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National security

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National security

Less than three months after breaking her left arm and collarbone and shattering her right knee and ankle in a motorcycle accident, Pam Truman threw the shot put in a track meet at Furman — and finished third.

Her right leg and left arm were in casts, but she threw right-handed and didn't see any reason not to participate in the meet. "It was awkward, but I was able to kind of shuck it out there," she says. "People got a kick out of it."

That sort of resolve served Truman well during her four years at Furman. In addition to throwing the shot put, discus and hammer for the track team, she graduated *cum laude* in June with majors in chemistry and biology.

She has been accepted to the highly selective Biodefense Graduate Program at George Mason University, which "provides students with a background in the foundations of science and technology of biodefense, threat analysis of biological weapons, and the specialized areas of medical defense." The program, the only one of its kind in the country, was created two years ago in response to the rise of terrorism around the world. It accepted just 70 students for next year's class.

"When I found out about it, I knew it was exactly what I wanted to do," says Truman, who will begin work toward a Ph.D. in biodefense this fall. "Working to detect biological and chemical weapons, learning about terrorist groups and how they operate — it appealed to me."

Truman was born and raised in Germany and didn't move to the United

Truman accepted to select biodefense program

States until she was 13, when her father, William, retired from the Army. The family settled in Simpsonville, S.C., and her mother, Astrid, a native of Germany, came to Furman in 1997 to work as a computer drafter in the Department of Facilities Services.

Truman had no problem adapting to life in America. She excelled at Greenville's Southside High School, both academically and athletically. She graduated fifth in her class, was elected to the National Honor Society and received the National Achievement Academy Award for Excellence in Mathematics.

Athletically, she was state champion in the shot put her senior year and was runner-up in the discus. She also played basketball and soccer, and was named All-Region AAA in both sports. She received a Wendy's High School Heisman Award for Scholastic and Academic Excellence in the spring of 2000.

Truman's success was no doubt aided by the fact that, while she spoke fluent German, she also spoke perfect English.

"My dad always spoke English to me as I was growing up," she says, "and since we moved around Germany so much I attended American schools. So it was easy for me to be fluent in both languages."

She was offered a scholarship to Vanderbilt University but decided to stay close to home and attend Furman. She joined the school's ROTC program, but the motorcycle accident her freshman year forced a change of plans. She considered the possibility of medical school and even law school, but there was nothing left to



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Pam Truman will be part of the second class in the George Mason program.

consider once she learned about George Mason's biodefense program.

As for those injuries she suffered from the motorcycle accident, they never completely healed and she wasn't able to compete on the track team her senior year. It was her own fault, she says, for coming back too quickly and trying to do too much.

"But that's OK," she says. "I realized I wasn't going to be a professional shot putter or a professional discus thrower. It was time to focus on what I was going to be."

— Vince Moore

2004 marks Falcons' final training camp at Furman

This summer marked Furman's sixth and final year as the preseason training camp home of the National Football League's Atlanta Falcons.

On July 1, the Falcons announced plans to move their summer camp to their headquarters in Flowery Branch, Ga., beginning in 2005. The club has held summer camp at Furman since 1999.

"We have had a great experience at Furman and value our relationship with President David Shi and his administration," said Arthur M. Blank, owner and CEO of the Falcons, in a press release.

"This decision was driven by our desire to bring the Falcons' training camp closer to our fans and families and to allow more of them to participate in this exciting event."

The team plans to build dormitories and expand the dining facilities on their Flowery Branch property. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall.

Furman officials were not surprised by the decision, as Blank had kept them informed about the Falcons' plans.

Having the Falcons on campus brought outstanding benefits to Furman,

both in terms of facility upgrades and publicity. As football coach Bobby Lamb told *The Greenville News*, "We had a great relationship with the Falcons. Their staff has been great to us, and you can't put a price tag on what it means to the university and the city to have us on ESPN and all the other outlets every time they run an interview from training camp."

This summer's training camp at Furman lasted from July 27 to August 19. The Falcons, who finished with a 5-11 record in 2003, had previously trained at Furman from 1971-78.