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A fond farewell

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Furman alumni news

A fond farewell

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.

— Ecclesiastes 3:1

Every alum should be required to visit Furman in the spring. Remember the magic of the campus in late March or early April, when overnight the entire landscape turns from the woody brown and gray of winter to a vibrant spring green, bursting forth from every budding tree, flowering bed or grassy lawn? I could never decide who deserved more credit for this transformation, the good Lord or the Furman grounds crew! I am just glad to be the beneficiary of such creative design, and I have appreciated every moment of my 12 springs at Furman.

And just like the campus in the spring, life holds great potential, growth and change for me right now. With excitement and bittersweet emotions, I retired April 30 as director of the Alumni Association. In the words of a good friend, I am moving on to “smaller and better things.” Bill and I are expecting our first child at the end of the summer, and I have decided to embark on what I believe is my true calling: full-time motherhood.

It is difficult, though, to envision life without a daily connection to Furman. This university has played an enormous role in my spiritual, mental, emotional, physical and professional development, a gracious role that I will never be able to measure or repay.

The seasons of my life at Furman have taken on various colors and patterns, each one distinctly different yet equally transforming. As a young, excited and unbearably nervous freshman, I moved into Unit 6, now named Chiles Hall in honor of Marguerite Chiles, one of my truest heroes. I began an academic journey that challenged and stretched my mind and an emotional journey that introduced me to my closest lifelong friends.

After making a graduation appearance in the library fountains, I was fortunate to be invited back as a member of the admissions staff. Thus began my second season at Furman, a period of great professional maturing that offered me the chance to see the inner workings of this institution.

Admissions work was exciting, but what I really wanted was to plan all those



alumni parties. Shortly after my move to the Alumni Office, a prominent administrator nicknamed me the “Furman party girl.” I spent the next six years trying to prove that there is much more to alumni work than reunions, Furman Club events and Homecoming block parties!

No one was really convinced, and my favorite Furman memories do stem from alumni-laden events: late nights patrolling the mall at Homecoming, watching students labor over their floats; one very chilly March morning at Stone Manufacturing, launching Cherrydale on her four-mile journey “home” to Furman; a sunny October afternoon when over 1,000 people attended dedication ceremonies and ate “Lunch on the Lawn” at our new Alumni House, then proceeded to stroll through the front doors for a tour (don’t tell the fire marshal).

Now, I have a lifetime of memories to anticipate. I can’t wait for the day that someone surprises me with a new Furman “did you know” story — and I really didn’t already know the news. I look forward to attending a class reunion or Furman Club event without having planned the whole thing, and I am most excited about one day moving my young, excited and unbearably nervous teen-ager into the Furman residence halls (no matter what my Davidson-alumnus husband says)!

God has blessed me with rich days at Furman, and I am forever indebted to the professors, administrators, staff members, students and volunteers who have had an impact on my life. I will miss my daily trek to campus, and I will REALLY miss my glorious office in Cherrydale, but I will have forever my Furman memories and relationships.

Thank you, Furman, for such a blessed season of learning, loving and living.

— Shannon Wilkerson Wilson '93

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Still time to attend Wellness U

From June 20-23, Furman offers alumni and friends the chance to explore the many facets of wellness through Alumni College, our second annual “educational vacation.”

You’ll learn from Furman professors and guest lecturers about such topics as stress management, diet, exercise, the effects of aging, and much more.

Here are a few quick facts on Wellness U:

Where will it be held? On campus. Attendees stay in the North Village apartments.

Who is invited? Alumni, parents and friends.

What is the cost? \$475 per person, covering housing, meals, materials, use of campus facilities, and special events. Commuter cost: \$375.

How can I register? Visit the Web at www.furman.edu/alumnicollege, or call the Alumni Office at 1-800-PURPLE3.

Reunion planning in full swing

Homecoming 2002, October 18-20, is just around the corner. And that means reunion time for classes ending in 2 and 7!

If you’re interested in helping to plan your reunion, please contact the Alumni Office, which will put you in touch with the appropriate reunion chair:

1952: James R. Stewart, Jr.

1957: James B. Watts

1962: Janet Southern Huskey

1967: Murray and Bené Dozier Brockman

1972: Nancy Gianoukos Draffin

1977: Pamela Brannon Simmons

1982: Marshall Bettendorf, Sandy Morgan

1987: Si and Wanda Justus Pearman

1992: Paige Herrin Stowell

1997: Cari Williams Hicks, Jonathan Lewis

Furman Clubs enjoy busy spring

From the Carolinas to sunny California, Furman Clubs were in high gear this spring.

The always popular Spring Coaches Tour gave members of the athletic department a chance to meet with alumni and friends in Charlotte and the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area of North Carolina, while the Furman Symphonic Band traveled to York County (S.C.) and the South Carolina Midlands to perform for Furman groups. The Southern California, Delaware Valley (Pa.) and Chicago clubs planned service projects for early May, and the Bay Area (Calif.) Club planned an outing to a San Francisco Giants game with friends from the College of Charleston.

Visit www.furman.edu/admin/alumni/FurmanClubMap.htm for the latest information on Furman Club events.