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A combined 140 years: 2005 class of retirees compiled remarkable record of service to Furman: Brock's impact felt by countless students

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service to Furman



Trzupsek a natural in the classroom

A native of Chicago, with degrees from Loyola and MIT, Larry Trzupsek arrived on Furman's doorstep in the fall of 1974. The subsequent three decades were ones of remarkable growth for the chemistry department and the university overall. During this

time, Larry developed a reputation as an extraordinarily gifted teacher, a consummate departmental team player and a talented researcher.

Trained as an organic chemist, Larry's principal teaching responsibilities were in courses devoted to the mysteries and joys of carbon-based chemistry. For most of us, developing teaching skills is a slow process, but in Larry's case he gave every indication of being a born natural. He received rave student reviews virtually from the first day he walked into a classroom, which culminated in his receiving the Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching in 1986.

His popularity and rapport with students was not because he had a reputation for being easy. In fact, he was widely regarded as one of the toughest, most demanding professors in the department.

It had far more to do with his ability to lecture with extreme clarity, coupled with a rapier wit, an impressive stage presence and a total command of his subject. He may be the closest thing to a Charles Brewer, the legendary Furman psychology professor, that we will ever see in the chemistry department.

Larry gave selflessly of his time and talents while undertaking a variety of tasks critical to the progress of the department. For example, although active in seeking personal research funding from external sources, he also served as lead writer of many departmental grants. Almost all these proposals were successful and provided funding for such things as state-of-the-art equipment (including our first high-field nuclear magnetic resonance instrument), as well as for stipends to support students in the summer undergraduate research program. Furthermore, with Larry's retirement as our chief high school student recruiter, we now find it necessary to divide that large responsibility between two faculty members!

Larry's move back to Chicago in July was for family reasons. Both he and his wife, Karin, have extended families there, and he will also be closer to his beloved White Sox. While Karin will assume a full-time position as a pediatrician in the Chicago area, Larry has accepted a teaching faculty appointment in the chemistry department at Northwestern University.

For 31 years he has brightened our days with his quick wit and good humor. We will greatly miss his personal warmth and friendship, his wise counsel and, yes, even his unsolicited political advice. We will also be losing one of only two department members to have completed a marathon.

So, old chum, we extend to you a fond farewell, and our parting wish for you, Karin and the kids is for much success and happiness in your new careers and lives.

— Noel Kane-Maguire, *Professor of Chemistry*



Brock's impact felt by countless students

Charlie Brock may have retired this summer after 36 years as a Furman administrator, but he's not likely to be forgotten soon. Given his stylish attire, impeccable grooming, friendly nature and gift of gab, he's a pretty memorable fellow.

And after serving first as director of admissions and, for the last 16 years, as an assistant dean focusing on undergraduate research and internships, he may well have had conversations with more Furman students, past and present, than anyone left on campus.

A 1956 Furman graduate, Brock was a history major who edited the *Bonhomie* and was voted "most versatile." After graduating he taught at his hometown high school in Seneca, S.C., for three years before he and his wife, Pat Wiggins '56, moved to Orlando, Fla., where he became a guidance counselor at Colonial High School. Pat taught at a nearby elementary school.

Colonial, which educated the sons and daughters of scientists working at Cape Canaveral, often led the state in National Merit semifinalists. So Brock regularly hosted recruiters from top colleges — including two notable representatives from Furman, political scientist Don Aiesi and registrar Lewis Rasor.

Brock left Colonial in 1968 and put his experience with higher education representatives to use by moving into college admissions. After working at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte for less than a year, he received a call from his college dean, Francis W. Bonner, who had become Furman's vice president and provost. Soon thereafter, Brock made the move down I-85.

As director of admissions, Brock was one of the first people countless future Furman students met. And when they became college graduates, he gave many of them their first jobs, as counselors. That group included several current Furman administrators and a certain First Lady, Susan Thomson Shi '71.

Brock's 20 years in admissions coincided with a period during which student interest in Furman increased dramatically. He would often leave Greenville in mid-September and rarely return home for any length of time until early December. He and his small staff traveled up and down the East Coast, with occasional forays into Dallas, St. Louis and Chicago.

The message then was the same as now. "Most people are first impressed by Furman's beauty. It's our job to get them to see beyond that," he has said. "The beauty, the activities, the friendliness on campus are just icing on the cake. We have to get people to look at the heart of the college: the educational program."

Brock shifted focus in 1989. As assistant dean, he began developing engaged learning opportunities long before the term became Furman's marketing catch phrase, and he has matched thousands of Furman students with internships and research positions both on and off campus.

Now, as he heads into retirement, Brock says his time at Furman has been "a most wonderful thing. I have loved going out and selling this place. Working with our students, faculty and staff has been wonderful."

— John Roberts