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## Partnering for the greater good

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# Furman alumni news

## Partnering for the greater good

The presence of a college in a town has a positive effect on the quality of life in that town. Having a top liberal arts college magnifies that positive effect.

Through my work with Furman and the Greenville community, I am constantly reminded of the contributions the university makes to northwestern South Carolina.

Furman employs more than 700 people. Many have spouses who work in the community and children who attend local public and private schools. An economic impact study done several years ago by our Office of Institutional Research found that Furman contributes \$200 million a year to the Upstate economy.

But Furman's faculty and staff do not live and work in isolation. They are involved in volunteer work and other ventures, from singing in church choirs and local performing ensembles to coaching youth sports teams and assisting in outreach programs. Alumni make a huge contribution through their work as doctors, lawyers, teachers, ministers and merchants.

Our 2,600 students are active in the community as well, as interns and volunteers and in a host of other ways. And it is hard to go into a local restaurant or store on the weekend and not see a group of Furman students.

Speaking of which, I wish that all alumni could get to know a current student. I am humbled to watch these fine young people as they follow in our footsteps.

Developing a relationship with a current student is a wonderful way to stay connected to alma mater. When you get the chance, seize the opportunity to talk with a Furman student. You will be impressed.



One way alumni and friends can get to know students is through a scholarship program called Partners. The focus of this program is relationships; those who establish Partners Scholarships form a lasting bond with their scholarship recipients throughout their years at Furman.

The Partners Scholars receive much more than financial support, however. Their sponsors serve as mentors, advisors and encouragers who invite them to dinner, provide care packages and send cards on their birthdays.

In turn, the donors watch their scholars mature through their college years. They see their investment in action through community service, campus involvement and academic success. In many ways, Partners donors receive more than they give.

As Tom Farmer '50 says, "Participating in the Partners program has been a life-changing experience. These young people have brought joy to my life, and it does me a lot of good to see them pursuing their goals. I'm glad to be a part of their lives — I keep in touch during the year and always look forward to hearing from each of them."

To learn more about the program, contact Renee Sicchitano, assistant to the stewardship director, at (864) 294-2173 or e-mail [renee.sicchitano@furman.edu](mailto:renee.sicchitano@furman.edu).

— Tom Triplitt '76

Director, Alumni Association

## ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

### Get lost in the Alumni Association Web

If it's been a while since you've surfed to the Alumni Association Web page at <http://alumni.furman.edu>, or even if you're already enjoying some of its features, we invite you to explore its many avenues.

For starters, the alumni page is a great place to learn about classmates and to update your personal information so that others may find you. You may also include photos of yourself, family and friends. If you own a business and would like to advertise to alumni, you can list it under "Alumni Businesses." And if you're looking for a new job, check out the "Career Center" link.

The Web is also a great resource in determining which Furman Club is closest to you and what events are planned for your area. You can register for all events on-line, using a credit card.

As Homecoming 2006 approaches (save the dates: October 20-22), the alumni page is the perfect place to register and find up-to-date information about hotels and restaurants, reunion plans and football game tickets. If your class is in reunion this year (class years ending in 1 or 6), tell us what you'd like to do at Homecoming by filling out one of our Web-based surveys.

Interested in volunteering for Furman? The Web page explains how you can become involved in the work of the Alumni Board, Young Alumni Council, Furman Clubs and reunion committees. Did you have a recent wedding, birth, job announcement or personal accomplishment? The Web page is a great place to post your news.

We've still just scratched the surface when it comes to all the Web might offer. We encourage you to visit the alumni page often — and then let us know how we can improve it. Please send comments and suggestions to Melanie Krone Armstrong '94 at [melanie.armstrong@furman.edu](mailto:melanie.armstrong@furman.edu).

### Furman Club update

Welcome to two new Furman Clubs in Texas! Meagan Anderson '04 and Julie Crossland Jones '92 hosted a gathering in March for Austin-area alumni and parents, while Shannon Tumblin '99 hosted a similar gathering in the Fort Worth area.

Furman Clubs were active throughout the spring with career networking events, receptions for the Furman Singers, baseball pre-game festivities and the annual Coaches Tour.

And now, the Furman Club program is expanding its overseas connections. The Alumni Association is setting up a virtual Furman Club for the British Isles and continental Europe; it joins the Asia Furman Club as part of Furman's international network. For more information, visit the Alumni Association Web page and click on the Furman Club link.

To learn more about Furman Clubs in general, contact Jane Dungan, associate director of the Alumni Association, at [jane.dungan@furman.edu](mailto:jane.dungan@furman.edu).