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Board assigns top priority to library project

Furman University

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Unrestricted gifts reach record level

For the second consecutive year, donors to the Furman Fund have set a record for unrestricted contributions to the university.

At the close of the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Furman Fund had received gifts totaling \$1,786,768, far surpassing the program's goal of \$1.595 million and representing an increase of more than 23 percent over last year's total of \$1.45 million. Perhaps most significantly, the record-setting figure marks the first year since 1992, when the South Carolina Baptist Convention severed its ties with the university, that unrestricted donations have surpassed the total contributed annually by the convention, which had reached \$1.6 million before the separation.

In addition, the percentage of alumni who gave to the university reached 50.34 percent, another record.

Unrestricted gifts are vital to all Furman academic programs and have a substantial impact on many areas. They support the scholarship and financial needs of students, help provide for the latest classroom and teaching technology and for maintenance of existing equipment, bolster the expanding needs of the James Buchanan Duke Library, and support faculty opportunities for professional growth and collaborative research with students.

As Furman enters the 2000-2001 academic year, the support of the Furman Fund is more important than ever in maintaining university programs and providing expanding opportunities for students and faculty alike. Let's keep the Furman Fund on the move!

— Phil Howard

Director, Furman Fund

Board assigns top priority to library project

With another year and a half to go before the formal conclusion of the Forever Furman campaign, the board of trustees has adopted the expansion and renovation of the library as the No. 1 facilities priority for the remainder of the fund drive.

Trustee Gordon Herring, chair of the Campaign Executive Committee, says, "Many of us feel that even if the campaign reaches its increased goal of \$175 million by the end of 2001, it won't be a complete success if we don't fully fund the \$25 million library project. It simply needs to happen."

The library campaign, the largest individual fund-raising project in Furman's history, was launched in January with the announcement of a gift of \$9.5 million from The Duke Endowment. When the library is completed, it will offer significantly expanded services, a redesigned interior and a new, 48,000-square-foot wing on its west (lake) side.

Says Herring, "Even though the Duke Endowment gift is the largest one designated for the library, the Endowment board is allowing us to name the new wing in honor of the donor of the next-largest gift, which we hope will be \$7.5 million."

To further spur the library initiative, members of the Furman board of trustees have issued their own \$7.5 million challenge to donors. Part of these challenge funds will be applied toward the library. The hope is that the rest of the board will give an additional \$7.5 million, a portion of which will also go toward the library.

Adds Herring, "We plan to go to alumni and friends for a final \$7.5 million, emphasizing the library and encouraging them to make a capital gift to this project."

The total of these "campaigns within the campaign," including the Duke Endowment grant and the challenge gifts, should come

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to approximately \$40 million, which will not only complete the library funding but that for the campaign as well.

Several members of the Furman board and other individuals have already made significant gifts toward the library expansion, and their names or those of loved ones will grace different areas of the renovated building. As of July 1, these gifts include:

- The Blackwell Atrium, named in honor of former Furman president Gordon W. Blackwell and his wife, Lib, and provided by their son, trustee Gordon L. Blackwell, and his wife, Ceil;

- The Hendricks Foyer, provided by trustee Ralph Hendricks and his wife, Marion;

- The Herring Help Desk, provided by Gordon and Sarah Weaver Herring; and

- The 24-hour student lounge and a group study room, both of which have been funded by individuals who wish to remain anonymous at this time.

For further information on the library project or on the Forever Furman campaign, call Don Lineback, vice president for development, at 864-294-2475, or e-mail campaign@furman.edu.

\$175 million
2001 Campaign Goal

\$135.052 million
As of 6/30/00

