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COVER - The aerial photo, credited to legendary Greenville photographer Bill Coxe, appeared on the cover of the October 1958 issue of The Furman University Magazine. Reprinted here in celebration of the golden anniversary of the move to the current campus. Courtesy Furman Special Collections and Archives and Furman Digicenter.
The way we were 50 years ago, when the university officially unveiled its new campus.

On November 12, 1958, Furman invited the Greenville community to visit its new Poinsett Highway campus.

The Greenville News published a special section, stuffed with congratulatory advertisements from vendors, to celebrate. Turning its pages opens a window to a 50-year-old past.

Furman was a small school with big dreams. With an enrollment of 1,349 (80 percent from South Carolina, 60 percent men), it was building a campus to house and educate 2,000 future students. The James B. Duke Library at the center of the university had only 90,000 volumes but space for 400,000.

The new campus had been a long time in coming. In 1947, overwhelmed by a surge of veterans into the classrooms, trustees began considering expanding Furman’s downtown site above the Reedy River. The situation had been awkward since 1933, when, in the heart of the Great Depression, the Greenville Woman’s College had become the university’s coordinate Women’s College. Students and faculty had used buses, taxis and personal cars to travel between two campuses a mile apart.
Buying land near the men’s campus downtown, the trustees soon learned, would be exorbitantly expensive; property values rose because owners knew that Furman wanted it. Furthermore, plans to extend several streets because owners knew that Furman wanted it. Furthermore, plans to extend several streets due to development around the university were already being discussed, and a portion of the potential campus would be taken.

So the trustees searched the county. In 1950, Aleser G. Furman, Jr., a realtor who was chairman of the board, found 1,100 desirable acres near Rumphus Road about six miles north of the city limits available for $542,531. Seventy-five acres around the downtown men’s campus would have cost $750,000. In October 1953 trustees broke ground for a new campus that would house both men and women. The initial cost, they estimated, would be about $8 million. The South Carolina Baptist Convention pledged $500,000; selling Duke Endowment committed $500,000; sellingConvention pledged more than $3 million; The South Carolina Baptist — had been built.

Male students and senior women lived in what later became men’s residence halls (now South Housing) on the southeast end of the campus. The rest of the “coeds” commuted to the downtown campus. The rest of the “coeds” commuted to or used public transportation to get to their downtown campus.

The administration building, with a 24-foot long oval cherry table for trustee meetings and a lounge. only the central section of the science building was finished, but Daniel Dining Hall, “a masterpiece of modern design and efficiency” (they didn’t mention food), could seat 600 students. The (the article also didn’t mention that it had to be used for chapel services and convocations.) But, as the newspaper put it, there was still time to play. The “athletic building,” which would come to be called the “Old Gym,” was open. While Furman still played football in Strinne Stadium and basketball games at the new downtown Memorial Auditorium, the first nine holes of the golf course were complete, and “a representative of the New York Yankees” had advised on the baseball field. The varsity rifle team had plenty of space to practice, and canoeing was possible on the lake.

Students, an article clearly written by Furman personnel boosted, were the best in the state. The school was the only one in South Carolina (and one of only 170 in the nation) that earned the highest grade point averages among all colleges represented in its graduate program. These pioneering fine students, and an article reprinted from The Harro was then called, knew they were abandoning old traditions — the tug of war across the Reedy River between freshmen and sophomores, snake dances down Main Street following football victories, proposals of marriage at the top of the Bell Tower. They were sure, however, that other traditions would accompany them to their new home, among them May Day with its May Queen, Homecoming, the song “Brown Eyes,” and Furman Follies. The News’ special section highlighted every feature of the new campus, including the landscaping. Thirteen varieties of 1,000 trees had already been planted, although they were bare spindly sticks, and future “spray ponds,” the university’s fountains, would soon serve the dual purpose of air-conditioning buildings and adding beauty.

While the newspaper reviewed the university’s history and leading personalities in detail, it did not neglect Furman’s current status. Total costs that year for room, board and tuition were $1,100. The university was served by the Piedmont and Northern Railway and the Southern Railroad as well as the City Coach line. Forty percent of its 90 faculty members held the Ph.D. The comparable figure today is 92 percent of 215 professors.

Today’s campus is far different from the one the university unveiled just over 50 years ago. What has remained constant is the university’s commitment to providing the finest in private liberal education — and the best preparation for a rewarding life of leadership and service. This article appeared in its original form in The Greenville News, November 12, 2008. Reprinted with permission of the author, professor emeritus of English at Furman.

Black and white photos courtesy Furman Special Collections and Archives and Furman Digital.
In the fall of 1955 Furman officials were anxious to begin offering classes on the new campus. Despite the limited facilities, ongoing construction and lack of amenities — the partially completed Furman Hall had no heat until after Christmas — 102 freshman men and six senior counselors spent the year in Dormitory C (now Manly Hall), making the best of the spartan conditions.

By year’s end, however, the administration had determined that trying to operate the university from three sites was too difficult. It wasn’t until two years later, in the fall of 1958, that the pioneers, now seniors, would return to the more complete campus, where they were joined by the rest of the men and the senior women.

The 1959 Bonhomme featured this photo and tribute to Furman’s “dauntless crew” of trail-blazing young men.

Here are the men who were thicker than thieves, closer than brothers, wittier than Bob Hope, and smart as Einstein. This may be slight hyperbole, but any group who survived the wilds of the New Campus in the year 1955 were a dauntless crew.

The first men to live with the three main water lines, Paris Mountain, and the Blue Ridge mountains spent lonely afternoons and evenings setting fires in the trash room, throwing firecrackers, sun-bathing, and playing bridge.

No one was any prouder or could get madder with his “one big happy family” than Dean (Francis) Bonner. Dr. Bonner and colleagues, Dr. (Jefferson Davis) Sadler, Dr. (Alfred) Reid, Dr. (James) Stewart, Dr. (Joe) King, and Dr. (Albert) Sanders, were the faculty members who “pioneered” with the Dormitory “C” boys.

Many of the Pioneers did not stay long enough to taste the pleasure of Old Campus life. Some married, some quit, and some faltered, but most achieved their goal of graduating in 1959. Regardless of their present or future academic state, none will forget the pioneer days on Furman’s New Campus.
Rumble in the Jungle

Strap on your pith helmet, grab your mallet and lace up your blue Chuck Taylors. It’s time to join the New York Blue on its spirited quest for the World Elephant Polo Championship.

IF YOU’VE STOOD next to me at a cocktail party during the last six months — or if you’re one of the five million Americans who tuned in to “CBS Sunday Morning” on January 11 — you know that two seconds and two inches deprive me of being a world champion athlete.

This is quite a claim for a thirtysomething finance executive and former lawyer whose intramural career during his Furman days (1993-97) can best be described as “competitive slapstick.” You see, I’m a member of the New York Blue, only the fourth American team ever to play elephant polo.

And I’m a proud holder of the silver medal in the 2008 World Elephant Polo World Championship Chivas Olympic Quaich. Furthermore, prevailing social mores demand that players maintain a steady diet of Chivas Regal, the tournament’s corporate sponsor and the lingua franca of elephant polo. Indeed, breaches of this etiquette and others are likely to be noticed by the captain of the Scottish National Team, Torquhil Campbell, who, as the 11th Duke of Argyll holds 25,000 acres and 51 of the most prestigious inherited titles in the United Kingdom.

But in elephant polo circles, His Grace is revered for one distinction above all others. He is a Chivas executive.

ELEPHANT POLO resembles horse polo in most important ways. It’s played on a “pitch” measuring 100 meters by 70 meters. Each side has four players. At each end of the field, two stakes standing five feet apart serve as goals; you score by knocking a polo ball through the stakes, using a stick made of bamboo with a standard polo mallet attached to the end.

The length of the stick — anywhere from 6 to 12 feet — depends on the size of the elephant. A match features two 15-minute periods, or chukkas.

Elephant drivers, or “jockeys,” are the key to the sport. They are recruited from a variety of competing countries and, at various times, include such celebrities as Ringo Starr and Sir Edmund Hillary.

To play the sport you need, among other things, a tuxedo (I’ll explain), gloves (I learned the hard way) and a robust appreciation for the absurd. You must also be willing to permit yourself to be lashed with a fraying rope to a 7,000-pound elephant with nothing but a pith helmet, a bamboo mallet and a Nepali (elephant driver) with whom you don’t share a language or, in most cases, a concern for your well-being.

On March 23, Edwards succumbed to a stroke while fishing in Karnataka. He leaves behind a girlfriend, three ex-wives, four children, and the admiration of the international elephant polo fraternity.

Once a favorite pastime of British officers in the days of the Raj, world elephant polo is a truly international competition. Teams from Nepal, India, Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Norway, Hong Kong and the Bahamas have taken part in recent tournaments. The contests attract upwards of 2,000 spectators, including ambassadors from a variety of competing countries and, at times, such celebrities as Ringo Starr and Sir Edmund Hillary.

Elephants are categorized as “offensive” or “defensive.” Offensive elephants are small and fast, and can be half the size of defensive elephants. As a result, while one player might find himself 12 feet in the air on a 10,000-pound elephant, another might wield a modest mallet several feet from the ground. The defensive elephants “luxury,” Melanie brought considerable organizational ability and enthusiasm to “the lads,” so that neither side has a monopoly on superior beasts.

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The yearly spectacle was always coordinated under the watchful eye of A. V. Jim Edwards, the 74-year-old, ascotted proprietor of nearby Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge who first entered Nepal in 1962 when he drove his Saab from Stockholm to Kathmandu. Over the course of three decades it has gone from oddity to novelty to full-fledged sport — all while retaining its distinctly aristocratic, and eccentric, pedigree.
Following a year of planning and wrangling sponsors, we arrived in Delhi on November 28 — the morning after the Mumbai attacks. After spending a few days acquainting ourselves with the splendor of Katmandu, we boarded a 12-seater plane provided by Tenzin Ainusins and landed in southeastern Nepal, on a grass strip that doubled as the tournament playing pitch.

Only Bill had played the sport, and that was three years earlier, for all of five minutes. Now we were one of eight international teams competing for the world title.

The Chivas Regal team, to my memory, didn’t even practice. The Scottish National Team, ranked No. 1 in the world, included such leading lights as a world-renowned Duke who would pound around the elephant ball and regexp other with play-by-play over ice cream sundae of Chivas.

We didn't know the rules. We had no feel for the game.

We're given a five-goal handicap, so we start with tape it. I watched my teammates flail at the ball, whiffing or

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ropes. The laws of physics and human anatomy sentence him to a painful fate. As the two elephants move in opposite directions, a declarative pop is heard. The laws of physics and human anatomy sentence him to a painful fate. As the two elephants move in opposite directions, a declarative pop is heard. The laws of physics and human anatomy sentence him to a painful fate. As the two elephants move in opposite directions, a declarative pop is heard. The laws of physics and human anatomy sentence him to a painful fate. As the two elephants move in opposite directions, a declarative pop is heard.

He yells in pain. Somehow he manages to free himself, then climbs over onto his mahout, who immediately signals for play to be stopped. Rob is helped off his elephant and crumples to the feces-covered ground. A strange thing happens while Rob writhes beneath a Chivas cap. A Gurkha is hot on Bryan's tail. The rules limit the number of elephants a team can have in the D, so I have to be the only identifiable face over to play the sport. I locate my elephant is deceivingly fast for his size. He's pounding his way toward the ball, which is rolling toward the offensive zone known as the "D." (The D, a semi-circular space roughly analogous to the area inside the 3-point line in basketball, may be off limits anywhere in the sport.)

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Francis W. Bonner’s contributions to Furman’s growth and development are virtually unmatched in university annals.

No individual has done more to shape the Furman of today than Francis W. Bonner. During his 38 years at Furman — and, in particular, as chief academic officer from 1961 to 1982 under Presidents Pheifer, Gordon W. Blackwell and John E. Johns — Bonner led the university’s efforts to strengthen the quality of the faculty and curriculum, desegregate the student body, develop a study abroad program, promote academic freedom and reinforce the school’s commitment to the liberal arts. When he died March 16 at the age of 92 after a period of declining health, he left a legacy of accomplishment and dedication virtually unmatched in Furman history.

“He was certainly the most influential administrator I worked with,” says professor emeritus John Black, who taught history at Furman from 1964 to 2005. Bonner believed that a strong faculty is the primary determinant of a strong institution. With that in mind, he set out to recruit the best and brightest to teach at Furman. When he became academic dean in 1961 — he would eventually be named vice president and provost — 34 percent of the faculty held doctorates or other terminal degrees when he stepped down in 1982, the figure was 86 percent.

His support for the faculty’s work was a major reason he was able to attract so many talented professors. To promote a productive teaching environment, Bonner worked to reduce class loads, support faculty research, strengthen library holdings, and advocate paid sabbaticals to encourage professional growth and renewal.

He understood these needs because of his own experiences in the classroom. A native of Alabama and a Schlarman scholar, Bonner arrived at Furman in 1949 after completing his doctorate at the University of North Carolina. He taught English for three years before spending the 1952-53 year at Harvard University, where he was a Ford Foundation Fellow. Upon Bonner’s return, Pheifer appointed him dean of the Men’s College. It was a restless time at Furman. Students were anxiously waiting the move to the new campus, and Bonner was forced to deal with an assortment of pranks ranging from food riots and minor vandalism to a case of arson and a bomb explosion in a dormitory. Students soon realized, however, that the dean was not to be trifled with. Although some resented his strictness or were cowed by his stern manner, most developed a grudging respect for his no-nonsense approach.

No doubt respect turned to admiration for more than one night in the early 1960s, when Bonner riled the student community and coordinated the defense of the campus against a raid from Citadel cadets.

Mark Kellogg ’97 writes, “I will never forget the rather wild and slightly . . . Dr. Bonner, in shirtsleeves and a tie, standing on the patio outside Daniel Lounge, actually leading the counterinsurgent defense of the campus when Citadel cadets attempted to paint our brand new Williamsburg brick baby blue!”

“No one ever demonstrated greater concern for alma mater than did Dr. Bonner that evening. It was he who asked cadets whom we had captured be brought to him for discipline — after we had shaved their heads and stripped them of their underwear. It was Dr. Bonner who encouraged us to shake the trees where Cherrydale stands today to ensure that no more cadets were hiding where we had duded so many earlier in the evening.”

“And no one took more joy (except perhaps Coach Bob King) when, during the halftime performance of the Summerall Guards at Johnson-Hagood Stadium in Charleston, one guard flipped helmet blow off in the wind to reveal a shaved head with the remnants of an ‘F’ tattooed with purple shoe polish.”

There were other sides to the man. At Bonner’s funeral, Jim Pitts, former Furman chaplain, described how, with the help of the Fellowship Class at First Baptist Church — where Bonner was a lay leader and taught Sunday school for nearly 30 years — he quietly assisted students with funds for various emergencies.

No less a public figure than Mike McConnell ’66, director of national intelligence in the second Bush administration, can tout to Bonner’s benevolence. In an article in the Winter 2008 Furman magazine, McConnell recounted his early days at Furman when he worked as a custodian for the athletic department in return for a room in the old gym. Money was tight, and he occasionally had to dip into his pocket.

When Bonner found out, he called McConnell to his office, inquired about what he was eating, and then handed him a dining hall card — which meant three free meals a day for the rest of the year.

“I was stunned by what he did,” McConnell said, adding, “I am forever grateful.”

Bonner acknowledged the crowd’s cheers at the 1922 Commencement after Furman awarded him an honorary Doctor of Literature degree in recognition of his “distinguished career as teacher, scholar, planner and administrator.”

Bonner’s influence extended to many other areas. He planned and supervised the university’s move from the downtown campus to the current site in the late 1950s, and he championed the creation of a study abroad program that today is a model for other schools.

In 1973 his determined efforts, in concert with President Blackwell, helped secure for Furman a long-coveted chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s most prestigious academic honorary society. And he chaired numerous accreditation committees for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, providing counsel and advice to institutions across the South.

A former high school football player and avid reader, Bonner was also faculty chair of athletics for many years. He served as president of the Southern Conference and was a vice president and member of the Division I Steering Committee of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. In 1994 he was elected to the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame.

Of his many contributions to the university, one of which he was especially proud came during the six-month period (August 1964 to February 1965) between the Pheifer and Blackwell presidencies, when Bonner was chief executive officer in charge of administration.

At the time desegregation was considered a harbinger of an institution’s commitment to progress, and its academic accreditation could be compromised should a school fail to desegregate. Furman and its governing body, the South Carolina Baptist Convention, had been at odds over the issue since the university’s trustees voted in October 1963 to eliminate race as a barrier to admission.

The convention asked Furman to delay the policy for a year while it studied the trustees’ action, and although Furman agreed, Bonner began working behind the scenes with alumna Sapp Funderburk to find the right student to desegregate Furman. They chose Joe Vaughn, a Greenville native.

In November 1964, however, the SCBC rejected the revised admissions policy by a margin of almost two to one. Blackwell had recently accepted Furman’s offer to be president, but one condition of his acceptance was that the university would desegregate.

As a called trustees meeting on December 8, the board seemed ready to capitulate yet again to the convention’s expectations — until Bonner, prepared for this possibility, stepped forward.

In Furman University: Toward a New Identity 1925-1975, Alfred S. Reid describes how Bonner’s well-reasoned remarks “persuasively analyzed the crisis ... and urged upon the board its moral and legal obligation to stand by its earlier decisions.”

“Speaking for the new president, Bonner said: ‘One of the reasons [Blackwell] accepted this appointment was the prospect of having an active board of responsible and reliable trustees. Surely he will not be asked to begin his tenure in office under the shadow of doubt cast by vacillation upon the issue now facing us.’”

More than accreditation was at stake, according to Reid. “The board, Bonner said, has a transcendent duty to the students, the faculty, the administration, and the integrity of the institution. ‘We entreat you to act positively and forcefully in this matter ... Don’t let us down!’ Bonner’s eloquence won the day.”

Forty-four years later, at Bonner’s funeral, Jeff Rogers, senior minister at Greenville’s First Baptist Church and a former Furman professor, said, “The testimonies are immemorial of the alumni who say that they would not have made it at Furman if it had not been for Dr. Bonner. The truth be told, there are other students and faculty with other stories, stories of how they think they would have made it at Furman if it had not been for Dr. Bonner.”

“The common denominator in every one of these stories is the Frank Bonner we all know who said, ‘I will tell you what I believe is right. I don’t care what people think of me.’ In truth, he did care; but he cared more about doing what he believed was right than about what people thought of him.”

An appropriate condolence to Rogers’s comments can be found in the words of Frank Bonner’s beloved Chaucer: “Full wise is he that can believe he himself know.”

Francis W. Bonner is survived by his wife, Nilaouise Carnes Bonner; a son, Arnold Frank Bonner ’69, and his wife, Florence Black Bonner ’69, of Shadys, N.C.; a daughter, Elizabeth Bonner Taylor ’76, and her husband, David ’77, of Charlotte, N.C.; five granddaughters and four great-grandchildren. Memorials: Francis W. Bonner Scholarship Fund, Furman University, 3200 Pleasant Hill Hwy., Greenville, S.C. 29613; or the Black-Bonner Scholarship, Gardner-Webb University, P.O. Box 997, Boiling Springs, N.C. 29311.
Although some are formal trainees in black robes, others are lay members in blue jeans. Some are self-described Jews or Methodists, while others are simply seeking greater awareness. No one has a shaved head; one young man, in fact, sports shaggy blond dreadlocks.

Most unexpected of all is their teacher, or sensei, sitting cross-legged in the middle of the floor. He is a small, earnest, 25-year-old man, younger than most of his pupils. Yet he is dressed in the purple gown and red robe of a Buddhist master, and he is already an abbot — currently the youngest abbot, or spiritual leader, of any Buddhist order in the world.

In this room he is Shi Yong Xiang sensei. But he is better known to Furman classmates and faculty as Jim Eubanks ’05. “What is deeply true is that Jim is an old soul,” says David Shaner, Gordon Poteat Professor of Philosophy and Asian Studies, who taught Eubanks at Furman and serves today as his sensei. “He is incredibly mature for his young age. While he is extremely genteel, kind and compassionate, he has a very powerful will underneath all that. He is wise well beyond his chronology.”

Despite his youth, Eubanks has managed a remarkable feat. After the sudden death of his first Buddhist teacher in October 2006, Eubanks — the senior student — was named the Dharma heir, which meant that he became head of his St. Louis-based order, responsible for its growth and nurturing.

That task is complicated by its groundbreaking nature. Through its monastic body, the Order of Pragmatic Buddhists (OPB), and its lay body, the Center for Pragmatic Buddhism (CPB), Eubanks’ group is helping to define a new, accessible, culturally relevant strain of Buddhism — nudging its boundaries in a more liberal direction.

“Earlier this year, the term ‘pragmatic Buddhism’ was finally adopted into the normal lexicon of American Buddhism, and we are the only group that actually uses that term in our name,” Eubanks says, adding: “It is easier to be black or white, category A or category B. My experiences, at least, have been very much shades of gray.”

Eubanks himself lives the busy, complex American life that he wants the CPB to reflect in its teaching. As its leader, he has heavy responsibility for his 10 formal students, four of whom are already novice monks and full members of the OPB. They embark upon a rigorous training program that lasts at least six months; their climb through the monastic ranks takes them from novice to cleric and then master.

At this early stage in their training, Eubanks speaks to them individually each week for half an hour, monitors a discussion they host in an on-line forum, and holds a monthly group reading session. He sends out a regular newsletter, and at the Monday meetings he delivers a “Dharma talk,” always followed by a lively question-and-answer session.

“As much of Buddhism, the teacher’s Dharma talk expounds on the canonized text,” says Eubanks. “When I give the talk, it may come from The Atlantic, The Wilson Quarterly or something else highly Western. Thus we have group discussion, not often done in Buddhism. Our members love that and consider it integral to their practice.”

But mingled with his Buddhist world, he has another life, as the youngest spiritual leader of any Buddhist order, Jim Eubanks works to demonstrate the religion’s relevance to the contemporary Western world.
As a student at Logan College of Chiropractic, he is scheduled to graduate this spring, with a master's degree in sports medicine due in August.

Like Buddhism, chiropractic medicine divides into its own camps — a majority favoring a muscle-skeletal focus and a vocal minority with a metaphysical bent. Eubanks is squarely on the medical side, helping patients with joint manipulation, rehabilitation and muscle training.

"Chiropractic medicine is another good way to teach people self-empowerment," he says. "For example, we can give someone who doesn't exercise a concise introduction to it. Something they can do twice a week for 10 to 15 minutes under initial monitoring."

During his freshman and sophomore years he spent time on religious organizations, often discussing Christianity outside of class. He also took courses that gave him new insights. They included David Batalwide’s "Bible as Literature," class that con- sidered the Bible from a historical perspective. Join Bible course on exodv literature of the Hebrew Bible and Apcryphal and Old Einstein’s psychology course that illuminated how the mind and memory work.

"The Bible is filled with historical reflections, written by human beings," Eubanks says. "God evolves over time and so does Satan, the Satan in Job is not the same Satan as in the Gospels. That evolving perspective is important to understand that humans are evolving, too."

Gradually, Eubanks began moving away from an anthropo- morphic image of God. Is theistic now? "I don’t see any conflicts with it," he says, a bit enigmatically.

Most of all, he began to reconstruct his view of Jesus, shifting away from the notion of Christ as sacrifice, paying for human sins. "Yes, God evolves over time and so does Satan; the Satan in Job is not the same Satan as in the Gospels. That evolving perspective is important to understand that human beings are evolving, too."

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"It is a very difficult thing to deal with such stresses as paying taxes, worrying about what to vote for, raising children. Yet those things are at least as valuable, and not enough emphasis has been placed on them," Eubanks says.

Eubanks grew up in an All-American household with his sister, Laura, who just completed her sophomore year at Furman. His father relocated frequently in his job with Bank of America, and Eubanks, born in Danville, Va., was uprooted many times as a child, living mainly in eastern North Carolina and Baltimore.

"In retrospect," he says, "that was a good experience because it taught me some lessons of Buddhism: impermanence and change. It allowed me to appreciate that perspective."

His family attended liberal Lutheran churches, and Eubanks, always interested in religion, considered becoming a minister. In high school he played tennis and studied Gung Fu, a phys- ically strenuous Chinese form of martial arts. Holding postures for a long time introduced him to meditation, which improved his focus and made him curious to learn more.

Then trouble struck. One February day his senior year, he thought he was catching a cold. But soon he felt exhausting pain in his abdomen and back. The diagnosis was Crohn's disease, a chronic bowel disorder, and he underwent surgery. As he recovered, and he has to eat, he began marveling over life-and-death issues. Why are we here? Is there a reason for suffering?

"It was also challenging for me to imagine how suffering like mine could happen — on a much broader scale and in more pro- found ways — to people who had much fewer resources than I did," he says. "I began to move away from the explanation that happened for a reason toward the idea that it just happened, and we have to learn to deal with it."

When it was time to look for a college, one of his father's colleagues (Gus Godolph 177 suggested Furman, and on a visit Eubanks fell in love with the school. The campus was gorgeous, he says, and he liked the close faculty-student relationships and the strength of the pre-med program.

"Chiropractic medicine is another good way to teach people self-empowerment," he says. "For example, we can give someone who doesn't exercise a concise introduction to it. Something they can do twice a week for 10 to 15 minutes under initial monitoring."

"It is a very difficult thing to deal with such stresses as paying taxes, worrying about what to vote for, raising children. Yet those things are at least as valuable, and not enough emphasis has been placed on them," Eubanks says.

Eubanks grew up in an All-American household with his sister, Laura, who just completed her sophomore year at Furman. His father relocated frequently in his job with Bank of America, and Eubanks, born in Danville, Va., was uprooted many times as a child, living mainly in eastern North Carolina and Baltimore.

"In retrospect," he says, "that was a good experience because it taught me some lessons of Buddhism: impermanence and change. It allowed me to appreciate that perspective."

His family attended liberal Lutheran churches, and Eubanks, always interested in religion, considered becoming a minister. In high school he played tennis and studied Gung Fu, a physically strenuous Chinese form of martial arts. Holding postures for a long time introduced him to meditation, which improved his focus and made him curious to learn more.

Then trouble struck. One February day his senior year, he thought he was catching a cold. But soon he felt exhausting pain in his abdomen and back. The diagnosis was Crohn's disease, a chronic bowel disorder, and he underwent surgery. As he recovered, and he has to eat, he began marveling over life-and-death issues. Why are we here? Is there a reason for suffering?

"It was also challenging for me to imagine how suffering like mine could happen — on a much broader scale and in more pro- found ways — to people who had much fewer resources than I did," he says. "I began to move away from the explanation that
What sparked your interest in journalism?

I didn’t discover I wanted to be a journalist until I was in my 30s, but I think I was heading in that direction all along. It just took me a while to figure it out. I always loved writing and telling stories, and was always interested in faraway places and different cultures.

Journalism was a good fit for my personality and my educational background. Today the passions and interests I developed and nurtured at Furman are my livelihood. I get to cover the people and places I dreamed about and bring their stories to American radio listeners.

And I was lucky, too, because I was able to break into the field without having to start at the bottom. I always loved listening to National Public Radio, but I never imagined that one day I’d be reporting for NPR from Paris.

Describe your work with the UN mission in Kosovo.

I first went to Kosovo to visit a friend in August of 2000, about a year after NATO forces pushed out former Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic’s forces. During that trip I put together my first radio stories.

I had been working as a producer at a French television news bureau in Washington, D.C. It was a time job, but because I wasn’t French I had no chance to become a reporter. I had always loved radio more than television, so I bought radio equipment, taught myself to use it, and went to Kosovo.

A friend who worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation gave me lots of encouragement. From that first exciting trip I produced three radio stories that aired on the BBC-Public Radio International show “The World.” After that I was hooked.

When I was offered the chance to work with the United Nations in Kosovo, I jumped. It was originally a three-month contract, but soon I had job offers from many different UN offices in Kosovo. I took a position with the press office and ended up staying for three years.

Kosovo was not a dangerous place for international journalists. The conflict was between the Serbs and the Albanians. After the West had saved them from Milosevic, and Serbs left the NATO forces and the UN were protecting them from revenge-seeking Albanians.

But you had to be careful. Once I was in an isolated Serb village drinking plum liquor with the inhabitants. Later a Ukrainian soldier worried me about telling people I was American. Another time, while I was away, a car bomb went off near my apartment and shattered every window. And Kosovo’s beautiful countryside was filled with landmines.

I worked with a great team of internationals who were doing exciting things to promote reconciliation between the Serbs and Albanians. I wrote for a UN news magazine, had the freedom to travel and report on any story I wanted, and did freelance work for The Washington Post, The Christian Science Monitor and The Boston Globe. And I continued to do radio pieces for “The World.”

I’m convinced that being a journalist is sometimes just about being in the right place at the right time and having confidence in...
Kerry’s French cousin, the mayor of a tiny fishing village in Brittany. I got in touch with him, went to his office and did a great piece, complete with locals singing in a café as they downed oysters and white wine. After that, I was in. A few months later I ran into the NPR correspondent at the time, Nick Spitzer, in a German military cemetery in Normandy. We were working on the same story for our respective networks. He told me he would be leaving soon and asked if I’d like it if he recommended me to take his place. “Would I?” I said — and the rest is history. It took a while to build the relationship and status I have with NPR today, but I’ve worked hard. I realize that there was a great amount of luck in all this, and I’m grateful every day.

How did you land the job with NPR?

After those three I felt it was time to leave Kosovo and try to live a normal and not a “mission” life. I’d always wanted to live in Paris, and while I didn’t have a job, I decided to give it a shot. And yes, I also had a love interest there — my future husband. I signed up for a course in French language and had a whole new respect for the vision of the meal I was completely exhausted —

For most stories I write a script using the sound and interviews I’ve recorded. I talk the script by phone with the Europe editor, who is based in Washington, and put the sound into my computer using sound programs. Then I track my voice with my microphone.

FURMAN

I send all the sound elements by Internet to NPR in Washington, where producers put the story together (mix it) using my script as an instruction sheet. When you hear, for example, traffic sounds behind my voice, that’s the mixed product.

Tell us about some of your favorite stories.

I love going to small villages and country places to do stories about food, culture and societal trends. Outside Paris, people live simply and expensively on virtually any topic. It’s obvious that he has been preparing for this role his entire life. I think his early popularity went to his head. Suddenly he and France were in the international spotlight, and his actions suggested that France was re-establishing itself as a world power.

Talk about President Sarkozy. What do the French think of him?

Nicolas Sarkozy was elected president two years ago, coming in on a huge wave of popularity. I covered the campaign and he was a phantom candidate, full of energy, exciting and well-spoken. He is not your typical politician. He is very frank and doesn’t play by the old rules, which makes some recent him. He can even be seen as crude. But he is not two-faced. He calls things as he sees them.

I remember a lot of Bill Clinton in his heyday. He can talk intelligently and compellingly on virtually any topic. It’s obvious that he has been preparing for this role his entire life. I think his early popularity went to his head. Suddenly he and France were in the international spotlight, and his actions suggested that France was re-establishing itself as a world power.

But then his private life became a little too public. Everyone was fascinated by the personal drama, but also critical of him for being so open with his life. He went through a high-profile divorce and then began dating Carla Bruni, a singer and model. Their public romance didn’t do much for his popularity, but since their marriage in 2008.

Carla Bruni is definitely an asset. She is elegant and refined, and speaks five languages.

When Sarkozy traveled to England to meet Queen Elizabeth, everyone was predicting that he’d make huge gaffes. But in the end Carla helped him win the day. And his popularity has improved in recent months. He is actually quite refreshing for French politics, even if he’s a bit too active sometimes. His critics say he tries to do too much and, as a result, doesn’t accomplish anything.

Being a journalist is sometimes just about being in the right place at the right time and having confidence in yourself.

Not all interviewees are human.
How do you approach a story?

When you report for radio, you have to transport the audience with you — provide the small details and sounds that will paint the picture. You have to find good characters to interview. You try to mix in sound and visual imagery. You have to find good characters to interview. Details and sounds that will paint the picture.

How do you approach a story?

People seem to enjoy when you put yourself in the story. But you have to be careful not to intersect yourself too much. As a journalist, you need some distance. They're opposed to what they consider no-holds-barred capitalism, and they weren't fans of the Bush administration, but they don't dislike Americans themselves.

Where do you live? Is there a large expatriate community in Paris?

I live in the 15th arrondissement, right beside the Seine. It's a great neighborhood for strolling or running down the street to give me a couple of thick slices of head cheese. I caught the whole thing on tape, and it was a nice exchange. I went home and had head cheese for lunch. It was quite good!

What do the French really think of Americans?

I come to Paris just after the French-American fallout over the war in Iraq. The French were really shocked and a bit hurt by the virulent backlash in America as a result of their opposition to the war. But the bad blood has passed. You'd be surprised how many people say, "Oh, I love America. I visited here and there."

For NPR I've traveled to Britain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium and Kosovo. I suppose I've proposed more destinations, but there is a lot going on in France. And it's not easy to pick up and leave for a week when you have a child. I could propose more destinations, but there is a backlash in America as a result of their opposition to the war. But the bad blood has passed. You'd be surprised how many people say, "Oh, I love America. I visited here and there."

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And it doesn't seem to be linked to money. People eat well, take a lot of time off and really seem to enjoy life and family. And it doesn't seem to be linked to money. People eat well, take a lot of time off and really seem to enjoy life and family.

To hear some of Eleanor Beardsley's reports from Europe, visit www.npr.org. Photos courtesy Eleanor Beardsley except as noted.
I had dreamed of being a math major and was failing discrete mathematics. I procrastinated, waiting to start with the acknowledgments. I was confident in my outline, but I lacked confidence. My roommate of four years, Ashley Clark, would sometimes ask me about the only Spanish I could comprehend. He taught me to persevere.

Little did I know that Furman would make us into bold writers. My roommate of four years, Ashley Clark, would sometimes ask me about the only Spanish I could comprehend. He taught me to persevere.

My journey as an author embodies the sacred cycle of giving. Take metres for metres. There I was, a new writer writing for only a few years ago?" says Betsy. As a former Furman Singer, peer educator and member of Kappa Delta, Betsy had many options toward which to designate her gift. But she chose the unrestricted route, allowing the university to apply her donation toward the areas it deems best.

Furman helped all of us develop as individuals, so it makes sense that we would all give back," says Betsy. As a former Furman Singer, peer educator and member of Kappa Delta, Betsy had many options toward which to designate her gift. But she chose the unrestricted route, allowing the university to apply her donation toward the areas it deems best.

After a year, two years, we finally want to print. It’s a shame the cover has only my name on it, because it is the product of countless people and institutions that contributed to my development.

Building a program that is second to none

One of the key strategic initiatives in the Because Furman Matters campaign is expansion of the university’s emphasis on Asian Studies. Since 1988, when Furman created the Asian Studies major, the program has become the largest of any liberal arts college in the South, with 16 faculty members in eight departments. And in its infancy is clearly outstanding, as the story about Jan Embach on page 16 illustrates.

Thanks to the financial support of The Birth and Beyond B. Cary Foundation, The Duke Endowment and many individual supporters, Furman today offers more than 60 Asian Studies courses, has Chinese and Japanese language houses on campus, and has established partnerships with Chinese and Japanese schools.

Given the importance of Asia in international politics, Because Furman Matters seeks resources to expand language study, continue to develop internship and study abroad opportunities in Asia, seed the Furman China program, attract and retain top faculty; and offer scholarship aid to recruit students from Asia.

Visit www.furman.edu/lifejediadventures to learn more.

Hubbard siblings join forces as Young Benefactors

It’s a Furman first (as I think) Three siblings have joined leadership gift societies. Bob Hubbard ’97 (left in photo), Betsy Hubbard Vance ’93 and Bill Hubbard ’99 are all Young Benefactors — graduates of the last 15 years who make annual unrestricted gifts to Furman of $1,000 or more.

No writer writes alone. We may isolate ourselves for hours or days at a time to be quiet with our thoughts, waiting for a brainstorm or attempting to string together the best choice of words, but we never write alone. Always with us are the wisdom and ideas of those who have influenced our thinking, the voices of loved ones who believe in us, and the presence of individuals and communities who have shaped us into who we are. While this book may bear my name, it is the result of work and study of many people.

The Beth and Ravenel B. Curry Foundation, a private, non-profit organization, received a four-year, $200,000 grant from the foundation in support of Furman’s work as an admissions counsel for Dallas-Fort Worth.

The position is expected to allow Furman to further capitalize on its presence in Texas and expand its recruiting base. As Brad Pochard, director of admissions, says, “The counselor will help us deepen our admissions network and relationships in Texas, which, in turn, will increase our yield.”

The Amon G. Carter Foundation is known for its community involvement, interest in education and philanthropic generosity. John Robinson, the foundation’s executive vice president, says, “We commend the commitment Furman has made to attract students from this area. We are pleased to help Furman establish this recruited/admissions counselor and assist students and families in learning more about this great school and the educational opportunities it provides.”

“Furman graduates will continue to make a positive impact on our local community, as well as the entire county, through our outstanding education they receive.”

In recent years the Dallas-Fort Worth area has become a significant source for some of Furman’s brightest students. In fact, during the 2007-08 academic year, more students applied to Furman from the high school area of Dallas than from any other school in the nation.

Now, thanks to the assistance of some Furman parents from Texas, the university will be able to strengthen its presence and recruiting efforts in Dallas-Fort Worth and the surrounding area.

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Four alumni were among the five individuals honored March 24 when Furman celebrated Founders Week with its annual convocation. The university awarded honorary Doctor of Science degrees to David Orr, chair of the environmental studies program at Oberlin College in Ohio, and Carl Kohrt ’95, immediate past chair of the Charles H. Townes Center for Science. Orr, a pioneer in environmental literacy and ecological design, has provided advice and counsel to Furman as it has developed its strategic commitment to sustainability. He spearheaded the effort to build a $72 million Environmental Studies Center at Oberlin that was named one of 30 “milestone buildings” of the 20th century by the U.S. Department of Energy. Kohrt is always willing to make time to give extra help.

Bonnie Walker ’71, who worked for 37 years in admissions and financial aid at Furman before stepping down as vice president for enrollment in 2009, received the Bell Tower Award for his contributions to university life. Today he is an assistant to President David Shi and senior associate for the Riley Institute. As an administrator Walker’s ingenuity and creativity helped make it possible for hundreds of students to afford to attend Furman. Active in professional circles, he is frequently asked to conduct workshops on financial planning for college.

The Charles and Harriett Award, which is presented to a member of the faculty or staff deemed by the majority of students to afford the greatest influence on their well-being and genuine interest in their lives and careers, was presented to a member of the faculty or staff deemed by the majority of students. As an administrator Walker’s ingenuity and creativity helped make it possible for hundreds of students to afford to attend Furman. Active in professional circles, he is frequently asked to conduct workshops on financial planning for college.

Shaw’s parents, Ernesteen and Victor Etheridge.
The university awarded honor­ary Doctor of Humanities degree to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia. Known as Africa’s “Iron Lady,” Johnson Sirleaf spoke at Furman April 11 during a visit sponsored by the Riley Institute and Water for Life’s Global Pebble Project. She is the first woman elected to lead an African nation. A graduate of Harvard University and a former World Bank economist, she has been recognized for her courage and commitment to expanding freedom and improving the lives of the people of western Liberia and others across the African continent. In 2007 she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States’ highest civilian award.

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Students awarded national scholarships

Two members of the Class of 2010 were recognized this spring with prestigious national scholarships.

Ben Able, a Sobota, S.C., native, was named a Truman Scholar — one of 60 students from across the nation selected from 601 candidates nominated by 289 institutions. The scholarships provide up to $30,000 for graduate study and go to students who excel academically and are committed to careers in public service.

Able, a political science major, will serve as the 2009-10 president of the Association of Furman Students. He is a John D. Hollingsworth Scholar, a Student Advance Team member of the Riley Institute and a Wilkins Fellow in State Government. He is one of 278 students chosen from 1,097 nominees nationwide.

Christopher Furman, a Saluda, S.C., native, was named a Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Scholar since 1981, which puts the university the Riley Institute and a Wilkins Fellow in State Government. He is one of 278 students chosen from 1,097 nominees nationwide.

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation was established in 1975 as the official federal memorial to honor the nation’s 33rd president. The scholarships are worth a maximum of $7,500 per year. Christopher’s brother, Mark Furman, a Saluda, S.C., native, was named a Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Scholar since 1981, which puts the university the Riley Institute and a Wilkins Fellow in State Government. He is one of 278 students chosen from 1,097 nominees nationwide.

Thomas Goldsmith, Jr., was a brilliant scientist who devoted his life to technology and teaching.

When he died March 5 at his home in Lacey, Wash., he was memorialized in The New York Times as “a pioneer of television technology who with his boss, Allen B. DuMont, and others in the nascent industry, perfected the cathode ray tube” — the technology that led to the development of television.

Born in Greenville in 1912, Goldsmith graduated from Furman in 1931 and earned a doctorate at Cornell University before joining DuMont Laboratories as director of research. He went on to supervise the development of the technology, equipment and standards first used in the television industry.

A former professor was television pioneer

In an interview with Furman Magazine in the fall of 1966, Goldsmith commented, “It is especially interesting, having been in industry, which is pretty cruel at times … to come back into education and work with students who are going to face up to industry.”

His advice to students was simple: “Don’t just learn to be a scientist. “I’ve seen students who have gone into industry,” he said, “who just level off there and never make any further progress because they don’t know how to do English, they don’t know history; they don’t know how to express themselves clearly. They don’t know how to meet people … At Furman, students have the double advantage of being able to get both the humanities background and an excellent foundation in the sciences.”

Bill Brantley, who joined the physics faculty “boundless energy, enthusiasm and willingness to help anyone and everyone who needed help,” Brantley recalls in particular one cold, rainy night when the water pump at his home stopped working — which was a problem, since his family lived in the country and depended on spring water. He trudged into the woods to try to repair the dam­
age, but worked for several hours with no luck.

“Almost 10 p.m.,” he says, “I called Tom to talk to him and talk to him a technical question. When he learned what the situation was, he said, ‘I'll come over and help you.’” Brantley tried to talk him out of it, but Goldsmith insisted.

“Before long, I heard Tom coming through the dark woods to help. I couldn’t believe that anyone would have done such a thing at that time of night — except that this was Tom Goldsmith, and helping others was the mark of the man.” Soon they had the problem solved.

Brantley adds, “The other thing that stands out about Tom is his wife of 70 years, Helen. Their home was always open to their friends, and Helen is a legendary hostess and marvelous cook.”

In addition to his work, Tom Goldsmith is survived by sons Judson and Thomas, daughter Virginia, six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

— JIM STEWART

PAC gets an upgrade

Spring semester brought about the completion of renovations to the 19-year-old Herman W. Lay Physical Activities Center. The PAC now boasts a two-story fitness center featuring glass walls and updated equipment and weights; refurnished lockers for the gymnasium, pool, dance studio and locker rooms; and expanded classroom and office space. Bill Pierce, head of the Department of Health and Exercise Science, says, “We are absolutely thrilled that we can provide a comprehensive fitness facility for our students, faculty and staff. Few schools (if any) our size offer such an extensive fitness training facility.”

Photos by Jeremy Fleming.

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Technology meets vision with chemistry textbook

FROM ALUMNI
Idaho State University President Kpector (9. Martin's Press, 2009). This is the second novel from Fridl, who published The Garden Angel in 2005. Secret Keepers focuses on the Hartley family of Palmetto, S.C. — mother Emma and her two adult children, Diva and Bobby. The publisher says, "When Diva’s old flame Jake Carter returns to Palmetto with a broken heart and a gift for gardening, the town becomes filled with mysterious, potent botanicals and memories long forgotten. Soon enough, Jake and his ragtag group of helpers begin to unearth the secrets that have divided the Hanleys for decades." The author’s style has been described as combining "the warmth of Lee Smith and the magical touch of Alice Hoffman."


Robert Whitefield’s “8 Higher Hopes” (Thomas Nelson, 2009). This is the second book in the prolific Whitefield’s three-part “Tales of Truth” series, and his ninth novel all in all. A spiritual, time,(temporal instance, temporal instance) on the firm’s 80, and his work on a KI (basis against a humble street preacher whose disciples claim she has unanswerable prophetic abilities. As the publisher says, “Talm’s combined religious underpinning process to be the firm’s urban in-the-hole-as-the-case grows increasingly complex. The author "on the way to health and achievement. The author provides enjoyable, in the belief that we can improve academic performance and strengthen the dynamics within the book of Leviticus (Continuum, 2008). The author, assistant professor of law at the University of California, Santa Clara, published a book that examines the Old Testament narratives and, in the publisher’s words, “shows that the biblical narratives and the legal dynamics within the book of Leviticus enlightens everyone else.” Visit www.aubreydaniels.com.

FROM FACULTY
Secrets (2005) is a collection of poetry, Volume II (Brown Arts Press, 2007). Metz has published three previous books of poetry, the most recent being The Specimen (2004). The author, assistant professor of literature and。
Jackson totes the rubber as one of Cubs’ hot prospects

It wasn’t an easy decision for Jay Jackson to leave Furman after three years and pursue a career in professional baseball. He enjoyed the university and the time he spent playing baseball, and he knew there was a lot he could do to help the Paladins have a strong season his senior year. But he also knew he wanted to play baseball for a living, and there were plenty of indications that he was ready to take that step.

“After talking with my parents, agent and coaches, they thought I was ready,” Jackson says. “But it was hard leaving that step. And there were plenty of indications that he was ready to take the Paladins have a strong season his senior year.

He allowed only 40 hits and 13 walks in 50 innings of work, Overall, Jackson went 4-2 with a 2.88 ERA in 2008.

Jackson, a native of Greenville, was recruited by schools like South Carolina, Kentucky and The Citadel, but decided on Furman because of academics, potential playing time and the chance to stay close to his family. “I knew I could make an impact right away,” he says. “I wouldn’t have to sit on the bench.”

He did play right away, both on the mound and in the field, and got better every season. In 2005 he was 9-2 with a 3.17 ERA, batted .336 with eight home runs and a team-leading 41 RBI, and was named first-team all-Southern Conference.

“Jay’s a five-tool guy, which is very unusual,” Smith says. “He can hit, hit with power, run, field and throw. But as his career progressed at Furman, it became obvious that he was special as a pitcher.”

And that’s what Jackson is doing on the professional level. His two best pitches are his fastball (90 to 94 miles per hour) and a slider that can reach 86 mph.

“T’ve learned to better locate the fastball and work the count to my favor to get people out,” he says. While it’s certainly to Jackson’s favor to throw fastballs and sliders that are difficult to hit, one aspect of his game doesn’t show up on a speed gun. And, according to Smith, it might be the most important thing Jackson has going for him.

“He has a tremendous amount of confidence and competitiveness,” he says. “He wants the ball in a tough situation, and you’ve got to love that about a pitcher.”

Jackson started the 2009 season with the Tennessee Smokies, a AAA team based in Kodak, near Knoxville. Where he’s ultimately headed is still to be determined, but don’t be surprised if it’s on a more vertical than horizontal plane.

— VINCE MOORE

Scarpa sets record for Division I victories

Paul Scarpa’s legend continues to grow.

On March 7, when the men’s tennis team defeated Yale 6-1, the Furman coach earned his 820th match victory — and became the winningest NCAA Division I tennis coach of all time.

The feat earned Scarpa a good bit of media attention, including a lengthy story by Greg Garber on ESPN.com. Scarpa told Garber, “Honestly, I haven’t chased records. If I had waited around 46 years just trying to break the record, I believe I would go down. There are a lot of great coaches that I admire. Maybe they retired along the way — I just kept going.”

Scarpa has spent the last 45 of his 46 years as a collegiate coach at Furman, where he has posted 48 consecutive winning seasons in league play and finished first or second in the standings 86 times. His teams have won seven regular-season titles and 11 tournament championships since 1992, when the conference began recognizing regular-season champs.

In addition, he developed the current dual match scoring system adopted by the NCAA in 1993. The “3-6” format specifies that all matches begin with doubles, with a decision reached immediately if a doubles team wins.

He returned to alma mater and was basketball coach from 1966-20. Now retired, he lives on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

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HELPING EACH OTHER IN TIMES OF NEED

I was on campus with some prospective students on the Sunday evening in March that Furman students were returning from spring break. There was a palpable feeling that those attending were happy to see each other and be back “home.” It made me appreciate even more the nebulous concept of the “Furman Family.” Here are some ideas to make it a little less nebulous.

We are in one of the most uncertain economic times in our history. Knowing that, Furman is here to help members of its close-knit family.

In the Office of Career Services, headed by John Barker, offers free assistance to alumni. To learn more, or contact the Office of Planned Giving at (864) 294-3641, planning@furman.edu.

A SPECIAL SINGERS REUNION

June 1 is the deadline to register for this year’s Furman Singers reunion. Birmingham Vick, Jr., director of the Singers since 1971, has announced that he will retire after the 2008-09 school year, so this marks his final reunion as the active director of the Singers.

Most of the weekend’s activities will take place on campus, with accommodations in North Village. The culminating performance will be Sunday night, July 28, at First Baptist Church in Greenville. Visit http://alumni.furman.edu and follow the Furman Singers reunions link for registration details.

THE PERFECT MEETING PLACE

Many of you are in leadership positions in your companies, so remember Furman’s Conference and Event Services if you are planning business-related meetings or conferences. The Youths Conference Center provides great service and wonderful food at competitive prices. In addition, in May of 2010 Furman will have extra space available in North Village to accommodate overnight meetings.

To book your next conference or retreat in G-Vegas rather than Las Vegas.

— Todd Trillitt, JK Director, Alumni Association

CLASSES NOTES, SPRING 2009

55

Roy Carroll has served a number of officer positions since entering from Abbeville County Missionary Baptist Church near High. He received a BS in Business Administration from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

63

Jerry Thomas is dean of the University of North Texas College of Education, a position he assumed last August. He is a native of Pickens County, where he was professor and chair of the Department of Kinematics, interim dean of the College of Education and interim director of the Institute for research and graduate studies.

64

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Nancy Barlow DuPre has been appointed social sciences coordinator for the Libraries system at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

65

Edward Lynes Wettler (formerly Edward C. West, Jr.)—Inscribed Furman at the induction of Jimmy Carter into the National Hall of Fame in 1982. He was one of the founders of Hospice of the Piedmont and is a past president of the South Carolina Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Greenville County Medical Society. He is a recipient of the Order of Patriot, the state’s highest civilian honor, the Palmatto, Hospice’s statewide service award; and Sumter’s International Service to Marked Award.

57

MARRIAGE:

W. Miller and Carolyn Produt “Bulls” Gate, January 31, Salisbury, N.C.

62

Elizabeth Harrell Mitcell, a central figure in Maine state politics for many years, is president of the state Senate, which makes her the de facto lieutenant governor. She is the first woman in the country to be elected by her peers first as Speaker of the state House and now as Senate Representatives and later as Senate President. She received Furman’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1993.

68

Daniel Halk has retired after 30 years as an sales representative for the Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting Design. He lives in Proctor, Va.

69

THIS YEAR IS REUNION!

Kathryn Fowler formally became executive director of the Furman Council on Aging. She is a research lobbyist and advocate for aging issues and advocates for a research and planning project for the legislature to prepare for the aging of Georgia’s population. She had previously been with the Atlanta Council on Aging for 26 years.

70

The board of trustees of Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, where he has been appointed the Rev. J. Barney Hawkins as vice president of institutional advancement. He will continue to serve as associate dean and director for the Center for Anglican Communion Studies and as professor of pastoral theology. He is treasurer of the Northern American Region of St. George’s College, Jerusalem.

76

The Best Lawyers In America - 2010

Ingrid Blackwater Grimes is included in the 2010 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the field of labor and employment law.

79

This year is reunion!

Jeff Boggs has been hired by Don N.C.) as university head athletics equipment manager. He oversees maintenance and inventory of all supplies, uniforms and equipment for the baseball, football and soccer programs. He previously was a coach and athletics administrator at Winthrop-Barrow High School in Georgia, where he was the 2007 and 2008 Georgia Region 8-AAAAA Athletics Director of the Year and the 2008 Georgia State 8-AAAAA Athletics Director of the Year.

80

Roy “Butch” Blum has been named managing editor of The Baptist Courier, the newspaper for South Carolina Baptists. He continues to oversee the publication’s online edition, www.baptistcourier.com.

81

Stephen F. Clyborne became senior pastor of Earl Baptist Church in Greenville on January 1 after being the church’s associate pastor for seven years. He is also an adjunct professor at Erskine Biblical Seminary.
C. Franklin Granger received The Irene Has been named registrar of the working poor become financially stable, distributed $15 million in emergency aid and raised a record $3.3 million.

As such, she serves as administrator of the workers' compensation area of the Workers’ Compensation Board. She is now associate professor at Furman University in Atlanta. Furman was named the city’s 2008 Woman of the Year by the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. Furman is a certified public accountant and has been promoted to partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Atlanta.

D. Michael Henthorne of Columbia, S.C., has been named to the list of 2009’s “Earthenworm Jim” Dirtypaws. Although we’re not sure of this earthworm’s name, some Furman students certainly got up close and personal with it in the back. Yes, long before 2008, when Furman celebrated the Year of the Sciences, and long before “Earthworm Jim,” the video game, was invented, some students and professors at Furman shared an interest in all things creepy-crawly. They still do, for that matter. But who were the curious investigators pictured here? The Special Collections and Archives staff in the James B. Duke Library below the instructor is Charles Biddle, longtime professor of biology. But they’ve been unable to identify the students. If you know who they are, please telephone Elizabeth McSherry (at (864) 294-3292, or e-mail liz.mcsherry@furman.edu. One other request: If you have science textbooks from your years at Furman, Special Collections and Archives is building this historic textbook collection and would welcome donations of science textbooks — or those of any subject, for that matter. Contact McSherry for information on how to make a donation.
Christopher and Meredith Essam Bats, a daughter, Emery Hall, December 30, Burlington, N.C. Christopher is senior vice president at Deloitte, Inc., and Meredith is a program specialist in curriculum and instruction for exceptional children.

Jonathan and Jennifer Kudelko Runion, a daughter, Alexa Lynn, and a son, Samuel Gerard, December 29, Clearwater, Fla.


Kim and Courtney Armstrong Boston, a son, Julian Edward Thomas Armstrong Boston, December 28. He is a third-year medical student and she as a third-year P.H.D. student in cultural anthropology.

Jason and Erin Carnahan-Lane, a son, Addison Michael, December 31, Raleigh, N.C.

Coccia, a son, Matthew David King, a daughter, Adalyn Miriam, January 17. Brad and Madrid are in graduate school at the University of North Carolina. She recently graduated from the Covered Bridge Leadership Institute, a program designed to build a cadre of Republican leaders throughout the state of Georgia. He is in his second term as secretary of the Board of the Urban League of Greater Columbus.

MARRIAGE: Kellie and Mark McNeill, August 29. Christine works at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.

BIRTH: Sean and Timothy Davis, a son, Reese Gregory, October 3, Aurora, Il.

P. Kristen Bennett has joined the Wilmington, N.C., office of Anderson & Company LLP as an associate. He focuses on estate planning and trust administration and provides counsel on taxation and tax planning for businesses. He is a member of the Delaware Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Matthew Boleyn, assistant professor of creative writing at Houston Baptist University, received his Ph.D. in creative writing and literature from the University of Houston, where he gave the commencement address.

In his poems and essays he appears in such journals as The New Orleans Review; The Sparrow River Pantry Review and Austrian Sal

Kristen Johnson Dennis of Sevierville, S.C., received Certified Staffing Professional and Technical Staff Certification credentials from the American Staffing Association in October. She is a technical recruiter with Goldblatt & Goldblatt Personnel Consultants.

Kaufman Rossin Fund Services hired Michael McCue as business development supervisor in its Boston office. He previously was vice president in relationship management at JPMorgan Prine Braddock (formerly Branch Sears). Josh McConville, an attorney, in Columbus, Ga., is snapping up its top U.S. at the Muscogee County Republican Party. He recently graduated from the Covered Bridge Leadership Institute, a program designed to build a cadre of Republican leaders throughout the state of Georgia. He is in his second term as secretary of the Board of the Urban League of Greater Columbus.

MARRIAGE: Patricia Johnson and Hiro Hidabandani, March 8, 2008. Patricia is in her fifth year as a theatre teacher in Austin, Texas.

BIRTH: Travis and Natalie Muro, a daughter, Snapea Grace, February 10, Durham, N.C.

Andy ‘07 and Katie Anderson Kidd, a daughter, Margaret Jane Stanford, July 30, in Greenville, S.C.

THIS YEAR IS REUNION! Flo’s Academy in Simpsonville, S.C., has hired Emily Gaskin Gage as middle school program director.

Capt. Brandon Griffiths has been awarded the Silver Star, the U.S. military’s third highest honor for combat valor, for braving machine gun and rocket fire during a three-day fight with insurgents in Afghanistan in August 2005.

In 2008, Furman established a student chapter of the Association for Evolutionary Computation.

BIRTHS: Travis and Mattie Morrison, a daughter, Swanson Grace, February 10, Durham, N.C.

BIRTH: Jamie and John Boardman-Kirby, a son, Sawyer Henry, November 14. They live in Signal Mountain, Tenn.

MARRIAGE: Jennifer and John Branch, January 31. They live in Dallas, Texas.

BIRTH: Taylor and Bryan Williams, October 8. They live in Rock Hill, S.C.

Jason Lesley (M.A.) will become principal of Five Oaks Academy in Simpsonville, S.C., as middle school principal.

MARRIAGE: Eric and Linda Waddell, February 24. They live in Greenville, S.C.

Amanda Stevenson Owens and John Boardman-Kirby, a son, Matthew, October 22, Marietta, Ga.

BIRTH: Matt and Jessica Miller Kelley, a son, Sawyer Henry, November 14. They live in Signal Mountain, Tenn.

MARRIAGE: Jamie and John Boardman-Kirby, a son, Sawyer Henry, November 14. They live in Signal Mountain, Tenn.


MARRIAGES: Christopher and Elizabeth Knox Bats, a daughter, Emery Hall, December 30, Burlington, N.C. Christopher is senior vice president at Deloitte, Inc., and Meredith is a program specialist in curriculum and instruction for exceptional children.

Jonathan and Jennifer Kudelko Runion, a daughter, Alexa Lynn, and a son, Samuel Gerard, December 29, Clearwater, Fla.

MARRIAGES: Matthew and Elizabeth Richards and Kevin Lee Freeman, January 3. Both are employed as a funeral director, embalmer and forensics coordinator at Ogden Funeral Home and Crematory. Kevin works with UPS Supply Chain Solutions. They live in Taylor, S.C.

BIRTH: Matthew and Jennifer Zahorske ‘03 Baker, a daughter, Annabelle Caroline, September 10, Raleigh, N.C.

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When Jack Jezreel graduated from Furman in 1979 and headed to divinity school at the University of Notre Dame, he didn’t know that he would ultimately dedicate his life to serving others. Thirty years later, Jezreel is the founder and executive director of JustFaith Ministries, a social justice organization based in Louisville, Ky. Now in its 20th year, JustFaith offers workshops and programs that focus on preparing people of faith “to become prophets and dedicated servants of God’s compassion” by empowering them “to develop a passion and thirst for justice.”

Jezreel, who started JustFaith Ministries while working at a Louisville church, returned to Furman in February for a presentation sponsored by the Lilly Center for Theological Exploration of Vocation.

As an undergraduate, Jezreel, who was then Jack Jones, played on the tennis team and graduated summa cum laude in Phi Beta Kappa, with a double major in philosophy and religion. He took five years to finish his degree because of the strong Protestant environment that surrounded him, Edwards says. “It made him a very religious issues but was having trouble hashing them out because of the strong Protestant environment that surrounded him,” Edwards says. “It made him a very religious person.”

Jezreel says he did not become aware of the true meaning of his personal ministry until he left the坚硬的家庭 and became a part of a Presbyterian church community. Even after he gave up all of his possessions and dedicated himself to a life of service, though, he says he still clung to “a desire for recognition by others” for his good deeds.

Eventually, he realized that true compassion emerges once we stop seeking recognition for our efforts. As he told the audience at the Lilly program, “We discover who we are by giving ourselves away. We don’t do the work of compassion to get rewards. We do it so we can be changed. We are changed by putting ourselves in the presence of those who are in crisis.”

Jezreel also suggests that any authentic act of love requires a degree of sacrifice. To better understand this idea, he and his family lived for four years on a farm in Kentucky where he raised his three daughters without electricity, running water or plumbing. They lived off the land. As a result, he says, his children realize that they can make do with less and know what it means to live simply.

During its early years JustFaith essentially targeted national and international groups, and its programs reach across denominational and state lines. For his efforts, Jezreel received the Catholic Church’s 2002 Harry A. Fagen Roundtable Award for social action leadership, which he has described as the “Oscar” of social ministry. He has called the honor “a de facto award for JustFaith. I haven’t done anything extraordinary. But JustFaith has.”

Hearing a speech about a cotton with copper yarn and being interested in social justice, he began to see the parallels between the two. His family moved to Dallas to begin a new chapter in his life. Today, the ministry partners with several national and international groups, and its programs reach across denominational and state lines.

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08 Christina Henderson is a staff assistant in the office of Kay Haagen, Democratic U.S. senator from North Carolina. John Tutherland of Charlotte, S.C., received the 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award from the South Carolina Athletic Branch of the state Recreation and Parks Association for his work with Special Olympics athletes through the city of Charlotte’s Recreation department. He is employed with BenefisHealth, a computer software company.

MAURICE: Nancy Demarest and Joseph Port ’07, November 22. They live in Greenville.

BIRTH: Ryan M. (A. M.) and Tracey Glenn, a daughter, Madison Nicole, November 20, Furman, S.C. Ryan is employed at Multili­ cion School in the Pickens County School District.

DEATHS Ruth Owing ’08, February 28, Florence, S.C. She was a second­grade teacher at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Travelers Rest, S.C. from the late 1950s until her retirement in 1979. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Charles Francis “Frank” Davies ’06, January 3, Greenville. In 1986 he retired from Liberty Life Insurance Company, where he last served as vice president. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

09 Julian Pelham “Hoppy” Hopkins ’72, February 27, 2008, Anderson, S.C. During World War II he was a flight instructor for the U.S. Army Air Corps and later retired from the Air Force Reserve, having commanded the repeater receiving in Anderson. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his work with Special Olympics athletes through the city of Charlotte’s Recreation department. He is employed with BenefisHealth, a computer software company.

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DEALING WITH TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

The precarious state of the national economy continues to provide challenges for institutions of higher education. Furman is no exception.

Through careful planning, the university has been able to develop balanced budgets for this year and next — without laying off employees or eliminating academic programs. Among the steps Furman has taken is delaying purchases of non-academic equipment, instituting a reduction in operating budgets, enacting a hiring freeze and deferring some maintenance needs. At the same time, the university was able to increase its annual financial aid budget by more than $400,000 for 2009-10 in an effort to ensure that all qualified students will be able to enroll in the fall.

As President David Shi said in a letter to parents in March, “Our challenge — and our commitment — is to reduce expenditures while maintaining our small class sizes and offer the high quality education you and your students expect and deserve.”

The university has established a Web page, www.furman.edu/fund, that provides information about how Furman (and higher education in general) is dealing with the economic crisis. The site is updated regularly and includes information on such topics as financial aid options for prospective students and how Furman manages and draws from its endowment.

I wanted to follow up on a misconception in an article on adoption that appeared in the Winter 2009 Furman magazine.

In “The Quest for Eden” about Jewel and Claude McRoberts’ battle with international red tape while trying to adopt their daughter, the article states that the couple “in reality was not from the United States. We had an incredibly smooth time adopting her in Korea.” However, they had an incredibly smooth time adopting their daughter not because she wasn’t from the United States, but because they were adopting internationally and not from the United States.

I can’t tell you the number of times that, as a white woman, I’ve asked myself why my African-American daughter was adopted, from assuming that she would not be from the United States. We had an incredibly smooth time adopting her because she was adopted internationally not because she wasn’t from the United States.

— Susan Claffey-Lundquist

Editor’s note: The article in question did not intend to dissuade anyone from pursuing a domestic adoption or to mislead about the options available. After thoroughly researching the possibilities, Jewel and Claude McRoberts determined that, based on their interests and family dynamics, international adoption was the best choice for them.

Since the article was published, Jewel Gory McRoberts ’04 and three friends who have also adopted children from Vietnam have begun a ministry called Moms for Vietnam. Through partnerships with churches and international aid organizations, they hope to start a home for orphans and to work at the problem of children being sold into the sex trade.

To learn more, visit www.momsforvietnam.com.
Ansel Clifford Owens ’54, January 30, Greenville. He was manager of Southern Motor Finance for 30 years and then worked for 20 Atco of Greenville. He held various offices in civic organizations, including the presidency of the Parker Rotary Club. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

Kay Wills Boll ’55, January 31, Asheville, N.C. She was a music teacher at the Buncombe County RC-5 School System for 38 years. She was Teacher of the Year at East Elementary School and was past president of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society.

Wilton McAlvie Cox, M ’55, January 3, Taylorsville, N.C. She was a retired teacher who taught at Slater-Marietta High School and in the High- \n
William M. “Port” Lindsey ’55, February 11, Spartanburg, S.C. Below enrolling at Furman, he was a three-sport star at what was then North Greenville Junior College and was inducted into the school’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004. He worked with Piber Labs Inc. as a pharmaceutical sales representative from 1957 to 1994. He served on the Spartanburg City Council from 1952 to 1996 and was active in the civic organization that, from which he was retired. Mary Lott Smith ’55, February 5, Williston, S.C. She worked in Williston School District for 29 years as a special education teacher after serving five years as an assistant principal and administrative assistant. Barbara Goodman Graham ’57, May 20, 2008, Aurora, Ill. She was a former representative from 1957 to 1996. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He held various offices in civic organizations, including the presidency of the Parker Rotary Club. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

Jerry Mills Stewart ’75, December 21, Piedmont, S.C. He was a retired assistant register with Greenville Technical College. He served in the U.S. Navy and was also served as assistant director of athletics, and was a reading supervisor in Greenville County schools. He was pastor of five churches in the U.S. Air Force veteran.

Martha Willis Gray O’Neal ’59, January 26, Summerville, S.C. She was a retired Peace Corps volunteer. She was also a member of the Furman drama/theatre department and was a reading supervisor in Greenville County schools.

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In November of 2006 the editors of SMITH Magazine, an on-line publication devoted to “storytelling, with a focus on personal narrative,” came up with an inspired idea: have readers submit six-word memoirs.

In essence, they challenged their readers to pen their life stories in text-message format. Communication, minimalist style; modern American haiku. After all, they reasoned, brevity in writing is a good thing, isn’t it? And let’s face it — attention spans ain’t what they used to be.

So the SMITH braintrust threw the idea out there, asking readers to be insightful, pithy, direct and biographical. All in six words. No more, no less.

The memoirs poured in — as many as 500 a day — from the famous (Joan Rivers, Stephen Colbert) and the obscure. Many were poignant: “I still make coffee for two.” “Wife died young; on the mend.” Others were suggestive: “Catholic school backfired. Sin is in!” “Saw a celestial event: ‘Brought it to a boil, often.’” Then, remembering spring term sophomore year: “Wish I’d gone bowling more often.” Wait — wasn’t it all about education? After a while, I came up with “Thank goodness for Individualized Curriculum Program.”

Well, maybe not so great. The exercise was definitely fun, though. And each memoir captures something that “stuck” with me through the years. But would the idea appeal to alumni and work as a magazine piece? This spring we tested it on the Young Alumni Council and Alumni Board — and received two supportive thumbs-up. Go for it, they said enthusiastically.

So we decided to extend the offer to alumni everywhere. Send your six-word Furman memoirs to jim.stewart@furman.edu or alumni@furman.edu, or to Jim Stewart, Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. 29613.

The guidelines are simple and few:
- Keep it clean. Hyphenated words may count as one or two, as needed. Include your name and class year; you must stand by your memoir. Don’t libel anyone, get personal or try to avenge a perceived slight. Rather than saying “All A’s except for English 11,” go with “All A’s except for Dr. Blowhard.”
- It’s all about education. After a while, I came up with “Thank goodness for Individualized Curriculum Program.”
- You’ll make your point.

The plan, assuming the response is good, will be to publish selected submissions in a future issue — maybe in two. We’ll also post them on the magazine Web page at www.furman.edu/fumag.

We hope you’ll enjoy doing this — and we look forward to including your memoirs in the magazine. For inspiration, or just for fun, visit www.smithmag.net and scroll through their ever growing list of six-word projects.

— JIM STEWART ’76, Editor