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## Reunions spark special moments

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# Furman alumni news

## Reunions spark special moments

Since joining the staff of the Alumni Office eight months ago, I have been truly impressed by the genuine love and commitment Furman alumni have for their alma mater.

After working on my first Homecoming, I am excited about the opportunity to help plan reunion events for Homecoming 2004, November 5-7. This year, alumni in classes ending in 4 and 9 will celebrate special reunions.

Class reunions are a great way to maintain or rekindle ties with old friends and to remember how Furman has made a difference in your life and the lives of your classmates. Because Homecoming represents the largest gathering of the Furman faithful in one place each year, it is a wonderful occasion for reuniting and reminiscing.

Heartwarming stories often emerge during reunions. For example, at Homecoming 2003 James McKittrick of Simpsonville, S.C., and M.O. Owens of Gastonia, N.C., returned to share memories about their senior year as roommates — 70 years ago!

The Class of 1978 also had a special reunion story — which actually began with Jennie Brown from the Class of '94. On a trip to meet members of her boyfriend's family, she learned that his uncle, Wayne Coley, was a 1978 Furman graduate. Wayne, who now lives in Texas, ran cross country and track at Furman and won the Athlete of the Year Award as a senior.

A few years ago Wayne lost his award, along with many other personal effects, in a house fire. Insurance covered most items, but not the award. So Jennie contacted alumni director Tom Triplitt '76 to ask about getting a replacement.

After Jennie sent an old newspaper article about Wayne's award, Tom visited a local trophy shop to have it re-created. When he arrived,



he found Wayne's former high school coach working at the shop! Not only that, but the Class of '78 reunion chairs, Ed and Tricia Toole Boehmke, were two of Wayne's good friends. So Jennie's desire to help a future in-law quickly became a group effort.

In the end, no one was more surprised (or touched) than Wayne when Ed Boehmke presented him a new Athlete of the Year Award at his reunion dinner. It was an easy thing to do, but it was just one example of how the Furman family looks after its own.

The Alumni Office can help make your class reunion a memorable one as well, but we need your help. That's why we invite volunteers from each class to plan their Homecoming activities. Reunion committee members work closely with the Alumni Office to contact classmates, share ideas and make arrangements.

And if you're not sure what to do, don't worry! Training will be provided in March for those interested in serving on a committee.

The Alumni Office handles all the mailings, printing and details for each event — we just need your ideas. So help us plan the best reunions ever at Homecoming 2004!

— Jane Dungan  
Associate Director, Alumni Programs

To volunteer to work on your reunion committee, call Jane Dungan at 1-800-787-7533 or e-mail [jane.dungan@furman.edu](mailto:jane.dungan@furman.edu).

## ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

### Web page features new look

Check out [www.furman.edu/alumni/index.htm](http://www.furman.edu/alumni/index.htm), where you'll discover our revamped Alumni Association Web page! We think you'll find it easier to read and to navigate.

Along with the new look are several new features, including a "Spotlight" section. If you have any photos of special personal events — weddings, babies, anniversaries — send them along and we'll post them on the site for all the world to view!

You can e-mail digital photos to Melanie Krone '94, associate director of the Alumni Association, at [melanie.krone@furman.edu](mailto:melanie.krone@furman.edu).

### Furman Clubs on the move (as usual)

Congratulations to the 2003 Furman Club award winners:

*Furman Club of the Year:* Capital Area Club (District of Columbia), led by president Lindsay Blankenship '00 and co-president Elizabeth Holt '97.

*Furman Club President of the Year:* David Cobb '90 of the Charleston (S.C.) Club.

Speaking of Charleston, the annual Christmas Holiday Gala at The Governor's House Inn (owned by Karen Spell Shaw '80) had a record number of alumni, parents and Furman staff members in attendance. Other special winter events included a January trip to Miami by John Barker, director of career services, for a career networking happy hour.

The Atlanta Club got together for dinner and a good cause, as members sorted items donated to St. Vincent De Paul, an outreach organization for the impoverished. The Dallas Furman Club welcomed President David Shi to a dinner in February, and the Seattle Club also got together for dinner. The Charleston and Charlotte clubs both turned out in force to cheer on the men's basketball team when the Paladins came to their areas for games against The Citadel and Davidson, respectively.

Some Furman club events to watch for this spring:

■ The Atlanta Furman Club will join with Georgia State University for a career networking happy hour.

■ The Capital Area Club will enjoy a tour of the National Gallery of Art.

■ The Charlotte Furman Club will join forces with the Paladin Club for a golf tournament.

■ While Furman students enjoy May Day Play Day on campus, Furman Clubs across the country will participate on May 1 in volunteer projects as well.

For an up-to-date listing of Furman Club events, please visit the Alumni Association Web page. To learn more about what Furman Clubs have to offer, e-mail Melanie Krone or call her at 1-800-PURPLE3.