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Linney takes helm of Alumni Board

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Furman alumni news

CLASS NOTES SUMMER 00, cont.

Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and the Million Dollar Round Table.

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This year is reunion!

Eastman Kodak Company has announced the retirement of **Carl F. Kohrt, Jr.**, executive vice president and chief technical officer, effective July 1. Kohrt joined Kodak in 1971 as a senior chemist and served in a number of positions with the company before being named executive vice president in 1995. ■ **Jenny Yates** has been appointed to the Atkinson Endowed Chair in Interdisciplinary Humanities at Wells College in Aurora, N.Y. In addition to chairing the major in religious studies, she practices as a Jungian analyst in Ithaca, N.Y.

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Next reunion in 2002

The Trustus Theatre of Columbia, S.C., the professional theatre of the Midlands, is the 2000 recipient of the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award for arts organizations. **Jim Thigpen**, the theatre's artistic director, and his wife, Kay, are co-founders of Trustus. The Verner Award is the official South Carolina Governor's Award for the Arts and the state's highest award in the arts.

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Next reunion in 2003

Gerhardt Suhrstedt and his wife, Barbara, recently presented a piano concert at Bridgewater College, after which they traveled to Russia for concert performances. They will perform in Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Utah, Nevada and the Carolinas during their winter tour.

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Next reunion in 2004

Martha Gallman Alewine is a library media consultant for the South Carolina Department of Education in Columbia. ■ **Robert McKeown** is chair-elect of the Epidemiology Section of

the American Public Health Association, the largest organization of public health professionals in the world. An associate professor of epidemiology in the University of South Carolina School of Public Health, he is also research director of the USC Center for Bioethics and chairs the Palmetto Faith and Health Consortium.

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This year is reunion!

After living in Algeria for almost nine years, **Thea DeGano Bedad** and her family have returned to the States. She is involved in theatre work and is a music teacher in Asbury Park, N.J.

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Next reunion in 2001

Ina V. "Jinny" Moore was a candidate for the school board in Brookfield, Mo. ■ **Susan Thomson Shi**, Furman's First Lady, was recognized for her contributions to life in the Upstate of South Carolina by being named to the Order of the Jessamine, sponsored by Greenville's Haywood Mall.

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Next reunion in 2002

Robert R. McGee, a campus minister for the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, is proprietor of the Rector Brother's Fantastic Flying Flea Circus. ■ **John G. Wood, Jr.**, lives in St. Paul, Minn., where he is director of product registration and compliance for Ecolab, Inc.

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Next reunion in 2003

Andrew Lee was featured recently in a *Wall Street Journal* article titled "As Asia Prospers, American Steak Houses Sizzle." A meat importer in Hong Kong, Lee opened his first restaurant there in September and a second in December. He plans to open as many as 40 restaurants and is contemplating franchising. ■ **James T. and Cathy Curry '75 Popp** live in Charlottesville, Va., where he is a systems analyst for the University of Virginia

Linney takes helm of Alumni Board

As a physician and business consultant, George Linney, Jr. '65 helps hospitals and large medical practices develop strategic plans and chart a course through the fiercely competitive and sometimes uncertain world of medical care.

Now Linney will be using his planning skills in a new way: as president of Furman's Alumni Association Board of Directors. He began his two-year term this summer.

Ask him about his plans and the Georgia native ticks off a list of items without hesitating. "One of the things I think we should try to do is take more advantage of the Cherrydale Alumni House," he says. "It is such a beautiful home, and I would like to use it as a vehicle to get more alumni involved in Furman."

His other goals: continue to boost the percentage of Furman alumni who contribute annually to the university and search for creative ways to motivate young alumni to make donations to alma mater.

Linney, who played on the tennis team during his student days, has been setting — and reaching — goals since he graduated from Furman and went on to the Medical College of Georgia. After medical school, Linney went to work in 1972 as a pediatrician for the Nalla Clinic, a large medical firm in Charlotte, N.C.

He remained with Nalla for 11 years, slowly gravitating to the business aspect of the practice. By the early 1980s, Linney was taking business courses at night and had decided to pursue a career as a medical business manager.

In 1983, he and his family moved to Orlando, Fla., when he was named medical director of a group practice. After raising two children, Allison and George III (a 1998 Furman graduate), Linney and his wife, Barbara, moved back to Charlotte, where he began work as an independent consultant.

When he's not working with hospitals, medical groups and managed care companies, Linney also counsels physicians in such areas as leadership development, career options and job placement.



George Linney hopes to involve more young graduates in Alumni Association activities.

A longtime member of the Paladin Club, Linney first became involved in Alumni Association activities in Orlando, where he joined the local Furman Club. He was elected to the Alumni Association Board of Directors in 1990 and has served as the group's vice president and president-elect.

Among universities of comparable size, Furman ranks near the top in percentage of alumni who contribute to their alma mater. But Linney feels that by working more closely with young alumni, the percentage of alumni donors to Furman could rise even higher.

"I think that if we do not push for a higher number, then a 50 percent giving mark will be harder to maintain," he says. "Younger graduates could make the most impact. It's important to get them in the habit early of giving each year, even if it's a small gift. Participation is what's important."

Linney also wants to encourage more alumni, regardless of where they live, to become involved in university life by joining a local Furman Club. "There are 50 Furman Clubs in 23 states," he says, "so unless you live in a place like Montana, there should be one for you."

— John Roberts