

9-1-2006

## Med students decide to ride coast to coast for a cure

Furman University

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### Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2006) "Med students decide to ride coast to coast for a cure," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 49 : Iss. 3 , Article 25.  
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol49/iss3/25>

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22. Elizabeth earned a master's degree in general psychology from the University of Memphis (Tenn.), where she is pursuing a Ph.D. with a concentration in school psychology.

**Erin Lyttle** and David Do, August 5. Erin is a legislative research analyst for the Tennessee Offices of Research and Education Accountability in Nashville. David is a physical therapist.

**Andrew Moritz and Piper Lanier '04**, June 17. They live in Richmond, Va.

**Lauren Myers** and Steve Jax, July 22. They live in Philadelphia. She is a Penn State graduate assistant in developmental psychology and he is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Bryn Erin Rose** and Rodney Coleman Robison, May 21. They work at JC Rose and Associates in Greenville, she as a project manager and he as a field service representative.

**Christina Soldo** and Ryan Lindstedt, May 20. Christina is a personal trainer on Hilton Head Island, S.C., and Ryan is regional sales manager for a horticulture company. Their wedding was featured on WETV's (Women's Entertainment) Platinum Wedding series in early September.

**Sarrin Towle** and **Rob Warfield**, June 10. They live in Naples, Fla.

**BIRTHS:** **Ryan** (M.A.) and DeLesline **Caulder**, a daughter, Olivia Evelyn, April 23. Ryan was awarded his wings as an aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps in June

prior to being transferred to San Diego, Calif., for additional flight training.

**Lawson** and **Michelle Clary**, a son, Hudson Drew, June 19. Lawson is an athletic academic advisor at Clemson University.

### 03 NEXT REUNION IN 2008

**Mahan** and **Ashley Dickson '04 Ellison** are working this year with the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET).

**Whitney Dallas Jones** recently became assistant volleyball coach at Jacksonville (Fla.) University. She has earned a master's degree in sports management from Georgia State University.

**Mick Larkins** is a technical artist with Hi-Rez Studios in Atlanta and is the author or co-author of software tutorials on Maya,

which is used to create computer-generated three-dimensional animation and special effects.

**Chris Lowery** is an engineer in the systems operations department of the Knoxville (Tenn.) Utilities Board.

Marc and **Michelle Roberts Masters** live in Piedmont, S.C. She earned her M.B.A. degree from Clemson University and is employed as controller and treasurer with the Regional Management Corporation.

**Heather Prince** received her Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in May and is a candidate for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She lives in Bethesda, Md.

**Brett Shumate** graduated *magna cum laude* from the Wake Forest University

## MED STUDENTS DECIDE TO RIDE COAST TO COAST FOR A CURE

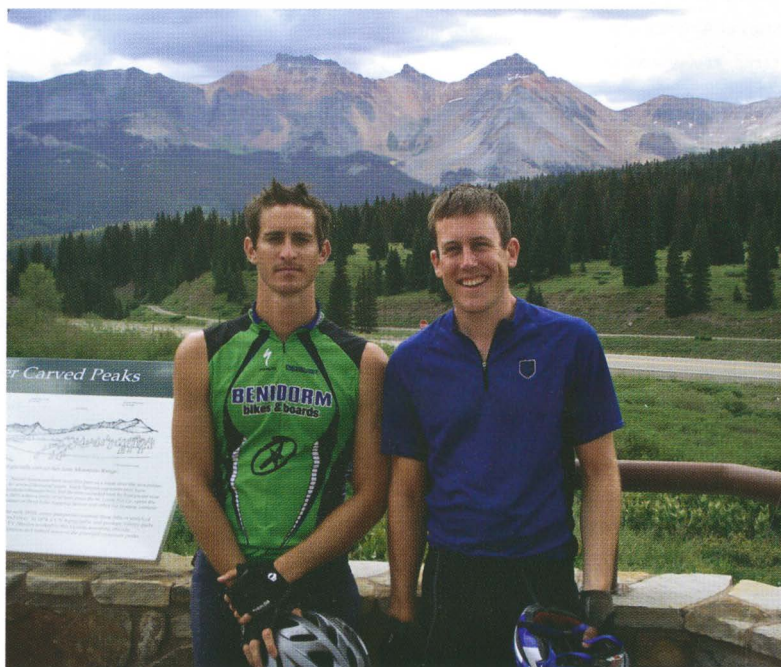
An off-hand remark from one medical student to another led to their decision to take a cross-country bicycle ride to support cancer research.

Ben Ristau, a 2004 Furman graduate, and Jeremiah Tracy, his first-year classmate at the University of Connecticut medical school in Farmington, were chatting last December about their summer plans. If they were going to do something "different," the summer of 2006 was the time to do it, they reasoned, since there would be no more summer breaks until they completed their medical studies. Ristau (blue shirt) tossed out a suggestion: a bicycle trip across the United States.

The idea quickly morphed from a casual "what if?" to a plan, as they decided to use the trip to raise money for a cause that was close to both their

hearts. They selected Lea's Foundation for Leukemia Research, a non-profit organization in nearby Hartford, and the University of Connecticut Health Center as the beneficiaries of their fund-raising effort.

Tracy's mother, Elizabeth, had died of cancer



when he was 18, a factor that had led him to pursue a career in medicine. Ristau, who majored in psychology at Furman, had spent 2004-05 conducting research on myeloma at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md.

the trip of a lifetime. And they earned the satisfaction of knowing that they had done something tangible for the greater good.

To read their account of their journey (with photos), visit <http://coasttocoastforacure.blogspot.com>.

Despite the demands of medical school they were able to train throughout the spring and early summer. On July 1 they embarked from San Francisco. Traveling through the heartland of America and stopping along the way to visit friends and acquaintances — and to absorb the sights — they made excellent time, averaging 95 to 100 miles per day.

On August 17, they rolled triumphantly into Farmington to the rousing cheers of friends and family. They brought a celebratory end to the trip on September 2 with a ride from Farmington to Milford, Conn., where they rolled to a stop in the shallow waters of the Atlantic.

The results? They raised more than \$25,000 (so far) toward leukemia and lymphoma research. They experienced