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Taking pride in alma mater

Tom Triplitt '76
Furman University

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Furman alumni news

Taking pride in alma mater

Greetings from Cherrydale, your Alumni House.

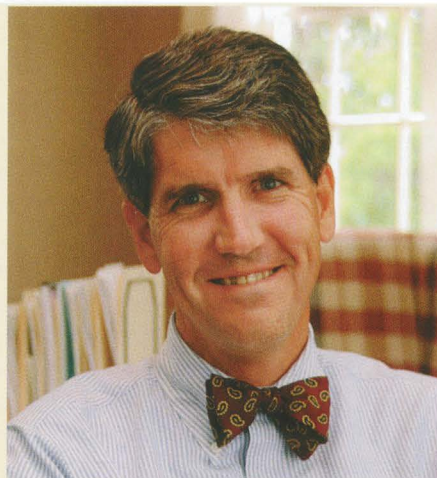
I am amazed and honored to realize that I have completed six months as the new director of the Alumni Association. Furman is a special place to me for many reasons, and it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to represent all of you.

When I read articles about alumni in *Furman* magazine, I am proud to be a graduate of the same institution. The alumni featured in these articles often bring widespread fame and name recognition to our university.

However, as I do research, read newspapers, and talk with alumni and friends, I am also truly humbled by the overwhelming number of alumni who quietly go about doing good every day. When one considers how many Furman graduates are teachers, doctors, lawyers, choir directors, ministers, counselors, coaches and community volunteers, the number of lives that they touch is staggering. I know that a little bit of Furman is in each of these people as they influence others' lives.

I am reminded of two examples. One alum I know earned her Ph.D. in physical therapy and now teaches college students how to rehabilitate people with spinal injuries. Her career choice developed from working with physically disabled people as a volunteer with Collegiate Educational Service Corps. Another quietly outstanding alum is currently a college counselor after spending most of her career as a teacher. She recently became the first woman elected a deacon at her 175-year-old church.

During the 23 years I spent in the field of middle school and secondary education, I suggested Furman as a college choice for many



students and parents. I can think of none that were disappointed by choosing Furman. A high school counselor once told me that Furman and its students seem to have a "moral compass" that serves them very well. What a compliment to the university and to all of its graduates.

I am also proud to be the husband of an alumna, the father of an alumna, and the father-in-law of an alumna. I have hired Furman graduates and been amazed by their abilities and work ethic.

In short, Furman is a great university and is constantly striving to be even better. And as the university improves each year, the value of your Furman diploma increases as well.

If you have not been to campus lately, please come and visit. It remains as beautiful as ever, but the beauty is much more than skin deep.

While you're here, seek out a current student or a recent graduate and engage them in conversation. You will be amazed at the depth and breadth of their education and character. If you can't visit, log on to the Web site at www.furman.edu and browse around. You'll find a tremendous amount of information on-line, and you will meet interesting people.

I am here to serve you, and I welcome your input. Please e-mail me at tom.triplitt@furman.edu with any suggestions, questions or comments.

— Tom Triplitt '76

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Calling all reunion volunteers!

Do you want to help out alma mater? Would you like to plan alumni events? The Alumni Association is looking for energetic and dedicated volunteers to help plan reunions for Homecoming 2003, October 24-26.

Alumni from the following classes will be celebrating a reunion this year: 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993 and 1998.

Typically, a committee consists of 10 to 12 people. If you are interested in helping your class plan its Homecoming get-together, call Jason Curtin, associate director of alumni programs, at 1-800-PURPLE3, or e-mail jason.curtin@furman.edu.

Furman Club plans

University president David Shi will speak at Central United Methodist Church in Florence, S.C., March 19 at 6:30 p.m. Alumni, parents, prospective students and friends are invited to attend. Also in March, the Atlanta Furman Club will host an event for young alumni.

On April 4, the Greenville Furman Club invites alumni to participate in the Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. In addition, April brings the popular Spring Coaches Tour, as Furman coaches travel to a town near you. Alumni should watch for details on these events.

Leadership opportunities

Do you want to meet Furman alumni, parents and friends living in your area? If so, then volunteering with your local Furman Club is a great way to reconnect with fellow alumni and stay involved with Furman.

The Alumni Association is looking for Furman Club volunteers in the following areas:

Georgia: Athens, Golden Isles.

Florida: Miami/Fort Lauderdale, Orlando.

South Carolina: Clemson, Florence, Myrtle Beach, Spartanburg.

Tennessee: Memphis, Nashville.

For more information about Furman Club opportunities, please call Melanie Krone '94, associate director of alumni programs, at 1-800-PURPLE3, or e-mail melanie.krone@furman.edu.

Exciting travel options

In conjunction with Alumni Holidays International®, the Alumni Association offers these exciting excursions:

Alumni College in Tuscany, May 6-14: Visit Assisi, Florence and other fabulous areas. All meals, seminars and excursions are included in the cost of approximately \$2,595 per person, based on double occupancy. (Note the new date; the trip was originally scheduled for April.)

Alumni College in Kinsale, Ireland, September 28-October 6: Kiss the Blarney Stone, travel by boat to Garinish Island with its exotic gardens, and visit other exciting spots. Cost is approximately \$2,495 per person, based on double occupancy.

For more information about these travel packages, call the Alumni Association at 1-800-PURPLE3 or visit <http://www.ahitravel.com/furman>.