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Alumni Activities

Furman University

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Furman alumni news

Alumni exemplify servant leadership

The hidden curriculum of a school is defined as that which is taught implicitly, through experience, rather than explicitly. Servant leadership seeks to involve everyone in decision-making, is strongly based on ethical behavior and enhances everyone's personal growth and quality of life.

A liberal arts education prepares people to be leaders in many different fields. A Furman education also prepares us to be servant leaders — if not explicitly, then implicitly. Thousands of our alumni are living proof.

The Max and Trude Heller Collegiate Educational Service Corps, born during the administration of President Gordon Blackwell and brought to fruition by Betty Alverson, has had a major impact on Furman students for almost 40 years. A sociologist, Blackwell saw CESC as a way to strengthen the university's ties to the community while exposing students to the realities of life.

Through CESC, which strives "to utilize the Furman community's talents, interests and joys to meet the needs of the world around us," thousands of us worked as volunteers in nursing homes, soup kitchens, medical clinics and juvenile homes. A hidden bonus was the commitment to service we took with us after graduation.

The first Saturday of May holds a special meaning for many alumni. It is the time when we volunteered for CESC's May Day Play Day and helped transform the campus into a huge playground complete with cotton candy, games, magicians, a petting zoo, face painting and more for children, special adults and friends.

As those of us in the Alumni Office travel around the country for



Furman Club meetings and other programs, we are constantly amazed by the extraordinary things Furman alumni are doing. Clearly, alumni have a "volunteer vision" to perform good works in their communities and beyond.

During May, 12 Furman Clubs participated in service projects to commemorate May Day Play Day. While students volunteered on campus, alumni from Miami to Myrtle Beach, Boston and southern California did the same in their communities. Some worked at a benefit for Huntington's disease; some sorted canned goods at food banks or clothing at a crisis center; others coordinated a festival or did yard work at a group home. Whatever their project, the participants had a great time working together and helping others.

The Alumni Office sponsors many different Furman Club events, but the service projects seem to best convey what we take with us when we graduate. Yes, Furman provided us a great education and the tools to go out into the world, but we also gained a sense of purpose and an awareness of what it means to "meet the needs of the world around us."

Above: Melanie Krone '94 (left) chats with classmates Elizabeth George (middle) and Genia Topple Cayce at an Atlanta Furman Club service event. Melanie co-wrote this article with alumni director Tom Triplitt '76.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Homecoming reunion committees set to roll

On March 20, committee members from the 2004 reunion classes (ending in 4 and 9) met on campus to begin planning for Homecoming weekend, November 5-7. Classmates enjoyed renewing old friendships and sharing ideas with the members of other committees.

Important reunion information will be mailed to all alumni soon, so check your mailbox! Your reunion committees, led by the following alums, are already hard at work planning a memorable weekend.

1949: Rosalie Manly Burnett, Henry Barton, Sr.
1954: Edna Wells Boyd, Robbie Brown Prince
1959: Committee
1964: Committee
1969: Ethel Martin Childress, Pam Burgess Shucker
1974: Karen Herring Harmon
1979: Matt Elliott
1984: Lisa Browne Barksdale
1989: Mark Eckels
1994: Melanie Krone
1999: Mark Rowe

Furman Clubs step into spring

Furman Clubs across the country enjoyed a host of spring activities.

On April 3, alumni from throughout the Southeast gathered in Charleston, S.C., after the Cooper River Bridge Run, and on April 13, Atlanta alumni attended a career networking happy hour with Georgia State alumni and had fun meeting new people and seeing old friends.

Speaking of meeting new people, the Capitol Area Club in Washington, D.C., held its annual spring gathering for Furman students who spent the term studying and working as interns in the D.C. area. This is a popular event for students and alumni alike.

Furman Clubs are also blooming around the country with new leadership from young alumni! We welcome the following new club presidents: Jennifer Davie Johnson '93 (Charlotte, N.C.), Christy Foree '98 (Dallas), Sally Payne Grantham '01 (Florence, S.C.), Roseanna Baber '03 (Houston), Tracy Towle '00 (Miami, Fla.), and Emily Roberts '00 (Memphis).

Looking ahead: While several clubs are planning their annual "summer send-offs" for incoming freshmen and their families, the Atlanta Furman Club is planning a big event at Turner Field on Saturday, July 24. The Braves will be away, so Furman will occupy the entire stadium! You'll have a chance to visit the Braves' dugout, tour the Hall of Fame and play interactive baseball games while enjoying a barbecue dinner and a performance by the Furman Singers.

Visit www.furman.edu/alumni/index.htm or contact Melanie Krone '94 at 1-800-PURPLE3 to learn more about Furman Club events and plans in your area.