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Furman Alumni News

Furman University

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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.

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.
41
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.

53
NEXT REUNION IN 2008
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.

54
NEXT REUNION IN 2009
Ruford B. Hodges has been appointed staff chaplain at Trinity Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala.

58
NEXT REUNION IN 2008
Harry Eskew of Macon, Ga., was scheduled to co-host a June tour of England and Wales where texts sung by Sacred Harp singers originated. His tour group was to perform in each city visited.

Henry Johnson, who has served churches in the Carolinas for 46 years, recently retired from West Springs Baptist Church in Pauline, S.C., where he was pastor for six years.

59
NEXT REUNION IN 2009
Edgar Horger III received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the January meeting of the South Atlantic Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, an organization of more than 500 physicians in five states. Only five people have received the award. A past president of the association, Edgar is the E. J. Dennis III Distinguished Professor and Chair Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia. This year he is the E. J. Dennis Lecturer at the school.

63
NEXT REUNION IN 2008
Louis “Dewey” Smith of Albany, Ga., has been elected governor of the Georgia district of Kiwanis International, a global organization of volunteers. The Georgia district has 173 clubs and 8,400 members.

65
NEXT REUNION IN 2010
Sidney L. Barnes has retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, where he was group leader in the Security Division.

71
NEXT REUNION IN 2011
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.

72
THIS YEAR IS REUNION!
Carole Clarke Boyce of Dacula, Ga., was honored in March by the Women’s Legacy of United Way in Gwinnett County for her commitment to humanitarianism. She is a member of the Gwinnett County school board and was recognized for her support of the arts, education, child welfare, social services and community development.


73
NEXT REUNION IN 2008
Jean Spearman DeMars, media specialist at Armstrong Elementary School in Greenville, has earned the National Board Certification teaching credential.

74
NEXT REUNION IN 2009

75
NEXT REUNION IN 2010
After three years as the Anderson County (S.C.) circuit coordinator for the Guardian ad Litem program, Patty Dellinger now serves Greenville County in the same role.

76
NEXT REUNION IN 2011
Standup comic Jim David returned to Furman March 11-17 to conduct workshops with students and to present “South Pathetic,” his one-person show about a doomed community theatre production of “A Streetcar Named Desire.” Jim lives in New York City and performs at comedy clubs throughout the country.

78
NEXT REUNION IN 2008
Anne Jackson Kramer of Etna, Calif., is clinical director of Healththerapy, Inc., a private mental health agency providing equine-facilitated psychotherapy to children and families.

82
THIS YEAR IS REUNION!
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.

83
NEXT REUNION IN 2008
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.

84
NEXT REUNION IN 2009
Phyllis Parlier Graydon and Lisa Nason have opened Nason & Graydon, LLC, a certified public accounting firm in Greer, S.C.

85
NEXT REUNION IN 2010
Marsha Madore has been hired by ScanSource Inc. in Greenville as vice president of human resources.

86
NEXT REUNION IN 2011
Clay Hendrix, formerly assistant head coach and offensive line coach for the Furman football team, has been named offensive line coach at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He had been at Furman for 19 years.
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.

87  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.

90  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.

Julianna 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 Arnem Vincent, a son, Bradley Hyde, March 18, 2006. Janse is a violist with the Madsson (Wis.) Symphony and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra.

91  NEXT REUNION IN 2011
Carla Ingrando 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 Knueiand 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.

92  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.

BIRTHS: Michael and Teresa Barkhouse Flanagan, a son, Brennan Cormac Daniel, October 11, Decatur, Ga.

Josh and Beth Flowers Flannigan, a son, Douglas O’Neal, October 26, East Point, Ga.

Jason Hightower and Mandi Etheridge, a son, Samuel Auldien Hightower, January 24. Jason is a school psychologist in Meeker, Colo.

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.

93  NEXT REUNION IN 2008
BIRTHS: Jim and Sissy Bowling, a daughter, Emily Jane, April 29, 2006. Jim is a business strategy consultant with Zyman 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.

94  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.

**MARRIAGE:** Ellen Hoke Babb and Scott Sale, May 6, 2006. They live in Charleston, S.C., where Ellen owns a real estate law firm. Scott is a delivery captain for St. Bart’s Yachts.

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

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.

**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, 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 Schroeder, 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.

**95 NEXT REUNION IN 2010**

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

Alex 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.
2006-07 ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harriet Arnold Wilburn ’74, president; Randolph W. Blackwell ’63, president elect; Claire Folio Morris ’83, vice president; James H. Simkins, Jr. ’78, past president; Rebecca Ann Armacost ’89; Venita Tyus Billingslea ’81, John M. Block ’63; Edna Wells Boyd ’54; J. Chris Brown ’89; Rosalie Manly Burnett ’49; H. Furman Cantrell ’61; Bobby E. Church ’78; David S. Cobb ’90; Allen Cothran ’01; George L. Johnson ’68; Vicki Bieksha Johnson ’93; L. Yates Johnson, Jr. ’59, William A. Lampley ’41; Charles W. Linder ’59; J. Cordell Maddox ’54; Joseph C. Moon, Jr. ’76; Elliston L. Smith ’89; Cynthia Black Sparks ’80; Heyward M. Sullivan ’59.

Ex-Officio and Other Members: David E. Shi ’73, president; Donald J. Lineback, vice president for development; Tom Triplitt ’76, director of Alumni Association; Jane Dungan, associate director of Alumni Association; Tina Hayes Ballew ’78, associate director of Alumni Association; C. Todd Malo ’95, president, Young Alumni Council; Tyner Ray ’07, president, Student Alumni Council; Carrie Beth Wallace ’07, president, Association of Furman Students; Will Bryan ’07, president, Senior Class.

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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.


Michael and Eugenia Turrentine Waldrop, a son, John Turrentine Waldrop, December 15, Greenville.

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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.

BIRTHS: 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.

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NEXT REUNION IN 2010

Thomas and Amy Stout Cullen have moved to Charlotte, N.C. Amy is a pediatric vaccine representative for Merck and Co., and Thomas is an assistant United States attorney (federal prosecutor).

MARRIAGES: Ginger Denison and Aaron Rothrock, July 1, 2006. Ginger is co-founder and senior scientist with Liquidia Technologies. They live in Durham, N.C.

Scott Gormly and Lauren Hanchey, November 11. They live in Dallas, Texas, where Scott is the student pastor at Cedarcrest Church.

Ashlee McCord and Bradford Wood, January 27. They live in Rochelle, Ga. Ashlee is a high school Spanish teacher at the Westfield Schools and is pursuing a master’s degree in Spanish language and culture from the University of Salamanca.

Roxolana Stachiw and Edward Wise, June 10, 2006. They live in Germany where Edward is a dentist at a military base.

BIRTHS: Evan and Whitney Jackson Howell, a daughter, Madeleine, December 8. Whitney is a public relations specialist at Duke University Medical Center & Health System in Durham, N.C.

Ryan ’01 and Kelly Robinson Jowers, a daughter, Hannah Claire, November 27. Kelly is an executive administrative assistant at Emory University in Atlanta.


**NEXT REUNION IN 2011**

Having earned a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from Stanford University, Bridgette Martin Hart 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.

**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.

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.

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, Fla.

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.


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

Rebecca Wentworth Kellogg and Bradley Sokra, 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.

**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 Tallassee, Fla.

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

Emily Ruth Kromminga Rist and David Claiborne 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.
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NEXT REUNION IN 2010
Maurice Dwight Duncan is a performance coach and personal trainer with Performance QSA in Greenville. The Erwin-Penland advertising and marketing firm of Greenville has promoted Jeff Henry to account executive for the Verizon Wireless account. Elizabeth Nasca has accepted a position as vice president of marketing and public relations at SENIOR Solutions, a non-profit senior citizen service organization in Anderson, S.C.

MARRIAGES: Bailey Edwards and Justin Nelson, July 29. They live and work in Athens, Ga. Bailey as a minister at First Baptist Church and Justin as a staff member with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. They are pursuing Master of Divinity degrees at McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta.

Andrew Lee Harrill and Judith Smith, February 10. They live in Forest City, N.C.

06
NEXT REUNION IN 2011
Alicia Archie is a lab technician at the Greenwood (S.C.) Genetic Center.

Paul Baylor Deal is a student at the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Nolan Greene is an AmeriCorps volunteer in Columbia, S.C. He is a project leader, assisting with fundraising, grant writing, internal communications and community/corporate involvement.

Blake McKie works with JDI Capital in Charlotte, N.C.

Shannon Elizabeth Moore lives in Charlotte, N.C., where she is an account executive with Countrywide Home Loans.

MARRIAGES: Chesley Adams and Barron Tench, October 14. They live in Anderson, S.C.

Timothy Michael Lyons and Stacy Simpson, January 6. Tim is a staff accountant with McKnight Frampton CPAs, LLC, in Charleston, S.C.

Elizabeth Virginia Monahan and Daniel Hals, June 24. Beth is a social studies teacher at Melbourne (Fla.) Central Catholic High School.

Daniel Duncan and Mary Elizabeth Parkinson, June 24, 2006. They live in Charleston, S.C.

Lindsey Rebecca Ross and Philip Stephens, May 13, 2006. They live in Columbus, Miss., where Lindsey is a nursing student at Mississippi University for Women and Philip is training to become a pilot in the Air Force.

DEATHS
Gladys Moore Finkenstadt ’33, December 2, West Columbia, S.C. She had retired as a teacher in Oconee County (S.C.) schools.

Elizabeth Stansell Blakely ’34, January 16, Piedmont, S.C. She and her husband were co-owners of Blakely Dairy and were honored by The Progressive Farmer with the Master Farm Family Award in 1959.

James Clarence Gilbert ’34, January 28, Cleveland, S.C. He was a retired agent for Liberty Life Insurance Co. and was a charter member of the Berea Lions Club.

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” feminist 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 archivally 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 Seinan Gakuin University in Japan.

Mildred Rice Orr '35, February 20, Spartanburg, S.C. She was customer service representative at South Carolina National Bank (now Wachova) for several years and before her retirement was an assistant in the library at Spartanburg High School. She was a lifetime member of the Spartanburg Philharmonic for 50 years.

Rufus Wood Hutchinson, Jr. '38, December 20, Abbeville, S.C. He began his teaching and administrative career at Berea High School in Greenville and also taught at Greenville Senior High. He served in the Army Air Corps for four years and then in the Air Force Reserve, from which he retired after 28 years. He taught mathematics and science at The Citadel and worked for the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department before becoming vocational rehabilitation facility coordinator at the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital in Charleston. He was co-founder of the National Rehabilitation Counselors Association and served on the boards of the Franke Home for the Aged and the Abbeville County Home for the Aged. He was also an honorary alumnus of Erskine College.

Minnie Lou “Penny” Fersner Jeffords '38, January 25, Orangeburg, S.C. She was a retired elementary school teacher in Manning, S.C., and in Orangeburg District 5.

George Kiser '38, April 20, 2006, Clarkdale, Ariz.

Doris O’Cain Rickenbacker '38, March 1, Orangeburg, S.C. She was a retired supervisor for the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

Frances Harris Moore '39, April 10, 2006, Lake City, S.C. She taught elementary school in the Florence County (S.C.) school system for more than 30 years and served two terms as president of the Lake City Daughters of the American Revolution.

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 also 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 Bogg '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.

Lee Roy Perry, Sr. '41, November 19, Florence, S.C. He was a pioneer in the World War II Glider Pilot Program of the U.S. Army Air Corps and flew in all four major European invasions during the war. He retired from Union Carbide in 1986, after which he created his own business, Federated Services, Inc., which he operated until his death.

Elizabeth Marshall Keys '42, January 31, Belton, S.C. She taught mathematics at Belton High School and was active as a community volunteer.

Henry Powell '42, February 9, Hamilton, N.C. He was director of missions for 40 years for five Baptist associations throughout North Carolina.

James Henry Shell '42, February 25, Towson, Md. After serving in the Army Medical Corps during World War II, he established a practice in obstetrics and gynecology and delivered more than 5,000 babies during his 40 years in medicine. In addition to his private practice, he served on the staffs of St. Agnes, University, Bon Secours and Maryland General hospitals, and was for a time chief of gynecology at Lutheran Hospital.

Myrtle Elizabeth Noblett Youse '43, January 1, Greenville. She taught music at Greenville Junior High School and later was choral director at Savannah (Ga.) High School. She also taught in Pennsylvania.

Thomas Charles Gower '44, December 14, Greenville. He was in an anti-aircraft battalion in the European Theatre during World War II and then entered a business career that spanned more than five decades. He was owner of Gower Heating Company before joining Gower Manufacturing Company, where he was corporate secretary. In 1971 he started The Open Book, which became South Carolina's largest independent bookstore. He retired in 2002. He was also a Greenville city councilman from 1949-53 and again from 1975-79. He led the successful effort to initiate the council management form of municipal government, which was approved by voter referendum. He was a president of the Greenville Council on Human Relations and was a member of the board of the S.C. Human Relations Council.

Betty Anne Deane Foy '45, September 22, Greenville. She volunteered with Meals on Wheels and was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Frances Cox Jones '45, January 8, Spartanburg, S.C. She was a teacher in Spartanburg District 7 schools for 16 years and continued to work as a tutor in the school system after her retirement. She was a longtime volunteer for the Red Cross and for Mobile Meals. Upon the death of her husband in 1993, she established educational scholarships at Clemson University in his honor and a United Nations Scholarship at Furman in honor of her granddaughter, Christine Lawson ‘99, who was one of the first students to be sent by Furman to the United Nations for a summer internship.
**CLASS NOTES POLICY**

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

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

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

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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 Merril 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 Reserve.

**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 Ivestor 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.
CANNICK EARNS RECOGNITION FOR WORK IN ORAL CANCER RESEARCH

Gabrielle Ferguson Cannick ’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 Jong 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 a first place in the Predoctoral Dental Student Merit Competition of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry.

“Gabrielle is an exceptional individual, and her research will make a significant contribution to the development of professional education programs throughout the country,” says Dan Lackland, an MUSC professor and Cannick’s graduate research advisor.

Cannick, who majored in biology at Furman, knew from a young age that she wanted to study dentistry. But rather than follow her father’s lead and pursue private practice, she chose the dual-degree program at MUSC because it offered her the full range of research (which she had enjoyed in high school and at Furman) and clinical training.

“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 Cannick, 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 finishing 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.

Adapted with permission from articles in The Catalyst, a publication produced by the Medical University of South Carolina.
formal personnel department. He served as a regional manager for Gardner & White of Columbia, S.C., from 1983 to 1991. He was instrumental in the development of the Community Christian Health and Wellness Fitness Program in Orangeburg. Glenn “Flash” Otis Kelley '58, February 21, Greenville. He was a stockbroker for nearly 40 years before retiring from USB PaineWebber. He served in the South Carolina National Guard and the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and was a 50-year member of Masons.

William Wendell Mason '58, February 27, Huntsville, Ala. He was an Army veteran and was retired from the Department of Defense.

Wesley Pollard Saylor, Sr. '60, November 28, Boones, N.C. He taught Spanish, French and German and at the time of his death was a professor at Greenville Technical College. He was retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as an intelligence officer and did a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Thomas Franklin Shirley '60, February 12, Williamsburg, Va. His work as a Baptist minister took him to churches in Texas, the Carolinas and Virginia. The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention commissioned him into the Correctional Chaplaincy and for 20 years he served western North Carolina as administrative chaplain for 12 prison facilities. Upon retirement he became part of the staff of Smith Memorial Baptist Church in Williamsburg. He was a radio mechanic in the U.S. Air Force.

Mary Ann Powell White '61, February 19, Pinopolis, S.C. She was a retired teacher from Berkeley Elementary School.

Robert Lawrence Lampley, Sr. '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.

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<th>ROLAND BAREFOOT, 1932-2007</th>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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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 '63, December 30, Chattanooga, Tenn. After his discharge from the U.S. Army, he began his career with First National Bank of Atlanta before moving to American National Bank and Trust Company of Chattanooga. He later joined SunTrust Bank and retired after 29 years of service. He continued to work for several years as an independent contractor for Columbus Bank & Trust Company and Synovus Securities of Columbus, Ga. He volunteered with the Tennessee Aquarium, Memorial Hospital, Ronald McDonald House and Hunter Museum of American Art and was treasurer of Horse Creek Farms Homeowners Association.

Phillip Graham Smith '63, November 23, Walterboro, S.C. He was an environmental consultant with the Corps of Engineering and Department of Health and Environmental Control. He served three years with the U.S. Air Force in Fairbanks, Alaska.

William Michael Edwards '66, February 22, Columbus, Ga. He was the owner of several businesses, including Mike's Bikes and Columbus Rubber Stamps and Signs. He also served as the regional director for the Boy Scouts of America in North Carolina.

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 Behethland 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 Brook 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.”