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Homecoming '04

Furman University

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Furmanreports

Homecoming '04

Although Homecoming is supposed to be all about alumni, FUSAB (Furman University Student Activities Board) did a good job of upstaging the traditional activities this year by sponsoring an attention-grabbing contest during the week leading up to the festivities.

Playing off "Survivor," the popular reality television series, FUSAB introduced its own version: "Furman University: The Academic Outback." In this case, rather than outwitting, outplaying and outlasting their fellow contestants in some exotic, character-testing location, six students were required to live together in a Range Rover outside the University Center from November 2-5 (three nights). As sophomore Katie Levans wrote on FUNet, the university's internal electronic news site, the goal was to win "a battle of patience, endurance, intellect and athletic ability . . . in a fight for a \$1,000 cash prize and the title of the original ultimate Furman survivor."

Eight students were initially selected from 37 applicants to take part in the event. After two were eliminated in a game-opening contest, the rest climbed into the car to launch their adventure. FU2, the campus television station, broadcast the event, and FUNet mounted a Webcam in the car. When it worked, which

'Academic Outback,' win over Georgia Southern highlight festivities

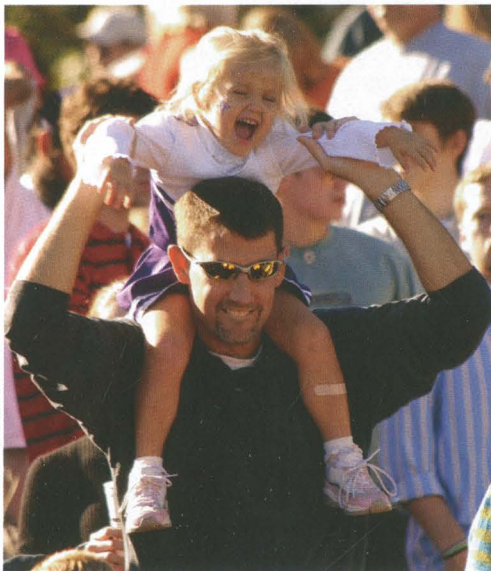


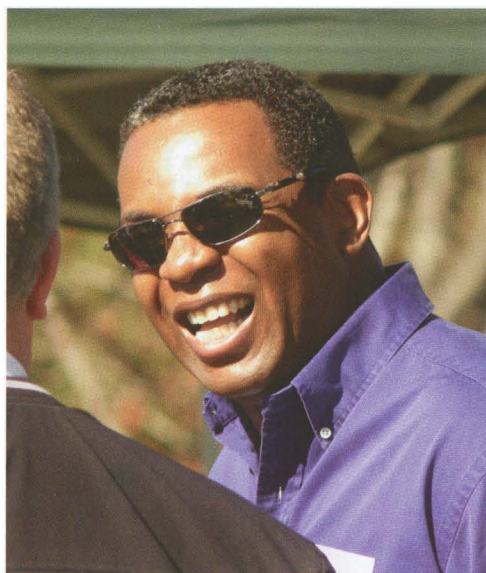
was sporadically, it allowed the curious to see how the students were doing any time of the day or night — except when they decided to block the camera.

The competitors were allowed occasional bathroom breaks and could earn "immunity" and other rewards by winning special challenges. For some reason, however, they were also required to attend classes — under the watchful eye of a

FUSAB escort. Periodically they held vehicular councils and voted out a member of the group. In the end, junior Gray Clevenger endured limited sleep, a smelly car and assorted other indignities to emerge with the ultimate reward.

Once the Academic Outback ended and Homecoming Weekend (November 5-7) officially began, the focus returned to where it belonged: on alumni.





Conveniently, autumn finally decided to put in an appearance, bringing clear skies and crisp weather to the hundreds who returned to campus to mix, mingle and reminisce. Many took advantage of the opportunity to tour the latest in Furman's collection of new-look buildings, the James B. Duke Library.

As usual, though, the key elements of Homecoming were reunions, football and special honors. Reunion gatherings for classes ending in 4 and 9 were held Saturday night at various spots in downtown Greenville, with the Hyatt Regency hosting a dance for all of those so inclined. Thanks to the Paladins' pulsating 29-22 victory over powerful Georgia Southern in front of the fourth-largest crowd to see a game in Paladins Stadium, this year's celebrations had an extra zip to them.

As for the alumni awards, the 2004 recipients were recognized, respectively, for their business acumen, social consciousness and devotion to alma mater.

Paul A. Stroup III '73, chairman of the board, president and CEO of Charlotte, N.C.-based Lance, Inc., received the Distinguished Alumni Award for his success as a businessman and his support for community causes. Stroup has worked with the Lance snack food

company ever since he graduated from Furman, rising steadily through the corporate ranks. In addition to his leadership in the snack food industry, Stroup is active in church and civic causes in Charlotte. At Furman, he is a member of the Trustees Circle and the university's Advisory Council.

Christine Matthews '96 earned the Outstanding Young Alumni Award for her work with "Clubhouse," a ministry for Greenville's low-income children that she established as a student. After she graduated, Clubhouse became her full-time vocation. She is now minister of Minus Chapel United Methodist Church — the first white woman in South Carolina to be appointed to pastor a historically black congregation — and with her husband, Kyle Thompson, she has been a foster parent to eight children. She was named a "hero" by the governor of South Carolina during the state's "Year of the Child."

George Edward Linney, Jr. '65 received the university's Alumni Service Award. A longtime member of the Paladins Club, he is a past president of the Alumni Association and is chair of the Trustees Circle. Holder of an M.D. degree from the Medical College of

Georgia, Linney, like Stroup a resident of Charlotte, is an independent healthcare consultant who has been president of the American College of Physician Executives and a member of the board of the American Group Practice Association.

Opposite page, clockwise from top: The recipients of major alumni awards were, from left, Paul Stroup '73, Christine Matthews '96 and George Linney '65; Gray Clevenger '06 (right, beside window) proved to be the ultimate survivor; Bruce Usher '89 and daughter Emilia clearly had a blast.

This page, clockwise from top right: Students reveled in the Paladins' goal-line stand in the third quarter, then stormed the field to celebrate the victory; Stanford Jennings '84, former star running back and now a member of the board of trustees, was among the alumni who enjoyed the Saturday festivities, the glorious weather, the mall displays and the talents of the Paladins Regiment. Photos by Charlie Register, Mona Register and Morgen Young