$500,000 grant boosts programs for teachers

Furman University
The Heart & Mind campaign, launched in January, is gaining tremendous support from Furman friends, alumni and students. The initiative will help complete funding of the James B. Duke Library expansion and will restore and maintain the Bell Tower and Burnside Carillon to their original working order.

As of April 30, alumni and friends had committed a total of $275,995 toward the goal of $1 million for the restoration of the Bell Tower and Burnside Carillon, which will take place in 2003. Additional funds will go toward programs and cutting-edge technology in the library.

"The enthusiastic response to the Heart & Mind campaign is due in large measure to the nostalgia people feel for the Bell Tower and the library," says Neel Hipp '73, chair of the Heart & Mind Committee. "Some think of this as their ‘capstone’ gift for the Forever Furman campaign, which is in its final months." Hipp is assisted by Matt Miller ’99, chair of the Young Alumni Council’s Heart & Mind Task Force, and a dozen other volunteers.

Another reason for the surge of support for this project is the opportunity to name a brick in the "Anniversary Walk,” the pathway that leads from the mainland to the Bell Tower. Donors of $250 per year for four years (or $125 a year over four years for alumni and students in the Class of 1987 and after) may have their own or a loved one’s name engraved on a brick. Donors of $5,000 or more will be recognized on plaques in the library or on the Bell Tower.

Aside from alumni and friends, current students are also working to generate support for Heart & Mind. The 30-member Young Alumni Council and the Student Alumni Council have both weighed in at 100 percent, and fraternities and sororities on campus are volunteering for phonathons to their respective alumni groups. Each participating fraternity or sorority that reaches 100 percent among its current members will be recognized in the Anniversary Walk or on the Bell Tower plaque.

If you would like to name a brick in the Anniversary Walk and contribute to this effort, please call Craig Waldon, associate director of major gifts, at (864) 294-2157, or e-mail him at craig.waldon@furman.edu.

— Don Lineback
Vice President for Development

$500,000 grant boosts programs for teachers

Furman has received a $500,000 federal grant that will bolster an existing education program on campus and support the school's new Center for Teaching and Technology.

Republican congressmen Jim DeMint and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Charles Taylor of North Carolina presented the grant to Furman April 4 on behalf of the Education and Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas (ERC), a non-profit organization Taylor founded in 1997 to help bring educational and technological innovation to the area.

The ERC’s board is composed of the presidents of Brevard College, Mars Hill College, Montreat College and Western Carolina University. Furman is affiliated with the consortium and serves as the group’s point of contact in Upstate South Carolina.

The $500,000 grant will support the university’s Adventure of the American Mind (AAM) program, a Library of Congress-sponsored initiative that trains teachers of kindergarten through 12th grade how to use the library’s vast on-line resources. Furman joined the program, which began in western North Carolina in 2000, in January 2001. Last year it brought 40 Upstate teachers to campus for training, and an additional 40 teachers are enrolled in this year’s program.

The AAM program at Furman was originally funded by a $250,000 grant from the Library of Congress. The new $500,000 grant will also support Furman’s Center for Teaching and Technology, which will serve as the home for the Upstate AAM program. The center will be housed in Furman’s newest academic building, Herman N. Hipp Hall, which will open this fall.

Groundbreaking held for library’s Charlie Peace Wing

Since the beginning of the Forever Furman campaign, the renovation and refurbishing of the James B. Duke Library has been the top priority.

On May 16, Furman officially launched the building phase of the $25 million project when it broke ground for the 48,000-square-foot Charlie Peace Wing. To be constructed on the library’s west (lake) side, the new wing is named for a longtime executive with The Greenville News and provided by his daughter, former Furman trustee Mary Peace Sterling. It will feature collaborative study rooms, reading and research areas, space for the library’s growing collection, and a cyber-study area.

In addition to the original gift for the new wing, Mrs. Sterling is donating an additional $100 toward the library for every alum who makes a gift to Furman in the 2001-2002 academic year. The initiative, called “Charlie’s Challenge,” had generated $802,900 in challenge funds as of April 30.

When the new wing is completed, it will house the library’s essential services while the original building undergoes its redesign. The ground floor will provide space for the largest computing area on campus, including a help desk. The main floor will be reconfigured to offer expanded public services and collaborative study space, and the top floor will be renovated to enlarge Special Collections and the building’s archives.

All construction on the library is expected to be completed during the 2004-2005 academic year.

The project, which was launched in 1999 with the help of a $9.5 million pledge from The Duke Endowment, is the most ambitious in the history of Furman. Beyond the $25 million cost for renovations and refurbishing, another $6 million is being sought to provide enhanced technology and to endow programs.

Janis Bandelin, director of the library, says, “Furman’s commitment to engaged learning opportunities beyond the classroom is intricately tied to the library’s responsibility for fostering lifelong learning. If we are to involve students in their own education, we must offer them enhanced opportunities for intellectual discovery and a physical and intellectual environment that contributes to both self-directed and collaborative investigation and writing.”

The new-look library will also boast LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, which is awarded to buildings that meet strict environmental standards.