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Frances White Smith bequest features gifts from the heart

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Furman campaign

Scholarship recognizes couple's impact, legacy of love

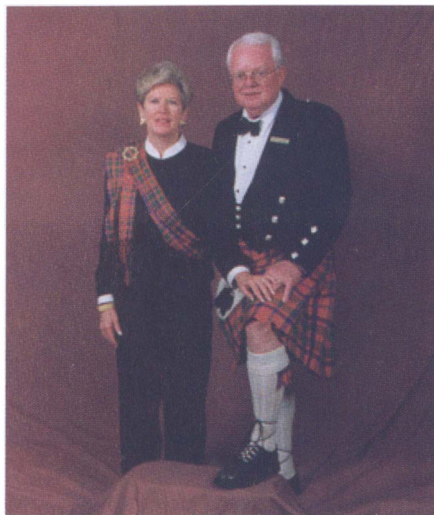
To say that Frank Shaw '61 appreciates his Furman education is an understatement. He unloaded boxcars for a wholesale grocer every day to help pay his tuition money, and he even sold his car during freshman year to pay his education bills!

Shaw, who earned a degree in sociology from Furman, went on to attend Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and later began a successful career in long-term health care management. But he never forgot his years at Furman or what it was like to work for his education at a dollar an hour.

Because of his work ethic and appreciation for the opportunities his education has provided, Frank and his wife, Susan, have established a scholarship at Furman to help other young people with financial need. In doing so, they have honored Susan's parents, Ernesteen and Vic Etheridge, who had such a strong influence on both their lives.

According to Frank, the best decision he ever made was to marry Susan Etheridge. Not only did he find his lifelong companion, but he became a member of what he describes as a "special family."

Frank's father and mother died when he was young, but in Ernesteen and Vic Etheridge he found two people who welcomed him into their home and lives. In talking about his late father-in-law, Frank says, "Vic was one of the few heroes in



Susan and Frank Shaw

my life. He confided in me. We were the best of friends, and I dearly loved him. He was an honest, hard-working Christian who included me when a decision needed to be made by the family, and his love, acceptance and depth of caring knew no boundary. He was a very wise man."

Of Ernesteen, who is still living, he says, "She is one of those rare people who has never said an unkind word about anyone. A wonderful homemaker and a gifted cook, she also reared five children and loved me as though I were her own."

As Frank and Susan went on to professional success — Frank as the owner and president of Shaw Executive Services in Atlanta, Ga., and Susan as corporate secretary of The Coca-Cola Company — they looked for ways to help others and to honor those who had a profound impact on their lives. Their love for Susan's parents and their belief in the value of education led them to contact Furman about establishing a scholarship for hard-working students with financial need.

Thus, the Ernesteen B. and W. Victor Etheridge Scholarship was born. This \$1 million endowed scholarship will provide annual support for students who demonstrate financial need, exemplify high moral character and show academic promise. The first Etheridge Scholars will be named in the 2002-2003 academic year.

Frank Shaw has come a long way from the days when he unloaded boxcars for tuition money, but he has never forgotten the lessons learned during that time. Through the Ernesteen B. and W. Victor Etheridge Scholarship, Susan and Frank Shaw will help future students enjoy the long-lasting benefits of a Furman education, while honoring the legacy of a loving and caring couple.

— Susan Day Gray '78
Director of Stewardship

Frances White Smith bequest features gifts from the heart

How do you value a diamond?

It's priceless if it's a gift from the heart, and a gift from the heart is exactly what Furman received from Frances White Smith '26, who died November 29 in Greenville.

In addition to a percentage of her estate, Frances bequeathed to Furman all of her personal effects, such as her engagement ring and other jewelry, antique furniture and sterling silver. Her bequest also included objects originally belonging to her sister, Elizabeth White Bailey '20.

Frances and Elizabeth were born and reared in Greenville, and after graduating from Greenville Womans College both taught school before they married. Although they were supportive of community organizations, they never wanted any recognition for their generosity. Their great passion was travel, especially to Europe, and Frances included a number of items from these trips in her bequest to the university.

Some of the gifts — furnishings, silver, china, table linens — will add to the elegance of Cherrydale, Furman's Alumni House, while Furman library patrons are already the beneficiaries of a beautiful book about Leonardo da Vinci. Frances allowed all other items to be sold and the money used to endow a scholarship fund named for her.

A diamond may last forever, but an endowed scholarship does that and more. Frances Smith knew that her "gift in kind" would endure and grow in influence over the decades.

Requests to Furman may be made in the form of personal property, real estate, cash or securities. For more information, contact the Office of Planned Giving at (864) 294-3491 or e-mail betsy.moseley@furman.edu to learn how you can leave a legacy for all time.

— Betsy Moseley '74
Director of Planned Giving