

1-1-2001

A site to behold

Jake Breeden
Furman University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine>

Recommended Citation

Breeden, Jake (2001) "A site to behold," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 43 : Iss. 4 , Article 17.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol43/iss4/17>

This Regular Feature is made available online by Journals, part of the Furman University Scholar Exchange (FUSE). It has been accepted for inclusion in Furman Magazine by an authorized FUSE administrator. For terms of use, please refer to the [FUSE Institutional Repository Guidelines](#). For more information, please contact scholarexchange@furman.edu.

A site to behold

Students play key role in developing university's electronic face to the world

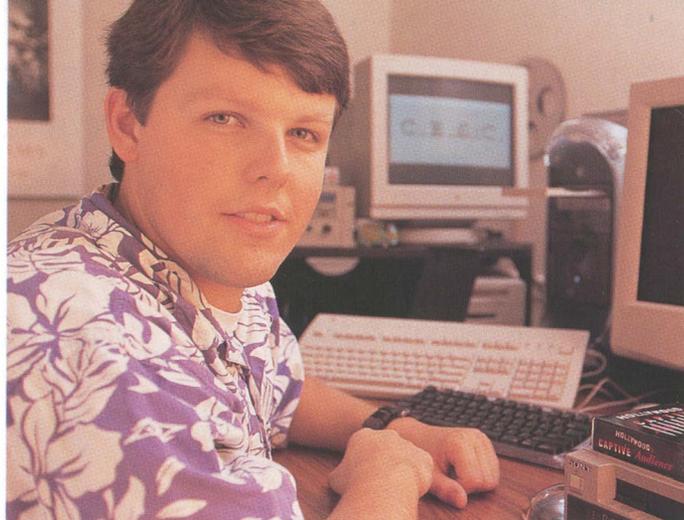
Engaged learning opportunities at Furman have taken students to New York City for media internships, on study abroad programs across the globe, and to research labs for government agencies like NASA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But many Furman students have become engaged with a more local effort: the development of the Furman Web site.

In fact, Furman students play a crucial role in developing the Web site, which is constantly evolving and is viewed by more than 8,000 people every day. For example, Michael Lines and Mandy Collinger, both 2000 graduates, produced the 12-minute on-line video featured on Furman's home page. Lines and Collinger completed the project for academic credit, and the video is one of the most viewed college videos on the Web (besting those from, among others, Boston College and the University of Michigan).

The video receives many positive comments. Viewers point especially to the genuine nature of the video, which could only be captured by students. Outside "professionals" might have produced something more slick, but with less heart.

Since graduating, Lines has started Southeast Productions, a freelance video production company in Atlanta, Ga. His clients include Furman and the Atlanta Youth Academy.

"Starting the business has been well worth my time and energy," he says. "My time is not limited and structured like it would be if I were working a 9-to-5 job. Sometimes I work 14-hour days because I wear all the hats — president, janitor, editor, camera operator, marketing specialist and accountant. On the other hand, some days I say, 'Today would be a good day to go to the beach.'"



Michael Lines '00 has gone on to establish Southeast Productions, his own video production company.

Lines credits his experience at Furman with giving him the confidence to start his own business. The video can be seen at <http://www.furman.edu/video>.

Two of Furman's top history students built The Palmetto Experience, a Web site dedicated to South Carolina history. Craig Martin and Chris Bowden consulted with history teachers from around the state to create a site that would provide a resource for anyone interested in South Carolina history, from beginners to advanced students. Their collaboration included much original research and the development of interactive games. The students also linked the site to history professor Lloyd Benson's impressive collection of on-line source documents. Visit the site at <http://www.furman.edu/palmetto>.

Darren Grem, a communication studies major who plans to enroll in a graduate program in interactive media at Georgia Tech next year, developed several elements on the Furman site, including the international site. Bill Lavery, director of international education, says, "Darren took an out-of-date Web site and single-handedly turned it into one of the best international education Web sites I've seen at any school." To view Grem's handiwork, go to <http://www.furman.edu/international>.

Al Simon believes his experience in Web development led directly to his internship at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., last summer. A senior double-majoring in political science and communication studies, he says, "They were looking for someone who understood political science and could express that understanding using the latest technology.

My experience at Furman helped me stand out from others applying for the job."

Paul Leese, a senior business administration major, played on Furman's nationally ranked soccer team before beginning his Web development work. Currently working on a redesign of the athletics page, Leese says, "My knowledge of the athletic department will help keep the site's content strong, and the Web development skills I'm picking up will help take advantage of the latest technologies." A native of Liverpool, England, Leese hopes to coach soccer on the collegiate level. Watch for his work later this spring, when Furman launches a new-look athletics page.

Senior Scott Martin, a double major in political science and math, is applying to many of the nation's top law schools, including Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Duke and Virginia. In addition to maintaining a 3.98 grade-point average and placing in the 99th percentile on the Law School Aptitude Test, he spent about 15 hours a week during his junior year maintaining the student services Web pages. He says, "I hope my Web development work shows the law school admission committees that I did more than study while I was at Furman. We'll see."

As Furman's Web site continues to grow — it currently includes more than 5,000 pages — students will no doubt play an increasingly important part in keeping it current and fresh. Keep checking <http://www.furman.edu> to watch for the latest student contributions.

— **Jake Breeden**
Web Development Director

<http://www.furman.edu>