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An expedition to Aconcagua, the highest peak in the Andes mountain range, leads to the ultimate test of physical and mental stamina for two young men.
The idea to climb Aconcagua began as a distant dream.

After graduating from Furman in 1996, I had moved to Los Alamos, N.M., where I met Matt Cox. We discovered a mutual love of adventure and the outdoors and spent much of the next few years climbing many of the prominent peaks of the Rocky Mountains in New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming.

At first we never seriously considered scaling anything the magnitude of Aconcagua, but after hearing climbers talk of this magnificent South American mountain, we decided to do some research.

Cerro Aconcagua lies in the Andes mountain range of Western Argentina, close to Santiago, Chile. While the south face is a spectacular wall of rock and ice more than 8,000 feet high, the north side is a massive rocky slope with a moderate to steep gradient. At 22,834 feet (6,959 meters), it is the highest mountain in the world outside of Central Asia.

In the Quechua language, Aconcagua means “The White Sentinel.” The name makes perfect sense, because the mountain towers above the surrounding peaks. Its primary dangers arise from the hurricane-force winds and storms coming off the Pacific Ocean, combined with the intense summer sun. Its altitude and remote location make it a true large-scale mountaineering expedition — and a perfect introduction to the world’s great climbs.

After weeks of research and discussion, we finally realized that we had a rare opportunity to experience one of the major mountains of the world, and we decided to seize the chance.

We spent much of last fall and winter training and making preparations. We ran, climbed, backpacked and biked high in the mountains for countless hours each day so that we would be physically and mentally prepared for the task ahead. During this time, the nagging question always lurked in the back of our minds: How would we react when the true test confronted us?

Finally, in late February, we headed to South America. Our quest began with a harrowing bus ride through a narrow mountain pass in the Andes between Argentina and Chile. Our driver took great pleasure in pointing out all the burned-out skeletons of cars that had slipped off the cliffs on either side. He
left us at the 9,000-foot pass, and as we stood there alone with nothing but the distant moan of the mountain winds, anxiety swept over us. **Had we gotten in over our heads?**

For the first two days we hiked toward the 14,000-foot-high base camp located on the flank of the mountain, which we would use as a staging ground for the actual ascent. With all our climbing gear plus enough food and fuel for two weeks, we carried the crushing load of 65 pounds each. The vast majority of climbers hire mules to pack their equipment the 20 miles to base camp, but for some reason that was later incomprehensible to us, we decided to carry our packs ourselves.

The hike took us through mile after mile of high, barren wasteland with little water and sometimes searing heat. We were amazed by how arid the mountains were—no trees, grass or wildlife of any sort. The landscape resembled the desert terrain out of “Star Wars.”

Finally we reached base camp, which was in the middle of a giant glacial moraine—a desolate but beautiful area of rocks and debris deposited by glaciers thousands of years ago. We were surrounded on three sides by Aconcagua and nearby mountains. Adjacent to the camp loomed a hanging glacier. Several times during the evening we were startled by an enormous roar as a massive piece of the glacier would crash off the cliff face into the valley below.

Matt and I spent two days acclimatizing ourselves at base camp. Most of the people there seemed to be feeling some effects from the altitude. They were a fascinating group; we met climbers from all over the world, including Europe, China, Canada, Japan, Australia and Argentina. And they shared some disconcerting news with us. We were told that only about 25 percent of those who try to summit Aconcagua actually make it, and that there had been a number of deaths on the mountain in recent months, primarily from the extremely high altitude and exposure to cold and wind.

After pondering these sobering words, we proceeded the next day to haul our gear up to our first high camp at 16,000 feet. This camp was on a small ledge in a cleft of rocks in the middle of the steep mountainside. We spent the day chatting with eight other climbers on their way up the mountain, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of various routes to the summit and how many days each group planned to take to reach the peak. Finally the conversation turned to deeper topics, and as the beautiful stars of the Southern Hemisphere came to life, we debated religion, politics and philosophy with people from around the world.

(Months later, when traveling through Patagonia, we would randomly run into some of the same people who would sadly inform us that none of their group ever reached the peak because of massive storms that swept through right after we left the mountain.)

The next day we hiked to 17,500 feet, to a spot called Nido de Condores (Condor’s Nest). We were thrilled to see two condors playing in the thermal wind spirals near our camp. Nido, however, was a cold, barren place, and we had to melt ice to have water to drink. We saw relatively few climbers there, and we spent most of our time resting, melting snow and conserving our energy for the summit.

At this point I began to experience classic symptoms of altitude sickness, namely headaches and nausea. Worse, however, was that I was having trouble sleeping. I would lie awake all night, freezing in my sleeping bag. This really began to wear on me mentally. **How would I possibly have the strength to reach the summit without rest? I would picture myself at home with friends and family and feel hopelessly homesick and alone, trapped in this high prison above the rest of the world.**

The next day we took a short hike up to 19,500 feet to acclimate ourselves to the surroundings, then returned to Nido. Here the trip really started to look
bad, as Matt became nauseated and unable to stomach food of any sort.

That evening we were hammered by a sudden blizzard, and the situation deteriorated. Before dark there were about four inches of snow on the ground, and the wind was howling. All night long I heard the roar of the wind on the peak and anxiously waited for the blast that would smack the tent. Sometimes the wind was so strong that the tent would briefly collapse on our faces. I was terrified that the weather would worsen.

Earlier we had agreed that we would make our summit attempt the next day, but suddenly things looked really bleak. I hadn’t slept in three nights, Matt couldn’t eat, and we were trapped by the blizzard. During the night I watched every minute tick by while I tried to stay warm. The moisture in our breath froze on the inside of the tent, and the wind was knocking the ice off on top of us. This was the low point of the trip, and for the first time we seriously questioned whether we had the resolve to stick it out.

Miraculously, though, the morning of March 1 broke bitterly cold but clear. We decided to seize this window of opportunity and go all-out for the summit.

I began to experience classic symptoms of altitude sickness, namely headaches and nausea. Worse, however, was that I was having trouble sleeping. I would lie awake all night, freezing in my sleeping bag. This really began to wear on me mentally. How would I possibly have the strength to reach the summit without rest?
I was prepared for it to be tough, but nothing could have prepared me for how painful it was.

Wearing every piece of clothing we had brought, we took off with over a vertical mile to ascend. The first few thousand feet were beautiful, and as we climbed we could just make out the deep blue strip of the Pacific Ocean on the horizon, 100 miles away. Surprisingly, we both felt relatively strong — maybe it was the excitement of being so close to our goal — and the early portion of the climb was rather mellow and peaceful.

We knew, however, that because of the storm we had gotten a late start, and we anxiously watched the distant clouds on the horizon. They brought to mind stories of the tragic 1996 Mount Everest attempt in which several experienced climbers died in a storm, and we knew we did not have much time to spare.

Gradually we rose above the jagged, ice-covered peaks of the surrounding Andes and edged closer to the summit. Around 21,000 feet Matt had another bout with nausea and spent several minutes throwing up. Determined to reach the peak, he was able to recover and press on.

A steep slope of ice and snow lay ahead. The wind was howling with unbelievable force, so that just to remain standing took great effort. For the first time, we had to pull out our ice axes and outfit our boots with crampons. Without this extra protection, we easily could have slipped and plunged thousands of feet down the slope. Somehow we forced ourselves to ignore the height and keep moving.

With only 1,000 feet to go, the climb became tortuously difficult. We were gasping and wheezing for every breath, and each muscle in our bodies seemed to be dying. I was prepared for it to be tough, but nothing could have prepared me for how painful it was. To keep going I would focus on a rock 10 yards away and struggle my way to it. Then I would wheeze, hunch over my ice axe for several minutes to regain my breath, and struggle another 10 yards. It felt as if I was drowning, and several times I experienced moments of panic, afraid that I would not be able to catch my breath and would suffocate from lack of oxygen.

The final stretch seemed interminable. The last few hundred yards we crested a knife-edged ice ridge that sloped down thousands of feet on each side. Under normal conditions I would have been terrified, but my mind had been so numbed by the altitude, pain and cold, I could find no emotion — only a desire to continue on.

Finally I scrambled over the last few boulders and reached the summit of Aconcagua. I collapsed as bitterly cold wind and sleet hit my face. Inside I felt the most intense exhilaration of my life, but at first my body would not permit me to enjoy the sensation. For five minutes I fought to recover my breath, and finally a surge of excitement lifted me to my feet to celebrate the moment. I almost wept with joy.

Once I was able to focus on my surroundings, I was amazed at their beauty. Many peaks that had looked so massive earlier were now only little hills, miles below. Our camp at Nido was but a tiny speck, far down the mountain. For a full 360 degrees I could see only mountains of incomprehensible size. And I realized how remote our location was; there was no sign of civilization anywhere.

When Matt made the summit, we hugged in what had to be one of the most emotional moments of our lives. After admiring the view and taking a few celebratory pictures, we headed back down, knowing that every additional minute on the summit increased the risk of hypothermia and frostbite.

Hours later and barely able to walk, we stumbled back into Nido. Reaching the summit and returning to camp on the same day had completely exhausted us. We collapsed in our tent while the sun was still up, and for the first time in four days I enjoyed a long, deep, peaceful sleep.

We spent the next few days hiking the agonizingly long road back to civilization. Knowing that it is difficult for muscles to recuperate at high altitude, we took no time to rest but instead hiked out as quickly as our weary legs would permit. Along the way, we met several groups of climbers who were heading up the mountain with the same eager, excited looks that we once had. We gave them all the advice we could, but our battered bodies told the true story of what lay ahead for them.

Our expedition ended up taking nine days, but it seemed like a month. Life on high-altitude expeditions can be extremely desolate and lonely. When we weren’t hiking we spent most of our time melting ice for drinking water — and trying to stay warm. The nights were bitterly cold, and even though we both had double sleeping bags, we were still cold.
We spent long periods of each day in our little tent, which became more like an overstuffed closet. After a while we crammed all of our warm-weather clothes, water bottles, books, boots, food and just about everything else in the tent with us. Little wonder we had trouble sleeping.

By the end of the trip my feet were a swollen, gnarled mass of blisters, my lips were cracked, and my back and legs were unimaginably sore. I guess this was the price I paid for pushing the human body higher and farther than it was meant to go.

But the physical problems eventually eased, leaving me with wonderful memories. My appreciation of the world has been incredibly expanded, and I have a better understanding of how vast the world truly is. The expedition allowed me to meet people from different races, religions and backgrounds and to discover for myself that despite our differences, we share many similarities. Most importantly, I really came to appreciate the importance and support of my friends and family back home in the States.

Although I am proud of the perseverance and effort it took to reach the summit of Aconcagua, I have no desire ever to push myself that hard again. Still, I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to stand on one of the highest places on earth — and to have experienced something almost beyond the realm of human existence.

I really came to appreciate the importance and support of my friends and family back home in the States.
Kohrt, based today in Hong Kong, heads Kodak's rapidly expanding operations in Asia.
Intellectual curiosity, leadership skills and an ability to adapt to changing circumstances have propelled Carl Kohrt into the top ranks at Eastman Kodak.

It would be a defining moment in Carl Kohrt’s life.

Sitting in Bob King’s office, he was about to do something he’d never done before — quit.

King, the football coach at Furman, had recruited Kohrt, a big tight end from Illinois. They had known one another for three years. King first began recruiting the future all-state player when he was an assistant at the University of Illinois. Kohrt admired and respected King.

“I distinctly remember sitting in his office,” says Kohrt, now 55. “It’s something you remember your entire life.”

With his father by his side, Kohrt told King he was quitting the football team to focus on academics. An excellent student, the freshman felt that football practice was cutting into his time in the lab.

King was disappointed but understanding. Over the next few weeks he worked with Dean Francis W. Bonner to convert Kohrt’s athletic scholarship to an academic one.

“My parents could not afford to send me to Furman without a scholarship,” says Kohrt. “I really owe a lot to Coach King and Dean Bonner. Without them, I would have left Furman.”

In a Greenville News story about Kohrt’s departure, King was quoted as saying: “I’ve lost a lot of players for a lot of reasons. But I’ve never lost one because of good grades.”

Kohrt says, “I really felt like I was letting the coach down. But I figured I had a better chance of becoming a good chemist than a good football player.”

Well, Kohrt would become much more than a good chemist. Today, he is one of the top three executives at a company that last year recorded sales of more than $13 billion and employs 86,000 people worldwide — Eastman Kodak. His photograph has appeared in Forbes, Barron’s and many other business publications. And in the mid-1990s he was part of a high-profile corporate team that pumped new life into the then-floundering photo film and chemical giant.

Today, Kohrt and his wife, Lynne, live in Hong Kong, where he directs the company’s rapidly expanding business in Asia. Last year, he helped craft a billion-dollar agreement with Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji through which Kodak purchased a major portion of the state-owned photographic industry.

Kodak Moments

Kodak’s leadership team includes CEO George Fisher (left), Kohrt and Daniel Carp.

By John Roberts
The accord, which took four years to negotiate, has positioned Kodak as the market share leader in film and paper in China. Five years ago, Kodak’s presence in the world’s most populous country was almost nonexistent. Today, the company employs nearly 4,000 people in seven factories while helping private entrepreneurs open nearly 5,000 Kodak Express retail outlets at a rate of three per day.

And just this summer Kohrt spoke before members of Congress during talks on China’s World Trade Organization membership.

So how does an admitted lab rat become a renowned international businessman, leading corporate executive and counselor to policy makers?

Although Kohrt’s dogged work ethic, engaging personality and infectious enthusiasm helped him ascend the corporate ladder at Kodak, his insatiable appetite for learning and his willingness to adapt to a changing international business and corporate climate have defined his 28-year career at the Rochester, N.Y.-based company.

**Building a ‘personal tool kit’**

In the Kohrt household in tiny Tuscola, Ill., where both parents were teachers, learning and schoolwork were stressed from an early stage. But young Carl Kohrt also excelled in athletics.

His size (6-3, 220 pounds) and soft hands helped him earn all-state honors in 1960 as a tight end. During his sophomore year he caught the eye of King, then an assistant coach at the University of Illinois. When King took the head coaching position at Furman in 1958, he continued to recruit Kohrt.

“He said, ‘Why don’t you come down and give this school a look?’” says Kohrt. “So I took my first airplane trip to Greenville. When I got to this beautiful campus and saw the mountain backdrop, I knew this was the place for me.”

As a freshman Kohrt played both basketball and football, but he soon discovered that his athletic commitments were cutting into his lab and study time. So he decided to drop sports and concentrate on academics.

In 1962, Kohrt’s high school sweetheart and future wife, Lynne, joined him at Furman, where she took a job as the chemistry department secretary and typist for the book Principles of Chemistry, published by members of the chemistry faculty in 1965.

“During the summer before his senior year, Kohrt and a handful of other students helped pilot the chemistry department’s first summer undergraduate research program, which teams students with faculty members for two months of hands-on research. The program is now one of the nation’s largest, with 43 students taking part this year,”

Stuart Patterson, a retired Furman chemistry professor who worked with Kohrt that summer, says his former student’s energy was boundless. “He lived on Paris Mountain, and I remember that he used to bicycle or jog to campus each day,” says Patterson. “And at night he would crawl in through the men’s bathroom window after dark when the building was closed so he could work in the lab.”

Kohrt says, “The most critical tools in my personal tool kit are those that I first acquired at Furman. Furman faculty convinced me that the art of learning and the discipline of reasoned inquiry apply equally well to Shakespeare as to physical chemistry. It was at Furman that I also began to understand that values, when consistently and thoughtfully applied, strengthen the individual as well as the organization.”

Upon graduation in 1965 (magna cum laude), Kohrt was named a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and a National Science Foundation Fellow. He completed his doctoral studies in physical chemistry at the University of Chicago in 1971, and that same year he was named a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow to the James Frank Institute at the university.

**Up the corporate ladder**

Kohrt joined the Photographic Research Laboratories of Eastman Kodak in late 1971 as a senior scientist. During the next 15 years he held increasingly important technical management positions in research, as well as corporate positions in strategic planning, business research and as staff assistant to the vice chairman.

In 1987 Kohrt was named director of Kodak’s worldwide photographic research laboratories, which consist...
of nearly 3,000 scientists and engineers in seven countries and on four continents. In 1991, after being named a Sloan Fellow and graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a Master of Management Science degree, Kohrt was tapped to head Kodak’s Health Science Division, the leading medical, dental and cardiology diagnostic film-imaging business in the world.

The promotion came during a troubled period for Kodak. While other world-class companies were restructuring (downsizing, forming joint ventures and outsourcing) to prepare for the new global economy during the late 1980s, Kodak maintained the status quo. After all, the film giant had dominated the imaging business for decades. Why change?

By 1992, the need for shock therapy became apparent when Japan’s Fuji Film began to challenge Kodak’s dominance in the domestic photo film market. In the meantime, Kodak had committed huge resources to diversification (batteries, drugs and clinical diagnostic machines) while shying away from a new, emerging technology — digital imaging.

With both Kodak’s market share and stock price sliding, the company’s board of directors named George Fisher chairman, president and chief executive officer in 1993. Fisher, who had been chief executive of Motorola, was the first outsider ever chosen to run the company.

“Kodak was a very paternalistic company,” says Kohrt. “Until 1988 we had very few competitors. When things changed, this turned out to be a burden.”

Fisher began the overhaul by selling Kodak’s non-imaging businesses and spinning off its chemical unit. He also promoted two longtime Kodak employees, Kohrt and Daniel Carp, to assistant chief operating officer to help chart the course ahead.

Kodak rushed headlong into the digital imaging business and began its push into emerging markets in Indonesia, China, Russia and India. In 1997, the company also implemented a painful 20 percent reduction in its workforce (about 20,000 employees) in an effort to streamline operations and cut costs.

“The downsizing and restructuring allowed us to better compete with not only our traditional competitor, Fuji, but positioned us to compete with new competitors like Hewlett-Packard and Sony,” says Kohrt. “Now we are the lowest-cost manufacturer.”

With Kodak focusing on its core imaging business, charging ahead with new technologies and hoping to reap the benefits from expanding Asian markets, some analysts predict the stock value of the new, leaner and meaner Kodak will soon top $100 per share.

The stock is currently trading for around $70 per share, up from $40 a share four years ago.

The long-term prospects for the company’s growth in Asia — despite a recent economic downturn in the region — has many analysts touting Kodak stock because cameras and film remain one of the first “luxury” items that new middle-class consumers purchase.

“China is one of the biggest growth opportunities for us in the world,” says Kohrt. “The average American family uses seven to eight rolls of film per year. If we could get every Chinese family to use half a role of film per year, we could double the size of our company. Half of all the Chinese people have never taken a picture.”

Although the Kohrts moved to Hong Kong more than two years ago so that Carl could manage Kodak’s operations in Asia, they maintain strong ties to the States — and to Furman. Kristopher, one of their three sons, graduated from Furman in 1984. Carl Kohrt serves on the Furman Advisory Council and has taken great pride in watching the chemistry department develop an outstanding, nationally recognized program. In recent years, he has provided a summer stipend that covers research supplies for a student participating in the undergraduate research program.

“Carl has a genuine interest in the students and our program,” says Lon Knight, who chairs the chemistry department. “In fact, at the end of the summer he wants to see a report on the student’s research findings. This kind of interest, particularly for someone of his stature, is uncommon.”

In 1998, Kohrt helped to craft a billion-dollar agreement with Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji through which Kodak purchased a major portion of the state-owned photographic industry. (Inset) Kohrt and his wife, Lynne McCartney ’65, take a break beside Hong Kong harbor.
Women influence
Furman’s progress and development during the last half-century would not have been possible without the contributions of four exceptional First Ladies.

By Pamela Burgess Shucker

Over the last 60 years, Furman University, once a small, regional Baptist college, has blossomed into a national liberal arts institution recognized for its academic strength and emphasis on developing the whole person.

The striking characteristic that emerges from this period of spiraling growth and achievement is outstanding leadership — leadership uniquely appropriate to the critical needs of the university at specific points in its development. John L. Plyler, president from 1939 to 1964, led the way in constructing and opening the new campus; Gordon W. Blackwell (1965-76) inspired the university to set its sights higher and pursue greatness by national standards; John E. Johns (1976-94) built the university’s endowment and oversaw its transition to independent status; and today, David E. Shi guides Furman’s ascension into the vanguard of liberal arts colleges with its emphasis on engaged learning.

Each of these men was (and is) fortunate to have a partner whose special talents also had a significant and profound impact on the university’s image and mission. Their contributions will endure for years to come, and it is the Furman community’s good fortune that they remain a prominent and vital part of campus life, connecting the past with the present and the future.
In 1932 a beautiful and gracefully athletic young woman, Beatrice Dennis, married John Laney Plyler, 17 years her senior. Seven years later, having successfully passed the scrutiny of the trustees’ wives, she became Furman’s First Lady when her husband was named president.

Few could have handled their sudden emergence into the limelight as well as Bea Plyler, who is the epitome of poise and self-assurance. She says, “I wanted John to have all the support he needed, and I wanted to be that support.” As history shows, she accomplished her job superbly for 25 years until her husband’s retirement in 1964.

In 1938 a former Furman professor, Sidney Ernest Bradshaw, made a bequest to the university to support construction of a greatly needed library. But when the university’s leaders analyzed the aging campus in downtown Greenville, hemmed in by growth on all sides, they realized that there was no place to build anything new. This setback proved to be only temporary, however, for as Mrs. Plyler recalls, Bradshaw’s bequest eventually served as the catalyst for the decision to build a new campus.

“That was a big dream, as you can imagine, to be able to build a new campus when Furman did not have money in reserve to do it,” says Mrs. Plyler. “But John used to say, ‘Dream no small dreams.’”

After careful thought and planning, the trustees visited four potential sites for the new campus. After the first three proved disappointing, concern grew that the idea might die for lack of a suitable location.

“But when the bus came to the top of the hill overlooking the site of the present campus, I think their conversation changed rather abruptly,” says Mrs. Plyler. “I think the beauty of the spot, with the Blue Ridge Mountains on one side and Paris Mountain on the other, actually encouraged them to go ahead and build a new campus.”

With the decision made, Mrs. Plyler’s thoughts turned to the appearance of the new campus. She recalled how her family enjoyed visiting Williamsburg, Va., which is known for its distinctive architectural style. She remembers asking, “Why can’t something whose beauty has stood the test of time be functional? I wanted everything [at Furman] to be beautiful.”

A trip to Versailles in 1947 inspired her to telegraph her husband and ask, “What about a lake and fountains?” When the builders discovered underground springs on the property, the idea took hold, and today we have Furman’s signature water marks. In addition, she decorated and furnished the Trustees Dining Room and the parlors in the women’s residence halls, which served as the primary entertainment areas during the early years of the new campus. She also influenced the landscaping plan for the campus.

Around 1954, while building a home near the campus, Mrs. Plyler suggested to Charles Daniel of Daniel Construction Company, builder of the new Furman, that he and his wife, Homozel Mickel Daniel, might also enjoy living in the area because of its beautiful view of the mountains and because “the temperature was 10 degrees cooler.” The Daniels took her advice and decided to build the majestic White Oaks, which they ultimately bequeathed to the university as the president’s home. The Plylers and Daniels lived as close neighbors for years and often attended Furman events together.

Thanks in large part to Bea Plyler’s imagination and keen eye for detail, 750 acres of farmland became the stunning Furman campus. With her husband, John, she refused to “dream small dreams.”
once, when asked what qualities she considered to be most important for a college president’s spouse, Lib Blackwell replied that she could not answer for others, but that two things had worked well for her: “I like people of all ages and have always been able to relate to others,” she said. “And I decided long ago that I’d be myself, be natural. I may have many things to do but I simply don’t worry. I just let things take their course and it all works out.”

There is little question that Elizabeth Lyles Blackwell brought spontaneity, social grace and enjoyment of people to her tenure as Furman’s First Lady. Her unique ability to make people feel at ease and to create a warm, hospitable atmosphere endeared her to the entire Furman community. One alumna recalls with amazement that Mrs. Blackwell greeted her by name the day after they had met at a big gathering for new freshmen. The student had forgotten who this nice woman was, but Lib Blackwell was (and is) famous for never forgetting a name.

Her people skills and those of her husband, Gordon Blackwell, proved invaluable during their years at Furman. Although life on campus remained relatively peaceful by national standards, the university did not completely avoid the social and political upheavals the nation faced in the turbulent sixties and early seventies. Issues such as the war in Vietnam, integration, the draft, women’s equality and the energy crisis mingled with such campus concerns as a speakers’ policy, dancing, dress codes, compulsory chapel and interference from the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Students frequently questioned university policies and procedures.

During this period, Furman was fortunate to have the Blackwells at the helm. They were known for their round-the-clock, open-door policy toward students, a fact that even their “friendly” adversaries in the student body acknowledged. Dr. Blackwell also initiated “Fireside Chats” to learn more about student concerns and interests. “Gordon has always been able to talk with people and be calm and not get excited about it,” says Mrs. Blackwell.

In short, the Blackwells always enjoyed the company of young people. Many former students fondly remember the after-prom midnight breakfast the Blackwells served each year in the back yard of their home. “One of my greatest joys is having students in our home,” Mrs. Blackwell says.

The theme for the Blackwell administration was “Greatness by National Standards,” and Gordon and Lib Blackwell’s belief in this goal helped inspire the university toward the heights it enjoys today.

One of the most significant events of the Blackwell era occurred in 1973 when Furman secured a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious academic honorary society. When noted historian John Hope Franklin, now a trustee with The Duke Endowment, arrived to install the chapter, one of the first things he recalled was a delightful breakfast he enjoyed in England with Lib Blackwell — some 30 years before.

As John Crabtree, former vice president for academic affairs and dean, told the board of trustees in 1993 at a special presentation honoring the Blackwells, “Lib Blackwell provided the kind of support and encouragement that made it possible for her husband to devote himself completely to Furman. She was the one who consoled homesick students, who asked faculty members about their families, who put people at their ease by telling funny stories — usually about herself. Her wit, wisdom and warm personality have won many friends for Furman.”
he has been my partner in all that we have endeavored to do at Furman. Without her we would not have made the progress I hope we have achieved,” says John E. Johns of his wife, Martha Mauney Johns.

Their relationship began in the Furman Dining Hall in 1946 when Martha first “turned his head,” and together they led Furman through a period of expansion that included the construction of five new buildings, a tenfold increase in endowment, growth of the student body and increased national recognition. During their last four years in office, the Johnses oversaw two extraordinary events in the university’s life: the separation from the South Carolina Baptist Convention and the establishment of White Oaks as the president’s home.

The long struggle with the Baptist convention for control of the university proved difficult for everyone involved, but Martha Johns says she and her husband knew that Furman had to take a stand when it became apparent that academic freedom might be jeopardized if fundamentalist Christians took control of the university’s board of trustees.

“Although we were about ready to retire, John saw the need. I don’t think anyone else could have been better prepared. John’s parents were in Baptist work, we were Baptists, and we had 25 years of experience and connections as a college president at two Baptist schools,” she says, referring to their six years as leaders of Stetson University before coming to Furman.

On May 15, 1992, after more than a year and a half of negotiations, arguments, charges and countercharges, the South Carolina Baptist Convention voted to sever its ties to the university. The process of building a new identity and of moving forward as an independent liberal arts college began under John and Martha Johns.

Just a few weeks after the break with the Baptists, Homozel Mickel Daniel died and left the university an estate worth close to $25 million. The bequest included her stately home, White Oaks.

Although the Johnses had just finished building their own retirement home near Furman, they enthusiastically accepted the responsibility of maintaining White Oaks. Mrs. Johns guided the process of inventorying and cataloging the house’s contents, and her home economics degree from Furman and skills in design and decorating proved invaluable. She and her husband opened the house to the Greenville community and encouraged visitors to tour the impressive estate. Her love for flowers led to the revival of the home’s beautiful gardens, including the creation of an English garden and the restoration of a rose garden that has been named in her honor.

But Martha Johns considers her idea of transforming the patio adjoining Daniel Dining Hall into a facility for major university functions as her “legacy” to the university. Her vision became Hartness Pavilion, which opened in early 1987 and has been the site of countless university and community events through the years.

In 1994, Furman recognized Mrs. Johns’ many contributions by awarding her an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. Shortly thereafter, she described the university’s impact on her life: “First it is the place I received my degree, then it is where I met my lifelong partner, and now I am leaving with an honorary degree. That is pretty overwhelming. Life can’t get any better than that!”
When he became president of Furman in 1994, David Shi announced that one of his major initiatives would be to strengthen the ties between the university and the Greenville community. Susan Thomson Shi is a key figure in those efforts.

As did many women in the Class of 1971, Susan Thomson Shi began her career as a teacher. After 20 years as an educator, mostly in the North Carolina public schools, she now combines her skill and experience in a new career, that of full-time community leader.

“When David became president, I had to choose to return to my career or to accept the more traditional role of president’s wife,” Mrs. Shi says. “I had had a career. I now go to work full time each day in the community.”

She readily acknowledges that opportunities come her way because of her Furman connection. “I am given the opportunity to participate at a level that would not have been available to me otherwise,” she says. “But I am asked to continue because of my experience.” In other words, her position may open doors, but her knowledge and insight make her invaluable.

Not surprisingly, her special interest is education. Her first major appointment was to the board of Greenville’s Alliance for Quality Education, which seeks to enhance professional development by awarding grants to teachers to improve their classroom effectiveness. The Alliance also helped to initiate a series of summer institutes in which teams of four teachers join with their principal to develop their leadership skills.

As a member of the Community Planning Council of the United Way, Mrs. Shi chaired Success by Six, an initiative designed to ensure that all preschool children enter school ready to learn. Her hard work and leadership skills attracted the attention of South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges, who tapped her to serve on a state panel that seeks to identify the acute needs of preschool children. In addition, she and Rudolph Gordon, superintendent of the School District of Greenville County, co-chair a committee that works to establish educational priorities for the district.

Susan Shi’s lifestyle reflects the very real dilemma felt by many working women of the 1990s, as she strives to balance family life and community involvement with her Furman responsibilities. She says, “I am very conscious of what I do and if it will have a negative impact on Furman. I feel so responsible. Even from the first interview, David and I have been intertwined in this job as a couple. I have been made to feel very much a part of what Furman is doing, but I make it very clear that I do not speak for Furman in my community work.”

Greenville is fortunate that Susan Shi offers her expertise, time and experience to work for the improvement of the community. At the same time, Furman is fortunate to have such an energetic, spirited and compassionate First Lady as it enters the new millennium.

When Susan Shi became Furman’s First Lady in 1994, she did not hesitate to emphasize how pleased she was that Bea Plyler, Lib Blackwell and Martha Johns all lived within a half mile of White Oaks. As she said, “They are wonderful women, superb role models and dear friends. While each has provided valuable advice (when requested), they also insist that I make my own way and set my own agenda.”

Sound advice, it seems, from women who fully understand the demands of the position. Without question, these women have served as equal and enthusiastic partners with their husbands while providing outstanding leadership and direction uniquely appropriate to the needs of their era at Furman.

There’s an old adage that states, “Behind every successful man stands a strong woman.” Furman could no doubt adopt a corollary to that statement. As Gordon Blackwell has said — and his fellow presidents have echoed — “Each one of the last four Furman presidents out-married himself.”

Pam Burgess Shucker is a 1969 graduate of Furman. She is a naturalist with Roper Mountain Science Center in Greenville and managing trustee of the James F. and Nelle E. Burgess Foundation.
ONE can almost hear the strains of “Wouldn’t It Be Loverly” floating in the background as Ginger Denison describes her ideal life.

“I don’t need a high-class lifestyle,” she says. “If I could have a nice big house by a lake with its own underground laboratory — that would be just fine.”

The lab would be for her day job, which would involve chemical research. “I know I never want to be tied to a desk,” she says firmly. At night, once the lab shuts down, she can repair upstairs and indulge her other interests, among them cooking, quilting, religion and, she admits, an occasional trashy romance novel.

But all of this has to do with future possibilities. And Ginger Denison of Greensboro, N.C., is no Eliza Doolittle in need of a Henry Higgins to transform her life and point her in the right direction.

Denison knows where she wants to go and how to get there, and given her remarkable series of achievements this spring, she appears to be on the right track. In a span of just 48 hours, Denison learned that she had received three major scholarships — Truman, Goldwater and Beckman — that combined are worth more than $50,000.

As Furman’s twelfth Truman Scholar, Denison receives $30,000 toward both her senior year at Furman and her first three years in graduate school. The national award goes to individuals who plan careers in public service, and only 79 students out of a field of 657 candidates were chosen for the honor in 1999. The Goldwater, which is designed to encourage students to pursue careers in mathematics, the sciences or engineering, provides $7,500 for her final year at Furman. She and Furman junior Scott Martin (see accompanying story) are two of 304 students in the country to earn the award this year.

To cap her two-day awards blitz, the chemistry department named her one of two Beckman Scholars for 1999-2000. The award, provided through a special grant from the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, provides $5,500 per summer to support two summers of research work, $3,600 during the academic year, and an additional $3,000 for supplies and travel funds to scientific meetings.

“Things got pretty crazy there for a while,” Denison says with a smile.

No doubt her relaxed demeanor, buoyant self-confidence and sense of humor serve her well in these sorts of competitions — as does her desire to excel.

Tony Arrington, professor of chemistry and Denison’s research supervisor for the last two summers in Los Alamos, N.M., describes her as “one of the best students I have known in 33 years of teaching. One cannot be around Ginger...
TRIPLE CROWN

In just 48 hours this spring, chemistry major Ginger Denison ran away with three prestigious scholarships.

By Jim Stewart
As a freshman Denison received the Winston Babb Award as the woman in her class who demonstrated “the most outstanding qualities of leadership, scholarship and service.”

long without sensing a competitiveness that is strong and relentless. She loves competition and expects to win but is not devastated when she doesn’t. She is a delightful young woman to be around — cheerful, positive and alert.”

Denison confirms Arrington’s analysis. “I am an extremely driven, competitive person,” she says. “I even used to race people to see if I could finish eating before them. Fortunately, I’ve gotten a little better.”

Her competitiveness may stem in part from her athletic prowess. A tennis and track star at Northwest Guilford High School, she has continued her track career at Furman. She is a hurdler and member of the sprint relay teams, an all-Southern Conference performer and co-captain of the women’s team.

“Running track is a great way to expend energy,” she says. “I really like the team atmosphere, and it has given me the chance to get to know people I might not ordinarily have the chance to meet.”

Academically, Denison realized in high school that science, and particularly chemistry, was her strength. When she began looking at colleges, a meeting with an admissions counselor sparked her interest in Furman. Her father, Don, a ceramic engineer, attended Clemson, so he knew a little about the university as well. When they visited, she says, “Furman blew me away.”

In her first three years at Furman Denison has earned a 3.9 grade-point average (4.0 in chemistry). She says, “I think the chemistry department is the best department here. The professors are so personable — you even get to know their families and visit their homes. And they know their science. It is a difficult major, but their teaching is incredible and they are very encouraging.”

For the last two summers, Denison has traveled to New Mexico with other chemistry students to conduct research at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The facility is owned by the Department of Energy and managed by the University of California; its primary responsibility is oversight of the nation’s nuclear stockpile.

Denison’s research at Los Alamos has focused on discovering ways to store nuclear waste. As she patiently explains to the scientifically impaired, underground steel tanks which have stored nuclear waste for decades are now leaking. She
is working on a method to remove chromium from the waste so that the remaining material can be vitrified, or heated into glass “logs,” and stored in a more compact and safe manner.

After seeing Denison in action, Arrington praises her research skills, resourcefulness, ingenuity and ease with laboratory equipment. At Los Alamos, which claims to have perhaps the greatest concentration of scientific computing power on the planet,” Arrington says that Denison quickly grasped how to use highly specialized instruments and “within a week was showing me things I had not learned about the systems. She was equally skilled in using computer analysis for work-up of the data.”

All of this bodes well for Denison’s plans to earn a Ph.D. and pursue a research career in environmental and analytical chemistry. For now, though, there’s her senior year to complete. Given her success this year in scholarship competitions, she seems interested in going for more.

“I will probably apply for the Rhodes Scholarship,” she says. “It would be a good experience to go to Oxford for two years.”

And as she talks about the possibility, one can almost see her stoking those competitive fires once again.

**Award winners maintain hectic pace**

**Anyone who doubts a liberal arts college’s ability to produce strong science and math majors need look no further than two award-winning Furman students to see the error of such thinking. Chemistry major Marion Martin and math major Scott Martin were honored this spring with prestigious awards.**

Marion Martin, a rising senior from Columbia, S.C., is already one of the busiest students on campus. When taking phone messages, his roommate warns callers that Marion spends most of his time in the library or engaged in extracurricular activities and comes back to his room only late at night to sleep.

This summer, Marion’s schedule got a bit busier. Furman’s chemistry department selected him to receive a Beckman Scholarship that supports research this summer and next, as well as throughout the school year. The award is worth $5,500 per summer, while also providing $3,600 during the academic year and an additional $3,000 for research supplies and travel funds to scientific meetings. Marion spent the summer working with department chair Lon Knight on research in physical chemistry, a field that deals with the basics of chemistry and involves intense work in mathematics.

When he learned he had won the honor, Marion says he immediately felt apprehensive. “I wasn’t so sure I would be able to do it,” he says. He feared that his already packed schedule, which includes football in the fall (he plays linebacker) and the teaching internship in the spring, wouldn’t leave him much time to do research. But he says his own determination, combined with encouragement from the chemistry department, convinced him that he should take on the assignment.

The mathematics department also boasts a major award-winner. Scott Martin, a rising junior from Anderson, S.C., has received a Goldwater Scholarship, one of the highest national honors available to undergraduates in mathematics and the sciences. The prestigious Goldwater Scholarship pays recipients $7,500 a year.

Scott learned about the honor in late March with less fanfare than one might expect. He was browsing the Goldwater Web site on the day the awards were posted and came across his name listed among the recipients. Official notification — and the accompanying on-campus acclaim — came a few days later in the form of a letter.

Like Marion, Scott finds many demands on his time at Furman, and he admits that he creates his own hectic schedule. He is co-founder and treasurer of the Furman chapter of a national organization called Students Building a Better America. SBBA, described by Scott as a “nonpartisan civic education group,” has chapters at 13 colleges. Its goal is to make political information available to students and to encourage them to become more involved.

He is also a founder of the Furman University Polling Organization, which will conduct independent polls of students on various issues and make the information available to campus groups that request it. In addition, Scott is active in the Association of Furman Students, which he will serve as treasurer in 1999-2000, and in the Residence Hall Council. He is on the debate team and co-hosts a weekly political talk show on the campus radio station, WPLS.

Scott says his career plans are to teach and conduct research at the university level after his graduation from Furman in 2001. “I’ve enjoyed school all my life,” he says, “and it’s a way to spend the rest of my life there.”

— Stacy Schorr

Stacy Schorr, editor of The Paladin in 1998-99, received her degree in English this spring. She is a copy editor with the Anderson Independent-Mail.
The second novel can be more important in an author’s life than the first. It begins to make sense to talk about an author’s “work,” instead of just his “book.”

Tommy Hays’ *In the Family Way*, as meticulously crafted and beautifully written as his first novel, *Sam’s Crossing*, provides a second point of reference. Together, the two novels determine a vector that defines the direction of Hays’ work as a novelist.

Hays writes about brutal contingency, about how human beings live with intolerable sadness and loss.

His protagonist is 10-year-old Jeru Lamb, who has always known that “something terrible, even catastrophic, was going to happen.” When his mother gets pregnant with a baby the doctors told her she shouldn’t conceive, Jeru has “that same falling-out-of-bed sensation” that always presages small and large tragedies in the Lamb family.

But his mother survives the birth of Jeru’s baby sister Ruth. Afterward, Jeru touches his brother Henry’s hand, and feels “a warmth travel down my arm and across my chest — like an electric shock except softer. A palpable, if tenuous, happiness.”

It is not just that the Lamb family has randomly escaped tragedy this once. Jeru has learned the profound lesson that human beings live with contingency not by fearfully hoarding some impossibly self-subsistent ego, but through their quotidian and elusive relationships with the people they love.

Put baldly like that, the lesson is an ancient and honorable truism that most of us have forgotten how to believe. But the gift of a novelist like Hays is to make his readers believe (perhaps, believe again) in the possibility, by recreating the world as Jeru Lamb sees it.

Like all families, the Lambs do unforgivable things to each other.

Jeru’s mother has decided that she is a Christian Scientist. As the economic support and emotional pillar of the family, she risks her life and the happiness of everyone she loves by getting “in the family way.”

Jeru’s father seems to represent the alienation of the artist, alone in his basement like a cave, writing for the hundreds of women he himself has imagined, a self-imposed audience whose faces, all with a “serene expression,” he has sketched and tacked up on his walls.

When he finally tells the story to his best friend Roger, Jeru explains that he and Mitchell were running from the dog, and that Mitchell tripped. Maybe, even, Jeru tripped him: “I would never be certain exactly what happened, but in the version I told Roger on the bridge, the version I felt I must believe, I presented the worst of me, in case it was the truth.”

Jeru does this because, as a child, he wants desperately to believe “that what had happened to Mitchell was something I had done, something I had had a choice about, something I had controlled. As a child, I did not dare entertain the truly frightening thought that life was capricious and utterly out of my hands.” Jeru prefers the horror of guilt to the unspeakable horror of the contingent self.

And yet families who do unforgivable things to each other manage to forgive each other, to live with each other, and to love each other. How this mundane fact cures the horror of contingency is perhaps impossible to explain. How it enables Jeru Lamb to be happy beyond the tragedy he can neither cure nor even really grasp is impossible to explain. But it is not impossible for a novelist of Hays’ skill to express.

This novel is also about the power of storytelling.

Jeru’s father seems to represent the alienation of the artist, alone in his basement like a cave, writing for the hundreds of women he himself has imagined, a self-imposed audience whose faces, all with a “serene expression,” he has sketched and tacked up on his walls.

But the writing is Mr. Lamb’s way of working through his own incurable loss, of bringing himself back into a proper relation with his family. On the last page of the novel, Jeru reads a scrap from his father’s “notes”: “He dreams again of his children.
He dreams and he does not sleep. They are all with him in the dream—all of them—all healthy, all alive, all under one roof. He dreams and he does not sleep.'

Jeru himself seeks his brother's lost life in the biographies he reads alone at night, under the covers with a flashlight—until "the words sat there on the page, being their secret selves, leading me nowhere," and Jeru begins reliving the afternoon he wants to escape. The story Jeru tells his friend Roger is, in the deepest sense, just that—a story, a story true beyond fact, which decisively shows Jeru how the self is itself ultimately a story.

What is made (or made again) in narrative is not only the words of the story, but also the audience and the storyteller's self. To live "in the family way" in Hays' novel is to be in the world in a particular way: it is to accept the contingency of the self as part of the story of a family who love each other.

In the Family Way is not what might be expected in a novel about a young adolescent. It is not about Jeru's lost innocence. Rather, it is about Jeru's laborious reconstruction of a kind of higher innocence—what Yeats might have had in mind when he asked, "How but in custom and in ceremony / Are innocence and beauty born?" The customs and ceremonies in Hays' novel, as in Yeats' poem, are the little, everyday customs and ceremonies of a family's life together.

Tommy Hays, in the hard-won innocence and beauty of his prose about irredeemable loss, himself reflects the labor of his characters as they confront what is perhaps the fundamental human problem.

—William E. Rogers
William E. Rogers is Bennette E. Geer Professor of Literature at Furman.
RADEL RECEIVES FULBRIGHT

English professor Nick Radel joined students Megan Hundley, Christine Lawson and Alicia Leerssen in earning a Fulbright Fellowship this spring.

Radel, who has taught at Furman since 1986, was awarded a Fulbright to teach American literature, film and popular culture in Roskilde, Denmark, during the 1999-2000 academic year.

Established in 1946 under Congressional legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright program is designed "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries" and is considered America's flagship educational exchange program.

A graduate of the University of Cincinnati, Radel earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Indiana University. He has published numerous papers and articles, led seminars, made public presentations, and received more than $16,500 in grants for various projects in professional growth, faculty and course development, and research.
Four honorary degrees presented at graduation

Aside from 597 undergraduate degrees, Furman also presented honorary degrees to four distinguished individuals during the spring Commencement.

Robert Stillwell, a 1967 Furman graduate and Rhodes Scholar, received a Doctor of Divinity degree and delivered the Commencement address. (See page 48.) Stillwell, senior minister at Greenville’s Buncombe Street United Methodist Church, was recognized for his ministerial gifts and commitment to community service.

Furman Bisher, a Furman alumnus and legendary sportswriter for the Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution, received a Doctor of Letters degree for his service to his profession and to Furman. He is a member of the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame, the International Golf Writers Hall of Fame, the World Writers Cup International Hall of Fame and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

Trude Heller of Greenville was awarded a Doctor of Humanities degree for her extensive contributions to humanity. A native of Vienna, Austria, who was forced by Nazi oppression to flee her homeland, she has crafted a life of service and commitment to her adopted homeland and state. With her husband, Max, a former mayor of Greenville, she has been a steadfast supporter of Furman.

Joseph A. de Francesco of Woodruff, S.C., also received the Doctor of Humanities degree. A former exchange student at Furman, he served in World War II as a member of the elite Jedburgh Corps, which parachuted into his native France during the Normandy invasion, disrupted German military communications and transportation, and led the French resistance forces. Highly decorated for his war service, he was recognized as a “heroic citizen of the world.”

The Scholarship Cup, given to the graduating senior with the highest academic average, was won by English major Christopher Palmer of Chattanooga, Tenn., who compiled a perfect 4.0 average. General Excellence awards to the top man and woman graduate, chosen by the faculty, went to Sarah Blosser, a mathematics and history major from Jefferson City, Mo., and Mark Canavera, a French and English major from Summerville, S.C.

Four faculty members were recognized with the A Lester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Awards for Meritorious Teaching and Advising. Teaching awards went to David Bost, professor of Spanish, and Gary Malvern, professor of music. Sofia Kearns, assistant professor of Spanish, and Si Pearman, associate professor of health and exercise science, received the advising awards.

Commons Building named for Estridges

Dedication ceremonies were held June 24 for the Estridge Commons Building at North Village.

The 2,750-square-foot building, which features offices, a convenience store and a six-station computer laboratory, is named for Larry Estridge and his wife, Diane Maroney Estridge, both members of the Class of '66. It serves the new North Village residential complex, located across from the Dan A. Ellis Band Practice Field.

The naming gift for the building was provided by Furman trustee Sarah Belk Gambrell of Charlotte, who has been a close friend to the Estridges for many years. Diane Estridge has been an active alumna and was recently elected to the Alumni Association board of directors. She has also chaired several of her class reunions. Larry Estridge, a noted Greenville attorney, is a member of the Furman board of trustees. A past president of the Alumni Association, he served on the legal task force of the Baptist Relationship Committee during Furman’s negotiations with the South Carolina Baptist Convention over control of the university. In 1984 he received the Alumni Service Award and in 1997 the Distinguished Alumni Award.

A BUSY SUMMER ON CAMPUS

New facilities such as a North Village residential complex and the expanded University Center are helping Furman attract more conventions and programs to campus each summer. This summer, in fact, more than 7,000 campers, business people, high school students, educators and athletes representing 66 groups visited the campus.

While the U.S. Ambassadors Tour and the Robert Shaw Choral Institute helped focus national attention on Furman last summer, this year’s main attraction was the Atlanta Falcons. The National Football League team, which previously trained at Furman from 1971 to 1977, arrived July 28 and remained through August 20. (See page 35.)

The summer also represented the final year on campus for the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities. The five-week program, which attracted more than 350 students and instructors to campus each summer and which Furman had hosted since its inception in 1981, is moving into its own facility this fall. The new Governor’s School campus is located on and around the site of the old Furman campus in downtown Greenville.

S.C. PRESS ASSOCIATION HONORS THE PALADIN

Furman’s student newspaper, The Paladin, and a number of staff members were recognized in the annual awards program of the South Carolina Press Association.

The newspaper was selected best overall for Division II newspapers (determined by size and frequency of publication). Jodie Tillman ‘99 received first-place honors in both the sports article and news article category. Other top honors went to Jason Combs for editorial cartoon and to Stacy Schorr, Robert Stanley and Carlton Swift for best editorial. All four are also members of the Class of '99.

Stanley edited the newspaper in 1997-98, and Schorr was the editor last year.
Sarah Scopel decided to enter the contest on a whim.

While thumbing through an issue of Seventeen magazine last September, she noticed an advertisement for a nationwide "Secret to Self-Esteem" essay contest asking teen-age girls to describe, in 200 words or less, how a parent or role model helped them develop self-esteem.

Scopel, who had just started her freshman year at Furman, realized she had a ready response, so she quickly dashed off an essay praising the support and attention she had received from her mother, Eda.

Together, she said, the two worked to form a Community Outreach Committee at her high school, Walton High in Marietta, Ga. The committee sends student volunteers into the community to serve as role models and mentors to children in after-school programs. From its beginnings with 15 students, the group grew to involve 175 students. The success of the program, combined with her mother’s “committed example as a dedicated volunteer,” had inspired Scopel to develop greater confidence and maturity and a strong sense of self-esteem.

She promptly mailed her essay — and forgot about it.

Until March, that is, when out of the blue she received a telephone call informing her that, from hundreds of entrants, she had been chosen to receive the contest’s grand prize: a $10,000 scholarship. “At first, I didn’t even remember what it was,” she says now with a grin.

The contest’s sponsors, Secret antiperspirant, Seventeen and Ladies Home Journal magazines, invited Scopel to New York City for a weekend in May. She toured the offices of Seventeen and appeared on two syndicated television shows. She also met recording star Mya, a member of Secret’s Helping Girls Become Strong Women advisory board that works to address the growing problem of low self-esteem among girls and to inspire more women to serve as mentors.

Scopel’s essay appeared in the May issue of both magazines.
Board studying possibility of retirement community near campus

During its spring meeting, the board of trustees voted to study the feasibility of having a retirement community constructed near the Furman campus.

David G. Ellison '72, chair of the board of trustees, says, "It is a popular trend right now to build retirement communities that have affiliations with universities, and we believe it is something worth investigating further. All we're going to do at this point is determine if there is a large enough market to support this kind of retirement community near Furman — and continue to weigh the pros and cons from the university's point of view."

Although an outside firm would build and manage the facility, the retirement community would have direct links to the university and its residents would be encouraged to take advantage of all that Furman has to offer, from lectures and concerts to continuing education courses, athletic contests and the golf course.

The Kendal Corporation of Kennett Square, Pa., is conducting the feasibility study. The company has already developed successful retirement communities near Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, Cornell University in New York and Oberlin College in Ohio. Another facility is under construction in Lexington, Va., in conjunction with Washington & Lee and Virginia Military Institute.

Ellison says that although a site for the retirement community has yet to be determined, one possible location would be near Furman's Child Development Center on Old Roe Ford Road, adjacent to the golf course.

A retirement community associated with the university could provide numerous benefits. In addition to attracting alumni back to the campus and deepening their involvement with the university, it would likely enhance such programs as Furman University Learning in Retirement (FULIR). It would also serve as a source of revenue for the university through long-term lease payments on the Furman property, and it would provide a pool of individuals who would regularly attend campus events.

Says President David Shi, "For the idea of a retirement community to make sense for Furman, it must complement and enhance our mission as an educational institution. The kind of retirement village we are considering would be a vibrant community, intellectually engaged and culturally active. Its residents would choose to live there because they would be committed to lifelong learning and want to take part in the day-to-day life of the university."

There are currently about 100 retirement communities located near college campuses in the United States and Canada, and more are planned at schools such as Penn State, Miami (Ohio), the University of Michigan and Stanford.

Board welcomes six new members

Five alumni were among six new trustees elected to the Furman board at the spring meeting.

Chosen for their first terms on the board were Gordon L. Blackwell '60 of Raleigh, N.C.; Angela Walker Franklin '81 of Atlanta, Ga.; Peggy Ellison Good '67 of Greenville; and D. Loy Stewart '69 of Mount Pleasant, S.C. They are joined by Gordon R. Herring '65 of Greenville, a past chair of the board, and Max M. Heller, a civic leader and former mayor of Greenville.

Blackwell, past president of the Furman Alumni Association and recipient of the 1998 Alumni Service Award, is president of Regency Housing Group, Inc., which specializes in building or renovating structures to house the elderly or families of limited means. Franklin, a clinical psychologist, is associate dean for student affairs at the Morehouse School of Medicine and a past vice president of the Furman Alumni Association. Good, who has worked as a teacher in Greenville and in Georgia, is a former Volunteer of the Year in Greenville County and has received the Community Empowerment Award from the Greenville County Human Relations Commission.

Heller, a native of Austria, was mayor of Greenville for two terms in the 1970s and is also former chair of the South Carolina State Development Board. He holds an honorary degree from Furman and received the Bell Tower Award in 1998. Herring, who also holds an honorary degree from Furman, is a former executive vice president of the TeleCable Corporation and was one of the founders of the Weather Channel. Stewart is president and owner of Detyens Shipyards, Inc.

Trustees who completed their terms this year are B. Lewis Barnett, Jr., '46 of Charlottesville, Va.; Ravenel B. Curry III '63 of New York City, W. Randy Eaddy '76 of Atlanta, Minor Herndon Mickel of Greenville, and James M. Ney '64 of Atlanta. Dorothy Greene Owen '54 has resigned her seat on the board.
To MacDonald, thinking well is living well

Nobody who has ever been in a class with Doug MacDonald could come away with the idea that philosophy has to be either empty or dull. Doug is a natural, enthusiastic teacher with a gift for connecting powerful ideas to students' lives. He leans forward in his seat, his voice booms, his eyes flash, and you know you're in the presence of someone who's following his bliss, not just doing a job.

Such a teacher doesn't just happen. No matter how ready the tinder, the spark has to be struck. Doug's flame was lit at William and Mary in the early '60s, when he found two important mentors. The first was John Lachs, a philosophy teacher who showed him that both intellectual vigor and concern for others could be combined in a single person, and that teaching could be a way to use the best of one's mind and the best of one's character. The second was George Santayana, whose texts showed him that metaphysics— a comprehensive, naturalistic, yet deeply spiritual endeavor of philosophical understanding—could offer a lifelong challenge to a person who cared about truth and goodness.

When Doug came to Furman in 1970, having followed Lachs to Vanderbilt and written an imaginative dissertation about Santayana, he was ready to apply the lessons learned from both men. He has done so to remarkable effect. In his teaching and his thinking, Doug has combined rigor and righteousness, always believing that the point of thinking well is living well. He has shown his students the power of that Socratic linkage of mind and will.

It is no accident that he has devoted much of the last decade to medical ethics, a field where theoretical and practical aspects of philosophy (and of life) come into close contact. In the remarkable medical ethics course he developed, with its combination of philosophical reflection and clinical experience, Doug has honored and extended what brought him to philosophy and to teaching in the first place: a concern that a difference be made in people's lives, and that this difference be made by thinking long and hard about what makes those lives worth living in the first place.

In retirement, he'll likely watch lots of movies (he loves action and special effects) and listen to jazz on his state-of-the-art sound system. He and his wife, Ruby Morgan of the music faculty, will no doubt travel. He will continue his work on the South Carolina Medical Ethics Committee, and he plans a book on medicine from the patient's viewpoint. But whatever he does, it will certainly be done with the same combination of enthusiasm and care that has marked his distinguished career at Furman.

— Jim Edwards
Professor of Philosophy

Innovation, integrity mark Taylor's tenure

Phase diagrams. Poincaré sections. Strange attractors. These terms and others from chaos theory were unknown to undergraduate physics students in 1979, the year that Frank Taylor came to Furman. But the discipline has undergone radical change since then, and the physics curriculum, under Frank's leadership, has kept pace, expanding to embrace the new frontier of computational physics.

The department has acquired high-end computer hardware and software, which allow students to model "inflationary" cosmological evolution, the chaotic motion of a charged particle buffeted by the sun's magnetic field, or the orbital behavior of a body in the vicinity of cosmic strings. They might do this as a senior project, as an assignment in a "traditional" course, or as a project in the award-winning interdisciplinary computational science course that Frank helped to develop.

Curriculum innovation has not been Frank's only forte. A gifted teacher, he has received Furman's meritorious teaching award, the "Rookie of the Year" award from the Association of Furman Students, and the Invitation Award from the Student League for Black Culture. Physics alumni have appreciated his efforts in publishing the departmental newsletter and in developing and maintaining the department's home page on the World Wide Web.

His colleagues know him as careful, thorough, clear-thinking, insightful, candid and articulate, and have regularly "rewarded" him for these qualities by requesting his service on and chairmanship of university committees. I have known Frank as a knowledgeable and encouraging mentor, always willing to provide guidance, offer suggestions or engage in spirited discussions of physics.

Will his retirement plans keep him connected with the discipline he loves? When asked about the future, he responds, "The question is not what to do, but what to eliminate." He is interested in software development, consulting and writing (about both physics and financial investing); he may join colleagues in a web-based educational project and/or a web-related entrepreneurial undertaking; and he will help his wife, Cecilia, establish a business in the fashion industry — all while pursuing his hobbies of woodworking, gardening, cooking and traveling. (He hopes one day to realize his dream of "being photographed with the international prototype kilogram at the Bureau of Weights and Measures near Paris!")

English professor William E. Rogers, his friend and colleague, has said, "Furman will miss Frank's extraordinary intelligence and industry, his gifted teaching, his single-minded dedication to the good of Furman and the larger community, his courage and compassion, and his personal integrity." It's a fitting tribute to one whose many contributions to the university will long be remembered and appreciated.

— Susan D'Amato
Associate Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Physics
Current optimism flows

Consider the old joke: A patient, told by a doctor, “You have six months to live,” asks: “What should I do?” The doctor says, “Marry an accountant. You won’t live any longer but it will seem a lot longer.”

While some in accounting may lack “people skills,” consider the esteemed Frederick Dale Current, who has consistently overwhelmed us and our students with energy, optimism and enthusiasm. He brings so much zest to the classroom that students can’t avoid learning. On one occasion, Fred climbed on to the desk at the front of the classroom and refused to come down until the entire class had grasped a particularly difficult concept! He always makes an effort to determine each student’s individual needs and to tailor his teaching to those needs. If such methods fail, he simply repeats himself, only more loudly!

Fred officially recognized his teaching ability by awarding him the Sears-Roebuck teaching prize in 1989. But what distinguishes Fred even more is the concern he shows for students outside the classroom. It was no surprise that, in 1996, he won the A. G. Furman Jr. and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Advising. Over the years he has helped students find jobs, assisted them with cash-flow problems, guided them through academic troubles, counseled those with personal problems, and even improved many students’ golf games. On Homecoming Saturdays, Fred is easily the most sought-after professor at the economics and business administration reunion.

I cannot think of anyone more generous than Fred. He not only does endless favors for everyone, he does them in a way that makes it appear that you are doing him a favor! In addition, he has been an outstanding departmental representative in the Greenville community, working to develop contacts, internships and job opportunities for students in accounting and business firms. As a colleague, Fred has been invaluable; he has a wealth of common sense and a great perspective on what really matters. We will miss his shrewd judgment, buoyant spirit and witty insights.

Fred received his B.A. degree from Franklin and Marshall and his M.B.A. from Michigan State. He is professionally certified in accounting and is a retired career Air Force officer who traveled Europe as a stellar shortstop for the Air Force baseball team. He and June have four children and five grandchildren.

The Currents have always lived life to the fullest, amassing along the way a wealth of entertaining tales. Fortunately for us, they are staying in the area, so while Fred’s absence will be sorely felt around Furman, we will not have to bid him farewell.

— David Roe
Chair, Economics and Business Administration

Patience, precision are Harris hallmarks

Anyone who calls the Harris house when no one’s home hears the following recording by Gary: “Please leave your message at the tone. Thank you for calling.” It is pure Gary Harris — pleasant, direct and unembellished.

When Gary revealed his plans to retire, some of us observed that he has occupied the same small office in the education department suite for 30 years. If, as alleged, people at Furman will kill for space, Gary has remained refreshingly nonviolent and undemanding. No complaints, few regrets, no insistence on recessed lighting or an ergonomic chair. (He has enjoyed his window.)

Gary Harris grew up in Asheville, N.C., and earned three degrees from the University of North Carolina, the first a B.A. in history, the last a Ph.D. in education. He arrived at Furman in 1969 and began teaching courses in — and coordinating — the elementary education program, roles he has kept ever since. He has enjoyed especially his courses in teaching science and social studies.

In the 1970s, he organized and led three graduate summer trips to England to study the British Primary School, experiences he counts among his Furman highlights. Throughout, he has worked actively with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and led a number of environmental efforts.

Once on a lake dock, Gary tried to teach me the art of fly fishing, specifically how to cast. I proved inept and gave up after an hour, but I did learn what a fine one-on-one teacher he is. He was precise, metaphorical with examples (“stop the cast between 12 and one o’clock”), insistent on doing it right but always encouraging, and unfailingly patient. I was reminded of why he has always worked so well with student teachers.

With his many interests and appreciations, no one will enjoy retirement more than Gary. In the mornings, he will hone his 17-handicap in golf. Then he may read a little or tie a few flies and later jog a couple of miles with his and Hazel’s golden retriever, Heidi. He might get out his camera or dulcimer. He may plan a hiking trip to the Smokies.

He will be open to possibilities and resistant to rigid schedules — except for Monday nights at nine. If you’re visiting, he’ll invite you to watch “Ally McBeal.” If you decline, he’ll offer a magazine. And if you’re trying to reach him by phone, just be prepared to “leave your message at the tone.”

— Bing Somers
Professor Emeritus of Education
Renaissance man in King Arthur's court

This year marks Phil Elliott's second graduation from Furman. He left the first time in 1956 as an English graduate headed for further study at the University of North Carolina, that Mecca to which many of the Furman faithful of the 1950s and '60s made their pilgrimage. Phil received his master's degree from UNC and then earned his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He returned to Furman in the fall of 1967 after teaching at Stetson, Clemson and North Carolina Wesleyan.

In his 32 years at Furman, Phil has been “Mr. Victorian” — that is, he has specialized in teaching English literature of the Victorian period. Within Victorian literature, Phil's major focus has always been Tennyson. He has studied Tennyson, published about Tennyson and brought Tennyson scholars to Furman, and his popular course on Arthurian literature grew out of his love for Tennyson's work.

Phil is one of the most widely read members of the faculty, and he and his wife, Kacky, are among the most widely traveled people around here. They've explored the globe, venturing as far as Australia and New Zealand. Phil derives great personal pleasure from these activities, and they have helped to make being in his classroom a very rich experience for students. It's like having a Renaissance man teaching Victorian literature.

He is also committed enough to the game of golf that earlier this decade he joined a group of Furman colleagues on a two-week trip to Scotland to play such courses as Camoustie, the Old Course at St. Andrews, and other historic links. Bill Broadway '72, a former advisee and golfing partner of Phil's, recalls that his friend was a “competent” golfer who “pursued his game the way he appeared to pursue life and his profession — with few words, a bit of dry humor and a thoughtful pause and audible “Ahumn” before responding to a particularly tricky query. I never once saw him lose his temper, as many frustrated golfers do.” And behind the professor's somewhat reserved manner, Broadway says, lies “a compassion for others, a talent for listening and an ability to cut through the superficialities of a conversation.”

All of us will miss seeing Phil around the halls of Furman. But we know that he will visit at least one part of the campus often. Weather permitting, he'll be found around the 18th hole, swinging at that little white ball.

— Willard Pate
Professor of English

Education adds a fifth year

As the result of an ongoing self-study to seek national accreditation, the Furman Department of Education has determined that students seeking licensure to teach will henceforth complete the requirements in a fifth year.

Rather than completing the teaching internship (student teaching) in the spring term of their senior year, education students will now take a new block of courses during the term that will focus on student assessment, technology in the classroom and diverse school cultures. They will graduate at the end of the fourth year with a bachelor's degree in education or in their academic discipline and will complete the teaching internship, the requirement for licensure, during the fall following graduation. The teaching internship will offer graduate credit and be paired with a course on inquiry and action research.

The program will go into effect for members of the Class of 2001. A trial group of rising seniors will launch the program this fall.

Students may choose either a yearlong internship, in which they will work as the main classroom teacher in an Anderson County school, or a partial-year internship, which will be more like the traditional teaching internship. Both programs will provide graduate credit toward a master's degree; the yearlong internship will also provide a salary and benefits.

Based on national reports and the results of surveys completed by recent graduates of the Furman program, the department determined that its four-year Teacher Education Program did not prepare students adequately in such areas as curriculum development, cultural understanding and use of teaching technology. The department felt it could not add coursework and field experiences without, in most cases, extending the program beyond four years.

Only music and health and exercise science majors are exceptions to the new requirements. They will still be able to earn certification in four years. Students seeking secondary school certification will also complete a subject-specific methods course that will include extensive field experiences.

TOP HONOR FOR MAY DAY

Yet another award came the way of Collegiate Educational Service Corps this spring when the South Carolina College Personnel Association named May Day Play Day the state’s “Most Outstanding Program for a Private Institution.” SCCPA presents annual awards to recognize outstanding contributions to the state and to the field of student affairs. May Day, which is planned and executed by students each year on the first Saturday in May, brings to the campus hundreds of individuals with whom CESC volunteers have worked for a day of fun, games and excitement.
The Furman rose garden, long one of the university's best known and best loved sites, at last has a name of its own.

The board of trustees has voted to name the rose garden for Janie Earle Furman, a longtime benefactor of the university. Formal dedication ceremonies were held in May.

Few people have been more closely linked with Furman than Janie Earle Furman. Her father, Joseph Baylis Earle, was an 1882 honor graduate who served for many years as university physician and as a Furman trustee. The university's infirmary is named in his honor.

Janie Earle, a 1914 graduate of Greenville Womans College, married Alester G. Furman, Jr., whose great-great-grandfather, Richard Furman, founded the university. Alester G. Furman, Jr., served on the board of trustees for many years and was chairman of the board when the decision was made to relocate the campus from downtown Greenville to its current location.

Through the years the couple gave tirelessly of their time and resources to Furman. They helped endow numerous scholarships, established a fund to recognize meritorious teaching, and contributed to many building projects. After her husband's death in 1981, Mrs. Furman continued her support of Furman. When she died in 1993 at the age of 98, she left her home and a generous bequest to the university's endowment.

Both of their sons have also contributed significantly to the university. Alester G. Furman III is a longtime trustee, and Joseph Earle Furman was for many years a university physician.

The rose garden that bears Mrs. Furman's name was constructed in 1962. Each May and September, more than 800 rose bushes in the garden burst into red, white, pink and purple blooms, and it has been the home of countless weddings, receptions and other events.

Besides roses, the rose garden features 2,000 other plants.

ANONYMOUS DONOR PROVIDES $1 MILLION FOR CHAPEL ORGAN

A donor who wishes to remain anonymous has given Furman $1 million to purchase a world-class pipe organ for the Charles Ezra Daniel Memorial Chapel.

The organ, which will be built by C.B. Fisk, Inc., of Gloucester, Mass., is expected to be installed in the spring of 2003. It will accompany university worship services, serve as the primary teaching and performance instrument for Furman organ students, and be heard in recitals and concerts.

"The chapel was designed to accommodate an organ of this size and quality, and it will be a crowning addition to a visually beautiful and acoustically dynamic space," says William Thomas, chair of the music department.

The new organ will consist of three manuals and pedal and will have approximately 40 stops. It will employ direct mechanical or "tracker" key action, which allows the organist the greatest control of the speech of the pipes. The instrument's tonal design will also allow for effective performance of music from all countries and historical periods.

An unusual feature of the organ will be its high degree of dynamic flexibility, made possible by the inclusion of two enclosed keyboard divisions. The organist will be able, through the use of foot pedals, to increase or decrease the volume of sound gradually, which is particularly important in accompanying vocal and instrumental soloists.

C.B. Fisk, Inc., is one of the foremost organ building firms in America. The company has built instruments at Harvard, Stanford and Rice universities and has built concert hall organs in Dallas, Texas, Seattle, Wash., and in Japan.
Younts gift to support construction of conference center

An alumnus from Fountain Inn, S.C., and his wife, both of whom have strong ties to the Greenville business community, have made a $1 million gift to Furman that will go toward building a conference center on campus.

Melvin K. Younts ’50 and Dollie Isgett Younts say they made the gift in the hope that the center will help build a stronger relationship between Furman, the community, local businesses and alumni.

“Dollie and I believe that this conference center will attract a variety of groups to the Furman campus, which will allow the Greenville community to become even better acquainted with the university,” says Melvin Younts. “Furman is one of the greatest universities in the nation, and we are grateful that we are in a position to help the school with a gift like this.”

The $2 million, 10,000-square-foot Younts Center will be built adjacent to Cherrylde, the new Alumni House which is located on the hill overlooking the tennis and track complexes. The university expects to break ground on the facility within the next year, after an additional $1 million has been raised.

The two-story, Georgian brick structure will have meeting rooms, a dining facility and high-tech communications capabilities. It will be connected to Cherrylde by a covered walkway, and rooms in Cherrylde will be available for breakout sessions and smaller meetings. It will likely host luncheons and banquets, workshops and retreats, alumni reunions, wedding receptions and pre-game gatherings before football and basketball contests, and will provide classroom space for Furman’s expanding program in continuing education.

Since graduating from the University of South Carolina School of Law, Melvin Younts has practiced law in the Greenville area for 47 years. He is a senior partner in the firm of Younts, Alford, Brown & Goodson, which has offices in both Greenville and Fountain Inn. He served on the Greenville County school board for 23 years, is a life member of the Furman Advisory Council, and has served on the board of trustees of North Greenville College since 1990.

Dollie Younts is a native of Cheraw, S.C., and a graduate of Columbia College. She taught school in Greenville County for five years before turning her full-time attention to raising the couple’s five children.

Riley bequest provides $1 million for scholarships

Furman has received a $1 million bequest from the estate of alumna Kathleen Riley that will be used to fund scholarships for women who major in the sciences or plan a career in medicine.

Riley was a 1937 graduate who practiced dermatology in Charleston, S.C., for more than 30 years. She died in August, 1998. The Josie and Kathleen Riley Scholarship Fund, which will support several scholarships annually, is named in honor of the physician and her mother, both of whom served on the Furman board of trustees.

“This is a wonderful gift, and it is especially gratifying that Dr. Riley wanted it to benefit female students who are interested in medicine and the sciences,” says Furman president David Shi. “She was ahead of her time when she pursued a career in medicine, and she knew her gift would help other female students who have the same interests as she did.”

Kathleen Riley was a native of Florence, S.C. After graduating from Furman, she attended the George Washington University School of Medicine for two years and ultimately received the M.D. degree from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She interned at Garfield Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C., and was a resident in dermatology and syphilology at Duke University Hospital from 1944 to 1948.

She began her private practice in Charleston in 1949 and also served as professor of dermatology and acting chair of the Department of Dermatology at MUSC. She retired in 1981.

She authored more than 35 professional papers and served as president of the South Carolina Dermatological Association. She was listed in Who’s Who of American Women and in 1977 was named South Carolina Woman of the Year by the Professional and Business Woman Association of South Carolina.

While attending Furman, Riley was voted the most popular female student for two consecutive years and was president of the student body. She later served two terms on the Furman board. In 1966 she received the university’s Mary Mildred Sullivan Award as an outstanding alumna, and in 1971 she received the Alumni Service Award.
Special endowments honor special people

One of the most significant ways alumni can honor Furman faculty and staff who have made major contributions to their lives is by establishing endowments in their names. These endowments serve as enduring reminders of the contributions so many individuals have made to the lives of Furman students.

Sixty-five current and former members of the Furman faculty and staff have been recognized through the establishment of professorships, scholarships, lectureships or other endowments in their honor. To create a similar endowment, or to contribute to one that already honors a favorite Furman professor, coach or administrator, contact the Director of Stewardship at (864) 294-3716, or write the Development Office, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. 29613. E-mail: scholarships@furman.edu.

Funds Honoring Faculty and Staff

J. Lyles Alley Scholarship
Rudolph D. Bates Award*
Elizabeth L. Blackwell Award*
Gordon W. and Elizabeth L. Blackwell Scholarship
Reece C. Blackwell Scholarship in Mathematics
Charles E. Blackwood Scholarship
Eleanor and Daniel Boda Flutist Scholarship
Charles L. Brewer Fund*
Charles H. Brown Scholarship
William Montgomery Burnett Chair in History
Charles E. Burts Scholarship
Marguerite M. Chiles Scholarship*
Donald H. Clinton Visiting Mathematician Fund
Lois Aileen Coggins French Professorship
Paul Martin Cook Scholarship for Health and Exercise Science
John E. Crabtree-James T. Stewart Lectureship in Literary Studies
Fred and Jane Current Accounting Award*
J.C. Ellett Economics Prize
Dan A. Ellis Scholarship
Wallace Craft Fallaw Lecture in Earth and Environmental Sciences*
Paul Lewis Fisher Book Award
Thomas E. Flowers Art Scholarship
Olivia Futch Fund
Bennette E. Geer, Jr., Chair of Literature
David A. Gibson Concert Fund*
Delbert H. Gilpatrick Scholarship
Meta Eppler Gilpatrick Writers at Furman Fund
Meta Eppler Gilpatrick Award for Scholarly Writing
Meta Eppler Gilpatrick Short Story Prize
Ernest E. Harrill Political Science Scholarship
Glen E. Howerton Art Scholarship
L.D. Johnson Scholarship
Susan R. Keeler Music Scholarship
Moffett Kendrick, Jr., Scholarship
Schaefier B. Kendrick Scholarship
Robert B. (Bob) King Scholarship
William E. Leverette, Jr., Chair in History*
C. Eugene Looper Scholarship
Lennie Lusby Music Scholarship
Gerda P. McCahan Fund
Sandy Molnar Physical Education Scholarship
T. Ray Naneey Computer Science Scholarship
Alfred Taylor Odell Scholarship
John R. Patty Scholarship
Beatrice Dennis Plyler Scholarship
John Laney Plyler Scholarship
Gordon Poteat Chair in Chinese and Oriental Culture
Alfred Sandlin Reid Lectureship in Literature
DuPre Rhame Scholarship
Joe A. Roberts Scholarship Fund*
John R. Sampey Chair of Chemistry
Paul Ellis Scarpa Tennis Scholarship
Frank Selvy-Darrell Floyd Basketball Scholarship
Charlotte R. Smith Scholarship
W. Lindsay Smith Music Scholarship
Ethel Carlisle Southern Librarian Scholarship
J. Albert Southern Chemistry Scholarship
Dorothy H. Thompson Scholarship
Ernest J. Walters Endowed Fund for Thought Students in Political Science*
R.W. and A.G. Weaver Staff Development Fund
Howard Wheeler Scholarship
C. Ray Wylie, Jr., Mathematics Scholarship
C. Ray Wylie, Jr., Scholar-Athlete Scholarship
C. Ray Wylie, Jr., Endowed Mathematics Tournament Fund

"Established during the Forever Furman campaign (January 1996 to present)"
WITH 16 STARTERS RETURNING from a year ago, including several at key positions, Furman football coach Bobby Johnson can't help but think that the Paladins can be a very good football team in 1999. But Johnson thought the same thing last year, when he discovered how quickly a few twists of fate can destroy the greatest of expectations.

Furman roared out of the blocks last season by winning four of its first five games, but a spate of injuries and the lack of big plays at critical times — the Paladins lost back-to-back games to The Citadel and East Tennessee State by a total of four points — forced the team to settle for a 5-6 record and fifth place in the Southern Conference.

"It was really frustrating," says Johnson, who watched seven defensive starters get bumped from the lineup a year ago with injuries. "I don't think I've ever been involved with a team that had more serious injuries. Still, we had a chance to win some games and we didn't execute properly. Anytime you know you have a good football team and you don't get a good season out of it, it hurts no matter what the reason."

But there are a number of reasons to believe that this could be the year the Paladins make another run at the Division I-AA playoffs. The offensive unit, for instance, returns nine starters, including junior quarterback Justin Hill, who was beginning to show the kind of talent that has been expected of him before an ankle injury forced him to miss a couple of key mid-season games in 1998.

"What people have got to realize is that even though Justin's been here for three years (including a red-shirt freshman year), he has played only 11 games," Johnson says. "I think he's going to get better and better every day of the season."

Running backs Stuart Rentz and Louis Ivory also return with standout receiver Desmond Kitchings, and the offensive line returns everyone except center Mark Foster.

The defense returns seven starters, although there may be more uncertainty on that side of the ball because so many of the returnees are underclassmen who were plugged into the lineup to fill the gaps created by injuries. Of the 24 players who are expected to contend for the majority of playing time on defense, more than half are either sophomores or red-shirt freshmen.

Johnson says the Paladins will count heavily on senior strong safety John Keith, "a real steady force." But they will miss Orlando Ruff, the All-America linebacker and South Carolina Player of the Year who signed with the San Diego Chargers of the National Football League.

"We'll still be relatively young on defense, but we're going to have the people there," Johnson says. "It's just a matter of getting them in the right places. We need to play a little smarter and not allow big plays and easy scores."

The new look for 1999 also extends to the sidelines, where there are several changes on the coaching staff.
Steve Wilson, who had coached at Furman since 1986 and had been defensive coordinator since 1993, has left to pursue a business opportunity and has been replaced by Bruce Fowler, who previously coached the defensive backs. "There will be a little bit of transition there," Johnson says, "but we still believe in the same principles on defense, and that's not going to change."

On the offensive side of the ball, Ted Cain has returned to coach the tight ends and wide receivers. Cain, who played and coached at Furman before going to North Carolina State in 1985 as Dick Sheridan's offensive coordinator, was head coach at Virginia Military Institute the last two years.

"Ted obviously has a lot of coaching experience and our offense will benefit from that," Johnson says. "With him coaching the wide receivers, it has allowed Bobby Lamb to concentrate solely on the quarterbacks and that was an obvious improvement for us in the spring."

— Vince Moore

1999 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE
(HOME GAMES ALL CAPS)

September
4 ELON 7 p.m.
11 Open
18 William & Mary 1 p.m.
25 VIRGINIA MILITARY 7 p.m.

October
2 Western Carolina 6 p.m.
9 APPALACHIAN STATE 2 p.m.
16 The Citadel 2 p.m.
23 EAST TENNESSEE (Homecoming) 2 p.m.
30 North Carolina 1:30 p.m.

November
6 Georgia Southern 1 p.m.
13 WOFFORD 2 p.m.
20 UT-Chattanooga Noon

Starting times subject to change.

Welcome back
NFL's Falcons return to Furman for summer camp

Sixty golf carts. A mini-amusement park. And food — lots and lots of it.

All played a major role in the Atlanta Falcons training camp at Furman from July 28 through August 20. The camp marked the National Football League team's return to Furman after a 22-year absence and gave professional football fans in upstate South Carolina the chance to visit two professional football camps this summer, as the Charlotte Panthers trained at Wofford College in nearby Spartanburg.

The Falcons, who lost to Denver 34-19 in the Super Bowl January 31, called Furman their summer home from 1971 through 1977. For the last two decades, however, the team was based at the Falcon Inn in Suwanee, Ga.

The Smith family, owners of the Falcons, decided last year to sell the Falcon Inn property, leaving the club without a summer home. Team officials selected Furman over the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and several sites in Georgia — Middle Georgia College in Cochran, Mercer University in Macon, Life University in Marietta and Georgia Southwestern University in Americus.

The team's contingent of about 80 players and 70 coaches, staff and other personnel began arriving on campus July 28. Workouts were held on the Robert B. King practice fields behind the Lay Physical Activities Center, as well as on the infield at the Irwin W. Belk Complex for Track and Field and on a new athletic field near Cherrydale. A miniature amusement park with interactive games, refreshments and merchandise for sale was set up in front of Paladin Stadium.

A typical day for the players began at 6:30 a.m. with treatments and breakfast. Morning practice was held from 9 to 11 a.m., with afternoon practice running from 3 to 5 p.m. Team meetings were held for two hours nightly in Johns and Furman halls. The Falcons had 60 golf carts on hand to help the players make their way around campus.

The team ate buffet-style in the Watkins Great Room of the University Center, with daily menu items including filet mignon, prime rib, swordfish and lobster. David Randolph, director of dining services, says the players typically ate "double what a growing male college student would.''

The one-year contract with Furman includes an option to renew next year. Club management is considering relocating the team's headquarters and summer camp to Stone Mountain, north of Atlanta. But it is considered unlikely that the new facility, if approved, would be completed in time for the 2000 summer camp.

— John Roberts
Tom Day's Web site pays homage to all that is good and noble about Furman football.

There are numerous ways that Tom Day can lay claim to being Furman's No. 1 football fan. He has made the requisite road trips to the Southern Conference outposts of Boone, N.C., and Huntington, W. Va. He made the 3,000-mile journey to Tacoma, Wash., in 1985 to watch the Paladins play for the Division I-AA national championship game, and three years later, watching on a big-screen television in a Greenville bar, he was moved to tears when the Paladins won their national championship. He was even in Paladin Stadium on that cold and fateful day in December of 1989 when a freak snowstorm hastened Furman's semifinal playoff loss to Stephen F. Austin and brought a chilling end to the Paladins' decade of dominance.

But it was on August 25, 1996, that Day separated himself from the crowd and drew his line in the sand. That was the day he launched the “Unofficial Furman Football Page” on the World Wide Web and created a shrine to everything that is good and noble about Furman football.

The site (www.mindspring.com/~stumpy/furman.htm) allows visitors to review past seasons, check schedules, pore over statistics, peruse photos, read old articles, even ruminate over the "Glory Years." There are links to a “Luther Broughton Watch” (for the former Paladin tight end who now plays for the Charlotte Panthers of the National Football League), as well as the latest Division I-AA rankings. And if you're one for comparative arguments, you can cast your vote for the best Furman team ever or the greatest offensive player of the past 20 years.

“I love Paladin football and couldn’t get much news about the program here in Atlanta,” says Day, a 1987 graduate who moved to Atlanta in 1990 and who...
currently serves as a systems administrator for BellSouth Entertainment. “So I thought it would be fun to create the Unofficial Furman Football Page, which would force me to keep up with Furman a little more.”

The result has been gratifying. The page has had over 5,000 hits since it first went up on the Web, and Day guesses that a core group of about 50 people visits the site over and over. Those who have signed the page’s guest book include Furman president David Shi, former Paladin star Steve Duggan ’91, and an East Tennessee State follower who took the opportunity to speak disparagingly of all Paladin fans prior to last year’s game with the Buccaneers.

“I get a lot of e-mails from fans of other schools,” Day says. “I hear from Georgia Southern fans primarily, and they’re pretty cool. They don’t give me too hard a time, and they’re genuinely interested in what’s going on in Division I-AA football.”

He says the most vitriolic e-mails come from The Citadel fans, and that the biggest fan of the site is a Greenville teen-ager who will be joining Furman’s freshman class this fall. He also gets messages from parents of players who appreciate the site.

How exactly did Day develop such an affection for Furman football? It started when his family moved to Greenville in 1980 from upstate Vermont. Day says that football was “nonexistent” in Vermont, and he was overjoyed when he was plunged into the middle of the college football excesses of the South.

“I actually became a South Carolina fan when people kept asking me if I was a Clemson fan,” says Day, “but I kept up with Furman football, too.”

He decided to attend Furman after graduating from Travelers Rest High School, and it was then that his loyalty to Furman football began in earnest. The Paladins were a Division I-AA powerhouse when Day arrived on campus in the fall of 1983. Dick Sheridan was head coach, and Furman had won four Southern Conference championships in the last five years (and would win again in 1983 and 1985).

As a tuba-playing member of the Furman band, Day traveled to many away games and made a special effort to attend those the band didn’t. He witnessed Furman victories over Georgia Tech and North Carolina State, and saw the Paladins reach the 1985 Division I-AA championship game.

In fact, Day says that he was clearly visible on two different occasions during ESPN’s telecast of the game. He was shown jumping up and down with his tuba after Furman scored the go-ahead touchdown late in the fourth quarter, and the camera was there again to catch his look of utter dismay when Georgia Southern came back to win in the final seconds, 44-42.

After graduating with a degree in sociology, Day went to work in Greenville and continued to follow the Paladins closely. When Furman advanced to the national championship game in 1988, with a chance to avenge the loss to Georgia Southern, he watched the game at a local establishment with friends, including his future wife, Jenny Sprague ’88.

“When (Jeff) Blankenship intercepted that pass [late in the game] and I knew we had won, I started sobbing,” Day says. “Everybody else was jumping up and down and celebrating, but I couldn’t help it. Jenny was looking at me like I was crazy. But after coming so close in 1985 and then getting caught up with the team again in the playoffs that year, it was just emotional overload. I was lucky she married me after that.”

Even though Day says his wife cares greatly about everything at Furman except football, she and the couple’s four cats continue to put up with his zealous behavior. He hasn’t missed a Homecoming contest since he graduated, and he tries to attend at least three home games each year as well as the Georgia Southern game every other year in Statesboro. And, of course, there is the Unofficial Furman Football Page.

“The Website is now in its third format and I do experiment frequently,” he says. “Sometimes it works and sometimes not. But I’m still having fun and I have some ideas for new things in the future.”

And until somebody can discover how to spend even more time obsessing about Furman football, Day should remain without peer among Paladin fans.

— Vince Moore

GERMANN TO FURMAN FOR SEVENTH YEAR IN ROW

For the seventh consecutive year, Furman has won the Germann Cup, presented annually to the Southern Conference school with the best all-around women’s athletic program. The award is named for former league commissioner Ken Germann.

Furman teams finished no worse than fifth in the league’s nine women’s sports during 1998-99. The Lady Paladins were first in golf, tied for first in tennis and second in soccer.

In the Commissioner’s Cup race signifying the top men’s program, Furman tied with Davidson for seventh place behind winner Appalachian State.

Points for the awards are based on each school’s finish in regular-season or tournament competition for each sport in which the conference offers a championship.

PALADIN SPORTS ON THE INTERNET

Furman football and men’s basketball have gone cyber.

The university has signed a four-year agreement with Broadcast.com to broadcast the games over the Internet. To access the live radio broadcasts, Furman fans should access www.broadcast.com and follow the instructions.

In addition, the university has signed a two-year contract with WPEK-FM (98.1) in Greenville to be the university’s flagship station. The station reaches listeners throughout northwestern South Carolina and northeast Georgia.

Furman football radio play-by-play broadcasts are also available by telephone through TEAMLINE, which can be accessed by dialing 1-800-846-4700 and entering Furman’s team code — 1109.
The theme for this year’s Homecoming, scheduled the weekend of October 22-24, is “Furman Forever: Decades of Change.” We’re highlighting the university’s history, and students will recall past Furman events in their skits, displays and banners. Horseplay on Friday night will offer a “loose” history of the university. Plan to be present and see if your decade is portrayed correctly!

A special event is set for Saturday at lunch as we dedicate Cherrydale, the new Alumni House. For the first time, alumni will have a place of their own on campus. Cherrydale will offer a wonderful setting for all sorts of gatherings and occasions.

If your class year ends in 4 or 9, plan to attend your reunion dinner Saturday night. A group of your classmates has worked hard to organize an event that is guaranteed to be entertaining. After the dinner, join fellow alumni for the block party on Greenville’s Main Street, where we’ll have music and activities for all ages!

In closing, I would like to thank all alumni who helped us reach the 50 percent alumni-giving goal for the second consecutive year. By supporting Furman financially, you help to ensure the future of alma mater.

But there are also many other ways you can support Furman. Have you considered recruiting a student? How about hiring a recent graduate or a student intern? Are you a Furman volunteer? To learn more about the opportunities available, please call the Alumni Office.

And on behalf of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, we look forward to seeing you at Homecoming October 22-24!

— Lynn Powers Gibbs ’78
President, Alumni Association

Who owns this place

On Mother’s Day, my family celebrated with a picnic at Furman. My 5-year-old niece, Madison, was thrilled when we approached the lake to feed the ducks. Her excitement showed when she said, “This place is beautiful. Wouldn’t it be great to live here!”

Her mother and I explained that we lived on campus during our student days and that maybe one day she’d do the same. Then she surprised us with her next question: “Who owns this place?”

My initial thought was that Granddaddy feels like he owns at least one of the trees, since he sent three daughters to Furman. But I believe the correct answer is that each of us, as alumni of Furman, owns a share of alma mater. Our diplomas represent time invested in a variety of ways.

Each fall, Homecoming provides a special opportunity for alumni to reflect upon their Furman experience. The theme for this year’s Homecoming, scheduled the weekend of October 22-24, is “Furman Forever: Decades of Change.” We’re highlighting the university’s history, and students will recall past Furman events in their skits, displays and banners. Horseplay on Friday night will offer a “loose” history of the university. Plan to be present and see if your decade is portrayed correctly!

Be sure you come to campus early on Homecoming Saturday so you will have time to visit the beautifully renovated University Center and enjoy a department drop-in. Bring your family and create another set of Furman memories!

New to the Alumni Board
Welcome and congratulations to our new Alumni Board members! Elected during balloting in May and June were Joseph Gentry ’53, Diane Maroney Estridge ’66, Jenna Robinson ’74, Jim Simkins ’78 and Hal Henderson ’92.

Special thanks to all alumni who agreed to run for the board and all who voted. This year, for the first time, ballots were mailed directly to alumni. The response was tremendous as almost 2,000 were returned, an all-time high in participation.

The Alumni Board represents the entire Furman alumni body, 22,000 strong. Composed of 25 people representing a broad spectrum of classes, the board advises the university on current and upcoming issues.

YAC report
The Young Alumni Council is a group of recent graduates who advise the university on current issues and serve as volunteers for special events.

YAC just finished a busy year that culminated in the distribution of the new YARD (Young Alumni Resource Directory) to all graduating seniors. This publication lists more than 150 young alumni across the country who are willing to offer career advice and to welcome new graduates into their areas. Please call the Alumni Office to receive a copy of YARD or to add your name to the volunteer list.

YAC meets three times a year to work on such projects as YARD, the Parents Weekend Fun Run, the Senior Picnic and other events that connect young alumni with current students. YAC is composed of two or three members from each of the last 15 graduating classes.

If you are interested in representing your class on the Young Alumni Council and your year of graduation falls between 1985 and 1999, please let us know! For an application, please visit the alumni Website or call the Alumni Office. Applications are accepted year-round, and new members join YAC at the fall meeting.

Travel plans
Feeling the urge to travel? Why not join the next Furman trip, like the 22 folks who recently returned from a tour of Italy’s Tuscany region?

University chaplain Jim Pitts will host a visit to the Holy Land October 27 through November 7. Participants will visit Jordan and Israel and even make a side trip to Vienna. Cost of the trip is $2,995.

Furman Alumni Association telephone
1-800-PURPLES
Website
http://www.furman.edu/admin/alumni
E-mail
alumni@furman.edu

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TRIPS PLANNED FOR THE YEAR 2000

Vienna, March 5-12 — This eight-day spring trip to the Greek Isles. Each day offers a new educational focus, including a look at ancient Greek mythology, a view of Greek art, studies in classical Greek architecture, and much more.

Greece, July 4-13 — Experience lifelong learning with an Alumni College trip to the Greek Isles. Each day offers a new educational focus, including a look at ancient Greek mythology, a view of Greek art, studies in classical Greek architecture, and much more.

Scotland, July 26-August 3 — Known as the “Gateway to the Highlands,” Stirling, Scotland serves as home base for this Alumni College and provides an ideal setting for exploration of Scotland’s history and beautiful landscape. You might also choose to extend your stay to watch the British Open!

For more information, contact the Alumni Office.

Furman Club update

After a successful summer of golf tournaments, receptions with President David Shi and special send-offs for incoming freshmen, Furman Clubs are ready to launch their fall and winter activities.

If you are interested in starting a Furman Club in your area or in volunteering your services to an existing club, please contact Teresa Skinner Griffith ’92 in the Alumni Office.

And watch for news on these upcoming Furman Club events:

New York City / September 12
Baseball: New York Yankees vs. Boston

Tidewater (Virginia) / September 18
Paladin Club tailgate before Furman-William & Mary football game

Charleston / October 16
Paladin Club tailgate before Furman-Citadel football game

New York City / October 16
“New York Cares” community service project

New York City / October 20
Gathering at “Bill’s”

Triangle (North Carolina) / October 30
Paladin Club tailgate before Furman-North Carolina football game

Coastal Empire (Georgia) / November 6
Paladin Club tailgate before Furman-Georgia Southern football game

New York City / November 12
Black tie scholarship fund-raiser

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES, cont.

45 Ralph R. Chandler of Pelzer, S.C., has received the state of South Carolina’s highest civilian award, the Order of the Palmetto. He served for 18 years on the board of the School District of Greenville County and was twice chairman.

55 Next reunion in 2000
Richard R. Patty, professor of physics at North Carolina State University for 35 years, received his sixth award for outstanding teaching when he was presented the Award for Excellence in Teaching from the University of North Carolina system. The award carries a $7,500 cash prize and is the highest honor for teaching bestowed by the university system.

56 Next reunion in 2001
Barbara Ann Brannon Cass has retired from the Greenville County school system, where she taught for 30 years, and is now teaching part time at Greenville Technical College.

59 This year is reunion!
C. Dan Joyner of Greenville was the target of a roast at a benefit dinner for the Salvation Army Boys’ and Girls’ Club June 3.

Richard H. Crooks of Greenville, longtime adviser to Furman’s athletics, has retired from teaching part time at Greenville Technical College.

60 Next reunion in 2000
After almost 40 years of service, Lynda Lee Boldt Waldrep has retired from teaching in the Guilford County (N.C.) Schools.

64 This year is reunion!
Potter/ceramicist Brian VanNootroand of Hacker Valley, W.Va., was the subject of a profile in the April issue of Ceramics Monthly magazine.

65 Next reunion in 2000
Brenda Haygood Hays has retired as administrative director of the Greenville County Historical Society.

Sandra Freeman Jones of Brevard, N.C., author of six books on parenting, is completing revisions on the sixth edition of her book Guide to Baby Products, which is published in cooperation with Consumer Reports. The recipient of a “distinguished contributor citation” from the American Psychological Association for her book To Love a Baby, she has been selected for inclusion in Who’s Who in America and in Who’s Who in the World.

66 Next reunion in 2001
Nancy Frady Huggins, a fifth-grade teacher at Falkland Elementary in Greenville, N.C., has earned certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

67 Next reunion in 2002
Donald A. Prewette has become pastor of Perkerson Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., which he previously served as minister of music and associate pastor.

68 Next reunion in 2003
Donald A. Prewette has become pastor of Perkerson Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., which he previously served as minister of music and associate pastor.

69 This year is reunion!
Vernon Burton, professor of history at the University of Illinois,
Alice Adams, beloved librarian, dies

Alice Adams, who served as head of circulation at the Women's College, the old men's campus and the James B. Duke Library from 1939 to 1972, died April 22 in Laurens, S.C.

Miss Adams, who retired from Furman in 1972, was a quiet, sprightly woman with a wonderful sense of humor and remarkably cheerful demeanor. For many years she was in charge of student assistants in the library and, after becoming associate librarian in 1960, performed other administrative duties as well. Possessed of uncommon composure, Miss Adams could also be assertive when needed. When students would fall asleep on the couches in the library, she was known to take it upon herself to awaken them — usually with a gentle but firm shake.

When she retired in 1972, Miss Adams indicated that one of her main joys had been working with students and seeing them go into library work. The affection was mutual. In an article on Miss Adams in the Fall 1972 issue of Furman Magazine, student Richard Band said, "I appreciated the fact that she always showed such an interest in me personally." Pat Byars, a student worker and later a colleague of Miss Adams, said, "It was she who made me want to become a librarian in the first place. As a student back in the early forties, I felt that there must be something unusually good about a profession which could attract such a wonderful person."

Professors were equally appreciative. In remembering Miss Adams, professor of psychology Charles Brewer says, "She was a consummate professional — knowledgeable, accommodating, genteel and gracious. Her impish sense of humor provided many bright moments for countless students and faculty members. If the world had more people like her, it would be a better place for people like me."

Born in Seneca, S.C., the youngest of eight children, Alice Adams graduated from the Women's College in 1923 and taught high school Latin for several years. She became interested in library work and eventually earned a degree in library science from the University of North Carolina. While teaching in North Carolina, she visited with Virginia Thomas, dean of the Women's College, and indicated an interest in working closer to her home. Soon afterward she was offered the job as academic librarian at the Women's College.

In 1950-51 she attended Columbia University and earned a master's degree. Upon her retirement, Miss Adams received the Sullivan Award for her outstanding contributions to the university.

Memorials may be made to the James B. Duke Library at Furman or to the Martha Franks Home in Laurens, S.C.
to a second three-year term on the Manor Independent School District Board of Trustees. David A. Merline, Jr., of Greenville is included in the 1999-2000 edition of Best Lawyers in America in the field of employee benefits law. BIRTH: Douglas and Roberta G. Barnett, a daughter, Sarah Margaret, November 4, Columbia, S.C.

85 Next reunion in 2000
Mary Moore Roberson has been ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church and is serving as assistant at St. Peter’s Church-Episcopal in Greenville. BIRTH: Mary Moore Roberson, March 16, Atlanta, Ga.

86 Next reunion in 2001
David A. Baillie, former volleyball coach at Furman, has been named director of athletics at Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. BIRTH: David A. Baillie, September 18, 1930, Birmingham, Ala.

88 Next reunion in 2002
BIRTH: Andrew S. and Karen Arnold White, a daughter, Harley Elizabeth, October 29, Columbia, S.C.

FURMAN GRAD MAKES MARK AT THE CITADEL

A colorful academician, Tony Redd sits in his small, book-lined office regaling his listener with delightful stories of travel, teaching and tenure at The Citadel, making it easy to imagine why this Citadel English professor is so beloved by his students.

A native of Aiken, S.C., Tony N. Redd arrived at The Citadel in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Furman (1965) and a master’s degree from the University of Virginia, where he was a DuPont Fellow. Quickly impressing his superiors, Redd was awarded a Citadel Development Foundation grant and a National Defense Education Act Fellowship in 1968 to pursue his doctoral degree. In 1972, he returned to The Citadel with a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina.

His specialties are 20th-century British and American literature and 20th-century Southern literature, and his hobbies include book collecting and travel. “I’m a bibliophile of the first order,” he says, explaining that when he’s traveling, the first thing he looks for is the best secondhand bookstore. The second thing he looks for — to satisfy a penchant for pastry — is the best bakery.

Redd’s travels have often taken him to England to the home of the subject of his doctoral dissertation, the 20th-century British novelist Rebecca West. When he wrote to West and sent along a copy of his work, she enthusiastically responded, saying that he was the only one who had ever really understood her writing. From there they began a friendship that would last until she died in 1983. Redd spent many summers visiting West in England, where they attended the theatre, socialized among the literati and dined at elegant restaurants.

From the age of 4 he knew that he wanted to teach, and after teaching for more than 30 years he has garnered his share of amusing stories. One graduate student became so unstrung during an exam that he approached the lectern and whispered that he thought he was having a nervous breakdown. Redd, afraid the hysteria might be catching, quickly hustled the student out of the classroom and back into the world of real estate sales.

Beyond the stories, there are a myriad of students who revere Redd for his wit and zeal that make the classroom an exciting place and for his presence in their lives that leaves an indelible impression. One student, James A. Koppenhaver, so admired him that he established a scholarship at The Citadel in his name. “I was trying to repay some of what Tony gave to me in the hope of passing it on to others with a thirst for knowledge what I had learned,” he says.

— Jennifer J. Wallace

This is an excerpt from a story that appeared in the Winter 1999 issue of The Citadel Magazine. Reprinted with permission.
Des Moines, Iowa, where she is senior manager for Principal Mutual Funds and he is a portfolio manager for Principal Capital Management.  ■ Holly Jane Bland (M.A.) and Thomas Scott Sarratt, April 10.  They live in Columbia, S.C., where he is owner/president of Custom Home Electronics.  ■ BIRTHS:  David Jones and his wife, Mary E. Whaley, a son, Ben jamin Andrew Whaley-Jones, December 23, Muncie, Ind.  ■ Thomas C. Jr., and Hilda Winstead Marsos, a son, John Connor, February 17, Greenville.  ■ Chris and Elizabeth Stovall Byrne, twin sons, Nicholas and Zachary, January 8, Oviedo, Fla.


88  Next reunion in 2003 J. Todd White, principal at Mitchell Road Elementary School in Greenville, has been named the South Carolina Elementary School Principal of the Year by the state Parent Teachers Association.  ■ Andrew Carmichael and Elizabeth Green Ausband live in Atlanta, Ga., where he practices law and she is assistant to the executive vice president for customer service of Delta Air Lines, Inc.  ■ Evelyn Mantz Rae of Norcross, Ga., was recently promoted to controller of SBM, a Gates/Arrow company. She is studying for a Master of Business Administration degree at Georgia State University.  ■ BIRTHS: Steven and Karen Wynn Edwards, a daughter, Jenna Leigh, February 17, Seneca, S.C.  ■ T.J. and Kelley Batson Addison, a daughter, Skyler Campbell, January 21, Stanford, Conn.  ■ W. Matthew and Stephanie Webster, a son, Cole, January 8, Hilton Head Island, S.C.  ■ Roger and Karen Pearson Bayne, a son, Chad Ellis, January 12, Easley, S.C.  ■ Eric and Jennifer Reed Craig, a daughter, Megan Elizabeth, May 1998, Atlanta, Ga.

89  This year is reunion! Richard L. and René Nelson live in Charleston, S.C., where he is station manager for U.S. Airways.  ■ Terri René Patrick of Summerville, S.C., has rejoined the staff of Dyal Funeral Home where she is office manager.  ■ John and Sheila Thomas Brock live in Greenville. She teaches at Travelers Rest High School and he is a systems programmer for the Greenville Hospital System.  ■ Julie Bolt, major account manager for Sprint in Boston, Mass., has completed a number of marathons, including the Boston Marathon, which she recently ran in less than four hours. She is co-founder of the non-profit Community Running Association.  ■ Robert A. Moody, associate conductor of the Phoenix (Ariz.) Symphony, spent the summer as chorus master of the Santa Fe (N.M.) Opera. On June 13, he conducted the Brooklyn Philharmonic and a 200-voice chorus in Ralph Vaughan Williams’ Dona Nobis Pacem at New York City’s Carnegie Hall.  ■ MARRIAGE: Tracy Michelle Kellum and Richard Heath Phillips, March 20. They live in Greenwood, S.C., where she is employed by Edgar M. Norris & Co. He is associated with O’Dell Corp. in Ware Shoals, S.C.  ■ BIRTHS: Brian L. and Kathryn Kaib ‘90 Clark, a son, Joseph Brian, January 10, Marietta, Ga.  ■ John Blevins, Linda Ellis and Lesley Brogan, a son, John Brogan Ellis, September 27.  ■ Jay and Margaret Every Dennard, a son, James David III, March 10, 1998, Macon, Ga. Margaret Dennard is a physical therapist with The Medical Center of Central Georgia.

90  Next reunion in 2000 Andrew S. Fletcher has been named medical company com-

91  Next reunion in 2001 Michael D. Gatchell, former director of major gifts and of the Alumni Association at Furman, has become vice president of Medallion Group, Inc., in Greenville. The company develops and markets easy-to-use products and services that address the immediate patient management needs of healthcare specialists.  ■ Clay M. Hardin is a software engineer for Buy.com, an Internet commerce Website.  ■ Mark A. Taylor has been named associate director of the undergraduate division of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.  ■ John and Sharon Sox England live in Arvada, Colo., where she is an adoption
As a boy growing up in Charlotte, N.C., Ben Browder would close his eyes and imagine that he was walking on the moon with Neil Armstrong or floating around in an earth-orbiting space station.

Yet even as a creative 10-year-old, he could never have imagined that someday he would actually live on a spaceship called Moya in a galaxy light years from Earth. Or that his best friends would be Ka D’Argo, a fierce Luxan warrior who looks like a cross between a Klingon and a Wookie, and Aeryn Sun, a spunky woman soldier.

But Browder, a former four-year letterman as a linebacker on the Furman football team, is doing just that. Sort of.

Browder plays John Crichton, a 20th-century astronaut caught in a space accident that hurlis him across many galaxies and into an alien world in the Sci-Fi Channel series “Farscape,” which debuted in March.

“When I was little I wanted to be an astronaut,” says Browder, who recently completed the first season of “Farscape.” “I seem to be right back where I started. I’m an astronaut now.”

The one-hour show, which is filmed in Australia and airs on Friday night, has been received well by critics and viewers. Matt Roush, a columnist for TV Guide, wrote that the Sci-Fi Channel “scores a cosmic bull’s-eye with this whimsical winner. The show’s look is sensational, the tone a family-friendly blend of comic book cliffhangers and cleverly crafted interpersonal conflicts.”

While “Farscape” is his first starring role, Browder has worked steadily on stage and screen over the last 10 years. He has appeared on Broadway with Dustin Hoffman and in films with Kirstie Alley and Matt Dillon. But he is probably best known to television audiences for his role as Sam, boyfriend to Neve Campbell’s Julia in the hit Fox series “Party of Five.”

During the 1997-98 season Browder appeared in several episodes of the show, which is especially popular with teenagers and young adults. “The show helped draw some attention from the industry and some very nice young women I’ve never met,” he says. “But I wouldn’t say it was a big break. I don’t know that I’ve had one. I’ve had a lot of little breaks, of which ‘Farscape’ is probably the biggest.”

Browder made his feature film debut in “Memphis Belle” in 1990. He has appeared in several television movies, and his television series credits include guest appearances on “Melrose Place,” “Grace Under Fire” and “Murder, She Wrote.”

While majoring in psychology, Browder cut his theatrical teeth on the Furman stage. One of his most memorable performances was as free-spirited Navy man Luther Billis in a 1982 production of “South Pacific,” according to Rhett Bryson of the theatre arts department.

“Billis is a character that really likes to act up. He has a tattoo of a ship on his stomach and in one scene dances around in a coconut-shell bra,” says Browson. “I will always remember Ben dancing on the stage in that coconut bra. He had no inhibitions and was a real showman.”

During his senior year (1984-85), Browder decided to pursue acting as a career after participating in a workshop with Actors from the London Stage, a group of Shakespearean actors that periodically spends a week at Furman, performing and working with students.

“I had never worked with, had never met, professional actors before,” he says. “By the time they left, fool that I was, I had determined that I really needed to be a classical Shakespearean actor. What did I know? I was young.” Browder went on to study acting at the Central School for Speech and Drama in London.

Today, although he’s living halfway around the world, Browder still keeps in touch with Bryson and others from his Furman days. “Only this morning, here in Sydney, I surfed some very sweet high waves with Tim Stepp ’88, a former Furman all-conference defensive end,” he says via e-mail. “How cool is that?”

— John Roberts

92 Next reunion in 2002
Tomiko Brown-Nagin has been awarded a fellowship from the Spencer Foundation of Chicago, Ill., to support completion of her doctoral dissertation. The fellowships support research related to education. A doctoral candidate in history at Duke University, Brown-Nagin is writing on “The Impact of Law, Culture, and Political Economy on the NAACP’s Campaign for Educational Equality, Atlanta, Georgia, 1958-79.” ■ Jeff and Melanie Bain Calcaterra live in Dayton, Ohio, where she runs an Internet business and he is an aerospace engineer. ■ Ronald V. and Kristin Felder Shoe have moved to Nashville, Tenn., where she is a resident in obstetrics and gynecology. She has been promoted to a master’s degree in library science at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. ■ William E. and Vicki Bieksha Johnson live in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she has been promoted to customer service supervisor with Merchant Services USA and he is a loan officer with Members Credit Union. She is also pursuing a master’s degree in library science at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. ■ William A. Sturgis, Jr., has joined the Atlanta, Ga., office of Hammond & Quist as an investment banker. ■ Anna Christopher Johnson is director of Christian education at Central Presbyterian Church in Anderson, S.C. ■ W. Todd Ensminger lives in Washington, D.C., and is an attorney for Nextel Communications, Inc. ■ Rhett S. Price and his wife, Kimberly Cochran-Price, have started IndySoft Corporation in Greenville. He develops industrial software for the quality control industry, and she handles business development and marketing for the company. ■ Megan Lee Fliston Johnson has been named director of admissions at Barrie School in Silver Spring, Md. ■ Ryan B. ’94 and Pamela Clay Livezey live in Tucker, Ga., where she is employed by BT Office Products. He teaches at Peachtree Middle School in Dunwoody and is studying for a Master of Education degree. ■ Byron Cousins lives in Newnan, Ga., and is driver manager with National Freight. ■ MARRIAGE: Jessica Ann Ferracci and William Scott Hughes, March 6. They live in Birmingham, Ala., where she is medical liaison for Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Co. He is a vice president of Regions Bank. ■ BIRTHS: Chad W. and Leah Jackson, a daughter, Carly Gayle, January 13. ■ Elford S. and Elizabeth West Morgan, a son, Elford West, July 6, 1998, Spartanburg, S.C. ■ Michael and Helen Slingluff White, a son, Ethan Betts, November 2. Richmond Hill, Ga. ■ Richard and Laura Driscoll Hughes, a son, Owen Charles, June 15, Alikesqua, Pa. ■ Gorrell and Katherine Nixon Cheek, a son, Gorrell Nixon, February 14, Charlotte, N.C.

93 Next reunion in 2003
Steven and Margaret Easom ’95 Hines live in Augusta, Ga., where he is a student at the Medical College of Georgia. She is studying for a doctorate in education at the University of Georgia. ■ William E. and Vicki Bieksha Johnson live in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she has been promoted to customer service supervisor with Merchant Services USA and he is a loan officer with Members Credit Union. She is also pursuing a master’s degree in library science at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. ■ William A. Sturgis, Jr., has joined the Atlanta, Ga., office of Hammond & Quist as an investment banker. ■ Anna Christopher Johnson is director of Christian education at Central Presbyterian Church in Anderson, S.C. ■ W. Todd Ensminger lives in Washington, D.C., and is an attorney for Nextel Communications, Inc. ■ Rhett S. Price and his wife, Kimberly Cochran-Price, have started IndySoft Corporation in Greenville. He develops industrial software for the quality control industry, and she handles business development and marketing for the company. ■ Megan Lee Fliston Johnson has been named director of admissions at Barrie School in Silver Spring, Md. ■ Ryan B. ’94 and Pamela Clay Livezey live in Tucker, Ga., where she is employed by BT Office Products. He teaches at Peachtree Middle School in Dunwoody and is studying for a Master of Education degree. ■ Byron Cousins lives in Newnan, Ga., and is driver manager with National Freight. ■ MARRIAGE: Jessica Ann Ferracci and William Scott Hughes, March 6. They live in Birmingham, Ala., where she is medical liaison for Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Co. He is a vice president of Regions Bank. ■ BIRTHS: Chad W. and Leah Jackson, a daughter, Carly Gayle, January 13. ■ Elford S. and Elizabeth West Morgan, a son, Elford West, July 6, 1998, Spartanburg, S.C. ■ Michael and Helen Slingluff White, a son, Ethan Betts, November 2. Richmond Hill, Ga. ■ Richard and Laura Driscoll Hughes, a son, Owen Charles, June 15, Alikesqua, Pa. ■ Gorrell and Katherine Nixon Cheek, a son, Gorrell Nixon, February 14, Charlotte, N.C.

94 This year is reunion!
Scott Wild is a teacher and coach at Laurens (S.C.) High School. ■ Jennifer L. Stefanik has earned a master’s degree in interrelated special education from Georgia State University and is a special needs kindergarten teacher in Clayton County, Ga. ■ George W. Brown III practices law with Lambert and Roffman, L.L.C., in Madison, Ga. ■ Keith E. Waller has opened Bird’s Eye View Pub & Coffeehouse in the “Old City” section of Knoxville, Tenn. ■ Matthew and Melissa Moosbrugger have moved to Tulsa, Okla., where he is a special agent with the FBI. ■ Jennifer Hvidding Lewicki is completing certification in English as a Second Language and is self-employed as a teacher and volunteer ESL coordinator in Reston, Va. ■ Jennifer L. Brantley is based in Atlanta, Ga., as a flight attendant for Delta Air Lines. ■ Lynn M. Auchey has earned a Master of Education degree (specializing in counselor education) from Virginia Tech. ■ Derek W. and Amy Sites ’95 Roberts live in Scottsdale, Ariz., where she is studying for a master’s degree in speech pathology at Arizona State University and he for a Master of Business Administration degree at Thunderbird University. He is also president of Ni3D, LLC. ■ Teresa V. Wyatt has become manager of member services for the South Carolina Trucking Association in Columbia. ■ Ray Colado recently moved to Winter Park, Fla., where he is employed by the National Bank of Commerce. ■ Ann M. Loner has become an advertising account executive for the Puckett Group in Atlanta, Ga. ■ Andrew and Lydia Kapp ’95 Cooper live in Princeton, N.J., where he graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in May. She is head teacher for Trenton Head Start, Inc., and is studying for a master’s degree in special education. ■ Kevin McCord has completed service in the Peace Corps and has enrolled in the Master of Business Administration program at the University of Georgia. ■ MARRIAGES: Kristi Lyn Gilreath and Byron Scott Johnson, March 27. They live in Raleigh, N.C., where she is office manager for Lawyer Consulting and he is a chemist for GlaxoWellcome in Research Triangle Park. ■ Donavon Garrison Boyd and John Gilbert Ludwig, Jr., March 20. They live in Greenville where she is employed by St. Francis Hospital and he by BSA International. ■ BIRTHS: Richard G. and Shannon Simpson Riley, a son, Griffin, August 11, 1998, Birmingham, Ala. ■ Christopher and Natalie Bordenick Dearman, a daughter, Morrigan Ashley, December 17. ■ Mark W. and Jennifer Howell Baldwin, twins, Makenna and Jake, February 16, Alpharetta, Ga. ■ R. Michael and Cynthia Cox Johnson, a son, Brady Clayton, February 19.
Jack Sullivan’s career embraces his passion for both music and literature.

When Jack Sullivan entered Furman in 1965, he was undecided about whether to major in English or music.

At first he thought he would pursue a double major, studying English under the mentorship of Al Reid and music with professors Milton Hallman and David Gibson. He sang in the Concert Choir and studied music theory with Professors Milton Hallman and David Gibson. He sang in the Concert Choir and studied music theory with Charlotte Smith and music history with Lindsay Smith.

He seemed well on his way toward completing the double major when he decided it might be best to restrict himself to English.

“I wanted to focus on English since that was going to be my career, but I always knew I could pick up the music later,” he says.

And perhaps, he admits, his decision was influenced by the realization that his contributions to the musical world might not be as significant as he would have liked. For example, he recalls how Charlotte Smith would on occasion remind him of his “underdeveloped” voice. Once, while riding in the professor’s car, Sullivan remembers that her daughter was misbehaving, to which Mrs. Smith responded, “If you don’t settle down I’m going to make Jack sing to you!”

Still, throughout college he maintained his passion for music. He and his Furman friends would on occasion define a “great weekend” as listening to all nine of the Mahler symphonies in succession.

After graduating in 1969, Sullivan did graduate study in English at Columbia University and went on to various teaching positions. As he pursued his academic career, he also found a way to combine his love for music and literature.

Today, Sullivan is professor of English and chair of the American Studies program at Rider University in Lawrenceville, N.J. He has authored several books and numerous scholarly articles, with his writing often focusing on music and its influences.

In May, Sullivan returned to Furman to lecture on his latest book, New World Symphonies: How American Culture Changed European Music (Yale University Press). The book takes a broad look at American culture and its influence on 19th- and 20th-century European composers. Much of the book focuses on American literature, and Sullivan argues convincingly that American writers such as Whitman, Poe, Longfellow and Hawthorne should be credited with inspiring and influencing composers from Debussy and Ravel to Vaughan Williams.

Since its publication earlier this year, New World Symphonies has received favorable critical attention for its illuminating viewpoint. Publishers’ Weekly called it “far reaching,” and the New York Times featured the book in its inaugural “Shelf Life” column, which is dedicated to reviewing scholarly work that “has broad appeal and that presents original or provocative ideas.” Times critic Edward Rothstein deemed the book to be filled with “rich and heady stuff.” To show the breadth of Sullivan’s work, Billboard brought it to the attention of the recording industry with an enthusiastic review.

Sullivan’s interdisciplinary interests are evident in his work at Rider. One of his most popular American Studies courses takes students to New Orleans to examine the origins of jazz, zydeco and other forms of American popular music in their original setting — and to discover the connection between the worlds of music, history, literature and sociology.

Living in New York City has also provided Sullivan access to wonderful cultural opportunities, and he is frequently called upon to write reviews and program notes or to serve as a commentator or critic. Most recently, he was the academic adviser for “Sweet Chariot,” a television documentary on the history of African-American spirituals, which is expected to air on PBS within the next year.

Jack Sullivan is one of those fortunate people who has found a way to blend two of his passions — music and literature — into his professional and personal life. And he apparently hopes to influence his offspring in the same direction. His biography states that he and his wife, writer-editor Robin Bromley, are the parents of a 2- and a 3-year-old, David and Geoffrey, “who are daily indoctrinated into great music.”

— John Beckford

John Beckford is professor of music at Furman.
Student Bar Association at the University of South Carolina School of Law. Brian K. Greenwood of Malibu, Calif., graduated from the Pepperdine School of Law in May. He is an actor in Hollywood. Jason Rawlings is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in molecular biology at the University of Kentucky. Robert G. Fiore, Jr., is employed by Sagemark Consulting in New Jersey. Shawn Pierce is a student at the University of South Carolina School of Law. Paige Sutton has completed graduate study in physical therapy at East Carolina University. Lt. Christopher Perrine is a tank platoon commander in the Marine Corps stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C. MARRIAGES: Emily King and Matthew Harper, November 21. They live in Marietta, Ga., where she teaches at East Cobb Christian School. He is employed by BellSouth. Anne Elizabeth Kelly '97 and Mark Chisolm Adams, April 24. They live in Greenville and are employed by Datastream Systems. BIRTH: Berry and Susan James Durham, a daughter, Noel Alexandra, February 4, Greenville.

97 Next reunion in 2002 Lori Cole, legislative assistant and collegians director for Eagle Forum, has been appointed to the Social Services Advisory Board by the Alexandria (Va.) City Council. The board implements welfare programs for the city. William M. Priestley is sports director and marketing representative for WFTZ radio in Manchester, Tenn. Bradley L. Majette has earned a master's degree in public health from Emory University and is a consultant in the Healthcare division of Ernst & Young in Atlanta, Ga. Heather Griffin Fish teaches in Spartanburg County, S.C., and is studying for a master's degree in library and information science at the University of South Carolina. Brandy Justice is a senior business process analyst for the American Cancer Society. She lives in Lawrenceville, Ga. Douglas D. Carney recently became IT manager for the Lear Corporation in Newark, Del. Amanda I. Brodie is public affairs assistant at The Art Institute of Chicago, Ill. Jamie and Christie Pees Thomas live in Hanahan, S.C. She is a student at the Medical University of South Carolina and he is an Internet architect with Renaissance Interactive, Inc., in Columbia. Brady D. Gilbert has become a support center analyst for Kemet Electronics in Simpsonville, S.C.

98 Next reunion in 2003 Audrey E. Dodson is pursuing a master's degree in religion at Wake Forest University. Randy and Melissa Fletcher Lee live in Greenville where she is a software developer for Fluor Daniel. Taylor F. and Stephanie Hitchcock Townsend live in Fort Collins, Colo., where she is a technician in the National Seed Storage Laboratory and he is a graduate student at Colorado State University. Robert T. Kelley is a graduate teaching assistant at James Madison University where he is studying for a Master of Music degree in piano performance and composition. Jennie M. Connor recently became marketing director for Executive Adventure in Atlanta, Ga. Andrew J. Severson is a law clerk at Sned, Pruitt, D’Angio & Tucker in Palm Beach, Fla., and is a law student at Nova Southeastern University. Sharon E. Frazier is an account representative for FiberSource, Inc., in Greenville. Robeson McGarvey is studying for a Ph.D. in astronomy at Harvard University. Josh L. Gore of Houston, Texas, is a software installation representative for Universal Computer Systems. Amanda MacKee has become a web designer in the marketing division of the Florida Department of Agriculture. James Randall Johnson, a second lieutenant in the Army, recently completed the Armor Officer Basic Course. Michael Harrison is enrolled in the graduate program at the University of Virginia, where he is studying Spanish literature. MARRIAGE: Allison Shear and Ashley Rosser, January 9. They live in Winter Park, Fla.

99 Scott M. Powers of Lithia Springs, Ga., has been named an account executive for Management Recruiters.

DEATHS

Gilbert Henry Cox, Sr. '29, April 6, Laurens, S.C. He was a retired educator in the Spartanburg, S.C., schools.

Ida Lee Brodie Moore '31, March 31, Gray Court, S.C. A retired teacher in Laurens County, she had served as treasurer and Sunday school teacher at Owings United Methodist Church.

Evelyn Harrison Goddard '31, March 2, Travelers Rest, S.C. She had retired from the Greenville County Office of Register of Mesne Conveyance.

Frances Paden Bull Rogers '32, March 13, Greenville. She was retired from the payroll department at J.P. Stevens Co.

Helen Elford Sanders '32, April 18, Greenville. Retired from the staff of the Baptist Courier, she was active in Pendleton Street Baptist Church.

Elizabeth Eleanor Wilburn '33, March 17, Greenville. She had served with the American Red Cross during World War II and had retired as a librarian for Greenville County.

Walter Thomas Coker '33, April 22, Greenville. A veteran of World War II, he owned Coker’s Store in Moonville, S.C., for over 60 years. He was active in his church and in community organizations and was past president of the Ruritan Club of Moonville.

Almeda Callahan Middleton '36, April 11, Easley, S.C. She was active in the community and in the First Baptist Church of Easley.

Julia Bruns Henry '36, April 18, Greenville. Having retired after teaching for 38 years in the Greenville County schools, she was active in the community, in Buncombe Street United Methodist Church and in professional organizations.

LYNN POWERS GIBBS ‘78, president; George E. Linney, Jr. ‘65, president-elect; Pamela Underwood Thomas ‘76, vice president; Gordon L. Blackwell ‘60, past president; Aubrey C. Daniels ‘57; Vernon F. Dunbar ‘83; Michael E. Ray ‘72; Beth Kendrick Tally ‘70; Lisa Roberts Wheeler ‘82; Ray F. Bell ‘48; Kenneth S. Corts ‘90; Karen E. Foreman ‘84; E.M. Horton, Jr. ‘52; Ann Anthus ‘36; Norma Karen Bagwell ‘45; Jack F. Powers ‘56; Bret Alan Clark ‘88; Julia Meeks Glenn ‘63; Rebecca Pullin Kay ‘86; Robert E. Poerschke ‘41; Ronald L. Walker ‘84; Diane Maroney Estridge ‘66; Joe E. Gentry ‘53; Hal E. Henderson ‘92; Jemima P. Alexander ‘03; James H. Sinkins, Jr. ‘78.

Ex-Officio: David E. Shi ‘73, president; Donald J. Lineback, vice president for development; Donald E. Fowler, director of development; Shannon Wilkerson ‘93, director of Alumni Association; Susan Rice Jones ’97, associate director of Alumni Association; Teresa Skinner Griffith ‘92, associate director of Alumni Association; Phil Howard, director of Furman Fund; William J. Lavery, faculty liaison; David G. Ellison ‘72, trustee liaison; Davin Welter ‘89, president, Young Alumni Council; Nicholas G. Walter ‘00, president, Senior Class; Allan Cothran ‘01, president, Association of Furman Students; Joshua McKoon ‘01, president, Student Alumni Council.
Anderson County in 1996 and

He was an Army veteran of

Active in First Baptist Church

on the Furman Advisory Council

William "Gerald" Redfern

Luther Jones Maddox '38, June 3,

G. Glynch Bolch '37, February 28,

Norman H. Maring '37, November 6,

Odyss W. Knece '40, January 11,

John Franklin Chandler '41, April 15, Campobello, S.C.

Margaret Louise Moffett Proctor '43, April 26, Conway, S.C.

George Furman Williams '43, April 19, Greenville. He had retired as plant manager for Penn-Dixon, was a lifetime member of Lutheran Men of South Carolina and was a World War II Air Force veteran.

May Frances Schwiers Frye '46, March 8, Wardensville, W.Va. She was a retired teacher.

Harry O'Neal McCord '46, March 4, Gray Court, S.C. A retired farmer, he was active in his church and community and was a Marine Corps veteran of World War II.

Robert Benjamin Glazner, Jr. '48, April 25, Greenville. A Baptist minister, he had pastored several churches in North and South Carolina.

Wildred Simmons Hamby '48, March 31, Greenville. She was a former employee of Dillard's Department Store and had served as a deacon of Pendleton Street Baptist Church, where she was active in all phases of church life. She was also active with the Greenville Literacy Association.

Marshall Orr James '49, March 30, Saluda, S.C. He had retired as minister of the Episcopal Church of the Ridge in Saluda.

Roy A. Tremblay '50, March 31, Greenville. A lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, he received seven major awards for military service, including two Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Force Presidential Unit Citation. Upon his retirement from the military, he owned and operated Dixie Tool Rental.

Paul J. Foster, Jr. '51, April 6, Greenville. He practiced law in Greenville for more than 40 years, serving as a general and civil trial attorney and as assistant solicitor. He was a member of the House of Delegates of the South Carolina Bar Association and had served as president of the Boys Home of the South. A past chairman of the Democratic Party in Greenville County, he was active in Buncombe Street United Methodist Church and with the Boy Scouts of America and Greenville's Speech and Hearing Clinic.

Lynn Vance Kerr '51, March 20, North Charleston, S.C. She was a homemaker.

Edward Anderson Hood '52, April 2, Anderson, S.C. A retired Baptist minister, Hood had served as pastor and interim pastor of churches in South Carolina and Texas.

Russell E. Aho '55, April 3, Orangeburg, S.C. Prior to retiring, he was director of missions for the Orangeburg Baptist Association.

Wallace Elmo Case '58, February 11, Zirconia, N.C. Retired from the farm supply business, he had coached youth baseball for many years and had served as chairman of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

James Hazzard Lindsay, Sr. '59, April 18, Tullahoma, Tenn. He was a minister.

Horace Bryant Sims, Jr. '62, March 18, Greenwood, S.C. A minister, he had most recently been pastor of Abney Memorial Baptist Church.

Robert C. Miller '64, April 9, the Philippines.

Robert Franklin Beckham, Jr. '66, April 15, Travelers Rest, S.C. He had retired from AT&T and was in sales and marketing for Teleco. He was a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Trinity Presbyterian Church and was former chairman of the Travelers Rest Zoning Commission.

Charles M. Scarborough '69, February 1, Sumter, S.C. He was employed by the U.S. Postal Service.

Kimberly Ann Stafford Bower '81, April 21, Greenville. She was formerly associated with Coldwell Banker Century Associates, was actively involved in Christian music, and was a member of the South Carolina Organ Procurement Agency.

William A. Walter Ill '84, November 18, Ormond Beach, Fla. He worked as a computer programmer, manager, salesman, and system designer and developer for Fiscal Information in Loveland, Colo. He was active in church, community and charity events and with the Big Brothers Program.
This university fosters learning experiences that enrich every person’s capacity to give and to serve. That happens in research teams, on CESC committees, string quartets, intramural squads, religious organizations, Greek life, the Gospel Choir, hiking clubs, study groups. You have learned how to be colleagues, friends, advocates, solid citizens.

After 32 years my recollection blurs around the edges. My old class notes have yellowed. But I am certain that the details of what I learned are less enduring than the context, the dynamics of how I learned. I benefited greatly from hands-on experience in leadership, from being allowed to learn from successes and failures. I was shaped by informal seminars and conversations, birthed out of interest and need, not required by any syllabus. Candor and compassion and trust freed us to ask pivotal, life-changing questions in those settings.

I treasure the memory of spontaneous interruptions to the academic grind. On one crisp January day I walked around the lake in ankle-deep powdery snow, talking theology and sorting out discipleship with a close friend. So much encouragement came through requests for guidance from someone wiser. Perhaps the greatest strength of this university is the availability of its faculty, the commitment of its faculty to teach undergraduates with excellence and passion.

Similar leaning dynamics will have to be cultivated, guarded and cherished. The longer you are away from undergraduate years, the greater the pressure will mount to do the urgent, the expedient, the proscribed, the profitable first. And, if you are not careful, everything in your life will be crammed into one of those categories. The “urgent, the expedient, the proscribed, the profitable” can choke out joy. Do not let that happen!

You had to challenge yourselves to meet lofty standards of academic excellence, or you would not be graduating from Furman. You proved you could do it. Hopefully, also, you realized some deep joy from all you learned in the process. If you also became sensitized to the world’s need, you are not far from discovering a vocation, a “calling.” Frederick Buechner has offered my favorite definition of “vocation.” He describes your “vocation” as “the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

I hope you are frequently delighted to rediscover the joy in what you end up doing to make a living. And if the joy fades, may you find the courage to evaluate whether you need to pursue something different. You may discover that you have discounted the world’s hurt altogether. Somewhere at that intersection lies your answer.

— Robert E. Stillwell

This is an excerpt from Stillwell’s Commencement address at Furman on May 29, 1999.
Inside

Two young men challenge themselves and the elements to climb the highest mountain in the Andes.

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Furman's last four First Ladies have left their own distinctive imprint on the university they all love.

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