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Furman Clubs: Join the fun!

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Furman alumni news

Furman Clubs: Join the fun!

If you plan it, they will come.

When we hesitantly agreed to be co-presidents of the Furman Club in the Triad (Winston-Salem/Greensboro/High Point) of North Carolina in 2001, we didn't quite know what to expect. During the six years we had lived in Winston-Salem, there hadn't been an active club.

So, when we called the Alumni Office to see if there was anything planned in conjunction with the Boston Pops performance here, we somehow wound up agreeing to "help out" with activities. We later received a letter thanking us for becoming co-presidents of the Triad Club! Not quite our original plan of action, but we accepted the challenge nevertheless.

For our first official event, we decided to have supper at a restaurant and then attend the Furman basketball game at North Carolina-Greensboro. "If we can just have 10 people come, we'll be happy," was our motto as we prepared for the gathering. The outlook was bleak at first, but soon we began hearing from interested alums, students, parents and friends. On the big day, we had a crowd of 25 enjoying food, fellowship and Furman talk! We were off to a great start.

So we began planning for more. A summer send-off for Furman freshmen from the area, a tour of the Reynolda House led by Professor Olof Sorensen, a program sponsored by Career Services . . . our confidence grew with every successful event. Even though it snowed for our event in January, iced in February and rained in April, we had at least 25 people each time, with some events attracting more than 40.

Our Furman Club outings have been successful because of the people who attend. A core group



has made it to every event we've planned, and we can't thank them enough. And with each event, we have had the wonderful opportunity to meet new people. We've realized just how many Furman folks there are in the Triad (more than 600) and that they love Furman as much as we do. (Well, almost as much!) The club has truly helped us stay connected with alma mater.

The Triad Club is fortunate to have members who represent the many facets of Furman: alumni, current students, "adopted" friends, parents, families and new freshmen. We compare notes on the football team, reminisce about dining hall food, renew acquaintances, offer advice about professors, express amazement over the SAT scores of each new freshman class, and share pride in our ties to such a special school.

Even though we weren't looking for a leadership position with the Triad Club, we are glad we took advantage of the opportunity. So, when your local Furman Club asks you to get involved, don't hesitate.

Just remember that you can help build a "field of dreams" in your city, too!

— Bill and Vickie Bieksha Johnson

The authors are members of the Class of '93. Under their leadership, the Triad Club was named Furman Club of the Year for 2001-02.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Greetings, gatherings and good times

This summer, Furman Clubs maintained the tradition of welcoming incoming freshmen to Furman. Clubs across the country, from Philadelphia to Savannah, held summer send-offs where alumni and parents welcomed new students into the Furman family. Current students also got the glad hand from clubs in New York and the Capital Area (Washington, D.C.), which hosted events for the students working in their areas.

Other summer highlights included a dinner at Discovery Place in Charlotte, N.C., with Furman's First Couple, David and Susan Shi. Not only did alumni have a chance to hear campus updates, but they also participated in hands-on exhibits and watched rats play basketball. President Shi also visited alumni and parents in Pittsburgh, Boston and the Triad area (Winston-Salem, N.C.).

The Northeast Florida Club welcomed Harry Shucker, vice president for student services, for a barbecue dinner, and the Atlanta Club held its first Furman coffeehouse and enjoyed performances from talented alumni and students. Speaking of talented alumni, the Atlanta and Capital Area clubs gathered for Boston Pops concerts and receptions with the orchestra's conductor, Keith Lockhart '81. Groups in Nashville, Chicago and the Midlands and Upstate of South Carolina enjoyed activities ranging from baseball games to happy hours and summer picnics.

Furman Clubs are also set to kick into high gear this fall. Watch for information on football tailgate parties in Charleston, S.C. (October 18 vs. Citadel), Statesboro, Ga. (November 8 vs. Georgia Southern) and Chattanooga, Tenn. (November 22 vs. UT-Chattanooga). Furman professors will be on the road this fall as well, visiting Furman Clubs in various cities.

For more Furman Club news, call Melanie Krone '94, associate director of the Alumni Association, at 1-800-PURPLE3, or visit www.furman.edu/alumni/index.htm.

Welcome Jane Dungan!

The Alumni Office has a new face behind the planning of Homecoming, as Jane Dungan became associate director for on-campus programs July 1. She replaces Jason Curtin — but you're still likely to hear from him on a regular basis. He has become associate director of annual giving.

Jane, a graduate of Averett College in Danville, Va., holds a master's degree from the University of Memphis. She has been at Furman for five years, serving as associate director of major gifts and also as associate director of admissions. Jason, a graduate of Salisbury University in Maryland, holds a master's degree from the University of South Carolina. He worked at Furman as a graduate assistant in student services before moving into the Alumni Office in 2001.