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# Alumni and students enjoy sights and sounds of Homecoming 2003

Furman University

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# Furman reports

## Alumni and students enjoy sights and sounds of Homecoming 2003

Two nights of celebrations and a groundbreaking for a new building were among the highlights of Homecoming 2003 October 24-26.

The festivities began in earnest Friday night, when Furman Mall came alive with float building, games, rides, fireworks, a pep rally and bonfire, and live music from Florez, a talented group of recent Furman graduates based in Richmond, Va. Students and visitors alike enjoyed the host of family-friendly activities, which included human bowling and a Ferris wheel. Many were heard to say it was the most enjoyable Friday night of Homecoming ever.

At Saturday morning's Alumni Breakfast, three graduates earned special recognition.

Jack E. Powers '56 of Simpsonville, S.C., received the Alumni Service Award. A retired human resources director with Cryovac who is now president of Powers and Associates, he is a class agent and is involved with the Furman Admissions Network and the steering committee for the Richard W. Riley Institute. A loyal supporter of university projects and programs, he has served on the Alumni

Association Board of Directors and as president of the Paladin Club.

Jason Jonathan Deal '90 of Clermont, Ga., took home the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. He is district attorney for the Northeastern Judicial District of Georgia, serving as the chief prosecutor for Dawson and Hall counties. He also chairs the Edmondson-Telford Children's Center, is a member of the Hall County Commission for Children and Families, and participates in Leadership Georgia.

Charles F. Turner '62 of Travelers Rest, S.C., received the Distinguished Alumni Award. He is the founder of the North Greenville Fitness and Cardiac Rehabilitation Clinic, Inc., which provides medically monitored fitness and cardiac rehabilitation services and offers on-site health screening tests for firms and organizations throughout the country. Turner formerly served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

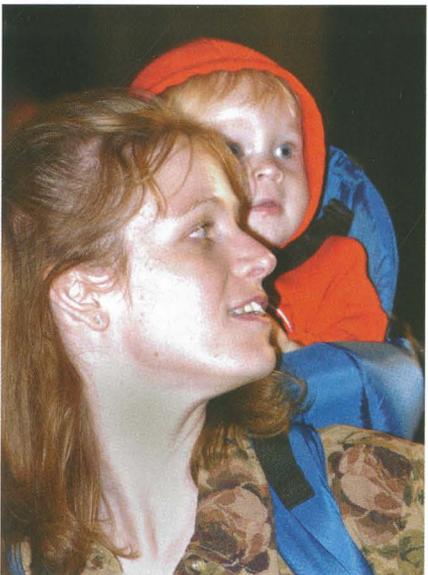
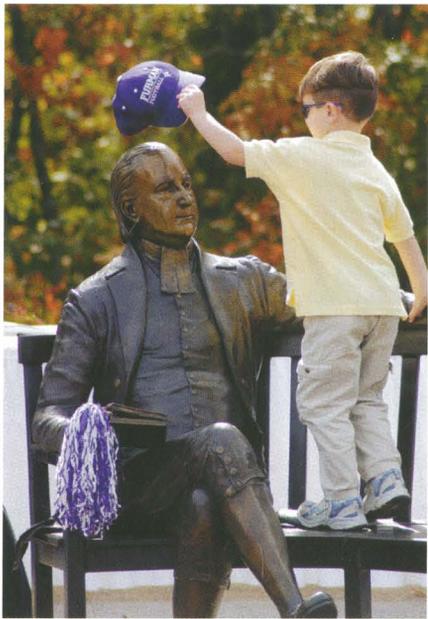
After the breakfast, the university broke ground for the 13,000-square-foot Younts Conference Center and the DeSantis Pavilion, a 1,600-square-foot open-air pavilion. The facilities will be located on the southeastern end of campus, near

Cherrydale Alumni House. The major donors are Melvin K. Younts '50 and his wife, Dollie, of Fountain Inn, S.C., and Blaine J. DeSantis '75 and his wife, Magdalena, of Reading, Pa.

The \$4.5 million Younts Center, for which construction is slated to begin in January, will host university events, corporate retreats, workshops, weddings and receptions. The building will have galleries featuring distinguished alumni and will be equipped with wireless and cable Internet connections. The DeSantis Pavilion will offer a scenic, beautifully landscaped outdoor setting for receptions and gatherings. The Younts Center will be connected to Cherrydale by a garden area named for the late Edna Gladden Hartness, a longtime university benefactor.

Following Lunch on the Lawn at Cherrydale and the football team's 30-10 victory over East Tennessee State, the festivities moved to downtown Greenville for the annual block party and an evening of reunion dinners for classes ending in 3 and 8. An enthusiastic crowd gathered in and around Greenville's Hyatt Regency to enjoy the evening — and each other.





## Outbreak averted

*But viruses will continue to threaten campus computers*

Many students arrived on college campuses this fall with more than a trunk load of clothes, posters, DVDs and other necessities.

Tucked away deep inside the hard drives of their computers were some nasty critters, among them Welchia, Blaster and the Nachia worm. These computer viruses wreaked havoc at many colleges as soon as students began plugging in and booting up.

Vanderbilt University found infections in the computers of roughly one-fourth of its 5,000 students. Stunned technicians shut off connections to nearly 1,200 computers, then gradually restored service over the next few days after each machine was cleaned.

Oberlin College in Ohio, which found infections in nine of every 10 computers running Windows software, threatened to fine students \$25 for spreading a virus. John Bucher, information technology director at Oberlin, told the Associated Press, "When you're drowning, you try to do something quick. We're really stressed by this."

Richard Nelson, director of computing and information services at Furman, heard these and other horror stories but says that he and his staff were "still pretty much in denial" when freshmen began arriving September 2. Yet when 90 percent of the computers owned by freshmen, who arrived a week before most upperclassmen, were found to be compromised or lacking in virus protection software, Nelson and his group began scrambling to concoct a plan to help the university avoid a virus outbreak.

On September 5, Furman's residential network was shut down while approximately 1,700 computers were scanned. Afterward, the C&IS staff loaded the computers with anti-virus software and security updates.

Between 30 and 40 percent of the computers owned by sophomores, juniors and seniors proved to have some kind of virus. For some computers, screening and updating took as long as two hours.

"We had to assume that all the computers were infected," says Nelson, who hopes students, faculty and staff will police themselves by regularly running a virus scan and installing security updates as warranted.

Quick planning and hard work saved Furman from gridlock this time. But Nelson is just waiting for the next big virus outbreak.

"It's like being a volunteer fireman," he says. "You can anticipate and try to be prepared, but you don't know what you're dealing with until it actually happens."

— John Roberts

*Opposite: Winners of the major alumni awards, from left: Jack Powers '56, Charles "Buddy" Turner '62 and Jason Deal '90; Magdalena and Blaine DeSantis '75 join Dollie and Melvin Younts '50 in breaking ground for the Younts Center and DeSantis Pavilion.*

*Left, from top: Shenese Showers '04 is queen for a day; Joshua Axmann, son of Todd Axmann '84, helps Richard Furman get into the spirit of Homecoming; Patricia Walters Laine '97 and daughter Sarah enjoy the Friday activities on Furman Mall. Above: Human bowling proved strikingly popular; Florez, a talented band of recent Furman graduates (from left, 2003 alumni Alex Florez, Dusty Emerick and Erik Huffman, plus '02 grad Dana Brewster), performed selections from "Find Yourself," their CD; Daric Carter's 57-yard kickoff return gave the Paladins a late spark in their 30-10 victory.*