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Class of 2004: A brief introduction

Furman University

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Furman Singers make 14th European tour

Forty-eight members of the Furman Singers left Atlanta July 24 for the group's 14th European concert tour.

The two-week trip, which the Singers make every other year, took the students to Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. They performed in such venues as the Kaufmannskirche in Erfurt, Germany, where Martin Luther preached; the Kreuzkirche in Dresden, Germany, where the Singers performed at vespers; and an evening concert in the beautiful Aula Leopoldina concert hall at the University of Wroclaw in Poland. The tour also featured an afternoon concert in the St. Nicolas Church of Old Town Square in Prague before

concluding at the Frauenkirche in Nurnberg, Germany.

Much of the Singers program revolved around American music, such as folk hymns, spirituals, vocal jazz and barbershop selections. To honor the 250th anniversary of the death of Johann Sebastian Bach, the Singers presented portions of his motet, "Jesu, meine Freude," as well as music by Chesnokov, Haydn, Casals and Rutter.

Bingham Vick, Jr., has served as conductor of the Singers since 1970. Senior Thomas Bandy of Charleston, S.C., is accompanist.

MAJOR GRANT SUPPORTS WATER QUALITY STUDY

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund of New York City has awarded Furman a \$108,600 grant to support a long-term study of water quality and watershed management issues in Northwest South Carolina.

The two-year grant will fund the River Basin Research Initiative, which focuses on the social, economic and governance issues that influence the future of water quality in the Enoree River and Saluda River basins. Kenneth A. Sargent and C. Brannon Andersen, members of Furman's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES), head the project.

"Surface water quality is one of the primary environmental issues facing Northwest South Carolina, especially as development increases," Sargent says. "But this generous grant will support more than just a scientific study of the region's water quality. It will allow us to study the issue from a variety of perspectives, which will lead to a better understanding of the environmental culture of the area."

This summer, a total of 40 students and professors (10 from other colleges and universities) worked on the River Basin Research Initiative. The research team represented six different academic disciplines — earth and environmental sciences, chemistry, biology, economics and business administration, political science and sociology.

Initial research efforts began in 1995 when the departments of biology and EES began a two-year study, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, of the Mountain Creek watershed, a small tributary to the Enoree River, on Greenville's Paris Mountain. In 1999, the departments of biology, chemistry and EES, with the aid of grants from the National Science Foundation and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, expanded their research to the Enoree River and Saluda River basins.

"The project is unique in that few studies have looked at the social, economic and governance issues that contribute to the water quality of a region," Sargent says. "Science can only delineate the water quality problem. A social science perspective is also needed to convert the information into a sound management policy."

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund was founded in 1940 by the five sons and daughter of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. On July 1, 1999, the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation of Stamford, Conn., merged with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, bringing the fund's total assets to approximately \$670 million.

Class of 2004:

A brief introduction

It may take a few months for this fall's freshman class — the Class of 2004 — to establish its own identity. But the Admissions Office has compiled some "fun facts" that provide a glimpse into the interests and attitudes of the approximately 700 students who will report to campus September 5 for the start of the 2000-2001 academic year.

Some of the more noteworthy tidbits, compiled from information submitted by the students:

- The class includes 49 valedictorians, 28 class presidents, 76 Furman Scholars — and four sets of twins.

- Twenty-nine are Eagle Scouts, and 135 are listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*.

- The class includes a number of entrepreneurs; several own their own Web page design companies, and another runs a miniature horse business.

- Politics are in some students' blood. One has worked for Sen. John Glenn of Ohio, another for the governor of Georgia, and a third was the youngest delegate from South Carolina to this year's Democratic National Convention.

- One student is the author of a children's book, and another has published poetry in two different anthologies. A third has been published in a scientific journal.

- Members of the class have done mission work in Honduras, Puerto Rico, Australia, Costa Rica, South Africa, Egypt, Tanzania, France, Poland, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Belize, Haiti, the United Kingdom, and in a number of U.S. cities.

- One student has caddied in the Masters and the U.S. Open, while another has competed in the National Championships of Wakeboarding. (It's like water skiing, except with a board.)