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## A Note from the Office of Alumni: 'New Kid,' Old Friend

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## A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI

**I**f my Furman University story had a soundtrack, it would begin with *New Kids on the Block*.

I first visited the Furman campus in 1990, a girl enamored with the popular boy band that was performing in Paladin Stadium.

A few years later, I found myself back in Paladin Stadium as a high schooler, sitting on the 50-yard line to hear the Greenville Symphony Orchestra during its July 4th celebration. I can still feel the cannon boom of “The 1812 Overture” and hear the piccolos during “The Stars and Stripes Forever.” I was attending a summer program held at Furman as part of the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts. I spent five formative weeks on campus that summer, lived in the dorms, ate in the Daniel Dining Hall and practiced the piano for hours in the Daniel Music Building. Furman welcomed me then, and I knew I’d be back.

My first day of class as a Furman freshman was Tuesday, September 11, 2001. I thought this day would be significant because it was the start of my college career, a perfect day of firsts that I would hold dear. But as our country and world responded to the terrorist attacks of 9/11, I once again



### ‘NEW KID,’ OLD FRIEND



had a transformative musical experience to add to that soundtrack of my life, when I attended my first rehearsal as a Furman Singer. I was overcome by the most beautiful 100 voices I had ever heard as we sang the comforting lyrics of a biblical passage, the rich harmonies enveloping me. The music was healing, a chorus of voices blending together to create something bigger than any one of us could create on our own.

As I settle in to my new role as the executive director of Alumni and Parent Engagement and embrace the opportunities to interact with alumni and parents, I can’t help but lean on my past. Just as we Furman Singers came together that September afternoon, I hope that our alumni and parent community will join forces. Collectively, we can be a powerful group, more than 30,000 members strong. Imagine the magnitude of our

voices in chorus, spreading the Furman message! Together, we are the Furman Advantage Network, known as FAN.

Furman needs each of you. I look forward to meeting many of you as I travel the country. I invite your ideas, contributions and service. I’d like to listen as you share your Furman memories and reflect on how your life has unfolded. I’d like to know how the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement can serve you where you are, so that Furman is an integral part of your life and identity.

I am humbled and excited to serve. Though a 12-year veteran of the Furman donor relations team, I’m the “new kid on the block” in the alumni office. My husband, Chris, a two-time University of South Carolina Gamecock graduate (but now an avid Paladin), joins me in this adventure, along with our future Paladins, son Jack, 6, and daughter Caroline, 3. From our family to yours, we extend the warmest of greetings. Furman University ... ALL the Time! ♦

**Allison McCann Foy ’05**  
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and Parent Engagement