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Furman University

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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.