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A tranquil Commencement

Furman University

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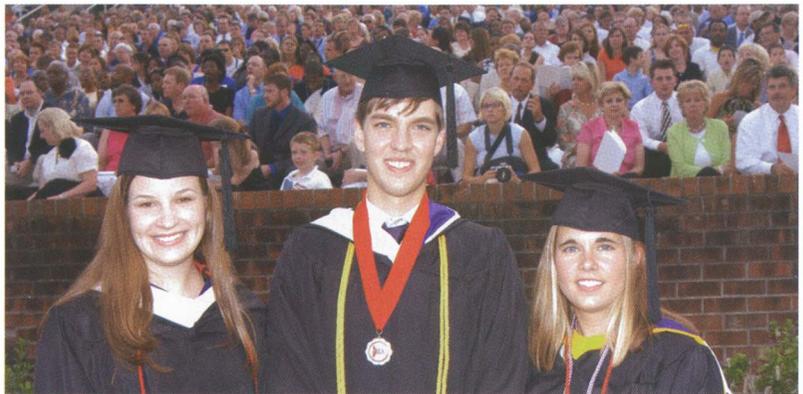
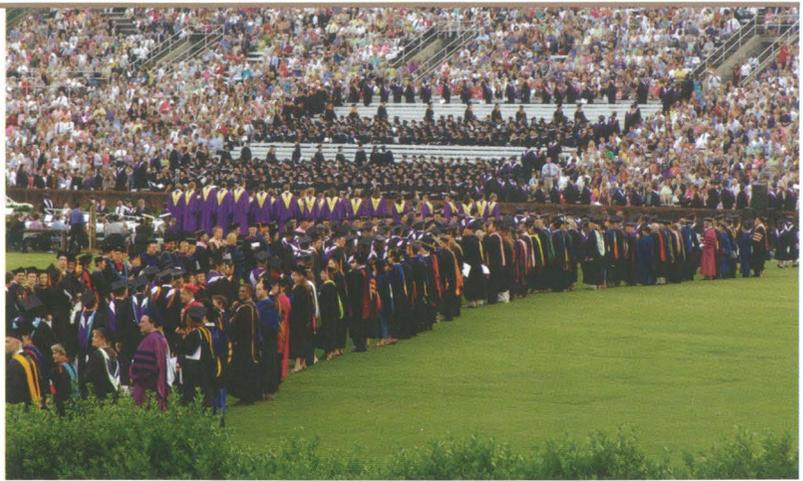
The evening of June 5 brought one of the calmest, most serene Commencement ceremonies in memory, as Furman ended its 178th year by awarding 622 undergraduate and 10 master's degrees.

This year's graduates, apparently determined to demonstrate the maturity that comes with their hard-earned status as alumni of an exemplary liberal arts institution, remained disarmingly sedate throughout the event, with few of the outbursts or mildly disruptive antics that had characterized more recent ceremonies. Why, they didn't even toss their hats when their degrees were officially conferred. As a result the proceedings rolled along with few interruptions, and first-year academic dean Tom Kazee read the graduates' names flawlessly in his debut on the demanding Paladin Stadium stage.

Joining Kazee in the spotlight were Jamie Forsh, a health and exercise science major from Douglasville, Ga., who delivered the Commencement address (see page 48), and chemistry major Rebekah Grace Potts of Birmingham, Ala. (see page 35). Potts (middle photo, right) received the Donaldson-Watkins Medal as the outstanding senior woman and shared the Scholarship Cup for highest academic average with Dorothy Jean Powers (middle left), an English major from Stone Mountain, Ga. Both completed their undergraduate studies with straight A's. Brandon Michael Inabinet (middle center) of St. Matthews, S.C., a *magna cum laude* graduate in communication studies and political science, received the Bradshaw-Feaster Medal as the outstanding male graduate.

Elizabeth Hughes Locke, president of The Duke Endowment, one of the nation's leading philanthropic foundations, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. For 80 years Furman has been a beneficiary of The Duke Endowment, which is based in Charlotte, N.C.

Four faculty members were recognized with Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman awards for meritorious teaching and advising. Teaching awards went to Maria Carmela Epright, assistant professor of philosophy, and Sean Patrick O'Rourke, associate professor of communication studies. The advising awards went to John Stevenson Armstrong, assistant professor of communication studies, and Judith Gatlin Bainbridge, professor of English.



Furman launches exchange program with Japanese institution

Furman has established a student exchange program with Waseda University, one of the most prestigious universities in Japan.

According to Shusuke Yagi, professor of Japanese and Asian Studies, Furman will send up to two students per year to Waseda to study Japanese and Asian Studies for the full academic year. Furman will also accept up to two Waseda juniors for a year. The exchange program begins this fall.

Founded in 1882 and located in Tokyo, Waseda is one of Japan's leading private institutions of higher learning. It has more than 44,000 undergraduate students and 6,000 graduate students, and its international division offers 13 levels of Japanese language courses and almost 50 Asian Studies courses.

Yagi says the new relationship with Waseda will not affect Furman's existing exchange program with Kansai Gaidai University in Japan. "This will be an

exciting opportunity for Furman students to study at a prestigious university located in the largest metropolitan area in the world, especially for those students who want to study more advanced Japanese," he says.

Waseda currently has student exchange programs with a number of American universities, including Georgetown, the University of Chicago, Georgia Tech, Harvard Medical School and the University of Southern California.