken & Co. in Spartanburg, S.C.

MARRIAGE: Todd Arant and Allison Blackwell, June 16. They live in Decatur, Ga. Todd is pursuing a Master of Sacred Music degree in choral conducting at Emory University, and Allison is a marketing manager with MRI and Imaging of Georgia (MedQuest Associates).

DEATHS

Mary Ellen Woodside Wallace ’25, September 23, Greenville. She was a member of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America and was active in community work.

Hallie Johnson Souther ’30, August 24, Spartanburg, S.C.

Helen Brabham Smith ’30, September 27, Barnwell, S.C. Her husband, Herman Edward “Red” Smith, was head football coach at Furman in 1948-49. After his retirement they moved to Manning, S.C., to manage the family farm.

Marguerite Scurry Moseley ’33, October 31, White Rock, S.C. She retired from Shandon United Methodist Church in Columbia, S.C., after 27 years as the church visitor. She was a charter member of the Governor Robert Gibbes Chapter of the South Carolina Society of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century.

Archie Thomas “A.T” Usher ’33, November 10, Charleston, S.C. He was a Southern Baptist minister at several churches in the Carolinas. He was director of missions for Union County (S.C.) Baptist Association and served as president of the South Carolina Pastors Conference, chair of the trustees of the South Carolina Baptist Hospital and trustee of the Connie Maxwell Children’s Home.

Marjorie Barr O’Steen Webb ’37, October 18, Greenville. She was a lab technician for Greenville General Hospital and an active member of the Greenville County Medical Auxiliary. She was a past board member of Camp WBak and North Greenville Hospital, a leader in the local Girl Scouts of America, and a volunteer with St. Francis Hospice and Meals on Wheels.

Robert Gordon Owens, Jr. ’38, October 31, Boulder, Colo. Following graduation from Furman, he began a distinguished 33-year military career in the U.S. Marine Corps, during which time he received numerous medals and decorations, including the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross with four Gold Stars, and the Air Medal with two Silver Stars. Although injured while on a flight in the South Pacific in January 1944, he successfully landed his crippled plane in the ocean and was rescued. As a result, he received the Purple Heart. He was designated a Marine Corps ace after shooting down seven enemy planes during World War II. In August 1964 he was assigned to the Joint Staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he was awarded the first of his five Legions of Merit. In 1969 he was an honorary pall-bearer at the funeral of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Upon retirement from the military in 1972, he and his wife settled in Newport Beach, Calif., where he pursued a career in real estate. He received Furman’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 1968.

Winifred Bahan Peters ’39, July 29, Charleston, S.C. She did postgraduate study in organ at Juilliard School of Music in New York and later served as vice president of Bahan Textile Machinery Co. in Greenville. A portrait and seascape artist, she was owner of Winifred’s Studio. She was a member of the Art Students League of New York, the Greenville Artists Guild and the South Carolina Artists Portrait Society of America.

Lucie Anne Cuttino Eldridge ’40, September 30, Sumter, S.C. She received a music and chorus teacher from Sumter School District 17. She was also employed by Naomi and Warner.

James Lamar Milford ’40, October 21, Anderson, S.C. As a member of the U.S. Air Force, he served as a flight instructor during World War II and flew C-47’s in the China-Burma-India Theater. He retired from the Air Force Reserve as a lieutenant colonel and went on to become postmaster of Townville (S.C.). He was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels.

William Kirk Allen, Jr. ’41, September 3, River Landing, N.C. He began his ministerial career as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy during World War II. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he served churches in West Virginia, Texas and Tennessee before being called to serve First Presbyterian Church in High Point, N.C., from which he retired and was named pastor emeritus.

Eleanor Bolt Hunter ’42, November 16, Greenville. She taught in various Greenville County elementary schools, including Summit Drive and Trinity Lutheran Day schools. She was a member and past president of the Delta Kappa Gamma teaching society, past president of the Fountain Inn Music Club and a member of the Greenville Music Club.

Ann Cochran Kolb ’42, October 11, Jackson, Miss. In 1944 she and her husband, Raymond, were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention as missionaries to Brazil. There she worked in several capacities, including elementary school director, music teacher and choir director. She and her husband retired from the mission field in 1988.

Caroline Martin ’42, October 18, Sumter, S.C. She retired as a teacher from Sumter School District 17 after 38 years, mainly teaching at Crosswell Elementary School. She was a former member of the Sumter County Historical Society.

Aileen Scism Stokes ’42, October 2, Myrtle Beach, S.C. She taught in the Horry County (S.C.) School District for 26 years and was a member of the Horry County Library Board and the Order of the Eastern Star.

Sara Gatlin Stewart ’44, September 21, Hendersonville, N.C. She taught English at Hendersonville High School for two years and was chair of the Department of Speech and Drama at Anderson (S.C.) College (now University) for three years. She also taught junior high school English and drama for more than 30 years. She served as a costumer at the University of North Carolina, The Lost Colony at Roanoke Island, the University of North Carolina-Asheville and the Hendersonville Little Theater, working with a total of more than 500 productions. A popular lecturer, she was the first costumer for the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theater at Mars Hill (N.C.) College, where the Sara Stewart Scholarship in Theater Arts was established in her honor. She was instrumental in organizing the Hendersonville Children’s Theater and the Hendersonville Youth Theater.

Glady Scoggin Brock ’45, November 25, Belmont, N.C.

William Melmoth McMillan ’47, November 18, Greenville. He was a partner in the CPA firm of Hamis, McMillan and Hudgens for 36 years. He served as president of the South Carolina Chapter of CPAs and the South Carolina CPA Association and was secretary-treasurer of the Executive Sertoma Club of Greenville. He was a Navy veteran of World War II.

William Richmond Turpin ’47, October 20, 2006, Austin, Texas. He served in the Army Air Force during World War II, piloting supplies and paratroopers in the Pacific Theater, serving in New Guinea and flying missions in the Philippines campaign. He was awarded the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf
clusters. He went on to medical school, after which he practiced neurosurgery for six years for the Air Force. He went into the private practice of neurosurgery in Austin in 1962 and continued until 2004. He was an officer of the Austin Doctors Building Corporation and helped develop programs at Brackenridge Hospital.

**Mary Spears Elrod Lee ’48, October 19, Greenville.** She was retired from the Greenville County School System as an elementary school librarian.

**Patricia Ann Brown Oster ’48, October 3, Summerfield, Fla.** Sylvia Jane Fowls Wood ’49, September 17, Columbia, S.C. She was actively involved in the Girl Scouts of America for 15 years, serving as leader and coordinator for the state of South Carolina. She also served as secretary to three Presbyterian churches in the Columbia area for a total of 23 years.

**Lois Whatley Beard ’50, September 4, Buies Creek, N.C.** Jack Ruhl ’50, September 7, Fort Wayne, Ind. After serving as a chaplain’s assistant in the U.S. Navy, he joined the staff at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Wayne in 1951 and was staff organist and church theatre manager until his retirement in 1991. He also edited the church’s newsletter, taught piano and organ, was pianist for the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and performed recitals throughout the country. After retirement he remained an active member of the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists and edited and designed the chapter’s monthly newsletter. He helped establish an annual National Organ Playing Competition and a series of organ recitals and choral concerts.

**Nancy Eugenia Benton ’52, October 6, Florence, S.C.** She taught in the Sumter (S.C.) city schools for many years.

**Winona Burton Bradham ’52, November 11, Camden, S.C.** She was a retired registered nurse.

**Paul Marshall Hart ’52, October 7, Hudson, N.C.** He was a retired United Methodist minister and had served a number of North Carolina pastorates.

**Robert Long ’52, October 8, Columbia, S.C.** He served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years as a chaplain and retired as a commander. He went on to be pastor of North Trenholm Baptist Church in Columbia for 13 years and Pine Belt Baptist Church for 10 years.

**Arlene Whitfield Blakely ’53, October 14, Greenville.** She was a retired teacher from the Oconee County (S.C.) School System.

**Charles Jerry Canupp ’54, October 3, Anderson, S.C.** He was a retired chiropractor who in later years was president of Allenwood Plastics and was a sales manager for American Sentry. He was a former Mason and had been active in the Jaycees, Lions Club and Rotary Club of Anderson.

**James Irvine Ransbotham ’54, August 21, Fayetteville, N.C.** He was a decorated U.S. Army officer who flew helicopters and fixed wing aircraft during three tours in Viet Nam. He was named an honorary crew chief for the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds in 1997.

**Dorothy Jean Manly Tripp ’54, November 15, Charlotte, N.C.** She retired from the City of Charlotte in 1997. She also spent 25 years with the U.S. Navy.

**Robert Adair Williamson, Sr. ’54, October 30, Anderson, S.C.** Following service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he was minister of music at First Baptist Church of Lancaster, S.C., for eight years and then spent 31 years as minister of music at Northgate Baptist Church in Greenville.

**Joseph Earl Crook, Sr. ’55, October 2, Inman, S.C.** He became associate pastor at First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C., in 1959 and later served churches in Woodruff, S.C., and again in Spartanburg.

**SARAH MANLY, 1927-2007**

Sarah Gillespie Manly ’48, longtime educator and civic leader in Greenville, died December 20 in New Delhi, India.

She had been visiting a mission and school for widows and children in Ranchi in association with a group called Dining for Women when she suffered a heart attack, from which she did not recover. She was 80.

A cum laude graduate of Furman with a degree in biology, she later earned a master’s degree from Clemson University. She taught chemistry and physics at two local high schools for 12 years and taught physics at Clemson for four years. She also worked as an ophthalmic photographer and retinal angiographer with her husband, ophthalmologist Basil Manly IV ’47, from 1976-96.

She was elected to three terms on the Greenville County School Board, serving from 1976-88, and from 1988-92 she was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives. In 1991 she was named state Legislator of the Year by the South Carolina School Boards Association.

Active in Greenville’s First Baptist Church, she was a founding member of the Alliance for Quality Education, a tutor with the Greenville County Literacy Association and a longtime volunteer with Meals on Wheels and the Guardian Ad Litem program, which helps protect children in the court system.

In 1994 Furman inducted her into its chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the academic honorary society, and she served on the advisory board for the university’s Richard W. Riley Institute.

**Eunice Farmer Gaines ’55, November 19, Campobello, S.C.** She was a retired teacher from Spartanburg County (S.C.) District I.

**Julian Milford “Juby” McKinley ’55, November 16, Anderson, S.C.** He was a retired pastor, school principal and farmer.

**Fred Eugene Robinson ’55, September 10, Greenville.** He was a U.S. Army veteran, having retired as a colonel after serving during the Cold War. He was also retired from Leon H. Robinson and Son Insurance, Inc.

**Viola Taylor Lang ’56, September 23, Slater, S.C.** She was retired from Greenville County Schools, where she taught from 1939 to 1979.
CLASS NOTES POLICY

Because of the large number of submissions and clippings Furman receives for the magazine’s class notes section and the time needed to review, compile and edit so much information, news items frequently are not published until five or six months after they are submitted.

Furman magazine does not publish dated items (anything more than 18 months old at time of publication) or engagement announcements. Birth and marriage announcements for alumni couples who graduated in different years are included under the earliest graduation date (except if requested otherwise); they are not listed under both classes. When submitting items, please include your spouse’s or child’s name, whether your spouse is a Furman graduate, and the date and city where the birth or marriage occurred.

Send news to the Office of Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or e-mail to alumni@furman.edu. Selected information submitted to the on-line alumni registry (http://alumni.furman.edu) is included in class notes.

John Andrew Boudoucies ’60, November 20, Taylors, S.C. He was employed with Cryovac for 25 years and retired from Xpedix. He was a U.S. Army veteran, having served two years on active duty and more than 20 years in the Army Reserves, from which he retired with the rank of colonel.

Gerald Wood Crawford ’60, November 23, Laurens, S.C. A Baptist minister, he served as pastor and interim pastor of several churches in the Laurens area and retired from Laurens School District 55 after 33 years of service. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War.

Joanne Edens Gorbandt ’60, October 9, Atlanta. She was self-employed as a certified public accountant and was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Joseph Paul Barone, M.A. ’61, September 3, Blythe Island, Ga. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. After his military tour, he taught mechanical drawing in Greenville and at Glynn Academy in Glynn County, Ga. He was an assistant middle school principal and later a principal at two elementary schools until his retirement in 1976.

Neigel O’Neil Gillespie ’61, September 24, Simpsonville, S.C. He had served in the U.S. Army and was retired from Binswanger Glass.

Margaret Anne Bradley Simmons ’62, October 21, West Pelzer, S.C. She retired from Anderson (S.C.) County School District 1, where she was a teacher. She was a member of the National Education Association.

Peter Allen Horne ’65, May 16, Marietta, Ga. After Furman, he attended C.W. Post College in Long Island, N.Y., and while there served as head baseball coach at the Buckley School, a boys’ preparatory school. He also attended Valley Forge Military Academy and later returned there to be an instructor in history, head baseball coach and backfield coach for the academy’s football team. He owned an office supply store in Allentown, Pa., with his father, then moved to Florida where he was an independent insurance agent.

Charles F. Youmans, Jr. ’69, October 2, Florence, S.C. He was a past member of the Florence Harmony Chorus and the Columbia Chapter. He was also lead singer in a quartet called Night Sounds.

Richard Crittenden ’77, September 9, Greer, S.C. As a saxophonist, his work ranged from gigs with the Temptations and the Four Tops to classical concerts with the Greenville Symphony. He later taught music on every level from middle school to college. He also pursued a career in information technology and spent 21 years in that field at Liberty Life Insurance and then at Metlife, where he was chief architect and assistant vice president.

Dorothy Robinson Barnes ’78, October 27, 2006, Clinton, S.C. She worked in the family business until her retirement.

Doris Langford ’81, September 26, Dallas, Texas.

Judi Wages Jackson, M.A. ’82, October 31, New Smyrna Beach, Fla. She had a 15-year teaching career in Dacusville, S.C., and in Atlanta.

Robert E. McNair, November 17, Columbia, S.C. As governor of South Carolina from 1965 to 1970 he was regarded as a visionary leader who guided the state wisely and pragmatically during the civil rights era. A lifelong champion of education, he was a two-term member of the Furman board of trustees and received an honorary degree from Furman in 1969.

Elizabeth S. “Lib” Nanney, November 27, Greenville. She worked at Furman for 34 years, the last 29 as secretary in the psychology department. In 1999 she received the Chiles-Harrill Award, given annually to a member of the faculty or staff who demonstrates special concern and devotion to students. Upon her retirement in 2001, family and friends established the Lib Nanney Fund to assist students in the psychology department. She was the wife of T. Ray Nanney, professor emeritus of computer science.

Margaret Edwards Abercrombie, December 3, Aiken, S.C. She served as supervisor of student accounts in the Furman business office from 1966 to 1991. With her quick wit and generous nature, she endeared herself to many students as “Mrs. A.”

Alma Geraldine “Jerry” Coggins, December 3, Greenville. She had been a member of the Furman development staff since 1970, serving first a secretary and later as a development systems specialist.
MARS ILL: HIP-HOP MUSIC WITH A FAITH-BASED BEAT

While a degree in business administration from Furman is certainly something to be proud of, it's not exactly news. Putting that degree on the backburner to pursue a career in faith-based hip-hop, however — now that's a story you don't hear every day.

Chances are, you haven't listened to a lot of faith-based hip-hop. But in that small but growing world, there aren't many names bigger than Mars ILL, which probably makes Greg Owens '97 — also known as manCHILD — the most successful Christian rapper in Furman history.

Owens is the voice behind the two-man group. He and his collaborator, DJ Dust (Nathan Corrona), have sold more than 60,000 albums, and their videos have been viewed tens of thousands of times on YouTube.

In a genre that operates on the fringes of even the indie music scene, that's a dizzying amount of success. So much, in fact, that Owens has had a chance to call on his diploma after all.

"It's bigger than I ever thought it could be, to be honest," he says. "[My degree] is something I actually used. From 1999 to 2005, I managed us and did the whole thing, procured record deals, negotiated with labels."

So time at Furman wasn't wasted, after all. But Owens, who is married to Mary Palmer '98 and is a father of five, laughs when asked if his classmates would have predicted where he is today.

"You might have a few surprised people," he says. "There are a lot of people who know what I do, and it's just second nature. But when you first meet people they're like, 'Oh, get a life.'"

"It's always an interesting thing to see them at first. They don't believe you. I don't usually volunteer the information. I just say I'm in music."

Don't take that to mean that Owens isn't proud of what he does, however. Mars ILL's three albums have been positively received by mainstream music critics, and while Owens doesn't deny that religion plays a prominent role in the lyrics he writes, he insists that it's not all the duo is about.

"We wanted to be a good influence and try to touch some peoples' lives," he says. "Our faith is something that has always been very important to us, but we didn't get out and try to break into the Christian industry. Believe it or not, Christian publications would question us because we didn't say Jesus enough or use Christian terms enough."

So is Mars ILL Christian music or not? Owens doesn't think the label is even relevant.

"We make hip-hop music. You could describe it any number of ways," he says. "Some people call it true school hip-hop, some people call it underground, but ultimately you have to listen to it yourself and decide what it is."

Owens fell in love with rap in the 1980s, pointing to groups like Run DMC and Public Enemy as influences. Their courage as rappers told him it was OK to express ideas that he felt were important. But it wasn't until he met Joe Brewer '97 at Furman that he really began to think he could create that music himself.

Owens and Brewer shared a love of hip-hop that made them fast friends even though Owens hailed from tiny Ridgeland, S.C., and Brewer was from Baltimore. They formed their own group, The Pride, and released two albums of their own before graduation sent Brewer to law school and Owens to Atlanta to keep pursuing his dream.

Now a lawyer in Greenville, Brewer still counts Owens as one of his best friends. And he's one of Mars ILL's biggest fans.

"There was a big part of me for a long time that wished I could be out there with him," Brewer says. "I've got all of their albums, and I'm obviously not an unbiased source, but I think that both of them are near the genius level in this genre of art. Both of them have found a special voice that's uniquely theirs."

Not to mention a fan base. Brewer admits that once music is labeled "Christian" it often loses the respect of critics, but he thinks Mars ILL successfully shares its message while creating legitimate art.

"There are kids all over this country that, really, their lives were changed because they realized that they could be a person of faith and still be unique to their interests," Brewer says of Mars ILL's influence. "The general perception is that Christian music is corny, and I think that's what most people think, even Christians themselves."

In Brewer's view, what Mars ILL does — and what it represents — is to say, "Look, you can be a person of faith and still be able to pursue and create things that are important to you and what you love. . . . You don't have to compromise on the quality. Those things can co-exist."

Mars ILL performs regularly and plans to continue making music. Or, perhaps more accurately, adding to its legacy.

"People should appreciate how successful Mars ILL is," Brewer says. "They've done some really special things."

To learn more, visit www.marsill.com.

— RON WAGNER '93
Building connections — and trust

“How far are you willing to go to make a difference?” The Peace Corps slogan challenged me three years ago as I was faced with the decision to leave everything comfortable, everything easy, everything I knew in the States.

I cannot remember exactly why I decided to do it. It may have been the thrill of the adventure, the travel bug in me or, more likely, the desire to give back to the world.

But as the plane carrying our group of 41 college graduates took off for Nicaragua — a country that until a month earlier I could not have located on a map — I remember thinking, “What the hell have I gotten myself into?” And I recall my first impressions after we landed in Managua: the smell of burning trash, the muggy tropical heat, the rusty corrugated tin covering the sides of homes. I wondered how I would survive the next two years.

We spent our first three months in intensive language, cultural and adaptation training. Then it was off to Samulalí, in Nicaragua’s northern coffee highlands, to work on sustainable agricultural projects and live alongside rural farmers.

When the Peace Corps decision makers in Washington decided to send me to Nicaragua to teach people how to farm, I was afraid I would be in way over my head. I may have majored in Spanish, but the closest thing to an agricultural background I had was picking grass out of my cleats from the Furman rugby pitch.

But here lies the beauty of the liberal arts education I received from Furman. I discovered that I had learned how to learn. I was able to apply my Spanish skills, communicate with people to determine their strengths and weaknesses, and then assign them tasks where they could be the most effective.

I began my job knowing nothing about agriculture, forestry or deforestation. But I soon realized that people couldn’t just keep chopping down trees every day for firewood. So I looked for solutions.

I found several low-cost designs for stoves that burned less wood, then taught community members how to build them. I learned to grow tree nurseries and to motivate communities to plant trees. I found farmers burning their fields and tainting their water supplies with chemical pesticides, so I studied how to use chemicals responsibly and passed those techniques on to the farmers.

We labored side by side. During times of hardship we suffered together, and in times of joy we celebrated as a group.

I lived in a wood hut with a dirt floor, used a latrine, showered out of a bucket, and ate beans and rice with a tortilla and a cup of coffee or juices from harvested fruits. I milked cows and harvested coffee, corn and beans. I lived the life of a Nicaraguan farmer. In doing so I developed the community’s trust and was able to implement projects that would help my new friends meet their individual and group needs.

My years as a Peace Corps volunteer were the most valuable learning experience I have ever had. I am now back in Nicaragua as part of the Peace Corps staff, training the newest agricultural workers.

All Peace Corps volunteers are deeply affected by the bonds they develop with the people and the countries they serve. These bonds go a long way toward promoting peace and making a difference in the world.

Trash piles may still burn next to the Managua airport, and houses are still made of rusted corrugated tin. But more Peace Corps members are arriving to help. They can and will make a difference — in their own unique way.

— MATT BERGEN ’03

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