It’s been six months since Furman launched The Furman Advantage. A number of planning groups, including faculty and staff, have been hard at work developing and shaping elements of the strategic vision, tying it together in a four-year pathway that promises to prepare students to graduate and live successfully. In the meantime, a few awards have reminded us that we’ve already come a long way.

In October, shortly after the university announced The Furman Advantage, the Council on Undergraduate Research named Furman a winner of the Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishment, a recognition in part of the university’s pioneering history and ongoing commitment to this engaged learning opportunity. And in February, the U.S. State Department named Furman a Top Producer of Fulbright students. Over the past year, Furman had the highest yield among Fulbright applicants, and was one of the top 35 producers of Fulbrights among bachelor’s institutions. These accolades affirm that the core elements of The Furman Advantage—mentoring, engaged learning and public service—have long been cornerstones of the Furman experience. And the research shows that this kind of experience better prepares graduates for meaningful and fulfilling lives.

In fact, recent studies show that students who feel “emotionally supported” and had “experiential and deep learning” are far more likely to be engaged in their work and thriving in their lives. Yet most colleges and universities fall short of providing these experiences. According to a 2016 report by Gallup, only 14 percent of college graduates had experienced all three indicators related to emotional support:

- At least one professor who excited them about learning.
- Professors who cared about them as a person.
- A mentor who encouraged their goals and dreams.

And only 6 percent had experienced all three indicators related to experiential and deep learning:

- A long-term project that took a semester or more to complete.
- An internship or job where they applied their learning.
- Highly engaged involvement in extracurricular activities and organizations.

Of those 24 percent who reported having none of these experiences, only 5 percent felt they were prepared for life. Conversely, of the 3 percent who reported having all six, 85 percent of them felt prepared for work and life.

The Furman Advantage, in many ways, builds on the university’s history of providing these transformational experiences by guaranteeing that each student will have the opportunity for an engaged learning experience and enhanced advising and mentoring.

The Furman Advantage offers an individualized four-year pathway to success; a community of mentors, including faculty, staff, alumni and community members; guaranteed opportunities for engaged learning experiences (internships, research, study away); and institutes and centers that bring students, faculty and community members together to tackle important community issues.

... the core elements of The Furman Advantage—mentoring, engaged learning and public service—have long been cornerstones of the Furman experience.
Multitasking personified
From the golf course to the child development center, Vuksta leads a mix of services and departments

In the middle of a meeting about a new coffee shop for the library, Becky Vuksta gets a call from the child development center; one of the teachers has to leave because of a family emergency.

Vuksta leaves the library meeting—which she had called—and switches gears in a moment from discussing locally roasted coffee to being an emergency backup teacher for preschool children. It’s the kind of shift she makes all the time as Furman’s director of Auxiliary Services.

“I am not bored,” Vuksta says, laughing. Her responsibilities are wide-ranging—food services, the bookstore, the golf course and McAlister Auditorium, to name a few. If it’s not academic or athletic, chances are it falls under the Auxiliary Services umbrella.

And yet she is intimately aware of details at every level in every department. For example, standing in Charles Daniel Dining Hall before a Wednesday morning rush, she can point you to the daily roast of Leopard Forest coffee you’ll like, if you give her an idea of your preferred coffee profile.

She’s on top of dates and details for the upcoming BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by Synnex Corp, which will play three days at the Furman Golf Club. But she’s also managing areas as diverse as summer programming, the post office/print shop and the Younts Conference Center.

“She’s very passionate about the work she does, puts everything into it,” says Vuksta’s supervisor, Jeff Redderson, associate vice president for facilities and campus services.

In overseeing all auxiliary services at a smaller school, Vuksta has to be both the strategic thinker and the one who sometimes jumps in to help with details, Redderson says.

“I don’t do this by myself,” Vuksta says. “I have amazing people that run those areas. It’s all about having a really great team. That person in the dish room is just as important as the head chef. They make it all happen. That’s really how I view it.”

It may not be far to call food services her primary responsibility, but Vuksta refers to it as the “big elephant” in her room. She will hit her five-year anniversary with Furman in May, just before the one-year anniversary of one of her biggest jobs so far: moving the university to a new company, Bon Appetit, for food services. Furman had been with its prior food service provider for nearly two decades.

“Chicken tenders Tuesday existed for 19 years,” Vuksta says. “It’s a great traditional, but, really?”

Today’s students eating in the dining hall and elsewhere on campus want variety, they’re interested in sustainability, and they care about where their food comes from, she says. With an emphasis on local fresh products and meals made from scratch, Bon Appetit meets the university’s needs as well as students’ preferences.

“They look forward to the dining hall now,” she says. “They really do.” She proves it by pointing to data. This year, for the first time, the meal plans students purchased increased from the fall semester to the spring semester.

Vuksta’s background gave her the broad preparation she’d need for the work she does now. She earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism/public relations and a master’s degree in sports administration from Ohio University, then worked for 15 years in the professional tennis world, sometimes traveling up to 35 weeks a year.

Her next job was with the United States’ first professional women’s soccer league. When the league folded in 2003, she took a friend’s advice, applied and became vice president of campus services at Trinity Washington University.

“I never really paid much attention to the administrative side as a student,” Vuksta says. “Coming into it was really interesting.”

In 2012, she was ready for another change. She’d spent most of her professional life in big cities with long winters. She was ready for the South and something a little smaller. When she saw an ad for the Furman position, she knew nothing about either the school or Greenville.

“But I read the job description and I thought, ‘That’s my job. I want that job,’” Vuksta says.

Redderson says Vuksta isn’t bashful about introducing her own ideas. But she’s also a team player.

“It’s a delicate balance, to both listen and lead successfully,” he says.

In her dining hall office, with a view of the lake, Vuksta switches seamlessly between responsibilities, handling food services questions one moment and then turning to details for the upcoming golf tournament.

The event will mean national exposure for Furman and its top-ranked collegiate course. But Vuksta is most enthusiastic about what the tournament location says about Furman.

“We are Greenville.”

This from a woman who never owned purple clothing before coming to Furman and now proudly dons a different purple item every Friday.

“This is a really special place,” Vuksta says. “It got under my skin very quickly. So did Greenville.”

“It’s a great fit for her and a great fit for Furman,” Redderson says.

—Kelley Bruss
An 'Engaged!' day for faculty

Furman Engaged! was launched in 2009 to celebrate a wide variety of research, scholarship and creativity by undergraduate students. But until this year there was not a comparable event for another set of on-campus scholars: faculty. Now all that has changed. The Provost’s Office and Furman Libraries co-sponsored the university’s first Faculty Scholarship Reception on February 24 in the James B. Duke Library. The event, attended by approximately 150 faculty, trustees, staff, students and guests, showcased the 170 pieces of scholarship and creative work by 87 different faculty members. Six faculty members were selected to give a four-minute speed talk about their work. Presenters included Mark Kilstofte (Music), Gil Allen (English), Tami Blumenfeld (Asian Studies), Akan Malici (Politics and International Affairs), John Quinn (Biology) and Erin Wamsley (Psychology).

“We were thrilled with the response to what we hope will become an annual event,” said Director of Libraries Janis Bandelin. “This was truly a time to publicly recognize and celebrate the scholarly achievements of our faculty.” Malici said he was happy to see the sense of pride shown by the organizers, by the presenters and by the event participants.

“To me, scholarship goes hand in hand with teaching. Scholarship is a fundamental area of a professor’s work,” said Malici. “I find I’m a better teacher if I’m an active scholar. We should support, acknowledge and celebrate scholarship.”

Jackson Pearce ’18, a psychology major from Mt. Pleasant, S.C., serves on the Furman Library Committee, which helped to organize the showcase. “I truly enjoyed getting to see some of my professors’ work honored and see them interact with their colleagues,” said Pearce. “I’m amazed at the beautiful event that the organizers and others worked so hard to create.”

Works in the faculty showcase are currently on display in the library.

—Erikah Haavie

Back home

The original doughboy was stationed on campus from 1920 to 2004

In February an old friend returned to campus. Really old. Ninety-seven years old in fact. The Furman doughboy, proudly on display in the lobby of the James B. Duke Library, has been seen, touched and admired by Furman alumni and students since it was first erected on the old downtown campus in 1920 as a tribute to six students who died during World War I.

When the new campus was constructed in the late 1950s, the copper doughboy (along with Old College, the Chiles Bell and the Block F at the baseball stadium) was one of the few elements that made the transition. For more than 40 years, the statue was stationed near the current-day entrance to the Swamp Rabbit Trail. Those were not happy days, though. Located on a remote part of campus, the doughboy was the victim of vandalism. It was painted with lipstick and festooned with clothes. On two occasions, the hand and bayonet rifle was sawn off and stolen.

Weatherworn and tired, the doughboy was transported to Columbia in 1998 where he was polished, renovated and later returned to his perch. transported to Columbia in 1998 where he was polished, renovated and later returned to his perch. And a sturdier bronze replica was erected near the Lay Physical Activity Center in a lighted plaza that pays tribute to all of Furman’s war dead. It was dedicated on Veteran’s Day that year.

The original doughboy spent some time in storage but was ultimately relocated to the Upstate History Museum. Earlier this year, he returned to campus as a prominent feature of the “Over Here, Over There: Greenville in the Great War” exhibition. On display through May 31, the exhibition explores World War I’s (1914–18) impact on the local community; it examines the contributions of this area to the war effort.

The life-size copper soldier in the library was one of numerous doughboy statues that were erected throughout the nation during the 1920s to commemorate veterans of World War I. The statue depicts a World War I soldier rushing into battle wielding a grenade in one hand and a bayonet rifle in the other.

The term “doughboy” was used by European soldiers to describe their U.S. allies. At the time many U.S. soldiers filtered into the European campaign from a training base in Texas that was known for its white adobe soil. The soil often covered the U.S. soldiers and discolored their uniforms, giving them a doughboy-like appearance. Five hundred and forty Furman men, almost the entire student body of the all-male school, volunteered for service during “The Great War.” Six of them—Pvt. Thomas J. Lyon Jr., Pvt. Otis Brodie, Lt. John H. David, Lt. Charles S. Gardner, Sgt. Charles E. Timmons Jr. and Cpl. Talmadge W. Gerald—died during the war. Their names are inscribed at the Doughboy Plaza.

—John Roberts

Volunteers needed for BMW Pro-Am

The Furman Golf Club will be among the three courses to serve as hosts for the popular BMW Charity Pro-Am that will take place in Greenville May 18–21. Other host golf courses include the Thornblade Club and The Preserve at Verdae. The event will place a national spotlight on the university and the Furman Golf Club. The tournament, managed by South Carolina Charities, Inc., has raised more than $12 million for a variety of local charities since 2001.

The organizers are looking for volunteers to work during the tournament. The cost for volunteering is $40, which includes a polo shirt and cap, food and beverages, and one guest pass that is good at any of the three courses. Furman staff members who volunteer for one eight-hour shift during work hours will be given a paid release as long as they have approval from their supervisors. Supervisors may need to limit the number of volunteers from certain departments to ensure continued operation of necessary university functions. Also, $20 of the volunteer fee can be directed to one of 16 charities. The Furman Advantage among them. If you are interested in volunteering, please access the volunteer link on the bmwusfactory.com/charity-golf website.
Academic Affairs
George Shields served as an experience academic leader for the Academic Leadership Training Conference at the American Chemical Society Headquarters in Washington, D.C. George Shields presented a seminar on his research with undergraduates at the University of Virginia. At the Association of American Colleges and Universities Annual Meeting in San Francisco, George Shields participated in a panel presentation entitled “Preparing and Facilitating Faculty Leadership to Further Undergraduate Research Expansion: The View from Presidents and Provosts” with Joanne Altmann, Royce Engstrom, Elizabeth Paul and Sean Decatur.

Art
Sarah Archino was awarded the William R. Levin Award for Research in the History of Art by the Southeastern College Art Conference (SEAC), in support of her manuscript on American art, modernism and anarchism. Archino chaired a panel on encourage students to embrace failure as part of a successful studio practice at SEAC, co-chairs a panel on explorations and manipulations of time in contemporary art, and participates in a panel on art history pedagogy at the College Art Association (CAA) conference. At the Upcountry History Museum in Greenville, Archino delivered a paper on children’s art and anarchism.

Ross McClain designed branding and identity for new architecture firm Keel Concepts in Greenville. McClain served as events coordinator for TEDx Furman on February 1. The event included national and international speakers, as well as Furman students and faculty. McClain was guest speaker at the Travelers Rest Chamber of Commerce. His talk stressed the importance of the artmaking in a community, specifically, the economic impact the arts can have on strategic growth.

Carolyn Watson presented a paper entitled “Middle Tense: The Transition from Idea to Form in the Work of the Headmaster of Chartres” at the South Carolina Medievalists’ Society Inaugural Meeting in September.

Biology
David Hollis and his students, Anna Downes ’15 and Katie Scholz ’17, published their research in the Journal of Chemical Neuroanatomy titled “Localization of rem2 in the central nervous system of the adult rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss).”

Jason Rawlings authored an article published in Advances in Protein Chemistry and Structural Biology entitled “Roles of SMCP Complexes During T Lymphocyte Development and Function.” With Alyna Knabb ’18 and Sierra McDonald ’17, Rawlings presented a work entitled “Activation-induced chromatin decondensation in the lymphoid lineage” at the Midwinter Conference of Immunologists in Asilomar, Calif. Rawlings won an American Association of Immunologists Faculty Travel Award to present this work entitled “Mechanisms controlling activation-induced chromatin decondensation and prolife- eral 1 cells” at the International Congress of Immunology in Melbourne, Australia. Student coauthors were Sarah Eikem- busch ’16, Molly Shields ’16, Aubry Ward ’17, Haley Swxalow ’16, Taylor Mitchel ’15, Sierra Meredith ’15, Kellie Bingham ’14 and Megan Lee ’15. Rawlings was invited to give three research seminars at Winthrop University, Davidson College and the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

Chemistry
Tim Hanks and Ian Miller ’16 and colleagues at Clemson and Ben Gurion University (Israel) authored an article in Food Chemistry entitled “Polydacyly- lene sensor interaction with food sanitizers and surfactants.” Hanks and research team members delivered nine presentations at the Southeast Regional meeting of the American Chemical Society in Columbia and two more at the National ACS meeting in Philadelphia.

Computer Science
Tom Allen presented a paper, “Taming the Novice Programmer,” coauthored with Temi Bidjerano (Education) at the 17th Annual Conference of the Psychology of Programming Interest Group (PPGI) at Cambridge University, UK, in September. The paper reported results from an ongoing study to identify the misconceptions that novice programmers use when learning to program.

English

Margaret Oakes was asked to provide a commentary on J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone for the illustrated collection Literary Wonderland, which explores the fictional settings of almost 100 notable works of chil- dren’s literature, fantasy and science fiction.

Health Sciences
Natalie The was the primary author on an article entitled “Association between breast- feeding and insulin sensitivity among young people with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.” Published in October 2016 in Diabetic Medicine, the study was the primary author on an article entitled “Plasma Triglycerides Are Associated with Cardiac metabolite Risk Factors in Youth with Type 1 Diabetes,” published in Diabetes and Metabolism.

History
Lane Harris received a grant of $196,000 from the Freeman Foundation to fund international internships in East and Southeast Asia; coauthored an article with Mei Chun entitled “What Happened to the Jianwen Emperor? Chapters 2 and 29 of Mughal History: A Source for Nineteenth Chinese History” at SEC/AAS in January and was elected vice president of the Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies.

Jasavinia N’Koghe presented research in “India and Ireland: Old Connections and New Interac- tions,” at the National University of Ireland–Galway, for the August ESS AE conference.

Library
Scott Salzman and Christy Allen authored a chapter titled “Using LibGuides to Build a Digital Museum,” which was published in Innovative Lib- Guides Applications: Real World Examples, edited by Ryan Slitter and Aaron Dobbs.

Andrea Wright and Christy Allen gave a presentation titled “Supporting Digital Liberal Arts in Your Institu- tional Repository,” at the South Carolina Library Association meeting in Columbia, S.C.

Math
Doug Roll, with coauthors Bolutijan Brear, Sandi Klivar and Kirthi Wash, published two papers. “Packing chromatic number under local changes in a graph” appeared in Discrete Mathematics, and “Packing chromatic number, (1,1,2,2)-color- ings, and characterizing the Petersen graph” appeared in Aequationes Mathematicae.

Modern Languages and Literatures
Jeremy Cass delivered an essay titled “Fuzzy Memories in Fuguet’s Las pelusas de mi vida” at the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference at James Madison University.

Music
In August Thomas Joiner was invited by pianist Ian Mulder to perform a recording session for his latest CD, Love Divine. The sessions took place at Abbey Road Studios in London at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Math
Markklote’s new song cycle “The White Album,” commissioned by Harvard’s Fromm Music Foundation, was premiered in January by the Harvard-based contemporary music collective Musica. The work was subsequently performed by FSM’s 18th Biennial Festival of New Music and at the University of Chicago. In February Klote’s gave seminars at Guantanamo Bay University and the University of Chicago where his chamber work “Ballistic Etude 31.1” was performed. That piece, selected as the winner of a competition sponsored by Latitude 49, will be included in the ensemble’s new program entitled “A Sense of Who?”

Daniele Koppelmann was a featured performer at the International Computer Music Conference in Utrecht, the Netherlands, in September. Koppelmann performed with the Furman University Percussion Ensemble on their November 2016 concert on campus, and also at the Mc- Cormick Marimba Festival in Tampa, Fla., in January 2017.

Michael McClumon published an article entitled “Transformations in Tonal Jazz: i-v-v’-” in Volume 23.1 of Music Theory Online.

Matt Olson presented a clinic entitled “I Am My Own Rhythm Science” in September 2016. Olson’s ensemble, Unhinged Sextet, will release their second album, Don’t Blink, later this year on Origin Records.

Politics and International Affairs

Brent Nelsen and James Guth were interviewed by the Washington Post’s Nikita Lalvani and Sam Winter-Ley for the social science blog Monkey Cage. The January interview, titled “Catholics like the European Union more than Protestants do. This is why,” can be found on the Washington Post’s site.

Religion
Tim Wardle authored an article entitled “Resurrection and the Holy City: Matthew’s Use of Isaiah in Matthew 27:51-53” in Catholic Biblical Quarterly. Wardle presented two papers at the Society of Biblical Litera- ture’s annual conference. The first was entitled “The Power of Polemics: Jewish Siender Against Samaritans in Second Temple Literature,” and the second was “Knowing Jesus in Mark: Discipleship Along the Way.”

Sociology

Theatre Arts
Maegan Azar played the role of “Cindy” in Centre State South Carolina’s Fringe Series production of Luna Gail, directed by Anne Kelly Tromsness. Azar participated in two readings: “MaryMyr. Dunkin” in Death at Downotn, directed by Tand Brown at Furman University, and “Female Greek Chorus” in Lysistrata by Aristophanes, translated by Ben Mintz with Joseph Merry, directed by Anne Kelly Tromsness at The Warehouse Theatre. Azar was selected for the position of secretary on the Southeastern Theatre Confer- ence’s Executive Committee.

Randall David Cook ’91, Duke Endowment Fine Arts Initiative Paywight-in-Residence for spring term, was a keynote speaker at the South Carolina Theatre Association Convention in Charleston, November, and was inducted into the first class of the South Carolina Theatre Hall of Fame. Cook’s play Death at Downotn: An Anti-theater Upstairs-Downtowns Murder-Mystery Parody, Because Longer Takes A Certain Amount Of Time, With A Certain Amount Of High Quality and Refined Taste was performed at the Furman Playhouse in honor of the 25th reunion of his class. Cook’s horror thriller Kappa Kappa Scram premiered at the Fur- man Playhouse. As part of The Jasper Project, Cook’s dramatic comedy Sharks and Other Lovers premiered in Columbia.

—Michelle Shaw
Sustainable Connections

Swan Lake and the marsh islands

Furman’s iconic Swan Lake was constructed in the mid-1950s and provided a variety of recreational opportunities for many years. Over time, sediment accumulated, waterfowl populations multiplied and storm water runoff increased, contributing to algal blooms and high bacteria counts. In 2006, Furman created a lake restoration master plan and began implementing changes designed to improve the quality of the lake. These efforts included placing native vegetated buffers and rain gardens to slow and filter storm water. We also reduced the waterfowl by encouraging visitors to refrain from feeding the birds and eased the community into embracing the less-manicured look of a vegetated lakeshore.

The most recent phase of work was completed early this year, largely funded through a grant from Duke Energy. A dike near one of the lake’s two feeder streams was removed and excess sediment was dredged from the area. Invasive plants near the inlet were also removed, and native vegetation was planted to foster increased wetland habitat.

A new pedestrian boardwalk replaced the dike, and 12 floating marsh islands were installed on each side of the new bridge. Each marsh island is a unique modular design, containing individual plant communities that mimic natural marsh islands. The plants will eventually take root, aiding in nutrient uptake and slowing sedimentation while providing excellent wildlife habitat.

On sunny days, a menagerie of turtles, ducks and even the resident great blue heron have been seen warming themselves or fishing from the islands. The pedestrian bridge overlooks the islands and includes observation benches for visitors. Planned educational signs along the lakeshore will help inform the public about proper storm water management, native riparian and wetland habitat, and proper interaction with wildlife (not feeding the ducks).

The lake continues to serve as a living learning laboratory for Furman students, lending itself to an array of academic studies that highlight the effects of restoration efforts on water quality.

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The lake continues to serve as a living learning laboratory for Furman students, lending itself to an array of academic studies that highlight the effects of restoration efforts on water quality.

A myriad of studies has involved both students and faculty and allowed many opportunities for incorporation of lake research into the academic curriculum. Future projects will continue to track overall progress and assess the effect of the new marsh islands. Over time, these restoration efforts should improve not only Swan Lake, but also the quality of the Reedy River downstream and the larger watershed. So be sure to check out the bridge and islands next time you venture around the lake!

—Laura Bain ’02, Associate Director of Sustainability Assessment, Shi Center for Sustainability

After-school art

Furman students get a taste of teaching while sharing art

I t is 4 p.m. on a December afternoon and a dozen middle-school students cluster around a bucket of goozy white liquid at the front of a classroom at Legacy Charter School in Greenville. Each clutches an unglazed clay plate as they await instructions about what to do next.

Standing over the bucket, Emily McPeters ’18, a Furman art major with a focus in ceramics, dips each plate one by one into the white goop in the bucket. She explains that the liquid is a ceramic glaze that will need to dry before the students can move on to the next step.

These middle schoolers (5th to 8th grade), led by Furman art students, are all participants in an after-school art club, a partnership between Legacy Charter School and Furman that began last September.

The idea for the art club was hatched when Jessica Auguste, the coach of Legacy’s girls’ basketball team, met Ross McClain, chair of Furman’s Art Department, last summer when she was working at an on-campus sports camp. In the course of their conversation, McClain learned that the Legacy Charter School was short an art teacher.

McClain mentioned this to Marta Lanier, his department’s art program specialist, and the wheels began to roll. She connected with Elizabeth Toney, instructional coach and special education coordinator at Legacy Charter School, and proposed an after-school art club that would meet every other week.

Thirty Legacy students signed up for the club, which was taught by a core group of five Furman art majors. Lanier and the Furman students designed the curriculum, and the university provided the needed materials for each session.

Back in the Legacy Charter classroom, the middle schoolers retrieve their plates after the glaze is dry and take them to their seats. Now comes the fun part: painting the plates.

Laurie, a 7th-grader, is painting a “pirate fox” on her plate, while Stephanie (7th grade) brushes on a rainbow, and Aaliyah (6th grade) decorates her plate with a snowflake. “I like making the plates,” Laurie says, “because I can use my own ideas and no one tells me what to do.”

Toney sees it from a different perspective. “Our school’s mission is that every student goes to and completes college, so being able to build a relationship with the Furman students is so beneficial to them.”

The middle schoolers, though, aren’t thinking that far ahead. “I love Art Club,” Stephanie exclaims, “because we can do whatever we want—and I like getting my hands messy!”

—Linda Lee

Art major Aaron Navarro ‘17 shows his students how to make their own journals.

Alexis Hawkins ’17 demonstrates how to stitch a journal designed by one of the students.
FUEL community program grows

In fall of 2015, the Miracle Hill Greenville Rescue Mission, located in downtown Greenville, noticed that many of the homeless men who stayed in their shelter were battling chronic conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes. The Rescue Mission wanted to help by serving the men healthier meals. Like many local nonprofits, the Rescue Mission has a very limited food budget and relies almost exclusively on food recovered and delivered from Loaves and Fishes. They didn’t know where to begin. So they reached out to Furman’s Department of Health Sciences for help.

Fortunately, Health Sciences had been researching the effects of a plate-based eating guide for the past six years. Over 150 faculty, staff and spouses have participated in the FUEL healthy eating program. Participants were asked to conform most of their meals to the FUEL plate, which consists of half vegetables and/or fruits, one-quarter whole grains or potatoes, and one-quarter lean protein sources. Comprehensive assessments of nutrient intake, body composition and blood work were provided before and after the 10-week program. The results suggested that the FUEL plate can help improve nutrient intake, facilitate weight management and improve health outcomes associated with chronic disease.

The Rescue Mission was excited that a simple strategy could help to improve the health of their guests, and they began to implement the FUEL plate guidelines right away. This spring, Miracle Hill announced that it would like to implement the FUEL program in all of their adult ministries including Shepherd’s Gate homeless shelter for women and children, Renewal addiction recovery program for women, and Overcomer’s addiction recovery program for men.

Other local nonprofit organizations have reached out for assistance in implementing the FUEL guidelines as well. These include Harvest Hope Emergency Food Bank, Loaves and Fishes, North Greenville Crisis Ministry, Greer Relief Co-op for low income families, Greenville Free Medical Clinic, Greer Free Clinic, Project Hope Soup Kitchen and Little Steps support program for young parents and families.

In order to help serve the Greenville community, Furman health science majors will be eligible to apply for a new pilot internship that will be launched in fall of 2017. Students will be trained in health, nutrition and basic culinary education geared toward low-income populations. Then students will earn academic credit by working directly in these local organizations to improve community health.

This fall, Health Sciences will launch a FUEL community education internship. The interns will work with community members to improve lives by encouraging healthier eating.

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Kelly Frazier (center) introduced the FUEL plate to the Greenville Rescue Mission last year.

TFA: an update

(continued from page 1)

Regarding progress in developing The Furman Advantage, the university has implemented a number of initiatives that support the strategic vision. Those accomplishments include:

- Launching, in a few weeks, the first version of the four-year pathway tracking and reporting system.
- Increasing stipends and housing support for the Summer Research Fellowship Program.
- Launching the Institute for the Advancement of Community Health, a partnership with the Greenville Health System that makes Furman unique among all liberal arts and sciences institutions as a partner in an academic health center.
- Completing the Community Engagement Initiative report and recommendations, which faculty and staff are reviewing and will begin implementing this summer.
- Launching a new career support model, “Customized Connections,” which links career services with faculty, alumni and other mentors.
- Expanding and promoting the Personal Financial Literacy course, which now teaches young people and families.
- Reorganizing key positions in Academic Affairs and Admissions to help implement and manage key pieces of The Furman Advantage.

Looking ahead, the university will continue to roll out strategic initiatives and test, measure and evolve The Furman Advantage as needed to ensure it lives up to its promise.

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Staff Reports
Library

Whether they are studying for finals, checking out books, meeting friends or exploring exhibits, patrons will find plenty to do and see at the Furman University Libraries.

On display in Special Collections and Archives until May 31 is the exhibit “Over Here, Over There: Greenville in the Great War.” This exhibit explores the impact of World War I on the local community, and features artifacts from the Furman University Archives, the Greenville County Historical Society, the Upcountry History Museum—Furman University and several private collections. Examining the experiences of local figures such as Alester Furman Jr., Charles Daniel, John Pickle Sr., and the contributions to the war effort emanating from Greenville, Furman University and Greenville Woman’s College.

Now housed in the Special Collections and Archives reading room is the original handwritten press printing that stood in the lobby of The Greenville News for almost 50 years. The paper has moved into its new building and its old building will be demolished, so the press was donated to Furman’s Special Collections. We hope to do some printing of our own soon.

This spring, the Furman University Libraries and the Office of the Provost hosted Furman’s first Faculty Scholarship Reception (see article on page 3) to recognize and celebrate the scholarly publications and creative works of Furman faculty members. The reception, held in the Blackwell Atrium of the James B. Duke Library, showcased over 170 examples of scholarship published by 87 faculty members during the 2015 and 2016 calendar years. Guest, in addition to members of the faculty, staff, senior administration and Board of Trustees, mingled with the scholars, listened to remarks from a select few, sampled hors d’oeuvres and sipped on wine while browsing through the displays. This event marked the beginning of a new tradition to celebrate the scholarly and creative achievements of Furman’s outstanding faculty.

—Kathleen Hamlin

Facilities Services

We are pleased to introduce some new faces to the team. Chad Boling joined Furman in October as the assistant manager of our warehouse. In January, Dylan Smith joined us in athletic grounds, and Carmello Gamble was hired as a first-shift custodian. Sam Stojkowsk joined us in February in the carpentry shop. Each has hit the ground running, and they are already making significant contributions.

Steve Long and Jimmy Looper recently attended the annual SCAPPA (South Carolina Association of Physical Plant Administrators) conference in Myrtle Beach. Clemson and Furman were jointly hosting the 2018 Regional National Conference (SCAPPA). That conference will be a great opportunity to showcase both Furman and Greenville to a large constituency from the Southeast. The major project that will take place this summer is the renovation of Chiles and Gambrel residence halls. With the completion of this work in August, all the residence halls in Lakeside Housing will have been renovated over the last three years. This $30 million overall project has addressed the major deferred maintenance in these buildings and yielded modern, functional space that our students will enjoy for many years to come. Starting in August, the lay down area (where construction materials and equipment are stored) will be restored and landscaped, and the parking lot will be renovated with new entrances and lighting.

The other significant project that will take place this summer is the conversion of Milford Mall to pedestrian only traffic. New sidewalks will be installed on each side of the chapel that will more safely connect the parking areas to Milford Mall. Bollards will be installed at the entry and exit to Milford Mall to block vehicular traffic. The bollards, Oct. 20-22, will be spaced sufficiently apart to allow golf carts and bicycles to pass through. The asphalt road surface will also be replaced with a combination of concrete and pavers. The conversion of this area to pedestrian traffic should make for a much safer and pleasant experience.

—Jeff Redderson

Development and Alumni and Parent Engagement

A dedication for the Children Project-Based Learning Classroom took place Feb. 3. The classroom, located in Hipp Hall, will be used to introduce current and future teachers to project-based learning and model ways of implementing the methodology in classrooms across the Upstate. MaryBeth Bunting Childers ’80 and Alfred Childers ’80, avid supporters of Furman and its Teacher Education Program, made this classroom possible through their generous support.

More than 650 distinguished guests attended the annual donor appreciation and volunteer recognition event, the Bell Tower Ball, on Feb. 25. Alumni, trustees, parents and friends of Furman gathered to celebrate Furman’s many successes and the generosity of our donors.

A spring athletics festival was held April 22 throughout campus to encourage the community to be more deeply connected with Furman and Furman Athletics.

Homecoming 2017 will take place Oct. 20-22 with graduating class years ending in 2 and 7 celebrating reunions. Please mark your calendars, as many alumni will return to celebrate their connection with Furman and reconnect with classmates, faculty and staff.

The Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement is launching a career networking resource for Furman alumni, parents, students and friends. The Furman Loop is designed to connect Paladins around the globe and to assist with career advancement using professional development tools. Stay connected with the Furman community through the launch of this new tool on May 4.

The third annual Dins Day was April 25, and our goal was to receive 2,000 or more gifts, eclipsing the 1,700 received last year in a single day. Dins Day is traditionally a big hit on social media, and participation was encouraged from all donors, alumni, trustees, faculty and staff. Regional happy hour events were held around the country. We made our mark on Greenville this year with an afternoon and evening event for alumni trustees, administrators and friends of Furman. Visit the Dins Day webpage for updates, furman.edu/dinsday.

The division has welcomed the following new staff members: Donna Cox ’96 as coordinator of parent engagement, Lindsey Copeland as database coordinator, Jared Martin as leadership giving officer, Brandon Cochran as major gift officer, Lynn Pilgrim as major gift officer, Kendrec Ferrara ’16 as Paladin Club fellow, Laura Stair ’04 as assistant director of development communications, Catherine Baliadmalani ’16 as assistant director of young-alumnus giving, and Rebekka Billott as associate director of development communications. Fay Whittington has retired after many years of service to Furman.

This year, the development staff is responsible for raising $4.85 million in annual support of the operating budget in addition to the other projects, programs, endowment and scholarships funded by many who love Furman. Commitments total more than $3.9 million to date.

—Shon Hornek

Continuing Education

Carrie Silver started on March 1 as the director of Bridges to a Brighter Future. Silver brings more than a decade of experience in higher education and nonprofit management. She was most recently employed by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to design and manage a professional internship program available to the campus’s 23,000 undergraduates. Her work at UNCC also included career counseling, teaching writing, and revamping the University Honors College first-year curriculum. Silver holds a bachelor’s in communications from James Madison University, a master’s in professional communications from Clemson, and a Ph.D. in educational leadership from Clemson. She has worked with community leaders in Spartanburg to create a 501(c)(3) to increase educational attainment across the county. During that time she led efforts to raise $1 million, create connections among county public high schools and colleges, and institute the first annual Spartanburg College Fair.

Staff and community volunteers are interviewing students to create our 21st Bridges class. Recently, the Bridges students toured colleges in Florida during their spring break. We are looking forward to having them on campus this summer and celebrating our students as they graduate from high school and college.

In the Center for Corporate and Professional Development, Sam Tisdale was recently hired as the new director. Tisdale will oversee a wide array of executive education offerings, which include the Postgraduate Diploma in Corporate Sustainability, the Women’s Leadership Institute, Managing Across Borders: Mexico, and Liberal Arts Leadership. He is also responsible for customized training and organizational development consulting requests from business and industry. Prior to joining Furman, Tisdale was a training and development director at Greenville Technical College for over 20 years. He received a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in philosophy from Clemson University. He also completed a master’s in industrial and organizational psychology from Valdosta State University and earned an MBA from the University of South Carolina.

The center is currently working with Michelton, Scarfibre, Workers’ Compensation Corporation, Prysmian, Display, Inc., and Gregory Pest Control to tailor leadership training for their managers from across the Southeast and Midwest. We are also working with ReWi to develop a customer satisfaction survey for their residential, business, pre-treatment and land application customers. The Women’s Leadership Institute and our Postgraduate Diploma in Corporate Sustainability are currently in progress, with 29 women participating in WLI and 17 participating in Corporate Sustainability.

The Other Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) continues to grow membership at a record pace. Nearly 2,200 people have joined OLLI at Furman during the 2016–17 academic year, which is twice the number of members at the founding in 2010–11. To keep the interest and variety high, OLLI members recently enjoyed a new program, “Read and Explore with OLLI.”

OLLI welcomes Sally Gregoire to our staff. She will be office manager and will also work with curriculum and other special programs. OLLI Director Nancy Kennedy and the OLLI Council president attended the Other Institute National Conference in early April in Dallas where Nancy presented on “Strategies for Space Management.”

While they are a small proportion of Furman’s student population, non-traditional-age students make up 85 percent of the Americans enrolled in postsecondary institutions. Undergraduate Evening Studies (UES) works to ensure Furman’s non-traditional students experience the Furman Advantage in ways that most meaningfully align to their particular needs. Course delivery, enhanced advising, online tutoring, and test proctoring are just a few avenues currently being explored or implemented. UES is also expanding its faculty development in hybrid pedagogy through participation with Quality Matters, a nationally recognized program that works with institutions to measure and guarantee the quality of blended and online classes.

—Brad Bachtold
What do you think is the biggest Furman news story for 2016–17?

The introduction of The Furman Advantage. I’m very excited about the direction of the university and being able to provide students high-impact experiences and enhanced mentoring, advising and a holistic Furman experience.

—Jason Jones, Associate Professor of Economics

The Furman Advantage. I think it comes up in every meeting or gathering I’ve been a part of—staff, faculty or student. So, everyone’s talking about The Furman Advantage and how this plays into everything we are doing or going to do at Furman. I’m especially excited to find out how staff can play a bigger role in educating our students.

—Jean Schwab, Writing and Media Lab Coordinator

Well, I thought it was real nice when the Duke Endowment gave us $47 million.

—Al Stover, Dining Hall

The travel ban. It had such a profound effect on not just students from the countries (on the list), but on their friends and professors. The ban gave the campus an opportunity to come together, unite and show support for those who were affected and felt affected. One of our circulation desk staff is Pakistani. He spoke at the rally and was able to put a face to the worries that students have.

—Robyn Andrews, Circulation, Furman University Libraries

Roberson honored by student and family

Tony and Holly Thene, parents of Taylor Thene ’17, created the Sandy Roberson Outstanding Senior Accounting Award in appreciation for the care and mentoring Roberson provided Taylor as she pursued her degree in accounting. The first recipient of the award was selected and recently recognized at the annual spring awards banquet.

In addition to recognition of an outstanding senior, the award carries a cash award to help the recipient pursue his or her fifth year of accounting in preparation for taking the Uniform Certified Public Accountant exam.

What struck Roberson most about the honor was how the endowed award will continue to benefit students long after her time at Furman.

“It didn’t hit me until I was driving home how amazingly wonderful this tribute is,” she says. “We take joy in seeing students progress and do well . . . just seeing that look when they ‘get it’. We’ll sometimes get thank you notes, and they’re not necessary, but nice to get. So this award! Goes so far beyond I’m thanking you today for something you did for me.” To me, this award says, “Your help meant so much to me that I thank you today, next year, and the next!” And that’s hard to get your mind around, really.”

On the plaque itself are Taylor Thene’s thoughts about Roberson: “(Professor Roberson) has inspired me to love and enjoy accounting, and I am so fortunate to have learned all that I have from her. I feel blessed to call her my mentor and my friend.”

—Tina Underwood