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Luce Scholar Shirk heads to Taiwan

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CLASS NOTES SUMMER 04, cont.

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 Binnicker 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.

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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.

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This year is reunion!

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

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Next reunion in 2005

Sherri Cothran 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 Fincastle, Va.

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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.



Arianna Shirk

— Jim Stewart