

1-1-2006

Another story that rings true

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Recommended Citation

Canfield, Ruth '88 (2006) "Another story that rings true," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 48 : Iss. 4 , Article 25.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol48/iss4/25>

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Another story that rings true

I received my copy of the fall *Furman* magazine in the mail and read it cover to cover, as I always do. I was especially interested in Tom Triplitt's story about the Furman graduate whose class ring was found in the Yosemite River.

I was particularly struck by this article because I, too, have a Furman ring story. Actually, it is a Greenville Woman's College ring story, but to me, that's close enough.

My maternal grandmother, Christine Cooper Ellenberg, graduated from GWC in 1923, and my grandfather, William Joseph Ellenberg (known as Willie Joe), graduated from Furman in 1922. My mom tells me that from the time I was a little girl I vowed that I was going to Furman.

In September 1984, I passed through the front gates and became an official "Furman freshman." Before I left for college, my grandmother gave me her GWC class ring — a gift that obviously held a tremendous amount of sentimental value for me.

At some point during the year, I was walking back to my room in Haynsworth Basement (back when it was still an all-women's dorm) and realized that my

grandmother's ring, which I wore every day, was not on my finger. Needless to say, extreme panic set in as I raced back to my room and proceeded to tear it apart in search of my beloved keepsake. It was nowhere to be found.

Suddenly, it dawned on me that earlier in the day I had tossed a napkin in the trash can in the hall's common area. So I ran to the trash can. It was empty, however, and I was frantic.

I don't know whether it was my suggestion or someone else's, but we ended up in the trash room going through stuff I don't even want to remember in search of that ring. I finally opened a plastic bag and found a crumpled napkin with a GWC Class of 1923 ring inside. I honestly think my heart skipped a beat or two in sheer relief and joy.

But my story didn't end there. Later that afternoon (probably less than an hour later), a friend called me to come out into the hall. I watched, dumbfounded, as the Furman maintenance men hauled the trash from the room to take it to its final resting place. Once again my heart skipped a beat, or maybe ten. If not for the help of good friends willing to dig through mounds of trash



and an excellent stroke of timing (with some divine intervention, I'm sure), my ring would have ended up at the dump or in an incinerator.

I now keep that ring, along with my grandfather's Furman ring and my own Furman ring, in a locked box under my bed. I don't know what my grandparents' rings might be worth monetarily — I have a feeling that they contain a lot more gold than mine — but to quote those recent MasterCard commercials, to me they are "priceless!"

— **Ruth Canfield '88**
Rock Hill, S.C.

The writer is technical services librarian at the York County Library.

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Next reunion in 2010

Jeffrey Cox of Coral Springs, Fla., is an assistant U.S. attorney. ■ **Brett Doyle** of Greenville is president and chief executive officer of Duro Systems Ltd., a Microsoft Business Solutions certified partner. ■ **Sandi Padgett** of Goose Creek, S.C., has become economic development manager with the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments. She administers federal and state programs in the form of EDA grants, CDBG funds and revolving loan funds. ■ **MARRIAGES:** **Charles Gordon Ballew** (M.A. '97) and Laura Alison

Renninger, May 14. They live in Daytona Beach, Fla., where he is the sales and marketing manager at Fabco Metal Products, LP. She is a physician assistant at Jena Medical.

■ **Cortney Combs** and Scott Baker, August 27. They live in Davie, Fla., and Cortney is a Suzuki violin teacher.

■ **Hayden Smith** and **Katherine Presley '01**, October 1. Hayden is a candidate for a Ph.D. in history at the University of Georgia in Athens. Katherine is a graphic designer. ■

BIRTHS: **Mark** and **Anna Winstead Beelaert**, a son, Charles, February 10, 2005. They live in Irmo, S.C.

■ **Gregory** and **Natalie Kjellstrom Cannata**, a son,

Justin Sebastian, June 22, Fort Benning, Ga. ■ **Charles** and **Kathy Culver**, a son, Ayden Grant, April 13, Johnston, S.C. Charles is a sales engineer with Transtech Radiator Products.

■ **Joe Barvir** and **Ginny Gaylor**, a son, Joseph Ednee Barvir, August 2, Greensboro, N.C.

■ **Michael '96** and **Amy Castleberry Johnson**, a son, Graham Henry, August 24. They live in Alpharetta, Ga., and Michael works as a residential/commercial designer. ■ **Ryan** and **Lauren Bellamy McCann**, a son, John Ryan, May 30, Greenville. ■ **Bryan** and **Alison Bracewell McCullick**, a daughter, Adaline Grace, October 6, Athens, Ga. Alison is statewide voter

education coordinator for the Georgia Secretary of State. Bryan teaches at the University of Georgia. ■ **Peter** and **Jennifer Harris Partee**, a daughter, Erin Finley, February 6, 2005, Laurens, S.C. ■ **Samuel** and **Lynne Sykora Unglo**, a son, Luke Anthony, December 26, 2004. They live in Roswell, Ga., and Lynne heads her own consulting/public relations firm. ■ **Brian** and **Tracee Minnix Wade**, a son, Banks Matthew, June 7, Simpsonville, S.C. ■ **Chad** and **Mary Katherine Thrash White**, a daughter, Mary Brauer, March 24, 2005, Atlanta. ■ **David '96** and **Lisa Couch Williams**, a daughter, Charly Anne, July