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## Alumni Activities

Furman University

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## 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.*

## 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](mailto:melanie.krone@furman.edu) or call her at 1-800-PURPLE3 to find out more.