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Update: Still pursuing his dreams, Rudy scores with new CD

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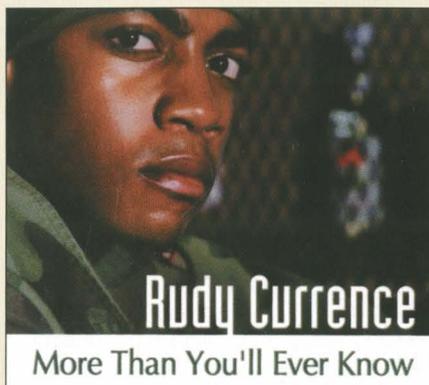
Update: Still pursuing his dreams, Rudy scores with new CD

When last we visited with Rudy Currence (*Furman*, Winter 2000 issue), he was a sophomore music major planning a career as a singer and songwriter.

Today, almost four years later, he's still pursuing his dream. But now he's a proud member of Furman's Class of 2002 with a new CD to promote and a number of musical credits to his name.

Go rent *The Bourne Identity*. A Rudy song is featured on the soundtrack. Or look for "Moodring," the third album from Mya, the popular Grammy-winning recording star. It features two songs co-written by Rudy, "Sophisticated Lady" and "No Sleep Tonight." And a Rudy song has been selected for the upcoming hip hop film *Move the Crowd*.

To get the best taste of the Rudy sound, though, check out his first CD, titled "More Than You'll Ever Know." Available at www.cdbaby.com and at independent record stores, the CD shows off Rudy's eclectic style, smooth tenor voice and musical versatility — he wrote, produced and



arranged all the songs for the album. One can detect a wide variety of influences in his music, ranging from gospel to jazz, rhythm and blues, pop and techno. The album is an infectious listen with a strong crossover appeal, and Rudy hopes it will help propel him to a contract with a major label.

But he is hardly content to sit back and wait for someone to knock on his door.

Currently living in his hometown of Rock Hill, S.C., he's working as a minister of music while lining up performing gigs, networking with music industry officials and traveling throughout the country, from Connecticut to Oregon, to showcase his talent and earn wider exposure.

In recent months he's played at clubs and colleges throughout the Southeast. At Eddie's Attic in Atlanta earlier this year, he won an open mike competition that earned him a return engagement there in December. Furman was one of his stops this fall, as was Princeton University, where he performed at the Frist Campus Center.

So check out Rudy's music. Visit his Web site at www.rudygc3.com. Take time to discover a young artist with a developing sound, a soulful delivery, a performing style that transcends musical genres, and a strong drive to succeed.

Here's betting he makes it big.

— Jim Stewart

dean at Oxford College. ■ Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue appointed **Hugh Brewster Williamson III** to represent the Ninth Congressional District on the state's Board of Community Affairs. Bruce is a certified insurance counselor and president of Williamson, Musselwhite & Main Street Insurance of Monroe.

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Next reunion in 2007

Sally Arnold is a physical scientist with the U.S. Department of Energy. She conducts high-energy particle physics research at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Ill. ■ **Robbie Caldwell** is the assistant head football coach and offensive line coach at Vanderbilt University. ■ **Sam Hodges**, formerly a reporter with the *Mobile* (Ala.) *Register*, has become book editor of the *Charlotte* (N.C.) *Observer*. ■ **Pat Patten** of Redondo Beach, Calif., is president of The Patten

Group/Charles Winston Enterprises. The company designs and produces high-quality, fine-jewelry looks at low prices, using sterling silver, created stones and cz.

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Next reunion in 2008

Jim Bigler is president of LeMaster Steel Erectors in Elkhart, Ind., where he has worked since 1978. The company erects pre-engineered metal buildings. ■ **Carole Sloan Bridwell** of Greer, S.C., is office manager for McMillan-Carter, Inc. ■ **Jeff Clark** has joined The Coastal Bank of Savannah, Ga., as vice president and corporate loan officer. ■ Former Manhattan Associates executive **Oliver Cooper** has been named chief executive officer of MARC Global, a supply chain execution software and services provider. He is based at the company's headquarters in Dulles, Va. ■ **Beth Daniel** won her first Ladies Professional Golf Association

tournament in eight years and the 33rd of her career July 13 when she captured the Canadian Women's Open. She also played, for the seventh time, on the U.S. Solheim Cup team in the biennial matches against Europe September 12-14 in Sweden. ■ **James Merritt** is a trial attorney with Berry, Quackenbush & Stuart in Columbia, S.C. ■ **Rob Propst** moved to Richboro, Pa., earlier this year to become director of business development for Firmenich. ■ **Merrie Koester Southgate** of Charleston, S.C., is one of three South Carolina finalists for the 2003 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Education Teaching. She teaches seventh and eighth grades at Mason Preparatory School and is an adjunct instructor at the College of Charleston. ■ **Frances Hale Wildsmith** is a media specialist at Murphy Elementary School in the Cherokee County (N.C.) School System.

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Next reunion in 2004

David Belcher has been named provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. He was previously dean of the College of Arts and Letters at Southwest Missouri State University. ■ **Brenda Crain McClain** of Edisto Island, S.C., is a 2003 South Carolina Fiction Project winner for an excerpt from her novel *Willie June*. The prize is sponsored by the *Charleston Post and Courier* and the S.C. Arts Commission. She received \$500 and the newspaper planned to publish her winning entry. ■ **Ken Ries** and his wife, Janet, own Wedgewood Glass Works in Greenville. They specialize in custom stained-glass panels and windows. An original creation by Ken, a series of panels using wine bottle punts, took the Most