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Living tributes

Furman University

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Living tributes

Branch and Bench Program offers commemorative opportunities

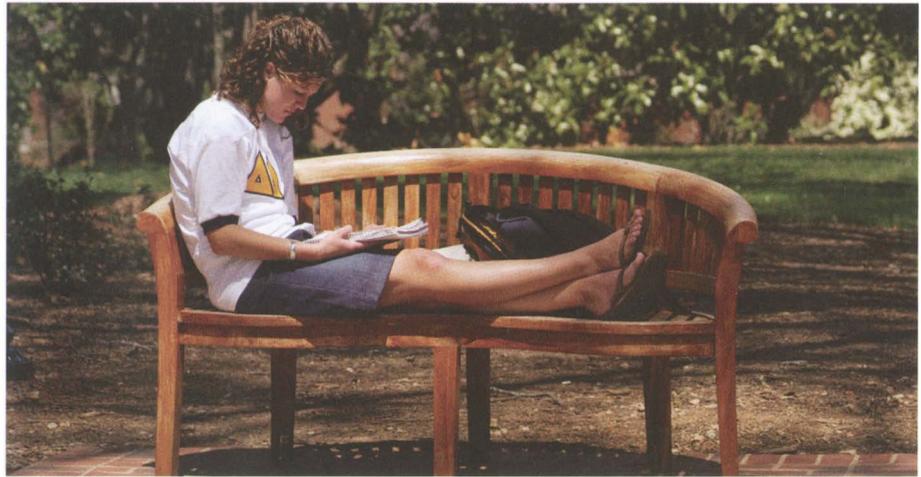
On a cold, rainy day in February, members of the university's men's and women's basketball teams joined other Furman classmates for a special on-campus ceremony to remember one of their own.

Megan Gallagher '07, a Dallas, Texas, resident and member of the basketball team, died suddenly in June 2005, shortly after completing her second year at Furman. In her memory, family and friends chose to commemorate a place on campus.

They found what they needed through the university's Branch and Bench Program. As a result, the beauty of the campus has been enhanced by the bench and tree dedicated on that February day in memory of Megan Gallagher.

Megan's story is just one of the many that have emerged since Furman launched the Branch and Bench Program two years ago. Whether by planting a tree or placing a bench in a special area of the campus, alumni and friends of the university have found the program to be the perfect means through which they may honor or memorialize an individual who has played a significant role in their lives.

For example, friends of trustee B.K. Bryan celebrated his 85th birthday last summer by dedicating a tree in his honor near the Daniel Chapel's Frances Jones Bryan Garden Room, which is named for his wife. Former trustee Bob Lutz '71 also received a special birthday present recently when his father dedicated a bench



in his name. And Furman friends joined with the family of Kerri Harike-Joedecke '94, a promising lawyer in Atlanta who died in 2002 from leukemia, to plant a tree on campus in her memory.

Donors interested in endowing these living tributes cover the cost of purchasing, planting, placing and maintaining the tree or bench. The cost depends upon the size, variety and location of the item selected. A portion of each donation is added to the university's restricted fund to ensure the proper maintenance of all trees, benches and plantings on campus, and a plaque is placed at the commemorative site to recognize the individual being honored.

Existing trees along most campus

drives and walkways may be adopted or new ones planted; benches are available in teak or concrete. Lilli Ann Hall, director of the program, works with the donors to choose the bench or tree and decide on its location.

The beauty of the Furman campus is one of the university's most enduring assets. The Branch and Bench Program helps to preserve that beauty — and to recognize the contributions of those who have, in different ways, been touched by the Furman experience.

To learn more, call Lilli Ann Hall at (864) 294-2123, e-mail lilliann.hall@furman.edu, or visit the Web at www.furman.edu/giving/livingtribute.htm.

Richard Furman Society sets record pace

Richard Furman Society members, who make annual donations of \$10,000 or more to Furman, continue to propel unrestricted giving to record-breaking levels.

In 2004-05 the RFS Executive Committee, chaired by B.K. Bryan, a resident of Greenville and Furman trustee, sought to enlist 94 members. It surpassed its goal with 103 members. Their gifts, totaling more than \$1 million, supported student aid, the purchase of new technology and other classroom and library resources, and salary compensation for professors.

The RFS membership goal for 2005-06 is 120 members. By the end of April, with two months remaining in the university's fiscal year, 109 donors had joined the gift society.

Ten members of the Richard Furman Society have founded a Sustaining Members level by increasing their unrestricted annual giving to \$25,000. The founding members are Bryan and his wife, Frances; Tom Farmer '50 of Summerville, S.C.; Tricia and Doug Freeman '72 of Jacksonville, Fla.; James

Hamrick '50 of Spartanburg, S.C.; Pam and Pat McKinney of Charleston, S.C.; Emilyn and Dan Sanders of Greenville; Susan and Frank Shaw '61 of Atlanta; Linda and Jim Thompson '65 of Charlotte, N.C.; Janet and Jim Stanard of Cockeysville, Md.; and June and David Trone '77 of Potomac, Md.

Doug Freeman, Hamrick, Pat McKinney, Emilyn Sanders and Frank Shaw are, like Bryan, Furman trustees. The Stanards, McKinneys and Freemans are parents of current students.