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Furman Clubs go international

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Furman alumni news

Furman Clubs go international

It started in the spring of 2004 with an e-mail to the Alumni Office from Jan Kiely, professor of history and Asian Studies. Jan had spoken with Kevin Steiner '96, who lives in Taiwan, during a Furman study abroad trip to China, and he wanted us to help Kevin set up a virtual Furman Club.

The result is the Furman in Asia Web site (www.furmaninasia.taiwanweekly.com). Kevin designed it to help alumni who are living in or interested in Asia stay connected with Furman.

The Web site was just the start of the university's new ventures in Asia. During fall term, two Furman vice presidents, Don Lineback (Development) and Tom Kazee (Academic Affairs), traveled to China and Japan for several meetings — including a historic gathering initiated by Anthony Lee '70, a resident of Hong Kong.

Anthony arranged a dinner at Anastasia, a restaurant he owns in Hong Kong's finest shopping district. Joining Anthony and the Furman administrators were four other alumni who live in Hong Kong: Robert Young '70, Pui Po '72, Andrew Lee '73 (Anthony's brother) and John Gravley '83. The meeting was historic in two ways: It was the first official meeting of an international Furman Club and, to our knowledge, was the first time that 100 percent of the alumni of record in a city attended a meeting!

The men have diverse professional interests. Robert Young is with Yip's Chemical Holdings Limited, a leading chemical firm, and Pui Po is assistant commissioner of the Hong Kong TV and Entertainment Licensing Authority, which is equivalent to our Federal Communications



Commission. Andrew and Anthony Lee are successful restaurateurs; Andrew owns a chain of 31 restaurants called "Steak Expert" and with Anthony runs a global meat importing business. John Gravley is director of social services with the American Baptist Mission.

They form the 51st Furman Club, which is expected to be instrumental in supporting the university's new China Initiative (see page 33) by helping market Furman to top students in the Hong Kong area. Andrew has offered to put information about Furman on the thousands of placemats he has printed for his steak houses.

With the Furman Club of Hong Kong in place, the Furman in Asia network now includes alumni in Japan, Taiwan, China, Myanmar, Thailand and India. These alumni can be a great resource for Furman students.

If you are interested in learning more about the Furman in Asia network, send an e-mail to me (tom.triplitt@furman.edu).

This recent flurry of international activity ties in with one of the Alumni Association's strategic goals: to "create new opportunities for alumni worldwide to become involved with Furman." Thanks to the help of alumni like those in Asia, we're doing it!

— Tom Triplitt '76

Director, Alumni Association

Above: Furman Club of Hong Kong founding members, from left, John Gravley '83, Robert Young '70, Andrew Lee '70, Anthony Lee '73 and Pui Po '72.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Save the date: October 21-23

Homecoming 2005 is set for October 21-23. Classes in reunion will be those ending in 0 and 5.

Watch for details in the coming months!

Furman Clubs gear up for new year

Furman Clubs enjoyed a memorable 2004, which closed with assorted festivities to celebrate both the end of one year and the beginning of another.

The annual Holiday Gala, held in Charleston, S.C., in December, produced another record crowd and has firmly established itself as a premier Furman event. Alumni and parents in Memphis, Tenn., also gathered for holiday cheer. To kick off the new year, the Raleigh/Durham Furman Club held a happy hour in January hosted by John Barker, director of career services.

The new year has just begun, but you may have already heard "Brown Eyes" in your town. The Furman Singers began their annual tour on February 23 and were scheduled to visit Greenwood, S.C.; Birmingham, Ala.; Baton Rouge, La.; and the Texas cities of Houston and Dallas. The tour was to end with a performance at the acclaimed Spivey Hall in Clayton, Ga. The Singers are celebrating their 59th anniversary this year and their 35th under the direction of Bingham L. Vick, Jr.

With the cold of winter pretty much behind us, spring is an active time for Furman Clubs, with plans in the works for dinners, picnics, sporting events and more. To discover what's happening at a club near you, check the Alumni Association Web site at www.furman.edu/alumni.

To learn more about Furman Club events, contact Jane Dungan, associate director of the Alumni Association, at 1-800-PURPLE3 or by e-mail, jane.dungan@furman.edu.

Trading places in the Alumni Office

Contact Jane Dungan about Furman Club events? That's a switch, isn't it?

Indeed. Jane and Melanie Krone '94 (who just became Melanie Krone Armstrong!), her compatriot in the Alumni Office, switched roles as of January 1, with Jane taking over off-campus responsibilities (such as Furman Club events) and Melanie overseeing on-campus programming (Homecoming, the alumni Web site, etc.).

Jane is an avid sports fan who is excited about attending more tailgates and outdoor events. Melanie, who last year chaired the Class of '94 reunion activities, looks forward to helping alumni with their reunion plans while keeping the Web site fresh and up-to-date.