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A More Inclusive Future

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From left: Clark Murphy, groundskeeper of Greenville Woman's College. **Lillian Brock Flemming '71** and **Sarah Reese '71** receive Honorary Doctor of Humanities degrees in 2014. **Joseph Vaughn '68** stands in the back row of Furman's French Club.

At its meeting in May, the Furman University Board of Trustees approved a number of recommendations made by the board's Special Committee on Slavery and Justice, including removing "James C." from James C. Furman Hall and creating a statue and day of celebration to honor the late **Joseph Vaughn '68**, the university's first African-American student.

The Special Committee made its recommendations based on a set of proposals that were part of the report, "Seeking Abraham," which the university's Task Force on Slavery and Justice completed in the summer of 2018.

"We are proud of the work done by the Special Committee and the Task Force, looking honestly at Furman's past while considering what will best move the university forward in the future," said Furman President Elizabeth Davis. "It is important that all students, faculty, staff and

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BY VINCE MOORE

alumni see themselves in the university's story, and that all feel welcome here."

The university will remove the name of the university's first president from the building located at the heart of campus and rename it Furman Hall, in honor and celebration of the entire Furman family and all of the students, faculty, staff and alumni who have contributed to the history of the university. Furman University is named for Richard Furman, James C.'s father and the university's founder.

Furman also will erect a statue of Vaughn in a prominent

place of celebration and reflection on campus that will help tell the story of his important contributions to Furman's history. A student group will work with faculty and staff to create an annual Joseph Vaughn commemorative day and celebration.

"The trustees are pleased to approve the recommendations, which will guide Furman in fully acknowledging and sharing its history to foster a more inclusive future," said **Alec Taylor '75**, chair of the Board of Trustees.

The other recommendations approved by the board include:

- Renaming the lakeside housing area the Clark Murphy Housing Complex in honor of Clark Murphy, an African-American who worked for decades as a groundskeeper at the Greenville Woman's College, which later merged with Furman University.
- Naming the walkway area leading up to the Bell Tower the Abraham Sims Plaza in recognition of Abraham Sims and other enslaved persons who built and worked on Furman's various campuses prior to the university moving to its current location.
- Honoring **Lillian Brock-Flemming '71** and **Sarah Reese '71**, Furman's first female African-American students, in a comprehensive place of celebration and reflection on campus. The university will also explore naming programs related to their fields of study and their connections to Furman and the Greenville community.

Visit furman.edu/tfsj for more information. ♦