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Commitment runs both ways

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Furman alumni news

Commitment runs both ways

My decision to come to work at Furman was easy in part because of the legendary support the university receives from alumni. That support is increasing as Furman grows in national prominence.

What I have come to appreciate even more in my three years here is the commitment that Furman demonstrates to its alumni.

Furman's dedication to its alumni is evident when I meet with colleagues in alumni relations at other schools. Just listening to their frustrations and stories about a lack of support really makes me thankful for Furman's commitment. At a recent meeting of the South Carolina Association of Alumni Directors, our featured speaker, who happened to be a Furman alumnus, asked the group how many of them were part of the senior staff at their institutions. I was the only one that answered yes.

Furman shows its support for alumni in many ways. President David Shi tries to attend as many Furman Club events as possible. He and his wife, Susan Thomson Shi, graciously open their house at Homecoming and throughout the school year for events honoring the 50th reunion class, the Young Benefactors and the Alumni Association Board of Directors, among many others. Faculty, staff and coaches often willingly travel to cities around the country to meet with alumni groups.

I never have trouble getting vice presidents, deans or department heads to speak at meetings of the Alumni Association Board of Directors or the Young Alumni Council. We have even had Furman vice presidents chair committees of those two volun-



ter groups. Bill Howes, chair of the Furman board of trustees, spoke to the Alumni Board last fall and is scheduled to speak to the Young Alumni Council in October.

After a rather spirited discussion at my first Alumni Board meeting in the fall of 2002, the board's president at the time, Pam Underwood Thomason '76, met with the executive committee of the board of trustees to request that the Alumni Association have a chance to play a more active role at trustee meetings, held three times a year. The trustees listened, and today members of the Alumni Board Executive Committee attend three different committee meetings at each trustee gathering. The Alumni Board president attends the main plenary session of each trustee meeting and presents a report at the spring meeting.

In fact, Furman makes few major decisions without at least consulting with alumni. And the voices of alumni are heard throughout the university. Five of the 14 members of the Furman President's Council (leading university administrators) are alumni, as are more than half of the current trustees.

It is indeed a pleasure to work at a place as committed to its alumni as alumni are to it.

— Tom Triplitt '76
Director, Alumni Association

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Furman offers system for forwarding e-mails

Did you know that Furman can help you set up a permanent forwarding e-mail address?

It's true. Visit <http://alumni.furman.edu/alumni/email.asp>, a link on the alumni Web page, and follow the directions. Once you're set, give your address (yourname@alumni.furman.edu) to family and friends and it will automatically forward their e-mails to your current e-mail address. Should your e-mail change, you won't have to e-mail everyone in your address book. Instead, all you have to do is record that change in our system and your e-mail address stays the same.

Questions? Contact Melanie Krone Armstrong '94, associate director of the Alumni Association, at melanie.armstrong@alumni.furman.edu or by calling 1-800-PURPLE3.

Homecoming 2005: Make the trek

A reminder: Homecoming 2005 is October 21-23. Graduates of classes ending in 0 and 5 will be holding special reunions, but all alumni are invited back to campus for the fun, frivolity and festivities.

To register and find up-to-date information on Homecoming, visit www.alumni.furman.edu or call the Alumni Association at 1-800-PURPLE3.

Furman Club updates

As usual, Furman Clubs were quite active throughout the spring and summer!

In May, the Atlanta, Charleston and Triangle Area (Raleigh) clubs welcomed an array of Furman coaches as they met with alumni and talked about their upcoming seasons. Clubs in Boston, Memphis, St. Louis and the Triad Area (Winston-Salem) hosted casual dinners, picnics or happy hours that gave alumni the opportunity to meet other alums and reconnect with Furman.

The Northeast Florida Club hosted a family beach party and welcomed Gary Clark, director of athletics, and the Capital Area (Washington, D.C.) Club held a summer gathering for alumni and Furman summer interns who worked in the D.C. area. The Music City Club (Nashville) welcomed President David Shi and his wife, Susan Thomson Shi, for a dessert reception.

The Furman tradition of welcoming new students and their families to the Furman community also continued this summer all across the country. From southern California to Charleston, S.C., Furman Clubs helped the Admissions Office host summer send-offs.

Coming up this fall: Football, Furman style! Furman Clubs are already planning tailgate events before games at Western Carolina (September 10), The Citadel (October 15) and Tennessee-Chattanooga (November 19).

For up-to-date information on club events throughout the year, go to www.alumni.furman.edu or contact Jane Dungan, associate director of the Alumni Association, at jane.dungan@furman.edu or at 1-800-PURPLE3.