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COVER PHOTO OF PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND BY MORGÉN YOUNG
THE CHENEGA PROJECT

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MORGAN YOUNG
A YOUNG FURMAN GRADUATE SPENDS A YEAR IN ALASKA,

RECORDING THE CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF A SMALL BUT PROUD COMMUNITY.

A s we flew over Prince William Sound in south central Alaska, I admired the breathtakingly beautiful vistas from the co-pilot’s seat.

Just a few weeks earlier, I had graduated from Furman. Now I was soaring over some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.

Suddenly the pilot banked the tiny plane sharply to the right so I could get a close-up view of the Dall sheep grazing on the side of a mountain. As we flew past the jutting rocks, I could feel the blood draining from my face. I spent the remainder of the trip pale and white-knuckled, a death grip on the edge of my seat.

By the time we landed on the narrow gravel runway in the village of Chenega Bay, I had recovered enough to take a quick tour of the island with a local resident. Quick is the operative word here: Besides its 60 or so residents, the village has a school, a Russian Orthodox Church, a clinic, a museum and a power station. The remainder of the village is natural and untouched.

My colleague John Smelcer and I decided to stroll down to the waterfront so I could take some photographs. As we wandered along the rocky beach, John mentioned that black bears frequently search for salmon in the area and often charge through the woods paralleling the water.

Somewhat unnerved, I asked him what would happen if we encountered a bear. Since he had no gun, he said the best way to scare bears away was to talk loudly and deeply, alerting them to our presence.

This wasn’t the most encouraging news, I thought, but I decided to be brave and forge on. I did convince John to walk on my right — the woods side — so he could serve as a buffer should a bear
According to the author, this is the only type of igloo you'll see in Alaska. This structure is actually an abandoned gas station. Opposite: A stunning tableau in Denali National Park. Previous spread: Saint Theotokos Russian Orthodox Church is a landmark of Chenega Bay. The author is pictured on second row, far right — next to the bear.

decide to approach us. For good measure, I occasionally bellowed, “Bear! Hey bear! We’re here, bear!” And I had my camera ready, just in case the opportunity to “shoot” a bear came up.

After a while, John, more familiar with the area than I, suggested a shortcut through the woods. This was clearly the worst idea I’d heard in a while, so I insisted on walking back along the beach and continued to reassure myself with my anti-bear tactics.

We made it back to the village unscathed, but when we returned to the site an hour later, two black bears were roaming and fishing where we had walked.

Such was my introduction to the wilds of Alaska.

I graduated from Furman last spring with a degree in history and experience as a student photographer for the university’s publications and Web pages. Thanks to my background, I was able to land a one-year position in Alaska with the Chenega Corporation.

My job: to assist John Smelcer in preparing a book titled *We Are the Land, We Are the Sea: Stories of Subsistence from Chenega, Alaska*. Our goal: to preserve, at least on paper, the traditions of subsistence living as practiced by a specific Alaskan Native community.

Chenega has a tragic history. The original village was established in the 1770s and was the oldest settlement in Prince William Sound. All was well in the quiet fishing community until March 27, 1964, when the second most powerful earthquake in history struck Alaska. The resulting tsunamis destroyed the village and killed more than a third of its residents. The survivors were temporarily resettled in villages throughout Prince William Sound.

In 1971 former residents of Chenega received title to 70,000 acres of land in Prince William Sound, which enabled them eventually to re-establish the village of Chenega and form Chenega Corporation, a Native Alaskan-owned company involved in a number of service and manufacturing business lines. In 1984 the new village of Chenega Bay was established on Evans Island, in Prince William Sound.

It wasn’t long, however, before disaster struck again. On March 24, 1989, the Exxon Valdez oil tanker struck a reef off Bligh Island, spilling millions of gallons of oil into Prince William Sound. Today the village of Chenega Bay, which is accessible only by air and water, still feels the impact of the oil spill, particularly through its effects on area wildlife and on the subsistence lifestyle of the villagers.

Yet the village Natives — the Chugach Alutiiq, one of five Native Alaskan groups — persevere, and today their community is thriving as they work to maintain their traditional lifestyles and adapt to the modern world. Chugach refers to Natives from Prince William Sound. Other Alutiiq communities can be found on Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula.

It is important to the Natives, and to Alaskan historical and cultural history, to sustain
a connection to the past and to record, in words and photographs, their tradition of subsistence living — a tradition that involves living off the land and sea without altering the balance of nature, be it by hunting, fishing, harvesting clams, gathering berries or picking edible plants. Indeed, while different Native groups have their own cultural idiosyncrasies, subsistence represents a common thread among the indigenous Alaskan cultures.

Living in Prince William Sound, the Chugach Alutiiq are a maritime people. When subsistence was their mainstay, they relied heavily on fish — salmon, halibut, herring — and marine mammals, such as seals and sea lions. Hunting was also important, with deer, moose and bear being the main game.

Today few people depend solely on subsistence for their diet, as technology and easier access to stores and supermarkets have made the subsistence way of life almost obsolete. But many Natives in Prince William Sound still subsist as a way to carry on their culture and honor the heritage of their elders.
By preserving the stories of the past and the oral histories of the shareholders and descendants of Chenega, *We Are the Land, We Are the Sea* is designed to help the local residents maintain the vestiges of their culture. In our interviews with tribal elders, they described how things once were — before the earthquake, before the oil spill, before the conveniences of the modern world. Teen-agers retold their early hunting stories of how they felt when they first shot a deer, or about the surge of pride when they received their first hunting knife. And the residents admitted their fears about the potential loss of their culture and, ultimately, their way of life.

I hope my work can aid in preserving the heritage of the people of Chenega. Perhaps *We Are the Land, We Are the Sea* will even spark a renewed interest in subsistence and the traditional Alutiiq lifestyle among the younger generations.

In addition to working on the Chenega Bay project, I took advantage of my time in Alaska to explore various areas of the state.

I was based in Anchorage, which was an adventure in itself. I lived in an apartment downtown, in a neighborhood known as Bootlegger's Cove, right on the shore of Cook Inlet. Moose roamed the area, and despite my frequent sightings of the prehistoric looking creatures, I was still startled speechless at every encounter.

When I first arrived last summer, I passed many sleepless nights attempting to adjust to the eternal
sunlight. Just when I had adapted to the midnight sun, the endless darkness began. Anchorage actually has a fair amount of daylight in winter, especially compared to the northern areas of the state. Barrow, for example, experiences two months of complete darkness when the sun never rises.

Not surprisingly, the weather was also an adjustment, given that I’m from St. Augustine, Fla. Last summer was abnormally cold, with temperatures seldom rising out of the 60s, and the winter followed suit, with record snowfall and lows in the single digits.

When the first snowfall hit in October, I walked around my neighborhood snapping hundreds of photos, completely mesmerized by the white flakes piling up everywhere. By the next day, I’d already had enough and joined my fellow Anchorage residents in cursing the cold weather.

Then I did the practical thing: I put studded tires on my truck, locked it in four-wheel drive, and prepared for six months of ice. Eventually I came to enjoy the cold and actually found myself complaining when the thermometer rose above 35 degrees.

After a few months in Anchorage I began volunteering at the local Visitors Center, a sod-roofed log cabin in the heart of town. On Saturdays I would don my uniform of guspuk (a traditional Native parka, made of lightweight cotton) and offer my services to the tourists who wandered by. The tourist business slowed in winter, when most of our visitors were locals who would stop in to get out of the cold — and entertain us with their colorful tales.

Thanks to our project, I was able to visit the Nuuciq Spirit Camp on Nuchek Island in Prince William Sound. Run by Chugach Alaska, a regional corporation, the camp is for children who are at least one quarter Alutiiq. Campers live on the island and learn about their Native culture and heritage through language, dance, art classes and subsistence workshops. Elders from communities throughout the sound visit the camp and pass on their knowledge to the younger generation.

It was an honor to be allowed to see these activities, but a bit of a challenge for a vegetarian to find non-meat dishes among the traditional foods. Nonetheless, it was an exciting experience, and I left the camp with several hundred photographs.

On my own, I visited Denali National Park, Talkeetna, Seward, Girdwood, Moose Pass, Kenai, and many other places. Denali Park was especially memorable, because there I got engaged to Michael Orr ’05. He proposed on the banks of the Nenana River when he visited me last September.

As my work in Alaska comes to a close, I can honestly state that this project has solidified my interest in history, especially public history, and encouraged me to continue my academic studies. This fall I will begin graduate study at the University of South Carolina, where I plan to focus on modern United States history.

I will never forget my year in Alaska. It is my hope that, through the stories I have recorded and the photographs I have taken, I can help in some way to preserve the culture and lifestyle of the people of Chenega Bay. Despite trials and upheavals caused by natural and man-made disasters, they have emerged strong and proud — and determined to ensure that their heritage is not forgotten.
Public education in South Carolina is at a crossroads, with no general agreement as to what constitutes an adequate education in the state’s schools. This is especially relevant for students in rural or low-income districts, as school systems of limited means are constantly challenged to provide the kinds of educational experiences that will permit students to maximize their potential.

How, then, does the state effectively redesign its schools to adequately prepare all students to graduate, succeed in college or career training, and compete in the expanding global marketplace? With the help of a grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Center for Education Policy and Leadership of the Richard W. Riley Institute at Furman sought the answers.

During an 18-month study, members of the project team elicited opinions at the grassroots level, spending more than 3,000 hours in focus groups with individuals representing every county and school district in the state. The information gathered will be used to suggest potential courses of action to help ensure that all South Carolina students are properly educated for future success.

On the following pages, Cathy Stevens ’01, an associate project director at the Center for Education Policy and Leadership, summarizes the study’s procedures, provides her perspective on the ongoing project, and lists nine key areas targeted for future action. Other members of the research team offer their impressions of their work (page 12), and the package ends with a profile of an alumna working to improve school readiness among the state’s preschool population.
A COMPREHENSIVE GRASSROOTS STUDY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS COULD SERVE AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE AND IMPROVEMENT.

From May 2005 to November 2006, I had the opportunity to meet nearly 1,000 South Carolinians. Through my job with the Riley Institute's Center for Education Policy and Leadership, I was involved in a massive grassroots study of public education in South Carolina — the largest and most comprehensive study of public education ever undertaken in the state. Under the direction of Brooke Culclasure, our project took us from Greenville to Conway, Rock Hill, Hampton, and locations beyond and between, and our research teams conducted more than 100 four-hour focus group sessions. Along the way, we spoke with the stakeholders in the educational process — superintendents, business and community leaders, principals, parents, teachers of all grade levels, school board members and students.

In large cities and small communities, we met people who believe in public education and are determined to improve it. There's the principal in Greenville who works 10 to 12 hours a day and has made literacy her mantra; the parent in Columbia who decided to make a difference by running for school board; the business leader on the coast who is an advocate for a program that allows high school students to take classes for college credit; the people who cried while talking about children in their neighborhoods whose parents are not interested in education.

Their stories, ideas and opinions served as the building blocks for our work.

When one conducts a grassroots study, the goal is to determine what the people in the trenches think about the issues. We designed a study that was unbiased and provided participants with ample time to express their thoughts.

Early on, I learned that one cannot predict others' opinions. I began the project expecting to hear stereotypical, party-line responses related to such issues as No Child Left Behind, testing and accountability, but they never really materialized. Nuances, not stock answers, emerged from our conversations.

We began each session by asking the participants to discuss the strengths of public education in South Carolina. We then addressed weaknesses and areas that need significant improvement. While we heard hundreds of different responses, several ideas kept recurring.

Participants often cited the dedication and commitment of teachers and principals as one of the system's major strengths, along with the diversity of the student population and the willingness among educators and other stakeholders to embrace change.

As for weaknesses, a key area of concern was the political nature of education. On many occasions we heard the comment, "Public education is a political football." Other weaknesses mentioned repeatedly included the difficulty of recruiting and retaining an adequate number of high quality teachers, and worries about using standardized testing as the primary means of accountability.

We then asked the members of each focus group how they would redesign schools to address the weaknesses. We were pleased and a bit surprised to discover a tremendous amount of consensus, considering how little agreement has emerged in recent years from political
debates about “how to fix the system.” We heard many creative ideas, including suggestions that South Carolina develop a statewide vision for education, work to gain more public support for schools, and embrace the concept of individualized education based on each student’s needs. The final piece of the discussion was a 160-question survey asking participants to rank opportunities, programs and support structures within the system.

Across the board, educators surprised me. Before we began the study, I had heard stories of teachers so inundated with administrative duties and required paperwork that they were unable to prepare properly for class. While this did emerge as a concern, it was rarely the first thing teachers mentioned. Instead, they focused on such issues as curriculum standards and how they were supposed to teach, in one year, all that students need to learn.

I was impressed by their energy and strong desire to reach students of all abilities. They are overwhelmed with work, yet few complained. Instead, they worried more about how to make an impact and help students achieve measurable improvement.

Parents worried about such issues as achievement and school excellence. They consistently expressed the hope and belief that, with help, schools and teachers can do a better job of challenging children at all levels and preparing them for lives of leadership and service.

We realize that this study will not magically transform education in South Carolina overnight. But as we share our findings and discuss our plans with political and educational leaders in the state, news of and interest in the project are spreading.

It is our hope that, as we develop recommendations based on our surveys and analyses, our work will serve as a catalyst for positive, comprehensive change in the state’s public education system.
The Starting Point

After compiling and analyzing data gathered during 18 months of focus group work, the Riley Institute’s Center for Education Policy and Leadership was able to determine nine “key action areas” which South Carolina stakeholders consider to be essential components of public education. These nine areas are just the tip of the iceberg in regard to the project’s findings. In the coming months, the institute will develop strategies and recommendations for public education in the state based on these key action areas. More information is available on-line at www.rileyinstitute.org/cepl.

> Building Strong Leadership
The focus is on ideas to develop and support the efforts of administrators, including improving communication and collaboration among parties in the school system.

> Connecting Schools and Families
Emphasis is on increasing family involvement in the schools, providing families with expanded educational opportunities, and assisting parents in developing the skills they need to help their children succeed.

> Creating and Maintaining Outstanding Facilities
Strategies center on providing up-to-date facilities, appropriate technological and learning resources, and adequate transportation options.

> Ensuring High-Performing Teachers
Recommendations focus on ways to recruit and retain the highest quality teachers and to support them with effective professional development and time for collaboration.

> Helping Students Overcome Academic Challenges
At-risk students often lack a strong support system. How can we reach out to these students, anticipate their needs and help them improve?

> Increasing Opportunities for Learning
Recommendations touch on ways to expand learning options outside the school day, develop internships for students and broaden curricular offerings.

> Individualizing Education for All Students
Suggestions focus on how to determine each individual student’s needs and develop more “personalized” educational plans.

> Preparing Students for Success in a Global Economy
Given the increasingly competitive nature of the workplace and the globalization of the marketplace, ideas focus on improving career preparation options and developing technological dexterity.

> Promoting Support for Public Education
How do we better educate communities about the specifics of the state system, so that they can more effectively respond to their schools' and districts' needs?

For more on the education project, turn the page.
SMALL-TOWN PASSIONS

My most telling moment during my time with the Riley Institute/Hewlett education study came at a stakeholder meeting Cathy Stevens and I conducted with teachers at the Hampton Inn in Yemassee, S.C.

Usually, when people conceptualize the actual process of a stakeholder meeting on public education, they conjure scenes reminiscent of “Twelve Angry Men” or the PTA meeting in “Field of Dreams.” However, those kinds of fiery moments never came to pass.

Although on occasion we did have to contend with moments of barely checked contempt from our stakeholders, what struck me most was that even in the tiny, rural Hampton County town of Yemassee, a place that might easily be forgotten or overlooked, passion for public education shone through.

The teachers loved their jobs, and they were thunderstruck and moved (but not intimidated) that someone was interested in their opinion about public education in South Carolina. They seemed thrilled to have the opportunity to offer their thoughts on what could be done to improve public education in the state.

In another session in Yemassee, parents were equally passionate about their suggestions and opinions. At the end of the day, I took great pride in knowing that I was part of a process that ensured that the voices of the people of Yemassee were included in our dialogue on education.

Just because a child does not live in the “big cities” of Greenville, Columbia or Charleston does not mean that we as a state and as a society should treat them any differently. Discovering that so many parents and educators felt the way I did, regardless of their political affiliation or past experiences, was an inspiring experience.

— SCOTT McPHERSON ’05

The author attends graduate school at the University of Florida.

INTEGRAL VOICES

My role in the Riley Institute/Hewlett project was to record the comments by teachers and students at stakeholder meetings. Although I was impressed by the dedication and commitment to public education that the teachers exhibited, it is one student meeting I attended that was the most memorable.

The idea of having student meetings was inherently risky. We were inviting a diverse group of 17- and 18-year-olds to reflect on their experiences in South Carolina’s public schools, with only slightly older Furman graduates organizing and running the meeting. We were dependent on the collective efforts of the students, their parents, hotel staff and caterers to ensure the meeting’s success.

At this particular meeting, Murphy’s Law hit hard, as we encountered obstacles we didn’t anticipate. Somehow, our list of 10 participants grew to 15. We ran out of name placards, chairs, and the typed consent forms that made it possible for the students to receive their small stipend for participating.

We sheepishly scribbled out placards and consent forms on the spot. We reshuffled our lists to keep the students anonymous in our records, then packed the students at tables with barely enough elbow room to write. Fortunately, most were already used to overcrowded classrooms.

Given the extra participants, we didn’t have enough catered lunches. Who could sit through the four hours without eating? In the end, one student, the meeting moderator and I volunteered to go without lunch.

It is said, however, that when you perform, you’re the only one that notices your mistakes. True enough in this case.

The students could have cared less about handwritten name cards or cramped quarters. They were more impressed with our efforts to learn their names and make room for all the unexpected arrivals. As for the lunches, they shared with the boy who’d declined one and even ate late because their discussion was so stimulating.

They weren’t there for the food or the money. They were visibly grateful that others wanted to listen to, record and discuss their comments about South Carolina’s public schools. And although one might expect that, given the chance to comment on their school years, graduating seniors would tend to complain or simply to reminisce, these students took their roles seriously. They were constructive, insightful and thoughtful.

Our bumpy student meeting made it evident how integral the student voice was to the project — and illustrated the strength and value of collective, grassroots discussion.

— LAUREN WOOD ’05

The author has done graduate work at McGill University in Montreal.
First Steps

DEVENNY A VOCAL ADVOCATE FOR STATE'S PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

According to Susan Williamson DeVenny '84, it's never too early to start thinking about your child’s education. In fact, she says, parents should do so as soon as their child is out of the womb.

They couldn’t have a better role model than DeVenny. As director of South Carolina First Steps, a program that promotes school readiness in children ages 0 to 5, she is on a mission for the state’s children.

"Most of our potential for academic achievement is formed in the first 36 months of life," she says. "If we fail to provide for their needs before they can make conscious choices for themselves, the damage could be irreversible.”

First Steps was founded in 1999 in response to studies indicating that a child’s potential for academic success is closely tied to preschool preparation. More recently the agency has shifted its emphasis toward ensuring adequate childcare for families who cannot afford it and trying to eradicate inequities that children born into poverty may face.

DeVenny's interest in education blossomed at Furman, where she earned her degree in elementary education. After marrying classmate Alston DeVenny and receiving a master's in education from the University of Georgia, she moved back to South Carolina and began doing corporate education programs for business professionals in Columbia.

As she watched her four children grow and develop, however, she came to realize that more attention should be focused on the plight of those who do not receive adequate educational preparation. After becoming involved through PTA and other volunteer work in her children's schools, she was inspired to abandon her efforts in corporate education in favor of work in early development.

When Gov. Mark Sanford '83 took office in 2002, he asked DeVenny, then a member of the First Steps board and a founder of Parents for Public Schools in South Carolina, to become the agency's executive director. Since then, she's pushed for a more aggressive approach to helping the state's at-risk children.

"A lot of the work that we do attempts to reach families," she says. "We believe very strongly that parents are the first and best teachers, so the best opportunity to reach families is through parent education."

First Steps has really moved forward since the 2005 Abbeville v. South Carolina ruling, in which the S.C. Supreme Court said that students in some districts suffer from a "lack of effective and adequately funded early childhood intervention programs designed to address the impact of poverty on their educational abilities and achievements." The court ordered the state to address this issue through interventions and other programs, “at least through grade three.”

Says DeVenny, "It’s helped us to redouble our efforts.” Today each county in South Carolina has a First Steps partnership consisting of community leaders, educators, parents and faith-based agencies.

Much of her job involves convincing skeptical legislators that First Steps is vital to the future of South Carolina. "Often the addition of more resources is the answer," she says. “It's an issue of looking at how to better coordinate what's there for families. We must make access to services easier, but we have to be honest about the gaps we face.”

Among the biggest challenges, she says, is “finding the children who truly have need of services, and providing an appropriate level of service that meets those needs.” Another challenge: recruiting qualified teachers to the First Steps program and encouraging them to focus on early childhood education.

Of equal importance are childcare providers. To attract better qualified workers, DeVenny says, pay needs to be more competitive, along with other incentives. "We should provide scholarships for those who currently work in the childcare industry, giving them an opportunity to go back to school and keep their education current.”

DeVenny says that Furman instilled in her the drive to succeed and a heart for the marginalized. A native of Connecticut, she says she was drawn to Furman because of its emphasis on both teaching and service.

“The Furman experience points us toward a need to give back to those who are less fortunate,” says DeVenny, citing such programs as Heller Service Corps. “My work in early childhood was born out of that desire.”

Based on her clear sense of commitment, DeVenny seems determined to fulfill her dream of equal educational opportunity for all South Carolina children.

“We have a lot of work yet ahead of us, because we're clearly not reaching all the children that we need to,” she says. “But I think we've done some groundbreaking work.”

— JESSICA TAYLOR '07

For more on First Steps, visit the Web at www.scfirststeps.org.
Time goes by, and as Furman — blessedly — changes, its students change. Yet, the true purpose of a liberal arts education is still the same: to prepare students to learn for a lifetime.

Not just about mapping out careers or preparing for graduate or professional school, the liberal arts today are about experiencing life in the present while establishing the habits of the thoughtful and useful life — and the life of service.

One major difference in the university the students experience today and the institution I attended in the 1960s is that, while our curriculum focused on preparation for life, today’s undergrads “engage” life directly and personally, not just academically.

A place where Furman students roll up their sleeves and go to work — learning by doing — is the Upstate Community Mediation Center, located in a small brick house in the bustling West End of revitalized downtown Greenville. In this center, and in similarly humble facilities in six other South Carolina counties, individuals and families preparing to go to court gather to try to work out voluntary agreements with the help of trained mediators.

The art of mediation

Mediation is an ancient practice experiencing a modern national revival.

The legal system today, especially the family court system, is glutted with domestic cases, with divorce, property division and child custody among the most critical issues. Greenville County and six others — Florence, Horry, Lexington, Anderson, Richland and Pickens — are part of a pilot program through which issues to be settled in family court must first pass through mediation.

In this program mediation is mandatory for family issues, but it is not
binding. The process works hand-in-hand with the judicial system to offer the parties involved a way to settle conflicts amicably, saving the participants time, money and the duress that naturally derives from the prolonged process of litigation. Fifty percent of our clients earn $20,000 or less, and we assist anyone referred by the Upstate office of South Carolina Legal Services.

Referral to the center enables all clients, no matter their means, to benefit from the expertise of volunteer mediators, all of whom are trained by the South Carolina Bar (or comparable programs) in civil or family mediation. At UCMC, both attorneys and laypeople serve as mediators.

Simply put, mediation brings people in conflict together, in a professional and supportive environment, to find solutions. The theory is that the parties involved, rather than the courts, are best suited to resolve their own differences.

On a given Tuesday at the UCMC, we might see divorced parties who live in two different time zones and are trying to arrange a visitation schedule for their children; a middle-aged woman and her retired spouse, who is terminally ill, arguing over alimony and debt; a great-grandfather seeking custody of his unmarried granddaughter's twin daughters; an abused wife whose home is in foreclosure; and an upper-middle-class couple whose issues include the equitable division of lake and beach property and responsibility for orthodonture and education for teen-age children. Often the disputants are not on speaking terms, which requires the mediator to shuttle from room to room between the two camps.

The Greenville center’s work focuses on family issues because of local demand for these services. Mediators also help clients resolve civil, business and other group disputes.

How often is mediation “successful?” It’s hard to say. Each case is different, and the range of issues presented is never the same.

We see a minimum of 10 cases a week, with each session lasting anywhere from 30 minutes to more than three hours. In perhaps one-third of the cases, clients leave with an agreement on the majority of their issues, which means less time spent in court hammering out the final details. Another third leave with some issues settled, which is in itself progress. The remaining sessions end in no resolution, or the meeting never takes place because of a last-minute cancellation or “no-show.”

Sometimes we learn that dialogue between the parties continues after they leave mediation. This in itself is a validation of the power of the process.

The Honorable Kinard Johnson, the longest serving family court judge in the state, says, “I have experienced domestic litigation both before and since mediation became available. Mediation is making an invaluable contribution in easing this most difficult of life transitions in the often emotionally wrenching process of divorce and its attendant issues. Through the mediation process families are spared the psychological damages too frequently accompanying contested trials.

“The healing process begins more quickly when parties can have their own investment in the resolution of their problems, rather than placing all of their problems at the foot of a stranger in a black robe. There is also financial benefit for the families who resolve their disputes through mediation, as protracted litigation is much more costly. The judicial system benefits as well, as many cases are settled through mediation which would otherwise have required much more court docket time.

“Mediation presents a ‘win-win’ situation for all concerned — the families involved, society in general and the court system.”

**Items on the table**

Through mediation, adults try to work out their relationships for the rest of their lives, while developing rules for dividing property equitably and for framing an environment in which the children may flourish despite an altered home situation.

Parents come to realize that, although they may be divorcing, they will be co-parenting forever. A pattern is established through which a child or children can expect to spend time with both mom and dad and find new ways to celebrate traditional holidays. It’s not like a puzzle to be put together again. It’s more like a jigsaw with extra pieces that must be reconfigured.
Property division may range from a vacation home to a 401K to a single-wide to a bass boat. Some families divide assets; others must find ways to share responsibility for decades of accrued credit card debt.

In the course of an “average day,” a mediator might help families decide with whom a 6-year-old will celebrate her birthday in “even” years, who gets possession of a half-acre of land on which a beloved pet is buried, and who gets the 20-year-old microwave (for some reason, always a major source of contention). Items on the negotiation table might be a Dale Earnhardt T-shirt, still-boxed wedding presents in the attic of the in-laws’ house, a nursery lamp for a 30-year-old son who has children of his own, four cars and one pickup truck (none of which run), and the children's kindergarten pictures.

Mediators do not advise, recommend, make judgments or press for decisions. They work to help the parties involved discover creative and practical solutions. In one family, an agreement hinged on the father gladly putting $4,000 in retroactive child support into the child’s college fund, rather than paying the mother directly. One young couple found that their communication became less volatile when they agreed to text-message each other only in emergencies.

The best idea we have come up with so far is installing two white rocking chairs on our front porch, creating a “safe place” for couples to talk directly to each other — sometimes for the first time in months, or even years.

While mediation is required in Greenville County, agreements are voluntary until the resulting Memorandum of Understanding is reviewed by the parties’ attorneys, who may or may not have participated in the mediation. The center files a report with the court indicating that the mediation has taken place and noting the issues that have been resolved and those that have not. The process is confidential, and neither the mediator nor his/her notes can be a part of any subsequent legal action. As we tell our clients, “What is said here stays here.”

**The Furman connection**

A number of people with ties to Furman have played vital roles in developing and sustaining the UCMC.

Glen Halva-Neubauer, Dana Professor of Political Science, chairs the UCMC board. His efforts were crucial in literally keeping the lights on at the center during tough financial times last spring and summer. In many ways, he has enabled the center to benefit from the best and brightest Furman has to offer in its steady progress toward stabilization, community outreach, professional staffing and program diversification.

Halva-Neubauer and the center’s board selected Sam Pearcy ’07 and Matt Kuhn ‘08 as interns for the summer of 2006. Neither would treat the internship as “just a summer job.”

Kuhn totally revamped the system of billing and collection, found ways to save money and, in the process, learned to write a very polite but convincing “Pay up or else” letter. Pearcy put his winning personality to use as the community outreach intern, building relationships, getting the word out on the center’s services, and even talking Starbucks into providing coupons for volunteers. Both worked countless hours placing the files of cases and mediators in order and revising all the forms to make them more “reader friendly” to our clients.

Halva-Neubauer also helped recruit Regina Hinson ’06 to the UCMC as mediation coordinator. She shepherds each case through the center, from the first anxious or angry phone call through the preparation of the case. She arranges for the parties to be present, sees to the required paperwork and offers reassuring explanations of what may be expected as the case progresses through the system. Her kindness and professionalism...
communicate to the clients that they are being heard and respected, which is the heart of mediation.

For her, the job is wonderful preparation for what is sure to be an outstanding career in the legal field. The center benefits as well, as for the first time it is fully staffed.

Many other Furman people are involved in peacemaking through their connection to the center. Halva-Neubauer lured me out of retirement in May 2006 to serve as interim director for three months. I'm still here, celebrating a new career.

Mark Bakker '91, a Greenville attorney and member of the Wyche Law Firm, has been on the UCMC board since its inception. He also finds time to volunteer as a mediator, as does Kirby Mitchell '90, managing attorney of Greenville's Legal Services office.

Mitchell and Bakker trace their interest in community service to their undergraduate days and specifically to the influence of professors Don Aiesi and Judy Bainbridge, both of whom encouraged them to learn more about themselves and explore full-time volunteer work before attending law school. After graduating from Furman, Bakker did volunteer work in California with the Mennonite Voluntary Service, and Mitchell worked with VISTA and taught English in Czechoslovakia.

Mary Stokes '09, who interned at the center during winter term, plans to pursue a career in farming/environmental law. She says, "Mediation provides an unusual approach to legal issues. Through learning about mediation, I have improved the quality of my own life and am already using the skills to resolve on-campus conflicts."

Through their work with the UCMC, these and other members of the Furman family have discovered how listening, encouraging and showing empathetic understanding can have a transforming effect on adversaries — and can truly help people resolve their differences.

Mediation presents a powerful alternative for individuals in conflict by empowering them to come together, at the same time and in the same place, to discuss their goals and mutual interests. In doing so, they avoid the expense and acrimony of litigation and confrontation and find ways to meet in the middle.

Mediation is peacemaking put into practice. [11]

The author, a 1966 Furman graduate (third generation), was formerly the university's associate director of continuing education and director of the Bridges to a Brighter Future program. She teaches in the Furman University Learning in Retirement program and in the Undergraduate Evening Studies program.
Full Speed Ahead

Furman’s track and running programs are building on the momentum generated by the Blue Shoes Scholarship fund drive.

Shortly after Chris Barch joined the Furman track and cross country teams as a freshman in the mid-1970s, he finished last among his teammates in a four-mile time trial. But by the spring of that same school year, he had set a freshman record of 13:51 in the three-mile run.

Barch is obviously accustomed to rapid progress, and the 1978 graduate has wasted no time pushing into high gear the Blue Shoes Track Scholarship program he and his wife, Andrea, founded just one year ago.

Last year’s inaugural Blue Shoes weekend raised $200,000 and was the single biggest athletic fund-raising event in Furman history. This year’s Blue Shoes extravaganza, which took place over a Friday and Saturday in early April, raised another $575,000, bringing the scholarship fund’s total to $1.8 million.

Perhaps even more significantly, the weekend included a surprise announcement for plans to construct a $2.5 million, 6,000-square-foot track house at Furman’s Irwin Belk Complex for Track and Field. The additions will include track and cross country locker rooms for the men’s and women’s teams, coaches’ offices and a warm-up area for athletes.

It will also contain a 2,000-square-foot laboratory for Furman’s internationally recognized Institute of Running and Scientific Training (FIRST). Because of its innovative approach to training, FIRST has been featured in Runner’s World and the Wall Street Journal, among other major publications.

Ken Pettus, director of athletic development, says, “The weekend was incredibly successful and the Blue Shoes program has been everything we dreamed it could be. We were hoping the scholarship fund would reach $5 million by the year 2011, and we are well on our way to achieving that goal.”

The 2007 Blue Shoes weekend kicked off with a Friday dinner that attracted 400 people to hear speaker Dave Wottle, the 1972 Olympic gold medalist in the 800 meters. It included a panel discussion on distance running featuring Wottle, several members of the FIRST faculty, and Amby Burfoot, a former Boston Marathon winner and editor of Runner’s World.
On Saturday, more than 3,000 people came to the campus to watch premier U.S. miler Alan Webb and 11 other top runners compete in the ASICS Blue Shoes Elite Mile. Webb's remarkable time of 3:57.83 in cold and windy conditions was the first sub-four-minute mile ever run on a South Carolina track and was featured on the front page of The Greenville News. Other events included a five-kilometer run that drew more than 550 participants, as well as Furman Invitational meets for both high school and college teams.

The Blue Shoes program provides scholarship support for Furman's distance runners. Borch named the scholarship for the blue ASICS "Onitsuka Tiger" running shoes he and his teammates were given after he arrived at Furman his freshman year.

While it is difficult to imagine what the Blue Shoes event can do for an encore in 2008, Borch and Pettus are already thinking about what might come next. There is the possibility of Elite Mile races for men and women, as well as a few events featuring top sprinters. Borch would also like to see the Furman Invitational meet enhanced with the addition of some of the nation's top-ranked college programs.

"It has been very satisfying that we've been able to accomplish so much in a relatively short period of time," says Borch, who is executive director and president of Micro-Mechanics, a California-based company. "We're bringing interest back to Furman's track and field program, and people seem to be having fun with what we're doing. I think it's already gotten bigger than any of us imagined." — VINCE MOORE
Five honored with major awards at annual Founders event

Three alumni, including longtime Furman administrator Harry Shucker '66, were joined by two generous friends of the university in receiving special honors March 28 at the annual Founders Convocation.

Shucker, who has worked at Furman since 1968 and will step down in December after 22 years as vice president for student services, received the Chiles-Harrill Award, presented annually to a Furman employee for "substantial contributions to the lives of students." The award is named for Marguerite Chiles and Ernest E. Harrill, former university administrators.

Having worked in admissions, financial aid and student services during his years at Furman, Shucker was recognized for his caring nature, devotion to students' best interests and longtime commitment to the university. A total of 43 letters were received nominating him for the honor, and they came from all constituencies of the university: faculty, staff, current students, parents, and alumni from the past four decades.

The Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award went to Tony McDade '79. Named for the university's founder, the award recognizes a Furman graduate who reflects Baptist ideals by thinking critically, living compassionately and making life-changing commitments.

McDade, a Baptist minister in the Carolinas for more than 20 years, was honored for his "conviction and passion for social justice," his visionary leadership and his “ability to unite and inspire people of all faiths into transformative action.” Since 2003 he has been executive director of the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (GAIHN), an emergency shelter and transitional housing ministry that works with 28 local congregations to provide shelter, meals and assistance to homeless families in an effort to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Greenville attorney Neil Rabon '81, a former head of the Alumni Association, received the Bell Tower Award for his years of service to Furman and his efforts to preserve the fundamental principles on which the university was founded.

Concerned about the growing threat to Furman from fundamentalist Baptists in the late 1980s and early '90s, Rabon proposed the establishment of an alumni task force to investigate Furman's statutory relationship with the state Baptist convention. Thanks in large part to his foresight and initiative, the task force formulated a legal strategy that eventually enabled Furman to gain its independence from the convention and set in motion an exciting new era in the university's development.

Other top awards went to Mary Simms Oliphant Furman of Greenville and Adam Joseph Lewis of Aspen, Colo., both of whom received honorary Doctor of Humanities degrees.

Mrs. Furman was recognized for her contributions to the education of thousands of South Carolina students and for her gifts of "time, talent and resources toward Furman."

She is the great-granddaughter of William Gilmore Simms, the South's most prominent antebellum poet, novelist and historian; the daughter of Mary Simms Oliphant, a historian with whom she co-authored several editions of a history of South Carolina, which served as a primary textbook for generations of students; and the wife of Alester Garden Furman III, a member of the university's founding family.

Furman Mall is named for her and her husband in recognition of their extraordinary generosity toward the university, and the central teaching quadrangle in the Charles H. Townes Center for Science will be named in her honor.

Few people can match Adam Joseph Lewis when it comes to environmental philanthropy. He was among the first philanthropists to focus on the development of high-performance buildings designed with sustainability and efficiency in mind, and through his foundation he has supported a number of path-breaking projects in ecological design, education and outreach. He contributed a $1.5 million challenge grant toward the sustainability systems in the Townes Center.
Relay for Life

More than 1,000 students were joined by members of the Greenville community in the annual Relay for Life walk March 30 at Furman. First held in 2002, the walk benefits the American Cancer Society and this year set a record by raising more than $70,000. Luminaries on the chapel steps and along the mall urged people to stop and reflect on the toll the disease has taken and the ongoing hope for a cure.

2007 grads named Furman’s first Compton Mentor Fellows

Because of Furman’s commitment to environmental sustainability, the Compton Foundation of California has invited the university to participate in a program that could provide $35,000 fellowships for two graduating seniors each year.

Furman joins Princeton, Oberlin, Vassar and five other select colleges in nominating students each year for the Compton Mentor Fellowship program, which supports new college graduates as they “transform their academic studies into real world applications.” Furman may nominate two seniors annually for the one-year fellowships.

Colin Hagan and Kartikeya Singh, 2007 Furman graduates and the university’s first nominees for the award, were among the eight students selected as 2007 Compton Fellows.

Both have been deeply involved in environmental projects during their years on campus. Hagan, who is from Tyler, Texas, graduated this spring with a double major in political science and English, and Singh, a Greenville resident, designed his own major in ecology and sustainable development.

Each Compton Mentor Fellow is responsible for implementing a self-directed project and choosing a mentor who will provide “guidance, encouragement, and impetus for continued learning and service.” The fellows are expected to demonstrate “imagination, intelligence, integrity and leadership” as well as a “commitment to compassionate and effective participation in the world community.”

Hagan plans to examine ways to minimize greenhouse gas emissions in South Carolina. Singh will target the development of responsible energy consumption projects, particularly in the Indian auto industry.

The Compton Mentor Fellowship program began in 2002 and has traditionally focused on the areas of environment and sustainability, peace and conflict resolution, and population and reproductive health. This year, the foundation added an emphasis on climate change and energy policy.

Based in northern California, the Compton Foundation began with the far-sighted and compassionate vision of Dorothy and Randolph Compton, a vision they later passed on to their children. Since 2002, 35 students have received Compton Mentor Fellowships.
External agencies take note of Furman’s environmental efforts

**Furman’s commitment** to environmental citizenship and the development of greater environmental consciousness within the university community and beyond has earned it recognition from a variety of advocacy groups and organizations.

The American Council on Renewable Energy’s Higher Education Committee invited the university to be part of a steering group that will encourage institutions of higher learning to play a leading role in helping to move renewable energy into the mainstream of the American economy and lifestyle. The committee will provide forums, information, tools and other resources to promote increased use of renewable energy on U.S. college campuses, increased investment of endowments in clean energy funds and companies, resources for the education of current and future generations, and involvement by alumni associations.

Furman is one of 25 institutions invited to participate. Among the others: University of California, University of Florida, Arizona State, Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, Emory and Texas Tech. To learn more, visit www.acore.org.

SKY Energy, Inc., a Greenville-based renewable energy company, has contributed 1,250,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of Wind-e Renewable Energy Certificates to Furman in recognition of the university’s Year of the Environment celebration.

A Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) represents the benefit, in reduced carbon emissions, of one megawatt-hour of generated electricity. The amount provided to Furman represented approximately 50 percent of the university’s total electricity use for the month of December 2006, which offset the emission of more than 1.7 million pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

RECs are the certified environmental benefits of wind energy that improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gases. The electricity generated from wind farms is delivered to the national energy grid and not directly to Furman. SKY Energy’s donation qualified Furman for membership in the Environmental Protection Agency’s Green Power Partnership, a group of businesses, government agencies and institutions of higher education that are investing in renewable energy to reduce the environmental impact of their electricity use. To learn more, visit www.sky-energy.com.

Furman is also a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, and President David Shi has been selected to serve in the group’s Leadership Circle.

The American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment is an effort to make campuses more sustainable and to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to reduce — and ultimately neutralize — greenhouse gas emissions on campuses. Schools were selected to be part of the group because of their demonstrated leadership in sustainability efforts.

The commitment states that the signatories “believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Campuses that address the climate challenge by reducing global warming emissions and by integrating sustainability into their curriculum will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society.” Learn more at www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org.

The South Carolina Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council awarded Furman its Leadership Award in the Private Sector for the university’s commitment to sustainability and green building construction. According to the organization, Furman has been an exemplar for institutions and groups throughout South Carolina, and the university’s Herman N. Hipp Hall “remains the benchmark for future green buildings in the state.”

And in January, the South Carolina Wildlife Federation gave Furman its Organization Award. The federation cited Furman’s “myriad programs for reducing its environmental footprint and incorporating ‘green’ architecture,” and praised the university’s efforts to integrate sustainability into the educational experience.
Retirement center construction to begin August 1

According to a recent article in the Journal on Active Aging, “If people survive the seventh decade of life without a lightning strike—an aneurism, heart attack, terminal cancer or accident—they will probably live between 15 and 30-plus additional years.”

As a result, it’s not surprising that senior citizens are taking a whole new approach to retirement these days. A growing trend in senior living is for retirement communities to connect with a college or university; indeed, more than 60 colleges and universities across the country have links to a retirement center, creating a “year-round reunion” for many alumni and retired faculty and staff.

Following this trend, The Woodlands at Furman, a $55 million Continuing Care Retirement Community, will be Greenville’s newest, not-for-profit senior living development. Located on 22 acres at the perimeter of university property, near the REK Center for Intercollegiate Golf and north of Old Roe Ford Road, the 300,000-square-foot project will be open to people 62 years of age and older. It will feature 144 independent living residences, 32 assisted living residences, 30 private skilled nursing suites and 16 private memory support suites.

Residences are available in one-, two- and three-bedroom floor plans ranging in size from 717 square feet to more than 2,000 square feet. Construction is scheduled to begin August 1, with an anticipated completion date of late 2008. The Woodlands will be built and owned by Upstate Senior Living, a non-profit organization unrelated to Furman, and managed by Greystone Communities of Irving, Texas, a national leader in senior living development and property management. Because of their close proximity to the campus, Woodlands residents will have ready access to university sporting, cultural and learning events, ranging from football games and concerts to the FULIR (Furman University Learning in Retirement) program.

Throughout 2006, prospective residents were invited to join a priority program to be among the first to make a reservation on an apartment. To date more than half of the 144 apartments have been reserved, but a wide selection remains.

If you, a friend or a loved one would like more information about The Woodlands at Furman, contact Vickie Fowler at (864) 246-8606; write The Woodlands at Furman, 5000 Old Buncombe Road, Suite #50, Greenville, S.C. 29617; or visit the Web site, www.thewoodlandsatfurman.org.

Grant supports creation of summer institute in China

Furman’s Department of Asian Studies has been awarded a major grant to establish an intensive Chinese Language Institute in Suzhou, China, this summer.

The grant, worth more than $300,000, was awarded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is administered in association with the Council of American Overseas Research Centers and Associated Colleges of the South. The institute will be established in cooperation with and on the campus of Furman’s Chinese partner institution, Soochow University.

The institute is open to applicants from around the nation and provides 20 fully funded positions. It will be directed this summer by Harry Kuoshu, assistant professor of Chinese.

“This grant represents a significant accomplishment for Asian Studies and for the Chinese Studies program in particular,” says Linda Bartlett, associate academic dean. “It is unusual for an institution of our size to sponsor such a high-profile program. This achievement is a testament to the creativity and energy of our faculty, and will surely enhance Furman’s efforts to attract students interested in studying China.”

The program is to run June 6 through August 13 and provides the equivalent of a year’s study of intermediate-level Chinese. It features eight weeks of formal language instruction and one week of travel in which students will be able to practice their language skills. Prerequisites for the program include two years of college-level Chinese.

Programming will feature academic field trips and lectures. Students will live only minutes from the historic canals and alleys of historic “old Suzhou” and from the thriving new investment zones in China’s most economically advanced region. Soochow University is located in the historic cultural center of Suzhou and is the leading provincial-level university in China’s most economically advanced region.

The grant is another indication of the increasing prominence that Furman’s Department of Asian Studies and its China programs have experienced in recent years. In 2004, Beth and Ravenel B. Curry III ’63 gave the university $1 million to support the Chinese Studies program.
Gatchell to assume duties as vice president for development

Mike Gatchell '91 understands the fund-raising business from many angles.

From 1993 to 1997 he served as associate director and then director of the Furman Alumni Association, working to build friends, develop Furman Clubs and promote university events. He went on to become director of major gifts before leaving Furman in 1999 to start a small business in Greenville.


"This was a chance to cut my teeth — to learn a little about the mechanics of fundraising from another perspective," says Gatchell, who helped his Blackbaud clients diagnose and meet their management needs.

Because Furman was one of those clients, it was only natural for Gatchell (photo left) to ponder what it would be like to apply his new insights at his alma mater again. He got his chance in 2005, when he was offered the position of executive director of development.

Now, he's taking his knowledge and skills to a new leadership level. As of July 1, he will become vice president for development at Furman, a position that Don Lineback has manned for the last 14 years. Lineback (photo right) will remain at Furman in an advisory role until officially retiring at the end of 2008.

During his tenure as vice president, Lineback has helped boost financial support for the university to record levels while expanding Furman's network of friends and supporters. Under his direction Furman has enhanced its planned giving program, built its endowment and reached new heights in annual giving, in which the university is a national leader in alumni participation among schools its size.

He also oversaw the “Forever Furman” campaign, which was completed in December 2002 and raised more than $200 million.

To recognize the contributions Lineback and his wife, Judy, have made to Furman, the board of trustees has named the conference room in Thomas Spann Farmer Hall, the university's new development building, in Don's honor, and the building's parlor in honor of Judy.

As Furman gears up for another major capital campaign, Lineback will work as a consultant to the development staff as well as to President David Shi. “Don's desire to shift his emphasis from day-to-day management to helping to orchestrate Furman's upcoming campaign aligns well with the university's needs,” says Shi. “Mike will complement Don in forming a dynamic leadership team for our fund-raising efforts.”

In assuming responsibility for the university's fund-raising and alumni programs, Gatchell says he wants to see Furman become more “donor-centric” in its fund-raising approach by focusing on the ways alumni and friends are inclined to become involved. In this manner he believes the development office will be better able to direct donor support to specific programs and projects.

During his years in private business, Gatchell says he became aware of how easy it can be to become disconnected from alma mater.

By developing stronger ties to the university's 25,000 alumni, he hopes to help them realize the vital role they play in Furman's growth and success.

“This means getting out there and meeting more of the people who donate to the university," he says. “I hope we can strengthen our efforts at building more personal relationships. We have unbelievably impressive alumni, and I want to help everyone understand how special this network is that they've graduated into.”

Armed with what he describes as an extremely dedicated and talented staff, Gatchell, a business administration major at Furman, is looking forward to the challenges ahead.

“I never intended to be a director of development," he says. “Fundraising was not something I thought of specifically in terms of a career, but this position is the right combination of special things that make it the best job for me. I feel like there could be no better job. I'm very lucky.”

— JASON STRAND '04
Joy Jordan-Lake ’85, Working Families: Navigating the Demands and Delights of Marriage, Parenting, and Career (Random House/WaterBrook, 2007). Publishers Weekly says, “After penning three books and having three children, Jordan-Lake writes of juggling the demands of two holy callings — hers as a writer, her husband’s as a pastor — with raising kids. What distinguishes this book from the other Christian family-balancing guides that crowd the shelves is its emphasis on the fundamental equality of husband and wife, even while it recognizes that women often bear a greater psychological burden than men when they try to follow their bliss careerwise.” Half the royalties from the book’s sales go toward micro-enterprise loans for women beginning their own businesses in impoverished countries. Jordan-Lake holds a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University and lives with her family in Nashville, Tenn.

Todd Sentell ’83, Toonamint of Champions: How La Juanita Mumps Got to Join Augusta National Golf Club Real Easy (Kunati Inc., 2007). Booklist describes this send-up of private golf clubs as “over the top slapstick,” and Films and Books magazine calls it “Hilarity for adults . . . perhaps the funniest novel of the year.” The story follows the demise of Waymon Poodle, “the best damn bank teller in Mullet Luv, Georgia,” and his fiancé to play at Augusta National, the legendary home of the Masters golf tournament. The publisher says that the book “will appeal to anyone who loves to see the underdog win big and the powerful get their comeuppance.” Sentell, who lives in Alpharetta, Ga., is an award-winning golf writer.


Robert Harris ’76, 101 Things NOT to Do Before You Die (Thomas Dunne, 2007). The author describes his book as “a witty, subversive guide that turns conventional ‘wisdom’ upside down” — which should come as no surprise, given that his other books include such titles as Fun With Phone Solicitors and Nerds Among Us. His latest helps us understand that “it’s what we DON’T do that determines our happiness quotient. Using the exciting principle of ‘selective inaction,’ I help people adjust their thinking so they can make more satisfying decisions in everyday situations.” He adds, “Let this book be your guide to getting more out of life — simply by doing less.” Harris lives in Durham, N.C. Visit his Web site, www.rwhstudio.com.

Suzanne Rhodes Draayer ’73, Canciones de España: Songs of Nineteenth-Century Spain, Volume 3 (Scarecrow Press, 2007). Previous volumes in this series were published in 2003 and 2005. With this book, 83 songs by 50 Spanish composers are now available for performance and study, in both high and low voice editions. The publisher says the anthology “allows singers and voice teachers to explore the poetry, culture and history of Spain through its songs, demonstrating that the songs deserve their rightful place in the classical song repertoire of Europe and the Americas.” The author is professor of voice and related studies at Winona State University in Minnesota and vice president for workshops for the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Susan Usha Dermond ’70, Calm and Compassionate Children (Celestial Arts, 2007). The publisher describes this handbook as “a parents’ and teachers’ guide to developing children’s concentration, self-discipline and compassion, as well as heartfelt qualities like openness and enthusiasm.” It features techniques and exercises drawn from the author’s experiences as a teacher and director of the Living Wisdom School, a non-profit elementary school that emphasizes non-academic spiritual principles and practical skills for living. Dermond has spent the last 18 years working in alternative schools, including 12 years at the original Living Wisdom School in Nevada City, Calif. She now directs the Living Wisdom School in Beaverton, Ore.

Jack Sullivan ’69, Hitchcock’s Music (Yale University Press, 2006). This is the first book to explore fully the key role music played in the movies of Alfred Hitchcock. The publisher says that Hitchcock “used music to influence the atmosphere, characterization and storylines of his films . . . Sullivan examines the director’s important relationships with various composers, especially Bernard Herrmann, and tells the stories behind the musical decisions.” Cultural critic Camille Paglia describes the book as “a richly evocative study that combines important new scholarship with sparkling sensibility.” Sullivan vividly documents Hitchcock’s restless eclecticism and bold interweaving of musical styles — popular, classical, avant-garde and electronic.” Sullivan, who has written five books, lives in New York City and is director of American Studies and professor of English at Rider University. Visit the Web site, www.hitchcocksmusic.com.

Jerry Autry ’63, Gun-Totin’ Chaplain (Airborne Press, 2007). This book is a memoir of the author’s time in Vietnam in the late 1960s. As chaplain to an airborne infantry battalion, Autry went from a small-town North Carolina church to, in the publisher’s words, “a jungle pastorate in the midst of war. He ministered to soldiers of all faiths — and to those who had no faith — and is reputed to be the most highly decorated chaplain for valor of that era.” Now retired and living in San Francisco, Autry served in the Army for 29 years, including a stint as chief chaplain of the 82nd Airborne. He is the author of General William C. Lee, Father of the American Airborne, also published by Airborne Press.
Class of 2007 designates Habitat for Humanity house for senior gift

Each year the graduating class donates a special gift to the university to commemorate its time at Furman. Recent classes have provided support for scholarships, campus facilities and a 9/11 memorial.

Given that Furman designated 2006-07 as the Year of the Environment and promoted sustainability and conservation throughout the year, the Class of 2007 decided to fund (and help build) an environmentally friendly Habitat for Humanity EarthCraft home.

Said Will Bryan, class president, “This is an opportunity to use our resources to help out a family in need and change their lives forever.” A single mother with two adolescent sons will live in the home.

According to the company Web site, EarthCraft “is a green building program that serves as a blueprint for healthy, comfortable homes” by promoting sustainable, energy efficient construction. The home, located in nearby Travelers Rest, will be the state of South Carolina’s first certified “green” Habitat house.

The primary source of funding for the Habitat project came through the $200 housing deposits all students pay freshman year. Ordinarily the money is returned to students after they graduate, but seniors were asked to donate a portion of their deposit toward the class gift. Through March, 270 members of the class had made pledges, and supporting commitments from parents of seniors had pushed the total pledged to more than $50,000.

“Although the gift does not necessarily give something physical back to the university, it helps out the community and thus benefits Furman,” said Bryan. “It is an opportunity to use our resources for the good of society and not just those walking around Furman’s campus.”

Students began working on the house March 1. Construction was scheduled to be completed by the end of spring term.
Life lessons: Perspectives on the student-athlete experience

Leroy Davies-Venn ’98 majored in biology and played defensive tackle for the Furman football team. Now an orthodontist in Atlanta, he has remained close to several former teammates (and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity brothers) who also pursued careers in healthcare. He submitted this commentary on how he and his friends balanced their academic and athletic lives at Furman — and went on to apply the lessons they learned to their vocations.

Student-athletes at institutions of higher learning are often defined strictly by their physical attributes. Many people, however, are unaware of the strenuous schedules these students face, and of the difficulties they encounter in balancing their dual commitments to sports and academics.

At Furman, though, it is not uncommon for student-athletes to achieve great things both on the playing field and in the classroom.

Among my many friends from Furman days are three gentlemen who joined me in accepting the challenges of being a student-athlete — and went on to successful careers in healthcare.

Clayton Gibson III ’95, a linebacker, went on to attend Life College and is now a chiropractor in Atlanta. Rico Perkins ‘00, a safety, is a resident in anesthesiology in Louisville, Ky., after graduating from medical school at the University of Louisville last spring. Kevin Jackson ’98, a cornerback, is a pediatric dentist in Atlanta. Kevin and I actually negotiated dental school admission to the same school at Meharry Medical College and completed his residency at the University of Tennessee.

Leroy Davies-Venn

I attended dental school at Meharry as well and did my residency at Howard University before becoming an associate in a group in Atlanta.

Kevin and I actually negotiated dental school together. Today we see each other often and share insights into each others’ cases and practices.

All of us took the lessons we learned on the football field and applied them to our respective post-graduate training — and ultimately to our professions. Three specific tenets my student-athlete experience instilled in me are preparation, patience and perseverance.

Preparation. As we did during our football days, we continue to hone our skills through practice, study and review, not just of new techniques but of fundamental principles. In our professions, lack of preparation is not an option. Patients depend on us to anticipate and recognize problems and find solutions, all of which goes back to the importance of preparation. In preparing for games, we studied opponents’ tendencies, developed game plans and then practiced them so that we would be fully prepared. Similarly, the “practice” of healthcare revolves around executing treatments until they are reflex. If we are fortunate enough to devise a new protocol along the way, that’s even better.

Patience. Oftentimes in athletics, getting the chance to perform can be an exercise in patience. Similarly, in healthcare the opportunity to actually “perform” comes only after years of study and hard work. If you know that your chance will eventually come, the results usually prove to be worth the time and effort. At Furman, I didn’t get significant playing time until my senior season, and at Meharry, I was well into my studies before I ever “managed” a patient. Moreover, in orthodontics, treatments typically last about two years. This requires that I coach my patients to be patient — and to appreciate gradual results. I often pray for patient patients.

Perseverance. Sometimes in orthodontics, the simplest of cases proves to be an exhausting chore. But I can’t allow a case that doesn’t progress as planned to hinder my self-confidence or to affect other cases. In football terminology, one setback shouldn’t determine how I play the rest of the game. One of the major philosophies I took away from athletics was, “The athlete that I must work hardest to dominate is me.” I had to learn not to be so afraid of failure that it would inhibit my ability to perform well.

Having balanced the demands of athletics and academics as undergraduates, my friends and I had no problem with time management in graduate school, and we were able to cope with the long hours and stress. We had learned to focus and concentrate, and we knew that after Furman, we could handle anything.

Today, as healthcare providers, we also understand the importance of developing trust and support, as we did in our relationships with coaches and teammates. And being African-Americans, the crash course in cultural diversity that was an automatic part of our Furman experiences helps us relate to a wide variety of patients.

Furman promotes and encourages high expectations and standards on the football field and in the classroom. As student-athletes, we got a double dose of Furman’s commitment to excellence. In doing so we reaped many benefits that we will take with us throughout our lives — and, hopefully, that we will pass on to those who follow.
Thoughts and Musings: A New Look for the Alumni Website, and More  

As spring comes to a close, I want to discuss a few issues of importance to Furman alumni and friends.  

On March 1, the Alumni Association Web site and on-line community became part of the university's database management program, provided by Blackbaud. It is called BBNC — the Blackbaud Net Community.  

If you have not registered on the new site, please take a moment to do so at http://alumni.furman.edu. It is vitally important that you register so that you can take full advantage of the site's many offerings.  

When you register, you’ll get a user ID and password, which you will use henceforth when you visit the site. Each time you return, just click the Sign in/Register link on the right corner of the page and you'll be on your way.  

We are still implementing various features of BBNC, so please be patient as we work out the kinks.  

Some of the highlights of the new system:  

> Once you register, you may view all the information the Alumni Association has about you — spouse, address, employer, children, etc. You can also update the information yourself on-line.  

> As with the old site, you may share your news with classmates in the Class Notes section. Post your news about a recent marriage, new baby, graduate degree or new job. Pictures are welcome as well. You may select what people will and will not see on your individual profile.  

> You get a permanent e-mail forwarding address: yourname@alumni.furman.edu. Just a little gift from alma mater.  

> Each class or Furman Club is able to have its own Web page.  

> You may register and pay for events on-line. We ask for your patience as we bring the site up to the standards you expect. We also welcome your comments and suggestions. Send them to tom.triplitt@furman.edu.


Ring tones: Hard work by the Alumni Association and Association of Furman Students paid off January 18 when the first Furman Ring Ceremony in many years was held in Daniel Memorial Chapel.  

Harry Shucker '66, vice president for student services, presented school rings to Furman juniors and seniors. The ceremony included an account of the history of the ring, along with the singing of the alma mater and of “Brown Eyes.”  

Many years ago, only one style of Furman ring was available. But as time passed, the number of stylistic choices increased dramatically — to the point where graduates of both sexes had dozens of options. Trying to wade through that many choices often proved so overwhelming that people would decide not to purchase a ring at all.  

To remedy this problem, a committee of students, alumni and staff met for almost a year and, after much discussion, decided that Furman should offer only three ring styles for men and three for women. Students may now purchase a ring once they have registered for classes as juniors, and alumni who earned Furman degrees are eligible as well.  

Pictured above are examples of the selected ring options. In the middle, top and bottom, are the men’s and women’s traditional rings, both of which feature the image of the Bell Tower in the center. At left and right are the men’s and women’s signet rings, both with the university seal in the center. The signet style also comes with the Bell Tower.  

The rings come in white gold or yellow gold, and a choice of antique or natural finish. They can be customized to include your name and graduation year.  

The Alumni Association hopes that buying a ring will soon become the rule rather than the exception for students, and that many alumni will decide to buy a ring to demonstrate their pride in alma mater.  

Find out more at www.herffjones.com/college/rings, or click on the “Official Class Ring” tab on the Alumni Association Web site.  

Homecoming reminder: Save the dates: November 2-4. The Paladins will play Southern Conference foe Elon in the annual Homecoming football game. If you are interested in volunteering to be on your reunion committee or would like more information about Homecoming, please contact Tina Hayes Ballew '78, associate director of the Alumni Association, at tina.ballew@furman.edu or by calling 1-800-PURPLE3.  

Classes ending in 2 and 7 will hold special reunions this year. An early tip: Homecoming registration will open in September, and you will be able to make arrangements on-line through the alumni Web site. In anticipation, you should go to http://alumni.furman.edu and register on the new site as soon as possible so that, when Homecoming registration opens, you will not have to wait for your access to be approved, which can take as long as two business days.

— Tom Triplitt '76

The author is director of the Alumni Association.
The Daytona Beach (Fla.) News-Journal recently profiled J. Hart Long as he prepared to retire after a 60-year career in dentistry. He is a former city commissioner and mayor of Daytona Beach and has been active in civic affairs throughout Volusia County.

Fred Miller has been named pastor emeritus by St. Andrews Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C. He was pastor of four churches in South Carolina and was president of the S.C. Baptist Convention General Board for two terms. He holds honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from Furman and Charleston Southern universities.

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Richard Cullen of Richmond, Va., has been named chair of McGuireWoods, the nation’s 45th largest law firm. He has been with McGuireWoods since 1977 and leads the firm’s white-collar defense and government investigations team. He is a former Virginia attorney general and a former United States attorney.

In March, Day Lowery joined Retina Consultants in Greenville, where she handles the filing of medical claims.

Bruce Gheesling of Alpharetta, Ga., has been named senior vice president of the Enterprise Asset Management group of Infor, one of the largest global providers of business software. He was most recently vice president of software sales for North America and Latin America for EMC Corporation.

Phyllis Parlier Graydon and Lisa Nason have opened Nason & Graydon, LLC, a private mental health agency providing equine-facilitated psychotherapy to children and families.

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Robert and Gina Capers live in Columbia, S.C. Robert is an agent with State Farm Insurance.

Elaine Stitzel Howie graduated from the Richard W. Riley College of Education at Winthrop University in December with a Master of Education degree.

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THIS YEAR IS REUNION!
Mary Beth Loughlin Lacy of Rancho Mirage, Calif., heads her own public relations firm, Mary Beth Lacy Inc. She promotes major golf companies in the United States and abroad. Visit her Web site, www.mblacy.com.

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THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Anne Gue Jones and her husband, Carl, live in Orangeburg, S.C., where she was recently re-elected to her second term as a family court judge for the First Judicial Circuit. Carl is the quality manager for American Italian Pasta Company.

Michael Wollinger of Hendersonville, N.C., has been named to the Pardee Hospital Foundation Board. Michael is affiliated with First Citizens Bank & Trust.

BIRTH: Peter and Jana Chesney, a daughter, Ada Rose, July 17, Marietta, Ga. Peter is an account representative with 3M Health Care.

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NEXT REUNION IN 2008

Kimberly Chappell of Bordentown, N.J., has been promoted to associate director of training for Neuroscience Field Medical Science at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Plainsboro, N.J.

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NEXT REUNION IN 2009

Jennifer Palmer Brasher is an actuary with Towers Perrin in Atlanta.

Robert Moody, conductor of the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Symphony, has been named a resident conductor for the 2007 Eastern Music Festival June 23-July 28 in Greensboro, N.C. He will conduct weekly concerts by the festival orchestra, which features gifted young U.S. musicians.

Margaret Lazenby Ritchie has been named executive director of the Vestavia Hills (Ala.) City Schools Foundation.


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NEXT REUNION IN 2010

Laura Haley Creel received her Ph.D. in psychology from Auburn University in May 2006. She is a staff psychologist and coordinator of outreach and consultation for counseling and psychological services at Clemson University.

Julius Dixon, who had been a member of the Furman football coaching staff since 1994, has become defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C.

BIRTHS: Blair and Hannah Jenkins Keeley, a daughter, Kenna Reese, January 27, 2006. They live in Colonial Heights, Va. Hannah is an author and founder of the Web site www.totalmom.com, which she describes as “a complete resource for the mom who is doing it all and attempting to stay sane in the process.” This spring and summer she is making several appearances on the Rachael Ray talk show.

Robbie and Kari Love, a son, Robert Erickson, February 6. Robbie is a mortgage consultant with AGIT Financial in Atlanta.

Eric and Janse Van Arnam Vincent, a son, Bradley Hyde, March 18, 2006. Janse is a violinist with the Madison (Wis.) Symphony and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra.

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NEXT REUNION IN 2011

Carla Ingando of Granville, Ohio, received her Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame in January. She teaches in the religion department at Denison University.

Matt Kneeland has been promoted to senior vice president by Greenville First Bank. He has been in banking for more than 14 years and was previously with AmSouth in Tennessee.

Rebecca Ringer of Coffeyville, Texas, received her Ph.D. in musicology this spring from the University of North Texas. Her dissertation topic was “Beyond the ‘Year of Song’: Text and Music in the Song Cycles of Robert Schumann after 1848.”

Kristi Vanderford Woodall has been appointed to the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC). She is interim director of instruction in Spartanburg (S.C.) School District 2 and serves the EOC as education representative from the House Education and Public Works Committee. She was formerly principal of Union (S.C.) High School and was recognized as the Nationally Distinguished South Carolina Secondary Principal of the Year in 2006.

BIRTHS: Michael and Julia Bellon, a son, James Michael, January 2. They live in Columbia, S.C. Michael is a music teacher at Sandel Elementary School and Julia is associate registrar at the University of South Carolina.

John and Kathryn Gibson Taylor, a daughter, Mary Anne, February 28, Charlotte, N.C.

Chris ’94 and Liz Garity Turner, a son, Antony Seth, April 25, 2006. They live in Camden, S.C. Liz teaches social studies and is director of athletics at Leslie M. Stover Middle School, and Chris is part owner of Carolina Hi-Tech Accessibilities.

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THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Jennifer Beatson has been awarded tenure at Gordon College in Wenham, Mass., where she is an associate professor of Spanish.

Greg Fann is a consulting actuary for Wakely Consulting Group in Clearwater, Fla.

Chuck Meyers has been promoted to account supervisor by the William Mills Agency, an independent public relations firm in Atlanta.

Marty Weems completed his MBA degree from the University of Tennessee in December and is now the vice president of sales and marketing for Athlete’s Performance in Tempe, Ariz.


Andy and Laurene Golob Topping, a son, Alexander Charles, November 3. Laurene is director of contract administration with Benchmark Medical, Inc. They live in Philadelphia, Pa.

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NEXT REUNION IN 2008

BIRTHS: Jim and Sissy Bowling, a daughter, Emily Jane, April 29, 2006. Jim is a business strategy consultant with Zymon Group in Atlanta and is also co-owner of Southeastern Barns.

John and Tammy Turner, a son, Alexander Robert, November 20. John is an assistant professor of history at Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

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NEXT REUNION IN 2009

Ransom Gladwin (M.A. ’96) is an assistant professor of Spanish and foreign language education at Valdosta (Ga.) State University. He earned his Ph.D. in Spanish and second language acquisition from Florida State University.

Karl Thomas, Hampton Brand ambassador with Hilton Hotels Corporation, has moved to London, England, to help launch the Hampton Brand overseas.

MARRIAGE: William Erskine Kirksey and Kelli Michelle George, November 11. Will is self-employed with Will and Kris Amusements and Kelli is pursuing a Master...
of Divinity degree at Gardner-Webb University. They live in Moore, S.C.

BIRTHS: John and Swann Arp Adams, a daughter, McCullough Jane, December 18, Columbia, S.C.

Jim and Lara Cotey, a daughter, Mary Ida, September 21. Jim is a lawyer with Stites & Harbison, PLLC, in Nashville, Tenn.

Whit and Mary Heather Yost Harvey, a daughter, Mary Preston, August 17, Marietta, Ga.

James and Teresa Wyatt Klauber, a son, Wyatt Samuel, January 19, Greenwood, S.C.

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NEXT REUNION IN 2010

Phil Hargrove has become director of admissions at Union Theological Seminary & Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Va.


BIRTHS: Brian and Erica Jayne Goode Allen, twins, a son, Nicholas James, and a daughter, Chelsea Alys, January 26. They live in McDonough, Ga.

George and Kristina Koldoff Christy, a son, George Hoskins IV, January 20, 2006. Both George and Kristina are employed by Turner Broadcasting in Atlanta, he as a systems engineer and she as manager of the corporate contributions program.

Clyde and Kellie Honea Clem, a daughter, Ella Lucille, September 2, Marietta, Ga. Clyde is V.P.O. for Cornerstone Craftsmen, Inc., and Kellie owns and operates KHC Interiors, an interior design company.

Brian and Rami Castelli ‘99 Little, a son, Brian Alexander, September 21. They live in Lexington, Ky.

Matt and JoEllyn Peterson Robinson, a daughter, Margaret Ellyn, September 16, Suwanee, Ga.

Justin and Laura Newman Rychak, a son, Justin Cole, June 28, 2006, Alexandria, Va. Laura is legislative counsel for the Newspaper Association of America, and Justin is a mortgage banker.

Eric and Margie Smith Schroder, a daughter, Mia, July 29. Margie is an attorney with Black Helterline LLP in Portland, Ore.

Brian ’97 and Noelle Compare Thompson, a daughter, Anne Katharine, October 1, Chapel Hill, N.C.

96

NEXT REUNION IN 2011

MARRIAGE: Maya Helz and Vince Pack, September 17. Maya is manager of the South Carolina Business Coalition on Health in Greenville.

BIRTHS: David and Laura Carriere Axelson, a daughter, Rachel Anne, October 15, Atlanta.

John and Lisa Brabham Graham, a son, Leland, November 24. They live in Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Wes and Sally Culver Littlejohn, a son, Evan Robert, January 25, Atlanta. Sally is an accounting manager with Coca-Cola and Wes is a financial planner.

ALUM RETURNS FOR CONFERENCE ON EU

Alexander Stubb ’93, a member of the European Parliament, was among several prominent international leaders on campus April 2-3 to speak at a Richard W. Riley Institute-sponsored conference on “The European Union and the United States: Partners for Peace or Global Competitors?”

Stubb, a representative of Finland, is one of the European Union’s best known parliamentarians and received the highest number of votes of any parliamentarian in the 2004 EU elections. He was joined at the conference by, among others, Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, the former prime minister of Poland, and Jean-David Levitte, French ambassador to the United States.

In his address on “The State of the European Union,” Stubb sounded an optimistic note for the organization’s future, pointing out that the EU has always been committed to “peace, security, prosperity and stability” and has been an “absolute success story.” “As long as it holds to the four principles it was created to maintain,” he said, “it will continue to exist.”

Furman magazine featured Stubb in its Fall 2005 issue in an article titled “The Smile.” To learn more about him and his work, visit his Web site, www.alexstubb.com.
THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Amy Chastain Moore of Nashville, Tenn., has received a grant from the Mid-South Division, Inc., of the American Cancer Society to study the molecular causes of acute myeloid leukemia. She holds a Ph.D. from Wake Forest University School of Medicine and will use the postdoctoral award to conduct her research at Vanderbilt University through December 2008.

Kristi Martin Smith is a family medicine physician at Urgent Medical and Family Care in Greensboro, N.C.

Deborah Onley Staley received a master’s degree in higher education and student affairs from the University of South Carolina in December and is employed by the university as a research analyst.

BIRTHS: Noel and Caroline Dillard Brownlee, a son, Luke Noel, November 6, Baltimore, Md. Noel is completing a surgical pathology fellowship at Johns Hopkins University, and Caroline is on the hospital’s internal medicine faculty.

Kay Caldwell and Chris Watts, a son, Lucas Martin Watts, January 5, Canton, N.Y. Jason and Kasey Allee Foreman, a son, Collin Matthew, September 5. Kasey is the opera costume designer for the University of Oklahoma and Jason is an assistant professor of scenic and lighting design at Oklahoma City University.


Faye and Lisa Benners Williams, a son, Hunter Lee, March 2, 2006. They live in Dallas, Texas.

BIRTH: Soren ’00 and Katherine Allen King, a son, Henry Foster Bennett King, February 6. Soren works in the Department of Computing and Information Services at Furman.

Stan and Ligeia Bricken Shin, a son, Matthew Avery, June 24, 2006. Ligeia is a senior sales representative with GlaxoSmithKline. They live in Methuen, Mass.

NEXT REUNION IN 2008

Laura Scholz Mavretich has been named a senior associate with Boyette Levy, an economic development, public policy and communications consulting firm in Atlanta. She was previously program manager for Manning, Selvage and Lee.

Jonathon McAdow is a compliance supervisor for AmeriPrise Financial in Atlanta.

Births: Burt and Kimber Small Arrington, a daughter, Carly Elizabeth, April 8, 2006, Charlotte, N.C. Kimber is a tax manager with Deloitte.

Kyle and Allison Digh ’99 Bumgardner, a daughter, Kate, November 6, Charlotte, N.C. Kyle is director of business development with WebsiteBiz; Charles and Margie Pierson Clinton, a daughter, Allison Louise, December 7, Clarksville, Md.

Richard and Katherine St. Clair Garrett, a daughter, Mary Cameron, December 8, Oakland, Calif.


NEXT REUNION IN 2009

Anna Watkins Caddell owns Anna C. Designs, a custom jewelry business in Greenville specializing in bridal and bridesmaid jewelry. During Winthrop University’s fall 2006 commencement, Sara Cantrell Doggett received a Master of Education degree from the Richard W. Riley College of Education.

Adam Stillwell is a business development executive for Blackbaud, Inc., in Charleston, S.C. He was previously tour manager for Atlantic Records recording artists NEEDTOBREATHE.
01
NEXT REUNION IN 2011
Having earned a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from Stanford University, Bridgette Martin Hard is now a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Oregon, studying cognitive development in young infants.

Morgan Morehead Hodson received a Master of Education degree from Lincoln Memorial University last August and is employed as an English teacher at Maryville (Tenn.) High School.

Laura Nations is assistant director of the Clinical Program of Autism Genetics at the University of Miami (Fla.).

Jeffrey Scott Powell received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Emory University in August 2006 and is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Marie Spalding Richards recently joined the staff of the Rape Crisis & Child Abuse Center in Greenville as a child therapist for the Children's Advocacy Center.

Megan Smith of Alexandria, Va., is deputy communications director for South Dakota Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson.


BIRTH: Brent and Heather McCarter Harbin, twins, a daughter, Caroline Elisabeth, and a son, Wyatt Reid, January 31. They live in Bluffton, S.C.

02
THIS YEAR IS REUNION!
Chris Bainbridge taught broadcast journalism this spring in Furman’s Department of Communication Studies.

MARRIAGES: Ashley Borch and Steven Krusinski, December 30.

Eric Filimon and Carolyn Hines, October 20. Eric is a planning consultant with Fidelity Investments. They live in Reston, Va.

Talmadge Ingham and Joey Johnsen, December 9. They live in Nashville, Tenn. Talmadge is a real estate account executive with The Tennessean and Joey is affiliated with the law firm of Gideon & Wiseman.

Douglas Bradford O’Neal and Mary Teal Mitchell ’07, December 30. Douglas is studying for a law degree at the University of South Carolina.

Pamela Rowe and Alan Jenkins, July 15. Pamela works in marketing and sales with Boehringer Ingelheim. They live in Charlotte, N.C.

BIRTH: Andy and Brooke Phillips Moore, a daughter, Isabella Brooke, November 1. They live in Lookout Mountain, Ga.

03
NEXT REUNION IN 2008
Katherine Poss Albert has become an account executive in marketing and sales with Advertising by Design, Inc., on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

James Anderson earned his J.D. degree from Florida Coastal School of Law in 2006. He lives in Simpsonville, S.C., and is managing member of Spirit of Radio LLC.

Justin Fincher of Bristol, Tenn., earned a master’s degree in computer science from Appalachian State University in 2006 and is now studying for a Ph.D. in computer science at Florida State University.

Brad Rustin has joined the Greenville office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP. He practices in the areas of bankruptcy and creditor’s rights, business litigation, class action defense, financial institutions, insurance, litigation and product liability. He is a member of the Greenville County Bar and the American Bar Association.

Brett Shumate of Houston, Texas, received his degree from Wake Forest University in 2006 and works as a law clerk in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Jennifer Tucker received two master’s degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, one in vocal performance and one in vocal pedagogy. She is pursuing a doctorate in vocal pedagogy at the University of Texas in Austin.

Sarrin Towle Warfield is vice president and owner of Sunshine House Solutions in Naples, Fl.

MARRIAGES: Roseanna Baber and Jason Hill, July 29. They live in Houston, Texas. Jason is an attorney and Roseanna works in supply chain management for Anadarko Petroleum Corporation. She recently became a board member and fund-raising chair of a local United Way agency.


Kya Cox and Bryan Zollman ’07, December 2. Kya is on the staff of Furman’s Department of Computing and Information Services.

Rebecca Wentworth Kellogg and Bradley Sroka, September 17. They live in Montclair, N.J.

Ellen Monroe and Brandon Colberg ’04, June 3, 2006. They live in Charlotte, N.C.

Zachary Raby and Jennifer Garlin, August 8. Zachary is a network and security systems engineer with Prudential C. Dan Joyner Co. in Greenville.

BIRTH: Ali Ahmad and Laila Jaber, a son, Abdullah Ahmad, January 23, 2006, Greenville.

04
NEXT REUNION IN 2009
Holly Elizabeth Garrett of Pendleton, S.C., entered graduate school at Clemson University in January to pursue a master’s degree in sustainable agriculture. She previously worked as an environmental chemist at The Seacrest Group in Colorado and volunteered with the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms in northern California.

Brian Geppi has joined Banc of America Securities in Charlotte, N.C., as an analyst in the company’s short-term fixed income group.

Alicia Niles recently became membership coordinator for Forest Landowners Association in Atlanta.

Cathleen Carlson Pavelka of Minnetonka, Minn., is communications director for Eden Prairie Presbyterian Church.

MARRIAGES: Sean Atkinson and Lindsey Boone, August 12. They live in Tallahassee, Fla.

Brice Lohr and Houston Barnes, December 30. They live in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Emily Ruth Kromminga Rist and David Claborne Glover, August 13. Emily is assistant principal second violin of the Columbus (Ind.) and Terre Haute (Ind.) symphonies and a member of the Evansville (Ind.) and Owensboro (Ky.) symphonies. David is studying conducting at the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington, where they live.

Julie Lynn Sutton and Brandon Scott Poston, December 30. Julie is band director at Mauldin (S.C.) High School and Brandon is band director at Beech Springs Intermediate School.

Heidi Marie Odile Wersinger and Sean Stuart Leigh Chapman, December 16. They live in Greenville where Sean is a religion teacher at St. Joseph’s Catholic School.

Heidi is events manager at The Davenport.

BIRTHS: West ’05 and Suzanne Goodlet Breedlove, a son, Benjamin Corley, November 20. West is director of worship at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

Sean and Lindsey Wall McCann, a daughter, Lucy, October 24, Charlotte, N.C.

Jonathan and Kristen Moore, a daughter, Bethany Galen, February 16. Jonathan is a graduate student at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

FURMAN | SPRING 2007 33
FURMAN GRAD INCLUDED AMONG FEMINISTS WHO CHANGED AMERICA

Susan Hardy Aiken ‘64, University Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Arizona, is included in a new volume, Feminists Who Changed America 1963-1975, published by University of Illinois Press.

The book features biographies of 2,200 women and men whose actions helped create the modern women’s movement and make permanent changes to entrenched customs and laws. Editor Barbara J. Love headed the massive project in partnership with Veteran Feminists of America, a non-profit organization created to document the “Second Wave” feminism movement and motivate younger generations.

“The foremost criterion for selection in the book was being a change-maker,” Love said. “More than previous social revolutions, ours grew from the struggles of thousands of individuals to erase thousands of separate forms of discrimination in every sector of society.”

Historian Nancy F. Cott, who wrote the book’s foreword, says that the individuals profiled in the book “compelled the rest of the world to change perspective and . . . to see things through women’s eyes.” Author Kate Millett says the book “will be the basic text on American feminists of the late 20th century.”

The entry about Aiken emphasizes her efforts to develop and introduce undergraduate and graduate courses on women’s literature after she arrived at the University of Arizona in 1973. “Aiken was deeply involved with both feminist scholarship and academic activism to help bring about feminist changes,” her biography notes. “In addition to her work with the women’s studies program and later with the Southwest Institute for Research on Women, Aiken regularly taught and lectured . . . on feminist approaches to literature and culture.”

She was also recognized for working “to introduce feminist scholarship to courses throughout the campus.” Her efforts led to publication of a book, which she edited, titled Changing Our Minds: Feminist Transformations of Knowledge, published by State University of New York Press.

Aiken, who holds a Ph.D. from Duke University, has published numerous articles on women and gender theory in such journals as PMLA and Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society. She is the author of Isak Dinesen and the Engendering of Narrative, published by University of Chicago Press, and is co-author of Dialogues/Dialogi: Literary and Cultural Exchanges Between (Ex) Soviet and American Women, published by Duke University, and Making Worlds: Gender, Metaphor, Materiality, published by University of Arizona Press.

Aiken, who is currently at work on an archival based study of antebellum plantation culture, was also selected for inclusion in the “Pioneer Feminists of America Database,” housed in the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College.
Catherine West Bates ‘35, October 21, Louisville, Ky. She taught and served as dean of women at Georgetown (Ky.) College and William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. She also taught at Judson College in Marion, Ala., Hong Kong Baptist College, and Seinai Gakuin University in Japan.

Mildred Rice Orr ’35, February 20, Spartanburg, S.C. She was a retired elementary school teacher for the Aged and the Abbeville County Festival Commission. She served on the boards of the Franke Home for the Aged and the Abbeville County Hospital in Charleston.

Sara Earle Campbell ’40, February 23, Greenville. She was a charter member of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra and played violin in the symphony for 25 years. She was a member and treasurer of the Music Club of Greenville, counselor of the Woodside Junior Music Club, orchestra representative of the Symphony Guild and a member of the Greenville Little Theatre orchestra. She was a charter member of the former Greenville Horse Show and Fair Association and was an accomplished equestrian. She also served for a time as a cataloger and reference librarian at Furman.

Gladys Bridges Hunt ’40, February 1, Naples, Fla. She taught home economics in Michigan, was active with the Girl Scouts as a leader and trainer, and served on the Girl Scout Board of Directors in both Detroit, Mich., and Lexington, Ky. In Lexington she was also the volunteer director for the Pink Ladies of Good Samaritan Hospital.

Rosemary Alexander Todd ’40, March 12, Columbia, S.C. A winner of numerous awards for her vocal talents, she taught music in the public schools of South Carolina and in other locales throughout the United States and abroad, where she lived with her husband, a career Army officer. She was a choir director at Army chapels in Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Monroe, Va., and served for many years on the Columbia Music Festival Commission.

Charles Lawrence Anderson ’41, January 11, Greenville. He served in the U.S. Army Dental Corps during World War II and received four Battle Stars. He went on to practice general dentistry and was a past president of the Greenville County Dental Society and chair of the Department of Dentistry for the Greenville Hospital System. He was a past president of the Augusta Road Kiwanis Club and served on the Board of Management at the Cleveland Street YMCA.

Harriette Dennison Boggs ’41, November 23, Greenville. She taught in public and private elementary schools in Greenville County and retired from Bob Jones Elementary in 1992.

James Calvin Conoly ’41, March 5, Greenwood, S.C. He was pastor of a number of Baptist churches in the Carolinas and Georgia. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and was a Mason.

LeeRoy Perry, Sr. ’41, November 19, Florence, S.C. He was a pioneer in the world of home economics in South Carolina and in other locales throughout the United States and abroad, where she lived with her husband, a career Army officer. She was a choir director at Army chapels in Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Monroe, Va., and served for many years on the Columbia Music Festival Commission.

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Evelyn Coggins Smith ’45, February 24, Asheville, N.C. She taught second grade at Summit Drive School in Greenville for 25 years.

Marguerite “Peggy” Stott Ross ’46, November 26, Richmond, Va. She served as director of St. Catherine’s Middle School for 18 years until her retirement in 1988. Before then she taught in Bluefield, W.Va., served as director of Christian education at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tenn., and worked for the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education as director of parish programming.

Grace Speake Graham ’47, December 23, Fort Myers, Fla.

Thomas Arthur Wham ’49, December 25, Greenville. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and was a retired employee of the Department of Corrections, where he was director of the pre-release centers in South Carolina. An excellent athlete, he held the South Carolina high school shot put record for 22 years, played defensive end for two years with the Chicago Cardinals of the National Football League, and was selected to play in the Pro Bowl in 1951. In 1982 he was a member of the second class of inductees into the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame.

Dill Blackwell ’50, February 1, Travelers Rest, S.C. He served five terms in the South Carolina House of Representatives, where he was a member of the Ways and Means Committee and worked to fund medical care for the indigent. In 1995 he was elected by lawmakers to the Legislative Audit Council, the main investigative arm of the General Assembly, and went on to be the longest serving chair in the history of the council. He was also an investigator for the federal Civil Service Commission and served in the U.S. Social Services Administration. He received the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor awarded by the state of South Carolina, and was a delegate to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

Alfred Merrill Smoak, Sr. ’50, November 24, Ukiah, Calif. He was ordained in 1950 and served as pastor at several churches in California. A veteran of the Naval Air Corps, he was a two-term trustee at California Baptist University and was a chaplain at Washington Hospital in Fremont, Calif.

William Walker ’50 (M.A. ’60), January 13, Hilton Head Island, S.C. After teaching at Pacolet (S.C.) High School and Wofford College, he taught physical education at Furman from 1959-66. He went on to Mars Hill (N.C.) College, where he chaired the Department of Physical Education for 25 years and was director of athletics from 1982-91. He assisted in the development of the South Atlantic Conference, in the realignment of the conference from NAIA to NCAA Division II, and in the development of the Sports Medicine Program at Mars Hill. He received the first SAC Athletic Director’s Service Award in 1994 and was inducted into the Mars Hill Hall of Fame in 1998.

James Lindsay Webb ’50, December 22, St. Matthews, S.C. He was a retired Southern Baptist minister, having served a number of churches in South Carolina and Florida. He was a chaplain in the U.S. Army and was retired from the Army Reserves.

Ernest Lloyd Till ’51, November 24, Orangeburg, S.C. He was a Baptist minister for many years at churches in South Carolina. After his retirement he was called to pastor two churches in Orangeburg County and to be associate chaplain at the Orangeburg Regional Medical Center. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

Clyde Fox ’52, February 14, Simpsonville, S.C. He was a retired Baptist minister, having worked at several churches in the Carolinas. He was a past trustee of Connie Maxwell Children’s Home and a member of the Baptist General Board, Baptist College Board of Associates, North Greenville College board, State Convention Nominating Committee and Seminary Extension Faculty.

Dixie Grandy Hartley ’52, February 13, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. She taught piano and worked in civil service.

Mary Dobson Horton ’52, February 20, Columbia, S.C.

Kate Ivester Edwards ’53 (M.A. ’93), January 15, Greenville. She tutored children with learning disabilities.

James Edwin Vickery, Sr. ’53, December 16, Greenville. He was a retired agent-manager of United Insurance Co. and was former owner-operator of Western Steer Family Steak House and Norgettown Laundry and Dry Cleaners. He was a U.S. Navy veteran.

Carroll Willis Andrews ’55, December 6, Conway, S.C. He was a retired Baptist minister who served churches in the Carolinas for 47 years.

Ruth Hannah Rivers Lindler ’55, February 20, Greenville. She was a retired teacher with Westminster Presbyterian Church School.

James Earl Medlock ’55, December 30, Ladson, S.C. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and retired as a supervisor in aircraft maintenance at the Charleston (S.C.) Air Force Base.

Floyd “Lace” Parrish ’55, January 26, Clover, S.C. He was a retired dentist and a former member of the Clover School District Board of Trustees. He was also a member of the Masons and Hejaz Shrine.

Lawrence Freeman, Jr. ’56, December 3, Atlanta. He completed training in anesthesia and went on to spend most of his working life at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta. He was a talented musician and an airplane pilot.

Warren Ellis Boling ’57, December 21, Winchester, Va. He was pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Tyson’s Corner, Va., from 1960 to 1984. He then served as interim pastor at Berryville Baptist Church and associate pastor at First Baptist Church in Winchester. He was a former chaplain for South End Fire Company and was an Army veteran of World War II.

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.
As a student in the Dental Medicine Scientist Training Program at the Medical University of South Carolina, Gabrielle Ferguson Cannyck '01 is nearing the end of an eight-year course of study in which she will earn both a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree and a Ph.D. in epidemiology.

She will complete the program in May 2009, but she's already making a major contribution to the public good, thanks to her efforts to educate dental students about early detection and prevention of oral cancer.

She recently received the Anthony Westwater Jorg Memorial Community Dental Public Health Pre-Professional Student Award from the Oral Health Section of the American Public Health Association. Her project, "A Comprehensive Planning and Evaluation Method for Teaching Oral Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Skills to Dental Students," was honored as "one of the most outstanding community-based research/service projects presented by a predoctoral student."

Nor is it the first award she's won for her work in oral cancer prevention. Among the others: the President's Award for Excellence in Dental Research from the National Student Research Group of the American Association of Dental Research, and the President's Award for Excellence in Public Health Dentistry at its earliest stages.

"There's a great need for increasing our focus on public health dentistry among dental practitioners, patients and students throughout South Carolina," says Cannyck, adding that her home state has one of the highest rates of oral cancer in the nation.

"When I took a preventive dentistry course my first year of dental school, I became particularly interested in prevention and public health," she says. "I feel it's a wonderful avenue within dentistry. You're affecting individuals' health practices and behaviors, but because public health is population-based, you also impact entire communities."

In 2002, a research project in oral cancer at MUSC piqued her interest, and she continued her work in that field during a year at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. There she launched a project to develop an oral cancer prevention and early detection curriculum for dental education programs. Her findings were published by the American Public Health Association, the Journal of the American Dental Association and the Journal of Public Health Dentistry.

Back at MUSC, she collaborated with faculty to introduce an emphasis on oral public health into the dental school's curriculum. She studied dental students' abilities relating to risk factors associated with oral cancer and explored examination techniques to help combat the disease at its earliest stages.

"There's a great need for increasing our focus on public health dentistry among dental practitioners, patients and students throughout South Carolina," says Cannyck, adding that her home state has one of the highest rates of oral cancer in the nation. Having completed her Ph.D. last August, she is beginning her second year in the clinical dentistry program. After doing a residency in dental public health, she plans to work in academic dentistry, where she hopes to draw attention to oral health disparities among ethnic minorities.
ROLAND BAREFOOT, 1932-2007

Roland C. Barefoot ’55, former director of planned giving at Furman and a star football player during his student days, died April 6 at the age of 74.

Born in Lancaster, S.C., he earned his degree in health and physical education. A four-year letterman and co-captain of the football team, he was elected to the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995.

Known for his quick wit and amiable personality, he joined the university’s development staff in 1984 after 23 years in the trucking business. During his tenure as director of planned giving Furman established the Heritage Society, a group of university supporters who have included Furman in their estate plans.

At the time the Heritage Society was formed, Furman had approximately $15 million in future gifts. Today the society has more than 700 members, with total planned gifts in force of approximately $107 million.

Barefoot, who retired from Furman in 1999, also served on the board of the South Carolina Planned Giving Council and was instrumental in the “Leave a Legacy” program that encourages planned giving to non-profits in the state.

William Smoot Wagner ’62, January 1, Lenoir, N.C. He served in the U.S. Air Force and in 1964 was selected by the National Institute of Public Affairs as one of 45 individuals nationwide and one of four members of the USAF to be awarded a scholarship for graduate study because of their exceptional ability and high potential in government service. He later worked with NASA at Patrick Air Force Base in Cocoa Beach, Fla., as comptroller of the Eastern Test Range. Upon retirement, he returned to Lenoir as owner of Wagner Sand and Stone. He was instrumental in the incorporation of the Village of Cedar Rock.

Robert Parrish Freeman ’62, November 20, Greer, S.C. He was a retired personnel administrator and at the time of his death was employed at Carolina Express Delivery in Greer.

James W. Orr ’67, March 2, Columbia, S.C. He practiced law briefly in Greenville before moving to Columbia in 1980 to live and work. In 1989 he co-founded the firm of Bowers Orr L.L.P. He pursued a varied career before many state courts and all levels of the federal judiciary.

Willie Evelyn Mefford, M.A. ’68, February 12, Spartanburg, S.C. She taught in South Carolina schools in Union County, Cherokee County and Spartanburg County, retiring after 42 years. She was a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Alpha Mu Chapter, National Education Association-S.C. Education Association (retired), County Retired Educators of Spartanburg County, and Shepherd’s Center.

Jack Allen Green, Jr. ’69, February 28, Mauldin, S.C. He was a tennis instructor and coached the St. Joseph’s High School boys’ varsity team. He was a certified referee and National Tennis Rating Program verifier. He formerly was head tennis pro at various clubs, including Hunter’s Creek Racquet Club in Greenwood and Spartanburg Athletic Club. He was a U.S. Army veteran and had served at the Pentagon.

Bettye Elizabeth Sambola Kittrell ’70, November 20, Charleston, S.C. She was retired as co-owner of Southern Arms Company in Greenville. She was a past regent of Bethelland Butler Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, past president of the Hillcrest Chapter of Greenville Council of Garden Clubs, and a member and former officer of Greenville Woman’s Club.

James Lee Odom ’75, February 10, Wakulla, Fla. He was a certified public accountant.

Charlie Milton Horton ’78, January 29, Winchester, Va. He was the senior vice president of regional services for Valley Health and was a charter member of Kiwanis Club Blue Ridge.

Kenneth Elder, Jr. ’86, December 19, Charlotte, N.C. He worked for Mark III Realty until opening his own firm, Elder Broach Properties.

Berne Marie Little Hannon ’97, February 12, Greenville.
STEP BY STEP, ADI FILIPOVIC HANDLES WHATEVER LIFE THROWS HIS WAY

Adi Filipovic has seen enough during his 23 years to believe it’s best to take things one day at a time.

“A lot has happened in my life,” says Filipovic (Fila-POE-vich), a 2006 Furman graduate, “and I know how quickly things can change, for better or worse. I’ve witnessed a lot of change, both good and bad.”

So he tries not to look too far ahead, or to plan or expect too much.

Sure, he has goals. He wants to earn a doctorate and work in economic development, or perhaps teach economics on the college level.

But for now, he’s content to live in the moment and not fret too much about tomorrow.

He’s already done enough of that.

Filipovic’s philosophy emerged from the turmoil of his youth. A native of Bosnia, he and his family were caught up in the ethnic wars that erupted after the fall of Communism and the breakup of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. Two of his relatives lost their lives in the fighting, and the young Filipovic saw his father, Damir, arrested on the streets of Banja Luka by occupying Serbian forces. Damir was forced to do hard labor in an orchard for several months.

After returning home, Damir hid for eight months before being discovered and arrested again. This time he was beaten severely and told that he would be sent to the war’s front lines to dig trenches for the occupying Serbian army, an almost certain death sentence.

The Filipovics, who had hoped to ride out the hostilities in their homeland, knew they would have to leave before Damir became another casualty of the wars. With the help of family and friends, they slipped across the border into Croatia, where they were able to regroup and consider their options.

Eventually they made their way to Augusta, Ga., where a local church offered assistance and hope. They settled in the area, and have remained there to this day. Damir is a project manager for a construction company, and mother Sevleta is an architect.

Adi, 11 years old when the family immigrated, soon learned enough English that he was called on to be his folks’ interpreter, scheduler and liaison in their new environment. All this while he, too, struggled to adjust.

Sports offered a haven — and a way to fit in. Although his first love was basketball, there was one problem: He had a body made for football. “I was always the biggest kid,” says the 6-3, 270-pounder.

He played both sports at Lakeside High and caught the attention of the Furman football staff, which offered him a scholarship.

At Furman he quickly distinguished himself in the classroom. While seeing limited action on the gridiron during his first three years (he red-shirted his first year), he compiled an exemplary academic record. In 2006 he graduated Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude with a 3.92 grade point average in mathematics-economics, and walked away with Furman’s Student Athlete of the Year Award.

He was also able to take part in a study abroad program to Turkey, Greece and Italy in the winter of 2006, after which he spent a week with family in Bosnia.

As graduation approached, however, his college career felt incomplete. He wanted to contribute more to the football program, and he sensed that he had a shot at starting on the offensive line — if he returned in the fall to complete his eligibility. Yet he was also ready to move on with his studies.

Should he stay or go?

Because football was important to him and his parents, he decided to return for a final season.

It proved worthwhile. He started 11 of 12 games for the Paladins in 2006, helping them to an 8-4 record and the Division I-AA playoffs. Along the way, he completed enough credits to earn a second Furman degree (in mathematics) and was named to several Academic All-America teams.

Now he’s ready for the next step. This fall he’ll enroll in graduate school, where he’ll study economics with the help of several prestigious postgraduate scholarships, including the TIAA-CREF Award from the Southern Conference and the Division I Football Championship Subdivision Athletics Directors Association Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award.

As he discusses his life, he smiles the confident smile of a young man who’s already survived more hardships than most people should ever have to endure. Wise beyond his years, he believes that whatever life throws his way, he’ll handle it.

As he told The State newspaper in December 2005, “I really didn’t know what was going to happen tomorrow or a month from today [during the war]. So, I am comfortable living day to day.

“It’s kind of exciting, to some extent. It’s not like I am apathetic about the future and that I don’t care about the future. It’s more like whatever tomorrow brings, you kind of deal with.”

— JIM STEWART
To desire less

We cannot really know any complex thing like the natural world — or a human community, or a human person — without getting to know it, living with it, observing its features and moods, honoring its claim on us. In short, as Augustine put it 1,600 years ago, "We cannot know what we do not love."

Knowledge of nature or a community springs from a commitment to it, a concentration of our attention on it, so that we cease to think primarily of ourselves, and attend carefully to that which is outside of us, but to which we are nevertheless connected in a complex web of meanings. . . . Our willingness to make room for nature, to change our habits, begins with caring for our own place, attending to it, observing it, coming to respect and appreciate it.

Environmentalism teaches that knowledge must reconnect us with the local, the parochial, the place where we actually live, for it is only by attending to that corner of the real that we will be knowledgeable enough not to destroy it.

To have a healthier environment will take a new kind of life, which Wendell Berry describes as slower, "harder, more laborious, poorer in luxuries and gadgets, but also, I am certain, richer in meaning and more abundant in real pleasure. To have a healthy environment we will all have to give up things we like . . . things we have come to think of as necessities. But to be fearful of the disease and yet unwilling to pay for the cure is not just to be hypocritical, it is to be doomed." . . .

Changing our relationship to nature is about improving our character. Do we really decide what kind of life is best, or do we passively accept what television, advertising and the shopping mall tell us our lives ought to be like? Are private property, unlimited growth, money and consumerism the best values on which to build a healthy human community, on a sustainable planet? Are we going to be environmental stewards, or environmental parasites?

G.K. Chesterton wrote, "There are two ways to get enough: One is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less."

We have mastered the first way, and the results have not been good. The challenge to our character is to try the second way, to desire less, and so be a lighter burden for the earth.

Excerpted from the March 28 Founders Convocation address titled "Everything is Connected" by David Rutledge, Reuben B. Pitts Professor of Religion.
Susan DeVenny ’84, advocate for preschoolers. PAGE 13