Reminders of Furman's downtown roots

Betsy Moseley '74
Furman University
Dan and Dana Jacobson Dokman, a daughter, Sloane Elizabeth, August 1, Minneapolis, Minn.

Greg and Shannon Rhodes Hill, a son, Holland McKee, March 19, Nashville, Tenn.

Cory and Christa Renfroe Hurley, a daughter, Patricia Grace, October 21, 2005, Atlanta.

93 NEXT REUNION IN 2008
Melanie Best Robinson has been named director of human resources by ImagePoint, a manufacturer and supplier of on-site sign products and services based in Knoxville, Tenn.

Derik ’93 and Erin Snyder Shelor live in Millersville, Pa., where Erin is an assistant professor of history at Millersville University. Derik has started Shelor & Sons, a publishing company.

BIRTHS: David and Maurisa Hooks Beaver, a son, Jonathon Thomas, April 22, Concord, N.C.

Geoffrey Wayne and Jane Keith Fritts, a son, Calvin Keith, August 29, 2005, Boiling Springs, S.C.

Lance and Meredith Lentz ’94 Lewis, a daughter, Sanders Katherine, June 5, Wilmington, N.C.

Kevin Johnson has become associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Boone, N.C. He also heads Micah Ministries, which provides training, resources and consulting in music, worship and spiritual formation.

MARRIAGE: Christie Rene Perry and Brian Leigh Carlson, June 17. They live in Fountain Inn, S.C., where he is a solutions manager at Fort Dearborn Company. She teaches at Simpsonville Elementary School.

BIRTHS: James and Charity Villa piano Higbe, a son, Addison James, September 16, Jacksonville, Fla. James is a division director with Technology Service Partners, Inc.

REMINDERS OF FURMAN’S DOWNTOWN ROOTS

The question usually comes up about midway through the conversation: Where was the “old” campus and how would I recognize it?

No matter their year of graduation, many alumni are curious about the Furman that existed before the current, “new” campus — which is now almost 50 years old.

The answer, of course, is that there were two old campuses — one for the women, the Greenville Woman’s College, and one for the men, Furman University. The schools coordinated in the 1930s but maintained separate campuses at opposite ends of downtown Greenville until the men began the migration to the present site in 1958. The women followed in 1961.

To preserve the connection between the old and the new, many organizations (Quaternion, Senior Order, Furman Singers), names (Ramsay, Judson, Manly, Poteat), buildings (Old College, the Shack), and even some of the bricks made the trip down Poinsett Highway to the new campus. But for hundreds of alumni, “Furman” is still “The Zoo” (the residence hall at GWC) and “Old Main” (the central building on the men’s campus).

Over time, the university’s former locations have changed to reflect the needs of Greenville and its citizens. The area where the GWC campus stood, on College Street, is now known as Heritage Green. It is the home of the Greenville Little Theatre, the county art museum, the Image Nation Children’s Museum of the Upstate, and the main branch of the county library.

The land on University Ridge once occupied by the men’s campus is today shared by County Square (the office complex for county government) and the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities.

Historical markers erected at each site in 1975 inform the curious about Furman’s downtown heritage — and are the only indications that the two campuses existed. Furman continues to maintain the markers out of respect for the university’s history and traditions.

— BETSY MOSELEY ’74
Director of Planned Giving

For directions to the sites of the former Furman and GWC campuses, e-mail betsy.moseley@furman.edu.