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Novel idea

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Furman alumni news

CLASS NOTES SPRING 00, cont.

Company. ■ **Anne Gifford Taylor** and Robin Arthur Brooke Baxter, October 23. They live in Raleigh, N.C., where he is employed by TekSystems. ■ **Maria Kathleen Thrailkill** and Ryan Jackson Wright, June 19, 1999. She teaches third grade in the Nashville, Tenn., school system, and he is employed by a division of Ingram Entertainment. ■ **BIRTH:** Michael F. and **Hope Henderson Kuckel**, a daughter, Mikayla Rose, May 18, 1999, Mount Pleasant, Mich.

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Next reunion in 2002

Having earned his M.A. degree in English literature from Clemson University, **Jason M. Berry** is now in the Ph.D. program at Northeastern University, specializing in cinema studies and composition theory. ■ **Bethany E. Brouse** is a second-year student in physical therapy at the Medical College of Georgia. ■ **Kristin C. Conner** lives in Columbia, Mo., where she is working toward a Master of Fine Arts degree in ceramics at the University of Missouri. ■ **Allyson M. Deihl** of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., is studying for an M.B.A. degree at the University of North Florida and is an accountant with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Florida. ■ **Dawnelle A. Diedrich** earned a master's degree in exercise physiology from the University of Texas. She travels the country monitoring pharmaceutical testing for Clinical Research Associates. ■ **Ryan S. and Amber Haselden Griffin** live in Wingate, N.C. She is a computer programmer for a document management and imaging company based in Charlotte, N.C. ■ **Karen J. Hill** of Union City, N.J., passed the Professional in Human Resources certification exam in December. She is a recruiter at National Discount Brokers Group. ■ **Robert C. Hubbard** and his wife, Susie, live in Ann Arbor, Mich., where she is pursuing a master's degree at the University of Michigan School

of Social Work and he is a recruitment and hiring intern for Washtenaw County Human Resources. ■ **Carrie E. Jones** of Lansing, Mich., is coordinator of volunteers in Congresswoman Debbie Stabenow's race for the U.S. Senate. ■ **Barbara Ann Lauerman** teaches at the Furman Child Development Center. ■ **Colin A. and Brandy Justice Ross** live in Lawrenceville, Ga. She is a business analyst for the American Cancer Society and he is employed by AT&T. ■ **Matthew D. Schrecengost** is studying for an M.B.A. degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago. ■ **Emily M. Slayton** of McLean, Va., is strategic gifts team administrator for Prison Fellowship Ministries in Northern Virginia. ■ **Meghan E. Smith** lives in Louisville, Ky., where she teaches music in two Catholic schools and also teaches private piano lessons. ■ **Robert L. Tims, Jr.**, is completing a Master of Divinity degree at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala. He spends summers directing a Crosspoint team in a Christian sports camp. ■ **Christopher M. Zuppa** is a graduate student at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism. ■ **MARRIAGES:** **Camela Ashley Barr** and Robert Causey, Jr., November 20. She is a middle school teacher with the Greenville County School District and he is an engagement management coordinator with Ernst & Young, LLP. ■ **Carol Lynn Fogle** and Johnathan Charles McCuen II, December 12, Greenville. She teaches at Grove Elementary School and he is a firefighter at South Greenville Fire Department. ■ **Jonathan Allen Good** and Julie Anne Wharton, December 4, Greenville. ■ **Dorothy Hanckel** and Gregg Lancaster, December 4. They live in Charleston, S.C., where she is in community relations at Ashley Hall School. ■ **Amy Hogg** and Brad Baldwin, May 1999. They live in Charlotte, N.C., where she teaches science at Charlotte Latin School and he works at

the Torrington Company. ■ **Heather Prothman** and Bryan Jones, October 16. They live in Columbia, S.C. She is employed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control's Cardiovascular Health Program. ■ **Alisha Michelle Skinner** and Thomas Looper, December 18. Both teach in Greenville, she at Wade Hampton High School and he at Berea High. ■ **Melody Teresa Silvers** and Henry Lee Cook, February 19. They live in Travelers Rest, S.C., and are employed by Charter Media, she as marketing manager and he as a producer. ■ **Molly Warmoth '98** and **Rhett Watson**, September 18. They live in Greenville where she is a chemist at Pharmaceutical Associates. He is a doctoral student at Clemson University. ■ **BIRTH:** James and **Kara Adams Gilbert**, a son, James Patton, December 28.

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Next reunion in 2003

Camille S. Gibson of Greer, S.C., is studying for an M.B.A. degree at Gardner-Webb University and is assistant band director at Chesnee (S.C.) Middle School. ■ **Teresa Neal** of Orlando, Fla., passed the CPA exam last November and is a tax associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers. ■ **Jayson Christopher Riddle** lives in Winston-Salem, N.C., and is a law student at Wake Forest University. ■ **Dorothy Marie Swann** is a graduate student at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. ■ **Melissa** and **James L. Toth** live in Greenfield, Ind. He completed his M.S. degree in chemistry in December and now works as an organic chemist at Elanco (Eli Lilly Animal Health). ■ **Jennifer L. Turner** lives in Arapahoe, N.C., and works at the Don Lee Center, a summer camp and year-round retreat facility sponsored by the United Methodist Church. ■ **MARRIAGES:** **Derek O. Bruff** and **Amy Maris '99**, November 20. They live in Nashville, Tenn. ■ **Joanna Leigh Wimmer** and **Joseph Michael Espinosa**, December 11. They live in Greenville where she is a secretary at Grace Church and he is a process development chemist at Schweizerhall Development. ■ **Ryan Westberry** and **Wendy Bennis '99**, July 10. She is a free-lance musician and private teacher and

Novel idea

Grisham character has Furman ties.

Trevor Carson is a downtrodden, twice-divorced, 48-year-old lawyer with a limited personal life, a drinking problem and a penchant for gambling. "A loser," as an acquaintance succinctly describes him.

He's also a Furman graduate — with a connection to some powerful folks.

And he's a fictional character. But he's all ours, thanks to author John Grisham.

Carson actually plays a key role in *The Brethren*, Grisham's latest best-seller, in which his Furman ties are noted on page 145 ("... native of Pennsylvania, college at Furman, law school at Florida State...").

Without giving away too much of the book, it's fair to say that without Carson, the brethren would have difficulty taking care of business. With the help, no doubt, of the thinking and reasoning skills he developed during his Furman days, Carson realizes his value to the brethren and uses this knowledge for personal gain.

Does Carson escape from his sleazy world to build a new life? Will he be transformed into an upstanding member of the bar (the judicial bar)? And will he be invited to join the Furman board of trustees?

For the answers to most of these questions, you'll have to read the book. As for how Grisham decided to link Carson to Furman, we can't be certain. But we do know he coaches baseball with Alan Swanson '72, who is director of development and baseball coach at St. Anne's Belfield School in Charlottesville, Va. Perhaps as a nod to his friend — or to tweak him a bit, considering Carson's somewhat disreputable status — Grisham gave Carson a Furman connection.

Certainly, it's exciting to have the Furman name spread far and wide in a Grisham book. Since Grisham typically assigns his lawyers Ivy League or Mississippi pedigrees, it's good to know that he is aware of the Harvard of the South. Perhaps this marks an encouraging new trend in his work.

If so, we have only one small request: that when next an individual from Furman graces the pages of a Grisham novel, the author will balance the scales a bit. We suggest that his next Furman character be a respected, upstanding member of society who, as the university's catalogue states, is "grounded in the traditional sources of knowledge" and demonstrates "the capacity for continuing self-education necessary to deal with change."

And who makes substantial annual contributions to alma mater.

— Jim Stewart