

6-1-2003

Tradition of service

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Recommended Citation

Wilson, Judy (2003) "Tradition of service," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 46 : Iss. 2 , Article 25.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol46/iss2/25>

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Tradition of service

Parents Association co-chairs believe in getting involved

Cindy and Bobby Bowers of Alpharetta, Ga., new co-chairs of Furman's Parents Association, have a history of service and experience with colleges and college-preparatory schools.

Cindy, a retired English teacher, joined Bobby as 2002-03 co-presidents of the Upper School (high school) at Woodward Academy, where their three sons have attended. Bobby, a certified public accountant and chief financial officer for Tascware, Inc., is a member of the board of Woodward Academy and of campus ministries at Auburn University and Georgia Tech. He has also served on the advisory board of Auburn's School of Accountancy.

Their determination to be directly involved in their children's schools, they believe, was instilled in large part by their parents. Says Bobby, "My father told me that his investment in his children's education would pay dividends long after he was gone. Cindy and I are the beneficiaries of our parents' academic concerns, and we are only gratefully following their examples."

They admit, however, that they didn't realize how much fun they would have in the process. On almost any weekend during the school year, you will find them traveling the Southeast, watching their sons play any number of sports. Eldest son Robby is a sophomore at Furman and a member of the baseball team. Seventeen-year-old Ryan, a senior at Woodward, is a cross country runner (middle distances in track) — and a Furman Scholar. Brett, the youngest at 15, plays football and runs track for Woodward.

Once Robby decided to attend Furman, his parents were more than willing to contribute their expertise and leadership skills to the Parents Association. The group works to support the university through fund-raising projects and involvement in such activities as Furman Clubs and the Furman Admissions Network (FAN).

Both Cindy and Bobby say they are delighted that Robby chose Furman over several other schools. Bobby says, "Frankly, you could say all of the schools had beautiful campuses and outstanding academic reputations, but the difference was in the Furman people."

And Furman's personal touch remains constant. For example, when a close friend of Robby's died last fall, they were impressed that faculty and coaches called their son to express concern and support. "Everyone is focused upon our child getting the most out of his Furman experience," says Bobby.

— **Judy Wilson**
Director, Parents Programs

Twins make identical pledges for Bell Tower

Consider this saying: one is good, two is better.

Then again, maybe not. Just ask parents of twins if they agree with that statement.

But at least in one case, Furman would like to thank the mother and father of Edith and John Lovegren, twins who graduated from Furman in 1981. For Furman, two Lovegrens are a wonderful thing.

At Furman, both twins majored in chemistry and were members of the Furman Singers. Today Edie is a physician in Colorado, and John is an executive with MasterCard International in Michigan.

Not long ago, Edie called to inquire about the Bell Tower restoration project. She expressed her love of music and the beauty of the campus, as well as her affinity for the Bell Tower. Then she made a pledge of \$5,000 toward the \$1 million project to restore and endow the tower and the Burnside Carillon.

While documenting her gift record, I discovered that she had a twin. I sent her an e-mail and asked if John shared her affection for all things Furman and if she felt he would consider participating in the project.

Within days I received this message from John: "Furman and music still both

tug at the heart-strings, especially when my twin sister is the one doing the tugging. In support of my sister's generous donation, I, too, will donate \$5,000 over the next four years."

And to make John's donation even better, it will be doubled, thanks to the matching gift program of MasterCard International.

The generosity of folks like the Lovegrens has helped Furman raise more than \$765,000 toward the \$1 million needed for the Bell Tower restoration and endowment. The project is scheduled to begin in June 2004.

And when it does, the names of Edith S. Lovegren and John K. Lovegren will be placed on a plaque at the Bell Tower with the names of other donors of \$5,000 or more. Donors of \$1,000 or more will have their names engraved on a brick placed in the "Anniversary Walk," the pathway leading to the Bell Tower. Graduates since 1987 may purchase a brick for \$500.

— **Craig Waldon '71**
Director, Donor Research

Gifts, pledges and inquiries about the Bell Tower project should be directed to Craig Waldon at (864) 294-2157, or by e-mail to craig.waldon@furman.edu.

A special legacy from Sally Groome

Col. Sally L. Groome '59 served many tours of duty during her 26 years in the U.S. Army, but she considered her four years at Furman her "best tour."

She entered the Army in 1960 following a year as an elementary school teacher, and during her career she held various command and staff assignments throughout the United States and Germany. Her last position was as chief of the training division for the Army ROTC Cadet Command, where she was responsible for all ROTC programs.

Sally had fond memories of Furman, but she also remembered how, as a student, she had to work almost full time to pay for her education. She recalled that she never had the "pin money" to participate in extracurricular activities and special events. As a result, she always felt she was on the periphery, watching others enjoy the social side of their Furman experience.

She never forgot that "outsider" feeling, and she wanted to make sure others did not have to endure a similar experience. With that in mind, she created a charitable remainder trust at Furman that eventually will endow the Sally L. Groome Memorial Fund.

The fund will be used to provide an annual stipend to a deserving American-born female student with financial need who is either orphaned or from a single-parent family and who maintains at least a 2.0 grade-point average. The stipend may be used for the purchase of books, for personal expenses or for unexpected personal welfare exigencies.

I had the privilege of working with Sally to help make her wishes become reality. During our telephone conversations I developed a great respect for her desire to help others and for her courage in the face of adversity.

Sally suffered from a terminal illness, and during the course of our work together her health deteriorated. Still, she never lost her appreciation for her Furman education and her wish to give something back to alma mater. And thanks to her generosity and planning, deserving young women will participate more fully in college life and enjoy a more complete Furman experience.

Sally died September 7, 2002. She was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

— **Betsy Moseley '74**
Director, Planned Giving