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## Thoughts and musings: A new look for the alumni Web site, and more

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## THOUGHTS AND MUSINGS: A NEW LOOK FOR THE ALUMNI WEB SITE, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.*