Class Notes

Furman University
1956
James L. Crenshaw received the Vanderbilt University 2015 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the graduate department of religion. The day before this award ceremony, the school's Old Testament Seminar was held in his honor, with lectures by Thea Portier-Young of Duke University and Leong Seow of Vanderbilt, and a response from Crenshaw.

1957
George Brown Bradley earned a pre-med degree from Furman, but with diploma in hand, he made a 180-degree turn, back to his minor at Furman: music, his first love. He quickly left for the Big Apple and auditioned for the Broadway company of the musical Most Happy Fella. Not only did he get a small part, he was also able to join Actors' Equity, the performers' union, allowing him to perform on Broadway or professionally. His career continued with roles in eight Broadway musicals, he was a national finalist and scholarship winner in the Metropolitan Opera auditions, and he sang worldwide as the tenor soloist for the Air Force Singing Sergeants and the Air Force Band while stationed in Washington, DC. He then moved to New York, earned a master of music degree from New York University and the Juilliard School. He performed in two Broadway shows, Half a Sixpence and Cabaret, and between the matinee and the evening performance of Cabaret 47 years ago he got married to fellow performer ballet dancer Mary Ludu. In the 1980s, Bradley moved back to the state, to Myrtle Beach, where he became director of music and fine arts at First Presbyterian Church, a position he has enjoyed for the last 30 years.

1962
From October 21 to November 19, 2015, Lander University's Monsanto Gallery in Greenwood, SC, hosted "Beyond Boundaries," an exhibition featuring a combination of abstracts on canvas and photography by local artists Robert Poe and Roger Stevenson. Stevenson returned to painting in 2000 after a hiatus from his art education at Furman. He is the founder of the Greenwood Genetic Center and the Greenwood Children’s Clinic.

1963
Graham Farrell was commissioned by the Furman music department to compose a work in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Hartness Organ, C.B. Fisk Opus 121 (2004). The work, A Gospel Pair, two duets for organ and violin based on the hymn tunes of William Bradbury (1816-1868), premiered in spring 2015 in Furman's Daniel Chapel. It was dedicated to performers Charles Boyd Tompkins, organist; and Gregory Brampton Tompkins, violinist.

1968
Linda Carol Hayes Davis has co-founded the Chapel Hill (NC) Alliance for a Livable Town (CHALT). The organization's mission is to promote responsive and accountable government that serves the public interest, and to elect town leaders who share CHALT's values of managing growth responsibly, protecting the natural environment, creating affordable housing, promoting government transparency, wise management of town resources, and public schools of excellence. CHALT was successful in replacing the city's incumbent mayor, who had not lost an election in 50 years, and two incumbent council members.

1970
Marla Hooper Dunham has been appointed to the board of the Alamance Community College Foundation in Graham, NC. The foundation provides financial aid and scholarships for students seeking higher education. Funds are provided for professional development and continuing education for faculty and staff at the school where Dunham had taught English for 21 years before her
Furman Across the Country

From The Holy City to Music City, Furman welcomed alums to events that reunited and inspired. This past fall, the Homecoming festivities took place the weekend of October 22–25, welcoming home reunion classes ending in “0” and “5.” The highlight of the weekend was the return of after-party tradition “Furman on Main” in downtown Greenville. Then, in November, Furman alumni, parents, and friends went “country” and enjoyed a one-of-a-kind evening at the Longhorn Acres Farm Estate in Nashville, home of Furman parents Andrea and Rick Carlton (Sam ’17). It was a night to remember for guests serenaded by famed songwriter and Furman parent Tom Douglas (Tommy ’17) and Friends. Not to be outdone, the holidays were made memorable with an evening of fun and fellowship at The Charleston Furman Holiday Party on December 3, 2015 at the historic William Aiken House in downtown Charleston.

1. Guests gathered for a candlelit meal in Nashville while enjoying the musical entertainment of famed songwriter Tom Douglas (Tommy ’17) and Friends. 2. Rivers Townes ’13, Jenn Griffith ’14, and John David Hunter ’13 at the Charleston Holiday Party. 3. Executive Director of Alumni and Parent Engagement: Mike Wilson ’88, Lynda Panaretos, and Alexandra Panaretos ’18 in Charleston. 4. Bubber ’63 and Jan ’62 McAlhaney and Johnny Wesner ’65 in Charleston. 5. 2015 Homecoming Queen Katie Keith ’16 and King Melver Pritchett ’16. 6. Connor Duggan ’09, Mary Lindley Carsewell ’09, Kelly Boring ’11, Chad Boring ’11, and Alex Abrams ’14 enjoying the festivities in Music City. 7. A packed Paladin Stedium for the Homecoming football game.
1974
In 1988, Michael F. Shelton joined Valdese Weavers, the largest textile mill in North America, and has been the company’s president and CEO since 1997. The mill began as a creation of Italian immigrants and has grown into the worldwide leader in decorative jacquard textiles. When the company celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, Shelton and his team created a book, *Valdese Weavers 100 Years*, to share the company’s amazing story. To read more about Valdese Weavers and its people, see www.valdeseweavers.com.

1975
Betty Sebeck Shirley was voted 2015 Teacher of the Year at Robert J. Burch Elementary School in Tyrone, GA. She works as a teacher in the early intervention program, teaching reading and math to students in grades K-5.

1977
In October 2015, James Fuller joined Scharf Banks Marmor LLC in Chicago as counsel, expanding and strengthening the firm’s core business and employment practice area. Having earned his JD degree from the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law, Fuller previously served as chief counsel for labor and employment at Kraft Foods, as a trial attorney with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and as an attorney with the National Labor Relations Board.

Deborah R. Malac was among those named by President Obama in September 2015 to be nominated to a key administration post. A career

member of the Senior Foreign Service who has served with the Department of State since 1981, Malac has been serving as U.S. ambassador to Liberia since 2012. Her new appointment will be ambassador to the Republic of Uganda. She previously served as director of the Office of East African Affairs, director of the Office of Career Development and Assignments, and deputy chief of mission at the United States embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Malac has served at posts in Cameroon, Senegal, South Africa, and Thailand. She was a distinguished graduate of the National Defense University, receiving a master’s degree in national resources strategy, after which she studied international law for a year at the University of Basel on a post-graduate fellowship under the auspices of the Fulbright Foundation.

1978
Carl E. "Trey" Carson III has recently been appointed as the assistant chief financial officer of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, responsible for the presentation and execution of the budgetary policy, law, and regulation for the Library. His career includes 21 years at the Pentagon in Washington, including financial management positions on the staffs of the secretary of defense, the director of Navy programming, the deputy undersecretary of defense for advanced systems and concepts, and the office of the Navy comptroller. Carson, a retired captain from the U.S. Navy, served on active duty for 26 years.

Edward Hammett, president of Transforming Solutions, LLC, had a new book released in November 2015, *Reaching People Under 30 While Keeping People Over 60: Creating Community Across Generations* addressed two of the most pressing issues for churches of all sizes, denominations, and people groups: practical, proven strategies and leadership principles that speak to distinctive needs of each age group while preserving the Biblical roots for the communities of faith. See www.TransformingSolutions.org.

1979
When President Obama announced last fall that he would make new appointments to key administration posts, Ambassador Michael Guest was among those to be appointed. A senior advisor for the Council for Global Equality since 2008, he was named for appointment as member of the National Security Education Board, where he had served a previous term from 2011 to 2015. Guest joined the Foreign Service in 1981 and retired after serving as dean of the leadership and management school at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center from 2005 to 2007. He previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Romania, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Prague, and deputy executive secretary.

1982
Chris Horton has been elected as vice president for the South Carolina Football Officials Association. He was also selected to officiate the prestigious Shrine Bowl in December 2015 at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC.

David Jordan, teaching pastor at Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC, has published his third book, *Living with Faith: the Good, the Bad and the Beautiful, Then and Now*. The book, which was published by Pure Heart Press, is available online or through David at davidjordan319@gmail.com.

Last October, Doug Weaver, director of instruction at Palmetto Dunes, Hilton Head Island, SC, was named one of South Carolina’s best golf teachers by *Golf Digest* magazine. The magazine ranks the “Best Teachers in Every State” as voted by their peers in the golf instruction industry. Weaver was ranked as the second-best instructor in the state of South Carolina. He once made history on the PGA Tour when, as a rookie in 1989, during a breathtaking span of one hour and 50 minutes, he was one of four U.S. Open contenders at Oak Hill Country Club to ace the sixth hole. Nick Price, Jerry Pate, and Mark Wiebe were the other three. Of this quartet, Weaver got his hole-in-one first. Weaver eventually captured 14 mini-tour events and earned his PGA Tour card in 1988.

1984
Karen Miller Boda received her master of divinity degree from Emory University’s Candler School of Theology in May 2015 and is on track to be ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

1986
Last October, Steve Price and his doubles partner competed in the National Men’s 50s Clay Court Doubles Championship at Lakewood Ranch Country Club in Sarasota, FL, and earned the coveted gold ball that goes along with the championship. Adding to Price’s enjoyment of this win was the fact that it came against Ned Caswell ’66, his former doubles partner at Furman and a
UP CLOSE

Power Play
A new CEO is crafting an impressive game plan at Bon Secours St. Francis Health System.

There's a Harry Truman quote that Craig McCoy '93 likes to keep in mind while communicating his vision to his team at St. Francis: "It is amazing what you can accomplish when you do not care who gets the credit." It's an aphorism that serves him well in his role as the new CEO of Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, where he has been charged with running— and revitalizing—hospitals everywhere from Phoenix to Atlanta.

A huge part of that charge, he says, is "getting people to understand where they plug in" to the complex hospital framework, "especially if you're asking them to do something they don't fully get, because they are running at a 5,000-foot level, and you are looking at it from a 30,000-foot level."

McCoy, however, understands things from the ground level: He began his health care career by serving seven years as a paramedic in Greenville. His appointment last May as CEO is therefore something of a homecoming for the third-generation Furman alumnus and Greenville native. "To be able to come and do this in my hometown is so cool for me, knowing how much we can impact. We can make this the best community anywhere."

Though part of McCoy's job today is to "develop and define a vision" for hospital systems, he is the first to admit that while enrolled at Furman, his own future was not so clear. He followed in his grandfather's and father's footsteps by choosing the school, and his course of study (business administration) was general because "I didn't know what I wanted to do." During a stint lifeguarding at the PAC Center as an undergrad, however, he became curious about what would happen if there was an emergency on his watch. A connection at the church youth group he worked with provided him the opportunity to go on a Friday night ride along with Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He was hooked. "I realized I love taking care of people."

A week before his graduation, McCoy enrolled at Greenville Tech and started working for the county while in paramedic school. During that time, McCoy realized EMS administration wasn't ultimately the route he wanted to go. So, he started looking elsewhere. "For me, there was more interest in hospitals. I get bored easily. I like change and different things. We do so many different things in the acute care and hospital setting."

Having found his path, McCoy worked full-time as a paramedic and attended graduate school at night, pulling off a three-year degree in a year and nine months with a 3.94 GPA.

His achievements since launching his career in health care systems are no less impressive. Besides turning around flagging bottom lines, McCoy considers his greatest successes to be when he is able to "get a team of people to believe in themselves again" within an organization that has been struggling.

Although he visibly lights up when reminiscing about his hands-on days as a paramedic, he relishes his current role in patient care, where he is responsible for "providing resources, setting up strategies, finding different ways to build business models and help people access health care."

Part of the appeal of Bon Secours St. Francis, however, is its faith-based mission. As a devout Christian, McCoy says this aspect "resonates with me very much. Sure, we have to run it efficiently and effectively as a business, but at the end of the day, that's not what we are all about. It's really how we take care of the vulnerable, the poor, and the dying in our community."

To that end, McCoy is excited for St. Francis to "be the catalyst" in Greenville for making health care accessible to disadvantaged sectors of the community.

"[Driving change] is going to take a lot of hard work, but it's not impossible by any means." □

— Morgan L. Sykes
UP CLOSE

A Light in the Fog of War
For one alumna, education is the best American export.

For Mary Jae Abbitt
Sushka ’70, life’s most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?” Her life has been dedicated to answering it.

Sushka began her career teaching eighth-grade English and history, eventually earning a master’s degree in the science of business analysis from Boston University’s international program in London, where her husband, Peter, was the submarine liaison to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

That degree, she says, primed her for working overseas, and from 1998 to 2012 she applied her energy and expertise to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). During her tenure with USAID, Sushka worked in a dozen countries, including Bulgaria, where in 2004 she established funding for two female Abbitt Goodwill Scholars in Furman’s international educational program. The investment was a harbinger of things to come.

In 2009, Sushka traveled to Bamiyan, Afghanistan, as the business development and gender advisor for USAID. With a population of some 6,000 people, most of them poor potato farmers, Bamiyan village is perched on a high ledge in the Hindu Kush mountains in central Afghanistan. In one program Sushka supervised, women who owned at least one cow were taught how to make yogurt and sell it at a local market stall. In another, she helped women start a craft business, and created and managed a program to teach female inmates who were unjustly imprisoned the skill of tailoring so they would be able to support their children upon being released (the families of these women frequently disown them). “It means a great deal to me to let women know that there are other options available to them,” she says.

During the following year, Sushka met one of the pivotal people in her life: Amina Hasan Pur, the Provincial Gender Advisor for Bamiyan’s governor. The two women became fast friends and Sushka learned of the private school Pur had started in a rented house in order to give children—including her own two—a better quality of education.

“Thirty years of war in Afghanistan has left every generation challenged, but they are a positive people who want to make their country better,” she says. “Education means empowerment for the students.”

Before leaving Afghanistan in 2012, Sushka made a promise to Pur that she would help build a proper school. “Amina is an outstanding local leader in a conservative society that does not value female excellence,” she says. Committed to the work Pur described, and in spite of cultural challenges, Sushka helped local officials become receptive to the pair’s vision for a school.

The Baba Private School opened in March 2015, funded by Sushka and her husband. It sits on a hill overlooking old Bamiyan town across the river. Today, Pur manages the solar-powered school (“Baba” means “respected elder” in Persian), where 126 children attend kindergarten through eighth grade. The goal is to add grades 9 through 12.

Sushka goes back to Afghanistan every year to visit. Even though she does not venture out alone in Bamiyan, she says she has never sensed that she was in any serious danger. In the end, however, danger may not matter because what lights up Sushka’s grey-blue eyes are the students at Baba School, and in particular how education is changing their aspirations: Zahra (age 11) wants to be a pilot; Suria (age 10) wants to be a engineer; Amir (age 8) wants to be a photographer. Unlike at traditional public schools in Afghanistan, boys and girls at Baba School intermingle in the classrooms.

“It is so rewarding to walk into the classroom and have the kids speak to me in English,” Sushka says. Her hope is for students to continue their education at Bamiyan University, the only institution of higher learning in central Afghanistan. Sushka believes it is good education that will eventually strengthen the government and economy in this war-ravaged country.

“Baba School is my legacy,” she adds. More than that, though, it is a twirling symbol—and reminder—to the village whose name itself translates as “The Place of Shining Light.”

—M. Linda Lee
groomsman in his wedding. Price and his wife, Catherine Fluck Price ’86, moved to Florida in June 1997 and are both pastors at Harvest United Methodist Church in Lakewood Ranch.

1987
Dottie Pepper, veteran broadcaster and winner of 17 tournaments on the LPGA Tour, joined CBS Sports as an on-course reporter and analyst for the CBS Television Network’s golf coverage in January. She made her debut on CBS Sports for the network’s coverage of the Farmers Insurance Open. In addition to broadcasting CBS’s full slate of golf in 2016, she will remain with ESPN as an analyst for their golf coverage.

1990
Perelepe Parker Orr, a tenured professor at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania, has been teaching at the University of Roehampton in London on a Fulbright grant. She was scheduled to return to the States at the end of January 2016.

1991
Kristy Duncan Dempsey has received the 2015 Golden Kite Award for “best picture book text.” These awards are presented annually by the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators and are the only ones of their kind to be judged by a jury of author and illustrator peers. Dempsey’s Picture Book Text Award was for her book A Dance Like Starlight: One Ballerina’s Dream, a story of little ballerinas with big dreams, in which Janet Collins, the first African-American prima ballerina, dances her way into the hearts of young readers. See: scbwi.org/an-
nouncing-the-2015-golden-kite-winners/.

1992
The nonprofit youth ministry Young Life is celebrating 60 years in the Upstate. Dave Bokow, the current director of Young Life in Greenville, is a 25-year veteran himself. Bokow was a volunteer Young Life leader at Furman. When struggling with his choice of a major, the local Young Life director at that time encouraged him to pursue a staff position with the organization. He did so and went to Greensboro, NC, for his training, returning to the Upstate in 2005 as area director.


1995
Erin Austin Hahn has been named the new principal of B.B. Harris Elementary School in Suwanee, GA. Hahn previously worked as Title I Coordinator for school improvement in the district, data administrator at Summervill Middle School, and assistant principal at Summervill. Her Gwinnett County Public Schools tenure began in 2002 as a teacher at Peachtree Elementary School and she taught at Ashford Park Elementary School in Atlanta from 1995–02.

Alison Bracewell McCullick joined the University of Georgia-Atlanta (UGA) Office of Government Relations in January as community relations coordinator. In her new role, she will head the office of community relations, the primary liaison between UGA and the Athens-Clarke County government, businesses, neighborhoods, nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and individuals. McCullick served as associate director of intergovernmental affairs at The White House for two years.

1996
AIM Systems, Inc., announced that Rob Otterman was named president of the company effective September 1, 2015. In his new role with the company, he will have responsibility for developing business strategies and managing client and carrier relationships. Otterman, who completed the Certified Financial Planner certification through Ogletorpe in 2003, has nearly 20 years of financial services and sales leadership experience.

1997
Jason W. Searl has been elected chair of the city of Orlando municipal planning board. He has been on the board since 2011, serving in the role of vice

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**Quotable**

“I wholeheartedly believe in the right to free speech. I should be able to say all day long that I don’t believe in eating animals, but that doesn’t mean I have the right to impose that belief on another soul. We’re free-thinking people. If we’re not, we flatten to nothing, and everything which is nothing.”

— Brenda McClain ’74

Brenda McClain lives outside Nashville, TN, on land she calls “Peace of Soul Acres.” From there, she lives out both of her loves, writing fiction and her communications consulting business. Her novel, One Good Mama Bone, will be published by the late Pat Conroy’s fiction imprint, Story River Books, in early 2017. When she leaves her writing and cowgirl boots behind and dons a business suit for McClain Communications, she works with clients all across the country on message development and delivery. You can read more at: http://www.brenmclain.com.
chair since 2013. This board advises Orlando’s City Council and comprises nine volunteer members. It holds public hearings to review and report recommendations to the Orlando City Council.

**1998**

Chad Dyar recently had his first book published. *How to Talk to Humans* focuses on specific communication styles and methodology to build stronger relationships with individuals in both the personal and professional world. He moved to New York City in November 2015 to begin a role as director of sales and operations for Greenhouse Software, Inc., a recruiting software company.

Jennifer A. Lenti’s paper, “Equine Facilitated Therapy with Children,” was published in the *Journal of Creativity in Mental Health* in October 2015.

**1999**

Sam Hubbard recently earned CFA charter and has started his own wealth management company, Coastal Capital Management, in Savannah, GA.

Jason Simmons has been named a partner in the process, risk, and governance practice of Frazier & Deeter CPA firm in Atlanta, GA. Simmons is skilled in the design and implementation of balanced and practical risk-based solutions for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of business processes, implementing risk management and internal control programs, and enhancing governance practices.

**2000**

Mark Horner received the master of divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in May 2015, where he was named the 2015 Alsop-Frierson Fellow in hermeneutics and Biblical studies. He is now the director of students for United Campus Ministry of Greater Houston (TX).

**2001**

Independent filmmaker Laura Waters Hinson, through her company Image Bearer Pictures, has released her latest documentary film. *Many Beautiful Things* delves into the untold story of one of the world’s greatest female artists, Lilias Trotter, and why her name was nearly lost to history. Hinson previously released *As We Forgive and Dog Days; Mama Rwanda* is scheduled for release later this year. She says that her company is committed to making films that explore the depths of the human experience and pose questions that bring about meaningful personal reflection, group discussion, and action within communities. Read more at www.ManyBeautifulThings.com.

In summer 2015 as part of Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field course, Kim Strosnider studied model community-based efforts to preserve Bornean species along the Kinabatangan River in Sabah (East Malaysia) on the island of Borneo. A naturalist and SEED specialist at Columbus Metro Parks in Marysville, OH, Strosnider took the graduate course in pursuit of her master’s degree from Miami University’s Global Field Program.

Amber Brock Player’s debut historical novel, *A Fire Imitation*, is being published by Crown on May 3, 2016. The novel will be available in hardcover, e-book, and audio. Player and her husband, Bailey ‘02, are both teachers in the Atlanta area.

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**Quotable**

"When I first deployed to Afghanistan’s Ghazni Province in 2012, members of the Taliban had caught two teenage girls talking to a teenage boy. They had no tolerance for even that act of speech, let alone its content. As punishment, they burned the girls faces off with acid and then they killed them.

In the military we have a useful acronym: BLUF, bottom line up front. When lives are on the line as they are in combat, it’s critical to know what’s really going to happen. It’s fine to talk about what we want to happen and what we think should happen, but to be effective and competitive in real-world combat, we must operate on the bottom line.

BLUF: A transformative education requires a student to grapple with speech and ideas one is uncomfortable with, to listen and not to hide from them. That is the whole point. In the paratroops, the most effective training is always the most difficult. As the saying goes, ‘It’s training, it’s supposed to suck.’ And much of it does. But it also makes us useful soldiers and useful human beings.

Students, stand up for what you believe in for sure, but take a cue from Voltaire. Use your time at Furman to ‘tend your own garden.’ Humbly build an educated foundation, and do not confuse your aspirations with your accomplishments just yet. You are just getting started."

— Michael MacLeod ’89

Michael MacLeod is one of the most published military photographers of the last decade and a recipient of both a Bronze Star and a Meritorious Service Medal. His work has earned dozens of awards, including Military Journalist of the Year in 2012, and has been published by TIME, The Huffington Post, Mother Jones, Fox News, CNN, Army Times, Business Insider, and The Atlantic. He holds a bachelor’s degree in biology and a master’s degree in wildlife biology. MacLeod spent three years living in a wilderness cabin in Montana studying elk, wolves, and mountain lions. Grand Harbor Press recently published *The Brave Ones: A Memoir of Hope, Pride, and Military Service*, MacLeod’s powerful account of joining the military at age 41.
Elizabeth Ingram Shands is director of psychology and learning services, and a licensed psychologist, at Clarity: The Speech, Hearing, and Learning Center in Greenville, SC.

2004
Latoya Michelle Mitchell began a new position in July 2015 as a senior medical writer at PharmaWrite, LLC, in Princeton, N.J. Her new position is 100 percent remote and she remains based in Raleigh, NC.

Jason Strand has joined the marketing and communications team at The Iron Yard, a Greenville-based code school operating in 17 U.S. cities as well as in London. He previously served in marketing at Michelin North America.

2005
Kate Brown Trudell of Knoxville, TX, has accepted a position as executive director for the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking based in Tennessee.

2006
Jonathan A. Porter has joined the HunterMaclean business law firm in Savannah and Brunswick, GA, as an associate in the company’s business litigation group. He earned his JD degree in May 2015 from Emory University School of Law, where he served as an articles editor for the Emory Law Journal. Prior to joining HunterMaclean, Porter was a clerk for Chief Judge John Ellington at the Georgia Court of Appeals in Atlanta, and completed a legal externship in Governor Nathan Deal’s office of executive counsel. He has served as a summer associate at HunterMaclean and also at Parker, Poe, Adams & Bernstein LLP in Columbia, SC.

He is a member of the Telfair Museum of Art William Jay Society, the Historic Savannah Foundation 13th Colony, and the Propeller Club of the U.S. Port of Savannah chapter. He serves on the community council for Savannah Technical College Foundation.

2007
Todd Arant of Apex, NC, has been elected to the board of Choristers Guild, a nonprofit organization committed to nurturing the spiritual and musical growth of children and youth.

Pop artists don’t normally carry a cello, but that’s exactly what Sarah Schaffer Clanton does. Clanton—who sings, plays cello, and writes songs—has released her new self-titled EP. Sarah Clanton features three elements: the cello, vocals, and electric guitar, making the five-song record a complete sample of everything she can do musically. Her music and her songs are quirky, almost jazzy productions that wouldn’t be out of place in a nightclub. Clanton spent several years as a producer and booker for South Carolina’s solar-powered music festival, Music in the Woods, at Paris Mountain State Park in Greenville. She teaches both cello and songwriting to new audiences, privately or through working in schools.

2008
Eva Klemperer Scippa, assistant art librarian and coordinator of instruction at Alfred (NY) University’s Scholes Library, was awarded the 2015 Public Relations/Exhibition Award from the South Central Regional Library Council. She was nominated for her leadership and organization of last fall’s “Harry Potter’s World” exhibit and events at Scholes.

2009
Scott Alan Davis received his doctor of medicine degree from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in May 2015. He is currently a transitional year intern at Spartanburg (SC) Regional Healthcare System, and will continue his training in ophthalmology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock in July 2016.

2011
Mary Frances Duncan graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Port Orange, FL, in June 2015 with a doctor of chiropractic degree. She returned to the Upstate and opened Southern Chiropractic Center in downtown Greenville in the fall of 2015.

Brooke M. Stallings of Richmond, VA, completed her master’s degree in environmental biology from the University of Idaho College of Natural Resources in December 2015.

2012
In May 2015, Kathleen Wade received her JD and LLM degrees from Duke University School of Law, and was scheduled for admission to the State Bar of Texas in fall 2015. She became an associate with Thompson & Knight LLP in Dallas, TX, in October 2015.

2013
Chelsea Lawdahl has been hired by Infinity Marketing, a Greenville advertising agency, as a media specialist, working with the company’s LJ endorsement program. She previously worked as development coordinator for the Greenville Humane Society.

CLASS NOTES POLICY
We welcome your submissions to Class Notes. Due to the amount of material Furman receives for this section—and the time needed to edit that material—items are often not published until six months after they are submitted. However, please be advised that we rarely publish items more than 18 months old and no announcements of things that have not yet occurred. When sending news of births, please include the parent’s name(s), child’s name, birthdate, and city of birth; for marriages, include the city of marriage and the names of the bride and groom. For graduation, please include the name(s) of the graduate(s) and university. Incomplete information for any of the above may result in the submission remaining unpublished. The magazine reserves the right to edit submissions.
Jen Betts ’11 & Austin Reeves ’11

She set him up with someone else, but he found his way back to her.

By Kate Dobbs ’09

If it’s true that a puppy prepares a young couple for the responsibility of one day raising a family, it is safe to say Jen and Austin Reeves have it down pat. What was once one rescue dog has now grown to four (plus a cat) because the Reeves could not leave littermates behind when they selected their second puppy.

“Jen has a huge heart for dogs,” Austin laughs, but it is easy to tell she is not alone. How else would he be okay with coming home expecting one new puppy and finding three?

When they are not busy playing Dr. Doolittle, the Reeves are settling in to a new life together after marrying in August of 2015. Both former Furman athletes (Jen, tennis; Austin, golf), their days are action-filled. Austin works as an associate coach for Furman’s golf team, and Jen, in sales at ADP in Greenville.

“We love to work out, eat, go to concerts and sporting events—Clemson football in particular—and just playing together with our dogs.” Jen says. Through her work, Jen has won several trips that enabled multiple honeymoons. “We’ve been able to travel to Maui, Barcelona, Whistler, and Cabo San Lucas all through work,” she says.

The two met in a marketing class with Dr. Underwood and cemented their friendship over a group project.

“We connected because we were the slower ones of the group,” they insist, though their resume of professional successes would certainly suggest otherwise.

“Austin was red-shirted and I broke my foot, so our usually crazy practice schedules were on hold and we had more time to hang out,” Jen reports.

The chemistry was instant but as Austin tells it: “We both maybe wanted to date, but Jen was shy and actually tried to set me up with one of her friends.”

“Thankfully, that didn’t work out,” Jen laughs.

The friendship slowly grew into more after graduation, she says. “When we started hanging out, we struggled a little bit with how to not just be friends. But that didn’t last long.”

And on November 3, 2014, after dating for a little more than three years, it was time for more.

Austin surprised Jen with a proposal that didn’t quite go according to plan (the perfect restaurant was unexpectedly closed for renovations and the cat escaped from Jen’s house), but her answer was an unequivocal yes.

Reflecting on their young marriage, the chaos of raising puppies, and an combined energy that is palpable, the Reeves are even-keeled.

“I live with my best friend and every minute we spend together is doing something we both love to do,” says Jen.

“I really can’t even put into words how glad I am we are married,” says Austin. “But the one thing that is an adjustment is the unknown of sharing your life with another person. There is always a potential new project that is never convenient. Or an ‘I-just-need-your-help’ moment.

“Or maybe a potential new pet,” he jokes. ☀
MARRIAGES

Howard "Tappy" McElwin ’65 and Harriet Arnold Wilburn ’74, November 6, 2015
Linda Vaughn Forrester ’72 and Timothy L. Cleary, November 21, 2015
Soren King ’00 and Rachel Vann ’04, September 19, 2015
Lindsay Elizabeth Brown ’07 and Daniel Kelmenson, September 5, 2015
Laura Gioia ’09 and Justin Goodwin ’09, October 17, 2015
Christopher Mills ’09 and Carley Anderson, September 19, 2015
Tyler Rubright ’09 and Samantha Malone, June 6, 2015
Ken Stark ’09 and Lauren Elise Jaeger, June 27, 2015
Ashley Baker ’10 and Steven Dyal, December 5, 2015
Shannon Broderick Cantwell ’11 and Charles Fiodor Scott Nadd, November 7, 2015
Aaron Markham ’13 and Casey Edwards, September 26, 2015
Jasmine Rethmeyer ’14 and Casey McQuerry, July 25, 2015
Jared Best ’15 and Taylor Rouse, August 1, 2015.

OBITUARIES

Irene Dill Loftis ’31, December 29, 2015, Greenville, SC
Mary Frances Garrett ’37, September 17, 2015, Fountain Inn, SC
Doris Ekstrom Scott ’38, October 1, 2015, Walnut Cove, NC
Burton Clinton Smith, Sr. ’39, November 17, 2015, Waynesville, NC
Martha Bennett Ellis ’40, January 21, 2016, Florence, SC
Mary Catherine Gray Smith ’40, June 15, 2015, Naples, FL
Mary Katherine Keith Ford ’42, November 16, 2015, Hendersonville, NC
Charlotte Ponder Neighbors ’42, December 10, 2015, Morristown, TN
James David "J.D." Walters, Sr. ’42, January 1, 2016, Greenville, SC
Suzanne Garrett Belotte ’43, October 1, 2015, Greensboro, NC
Josie Bell Leary Cox ’44, October 2015, Clifton, SC
Dwight Wallace Hughley ’44, October 15, 2015, Greenville, SC
Arlan Alexander “A.A.” Bailey ’45, December 11, 2015, Gastonia, NC
Juanita Davis Brannock ’45, November 6, 2015, Greenville, SC
Mary Pendarvis Kirby ’45, December 5, 2015, Eutawville, SC
Martha Simpson Wegner ’46, August 31, 2015, Richmond, VA
Dorothy Miller Beckwith ’47, November 4, 2015, Greenville, SC
Thomas Frederick Childress, Jr. ’47, August 13, 2015, Greenville, SC
Charles P. Daniel ’48, January 10, 2016, Indian Trail, NC
Harriet Ann Way Hutto ’49, October 17, 2015, Columbia, SC
Agnes Bowen Kleckley ’49, September 21, 2015, Charleston, SC
Howard Barry Mitchell ’49, September 26, 2015, Laurens, SC
William Francis Pettis ’49, September 9, 2015, Greenville, SC
Selina Drake Ruth ’49, September 30, 2015, Greenville, SC
Jimmye Ruth Partee Thompson ’49, February 7, 2016, Greenville, SC
Bernice Stanley Clanton ’50, September 13, 2015, Atlanta, GA
Donald Douglas Gilstrap, Sr. ’50, September 7, 2015, High Point, NC
Minnie Jane Bruce Burnett ’51, October 19, 2015, Spartanburg, SC
Rene F. Castillo ’51, December 12, 2015, Groves, TX
Ronald Edward Digby ’51, November 20, 2015, Greer, SC
Pauline Murphy Shealy ’51, July 27, 2015, Taylorsville, NC
Suzanne Moore Lomas ’52, November 4, 2015, Simpsonville, SC
Dusne Lamar Malphrus, Sr. ’52, September 2, 2015, Fountain Inn, SC
Thomas Bartley Prince, MA ’52, December 29, 2015, Spartanburg, SC
Bobbie Jean Ellis Branch ’53, November 30, 2015, Myrtle Beach, SC
Mary Asbury Cobb ’53, October 11, 2015, Atlanta, GA
Ellen Martin Davis ’53, August 20, 2015, Blackshear, GA
Ralph Marion Wilkie ’53, September 7, Mount Pleasant, SC
Joanne "Jojo" Copeland Willis ’53, December 30, 2015, Clemson, SC
Margaret Faith Johnson Lehman ’54, January 8, 2015, Rocky Mount, NC
Eugene S. Pedrick ’54, November 9, 2015, Hinesville, GA
Barbara Raines Pou ’54, August 25, 2015, Amarillo, TX
Margaret Mims Johnston ’55, August 23, 2015, Greenville, SC
Barbara Jean Mackey Rodal ’55, September 19, 2015, Honea Path, SC
Robert Wayne Taylor ’55, September 21, 2015, Aiken, SC
James O. Blackwelder ’56, December 2, 1015, Wingate, NC
Howard M. Walters, Jr. ’56, February 14, 2015, Garner, NC
Mary Dominick Weeks ’56, September 6, 2015, Anderson, SC
Janice Ethelene Campbell Cloninger ’57, August 27, 2015, Gastonia, NC
A Note From Cherrydale

In my last letter, I spoke about our upcoming rollout of our regional engagement plan. That plan is taking shape, and 2016 will be a big year with more events and energy coming to a city near you. In fact, we are in the process of hiring a new teammate here at Cherrydale to focus on the rollout of that plan. The plan allows for our alumni to take the initiative to bring events and fun to other Furman alumni/parents in their communities. Local ownership of regional engagement, with oversight and coaching from our office, is essential to maximize the potential we see for greater connection amongst each other.

And the potential is abundant. More and more, we are seeing alumni energy from around the nation, and many are getting creative. One great example is the Furman Metropolitan Fellowship. This fellowship was created by young alumni who are working, or have worked, in New York City. They wanted to create a stronger pipeline of Furman talent entering the NYC job market, and afterward help that talent understand how to network and navigate there. So, what these young alumni did was start, and significantly fund, a scholarship for an internship for a Furman student to work in New York for a summer. The intern will not only get access to alumni working in the City, but also have experience mentoring and access to strategic events happening around the city.

That’s the kind of thinking our office is committed to supporting. We want to be a strategic resource in helping Furman alumni/parents across the nation be successful in driving engagement and energy in their respective regions. One very important tool that we are launching to assist with connecting, networking, and informing is our new mobile app called The Furman App. The Furman App is available to be downloaded on your mobile device through Google Play or the Apple App Store. It is a powerful tool in receiving pertinent Furman news that interests you, and it offers cool features that allow Furman alumni and parents to connect with each other, and assist each other with career or business needs. Please download the app today and experience its power to connect Paladins wherever they are. In the meantime, keep up the great things happening in the name of Furman, and let us know about the gatherings and networking happening in your communities.

Mike Wilson ’88
Executive Director, Alumni and Parent Engagement
Edward Earl '86, June 19, 2015, Redwood, WA

Patricia Nelson Earle '86, November 2, 2015, Greenville, SC

Gerald Michael Grismore '90, October 22, 2015, Elizabeth, IN

Annette Dale Rentenberg '90, December 23, 2015, Powell, OH

Elizabeth Irene Baxter '91, August 8, 2015, Hartsville, SC

Ronald Keith Brewer '98, July 30, 2015, McKinney, TX

Nathaniel A. Dokmo '00, August 21, 2015, Milford, NH

Cory Von Morgan '03, October 15, 2015, Greer, SC

IN FOCUS

Earle McGee Rice '41, August 28, 2015, Anderson, SC. After graduating from Furman, Rice earned his pilot's wings in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He attended Command and General Staff School and at the end of his active military service remained in the Air Force Reserves, retiring as a colonel. He then earned his degree from Duke Law School, joined his father's law firm in Anderson, SC, and went on to serve as Anderson County Judge from 1949 to 1963. He was active in various civic endeavors and held numerous leadership positions, including president of the Anderson County Bar Association and the Anderson Kiwanis Club. Founders Day speaker at Anderson College, district chair of the Boy Scouts of America, member of the general board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and a trustee on Furman University's board. He also served on the boards of the Anderson County Hospital association, YMCA, Hospice of Anderson, Chamber of Commerce, and the Anderson Lay School of Theology.

Lloyd E. Batson '47, February 5, 2016, Easley, SC. After Batson earned his undergraduate degree at Furman, he entered the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to receive his BD and ThD degrees. In recognition of his extraordinary service, both institutions gave him signal honors, including the honorary doctor of divinity degree from Furman, where he served on the board of trustees as secretary, vice-chair, and chair, and then again as trustee emeritus. He served to help Furman integrate the student body in the 1960s and to become a nationally recognized institution of higher learning. While in seminary, Batson served churches in Indiana and in 1956 began a 33-year pastorate at Pickens (SC) First Baptist Church. He was involved in many local organizations, including Cannon Memorial Hospital, Pickens Rotary Club, Meals on Wheels, and North Greenville (SC) College. This longtime leader of Baptist life in the state of South Carolina, the region, and the nation, served as president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and chaired the Sunday School Board of the convention. He undertook several international missions, including a journey to South Africa under assignment from the Foreign Mission Board. After retiring from his pastoral work, Dr. Batson served as a chaplain at Easley (SC) Baptist Hospital and frequently wrote columns for the Easley Progress, which were ultimately compiled in the volume From My Life's Journey.

Posey Belcher, Jr.'54, January 22, 2016, Rock Hill, SC. After graduating from Furman, Belcher continued his education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, earning a master of divinity degree in 1957. He was an intern in Mobile, AL, for two years and then served for 19 years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Barnwell, SC, followed by 16 years at the First Baptist Church of Walterboro, SC. He held leadership positions in the South Carolina Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Belcher received a major state honor when he was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, presented by the governor of South Carolina. The Order of the Palmetto is the state's highest civilian honor. Furman honored him in 1982 with an honorary doctor of divinity degree, and his and his wife's children created the Posey and Jean O. Belcher Organ Fund at Furman in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Larry D. Estridge '66, October 6, 2015, Greenville, SC. Estridge graduated from Harvard Law School in 1969 and was employed with Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice, LLP. He served as a member of the Furman board of trustees from 1996 to 2001 and again from 2002 until his death. He was also on the board and president of the Children's Museum of the Upstate from 1998 to 2001, was president of Greenville Central Area Partnership (downtown revitalization) from 1982 to 1983 and from 1987 to 1988. He was on the board of the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce from 1997 to 2000, and acted as its general counsel in 1997. Estridge was a decorated officer in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.