FEATURES

2 A New Era
BY JIM STEWART
The university celebrates the inauguration of Rodney A. Smolla in high style.

6 Engaging the Mind and the Spirit
BY RODNEY A. SMOLLA
Furman’s new president issues a challenge to build a campus culture that is a model for higher education, and by extension for society itself.

10 Field of Dreams
BY JUDITH HUTT BAINBRIDGE
In the 1920s and ‘30s, Manly Field was a showplace for Furman football—and home to some powerhouse teams.

14 Leap of Faith
BY ANDY PETERS
Paul Wallace has chosen to combine his academic foundation in physics with his Christian faith in an effort to reconcile science and religion.

18 Faulkner’s World
BY MARTIN GRAMLING
The Nobel Prize-winning author’s characters and locations come to life during a visit to the Mississippi county where he lived and worked.

DEPARTMENTS

22 BECAUSE FURMAN MATTERS 34 ALUMNI NEWS
24 FURMAN REPORTS 48 THE LAST WORD
The hawk appeared suddenly, gliding majestically over the crowd, just as Rodney Alan Smolla stepped to the microphone to deliver his inaugural address after being sworn in as the 11th president of Furman.

Rather than make a fly-by appearance, though, the bird decided to remain in the area. Finding a perch near the stage in one of the university’s signature oaks, it sat quietly as the new president touched on themes of civility, compassion and respect during his 20-minute address.

Although no official records have been kept, it is assumed that the hawk was the first of its breed to be on hand for a Furman inauguration.

Perhaps, somehow, it sensed the unusual nature of the occasion. As trustee chair Richard W. Riley ’54, who presided over the proceedings, told the crowd, they were witnesses to a rare moment in Furman’s 185-year existence.

“Presidential inaugurations have not occurred very often in the life of this institution,” he said. “Of the previous 10 presidents, only two held office less than 11 years. So it is with a keen sense of history that we gather today.”

Aside from the hawk’s appearance, several other firsts marked the installation of Rod Smolla on October 22.

This was the first such ceremony to take place outside, at least on the current campus, and given the magnificent weather — 60 degrees at march time, with brilliant sunshine — the venue couldn’t have been better. It was believed to be the first time that Plyler Hall of Thomas Science Center had been artistically rendered in cake form, courtesy of Kathy and Company of Easley, S.C. In addition, the inauguration featured two world premieres of compositions by music professor Mark Kilstofte, both commissioned especially for the occasion.

One piece, “This Amazing Day,” took its inspiration from a poem by E.E. Cummings and expressed gratitude “for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes.” For the other piece, “Sol La Fanfare,” Kilstofte harkened back to Renaissance times to honor Smolla by “carving” a musical subject from the president’s name. As the composer explained, “The syllables sol la re proclaim, Smolla the King!” Both a cappella pieces were performed beautifully by the Furman Singers under the direction of their new conductor, Hugh Floyd ’84.

As a whole, the inauguration received rave reviews as a true “feel good” experience for the university community, an inspiring launch for the new president, and a fitting culmination to an intense 72-hour period of events that began with the L.D. Johnson “What Really Matters” lecture by philosophy professor David Gandolfo on Tuesday, October 19.
Things moved into high gear on Thursday afternoon, when Smolla moderated a panel discussion on “Civility and Public Discourse” in Daniel Recital Hall. The 90-minute program featured students, faculty and alumni, including three participants on hand via remote hookups from Paris (NPR correspondent Eleanor Beardsley ’86), New York City (Carl Sullivan ’91, senior editor for MSN.com) and Winston-Salem, N.C. (Randy Eaddy ’76, an attorney and Furman trustee).

The panelists touched on a wide range of topics during the free-flowing exchange as they analyzed the American public’s growing inability to debate important topics without the conversation disintegrating into shouting and name-calling. Several pointed to our “sound-bite culture,” in which people have only shallow knowledge of issues, and world views and opinions are summed up in superficial, 30-second clips. Others touched on a growing public unwillingness to engage in substantive conversations, or to acknowledge that reasonable people should be able to disagree reasonably.

The panel’s consensus was that, despite having the ability to communicate in many more ways than in the past (Facebook, e-mail, blogs), people today are actually communicating less, tuning out the opposite side, and paying attention only to those opinions and sources that reflect their individual world views. As Cynthia King, a communication studies professor, said, discourse in American society today suffers from an overall “lack of good will, good faith and good intentions.”

Smolla would use his inaugural address the next day to expand on many of the themes and comments from the panel discussion. (See following story.)

To view the panel discussion, visit www.furman.edu/inauguration/index.htm.

After a banquet Thursday evening, the university turned out for a concert by the Furman Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Thomas Joiner ’76. The program featured Dvorak’s “Carnival Overture,” Beethoven’s Symphony No. 4, and Rachmaninoff’s “Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini,” with professor David Gross as piano soloist.

Then it was time for the main event. And following the 90-minute inaugural ceremony Friday morning, folks gathered for a casual lunch on the mall.

Once the lunch crowd scattered, the mall was quickly cleared and Furman transitioned seamlessly from inaugural mode to Homecoming 2010. (See page 24)

The last official inaugural event followed on Tuesday, October 26, when Holmes Robinson, professor emeritus of philosophy at Colorado State University, delivered the Charles H. Townes Lecture on Faith and Reason.

Although the pomp and circumstance had ended, the soaring high of Inauguration Week — symbolically represented by the hawk’s presence at the ceremony — will no doubt energize the campus for months to come. It was a grand and glorious occasion at which Furman put its best foot forward, and the good will and excitement generated will serve the university well as it moves forward into the Smolla Era.

— JAMES STEWART

Furman Mall was the perfect spot for the ceremony. Smolla chatted with former presidents David Shi, Dick Riley, and Clemson president James Barker as they “robed up;” macebearer Charles Brewer; the cake depicting the front of the Townes Center was a tasty hit.

Photos by David Crosby and Jeremy Fleming.
I n the very last paragraph of Mark Twain’s classic, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Huck tells us that he is planning to light out for the Western Territory because his aunt is out to “sivilize” him. As Huck laments, “I can’t stand it. I been down there before.” Throughout the book Huck has his issues with both Aunt Sally and Aunt Polly. At the risk of you thinking me a bit Pollyanna-ish myself, my opening theme is Huck’s closing theme: this problem he has with his heart and open minds. We may instead simply be listening tactically, with such breathtaking speed and ease that we ought to be living in a “golden age” of public discourse, worldwide.

Yet many of us feel a nagging disquiet. Quantity does not equate with quality. Yes, we may talk more than ever before. But when we talk, particularly about issues that really matter — in politics, in religion, in science or the arts — we have, as a culture, become more strident, more shrill, more angry. Our discussions are increasingly laced with personal attacks and cheap shots, a commitment to factual accuracy and intellectual honesty in our own advocacy, a de-emphasis on caricature, and no emphasis on character.

I know, and I appreciate, that many of our students and faculty members, our alumni and fellow citizens, have passionate feelings about the issues of our day. And in our passions we are often deeply and intensely engaged.

Trust me, I am not against that. I am not asking you to curb your enthusiasm. This is not a crusade for superficial politeness or political correctness. This is not a crusade for blandness, for a discourse that is shrill, for a discourse that is castic sound-bites. Perhaps most fundamentally, we may be talking more, yet we are listening less.

And when we do listen, we may not be listening with genuinely open hearts and open minds. We may instead simply be listening tactically, with no intention of learning for our case, listening for our chance to pounce, our opening to launch a counter-attack.

No one political party, no one religious viewpoint, no one space on the cultural spectrum has a monopoly on these bad habits. We are equal opportunity employees when it comes to the employment of devices that diminish the civility of our debates and in turn sap the strength of our democracy.

I urge you, however, to not despair! We have it in our power to effectuate a rescue. It can begin right now, here, at Furman.

To that end, let me now speak directly to our students.

My hope is that every single student at Furman will pursue and will receive a dual degree — one in academic discipline, and a second in the development of character. My hope is that all of you choose to major in the life of your mind and the growth of your spirit.

As you have heard me say before, and as you may expect to hear me repeat again and again, this experience is all about you. That is to say, it is all about you learning that life is not all about you.

The purpose of your education here, like the purpose of life itself, is not merely to acquire a credential. The point of life is not for you to enroll in the proper preschool so that you may enroll in an exemplary elementary school and move up to the right middle school, and then the right high school, and then the right college, and then the right graduate or professional school, and then the right job, and then the right promotion, and on and on and on, reducing life to something like an amusement park in which you traverse from ride to ride, or a video game in which you spend all your energy amassing points and powers and advancing from level to level — but in the end have nothing to show for the effort beyond the points themselves.

This is not to say that achievement has no place. It is to say that the meaning to be drawn from achievement must represent values deeper and closer to the heart than the achievement itself.

And so, at Furman, we would all deeply cherish the award of another Nobel Prize to one of our graduates — not for the sake of the bragging

James Clement, a member of the Furman faculty, has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the American Philosophical Society. A practicing physician, Dr. Clement has been a leader in the effort to improve the quality of medical education and to increase the number of students entering the field.

James E. Rogers, a member of the Furman faculty, has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Rogers has been a leader in the effort to improve the quality of medical education and to increase the number of students entering the field.

The purpose of your education here, like the purpose of life itself, is not merely to acquire a credential. The point of life is not for you to enroll in the proper preschool so that you may enroll in an exemplary elementary school and move up to the right middle school, and then the right high school, and then the right college, and then the right graduate or professional school, and then the right job, and then the right promotion, and on and on and on, reducing life to something like an amusement park in which you traverse from ride to ride, or a video game in which you spend all your energy amassing points and powers and advancing from level to level — but in the end have nothing to show for the effort beyond the points themselves.

This is not to say that achievement has no place. It is to say that the meaning to be drawn from achievement must represent values deeper and closer to the heart than the achievement itself.

And so, at Furman, we would all deeply cherish the award of another Nobel Prize to one of our graduates — not for the sake of the bragging
A Furman-style Day of Service

When alumni and friends were invited to model one of Furman’s core values—service—in honor of Rod Smillie’s inauguration, they suspended October 16 by taking part in a variety of projects and activities.

In Nashville, Tenn., Furman folks contributed to Salvation Army efforts, while the Charlotte, N.C., crowd worked with a crisis ministry program. In Philadelphia Furman was well represented in the Nephrotic Syndrome charity walk, while in Washington, D.C., alumni and friends helped with a walk for the homeless. Greenville’s Paladins volunteered with the American Diabetes Association charity run, and the Jacksonville group was involved with a program for the physically challenged.

Habitat for Humanity in Columbia, Ga., was also a beneficiary of the Day of Service. Cindy Black Sparks ’80, a member of the Alumni Association board, filed this report on the Columbia group’s experience:

Alumni old and young, current students, parents, and other friends of Furman joined forces in Columbia for the Day of Service in honor of President Smillie. Wearing our Furman caps and commemorative bandanas, 20 of us enjoyed catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

We did our share of work, too, raising the exterior walls of a house being built for an excited new homeowner. As we worked, we shared Furman stories, talking about which couples had become engaged during their Furman years, who knew whom in school, and which dorms everyone was living in or out of the classroom or come with prior understanding, each of us can reflect on some time during our Furman career where we were asked or required to fully engage in a task larger than ourselves without expecting anything in return.

“I came to celebrate, build and share that bond with alumni, parents and students. I hope that I will be able to some day group a small amount of the selflessness I found in talking to Furman alumni during this project,” Kate Martin Krieg ’04 provided an additional perspective: “I am so proud to be an alumna of a university that strongly encourages service. It was great to work with Furman friends to help make our local community a little better.”

There is, indeed, something about the Furman Family that draws people together. Even if it’s just passing a car with a Furman decal or seeing someone in a purple T-shirt, we immediately feel a connection.

At our Day of Service, we made new friends, renewed old acquaintances, created special memories, and pitched in to support a great Furman event. As always, I am proud to be a Furman President Smillie’s inauguration by demonstrating Furman’s never-ending traditions of service, support and community outreach.

Forever young. PJ
FURMAN
FALL 2010
By Judith T. Bainbridge

For 17 years, from the first home game of the 1919 season until the last hurrah — a victory over
The Citadel on October 10, 1936 — “one of the
most splendid athletic fields in the South” was
home to many of Furman’s finest football hours.

Located at the northeast corner of the
downtown campus, about where Greenville’s
Family Court building is today, Manly Field
was a modest structure. But since it offered
seating, an amenity unavailable at “the athletic
grounds on Augusta Road beyond Prentis
Avenue” that had served the team since
football was reinstated as a varsity sport in 1913, it was
enthusiastically welcomed.

In 1916, the board of trustees, notoriously
tight with money, agreed that the alumni-run
Athletic Association could raise funds to con-
struct a football field to be named for Furman’s
second president, Charles M. Manly. The boosters
went right to work, receiving $30,000 in pledges
from “alumni, friends, and interested people”
within a year and a half, but
first the war in Europe
and then Spanish in-
fluenza slowed construc-
tion.

Early in 1919, though, Gallivan Construction Co.
promised to complete the job in time for the fall
football season.

It did so, and a record-breaking crowd of
1,620 saw Furman play Oglethorpe College there
on October 4, 1919. Every seat in the home-team
grandstand on the west side of the newly graded
field was filled. (No other seats were provided.)

A sportswriter, impressed that “the full
field is seen at a glance from the concrete stands imbed-
ded in soil in amphitheatre style,” described the
facility as “a marvel of beauty where no expense
has been spared.”

The grandstand lacked a roof, although trees
surrounding the
field may have offered some shade.

At the 4 p.m. kickoff the temperature was 88
degrees, but neither heat nor broiling sun affected
the Furman players, as they defeated Oglethorpe
13-0 and started a
17-year tradition.

The statistics speak loudly: eight state
championships, a record of 124 wins, 42 losses
and 7 ties, and no losing season. (A 5-5 record in
1924 was redeemed by consecutive end-of-the-year
home victories over Clemson, South Carolina and
the University of Mississippi.)

The first eight years under W.L. (Billy)
Laval represented a golden age. Laval compiled
a 69-19-3 record, beat Clemson and Carolina six
times each, and coached the 1927 squad to a 10-1
record, including a 38-7 victory over Miami in the
predecessor to the Orange Bowl.

10

BY JUDITH T. BAINBRIDGE

11
L &W's success launched the university into big-time college football. While Furman continued to play state teams, such as Southern Baptist colleges (Richmond, Wake Forest, Mercer), and Prohibition rival Davidson, under Lloyd it also scheduled (and lost to) Alabama, Georgetown, West Virginia, Army and Bucknell, and defeated Virginia, Florida and even Iowa! That win was really the big time, since the Bulldogs constantly stomped on the Hurricane.

In his history of Greenville County, A.W. Huff, former dean and professor of history at Furman, tells the story of alumnus Norwood Cleveland, who swore that if his team finally beat Georgia, he would walk the 101 miles from Athens to Greenville. When Furman beat Georgia, he would walk the 101 miles to Royston. The next day, Cleveland crossed the state line and marched into Anderson.

Initially, Cleveland recalled, he had planned to do the walk in three days, but arrangements could not be made for a Tuesday celebration. So "they sent a couple of reporters from the News downtown," he said. For his part, Cleveland had told the Furman team. "They even had me in the movie newsreels downtown," he recalled. For his part, Cleveland had told the Furman team, "They even had me in the movie newsreels downtown, 'King of Sports' and 'king of sports,' and presented a football team." The paper had reported on his promise, "and everybody knew about it."

So he cheerfully began the journey from the goalpost at Georgia's Sanford Field. A friend who had joined him at the gates agreed to accompany him on the first leg, and they made it to Royston. The next day, Cleveland crossed the state line and marched into Anderson.

Years later, in a 1972 interview with the Atlanta Journal Constitution, a 67-year-old Cleveland described the situation. "There was no getting out of it," he said, the paper had reported on his promise, "and everybody knew about it."

Although men and women were not permitted to travel alone, the students were happy to accompany him. "They even had me in the movie newsreels downtown, 'King of Sports' and 'king of sports,'" he said. For his part, Cleveland had told the Furman team. "They even had me in the movie newsreels downtown, 'King of Sports' and 'king of sports,' and presented a football team." The paper had reported on his promise, "and everybody knew about it."

So he cheerfully began the journey from the goalpost at Georgia's Sanford Field. A friend who had joined him at the gates agreed to accompany him on the first leg, and they made it to Royston. The next day, Cleveland crossed the state line and marched into Anderson. Initially, Cleveland recalled, he had planned to do the walk in three days, but arrangements could not be made for a Tuesday celebration. So "they sent a couple of reporters from the News downtown," he said. For his part, Cleveland had told the Furman team, "They even had me in the movie newsreels downtown, 'King of Sports' and 'king of sports,' and presented a football team," the paper had reported on his promise, "and everybody knew about it."

So he cheerfully began the journey from the goalpost at Georgia's Sanford Field. A friend who had joined him at the gates agreed to accompany him on the first leg, and they made it to Royston. The next day, Cleveland crossed the state line and marched into Anderson.

Initially, Cleveland recalled, he had planned to do the walk in three days, but arrangements could not be made for a Tuesday celebration. So “they sent a couple of reporters from the News downtown,” he said. For his part, Cleveland had told the Furman team, “They even had me in the movie newsreels downtown, ‘King of Sports’ and ‘king of sports,’ and presented a football team.”

The Greenville News reported that “men close to Furman’s chief success story, Norwood Cleveland’s Victory March, would walk the 101 miles back to Athens. The paper had reported on his promise, “and everybody knew about it.”

Eventually the entire student body and several hundred townfolk turned out to greet his arrival at Manly Field October 20 — recorded at 6:12 p.m. He was met with cheers of “Naughty, you’re the best sport in Greenville,” treated to a parade down Main Street, crossed “king of sports,” and presented a football autographed by the Furman team. “They even had me in the movie newsreels downtown,” he recalled. For his part, Cleveland had told the paper that he felt “joy in every step.”

He went on to serve as postmaster of Marietta, S.C., for 39 years and stayed a staunch Furman supporter throughout his life. When he died in 1987, his obituary listed his greatest claim to fame as his walk from Athens to Greenville.

— JIM STEWART

WALK OF FAME

Norwood Cleveland’s Victory March

A s a young man, Norwood Cleveland was a devoted Furman football fan — so devoted that, in October of 1926, he made a bold promise. At a Furman practice, Cleveland, a member of the Class of 1913, vowed that should the university upset Georgia in Athens — a rare accomplishment for the team of that day — he would walk the 101 miles back to Greenville.

You guessed it. On October 16, W.L. Level’s squad stunned Georgia 14–7. Mr. Greenville-base reporter that “men close to the team believe [Cleveland’s] promise substantially aided Furman’s morale in the conflict.”

And Cleveland was ready to make good on his commitment. Years later, in a 1972 interview with the Atlanta Journal Constitution, a 67-year-old Cleveland described the situation. “There was no getting out of it,” he said, the paper had reported on his promise, “and everybody knew about it.”

Although Furman president Benette E. Gour was opposed, in 1914 the trustees voted to solicit funds to build a new, bigger stadium. They mortgaged property and borrowed $23,200 from the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. to buy the land. On Halloween Day in 1916, Furman christened Sirrine Stadium with a victory over Davidson.

Mandy Field was not abandoned. It hosted Sally League baseball games, served as Furman’s ROTC drill ground. But never again would it serve as Furman’s home of football.

Perhaps coincidentally, the university as a whole improved dramatically during the golden years. It was accredited for the first time; its faculty salaries. Enrollment fell and Furman’s student body — and several hundred Greenville residents. (See accompanying story.)

Although men and women were not permitted to travel alone, the students were happy to accompany him. "They even had me in the movie newsreels downtown, 'King of Sports' and 'king of sports,'" he said. For his part, Cleveland had told the Furman team, "They even had me in the movie newsreels downtown, 'King of Sports' and 'king of sports,' and presented a football team." The paper had reported on his promise, "and everybody knew about it."

So he cheerfully began the journey from the goalpost at Georgia's Sanford Field. A friend who had joined him at the gates agreed to accompany him on the first leg, and they made it to Royston. The next day, Cleveland crossed the state line and marched into Anderson. Initially, Cleveland recalled, he had planned to do the walk in three days, but arrangements could not be made for a Tuesday celebration. So “they sent a couple of reporters from the News downtown,” he said. For his part, Cleveland had told the Furman team, “They even had me in the movie newsreels downtown, ‘King of Sports’ and ‘king of sports,’ and presented a football team.”

The Greenville News reported that “men close to Furman’s chief success story, Norwood Cleveland’s Victory March, would walk the 101 miles back to Athens. The paper had reported on his promise, “and everybody knew about it.”

Eventually the entire student body and several hundred townfolk turned out to greet his arrival at Manly Field October 20 — recorded at 6:12 p.m. He was met with cheers of “Naughty, you’re the best sport in Greenville,” treated to a parade down Main Street, crossed “king of sports,” and presented a football autographed by the Furman team. “They even had me in the movie newsreels downtown,” he recalled. For his part, Cleveland had told the paper that he felt “joy in every step.”

He went on to serve as postmaster of Marietta, S.C., for 39 years and stayed a staunch Furman supporter throughout his life. When he died in 1987, his obituary listed his greatest claim to fame as his walk from Athens to Greenville.

— JIM STEWART
After trying to make sense of the world from an intellectual point of view, Paul Wallace now tackles the tough questions from a spiritual perspective.

Paul Wallace spent a decade teaching Berry College students about quantum mechanics, general relativity and the history of astronomy. Before he became a professor, Wallace received training as an experimental nuclear physicist on a particle accelerator at Duke University, where he earned his Ph.D. He later worked alongside NASA scientists analyzing data gathered from a gamma-ray observatory.

Wallace chose that career path because, according to friends and family members, he has always been preoccupied with figuring out how the world works.

But over the past decade, Wallace gradually realized that those intellectual pursuits weren’t answering the questions that he really wanted answered. Specifically, he decided he wanted to combine his academic foundation in physics with his Christian faith in an effort to reconcile science and religion.

In a nutshell, Wallace wants to know the answers to life, the universe and, in general, everything. “I felt like I had gotten from science all I could get from it,” he says. “The questions I wanted to address weren’t really answered by science, questions of meaning and purpose. I don’t think scientific understanding is the only understanding that is important.”

So Wallace, a 1990 Furman graduate, did what his professional colleagues and many family members least expected of him. In 2008 he quit his tenured job as an associate professor at Berry to enroll in divinity school.

The career switch doesn’t include plans for Wallace, a 42-year-old father of three, to take a steady-paying job as a church pastor or a hospital chaplain, even though he will be ordained as a Baptist minister in 2011.

Instead, he wants to pursue a ministry that primarily involves writing for his blog, “Positive Science/Negative Theology,” which, among other things, engages its readers in dialogues about how they reconcile their Christian faith with evolution and other theories of science, and takes a critical look at pseudoscience, such as creationism. He plans eventually to convert the ideas, discussions and stories on his blog into a book. Visit the blog at http://psnt.net/blog.

Wallace, an Atlanta native, says his wife, Elizabeth Sides Wallace ‘91, “thinks I’m crazy. Some family members do, too.” But he also points out that Elizabeth believes in him enough that she left her own job to return with him to his hometown while he enrolled in seminary.

Through an Emory University program, Paul Wallace traveled to India to share his knowledge of physics with exiled Tibetan Buddhists.

Keith Pierce ’88, a Furman friend who is married to Wallace’s sister, Kristen, says, “Paul gave up the kind of security most of us dream of for the leap of faith in which he still finds himself. It was a scary move, and most people I know couldn’t sacrifice that kind of security to follow their call.”

But another of Wallace’s Furman friends, Jerry Salley ’90, isn’t surprised by the unorthodox career move. Nor is Salley intimidated by his friend’s apparent lack of concern about what people think of his decision.

“Without even mentioning a name, if you had told me about a physics Ph.D. who was leaving his tenured professorship to enter divinity school, I would have said, ‘Hmm, that sounds like Paul Wallace,’” says Salley, who was Wallace’s bandmate in the punk-rock group Battalion G dismay that formed at Furman in 1989. “As far as I can tell, Paul never fit anybody’s exact model of anything, nor was he particularly concerned with doing so.”
By happy coincidence, less than two years after he dropped his gig as a professional physicist, Wallace was asked to put direct application to his fascination with how science and religion interact.

After leaving Berry, Wallace enrolled in Emory University’s Candler School of Theology. In 1999 Emory, through its longstanding relationship with the Dalai Lama, established the Emory-Tibet Science Initiative to “expand the horizons of knowledge for Tibetan monks and nuns” and to provide a comprehensive education in Western science, according to the university. To carry out that mission, the university regularly sends faculty members to India to teach science to the Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns who are living in exile from the People’s Republic of China, which occupies Tibet territory.

Through Candler School connections, people involved in the Emory-Tibet Science Initiative became aware of Wallace’s background in physics. When an Emory faculty member who was scheduled to travel to India as part of the 2010 summer program backed out because of a professional conflict, Wallace was asked to take his place.

Once again, he found himself teaching astronomy — only this time his classroom was located near the village of Dharamsala in the Himalayan foothills of northern India, and his students were Tibetan monks who dressed in dark red robes and sat on the floor. Wallace’s lectures, about the lives cycles of stars, were translated by a Tibetan interpreter.

Wallace spent two weeks in India, where he ate plenty of Indian food and tolerated two four-hour taxi rides between Delhi and the village near Dharamsala in which the taxi driver attacked Indian food and tolerated two four-hour taxi rides between Delhi and the village near Dharamsala on the road as if he were playing a video game.

The India trip was especially poignant for Wallace for another reason. Long before his visit there, he had developed a profound and in many ways uncomfortable fascination with Buddhism. Many of the posts on Wallace’s blog deal with his exploration of Buddhism and his interest in interfaith dialogue.

His engagement with Buddhism has become so intense that he calls himself “a Christian with a Buddhist roots.” Moreover, the way he describes his religious beliefs has changed over time. In earlier blog posts he said he was a Christian in practice and a Buddhist at heart. “I never wanted to be a Buddhist. I’m embarrassed to say how fascinated I am with Buddhism,” Wallace says, adding that sometimes he feels as if he “shouldn’t” on Christianity.

Wallace says he and the Buddhist monks enjoyed interesting exchanges about theories of physics. Although the monks had been exposed to modern science during their childhoods, some concepts were completely new to them. Wallace’s description of subtle points of Einstein’s theories of general relativity and special relativity prompted one monk to tell him, “You are in error.”

Wallace was later able to explain the concepts to the skeptical monk’s satisfaction.

But the monks were receptive to many other theories of physics and astronomy, such as the existence of black holes. Part of the reason they were so receptive, Wallace says, is that scientific tenets don’t challenge the principles of Buddhism.

“None of those things conflicted with their Buddhist beliefs,” he points out. “They don’t have a problem with the idea of a time machine.”

Wallace’s interest in Buddhism is rooted partly in its similarity to science. Buddhism has a “pragmatic, empirical, no-nonsense” approach to faith, he says, and the Buddha didn’t ask questions like “Where is God?” or “Where did the world come from?” because those questions didn’t help him reach his goal of relieving the suffering of others.

While Buddhism may not be concerned with these types of metaphysical questions, Wallace is. He wrestles with them in his blog and plans to address them in his book. Having tried to make sense of the world from the intellectual point of view, he now wants to tackle those questions from the spiritual perspective. “I’m a big guy-down kind of person,” Wallace says, “and purely scientific questions are not what captivate me anymore.”

Instead, he is now more interested in how the religious beliefs of people of faith are affected — either positively or negatively — by the discoveries of modern science.

As is evident throughout his blog, Wallace doesn’t have much patience with the parodies of pseudosciences like creationism. In one of his postings, he compares a passage from the Institute for Creation Research, a Dallas-based group that promotes Biblical creationism, tries to make the argument that the Earth’s position in the Universe is “located at a very special location by design.”

“That’s a big no-can-do, crackerjack,” Wallace writes. “The people who write this stuff know that their arguments are nonsense. They’re much too smart to believe this stuff. It’s politics, folks, not science.”

But Wallace’s blog is far from limited to poking holes in ideological warriors like the Institute for Creation Research, although when he does sharpen his knives, he doses his critiques with an ample portion of humor and wit. Many of his posts are personal and discuss sensitive topics, such as the reasons he aban-
doned Christianity while at Furman. In the conversations he had with believers while still in college, and how those conversations helped him return to his faith.

“Not a Positive Science/Negative Theology” continued to the mass feeling around Wallace’s brain. Many posts find him responding to intellectual ideas from a wide range of sources, such as one entry about the philosopher-psychologist William James’ description of mystical experiences. Wallace is also engaged in an ongoing on-line discussion with an atheist in Tokyo about whether to treat your own mystical experiences.

Wallace uses his blog to display an unwavering tolerance of ideas from all corners of intellectual thought, from cutting-edge particle physics to the attempts by the Creation Museum of Kentucky to disprove the theory of evolution. His goal is to try to answer the ultimate questions about our existence.

The Institute for Creation Research, a Dallas-based group that promotes Biblical creationism, tries to make the argument that the Earth’s position in the Universe is “located at a very special location by design.”

“That’s a big no-can-do, crackerjack,” Wallace writes. “The people who write this stuff know that their arguments are nonsense. They’re much too smart to believe this stuff. It’s politics, folks, not science.”

But Wallace’s blog is far from limited to poking holes in ideological warriors like the Institute for Creation Research, although when he does sharpen his knives, he doses his critiques with an ample portion of humor and wit. Many of his posts are personal and discuss sensitive topics, such as the reasons he aban-
doned Christianity while at Furman. In the conversations he had with believers while still in college, and how those conversations helped him return to his faith.

“Not a Positive Science/Negative Theology” continued to the mass feeling around Wallace’s brain. Many posts find him responding to intellectual ideas from a wide range of sources, such as one entry about the philosopher-psychologist William James’ description of mystical experiences. Wallace is also engaged in an ongoing on-line discussion with an atheist in Tokyo about whether to treat your own mystical experiences.
Pulling off interstate 78 onto one of the Mississippi backroads that presumably would deposit us pilgrims in Oxford, our Jerusalem, was a surreal experience. Interstate highways are always safe territory no matter what strange country they may traverse. To exit the interstate, however, is an act of faith and fortitude, especially in a place like Mississippi, a place-name which even for a South Carolina boy evokes tall tales of gruesome exoticism.

As our car turned onto a narrow tree-shaded lane, which according to a faded road sign led to a place called “Pontotoc” (a neighbor of Oxford, we could only pray), I was reminded of William Faulkner’s translation of Agamemnon’s lament to Ulysses: “As I lay dying, the woman with dog’s eyes refused to close my eyes for me as I went down to Hades.”

Led by English professor Willard Pate, whose passion for Faulkner knows no bounds, our class had spent the 2010 spring semester studying the author’s semi-fictional Yoknapatawpha County. Now eight of us had come to Lafayette County, not only because it was Faulkner’s home, but because Lafayette County is Yoknapatawpha County, and Oxford is Faulkner’s town of Jefferson. The characters and locations in such novels as *The Sound and the Fury*, *As I Lay Dying* and *Absalom, Absalom!* are modeled on the real people and places among whom Faulkner lived.

Faulkner’s most famous line reminds us: “The past is never dead. It is not even past.” And indeed, the past hangs heavy over Mississippi. Vestiges of Faulkner’s life and times still haunt the landscape. The sacred shrine of our pilgrimage was Rowan Oak, Faulkner’s home in Oxford, which has been preserved almost exactly as it was when he died in 1962. Cedar trees, those ever-present sentinels of southern graveyards, lined the gravel drive through the ruined garden (which Faulkner left purposefully dilapidated) to his imposingly columned front porch.

A trip to Oxford, Mississippi, offers students the chance to experience firsthand the area that inspired the Nobel laureate’s work.
Perhaps the greatest difference between the real and fictional counties is that Yoknapatawpha is timeless, but Lafayette is not. Yoknapatawpha will always be available for exploration and discovery, but the Lafayette County that Faulkner knew will eventually disappear.

Of course we wanted to see, so Molly and Emily introduced us to Harris, Junior, a spindly legged, confused-looking bull calf that epitomized the sort of warmth and fuzziness that strikes you when you think of farming. It’s the sort of warmth and fuzziness that little boys are innately motivated to destroy, and Harris Senior, now provided with an audience, was no exception. He climbed the fence, ran up to the calf, and kicked the defenseless animal squarely in the nose.

This act of aggression elicited gasps and even screams from the audience, which only encouraged the young ruf

New Mississippi is not Hades. In fact, as I thought about our car Mendel back onto Interstate 28 to head for home, it is inexplicably compelling. As field and tree again gave way to asphalt and automobile, I thought I could be perfectly happy spending every day of my life sipping bourbon with Billy Faulkner on his porch, while Billy Ray’s kids ran squabbling through the yard.

And I don’t even like bourbon. Or kids.

This article appeared in its original form in Engage magazine, Volume 6, Issue 3, a publication of the Office of Admission. The author (first name, e.g., LC-U3626-5423). Other photos by Willard Pate.

Mr. Brown instructed us in the basics of dairy farming. It’s an intensive process; the cows must be milked every day, “including Christmas and Easter,” she reminded us. We were invited to become involved in a hands-on way. I confess that my skill at milking cows is somewhat lacking, a fact that Molly and Emily made sure to rub in my face.

We did enjoy tasting the end product. Nor-

Molly and Emily now had us firmly within their power. They issued each of us a nickname. They had made his point. His dominance asserted, he did not need to follow up his

For a 2010 graduate from Charleston, S.C., works for an international design-build company. Although he majored in political science, he says he most enjoyed the classes he took in history and English — the former for showing him that “life devoted to the study of ninth century Norman clerical vestments is not, in fact, wasted,” and the latter for encouraging him to see “a persianic savagery called writing.”

Photo of William Faulkner: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Carl Van Vechten Collection (reproduction number, e.g., LC- U3626-5423). Other photos by Willard Pate.

Perhaps the greatest difference between the real and fictional counties is that Yoknapatawpha is timeless, but Lafayette is not. Yoknapatawpha will always be available for exploration and discovery, but the Lafayette County that Faulkner knew will eventually disappear.

Mrs. Brown instructed us in the basics of dairy farming. It’s an intensive process; the cows must be milked every day, “including Christmas and Easter,” she reminded us. We were invited to become involved in a hands-on way. I confess that my skill at milking cows is somewhat lacking, a fact that Molly and Emily made sure to rub in my face.

This act of aggression elicited gasps and even screams from the audience, which only encouraged the young ruf

New Mississippi is not Hades. In fact, as I thought about our car Mendel back onto Interstate 28 to head for home, it is inexplicably compelling. As field and tree again gave way to asphalt and automobile, I thought I could be perfectly happy spending every day of my life sipping bourbon with Billy Faulkner on his porch, while Billy Ray’s kids ran squabbling through the yard.

And I don’t even like bourbon. Or kids. 9

This article appeared in its original form in Engage magazine, Volume 6, Issue 3, a publication of the Office of Admission. The author (first name, e.g., LC-U3626-5423). Other photos by Willard Pate.
Parents, grandparents accept challenge, surpass $1 million in gifts

THE 2009-10 FISCAL YEAR proved to be a milestone in fundraising among current and former Furman parents and grandparents.

For the first time, they combined to contribute more than $1 million to the university to support annual operating needs. “Furman parents and grandparents continue to see firsthand the difference that contributions make in the educational experiences of our students,” says Judy Wilson, director of parents programs. “These funds support a wide variety of programs, including study away, athletics, undergraduate research and internships, sustainability, student life, performing and fine arts, scholarships, and service learning.”

Much of the impetus for the success of the Furman Fund drive came from a challenge introduced by the Parents Campaign Committee, chaired by John and Ellen Yates. The committee issued a $50,000 challenge to members of Parents Council, the volunteer leadership group of current Furman parents. Parents Council, chaired by Buck and Debbie Wearn, matched the PCC challenge with an additional $50,000 in leadership gifts. Says Buck Wearn, “Furman recognizes the great commitment parents and grandparents make to support the university’s mission. We are proud of the strong support we’ve shown, and we look forward to providing continued support for daily operations.”

In all, Furman parents and grandparents have contributed almost $25 million toward the $400 million Because Furman Matters campaign.

Visit www.furman.edu/parents or e-mail judy.wilson@furman.edu to learn more about parents programs.

Campaign progress to date

FURMAN IS MORE than three-quarters of the way toward completing the $400 million Because Furman Matters campaign.

At the close of the 2009-10 fiscal year June 30, the university had raised $377.5 million in gifts and pledges, and had celebrated such achievements as the dedication of the Townes Center for Science, the launch of a permanent endowment for the Lilly Center for Vocational Reflection, and the creation of Furman United, a scholarship fund to aid students who are facing financial hardships.

In the coming year, Furman will be revitalizing the campaign under the direction of new president Rod Snow. The campaign will refocus on such ongoing goals as building the university’s endowment, boosting scholarship support, and expanding internship, research, study away and faculty development programs.

BOB SWOFFORD was a member of an impressive group of chemistry graduates in Furman’s Class of 1965. He and the six other chemistry majors in the class — Coleman Arnold, Dan Davisson, Jerry Dillahunty, Robert McKeown, Bob Posey and David Shull — all went on to earn either doctorates or medical degrees.

Swafford received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California, then worked as a research associate at Cornell University and as a research scientist in chemical and applied physics with BP Research. In 1995 he joined the faculty at Wake Forest University and quickly became a highly respected teacher and mentor, receiving the university’s Advisor of the Year Award for his impact on students. When he died last March, the Wake Forest community mourned his loss.

His obituary stated, “A passion for education and the pursuit of knowledge fueled him every day. . . . [H]e will be remembered for his gentle spirit, his intellectual curiosity, and his beautiful singing voice.”

Swafford considered the Furman chemistry department’s summer research program to be a major factor in launching his career as a scientist and educator. Knowing of his respect for the Furman program, friends and family have created the Robert L. Swafford Endowed Fund in his honor to support summer research at Furman.

The fund will provide a stipend to students who major in chemistry and conduct research full time during the summer. Student recipients will be designated Swafford Scholars.

To support the Swafford Fund, or to learn more about establishing an endowed fund, contact betty.mosley@furman.edu, (667) 284-491.

Friends help Bob Swafford’s legacy live on

PHIL HOWARD

The author is director of donor marketing at Furman.
Homecoming highlights

WITH SUNNY SKIES, 70-degree weather and a perfect inauguration as a leader, Homecoming 2010 October 22-24 was a major success. Along with the annual traditions — float building on the mall, reunions and football excitement — several alumni and current students were recognized for their accomplishments.

Alumni who received top honors at the awards breakfast Saturday morning (opposite page, bottom left): Greg Hill ’91, Nashville music industry executive, Distinguished Alumni Award; Susan Thomson Shi ’71, educator, community leader and First Lady of Furman from 1994-2010, Gordon L. Blackwell Alumni Service Award; Chad Bennett ’03, vice president with Reveille, a television production company in Los Angeles, Wayne and Rubye Reid Award for contributions to the career development of Furman students; and Lauren Kelley Briles ’02 and Timothy Briles ’01, Greenville business and community leaders, Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Robbie Gilson ’13 of Norcross, Ga. (opposite page, top left), endured various indignities (including being required to dress like Buzz Lightyear) during the weeklong, Survivor-like HAVOC competition to emerge in first place and claim $1,000 for his charity, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Before the football game against Tennessee-Chattanooga, junior linebacker and team captain Kadarron Anderson (opposite page, middle) was presented the Palmetto Patriot Award by South Carolina lieutenant governor Andre Bauer in recognition of Anderson’s contributions and commitment to his fellow citizens and the state of South Carolina. It is the highest honor the lieutenant governor can bestow. Anderson, who grew up in the Connie Maxwell Children’s Home in Greenwood, was recognized for his work with young people. He frequently speaks in schools and other settings about the values of determination and a positive attitude.
$3.4 million gift to support Bridges’ expanded efforts

WHEN CASEY CRISP was a student at Travelers Rest High School earlier this decade, Furman’s Bridges to College program opened a new world for her. "My experience with Bridges undoubtedly changed my life," she says. "I was a first-generation college student, and the support and encouragement I received from the program were essential parts of making college a reality for me."

Crisp, a 2009 Furman graduate, is now in her second year of teaching social studies at Mauldin (S.C.) High School. She says, “While Bridges certainly prepared me for the college admissions process, I found that it better prepared me for life. Bridges helped me become an open-minded, resilient and confident leader who could look beyond my circumstances and imagine a better future for myself.

Which is exactly what it is meant to do: provide encouragement, support and academic enrichment opportunities to students in Greenville County high schools whose personal circumstances might otherwise prevent them from fulfilling their potential.

Bridges was launched in 1997 by a founding gift from Greenville native Monte F. Brice, who received an honorary degree from Furman earlier this year. Now, thanks to a $18 million commitment from an anonymous donor, the program will expand to support beyond high school and provide its graduates with an array of services after they enroll in college. The commitment includes $850,000 to be paid over the next three years, and $3 million in the form of a bequest.

Tobi Swartz, director of Bridges, says, “While 100 percent of the program’s graduates study at Greenville, only nine percent of our students continue to high school and provide its graduates with an array of services after they enroll in college. The commitment includes $850,000 to be paid over the next three years, and $3 million in the form of a bequest.

Bridges students are from homes where the average income is less than $15,000. Many are struggling to overcome personal and family issues. They are nominated for the program as ninth-graders by teachers and counselors, and once selected they remain in the program throughout their high school years. They participate in an annual four-week summer residential experience on the Furman campus and receive year-round tutoring and assistance through a “Saturday College” program.

In addition to Furman, members of the 2010 Bridges graduating class were accepted to such institutions as Harvard, Wake Forest, New York University, Oxford College at Emory University, and Ohio State. Seventy-five students are participating in Bridges this academic year.

Casey Crisp is just one of many Bridges success stories. After graduating from high school and enrolling at Furman, she chose to give back by spending her summers as a counselor to Bridges students. It was then, she says, that she realized the program’s true value.

“I watched students change from shy, insecure teenagers to confident, well-spoken and driven young people,” she says. “I witnessed change from shy, insecure teenagers to confident, well-spoken and driven young people.”

When Crisp graduated from Furman, she was even taller because her fellow graduates had donated their senior class gift of $46,000, which Bridges students will attend before they enroll in college. “Crossing” will also provide advising and support for the students throughout their first year in college.

Mike Gatchell, Furman’s vice president for development, says, “The donors’ gift has resulted in the sort of special attention in high school that changed the direction of his life and led to a highly successful career. Because Bridges is dedicated to recognizing students’ talents and encouraging them to pursue their dreams, she felt it was a worthwhile program to support.”

Furman Fellows named; Year of Global Citizenship begins

LANCE: the “Year of Global Citizenship” at its Opening Convocation September 2.

What does a global citizenship mean?

The Furman community will find out through programs, seminars and lectures designed to determine how students and groups impact the world around us.

Kara Shultz: ‘11 (middle in photo), a political science major pursuing concentrations in poverty studies and environmental studies, is spearheading the student effort to analyze what it is to be a global citizen in today’s world.

As the keynote speaker at convocation, she outlined the plans for the program, whose goal is to promote “critical evaluation and responsible citizenship.”

Shultz, from Hoover, Ala., is also one of this year’s Furman Fellows, all of whom were recruited at convocation.

The Furman community will conduct an “integrity pledge” to formalize the character and principles that govern Furman academics. It is not to be mistaken for the honor code, although it is a possible step in that direction.

The purpose of the pledge is to formalize the character and principles that are already implicit at Furman. As a guide, it is meant to be an overarching representation of the more concrete and institutional rules and regulations that govern Furman academics. It is not to be mistaken for an honor code; although it is a possible step in that direction.

The pledge has been posted in classrooms, residence halls and public areas around campus.

Adopted student-driven integrity pledge

"It is the desire of Furman University to unite its members in a collective commitment to integrity. In so doing, Furman University strives to teach its members to live in the spirit of humility, respect, and responsibility. Therefore, it is the expectation that all members of the Furman University community will conduct themselves with integrity in all endeavors. In honoring these values and ideals, we will be a living testament to integrity and character."

More from Opening Convocation on page 37.

JEREMY FLEMIN
Washington Center honors Furman

FURMAN HAS BEEN NAMED Private University of the Year by The Washington Center, an independent, non-profit organization that provides college students the opportunity to work and learn in the nation’s capital for academic credit.Founded in 1975, the center serves a global network of students and colleges that extends throughout the United States and abroad.

The award recognizes the longstanding collaboration between Furman and the center. Furman was honored October 4 in Washington.

Furman students have taken part in the Washington Internship Program for almost three decades, spending a spring or summer in the nation’s capital and learning firsthand about politics. Danielle Vinson, chair of the political science department, says nearly 920 Furman students have interned and earned academic credit through the center.

Vinson says, “Furman’s partnership with The Washington Center has had a tremendous impact on our students. I frequently hear stories from students about how the program helped them decide on a career path and prepared them for the real world, or brought to life what they had been learning in their classes on campus.”

The centerpiece of the program is an internship arranged and tailored to each student’s individual interests. Interns may work on Capitol Hill or with a government agency, interest group, law office, or one of several federal institutions.

Michael B. Smith, president of The Washington Center, says, “Among our 500 affiliated institutions, Furman has stood out for the seriousness with which it prepares students for their future and for the breadth and depth of participation from faculty and, of course, itself. We are delighted to honor the university for the excellence of its program and the efforts of all involved.”

The University of Iowa was named the center’s Public University of the Year, and the University of Massachusetts System the System of the Year.

The Washington Center program is the largest of its kind, with 70 full-time staff and more than 4,000 alumni.

Professors appointed to endowed chairs

SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE FURMAN FACULTY were appointed to endowed professorships this fall.

In making the announcement, John Beckford, dean of the faculty, said, “These outstanding professors were selected in recognition of their record of teaching, scholarship and service to Furman. We are fortunate to have the support of generous donors who understand the value of a strong faculty and the resources needed to help in its development.”

Gifts from donors and foundations support 24 endowed professorships and six rotating professorships at Furman. Faculty members who received lifetime appointments were:

- Gilbert Allen, Bennett E. Gvoir Professor of Literature, Allen, an award-winning writer, has been a member of the English faculty since 1977.
- Sam Britt, Gordon Pitzer Professor of Asian Studies and Religion, Britt, a 1972 Furman graduate, joined the faculty in 1992.
- Kate Kepp, James B. Duke Associate Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies. She joined the faculty in 1997.
- David Sturtevant, Horning Professor of Philosophy and Asian Studies. Sturtevant has taught at Furman since 1982. Recipients of limited term appointments were:
- Suvini Muthukrishnan, Henry Keith and Ellen Hard Times Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences (two years). He has been a member of the department since 2002.
- Travis Perry, Henry Keith and Ellen Hard Times Associate Professor of Biology (two years). A 1992 alumna, she joined the faculty in 2000.
- Doug Ball, Herman N. Herp Professor of Mathematics (three years). Ball has taught at Furman since 1976.
Prior remembered for wit, commitment, dedication to teaching

As the fall semester began, Furman was saddened by the untimely death of Richard Prior, associate professor of classics. He died August 24 at age 47 of complications from pneumonia.

A native of Synaceca, N.Y., Prior, who had taught at Furman since 1994, was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and held a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He was the author of five books, including 511 Latin Verbs, considered a seminal work in the field.

Prior was known for his generous nature, warm smile, and boundless enthusiasm for his students. In a tribute, his departmental colleagues said, “This student will remember his self-deprecating humor, his love of culture from the very high (Lycée, Versailles) to the very low (Wrigley, Budweiser), and his willingness to share his life’s adventures and innumerable enthusiasms (his dogs, oenology, re-creating the Civil War, Asian cooking).

“Their wishes will remain his uncompro- mising dedication to teaching and his tireless scholarship on the pedagogy of Latin. Mostly, they will remember his ability to reach out to students who needed a counselor or simply a friend, and the innate loyalty and boundless generosity he offered with an open heart.”

“People knew him because of his smile, and his students knew him as a colleague. He was a person without pretense, he was a person who listened.”

For a kid in foreign country, it felt nice to be able to relate to somebody, even if he was a Sabres fan!”

At the end of winter term that year, Williams developed mononucleosis. The illness forced him to miss the first week of spring classes and, combined with other issues, made him question whether he should remain at Furman.

When he stopped by Prior’s office one afternoon shortly after his return, he recalls the professor greeting him with, “You’re normal about you, Michael. You’ve had a tough year, and you look like hell!”

Then, for the next few months, Prior shared stories about his own college struggles and of adjusting to life in the South.

Williams writes, “At that moment I recognized that what I was experiencing was not foreign, that others had been through what I had been through and had survived. I don’t recall seeing more than 15 words in that memo- rial but I felt like the weight of the world was off my shoulders.”

That day left an indelible mark on me. Dr. Prior had a way of connecting on a human level with a lost and lonely student seemed so off-limits for him. That he could sit in his office, or with an entire classroom of students, and relate to each student about his personal successes and triumphs made him real.

“Looking back, it is easy to see what made him such a phenomenal teacher. He was a person without pretense. What you saw was what you got.”

Illma Fisher Burkhardt ’99 also recalls Prior’s compassionate nature. During a study abroad trip to Italy with Prior, she and some friends received a stray puppy and “smuggled” it along on a tour of the romes at Pamplona. They returned to the back of the group to try to avoid being caught, but as the puppy grew restless, it became a distraction to everyone, including the professor.

Burkhardt writes, “Finally Dr. Prior couldn’t stand it any longer and came to investigate. I just knew from the look on his face that we were toast, but as soon as he saw the puppy realigned what was going on, his face melted and all was forgiven.”

“Today,” she adds, “I can’t remember the difference between declarations and congratulations, but I will never forget that Carson says, ‘Thank you, Michael. You’ve had a tough year, and you look like hell!’”

"If I have any advice for students who need a counselor or simply a friend, it is to reach out to someone who will listen. As a boy growing up in rural Appalachia, I was taught to keep my problems to myself. But it is important to remember that you are not alone and that there are people who care about you.”

For more information or to find a counselor on your campus, visit www.counselinganddevelopment.tamu.edu.

Books: Featuring summaries of recent publications by alumni and faculty

MARK ADAMS ’13 and Trennye Bassett, "Join Cult Coffee: Climbing with a Conscience (Just Trade Center, 2010). The book was a finalist for the Indie Bound Book Blogger Association’s Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Book in the Political/Current Events Category. The Diana Weekly calls it “a moving, colorful and thoughtfully optimistic primer on how to solve the poverty that drives illegal immigration, one village at a time.” According to the Cafe Jules website, justculturcoffee.com, the Just Coffee cooperative was formed in Mexico to address the causes of labor migration from Mexico to the United States. By working to guarantee that coffee growers receive a fair trade price for their product, the cooperative fights rural poverty and helps ensure a steady income for those involved, thus reducing the need to migrate to the United States to find work. Adams, an ordained minister, lives in Ohio. He ended up co-author work with Francisco de Cristo, a Presbyterian border minister, and helped found the Just Coffee movement.

BOB DAVID ’10, The Undaunted Life (On Demand Publishing, 2010). The author, also lives in Nashville, Tenn., is a former Furman football player who went on to in a career in the financial services industry before wanting to project his own personal development. In his book, “The cover and book theme represent many of the lessons and values forged from my Furman experience.” Reviewer Ruth Dolittle of Cancer.com says, “David’s energetic and enthusiastic presentation, coupled with memorable examples and analogies, will resonate and encourage.” Visit www.bobdavidlive.com to learn more — and help ensure a steady income for those involved, thus reducing the need to migrate to the United States to find work. Adams, an ordained minister, lives in Ohio. He ended up co-author work with Francisco de Cristo, a Presbyterian border minister, and helped founded the Just Coffee movement.

AMY BUTTLER ’93, Bonnie Balter and Carole Fabbri. Personal Training: The Following Manual (O’Reilly Media, 2010). This book is designed to provide advice and insight into the investment in weight in light of the recent economic downturn. Butler is a freelance journalist and writer based in New York, Pa. Her website says, “They are full of stories and tips on how to get to the gym, how to stay fit, what to eat, and what to buy.”

ROBERT FENDANGERST ’87, Breast Cancer: Reduce Your Risk with Foods You Eat (Pomegranate, 2010). In 2004 the author was voted Educator of the Year by students at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, where he still teaches. The publisher describes the book as “a unique perspective of a pediatrician specializing in adolescent health.” Tamara Love Dog, editor of integrative Alimentos’s Health, says Fendangerst “has written a book that is practical, highly informative and filled with case studies from a science educator and consultant. Visit www.aggpresse.org.”

STEVE FREEDLY ’71, The Magic Art (PublishAmerica, 2010). The publisher describes this fairytale as giving children “a feeling of hope. Feel is the word among the arts both from the inside and outside world.” The author lives in Palm Springs, Calif., and has published books of poetry and fiction. Visit www.bobdavidlive.com.

MICKEY BECKHAM ’86, Messages Among Us: A Medical Mystery and Love Story (BookSurge Publishing, 2010). The plot is a nurse at a major medical center is the last to see three patients who are terminally ill. All miraculously recover, but the nurse is later accused of being part of a hospital cover-up. It all comes around when her baby is taken from her and she faces the storm. Beckham, who has spent much of his career in college development work, is the author of several books. He lives in Hill, S.C.

FROM FACULTY

PAUL THOMAS, Parental Choice! A Critical Reconstruction of Choice and the Debate about Choice (Information Age Publishing, 2010). The publisher says, “Since A Nation at Risk in the early 1980s and the [state](implementing of its Child Left Behind), a subtle shift has occurred in the traditional public support of education – favored the marketplace that the government would support school and the current patterns found in the body of research on all aspects of school choice and private school – fueled by the misconception that private schools out-perform public schools as a way to achieve competition and the promise of the free market. … Political and ideological claims that all parents deserve school choice have proven to be empty.” This book seeks to fill that need.


91 Furman Fall 2010
Wounded Warrior Project receives university support

ON JULY 11, 2007, while on combat patrol in Baghdad, Capt. Wayne Waldon ‘04 was injured when an IED (improvised explosive device) attack hit the Humvee in which he was riding. Waldon, an Army Ranger and ROTC leader with the 3rd infantry, suffered a severe injury to his right leg, to the point that it had to be amputated just above the knee. He would go on to receive the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Because of his determination, positive attitude and hard work during and following his recovery, Waldon is credited with being an inspiration to others undergoing rehabilitation for similar injuries at Walter Reed Hospital. He has also testified before Congress about meeting the needs of injured veterans.

Now retired from the military and associated with defense contractor General Dynamics in Fairfax, Va., Waldon is a strong supporter of the Wounded Warrior Project. The nonprofit, founded in Roanoke, Va., is dedicated to helping those who have been wounded in the line of duty.

Waldon ‘04 was injured when an IED (improvised explosive device) struck the Humvee in which he was riding. Because of his determination, positive attitude and hard work during and following his recovery, Waldon is credited with being an inspiration to others undergoing rehabilitation for similar injuries at Walter Reed Hospital. He has also testified before Congress about meeting the needs of injured veterans.

Schutz beats law of averages, lands job in NFL

FOR THE BETTER PART of her four years at Furman, Kelly Schutz prepared for her job on the National Football League by studying mathematical concepts like the cosine rule, which can be used to find the third side of a triangle when any two sides and the angle between them are known.

While Schutz, who graduated in 2010 with a degree in mathematics, has yet to use the law of cosines in her job as a public relations assistant for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, she is a good example of how a liberal arts education can push students along an entirely unexpected career path and prepare them for something they hardly quite imagined.

“When I came to Furman, I knew I wanted to major in math and become a teacher,” Schutz says. “So that’s the path I took.”

And that was the plan right up until she began looking for internship opportunities in the summer before her senior year. But when a math major to do? Well, it might seem unconventional, but if you were born and had lived until age 6 near Green Bay, Wis., and your family members were huge Packers fans who returned to Lambeau Field at least once every season, why not take a shot at interning for a National Football League team?

Even though she knew she would be vying against public relations and sports management majors for an internship, Schutz sent resumes to 30 of the NFL teams. To gain experience, she got a job working in the press box with Furman’s sports information office during the Paladins’ 2009 football season.

“We had Kelly for only one season, but I knew right away she had more than a passing interest in learning about what happens in the press box,” says Hunter Row, assistant athletics director for sports information at Furman. “She was extremely bright and articulate, and she was one of the best student assistants we’ve ever had.”

Furman’s pilot weatherization project took place last April, when the CCC joined with Haller Service Corps and the city to weatherize five low-income homes and a community center. The CCC engages the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability.

For the Furman students and friends to support the Wounded Warrior Project.

Wounded Warrior Project is dedicated to helping those who have been wounded in the line of duty. The nonprofit, founded in Roanoke, Va., is dedicated to helping those who have been wounded in the line of duty.

General Dynamics in Fairfax, Va., Waldon is a strong supporter of the Wounded Warrior Project. The nonprofit, founded in Roanoke, Va., is dedicated to helping those who have been wounded in the line of duty.

2010 graduates head weatherization program through Furman, AmeriCorps

THANKS TO A THREE-YEAR, $286,000 federal grant from the South Carolina Commission on National and Community Service, two 2010 Furman graduates are working on campus this year as members of AmeriCorps.

Jennifer Guinter and Ricky Harris are working with Furman’s Community Conservation Corps (CCC), a group dedicated to energy conservation and financial stability for the Greenville community primarily through the weatherization of low-income homes. The federal grant was awarded to Corps United, a partnership of United Way of Greenville County, United Way of Pickens County, Furman and several area non-profits.

Guinter and Harris led the CCC effort to weatherize 10 homes this fall, with plans to do the same for up to 30 additional homes by the end of July 2011. Weatherization involves such measures as weather stripping doors and windows, adding insulation, exchanging incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescents, installing vapor barriers in crawl spaces, and fitting foam pads behind outlet and switch plates, all in an effort to promote energy conservation and financial stability.

“You don’t really think about weatherizing as a way to boost financial stability,” Harris said. “But for the residents who pay up to one half of their fixed income to cover utility bills, these weatherization techniques help them save money, get out of debt or save for other essentials.”

Furman's pilot weatherization project took place last April, when the CCC joined with Haller Service Corps and the city to weatherize five low-income homes and a community center. The CCC operates through the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability.

AmeriCorps programs engage approximately 85,000 people each year through more than 1,000 non-profits across the country. AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that involves five million Americans in service each year.

For more information on Furman’s Community Conservation Corps, visit www.scwoundedwarriorproject.org to learn more.

Wounded Warrior Project (left in photo) returned to campus October 9 for Military Appreciation Day at the Furman-Howard football game. He was accompanied by Harvey Naranjo, the adaptive sports program coordinator at Walter Reed.

During halftime, the two accepted a check for $1,113 raised by Furman students and friends to support the Wounded Warrior Project.

2010 graduates head weatherization program through Furman, AmeriCorps
to their demanding new jobs.

Who would have believed what a great array of projects, many of which had never been attempted before. Who would have thought that Furman people — faculty, staff, alumni, students — would come together to pull off such an impressive array of enrichment for our residents.”

Chuck especially enjoys The Woodlands’ proximity to a popular enrichment program for many area residents, Chuck Evans ’69 (M.A. ’71), a longtime teacher of elementary physical education in Greenville County schools, is another charter member. As a rabid fan of Furman athletics who is also involved in the Colonial Learning Institute, a popular enrichment program for many area residents, Chuck particularly enjoys The Woodlands’ proximity to campus.

72

John Wood has been promoted to senior director of university relations (law and regulatory affairs) with Escola Inc. of St. Paul, Minn., a global leader in cleaning, sanitation, food safety, and infection control products and services. John is responsible for developing, maintaining, and expanding key U.S. and Canada federal agency relationships in regard to regulatory and legislative objectives. He is also Escola’s representative on regulatory consortiums responding to agency-driven data calls, and leads Escola’s trade organization and regulatory projects with respect to Canadian and U.S. regulatory agencies.

73

Jim Howard, who coached high school football in Greenville County for more than 30 years, was honored in August as a role model and “Coach of Influence” by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Jim now teaches elementary physical education in Henderson County, N.C.

74

Tom Gaie has been named director of the Rockefeller Institute of Government at the State University of New York.

75

Jeff Beggs has been appointed director of athletics for the Athens County Public School System. This year he is also president of the Georgia Athletic Directors Association.

80

Tim Hayes of Chester, N.J., senior vice president and region head for Bayer HealthCare’s Consumer Care Division in North America, has been appointed to oversee the division’s global business development efforts. David A. Merline, Jr., a shareholder in the Greenville firm of Merline & Bealchar, P.A., was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2011 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. He practices in the areas of corporate law, employee benefits, mergers and acquisitions, tax, trusts, and estates.

81

next reunion in 2011

Keith Lockhart has been named principal conductor of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Concert Orchestra. He made his debut with the group August 30 at London’s Royal Albert Hall. The orchestra launched the United States Fall tour and performed in Furman’s McAlister Auditorium November 13. Keith continues as conductor of the Boston Pops and is also artistic director of the BSO’s annual “A Night with New York” gala, a venerable tradition on the east coast. In just his fourth season as conductor of the Boston Pops, Keith has established himself as one of the nation’s leading conductors with his innovative programming, audience engagements and community outreach efforts.

Randall David Cook

was selected a 2010 SuperLawyer in the field of bankruptcy and creditor/debtor law by the Columbia Business Monthly. He is a shareholder in the Charleston firm of Merline & Meacham, P.A., and was most recently vice president for communications and dean of admission at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn. Carey is a former director of admission at Furman and was most recently vice president for enrollment and student planning services at Centre College in Kentucky.

83

Robert Hill of Forte Verde Beach, Fla., president and chief executive officer of Acosta Sales & Marketing and a member of the Furman board of trustees, has been named to the Supermarket News Power 50 list, which recognizes the most influential executives and leaders in the supermarket industry.

85

Michael Hurdle has been named a partner associate with the Bank of New York Mellon. He is also a pianist at Balchcombe United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn. David Outts has been appointed to the executive board of the Association of Anglican Musicians and chairs the Professional Concerns and Development Committee. He is sub-dean of the Memphis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and serves on the LGBTQ Ministry Task Force for the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee.

87

Jana Harris Downey of Columbia, S.C., was selected to the 2010 SuperLawyer list of Women in Law by the Columbia Business Monthly. She was also selected by her peers as one of the “2010 Legal Elite” by Greater Columbia Business Monthly.

Kathleen Greer Rossmann, associate professor of economics and associate dean of first-year programs at Birmingham- Southern College in Alabama, was named interim provost of the school in August. She joined the BSC faculty in 1996.

88

Dale Akine of Bufffalo, N.Y., has been given the prestigious AIE Premier™ rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest of a peer review rating process. The rating indicates that a lawyer’s peers rank him or her at the highest level of professional excellence.

90

Elisabeth Oates works as an Oracle Business Intelligence functional analyst at Ingenioex Rand in Davison, N.C.

91

next reunion in 2011

Randall David Cook was once again the server for the annual Alumni Awards, which were presented in June in recognition of outstanding achievements in donor and Broadfield. A member of the board of directors of the Japanese Exchange Teaching Alumni Association of New York, Randall was the keynote speaker for the third year in a row for JET teachers as they prepared to embark for their year of work. As part of its national conference, the JET Alumni Association presented Randall’s play “Sake With the Hakka Geisha” August 13 in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Benjamin and Kimberly McCraw, a daughter, Mary Grey, June 24, Greenville.
2010–11 ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ex-Officers and Other Members: Rodney Smith, president; Michael Garod ’91, vice president for development; Tom Trigg ’76, director of Alumni-Association, Tim Hayns-Ballew ’78, associate director of Alumni Association, Cal Hurst ’94, president, Young Alumni Council; Kyle Vollman ’11, president; Student Alumni Council; Patrick Walther ’11, president, Student Government Association; Shannon Cantwell ’11, president, Senior Class.

Kara Stewart has become pastor of Living Christ Lutheran Church in Raleigh, N.C. MARRIAGE: Monica Christine Rinkowski and Michael Piotto, December 27. She owns a real estate investing firm, and Michael works for Monarch. They live in Atlanta.

BIRTHS: Jeff and Melissa Hamm, a daughter, Sophia Caroline, August 17. They live in Simpsonville, S.C., where Jeff is a channel marketing manager for Servizio. Melissa is a department assistant for the History and Asian Studies departments at Furman.

Stephen and Heather VandeBrake ’94 have a son, Austin, July 7. They live in Montgomery, Ala., where Stephen is attending Naval Postgraduate School in the field of operations research. Hadley and Laurie Steilner Panzer, a son, Elijah Walter Panzer, May 9, Asheville, N.C.

BIRTH: Ben and Stacie Snyder, a daughter, Brooklyn Anne, January 26. Stacie is a nurse at Spartanburg Regional (S.C.) Regional Hospital, and Ben is an assistant professor of physical education at the University of South Carolina-Union.


BIRTHS: Greg and Kelly Riley Brown, a son, Wyatt Jackson, February 25. They live in Lexington, S.C.

Matt and Mattie Walker, a son, Matthew, March 30. After 13 years with two certified public accounting firms, Matt has joined First Bank of Maine (Me.) as senior vice president and controller.

Leigh-Ann Williamson and Christopher Allan Oakes, May 16. They live in Columbia, S.C., where she is employed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control and he by Blue Cross Blue Shield.

BIRTH: Brandi and Cameron Oden, May 29, Spartanburg, S.C.

Furman also announced that during the summer it had awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree during Opening Convocation September 2. Sh (in photo), who holds a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of North Carolina, was recognized for her superb contributions as an ambassador for Furman and for her extensive contributions to public education in the city and state. Having served on many boards and panels that have worked to improve and expand opportunities for the state’s students, she is currently involved with the South Carolina Institute for Child Success, a collaborative effort among agencies, educational institutions and nonprofit groups through which the physical, emotional and developmental needs of the state’s young children will be addressed.

In addition, the university presented the Bel Tower Award to Jeanne Saunders Davis ’56 of Lexington, N.C., for her commitment and devotion to alma mater. Described as “a role model for Furman volunteers,” Davis is a member of the executive committee of the Advisory Council and a past member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. She has been a class agent and a member of the Annual Giving Council, and she has been active in reunion planning, the Paladin Club and the Furman Admission Network.

The smiley-faces sticker she and Sh’ve worn in tribute to Davis’ late husband, James, Furman also announced that during the summer it had awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree to Marcy Isola-Bruce of Greenville. Shepro- vided the founding gift for the Bridges to a Brighter Future program, which for almost 15 years has helped high school students from economically challenged backgrounds make their dreams come true and pursue their personal and educational goals. (See page 26.) Bruce was not able to attend the convocation.

TOP HONORS FOR SUSAN SHI, JEANNE DAVIS
Furman showed its Appreciation for Susan Thomson ’95, the university’s First Lady from 1994 to 2010, by awarding her an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree-during Opening Convocation September 2. Sh (in photo), who holds a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of North Carolina, was recognized for her superb contributions as an ambassador for Furman and for her extensive contributions to public education in the city and state. Having served on many boards and panels that have worked to improve and expand opportunities for the state’s students, she is currently involved with the South Carolina Institute for Child Success, a collaborative effort among agencies, educational institutions and nonprofit groups through which the physical, emotional and developmental needs of the state’s young children will be addressed.

In addition, the university presented the Bel Tower Award to Jeanne Saunders Davis ‘56 of Lexington, N.C., for her...
Brook and Caecie Paranyi MacKay, a son, Finley MacKay, August 5, 2010, at Fort Thomas, Ky. Brook is a landscape architect with Vice & Vox, Inc., and Caecie is a pediatrician with Pediatric Associates of Northern Kentucky.

Doug and Mary Teal Mitchell ’07 O’Neal, a daughter, Lucy Mae, March 11, 2010, Athens, Ga.


Matt and Molly Stokes Staab, a daughter, Lily Belle, November 20, 2010, Greenville.

Mindy Jones has joined the National Council on Aging in Washington, D.C., as community and elder media manager. NCOA is the leading non-profit services and advocacy organization for older Americans.

Holly Chudalski Sharp is direct ministry representative with Young Life in Greenville.

MARRIAGES: Maggie Battcher and Jason Hollis, June 5. They live in Roberts, Ga. Maggie is band director at Crawford County Middle and High School, and Jason is a LAN support specialist at the home office of Georgia Farm Bureau.

Kathryn Paige Harden is featured in the California Biennial exhibition, which runs through March 13 at the Orange County Museum of Art. Nikki is one of more than 40 print and collaborative groups included in the exhibition, whose goal is to present new developments in contemporary art and showcase emerging artistic talent.

Lori Ann Forrest Rickles has graduated from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree. Lori is pursuing an internship at Charleston (W.Va.) Area Medical Center.

Franklin L. ”FL” Warren III has been promoted to vice president of QIO/Professional Mortgage Company.

He has been with the Greenville-based commercial mortgage firm for six years. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute and is active in the Upstate U.L. Young Leaders group.


Caroline Bentlevy has been named assistant women’s tennis coach at Furman. A three-time All-Southern Conference selection in both singles and doubles under her undergraduate years, she recently earned an MBA degree from the University of Alabama, where she was a volunteer assistant coach. She has also been an assistant at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. William Cash was named a Master of Laws degree in taxation from American University’s Washington College of Law.

Michelle Kannem has become manager of alumni relations with Maggie O’Connell High in Charleston, Va.

Kristin Labonte has been named grants administrator in the Office of Sponsored Programs at Elon University.

Jessica hoaxely Sharp graduated from Coastal Carolina in July with a Master of Arts degree in teaching in early childhood education. Deanna is director of the Child Development Center at the YWCA of Greenville.

MARRIAGES: Tina denim and Justin James, May 29. Justin’s first name is Kevin, which is a health information technology consultant and Justin is a chief for the flight.

Jim Eubanks and Kemal Patel ’07, August 21, Jim, who was proficient in the spring 2009 issue of Furman magazine for his work as the youngest abbot of a Buddhist order, completed chiropractic study at Logan College in St. Louis, Mo., earning a master’s degree in sports science and rehabilitation and becoming a certified strength and conditioning specialist. His and Kemal have moved to

IN THE SUMMER ISSUE of Furman magazine, we asked you to send us your story or bit of news about your Furman hero — the professor, administrator or coach whose guidance, influence or counsel had a lasting impact on your life.

John James told his story in a short paragraph. Even after 65 years, he still remembers how one pointed question from Miss Eliot prompt the process may be? To take what we learn and apply it in our daily lives.

These are the kinds of stories that we’re continuing to collect. If you are willing to share your tale about the person (or persons) who set the standard for a Furman education in your mind — who inspired an “aha” moment in you — we’d like to hear about it.

Please send your story to jim.stewart@furman.edu, or mail it to Jim Stewart, Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. 29613. We plan to publish the stories in some form, either online or in the magazine.

ONE ALUMNUS’ FURMAN HERO STORY

FOURTH REUNION IN 2011

Matthew Link of Schenectady, Ga., has joined the orthopedic department at Fort Stewart Army hospital.

Richard McAdams is aбирter for The Heritage Foundation’s Washington, D.C. BIRTHS: Morgan and Megan Fuller Campbell, a daughter, Grace Caroline, April 26. They have moved to Raleigh, N.C., where Morgan is a radiologist at Duke- Raleigh Hospital.

Erik and Heather Toomes Madison, a daughter, Claire Parison, March 16. Erik recently compiled the M.D./Ph.D. program at Washington University in St. Louis (Mo.), earning a Ph.D. in molecular cell biology. He has begun a residency in pediatrics at Children’s Hospital in Boston. Erik and Cathy Stevenson, a daughter, Haley Catherine Miles, February 3, Greenville. Erik is a history professor at Furman, where Cathy is coordinator of the Riley Institute’s Center for Education Policy and Leadership.

Jonathan and Katherine Hawkins Watts, a daughter, Lily, July 15, Dallas, Texas.

RU2 Rudy Cunningham of Rock Hill, S.C., is distinguished the Rock Records artist, voted more than 40 rolls to 15 shows during his 2010 spring college tour leading to the release of his album “Black Keys and Blue Skies.” Visit www.rudycunningham.com.

Kristin Guillaume has become chief resident of pediatric radiology at Washington University School of Medicine. Becky Smoak of Davidson, Fla., has been named one of the top volunteers in the county by Northwestern Mutual for her dedication to Young Life of Manatee County. A $10,000 grant was received from the N.A.C. Mutual for her dedication to Young Life in Fla., has been named one of the top students in her anthropology class at Furman. He is an attorney in the U.S. Air Force stationed at Fort Lewis.

Tina Denmark is interim director of the Education and Literacy Program at Clemson University. Tina has been named grants coordinator for BiblioWorks, an organization that provides funding to equip and build rural libraries in Bolivia, train library workers and teachers, and promote literacy. Before joining BiblioWorks, Hidet served in the Peace Corps for two years. Visit www.biblio.org

Art work by Nikki Presley is featured in the California Biennial exhibition, which runs through March 13 at the Orange County Museum of Art. Nikki is one of more than 40 print and collaborative groups included in the exhibition, whose goal is to present new developments in contemporary art and showcase emerging artistic talent.

Lori Ann Forrest Rickles has graduated from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree. Lori is pursuing an internship at Charleston (W.Va.) Area Medical Center.

Franklin L. “FL” Warren III has been promoted to vice president of QIO/Professional Mortgage Company.

He has been with the Greenville-based commercial mortgage firm for six years. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute and is active in the Upstate U.L. Young Leaders group.


Caroline Bentlevy has been named assistant women’s tennis coach at Furman. A three-time All-Southern Conference selection in both singles and doubles under her undergraduate years, she recently earned an MBA degree from the University of Alabama, where she was a volunteer assistant coach. She has also been an assistant at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. William Cash was named a Master of Laws degree in taxation from American University’s Washington College of Law.

Michelle Kannem has become manager of alumni relations with Maggie O’Connell High in Charleston, Va.

Kristin Labonte has been named grants administrator in the Office of Sponsored Programs at Elon University.

Jessica hoaxely Sharp graduated from Coastal Carolina in July with a Master of Arts degree in teaching in early childhood education. Deanna is director of the Child Development Center at the YWCA of Greenville.

MARRIAGES: Tina denim and Justin James, May 29. Justin’s first name is Kevin, which is a health information technology consultant and Justin is a chief for the flight.

Jim Eubanks and Kemal Patel ’07, August 21, Jim, who was proficient in the spring 2009 issue of Furman magazine for his work as the youngest abbot of a Buddhist order, completed chiropractic study at Logan College in St. Louis, Mo., earning a master’s degree in sports science and rehabilitation and becoming a certified strength and conditioning specialist. His and Kemal have moved to

IN THE SUMMER ISSUE of Furman magazine, we asked you to send us your story or bit of news about your Furman hero — the professor, administrator or coach whose guidance, influence or counsel had a lasting impact on your life.

John James told his story in a short paragraph. Even after 65 years, he still remembers how one pointed question from Miss Eliot prompt the process may be? To take what we learn and apply it in our daily lives.

These are the kinds of stories that we’re continuing to collect. If you are willing to share your tale about the person (or persons) who set the standard for a Furman education in your mind — who inspired an “aha” moment in you — we’d like to hear about it.

Please send your story to jim.stewart@furman.edu, or mail it to Jim Stewart, Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. 29613. We plan to publish the stories in some form, either online or in the magazine.
Charlotte, N.C., where he is an associate at Piedmont Orthopaedics and director of the Bodymind Studies Institute, which is devoted to the study of human performance and medicine in sports, business and healthcare. Keith earned a nursing degree from Barnes-Jewish School of Nursing and a Ph.D. in management. He is a registered nurse at VCU Medical Center.

Betsy Fischer

Betsy Fischer, a daughter of Mark and Lynn Fischer, of New Rochelle, N.Y., received her master’s degree in school counseling from Pace University. They live in New Rochelle, N.Y.

Rob and Lauren Welch

Rob and Lauren Welch Sr. Langley, a daughter of Lauren and Robert Welch, of Raleigh, N.C., received her B.B.A. with distinction from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. They are employed by SunTrust Bank in Augusta.

Jason Chesworth

Jason Chesworth, a son of Loretta and Wesley J. Chesworth Jr., of Charlotte, N.C., where he is an associate professor of finance, was named an associate with the law firm of Winston & Strawn LLP.

Jessalyn Dowle and Craig Gurney, August 7. They live in New York City. Where they are an associate with the law firm of Latham & Watkins LLP.

Tessa Kay Berger and Michael Falace, Kirkpatrick, June 18. They live in Nashville, Tenn. He is a neurology resident at Vanderbilt University and she is a medical student in Nashville.

Anna Lesa Owens and Jefferson Mitchell Duncan, July 24. She is a Spanish teacher at Wade Hampton High School in Greenville, S.C., and he is a social studies teacher at J.L. Mann Academy.

Claire Speer and Patrick Blake, July 24. Claire is a client partnership manager with Agile in Atlanta.

Betsy Rother and Brian O’Brien,ril. 4. They live in Fairfax, Va.

Amelia Staton and Ben Will, July 23. They live in St. Louis, Mo.

She is a就够 graduate student at Appalachian State University and former middle-distance runner at Furman, where she received a baccalaureate degree in chemistry. In her senior year, she qualified for the national championship in the 200 and 400 meters.

SILENTLY THEY SHARE THE MUSIC OF LOVE

PRISCILLA SOFY HARRIS IS A MUSICIAN.

She sings. She plays the claviharp. She dictates the notes for her 5-year-old for First Baptist Church of Greenville, where she also coordinates the children’s choir program.

Music was one of her majors at Furman, from which she graduated in 1992.

Clearly, music has shaped her life, perhaps as profoundly as the fact that both of her parents are deaf.

Her mother was born deaf and her father lost his hearing at eight months during a bout with meningitis and a 105-degree fever.

They’ve never been able to hear their daughter sing or play. And yet Billy and Suzanne Sofy always attended her performances.

“My mom thinks so much about them not being able to hear me,” Harris says. “They’ve always been so supportive.”

Harris started playing the piano when she was one year old and there was an piano in the living room, a gift from her grandmother, Buffalo, who taught her. Harris says she “never takes for granted the undying support.”

When Harris practiced, her mother would stand beside her and rest her hand on the top to feel the vibration. “I get my musical ability from my mother,” she says. “People think that’s strange.”

But her mother was a majorette at the Mississippi School for the Deaf, where her parents met, and can dance better than half of the hearing people Harris knows.

“She sings music beautifully,” Harris says.

Mother’s song “The Lord’s Prayer” at Harris’ wedding, and through the sunroof of the church came a beam of light that fell right on her. “I was like God was sending sunrays to light her up like an angel,” Harris says.

Harris says she’s never forgotten the unexpected gift. “I’m doing it, to give back and help people,” she says.

Sofey Harris, a graduate student at the University of Georgia in Athens, returned to Greenville.

MARRIAGES:

Claire Carlton and Patrick Giken, June 10. They live in Nashville, Tenn., where Claire works with Teach for America.

Kristen Confer and Joseph Tenini May 22. They are married in the mathematics P.H.D. program.

Surprise that Harris was not embarrassed by her parents, and Harris’ grandmother said, “It’s all in the way you carry yourself.”

Harris thought she wanted to teach, but not music — math, her other major at Furman. She taught for three years before realizing it wasn’t right for her.

She and her husband, John Harris ‘01, a Furman math professor, have a daughter, Sophia, and a son, Will. They taught both children to sign as babies, long before they could talk. Will could sign 60 words on his first birthday.

“The brain is ready to communicate, but the vocal chords are not,” she says.

Over time, Harris began serving as an interpreter for various organizations, Furman students, and patients in the Greenville Hospital System. Sometimes she signs for PTAs meetings or parent conferences with the Greenville County Schools. “I feel good when I’m doing it, to give back and help people,” she says.

“People don’t take that for granted.”

And Harris doesn’t take for granted the undying support her parents have offered her through the years. She holds onto something her mother is fond of saying: “One day when I’m in heaven, I’ll be able to hear you.”

— LYN RIDDLE

Reprinted with permission from the June 25, 2010 issue of The Greenville News. Photo by Apache Harris.
Alumni News

Deaths

Carolina Inman Crain, July 3, Hendersonville, N.C. She was a member of the board of the Sarah Gossett/William B. Crain Library at Furman University.

Helen Miller Paul, August 29, Greenville, S.C. She was an elementary school teacher in West Columbia, S.C., before retiring to the family farm in Bailey, S.C.

Boyd Daniel Finley, Jr., May 19, Greenville, S.C. He was the owner of Finley’s Landscape Nursery and was a member of the Greenville Quilters Guild, Quilters of South Carolina, and the Upcountry Quilters Guild.

Claude Daniel Finley, Jr., July 12, Union, S.C. He was a resident counselor at the University of Georgia and a member of the Retired Faculty and Staff Club.

Lakeshdaa Rodgers Eastling, June 8, Greenville, S.C. She was a teacher at the Greenville County School District.

Leora “Trigg” Russell Curry, June 20, Anderson, S.C. She was a bookkeeper for Carolina Optical Co.

Dorothy Barton Lyday, June 21, West Columbia, S.C. She was a guidance counselor at Central High School and was a member of the Greenville Rotary Club.

Arthur W. Roberson, Jr., July 25, Greenville, S.C. He was a member of the Board of Visitors of Furman University.

James Stuart Hepler, July 27, Greenville, S.C. He was a teacher.

Margaret May Ferris, July 27, Greenville, S.C. She was a member of the Greenville Quilters Guild, Upcountry Quilters Guild, and Quilters of South Carolina.

Helen Jeffords Barham, July 27, Anderson, S.C. She was a teacher.

Forney, Texas. She was a doctor and a member of the Board of Visitors of Furman University.

Irene N. Barham, July 27, Anderson, S.C. She was a teacher.

Elizabeth Dobson Ellis, July 28, Summerville, S.C. She was a member of the Board of Visitors of Furman University.

Claude Daniel Finley, Jr., July 25, Greenville, S.C. He was a resident counselor at the University of Georgia and a member of the Retired Faculty and Staff Club.

Lakeshdaa Rodgers Eastling, June 8, Greenville, S.C. She was a teacher at the Greenville County School District.

Leora “Trigg” Russell Curry, June 20, Anderson, S.C. She was a bookkeeper for Carolina Optical Co.

Dorothy Barton Lyday, June 21, West Columbia, S.C. She was a guidance counselor at Central High School and was a member of the Greenville Rotary Club.

Arthur W. Roberson, Jr., July 25, Greenville, S.C. He was a member of the Board of Visitors of Furman University.

James Stuart Hepler, July 27, Greenville, S.C. He was a teacher.

Margaret May Ferris, July 27, Greenville, S.C. She was a member of the Greenville Quilters Guild, Upcountry Quilters Guild, and Quilters of South Carolina.

Helen Jeffords Barham, July 27, Anderson, S.C. She was a teacher.

Forney, Texas. She was a doctor and a member of the Board of Visitors of Furman University.

Irene N. Barham, July 27, Anderson, S.C. She was a teacher.

Elizabeth Dobson Ellis, July 28, Summerville, S.C. She was a member of the Board of Visitors of Furman University.

Claude Daniel Finley, Jr., July 25, Greenville, S.C. He was a resident counselor at the University of Georgia and a member of the Retired Faculty and Staff Club.
Betty Jean Symms '33, June 6, Richmond, Va. She was a middle school teacher and scholar, and for more than 40 years was a volunteer in the chair of River Road Baptist Church in Richmond.

After graduating from Suffolk Baptist Theological Seminary she was a campus minister at four colleges between 1955 and 1966, and she was a founding member of Virginia Baptist Women in Ministry. From 1966 to 1968 she was director of religious activities at Washington College in the University of Richmond, and from 1971 until her retirement in 2002 she taught in the religious studies department at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. At Randolph-Macon she was the first full-time women faculty member and she was named associate dean of students, in which capacity she worked with the first women admitted to the school. She went on to be the school’s first tenured women faculty member, the first woman chair of a department, and the first woman to achieve the rank of full professor, and she was co-director of the school’s women’s studies program. A near and dear recipient of the school’s Thomas Bantin Award for Excellence in Teaching, she also received the S.J. Gray Distinguished Professor Award, the Exemplary Teaching Award from the United Methodist Board of Discipleship, and in 2013, the faculty Certificate of Appreciation. Upon her retirement the B. S. Jeffrey Almawon Award was established in her honor. In 2010 Randolph-Macon awarded her an honorary degree.

Mildred Cranes Young '33, May 31, Gainesville, Ga. She was chairman and managing partner of Kicking Rock Post Farm from 1967 to 1983. She was also an educator in the Greenville County School District for more than 20 years. Holder of a Ph.D. in gifted education from the University of Georgia, she was instrumental in developing programs for the gifted and talented.

Roger Adams Cook Lampert '54, August 1, Raleigh, N.C. He was a longtime community activist. She served on the first Town of Wake Forest (NC) Good Neighbor Council and the Wake Forest Tree Board, and was an officer on the Wake Forest Community Council. She held multiple offices and leadership positions in the Wake Forest Area Ministries Association, the Town of Zebulon Chamber of Commerce, and in the Wake Forest School PTA. She was minister of education at Wake Forest Baptist Church and active in the Raleigh Baptist Fellowship, and she started a program of emergency financial assistance at Central Presbyterian. She held offices in the North Carolina Federation of Women’s Clubs, volunteered in the Governor’s Office of Citizen Affairs, and was a member of both the North Carolina Art Museum Society and the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra. Listed in Personnel of the South, she received the 20th Anniversary National Leadership Award from the Society of Distinguished High School Graduates. In Boiling Springs, N.C., where her husband taught at Gardner-Webb University, she was a member of Camp Kanga, an Episcopal camp in North Carolina.

She received honorary degrees from Limestone College, Clemson and, in 2002, from Furman, which recognized her support of the university and her work on behalf of children. In 1998 she received the Order of the Palmetto, the state of South Carolina’s highest civilian award.

As her obituary stated, “Betsy believed in helping young people teach each other values, attitudes and skills that would enable each of them to contribute in their community as envisioned by our Creators.”

Columbia, and in 1979 she reviewed the Cil., S.K., for her volunteer work with the American Cancer Society. She helped breast cancer victims entries through the Reach to Recovery Program, and was a longtime volunteer with the leukemia Medical Center Volunteer Auxiliary.

Mollie Geneva Lee Whisenhunt ’56, June 9, Orangeburg, S.C. She served as youth director of First Baptist Church in Columbia, and in 1979 she received the Col. S.L. Finklea Award for her volunteer service in Orangeburg. She was a church organist and choir member, a member of Ebenezer Ford Church, and was county director for the Orangeburg Homeowners Extension Club and Council. She was also a partner in Dairy Equipment Co.

Elizabeth McDavid Campbell, 1917–2017

When Elizabeth McDavid Campbell ’18 died September 8 in Napels, Fla., she left an example of an exceptional legacy of care for children. Her caring and creative assistance and hands- on efforts enabled many young people to overcome the challenges of poverty, emotional distress, illness and injury.

A native of Greenville, she earned a degree in history from Furman three months after marrying S. Campbell, K.O., of Gaffney, S.C. Her partnership lasted until Bob’s death in 2003. Bob was the founder of the Campbell Scholars, which earn a degree in history from Greenville.

The Campbells, models of business acumen and generosity, were strong Furman supporters. A scholarship program named for them provides financial assistance and hands-on mentorship to local children. Her caring and creative assistance and hands-on efforts enabled many young people to overcome the challenges of poverty, emotional distress, illness and injury.

As her obituary stated, “Betsy believed in helping young people teach each other values, attitudes and skills that would enable each of them to contribute in their community as envisioned by our Creators.”

Who Among American Teachers

The ACADEMIC RECORDS office at Furman now offers a Web-based transcript ordering and e-transcript delivery service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The service is offered in partnership with Nexpress Systems, a leader in the secure document delivery industry.

“The new and improved system allows for electronic delivery of official transcripts in a secure, portable document format (pdf),” says Brad Barnett, associate dean for academic records and university registrant. “The service also provides a series of e-mail alerts that document the status of the request throughout the fulfillment process.”

Barnett said that his office will still deliver transcripts on traditional security paper for those who request them.

For more information, visit www.furman.edu/athletes/graphics.html to access the new transcript system. For more information, call the academic records office, 864-294-2004.

Visit the Furman Athletics Web site at Furman Athletics.
of youth sports, and a member of the Lions of Conklin Defenders. He was a former president of Furman’s Alumni Association.

Board of Directors and a member of the Furman Alumni Council. From 1966 to 1969 she worked for Georgia Tech as a photographer for the school and hosted a campus-wide radio show. Active in church work, she produced a series of Sunday school lessons for teachers and students which came to be used as a standard test by many churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. She went on to author more than 25 books exploring Christianity for teenagers and their teachers. In 1987 she received an Excellence in Writing Award from the Southern Baptist Convention, and in 1993 the Atlanta Hawks of the National Basketball Association presented her the “Big Assist Award” for her work with young people.

Linda Estes Griffin '85, August 7, Mauldin, S.C.

Harold Lee Lal “Tambe” Patirmale '13, June 16, Stuart, Fla.

Anne Wykle Sparks '16, July 13, Landenfer, Fla. She taught French for more than 30 years at the North Knox School District, retiring in 2007.

Robert Max Watson, Sr., '68, August 12, Charleston, S.C. An All Southern Conference soccer player at Furman and an avid outdoorsman, he worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to provide training in the resource manager program in four southeastern states. He also worked as an insurance agent with Fortworthers Mutual Insurance Company, was a builder for several years, and sold real estate.

Linda Elizabeth Taylor '67 (A.A. '66), July 31, Manning, S.C. She was a retired special education teacher.

Louise Roth Taylor '70, June 26, Greenville. She was an employee of Greenville County Schools, serving as both a librarian and school psychologist. For years she was a member of the summer staff of YMCA Camp Greenville, and in 1987 she received the Greatest Grandmother of the Year Award at the South Carolina State Fair.

Ronald Belin Wingard '80, August 25, Cayce, S.C. He retired from the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, where he was a clinical psychologist. He served in the U.S. Air Force and also in the South Carolina National Guard, from which he retired as a chief warrant officer.

Margaret Katherine Rion '72, May 31, Black Mountain, N.C. She worked as an occupational therapist at Madison Manor Health Care in Maryville, N.C. Later she was a member of Executive Women International and Daughters of the King Crudup.

Eleanor Sugio Rice '73, A.M. '76, June 12, Greenwood, S.C. She was a principal and chief school educator for the Cumberland County School District. She was a member of Foothills Presbyterian Church USA, where she served three terms as deacon and was a member of the Stewardship Committee. At the time of her death she was an active member of the South Carolina Department of Rehabilitation, where she was a member of the South Carolina Board of Directors.

Susan Bird “Billie” Crawford '76, June 19, Zachary, La. She was a long time physical therapist engineer with Georgia-Pacific. An active outdoorswoman and lover of the outdoors, she enjoyed spear fishing, she died while deep diving in the Gulf of Mexico.

Jane Lynn Bright, M.A. '76, September 9, Spartanburg, S.C. She taught French for more than 25 years in the North Penn School District, retiring in 2007.

Walter O. Luertzing, Jr. '64, September 10, Wattsburg, Penn. A former president of the Furman Men’s Club, he died while free diving for sportfish. An active spear fisherman, he died while deep diving in the Gulf of Mexico.

The characters of Brian Crisp's childhood had a Flannery O'Connor story: developmentally delayed adults, battered women, runaway teens and recovering addicts. An aunt that exclusively sells silk paper parasols, consumes mass quantities of Southern Comfort, and drives a John Deere lawnmower for transportation. A former beauty queen by day and a drag queen by night, she is a one-legged French handyman, who suffered from a broken heart and literally became part of the family when he moved into the Crisp’s home in Home Shire, N.C.

"As a child, I thought Oscar single-handedly rebuilt France after World War II. During World War II, once during the battle of the Bulge and, yes, maybe I still believe unswervingly more than a myth that when, knee-deep in water, she asked gently, 'Oscar, do you still have family in France?' This middle-aged man had lost more than a limb in the war." Brian writes in his blog, "In the Family Way." (http://brianfamlyway-south.blogspot.com)

"Oscar lived with us until he had to move into a nursing facility. That family, it had to be blood. Enroute taught us to look beyond flaws, stick together and make it all better. It doesn’t matter if you can’t hold a buzz saw, manipulate a ratchet, or if you just have one leg. Still, you matter."

That notion of equally valued community has driven Crisp since his days at Furman, where he earned an English degree in 1996 — and where, he says, a class in medieval literature with William Rogers introduced him to concepts of collaborative learning that have consistently recurred throughout his career.

His journey has been a non-traditional one, taking him to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned degrees in theology and music; the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, to study curriculum design and instruction; and Milwaukee College of Art and Design, for classes in design and marketing.

Along the way he was honored and worked with three document presentations. He was even a panelist at a paper presentation in what a conference was called the hymns of Englishman Isaac Watts (1674-1748) and the hymns of French handyman, who suffered from a broken heart and literally became part of the family when he moved into the Crisp’s home in Home Shire, N.C.

"As a child, I thought Oscar single-handedly rebuilt France after World War II. During World War II, once during the battle of the Bulge and, yes, maybe I still believe unswervingly more than a myth that when, knee-deep in water, she asked gently, ‘Oscar, do you still have family in France?’ This middle-aged man had lost more than a limb in the war.” Brian writes in his blog, “In the Family Way.” (http://brianfamlyway-south.blogspot.com)

“Oscar lived with us until he had to move into a nursing facility. That family, it had to be blood. Enroute taught us to look beyond flaws, stick together and make it all better. It doesn’t matter if you can’t hold a buzz saw, manipulate a ratchet, or if you just have one leg. Still, you matter.”

“Oscar lived with us until he had to move into a nursing facility. That family, it had to be blood. Enroute taught us to look beyond flaws, stick together and make it all better. It doesn’t matter if you can’t hold a buzz saw, manipulate a ratchet, or if you just have one leg. Still, you matter.”

“Oscar lived with us until he had to move into a nursing facility. That family, it had to be blood. Enroute taught us to look beyond flaws, stick together and make it all better. It doesn’t matter if you can’t hold a buzz saw, manipulate a ratchet, or if you just have one leg. Still, you matter.”

“Oscar lived with us until he had to move into a nursing facility. That family, it had to be blood. Enroute taught us to look beyond flaws, stick together and make it all better. It doesn’t matter if you can’t hold a buzz saw, manipulate a ratchet, or if you just have one leg. Still, you matter.”

The Reggio approach values a curriculum that emerges from a combination of children’s interests, in-depth studies of concepts from the groups, teachers as partners and learners alongside the children, and the classroom environment, often referred to as the “third teacher.”

“Many were so intentional. I once asked them what they were thinking when they were raising me,” says Crisp, an only child. “My mom said they wanted me to know that I could do anything I wanted in life as long as I put my mind to it and get educated, and that everybody deserved equal chances even though they didn’t have equal opportunities.”

“This philosophy of service and community is one reason the Reggio approach resonates with him. “Our house was always full of people, even though there were only five of us. When they were scared of their families, it was my family that took them in,” he said. “I really appreciated that because it taught me that everyone has issues, but it doesn’t mean you stop caring. It actually means you care more.” – NANCY R. RILBURGH

The author, a 1985 graduate, is a communications officer with Georgia Tech’s Enterprise Innovation Institute (Institute in Savannah).
Top 10 list, Candidate Nelsen style

1. Political science professors know nothing useful about running for office.
2. People who know about running for office are expensive. All the money you need for TV will go to them.
3. Many people will promise to save money for you. Don’t believe them.
4. South Carolina is a big little state. Dunkin’ Donuts has the best “road” coffee.
5. Tea parties are led by plumbers and church ladies.
6. Political reporters in South Carolina don’t care about you unless you compare poor people to stray animals or are accused of adultery (I didn’t and I wasn’t!).
7. In a down-ticket race (anything below governor), most people will know nothing about you when they walk in the voting booth (unless #4 applies).
8. In a down-ticket race, most people who know anything about you will know only one thing. If that one thing is that you teach at a “snooty left-wing socialist factory” that dissed President Bush at Commencement—a perception I often encountered—you’re Republican toast.
9. I still LOVE politics. But politics is a drug. Say no to drugs!