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Artistic vision

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Ron Boozer '72

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Bank and she teaches in the Clinton First Baptist Church preschool. ■ Last fall **Chris Strainer**, owner of Cross-Currents, a fly fishing and outdoor store in Helena, Mont., opened his second fly shop on the banks of the Missouri River in Craig, Mont. ■ **Bert Wallace** is an assistant professor of theatre at the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff. ■

MARRIAGE: **Allison Davis** and Stewart Cooner, January 26. She is marketing director for Kathwood Place and he is the human resources analyst for Palmetto Health, both in Columbia, S.C. ■ **BIRTHS:**

Tommy and Katie Clerkin Benston, a son, Lewis Carpenter Benston, November 27, Charleston, S.C. (This corrects an entry in the winter issue.) ■ **John and Nicole Campbell**, a son, Alastair, February 16, 2001, Lancaster, S.C. ■ **Manning III** and Jacqueline **Connors**, a daughter, Kathleen Eleanor, February 1, Greensboro, N.C. ■ **Will and Debbie Ertel**, a daughter, Elizabeth Brooke, December 8, Charlotte, N.C. ■ **Kurt and Lillie Leckey McPherson**, a son, Phillip John, November 9, Tampa, Fla. Lillie is a counselor with Pinellas County (Fla.) Schools. ■ **Tom and Annebet McEliece Pettit**, a son, Thomas Robert, December 27. They recently relocated to Fairfield, Conn. ■ **Chris and Amy Walton Reeves**, a daughter, Anna Grace, November 11. Chris is a family physician in private practice in Macon, Ga. ■ **Christopher and Char Rhoads**, a son, Clayton Thomas, September 6, Owensboro, Ky. ■ **Rick and Sandy Mack Scott**, a daughter, Samantha, September 24, Taylors, S.C. ■ **Derik '93 and Erin Joye Snyder Shelor**, a son, Jonathan Quinn, July 7, Lexington, Ky. Derik is a book editor for the University Press of Kentucky and Erin is pursuing a doctorate in British history. ■ **Shannon and Laura Satterlee Ward**, a son, Noah James, January 24, 2001, Cumming, Ga.

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Next reunion in 2003

After working for a textile company in Mexico for a number of years, **Carl Burgdorf** is now a credit and collections



Artistic vision

Ron Boozer's sketches adorn Shi's new book

When Ron Boozer '72 travels, he almost always takes his sketchpad with him.

During layovers in airport terminals, he sketches his fellow passengers. If there's a busy city plaza near his hotel, he tries to find time to do a quick drawing of the surroundings.

And no matter how hectic his schedule gets, the Charlotte, N.C., architect devotes two hours each Monday evening to sketching at a studio near his office.

But does putting artist's pen to paper help him unwind after a long day at work? Is it therapeutic?

Well, not always.

"I have such high expectations for a product and have a vision for what it should look like," says Boozer, a native of Union, S.C., who has been sketching since he was in elementary school. "If it does not meet those expectations, it can be frustrating. Whatever the outcome, it's always a learning experience."

Boozer is a principal and team leader with Odell Associates, an architectural and engineering firm. An art major at Furman and a three-year starter at defensive tackle on the football team, he went on to earn a master's degree in architecture, health care planning and design from Clemson University. He has contributed to award-winning designs for Shriners Hospitals in Sacramento, Houston and Boston, and he lists his work on The Johns Hopkins Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Center in Baltimore as his most challenging and rewarding project.

While his job responsibilities and family life leave little room for hobbies, he was able to carve out enough time recently to complete a set of ink sketches and a watercolor of the Bell Tower for Furman president David Shi's new book, *The Bell Tower and Beyond: Reflections on Learning and Living*. The University of South Carolina Press published the collection of Shi's newspaper columns, speeches and essays in April. Boozer's drawings of campus scenes, students and buildings appear throughout the 217-page book.

Boozer and Shi were teammates on the Furman football team and had stayed in touch through the years, so it was logical for the president

to ask his friend to provide the illustrations. Boozer visited the campus numerous times and completed 75 works, from which the publisher chose 26.

"I hope the drawings come across as more than depictions of students or buildings," says Boozer. "I hope they evoke some feeling and communicate as clearly and simply as David's writing."

Although Boozer's work has appeared in architectural manuals, *The Bell Tower and Beyond* represents the first time his drawings have appeared in a publication designed for a general audience. He is happy with the collaboration between author and artist and likes the idea of pursuing similar opportunities in the future.

But he's not ready to quit his day job. "I've always had a great interest in architecture and art, and I made my choice [to pursue architecture as a career]," he says. "But I managed to hold on to the other. Sketching helps me share my artistic voice, and it hones my senses for architecture."

— John Roberts

Another Boozer sketch is on page 20.

