A legacy of service and stewardship

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role as president of the Alumni Association is the opportunity to witness the many ways in which alumni give back to the university, long after leaving the idyllic setting we called home for four years (give or take a year, in some cases!).

Although it is rewarding, it is hardly surprising to learn that so many give so much. Furman is increasingly recognized as an extraordinary place that stretches the mind while nurturing the soul. It is known as an institution that produces people who are more likely to be leaders than followers, who possess remarkable skills and abilities combined with a keen sense of responsibility to use them wisely, and who are known for giving back to the communities in which they live and work.

This legacy of service and stewardship is an inherent part of the Furman experience. It is a legacy that many other institutions of higher learning cannot even dream of, much less come close to achieving.

Among colleges and universities, one important measure of "customer satisfaction" is the degree to which alumni support the needs of alma mater. If alumni believe in what the institution stands for and where it is headed, their positive feelings will be reflected in their commitment to give financially.

At Furman, we can take pride that for the past six years, more than 50 percent of our approximately 26,000 alumni have made financial gifts to the university. This remarkable statistic places us in the top 10 among colleges and universities with more than 20,000 alumni.

In addition, alumni contribute to Furman in other highly personal and deeply meaningful ways. From being actively involved in one of the more than 50 Furman Clubs throughout the world to volunteering with the Furman Admissions Network (FAN), serving as a head or class agent, helping to organize class reunions or other events, acting as a career resource for students... The list goes on indefinitely.

But while we are doing many things well, we cannot risk becoming complacent. One of my goals is to strengthen the connections between alumni and current students. And as we explore ways to enhance the value of the Furman experience, I encourage you to continue to give generously of your financial resources and invite you to consider new ways to give your time, wisdom and expertise to others within the Furman family. Rest assured that your investment will be multiplied many times over.

Sir Winston Churchill said it well when he wrote, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

Thank you for all you give to Furman. May your life — and the lives of those you influence — be profoundly enriched because of your continued commitment to this outstanding university.

— Jim Simkins '78

A Greenville businessman, the author recently began his two-year term as president of the Alumni Association.

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ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Welcome Tina Ballew!

Next time you call or visit the Cherrydale Alumni House, you'll be greeted by a new face and voice. Tina Hayes Ballew '78 has joined the Alumni Office as departmental assistant.

Tina previously served as guest coordinator for the Admissions Office, setting up visits for thousands of prospective students each year. And she comes from exceptional Furman stock: Her mother, Evelyn Hayes, is a Furman grad, and her son, Greg Dover, is a rising senior.

A Greenville native, Tina is married to Joe Ballew and loves spending time with her family, which includes two stepsons and a granddaughter.

Tina replaces Lu Gillespie, who retired in late March after 17 years at Furman, the last 15 as departmental assistant. Lu made many friends for Furman with her cheerful demeanor and helpful attitude. She looks forward to spending more time with her four sons, three grandchildren and husband, Carroll, who retired from Furman in 1994 after 29 years on the Facilities Services staff.

Furman Clubs heat up the summer

How do incoming freshmen meet fellow students, network with alumni from their area and enjoy good food — all in one setting? At Furman Summer Send-offs! This year Furman Clubs sponsored more than 20 send-offs across the country for the Class of 2008.

The largest Furman Club event of the summer was the Atlanta picnic, which was held at Turner Field, home of the Braves. Furman folks had the entire facility to themselves, and everyone enjoyed touring the Braves' dugout and museum, a cookout dinner and a performance by the Furman Singers.

Furman Clubs will sponsor a number of football tailgates this fall. On September 11, alumni in Birmingham, Ala., will gather for the Paladins' game against Samford, and Furman faithful in Pittsburgh will get together Friday, September 24, before the Paladin-Panther clash the next day. The Triad (N.C.) Furman Club will tailgate at the Elon game October 23, and a tailgate event and canned food drive will highlight the Furman-Wofford clash November 23.

Ski trip set

The first Furman Alumni Association-sponsored ski trip to Park City and The Canyons, Utah, will be held March 2-6. Prices begin at $1,000 per person (based on double occupancy) for four nights at the Sundial Resort located at The Canyons. Price includes lodging, ground transportation, three full day lift tickets, two after-ski happy hours, NASTAR ski race, and a sleigh ride five-course dinner. E-mail melanie.krone@furman.edu or call her at 1-800-PURPLE3 to find out more.
50  
Next reunion in 2005  
Dill Blackwell of Travelers Rest, S.C., has been re-elected to a six-year term as chair of the Legislative Audit Council, which he has led since 1995. The council conducts investigations and audits of state agencies upon request of the South Carolina General Assembly.

53  
Next reunion in 2008  
Frank Russell has retired after a 49-year career as an educator in Greenwood (S.C.) County, the last 36 of which were spent as director of the Greenwood County Career Center.

54  
This year is reunion!  
Bob Townes is listed in the 110th edition of Who’s Who in America. He has been appointed to the Mars Hill College President’s Board of Advisors.

59  
This year is reunion!  
Oran and Charlotte DeVinney ’60 Nabors were honored during Ministers Week at Texas Christian University, where they received the 2004 Distinguished Minister Award for Pastoral Ministry given by TCU’s Brite Divinity School. Now retired from full-time ministry, the Nabors are serving as transitional ministers in Ardmore, Okla.

61  
Next reunion in 2006  
Buddy Moore has been called as pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Pickens County, S.C.

62  
Next reunion in 2007  
Libby Harrill Mitchell is a candidate for the state Senate in Maine. She previously served a total of nine terms in the state House of Representatives, where she was majority leader and Speaker. She is a public policy fellow at the Edmund Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine, where she is also enrolled in law school. ■ A track scholarship honoring Thad and Harriette Whitworth ’60 Talley has been established at Brevard (N.C.) College by former athletes at the school, where Thad coached in the late 1960s. The Talleys live in Summerville, S.C.

64  
Next reunion in 2006  
Eugene J. Godbold, Jr., Georgia president of Bank of America, has been named to the Buckhead Coalition, an organization of business and civic leaders in Atlanta that works to improve the quality of life in the community.

65  
Next reunion in 2007  
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73  
Next reunion in 2008  
“Nature Revealed,” an exhibit of wooden sculptures and vessels by Russ Hunt, was on display this spring at the Elliott University Center of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. ■ Henry Parr of Greenville has been appointed to the board of trustees of South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness. ■ Thomas Sparks is pastor of Conyers (Ga.) Presbyterian Church. He was a teacher before enrolling in seminary and was pastor of churches in Oklahoma and Kansas before going to Conyers.

74  
This year is reunion!  
Duo pianists Linda Dayton Denney and Ann Hollingsworth ’75 Guest were invited performers at the centenary of the birth of Hungarian concert pianist Lili Kraus. Their performance took place last summer in Burnsville, N.C. ■ Dave Koss has been promoted to the position of account director with Jackson-Dawson Integrated Marketing Communications in Greenville.

75  
Next reunion in 2005  
Richard Yocke of Huntington, W. Va., is a regional teacher educator at West Virginia University Institute of Technology. He is also an official for high school football and an umpire for high school softball.

76  
Next reunion in 2006  
James Cheetham, who has worked for non-profit food banks in Augusta, Ga., and Atlanta for the last 20 years, is network systems manager for the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

77  
Next reunion in 2007  
Janet Cone is the new director of athletics at the University of North Carolina-Asheville. She was previously associate director of athletics at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

79  
This year is reunion!  
Jim Ewe is CEO of GoAhead Software, a small startup company in Seattle, Wash., which makes high availability solutions for telecom equipment and other devices.

80  
Next reunion in 2005  
James Alexander of Seneca, S.C., has earned a master’s degree in mythological studies. ■ Melissa DuPuy of Nashville, Tenn., owns a production company in which she engineers and produces independent albums, jingles and professional demos for songwriters and publishing companies. ■ Carolyn Cunningham Hamberg has joined the Greenville firm of Design Strategies as a construction administrative assistant and senior CADD designer, responsible for producing architectural drawings for all project phases. ■ Dennis McClellan has been named vice president of corporate development for Columbia, Md.-based MedStar Health, a community healthcare organization. He was formerly an assistant dean at the engineering school of the University of Maryland.

82  
Next reunion in 2007  
John Clanton, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Field Band and conductor...
of the Soldiers’ Chorus, led the Armed Forces Chorus at the funeral services for President Reagan in June. ■ Industrial Supplies Inc., a wholesale distributor of industrial piping supplies, has hired Jeffrey Johnson as the company’s sales branch manager in Spartanburg, S.C. ■ Lori Binninger Salley, a certified public accountant, has been named a partner in the firm of C.C. McGregor & Company, L.L.P., in Orangeburg, S.C.

83

Next reunion in 2008

J. Ligon Duncan III, minister of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Miss., was elected moderator of the Presbyterian Church of America at the group’s 32nd General Assembly in June. He is an adjunct professor at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, a council member of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals, chair of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, and secretary of the board of Belhaven College. ■ Karen Parks has been named assistant professor of music at Kennesaw (Ga.) State University. ■ Mike Stewart has left the military and is a senior analyst for The Wexford Group International in Leavenworth, Kan. He is completing coursework toward a doctorate in American history at the University of Kansas.

84

This year is reunion!

Ross Keith Dover of Travelers Rest, S.C., is a wireless sales specialist with SunCom.

85

Next reunion in 2005

Sherri Cothern Bishop and her husband, Kevin, have moved to Lexington, S.C., where she works for Lexington School District One. ■ Paul Keller of Clearwater, Fla., a risk management specialist with the Pinellas County government, recently returned from a yearlong stint in Iraq with the Army Reserves. ■ Yvette Shook Reid is a systems manager with tesa tape inc. in Charlotte, N.C. ■ Angela Cox Roberts of Simpsonville, S.C., is a technical information specialist with the Reynolds Company. ■ Lon Southerland of Middleburg, Va., is a Starbucks Coffee Company regional manager and also owns Aardvark Fly Fishing Outfitters. He swims with USA Masters.

ADOPTIONS: George and Gina Sweet, two children from the Ukraine, a son, Luke Sergei, age 8, and a daughter, Katie Olena, age 6, July 2003. George is pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Finecastle, Va.

86

Next reunion in 2006

Blair Bass of Charlotte, N.C., is vice president of Qorval Integrated Solutions. ■ BIRTHS: Mark and Pamela Landers, a daughter, Madeline, February 10. Mark, a lieutenant colonel and military intelligence expert in the U.S. Army, has assumed command of the 233rd Base Support Battalion in Darmstadt, Germany. ■ Don and Sandra Hack ’87 Polaski, a son, William John, May 3, Richmond, Va.

Luce Scholar Shirk heads to Taiwan

For the second year in a row, a Furman graduate enrolled in medical school has been named a Luce Scholar by the Henry Luce Foundation.

Arianna McClain Shirk ’02, a third-year medical student at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, departed in mid-August for a year in Pingtung, Taiwan, through the sponsorship of the Luce program, which provides annual support and internships in Asia for up to 15 young Americans. The program’s purpose is to increase awareness about Asia among future leaders in American society.

Richard Brooks ’00, a medical student at Duke University, was a 2003-04 Luce Scholar in Thailand. Candidates for the prestigious award must be American citizens who hold at least a bachelor’s degree and who are no more than 29 years old on September 1 of the year they are selected. Furman is one of only 65 institutions in the nation invited to nominate candidates for the award.

Shirk says that, assuming all goes as planned, she will work with an acupuncture and reflexology specialist at Pingtung Christian Hospital. In addition, she hopes to be active in such areas as adolescent and teen-age health promotion and care for homebound, elderly and terminal patients. She also expects to have opportunities “to visit mountain area aboriginal Taiwanese tribes, serve foreign women married to Taiwanese nationals, teach English to children with muscular dystrophy, work with deaf and muscular dystrophy patients, and study the Chinese language.”

Once she completes her medical studies, Shirk plans to earn a master’s degree in public health and to pursue a somewhat unconventional career track by establishing a self-sufficient medical clinic either in the United States or abroad. Her year in Taiwan, she believes, will provide fresh perspectives and offer her the chance “to see medicine and the people it serves with new eyes.”

She adds, “I am stunned at the brazen confidence with which our schools assert that Western methods are the most sophisticated and most effective. The more I realize what I do not understand about Asian culture and diversity, the more the idea of a year of learning, teaching and growing in a society different from my own excites me. I’ll have the opportunity to better understand our cultural similarities and to determine the strengths of our differences.”

Shirk, a Truman Scholar during her Furman days, will be accompanied by her husband, David ’02. “He is thrilled to have a year to explore a new part of the world,” she says. “The Luce program is unique in its ability to enable and even encourage spouses to act as ambassadors as well.”

Besides Shirk and Brooks, Furman’s other Luce Scholar was Cass DuRant ’89, who worked in a think tank in South Korea in 1996-97.
87
Next reunion in 2007

88
Next reunion in 2008
Robert Bailey of Chicago earned his law degree and passed the Illinois Bar exam earlier this year. He is continuing to pursue work as an actor. ■ Douglas Mitchell of Perrysburg, Ohio, is president of Munro Enterprises.

This year is reunion!
Bruce Bain has become a financial planner with First Command Financial Planning in Beaufort, S.C. ■ Walter Landow practices bankruptcy law with Fuller & McKay in Rome, Ga. ■ Elizabeth Jones Smith has joined the Greenville law firm of Gallivan, White & Boyd. Her specialties include health care and complex litigation.


90
Next reunion in 2005
Bobby Daugherty is a member of the University of North Carolina-Asheville Foundation Board of Directors. He is first vice president for investments and portfolio manager at Smith Barney in Asheville and also owns Hamilton Refuse and General Hauling. He has been board chair for Travelers Aid of Metro Atlanta and volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. ■ Ted Elder is women’s soccer coach at Goldey-Beacom College in Delaware. ■ Gina Wilkie Gaillard of Albuquerque, N.M., is director of planned giving and major gifts at All Faiths Receiving Home. She is also interning with a photography studio. ■ Todd Price of Miami, Fla., has been promoted to vice president of the international division at Atlanta Attachment Company. ■ Jerry Salley of Carrboro, N.C., is a writer and editor with Eli Research. ■ Jerry and Liz Ennis ’91 Spearman have moved to Greenwood, S.C., where he works at the Stoney Point Golf Club. ■ Natalie Ellen Hall Vest of Simpsonville, S.C., works in strategic outsourcing with IBM Global Services.


91
Next reunion in 2006
Don Clardy, formerly a partner with the law firm of Gallivan, White & Boyd, has joined Northshore Capital, a Greenville mergers and acquisitions firm, as vice president. He represents regional companies interested in buying or selling a business. ■ Barbara Koosa Ryan is a senior tax manager with Grant Thornton, LLP, in Columbia, S.C. ■ BIRTHS: Wayne and Jennifer Sherrill Davis, a daughter, Lindsay Warren, February 10, Willow Spring, N.C. ■ James and Brigid Downs, a daughter, Mary McNeil, December 23, Charlotte, N.C. ■ Stephen and Sally Logan Lookadoo, a son, Samuel Logan, May 27, 2003, Simpsonville, S.C. ■ David and Julie Wright Silander, a daughter, Caroline Hamilton, January 24, Charlotte, N.C.

92
Next reunion in 2007
Manning Connors III has been elected an equity partner with Smith Moore LLP, a law firm with offices in North Carolina and in Atlanta. ■ Carl Sullivan of New York City received two Jesse H. Neal National Business Journalism awards as part of team coverage for Editor & Publisher magazine, where he is editor of the Web site. The Neal awards are the most prestigious honors for business-to-business journalism. Carl contributed to the magazine’s “State of the Sunday Newspaper,” which took the top prize for “Best Subject-Related Series of Articles.” He also contributed to the magazine’s coverage of journalism during the Iraq war, which won for “Best News Coverage.” ■ Following service in Kosovo and Iraq with the U.S. Marine Corps, Keith Sykes has returned to the Department of Justice as a special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration. ■ While working for United Parcel Service in Louisville, Ky., Alysia Murphy Wilson took part in a joint research effort with Massachusetts Institute of Technology that won second place in the 2003 Franz Edelman Award for Achievement in Operations Research and the Management Sciences. The award recognizes “outstanding implemented work that has had a significant, positive impact on the performance of the client organization.” ■ MARRIAGES: Maryam Barbara Haddad and Paul Rupard Sanders III, May 22. She is a nurse epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and he is a consultant with PRS Technology Solutions, Inc. ■ Kristin Magnacca and Ben Woiverton, June 28, 2003. They live in Raleigh, N.C.

Rebecca, January 7, Los Angeles. Laura is a film and television actor and a part-time lawyer with Kauff, McClain & McGuire.

93 Next reunion in 2008
Lewis Bozard is now a realtor with Century 21 Bob Capes Realtors in Columbia, S.C. Laura Bryan has received her Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. She is a therapist for the Southwest Institute Employee Assistance Program. Ashley Gaines is a physician with Medical Arts Internal Medicine in Concord, N.C. In June, Alexander Stubb was elected to the European Parliament to represent Finland. Stubb, a member of the National Coalition Party, has worked for the Finnish Foreign Ministry and been an advisor to European Commission president Romano Prodi.

BIRTHS: Ed and Liz Albright, a daughter, Anna Marie, May 1, 2003, Columbus, Ga. Bruce and Julie Steinfield Clary, a daughter, Kaitlyn Nance, January 19, Spartanburg, S.C. Ron and Megan Heist ’94 Garner, a daughter, Molly, April 3, 2003, Wilmore, Ky. Kevin ’94 and Jennifer May Heddletheaite, a daughter, Rachel Ann, December 9, Douglasville, Ga. Chad and Leah Jackson, a daughter, Kate, March 2, Cypress, Texas. Chad is major account manager with Ventana Medical Systems. Taylor and Delacey Davis Riley, a son, Liam Taylor, January 26, Greenwood, S.C. Scott and Nan Young Smith, a son, Marshall Attison, February 8, Greenwood, S.C. Monty and Elizabeth Anne Hillmer Walton, a daughter, Anna Elizabeth, March 18, Knoxville, Tenn. The Waltons have started Cross Point Ministries and are in the process of building a Christian retreat.

94 This year is reunion!
Kamaal Anas of Greer, S.C., is vice president of technical operations for Equi-Tox Pharma. Dan Benton is now a senior applications architect with Kemper Auto and Home in Jacksonville, Fla. Todd Hester of Henderson, N.C., is pastor at Cotton Memorial Presbyterian Church. Jed Howington has joined a private practice in radiation oncology in Augusta, Ga. Wayne and Courtney Pendle are directors of children’s ministries at Rescue Atlanta, an inner-city church. Wayne previously worked in technology and business consulting. Becky Rogers of Roanoke, Va., is a reading specialist in Roanoke City Public Schools. She Sherbert has returned to Furman’s ROTC department after being deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MARRIAGES: Jen Frankenberg and Michael Parker, October. She is marketing director for an architectural firm and he is a paramedic and firefighter. They live in Waxhaw, N.C. Suzanne Jackson and Greg Nagy, September 27, 2003. They live in Charlotte, N.C.

BIRTHS: Benjamin and Sarah Wilk Bloodworth, a daughter, Annastasia Noelie, April 7, Ocean Springs, Miss. Paul and Amy Kemp Comer, a son, Paul Brady, December 15, Mount Pleasant, S.C. Amy is market research manager with Blackbaud, Inc. Michael and Alison Fey, a daughter, Lauren Miller, March 2, Charlotte, N.C. Michael and Tammy Kerr ’97 Hardy, a son, Michael Cole, April 6, Lexington, S.C. Jay and Llawayne Partin Wright, a daughter, Caroline Anne, April 8, 2003, Doylestown, Pa. Eric and Jeana Samples Yates, a daughter, Victoria Lynn, July 3, 2003. Jeana is project manager for a research lab at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and Eric is pursuing a Doctor of Music degree at Northwestern.

95 Next reunion in 2005
Lisa Couch teaches English at J.L. Mann High School in Greenville. Her husband, David Williams ’96, works for an engineering firm. Mary Beth Ponder of Boca Raton, Fla., is employed by Dr. Notes, Inc., as a trainer and implementer. Dr. Notes is a medical documentation software program that enables offices to become paperless and chartless. Charles Volkert III of Miami Beach, Fla., has been promoted to vice president for Robert Half International’s legal division, managing the company’s 32 offices in North America.

Mary Margaret Shingler Hyatt, a son, Charles Manning, January 20, Columbia, S.C. Mary Margaret is an attorney with McAngus, Gouldelock & Courie.  ■ Chad and Brandi Holsonback Jones, a daughter, Maggie Elizabeth, December 14, Greenwood, S.C.  ■ Jeff and Shannah Montgomery, a son, Ethan James, April 14, Athens, Ga.  ■ Thomas and Carrie-Lynn Codega Pominian, twins, Chloe Lynn and Sophia Lynn, March 19, Alpharetta, Ga. Carrie-Lynn is a customer training manager with Datastream Systems.  ■ Kevin and Marisa Edwards Ray, a daughter, Haley Jade, September 17, 2003, Thomasville, N.C.

96

Next reunion in 2006

Alan Alewine, assistant professor of mathematics at McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill., is a charter member of the school’s chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.  ■ Carmen Ashley is a junior account executive at Brains on Fire in Greenville. She is a volunteer with Greenville Family Partnership.

■ Franklin Lemond of Alpharetta, Ga., has earned a law degree from Georgia State University. ■ BIRTHS: Paul ’98 and Lisa Sexton Aiesi, a son, Nicholas Morrell, February 25. Paul is vice president for acquisitions with TIC Properties in Greenville.

■ Tom and Rebecca Powell Austin, a son, Jackson Thomas, May 3, Jackson, Miss.  ■ Chet and Amy Parsons Breazeale, a daughter, Susann Elyse, February 5, Pickens, S.C.  ■ Tim and Suzanne Mackey Frye, a daughter, Caroline Elizabeth, February 19, Colorado Springs, Colo. ■ Walter and Kristin King, a son, Mason Nolan, April 1, Hickory, N.C. ■ Joseph and Tara Copeland Lambloy, a son, Daniel Stephen, October 2, Woodstock, Ga.  ■ Rob and Suzie Vander Ploeg ’97 Powell, a daughter, Morgan Abigail, December 31. Rob is a dentist and Suzie is a veterinarian in Greenville. ■ Sean and Leslie Coates ’99 Rogers, a son, Elijah Langston, April 2, Athens, Ga. Leslie teaches Latin and advanced literature at Oconee County High School. ■ Wes ’98 and Catherine Ray Sullivan, a son, Scott Aiden, May 7, Seneca, S.C. Wes is a senior consultant at Clemson University.

97

Next reunion in 2007

Marjorie Avent is pursuing an Ed.S. degree in the counselor education program at the University of South Carolina. ■ Allison Fields is public relations and promotions manager at the Alliance Theatre in the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta. ■ Scott Jarrett has been named music director of the Back Bay Chorale in Boston. He is completing a doctorate at Boston University and was recently named director of music and university organist and choirmaster at the school’s Marsh Chapel. He has also been named music director and conductor of the Oratorio Singers, the chorus of the Charlotte (N.C.) Symphony. ■ Robert Jetton of Cary, N.C., is a doctoral candidate and research assistant at North Carolina State University. ■ Brian Phillips practices real estate and corporate law with Constitution Law Associates in Rock Hill, S.C. ■ Susan Penick Thompson of Marietta, Ga., is vice president for government affairs with the WellStar Health System. ■ Josh Trevino of Frederick, Md., previously a speechwriter and communications coordinator for the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is now a senior consultant for global health affairs with Booz Allen Hamilton. ■ MARRIAGE: Kim Corpening and Jeramiah Dooley, March 21. Kim works in the information services department of Carolinas HealthCare System and Jeramiah is a senior network analyst with MedCath, Inc. They live in Charlotte, N.C.

■ BIRTHS: Mickey and Lynne Andrews Bruns, a daughter, Therese Elizabeth, December 6, Virginia Beach, Va. ■ Kenneth ’98 and Jennie Randall Dwyer, a son, Timothy Jordan, September 22, 2003, Cameron, N.C. Kenneth is in the U.S. Army. ■ Scott and Meghan Smith Dykes, a son, William Henry, February 28, Louisville, Ky. ■ Wayne and Wendy Harsha, a daughter, Emma Catherine, January 27, Spanaway, Wash. Wayne is a physician in the U.S. Army. ■ Sonny and Sarah Jones, a daughter, Mary Kathleen, March 19, Columbia, S.C. Sonny has finished medical school and will pursue a career in general surgery in Columbia. ■ Gregg and Dorothy Hanckel Lancaster, a daughter, Mary Kathryn, October 24, Charleston, S.C. ■ Chris and Alisha Skinner Looper, a son, Thomas Christopher, Jr., March 26. Chris and Alisha teach in Greenville County, and both recently earned master’s degrees in education from Southern Wesleyan University. Alisha is a national board certified teacher.


98

Next reunion in 2008

After two years in Jamaica with the Foreign Service, Terry Alston has returned to Washington, D.C., where he is learning to speak Russian prior to a tour in Bakú. ■ Amy Hutchison McKee is a career counselor in Fort Polk, La. ■ Grace Dayrl Strother of Mount Pleasant, S.C., is a customer support analyst with Blackbaud, Inc.


■ Christy Foree and Shelby Ricketts, April 3. They live in Dallas, Texas, where Christy is director of marketing at the American Airlines Center and Shelby is chief operating officer for the Concote Corporation. ■ BIRTHS: Tim and Erika Harper Remley, a daughter, Sydney Elizabeth, February 23. ■ Kemmons III and Allison Wilson, a daughter, Ava Carrington, May 12, Memphis, Tenn.

99

This year is reunion!

Nikki LaCount Brandt of Taylors, S.C., has earned a Master of Accountancy degree from Gardner-Webb University. ■ Meg Calnon of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., recently earned an M.B.A. degree from the University of North Florida and completed an internship with the men’s professional tennis circuit (ATP Tour). She now works for the Jacksonville Jaguars of the National Football League. ■ Chara Crane of Charleston, S.C., is an associate attorney practicing real estate and commercial litigation with Buist, Byars, Pearce and Taylor, LLC. ■ John Erter of Menlo Park, Calif., works as an account executive for...
Fisher Investments, a money management firm in Woodside, Calif. Elizabeth Malphrus Hart is an administrative coordinator at Clemson University, working for school president Jim Baker. Shaw Henry, Jr., has been promoted to senior planner of the current planning and development services division in the Community Development Department of Bluffton, S.C. Nicole Judd and Jason Kellett have joined Gallivan, White & Boyd in Greenville as associate attorneys. Nicole's specialties include commercial litigation, health care and construction law, and Jason's are product liability, construction, labor and employment law. Brigid Kennedy, volleyball coach at Magnificat High School in Rocky River, Ohio, has been named the school's athletic director. Liz Hankla Smith is a dietitian at the Children's Hospital of Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn. Katja Wolski, a student at the University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa, has received a grant/scholarship for graduate research from the German Academic Exchange Service. She will start the seven-month predoctoral fellowship October 1 at the Institute for Hormone and Fertility Research at the University of Hamburg.


Next reunion in 2005
Bob Askin has been named director of marketing and promotions at Marshall University in Huntington, W. Va. He previously worked for ScheerSports, Inc., in Greenville. Stephen Baggett, Jr., now lives in Greenwood, S.C., and is an associate in the McDonald Patrick law firm. As a member of the U.S. Army Chorus, Carey Cannon sang at the burial service for President Reagan in June. Christopher Colwell has joined the Brush Law Firm in Charleston, S.C. Jenelle Cordell graduated from the Medical College of Ohio and was scheduled to begin her pediatric residency at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Fla., in June. Ethan and Christa McCain '01 Friddle earned Master of Divinity degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary in May. Ethan received the Samuel Wilson Blizzard Memorial Award for social ministry and Christa received the Jean Anne Snape and James L. Mecmeh Prize in Christian Ethics. Amanda Trasher Hobbs planned to begin work in August toward her master's degree at George Mason University, with a concentration in American history and historic preservation. Nicole Maglio is an attorney with MacKay, Wynn & Brady, LLP, in New York, a firm that specializes in civil litigation.

Adam McGlashan earned his master's degree in applied economics and now works in the Macroeconomic Analysis Section of the Division of Research and Statistics at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, D.C. Nicole Pascoe of Greenville, who previously worked with the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, is now an account executive with TiBA Solutions, LLC. Melissa Roberts of Tallahassee, Fla., is a staff scientist with WRS Infrastructure and Environment. David Schilling graduated from the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at the University of Kentucky and is a defense analyst with the U.S. General Accounting Office. Lewis Tyson Smoak, Jr., previously a sales representative with Schering-Plough, is now a national account executive with Bumper2Bumper Media Inc. in Greenville. Eric Starr of Marina Del Rey, Calif., is an advertising strategic planner working on the Apple/IPod and PS2 accounts with Chiat Day in Los Angeles. He recently captained a 50-foot sailboat on a voyage abroad. Richard Stewart is an associate attorney with Gallivan, White & Boyd in Greenville, practicing in the areas of tort and insurance litigation. Gustavo Suarez has joined the Greenville law office of Haynsworth Baldwin, working with employment law issues. He was inducted into the University of Georgia School of Law Order of the Coif in April. Brittany Williams of Duluth, Ga., is a community impact coordinator with the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. She is studying for an M.B.A. degree. BIRTH: Robert and Sara Rosenblum James, a son, David Robert, March 3, Temecula, Calif.

Next reunion in 2006
Michelle Abraham has earned a Master of Arts degree in Christian education and in ministry-based evangelism from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Deno Adkins has earned a double master's degree (M.B.A. and Master of Health Administration) from Georgia State University. He is an administrative fellow with the Moses Cone Health System in Greensboro, N.C. Veronica Colvard has received her J.D. degree from the Walter F. George School of Law of Mercer University. In October, Johnlee Curtis is scheduled to enter the World Trade Institute in Berne, Switzerland, to study for a master's degree in international law and economics. Courtney Denning received her master's degree in social work from East Carolina University and lives in Annapolis, Md., where she is a social worker with Genesis Elder Care. Kyle DeWitt has joined the technical support department of ScanSource Inc. in Greenville as solutions support engineer. Shane Golden of Birmingham, Ala., is a forensic scientist with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences in the Implied Consent Unit. He was scheduled to receive his 2004-2005 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Entrepreneurial bent

Andrew Kurtz's first job after graduating from Furman in 1987 was as an accountant with PriceWaterhouse. Working at the firm's Greenville branch, he conducted audits and chartered business expenditures.

By interviewing company executives, examining spreadsheets and scrutinizing costs, Kurtz became familiar with the complexities of running a small business. At first he found the work fascinating, but after a few months the novelty wore off.

"I became bored. When you audit you always go back in time," says Kurtz. "I didn't like working in the past and wanted to be able to make decisions that would have a direct impact on the future of a business."

Since resigning from PriceWaterhouse in the fall of 1988, Kurtz has been making those impact decisions for himself. During the last 16 years, he has served as a key officer in one start-up company, founded two others and established a reputation as an entrepreneurial leader in the fast-changing field of information technology.

To be sure, riding the entrepreneurial roller coaster has, at times, been an emotional strain. But Kurtz and his wife, Heidi Schmidt Kurtz '87, have enjoyed the ride.

Today the couple, who met during their freshman year at a Pi Kappa Phi fraternity function, are pouring most of their energies into Vigilix, a software company they launched last October in Greenville. Andrew is president and chief executive of Vigilix and its sister venture they launched last October in Greenville, Biltmore Estates and several electrical cooperatives, can best be described as a "real-time event and notification system."

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The systems — mostly computer panels designed to extract, share and record data from an existing manufacturing process — helped floor managers coordinate production activity, manage inventory and reduce assembly line downtime.

As demand for these services increased in the fast-growing manufacturing sector of the Upstate, Kurtz left Symco in 1989 and co-founded a competing firm, Turn-key Integration Inc. But then a recession hit, and the fledgling company struggled until industrial activity rebounded in 1994.

Around that time, Kurtz noticed the increasing presence of personal computers on the manufacturing floor and assembled a group of engineers and programmers to custom-develop Windows-based tools for manufacturing clients. This innovative approach further improved efficiency for his customers.

Kurtz sold his interest in Turn-key in 1999 and founded ProActive Technology. ProActive's client list reads like a Who's Who of manufacturing companies in Upstate South Carolina and includes BMW, Datastream and Fluor Daniel.

While working with BMW on a project in 2001, ProActive employees hatched the idea of developing a flexible, "event management" software. The pilot software, successfully implemented at BMW, is now being marketed as Vigilix.

Speaking from his second-floor office on Main Street in Greenville, Kurtz says that more than half of his 15 employees at ProActive, four of whom are Furman graduates, spend most of their time on the Vigilix product.

Kurtz and Vigilix have caused a stir in both information technology and entrepreneurial circles in South Carolina. Last fall Innovation, an Upstate consortium of information and technology-focused businesses, selected Vigilix as a finalist for its "small enterprise" award. Kurtz was also one of nine executives invited to make a presentation at a conference in Greenville that attracted some of the region's top venture capitalists.

For Kurtz, the past year has been a heady one. Instead of tending to mostly Greenville-based clients, he is now a one-man mass marketing machine, spending much of his time flying around the country — and sometimes overseas — to pitch Vigilix.

"It's been a major transition for me," he says. "But it's exciting."

— John Roberts
Master of Science degree in forensic sciences in May. • Laura Goss is in her fourth year of medical school at the University of Tennessee-Memphis. • Sally Payne Grantham of Florence, S.C., is project manager for the Extend Team at ACS Technologies. • Justin Lee is in the second year of a Master of Divinity program at Moody Graduate School in Chicago. • Scott Martin was awarded the John Ordonaux Prize for graduating with the highest academic average in his class at Columbia University Law School this spring. He is working as a law clerk for Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Pasadena, Calif. • Rachel May is Medical Company executive officer in the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. • Anne-Leigh Gaylord Moe of Phoenix, Ariz., has been elected editor-in-chief of the Arizona State Law Journal. She worked for the Phoenix law firm of Jennings Strouss & Salmon this summer. • Lori Helms Odell lives in San Diego, Calif., where her husband, David, is a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps. Lori is an office automation clerk for Marine Corps Community Services. • Having completed a graphic design program at the Portfolio Center in Atlanta, Hillary Powell has joined the Leslie Agency in Greenville as a studio artist. • Edward Schaffer is a graduate student in industrial engineering at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. • After graduating in May from Duke University School of Law, Darcy Walker moved to Dallas, Texas, and was to start work with Hughes & Luce, LLP, this fall. • MARRIAGES: Hayward Bouknight and Whitney Goodwin, May 29. Having graduated from law school at Washington & Lee, they live in Charlotte, N.C. Whitney works in the corporate group at Kennedy Coving and Heyward clerks for the Hon. N. Carlton Tilley, Jr. • Brian Lingerfelt and Louise Parsons, July 12, 2003. Louise earned a Master of Science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Virginia and has enrolled at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond to pursue a Ph.D. Brian has completed his second year of medical school at VCU. • Sara Kathryn Norman and Chandler Berry Todd, May 1. Sara is a physician assistant at Family Practice Associates in Union, S.C., and Chandler has begun a residency in family medicine in Greenwood, S.C. • Ashleigh Smith and Preston Powers, September 15, 2003. They live in Chapel Hill, N.C., where Ashleigh earned an M.A. in political science at the University of North Carolina and is now working on a doctoral dissertation in political psychology.

02 Next reunion in 2007

Sarah Adams is administrative coordinator for new programs at First-Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Neb. Her engagement to Chris Bainbridge was featured on The Learning Channel's "Perfect Proposal" program, broadcast in May. • Nikki Mae Kennedy, a student at the University of Miami School of Law in Florida, is working in the Environmental Crimes Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office. • Ryan Koon, previously a research specialist with GenPhar Inc. in Mount Pleasant, S.C., has been appointed director of the comprehensive nature program at Charleston Collegiate School. • Erin Lytle has earned a master's degree in social and public policy, with a concentration in policy analysis and administration, from Duquesne University. She graduated summa cum laude. • Mac MacArthur has become the assistant director of student life at the University of South Carolina-Spartanburg. • Meredith Moore is a research and teaching assistant at Clemson University, where she is studying for a master's degree in English. • Jill Zimmerman was among the 2004 class of graduate fellows of the Trinity Forum Academy in Royal Oak, Md. The academy's nine-month residency course provides recent college graduates with a holistic experience that ties together work, world view and way of life. • MARRIAGES: Adam Crittenden Bach and Jamesons Hansford Van Riper, May 22. They live in Columbia where Adam is in law school at the University of South Carolina. • Lyndsey Erin Coker and Stephen Brad Sloan, May 15. She is leadership giving manager at United Way in Greenville, and he works for Nexen Pruet. • Eugenia Lee Holman and Russell Howard Blake, May 8. She attends the Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing. He is employed by Seamon, Whitesides and Associates, Inc., in Mount Pleasant, S.C., where they live. • Becca Lane and Gabriel Swinney, March 11. Becca was previously an AmeriCorps volunteer in Asheville, N.C. They moved to Alaska in July. • Bill Zachar and Abbey Diehm '03, March 13. They live in Jacksonville, Fla.

03 Next reunion in 2008

Kristy Rollins attends the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia. • MARRIAGE: Esther Jo Henderson (M.A.) and Neal Peter Pierotti, April 3. They live in Greenville where he is an attorney with Dority and Manning. She teaches at Blue Ridge Middle School.
of Junior League of Riverside, Pink Lady of Riverside Community Hospital, Founders Club of Riverside Community Hospital, and other groups.

Esther Alexander Shockley '35, March 13, Columbia, S.C. She taught in the Greenville County schools and retired from Shriners’ Hospital for Crippled Children, where she taught for 19 years.

Mary Frances Hammett '36, May 1, Greenville. She was a caseworker for the Greenville County Welfare Department, after which she earned a nursing degree and became a nursing instructor. She later went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and was appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to serve in Nigeria. After returning to the States and teaching at Greenville Technical College, she was reappointed as a career missionary to Tanzania. She retired in 1979 with the status of career missionary emerita.

Landrum I. McCarrell '38, May 29, Greenville. He was employed by Armour & Co. Meat Packing Co. in Florida for several years until service in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was awarded three Battle Stars for service in England, the Rhineland and Ardennes-Alsace. He earned his medical degree in 1950 and practiced family medicine in Travelers Rest, S.C., from 1951 until his retirement in 1989. He was a member of the American Medical Association, South Carolina Medical Association and Greenville County Medical Society.

Mary Allen Edmunds Leland '39, October 31, Summerville, S.C.

Samuel Elrod Calloway '40, May 6, Anderson, S.C. He was the owner and operator of Superior Parts Co. and Keowee Auto Parts. He served on Pickens County Council for 12 years and was a member and past commander of American Legion Post 52, a member of Easley Masonic Lodge and a charter member and first president of Friendship Lion's Club. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

Edgar Washington Davis, Jr. '40, April 30, Greenwood, S.C. He worked at Greenwood High School for five years and then was associated with Abney Mills from 1951 until his retirement in 1981. He served as a trustee of Abney Mills Foundation and as a member of the advisory board of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission. He became a church music director in 1942 and was director of music at First Baptist Church of Greenwood for 39 years.

Vashti Keys Gilkerson '40, April 4, Greenville.

Thomas Jefferson Moore, Sr. '40, April 22, Grayson, Ga. He earned a law degree in 1952 and was admitted to the state Bar of Georgia. A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, he was employed with Southern Bell for 35 years. He was founding chair of the Gwinnett County Republican Party and charter president of South Gwinnett PTA. He was a 50-year member and Past Master of Grayson Masonic Lodge F&AM 549.

Eugenia Stone Cary Graft '41, March 27, Greenville. During World War II, she served with the American Red Cross in Casablanca. After the war, she worked at Greenville Army Air Base in Special Services and taught elementary school. She was a member of the Junior League, First Families of South Carolina, Huguenot Society, Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, Order of Charlemagne and the American Red Cross Overseas Association.

Frances Nelson Moore '41, May 10, Columbia, S.C. She was a former teacher.

Leo Cook Myers '41, April 8, Eutawville, S.C. She taught school for 34 years in the public and private sectors.

Harriet Elizabeth Dalton Neely '42, March 2, Greenville. She was a past president and sustaining member of the Junior Welfare League of Rock Hill, S.C., and was a member of the Pindarian Literary Club. She served on the board of directors of the United Fund and was active in the South Carolina Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

Daisy Marguerite Burdine Randle '42, May 24, Greenville. She was retired from Southern Bell.

Ann Miller Keisler '43, May 20, West Columbia, S.C. She was a substitute teacher in South Carolina public schools and was a former trustee of the Greenwood County Library.

Catherine Barber Banks '45, March 15, Bethania, N.C. She was a medical technologist who worked in hospitals in Columbia, S.C., Albuquerque, N.M., and Boston, Mass., and she worked in research at Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C. A longtime employee at Reynolda House Museum of American Art, she was named the North Carolina Art Educator of the Year in 1989.

Jean Thomas Butler '45, April 2, Charleston, S.C.

Benjamin Paul Hammack, Sr. '45, May 10, Florence, S.C. He began his career as a teacher and became a principal in 1957. He became a school superintendent in 1959 in Weldon, N.C., and went on to serve as superintendent in county schools in Elizabeth City, N.C., and Monroe, N.C. After his retirement in 1985, he taught for a few years at Wingate (N.C.) University.

Betty Fonville Carpin '46, May 23, Greenville. She was a retired social worker with the Greenville County Department of Social Services.

Herman B. McManaway, Jr. '46, April 29, Charlotte, N.C. After service in the U.S. Navy, he worked as an investment analyst until he entered banking in 1952. He went on to be president of the Young Bankers Division of the North Carolina Bankers Association. He started a small business investment corporation in 1962 but moved to the Ruddick Corp. in 1973, from which he retired in 1987 as chief financial officer. He served on the boards of the Charlotte Symphony and the Charlotte Opera.

James Lewis Brown '47, February 28, Simpsonville, S.C. He had retired after 57 years in the Baptist ministry.

Jeanne Porter Major '47, May 12, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Margaret Kelly May '47, March 28, Augusta, Ga. She was a medical technologist for more than 30 years.

Betty Lipscomb Hipp '48, April 7, Greenwood, S.C.

Peter Alexander Bybee '49, May 1, Brevard, N.C. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and was retired as a store manager with JCPenney.

Curtis Calvin Ward '49, April 30, Greenville. He was in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War, and during his service was a heavyweight boxing champion. He retired as a line transmission supervisor from Duke Power Company after 48 years. He was a member of the Masons, American Legion, Scottish Rite and Hejaz.
Harry Campbell Hammond, Sr. '50, March 9, Greenville. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps and was retired from Harris Lanier Business Products.

Talmadge Morse Crews, Sr. '51, April 25, Laurens, S.C. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II and was a former employee of AT&T and Milliken before opening a telephone company. He served on the South Carolina Board of Mental Health and received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor.

J. Faulton Hodge '51, April 22, Rutherfordton, N.C. He was a rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in West Jefferson for 20 years.

Herman McGolrick Kennickell, Jr. '51, March 18, Asheville, N.C. He commanded mineweepers during World War II and served at Naval Reserve training centers after the war. Ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in 1953, he was a chaplain in the U.S. Navy and Air Force before retiring from the Air Force in 1964. He then served as parish priest at three churches in Virginia before retiring to Asheville in 1983, where he was active in prison ministry.

Eugene Edward Edmondson '53, March 19, Wilmington, N.C.

Daisy Mann Davis '54, December 25, Belvedere, S.C. She worked in public schools.

Douglas Christopher Owens, Sr. '56, May 23, Greer, S.C. He was a U.S. Army veteran and was a physician in the Greer community for 41 years.

Alfred Joe Poole, Jr. '56, May 9, Williamsburg, Va. He was a retired hospital chaplain with Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, N.C. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers during the Korean War.

Allen B. Craven '57, March 3, Virginia Beach, Va. He was a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, serving in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1948 to 1952 and the U.S. Navy from 1960 until retiring in 1976. He founded Navy Family Services, was a former president of the Virginia chapter of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Family Therapists, and served with the Maryview Hospital Employee Assistance Program.

Jimmie Daniel Smith '57, April 23, Greenville. He served in the U.S. Army and the Army Reserves and worked for 50 years in the car rental industry. He owned Thrifty Rent-A-Car in Greenville and retired from National Car Rental at Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta.

Eileen Muckenfuss Moseley '58, April 22, Charleston, S.C. She taught school in the Orangeburg (S.C.) school system.

Carol Jolene Broad '61, April 23, Hanahan, S.C. She was a guidance counselor for Guilford County (N.C.) Schools and was active in Senior Olympics.

Suzanne Law Hasher '61 (M.A. '78), May 9, Greenville. She taught elementary music in Greenville County for 27 years and was named Teacher of the Year at Augusta Circle Elementary School in 1983. She also performed with the Greenville Little Theater.

Martha Thomason Nolen '61, May 25, Atlanta. She taught at Georgia Southern University for 20 years before retiring in 1999.

Dale Alexander Roberts '63, April 29, Spartanburg, S.C. He was retired from the music faculty of Converse College, where he taught oboe and music theory. For many years he was first oboist with the Greater Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra. His hobby was steam locomotives; he wrote for NIES magazine and was a member of the National Historical Railway Society and the Southern Railway Historical Association.

Robert Jefferson Wilson III '64, March 16, Greenville. He was commission program coordinator for Greenville County.

Clark J. Walden '65, March 11, Hampton, Va. He retired as chief probation and parole officer for the State of Virginia, District 30, Hampton.

Macala Powell Hinton, M.A. '66, April 8, Easley, S.C. She retired as a principal with Greenville County Schools after 35 years of service.

Vivian McKinney Sanderson '66, March 15, Greenville. She taught at Travelers Rest (S.C.) High School for 30 years. After her retirement, she continued teaching Life-long Learning at Sullivan Center for five years.

Jerry A. Howle '67, May 15, Reno, Nev. He was a forensic psychiatrist who practiced in Reno for almost 30 years and often testified in prominent criminal cases. He was a member of the Nevada Sanity Commission, which examines the mental stability of criminals.

James Ronald McKinney '67, May 3, Anderson, S.C. He was the senior pastor at Big Oak Baptist Church and had pastored churches in South Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia. He also served on the board of directors of "All India Prayer Fellowship." He received the Outstanding Young Men of America Award in 1974.

Ruth Folk Davidson '68, May 18, Greer, S.C.

Wilton Melvin Whitfield '70, May 21, Greenville. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran and was a self-employed roofer.

Stewart Broadus Simms, Sr. '73 (honorary), May 9, Greer, S.C. He pastored churches in Texas, North Carolina and Virginia before becoming pastor of First Baptist Church of Greer, from which he retired in 1986. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1967 to 1974 and first vice president of the convention in 1975. He was vice president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in 1971 and president in 1972, and served on the General Board from 1985 to 1989. He was also moderator of the Greer Baptist Association.

George T. Pizzi '74, May 8, Easley, S.C. He retired from the U.S. Navy after 27 years of service. After attending seminary, he pastored churches in South Carolina, Virginia and Florida and later became a counselor at Greer Memorial Baptist Church in Easley.

Donald L. Palmer '81, April 23, Austin, Texas.

Charles Blair Glennon, M.A. '84, March 6, Monterey, Calif. He had been a lieutenant in the U.S. Public Health Service and was head of the mathematics department at Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville before moving to Hawaii, where he taught at Seabury Hall in Makawao.

Tamara Cundey Dunstan '96, April 16, Augusta, Ga. She had been a registered nurse at University Hospital in Augusta.

Mindu Haze Miller '00, June 27, Atlanta. She was a director for Mary Kay, Inc., and had become an agent at the Miller Insurance Agency.
High-tech know-how

Bobbing for pig's feet in a bucket of water in front of your professional colleagues may seem like a cruel practical joke instead of a motivational stunt.

But at Optimus Solutions, it's one of a number of tools borrowed from the "Fear Factor" reality-TV show that founder Mark Metz uses to get his people excited about working at the two Atlanta-area companies where he is chief executive: Optimus Solutions and its recent spin-off, Canvas Systems.

The motivational tools range from the repulsive, such as being made to drink an awful mixture concocted by a fellow employee, to the heavenly, which includes a one-year lease on a Porsche 911 for the top sales person. (Metz counts Porsche Cars North America as a client.)

Since founding Optimus Solutions in 1998 with three colleagues, Metz has built his enterprise into one of the largest IBM partners in the Southeast, with 300 employees. The company sells hardware and software made by IBM, Cisco, Hitachi and other high-tech powerhouses to big companies, while helping companies keep their computer systems running smoothly with maintenance and upgrades.

Optimus also sells the invaluable service known as "consulting," the hands-on assistance on how to install and make all the new technology work properly. "We're not selling to mom-and-pop businesses. We're not selling PC's," says Metz, a 1985 Furman graduate.

He's also had to stay edgy in the area of employee relations: At 41 years of age, Metz is one of the oldest people on staff. He is even willing to avoid the spotlight and potential riches of Wall Street or a merger to keep his freedom.

"I do not ever want to go public, because I think that would ruin the unique environment that we have created," says Metz, who lives in Norcross with his wife and two children. "I guess I see that environment getting destroyed if we went public or were acquired. We want to stay private so that we continue to make the decisions."

The growth prospects that Metz forecasts, though, would probably catch the eye of Wall Street investment bankers. He believes Optimus will double its 2004 sales from last year, when it had revenue of about $60 million.

Since his days as a competitive swimmer at Furman in the 1980s, Metz has been thought of as someone who knew what he wanted to do, says an old college friend.

"Mark was the type of person that was successful at everything he did," says Alan Dumas '87, chief executive of Boston-based Accunet Solutions, an Optimus customer. "He always had a strong drive. There was never too much of a doubt that he'd be successful."

At Furman, Metz set five swimming records and qualified for the Olympic Trials in 1984 (and again in 1988) in breaststroke. He was an Academic All-American and was chosen Furman's Athlete of the Year in 1985.

He cites late swimming coach Howard Wheeler as one of the reasons he decided to attend Furman, rather than a larger school. "Furman's program and Howard's coaching style were a little less intense than at Florida or Auburn, and I thrived under that system," he says.

After graduation, Metz used his computing-business degree to land a job with the information technology department at Milliken & Co. in Spartanburg, S.C. His gig with the textile giant lasted less than a year before he moved to metro Atlanta to work for SunData, a now defunct IBM re-seller.

Disagreements with his boss, plus a desire to strike out on his own, led to Metz's departure from SunData, and he founded Optimus in a Gwinnett County hotel with three of his top managers in 1998.

Optimus Solutions specializes in tricky procedures, like moving all the computers, telephones and technology equipment for AGL Resources when the parent company of Atlanta Gas Light moved up the street to a new building. It was essential that the gas utility be able to move its offices without ever being completely shut off from its computer systems.

"Most companies can't take the risk of just shutting down and hope everything comes back up," says Metz, who counts among his customers a Who's Who of Atlanta's business elite: Coca-Cola Enterprises, Haverty's Furniture, SunTrust Banks.

Last year, Metz spun off a second company — a computer re-seller firm called Canvas Systems. The company, also located in Norcross, maintains $20 million worth of rebuilt computer hardware on hand at all times, ready to ship at a moment's notice to corporate customers worldwide. Canvas is actually bigger than Optimus, with $130 million in sales last year.

Oh, and there's one other incentive program for the super-elite among the sales team. Tom Bates, another Furman graduate (Class of '91), works for Canvas Systems. His reward for being the absolute top sales person? A year-long lease on a Ferrari.

— Andy Peters '92

The author is the Atlanta bureau chief for The Macon Telegraph.

In 2001 Mark Metz made Georgia Trend magazine's annual "40 Under 40" list, which recognizes the state's rising stars in business, politics, education and the arts.