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Many reasons to stay in touch

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In accordance with its mission statement, the Board of Directors of the Furman Alumni Association strives to “represent the opinions, needs and interests of the entire alumni constituency to the university.”

To this end, new members are nominated and elected by the board each year with an eye toward the diversity of its constituency in terms of class years and geography. While approximately 40 percent of Furman alumni reside in South Carolina, more than 50 Furman Clubs are located throughout the United States, and we have “virtual” clubs in Europe and Asia. To meet the newest members of the board, see page 37.

The board uses task forces to explore ways to best represent alumni interests in areas such as student recruitment, career services, faculty relations, homecoming and reunions, and fundraising. These task forces help us focus on another part of our stated mission: to “promote ever-increasing involvement of alumni in the life of the university.”

Opportunities for involvement abound. Alumni are invited to:

- Work with the Admissions Office to interest prospective students in Furman.
- Volunteer as mentors or provide internships for enrolled students.
- Network with other Furman graduates through university-sponsored events.
- Support the efforts of the Development Office. Alumni donations are essential to maintaining the university’s day-to-day operations, building the endowment, constructing facilities and providing scholarship support.
- Submit nominations for the Alumni Board, Young Alumni Council, Board of Trustees, and the Distinguished Alumni and Alumni Service Awards.
- Individually and collectively, we are also called upon to “serve as guardians of Furman's heritage, tradition and identity.” What an awesome responsibility.

The Alumni Board wants to be your voice and to report your needs and interests to alma mater. So let us hear from you! Sign up to participate in alumni events in your area or on campus, and volunteer to help with those events.

I encourage each of you to become an involved member of the Furman constituency. Visit the Alumni Association Web page at http://alumni.furman.edu to read the Alumni Board’s entire mission statement and to add your name to the alumni registry.

Furman provides a variety of ways for alumni to stay in touch. Call the Alumni Office at 1-800-PURPLE3 or (864) 294-3464; e-mail alumni@furman.edu; or write the Alumni Office, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613.

And now that you know how to contact us, let us know the best way to reach you by making sure Furman has your current home address, e-mail address and phone number. Let’s stay in touch!

— Harriet Arnold Wilburn ’74

The author, who resides in Greenville and was formerly an admissions counselor at Furman, is the new president of the Alumni Association.