New education scholarships, PBL classroom generously funded by three Furman alumni

Education majors will soon have a new scholarship opportunity available to them, thanks to the generosity of the late Mary Frances Edwards Garrett ’37 and her husband.

The first Mary Frances Edwards Garrett and T. Lloyd Garrett Scholarships are expected to be awarded to education majors in the 2018-2019 academic year. The endowed scholarship fund for students who are interested in entering the teaching and ministerial professions was created with the help of a $2.2 million bequest from Garrett’s estate and was named in honor and memory of her and her husband.

“Furman is so grateful that Mrs. Garrett would remember her alma mater in such a generous and profound way,” said Furman President Elizabeth Davis. “She was a great supporter of the university; and, as a highly respected teacher, she had a great impact on many young people and the communities she served. This bequest ensures that Furman students pursuing careers in teaching or the ministry will receive significant financial assistance, which is always among our top priorities.”

Garrett, an education major at Furman who received her master’s degree in 1947, taught high school in Honea Path, as well as at Greenville, Hillcrest and Mauldin high schools. She was a member of Zetosophia, the academic honor society of Greenville Woman’s College, which later became known as the Woman’s College of Furman University. She was also a member of Delta Kappa Gamma honor society for women educators.

Childers Project-Based Learning Classroom

Through the new Childers Project-Based Learning Classroom in Hipp Hall, the Education Department hopes to introduce even more current and future teachers to project-based learning and model ways of implementing the methodology in classrooms across upstate South Carolina. President Davis dedicated the new classroom earlier this year in honor of Marybeth Bunting Childers ’80 and Alfred Childers ’80, avid supporters of Furman and its Teacher Education Program.
Earning her scooter license, Taco Tuesdays and other adventures

Kelly Rae ‘16 talks about her Fulbright Year in Taiwan

As part of her morning commute as an English teacher in Taiwan, Kelly Rae ‘16 had to do a bit of island hopping.

Each day, she took a 7 a.m. ferry from the larger island of Kinmen (population: 120,000) to the smaller island of Kinmen (population: 11,000). The little island was home to a school and a 7-Eleven convenience store.

Rae’s preparation for her daily trek began with learning how to ride a motor scooter. She had to pass a written test and a driving test to earn a coveted scooter license. She paid $50 a month for scooter rent and $3 a week for gas.

The simpler life agreed with her. “I loved the small school (only 58 students) and the relaxed pace,” Rae said.

While she taught 16 forty-minute classes each week, she enjoyed 10-minute breaks between each class. Naptimes were a daily treat for all. Though classes dismissed at 4 p.m. each day, often students stayed until 6 p.m. just to hang out with their teachers, most of whom lived in dormitories in the building. “The school is a place that serves the entire community,” she said.

The language barrier was her biggest challenge. “I hated not feeling independent, but I learned a lot about asking for help from new friends and mentor teachers,” she said.

Her efforts earned her an Outstanding Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Performance Award for her exemplary work both in and out of the classroom.

Rae also shared what she loved with others. She taught her local friends how to make tacos and hosted taco days with her fourth-graders.

On weekends, she took random scooter rides to see what she could find and went to watch movies in Kinmen on the largest movie screen in Asia.

“Taco Tuesdays”

“I’m a lot more adventurous with going new places and trying new things,” said Rae, now a graduate student in Furman’s TESOL program.

Not long after she arrived in Kinmen, Rae experienced Meranti, a category five typhoon that hit Kinmen full force, the worst in 50 years. She had the chance to go to her school and help with storm cleanup.

“I was so impressed by the community’s reaction to the storm. Teachers, parents and the military all came together to clean up the entire school in just one day,” she said. “The amount of love poured into the school after Meranti was just another example of just how truly special the community of Kinmen is.”

Childers (continued from page 1)

Marybeth Bunting Childers was an education major at Furman who founded two schools and was named North Carolina Teacher of the Year. Her husband, Alfred, is a former member of Furman’s Board of Trustees.

“We are honored by Marybeth and Al Childers’ decision to make a significant contribution to Furman’s teacher preparation program. The Childers Project-Based Learning Classroom will facilitate modeling by Furman faculty so teacher candidates can experience – and later implement – student-driven instructional programs that foster collaborative interactions among their students,” said Education Professor and Department Chair Nelly Hecker. “The classroom will allow us to transition preservice and in-service teachers – likely to teach following the traditional ways in which they were taught – into active participants eager to design student experiences based on deep inquiry.”

The classroom features four movable, multi-functional learning spaces, along with interactive smart screen technology and whiteboard walls. In a PBL classroom, the teacher serves as a facilitator of student learning instead of as a traditional lecturer, explained Troy Terry, executive director of Graduate and Adult Education at Furman.

“Our ongoing efforts to promote inquiry-based learning in our undergraduate and graduate teacher preparation programs will enable our teachers to better meet the needs of the 21st century learner,” Terry said. “The project-based learning initiative will change the way students learn in South Carolina for the better.”

-- Erikah Haavie and Vince Moore
Congratulations to 2017-2018 Teachers of the Year!

Suzanne Billings ‘95
Fourth Grade
Plain Elementary School
Greenville County Schools
District Teacher of the Year

J.J. Lies (M.A. ‘18)
Fifth Grade
Belton Elementary School
Anderson District 2
Teacher of the Year

Katie Gaines ‘10 (M.A. ‘11)
First Grade
Monaview Elementary

Ashley Jenkins (M.A. ‘03)
(pictured on cover)
World History
Woodmont High School

Morgan Mason (M.A. ‘17)
Fifth Grade
Brook Glenn Elementary

Carolyn Morris (M.A. ‘13)
Seventh Grade Social Studies
Sevier Middle School

Christa Morrison (M.A. ‘12)
Third Grade
Fountain Inn Elementary School

Wendy Postich (M.A. ‘94)
Special Education
Greenbrier Elementary School

Raigenn Rivers (M.A. ‘12)
Special Education
Riverside Middle

Margaret Stewart (M.A. ‘18)
First Grade
E. North St. Elementary Academy

Joanna Weir ‘07 (M.A. ‘08)
Fourth Grade
Simpsonville Elementary

Also to:
Kim Brice (M.A. ‘11)
Instructional Coach, Bethel Elem.
Greenville County Schools Support
Staff Employee of the Year

Joseph Foster (M.A. ‘13)
Freshman Class Assistant Principal, Wade Hampton High
Greenville County Assistant School Administrator of the Year

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“International Perspectives on Public Education”

New May X course takes students to Finland and Czech Republic

A unique new May Experience course, “International Perspectives on Public Education,” brought students to 13 different schools in Finland and the Czech Republic. #TheFurmanAdvantage

The group started their school tour in Finland, a recognized world leader in public education, and continued to schools in the Czech Republic, which offer unique approaches for vocational and career training beginning as early as the fifth grade. They also spent an evening with former Prime Minister of Finland Alexander Stubb ‘93 and visited traditional tourist sites including the Charles Bridge, Prague Castle, and a reindeer farm near the Arctic Circle.

“We wanted to engage our students in a self-assessment of their own values and beliefs and the impact those will have on public education in the U.S. The goal is to inspire our students to be engaging, inclusive and innovative teachers,” said Education Professor Mike Svec who led the trip with Sociology Professor Joe Merry.

Photographs from the trip are currently on display in the Hipp Hall Gallery. See them 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit us during Homecoming on Saturday, October 21.

“I overcame tough setbacks growing up, but my mentors encouraged me to have a growth mindset instead of a fixed mindset. I was pushed and challenged by men who valued relationships, and that changed my life. I want to do the same for my students.”

-- J.J. Lies (M.A. ‘18)
Anderson District 2 Teacher of the Year

Education professor selected as new Chief Diversity Officer

Michael E. Jennings has been chosen as Furman’s first Chief Diversity Officer.

Jennings will report to President Elizabeth Davis and be a member of the senior administrative team. In addition to promoting an understanding of and commitment to diversity that will benefit Furman faculty, staff and students, he will be responsible for extending the university’s diversity and inclusion efforts into the greater Greenville community.

Prior to coming to Furman, Jennings served as associate dean of the Consortium for Social Transformation and as a tenured professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA).

He was a lecturer at Tufts University (1999-2000), director of Research and Evaluation for Project SITE Support in the School of Education at Johns Hopkins University (2000-02), and assistant professor of education at Catholic University of America (2002-04).

Jennings currently serves on the executive council of the American Educational Studies Association and as editor of the Journal of Educational Foundations. He is also a member of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education, the Critical Race Studies in Education Association, and the National Council of Black Studies. His current research interests include critical social theory, the role of race/ethnicity in education and minority student achievement/resiliency.

A graduate of Hampton University, Jennings earned an M.A. degree in political science and a Ph.D. in Social Foundations of Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

-- Vince Moore
Faculty/Staff News

Katie Kelly has received tenure and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Education this spring. She was also honored to serve as the keynote speaker for the UNC Charlotte Writing Conference. Congratulations!

“Critical Literacy: A Culturally Relevant Framework for meeting the Needs of English Learners” -- an article by Katie Kelly, Bobbi Siefert and McKinsey Smith ‘15 (M.A. ’17) -- was publishing in the spring edition of the South Carolina Association for Middle Level Education Journal.

Lorraine DeJong and education major Greg Peterson ’19 presented “Why Girls Get Better Grades than Boys and What K-6 Teachers can do to close the Gap” at the 23rd Annual Teacher Education Diversity Conference at USC Upstate in March. She also presented “An Integrated Community-Based Approach to Infant-Toddler Teacher Education” at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education held in Los Angeles last year.

Erikah Haavie was selected as one of three recipients of the Furman 2017-2018 Staff Community Scholarship. The scholarships were awarded based on extracurricular activities or other community involvement and a short response about the academic program. Erikah edits this newsletter!

Harris Heath was recently inducted in Benedict's College's Half-Century Alumni Club. The ceremony took place in connection with the college's Annual Founders' Day Convocation. During this yearly ceremony the college expresses gratitude to alumni who have provided support for 50 or more years.

Scott Henderson has a review of “Crossing the Line: Women’s Interracial Activism in South Carolina During and After World War II” in the current issue of the Florida Historical Quarterly. Scott's photos of South Carolina's Carnegie libraries were on display in Hipp Hall Gallery during the 2016-2017 year and he was inducted in the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity as an honorary member. He also presented “When Computers Were Women: A Regional Comparison,” at the annual conference of the Southern History of Education Society at the University of Georgia in Athens in March.

Bobbi Siefert and Furman alumnae Ashley Ziemer ’06, Kayci Owen ’10 and Tracy Butler ’11 presented, “Culturally Complex Classrooms: Teacher Advocacy for English Language Learners (ELL),” as part of a roundtable discussion at the last NCTE conference.

Katie Kelly and Bobbi Siefert co-authored the article, “Tech Tools to Support English Learners’ Literacy and Language Development,” which was featured on the International Literacy Association’s blog in June.

Executive Director of Graduate and Adult Education Troy Terry and Dawn Mitchell were co-presenters at the TransformSC Project-based Learning Institute in Columbia in January. The Furman instructors presented a session in the morning and afternoon block on “Teaching and Assessing Soft Skills in Project-Based Learning.”

“Codes that Blind: How High School and College Misrepresent,” was the theme of a SCCTE presentation by Thomas and Emily Matthews ’27. Thomas examined how teaching college writing often involves helping students unlearn how high school has misrepresented language, while Emily explored the benefits of teaching code switching instead of presenting a prescriptive view of language.

Trumplandia: Unmasking Post-Truth America, a new book by Paul Thomas, examines how a reality TV star as president represents post-truth America as a failed democracy and as a country still deeply poisoned by racism, classism, sexism, and xenophobia. Running throughout is the question: How can we resist Trumplandia and truly become a democracy? The book is available through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Paul Thomas participated in the NCTE conference discussion, “Teacher Advocacy: A Southern Dilemma” featuring Nicole Amato ’12 of Pritzker College Prep in Chicago and Kristen Marakoff ’16 of Travelers Rest High.

Adjunct Instructor Dawn Mitchell presented two sessions, including “Reading is Meaning: Redefining Reading Logs,” at this year’s SCCTE conference. She also co-presented “The Process, Products and Power of Genius Hour,” where students are given the opportunity each week to engage in real world inquiry, using reading, writing and technology as tools for learning about topics they are passionate about.

Adjunct Instructor and Furman alumna Dr. Melissa Wells ’09 (M.A. ’10) presented “Bridging the Worlds of Home and School: Engaging Families in Digital Learning Communities” at the annual SCCTE conference this year. She shared three technology tools that can be used to engage families in digital learning communities and plan engaging, culturally responsive classroom instruction.
The Activa Tu Speaking program was a unique partnership and cultural exchange between J.L. Mann High school in Greenville and two schools in Guadalajara, Mexico, taking place throughout the 2016-2017 school year. My Spanish 4 Honors students spent the last year working in teams to design and implement research projects that encompassed both cultures via bi-monthly video exchanges. Projects focused on natural or social science. Topics ranged from the cultural perceptions of diabetes, values about education reflected in school policy, and effectiveness of medicinal plants to name a few. Students shared language, culture and unique connections across borders for an enriching experience.

Three students from J.L. Mann were selected to present their outstanding projects at Preparatoria 29 High School in Zapopan, Mexico, for participants and faculty of our partner schools.

These students served as cultural ambassadors for their classmates as they presented their projects at the Consulate General’s office in Guadalajara, met their partners in person for the first time, completed a homestay with families from the school and experienced authentic cultural and linguistic immersion. Upon our return to the States, four students from Mexico and their teacher also traveled to Greenville and stayed with our students, completing a similar itinerary and cultural experience.

“The students in Spanish 4 Honors are engaged and motivated thinkers. They eagerly put their Spanish skills to use and make great efforts to engage in authentic communication,” said Blake. “This project was a life-changing, multi-disciplinary experience to engage students in their learning in many different capacities.”

This program was funded with donations from the U.S. Department of State, Clemson University and numerous donors from GoFundMe and Donors Choose.

Blake earned her B.A. degree in Spanish from Furman in 2012 and her M.A. degree in Education with a concentration in TESOL in 2014. She was chosen as the 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year at J.L. Mann High School and began teaching AP Spanish at Eastside High School this fall.

Logan Campbell ‘18 spends a magical, musical year in Leipzig

Logan Campbell, a music education major from Greenville, spent the 2016-2017 school year studying abroad in Germany as part of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals, a program funded by U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag (lower house of Parliament). He spent two months studying the German language in the town of Radolfzell. He then continued his studies at the Music Conservatory of Leipzig and served as an intern at the Opera House of Leipzig, working with Maestro Anthony Brammell. Above, Campbell is shown with the Symphonic Wind Orchestra of Leipzig after conducting a performance of the Phantom of the Opera suite. The year abroad was a transformative experience, said Campbell. “I learned to be a lot more reflective and patient. I learned to laugh at myself when I got frustrated with the language. Above all, I got to meet an amazing collection of people, explore a different lifestyle and test my boundaries,” he said.

The Literacy Corner summer program received a nearly $1,000 mini-grant from the university’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the first time this year.

Throughout the month of June, graduate students in Furman’s literacy program worked with 26 children from the Greenville and Spartanburg communities to enhance their literacy skills as part of the EDRD 966 practicum. Children showcased their reading, writing, art and technology projects with parents and friends through a gallery crawl as part of the Literacy Corner program celebration June 29.

Grant funding enabled children participating in the Literacy Corner to receive a gift bag containing two books geared to their interests to take home, along with school supplies, a Furman T-shirt donated by the university Bookstore and a certificate of completion.

A focus on family literacy was an important part of this year’s program, directed by Dr. Katie Kelly. Furman graduate students shared a variety of reading strategies and suggestions for parents. Each parent was provided with a handout to take home with suggestions about how to choose books for their children, ways to build fluency at home, how to help children with their reading comprehension, and where to go for the best online resources.

“My son loved it. I like how his teacher found his interests and then based his lessons off those. She also gave me practical tips on improving his reading comprehension,” said another parent. “We could not have asked for someone better!”

Participating graduate students included Leigh Anne Buckley, Colleen Cleys, Karisma Cruell, Laurin Hammett, Randi Hardin, Jessica Hargett, Angelica Herrera, Samantha Lunsford, Morgan Mason, Samantha Nemchek, Sarah Noble, Caroline Reynolds and McKinsey Smith.

#TheFurmanAdvantage
Denaro, Painter chosen for Outstanding Scholar and Leader Awards

Sophia Denaro and Kathryn Painter ’17 were chosen for the Outstanding Scholar and Leader in Education Award this year. The award is given to senior education majors who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in both scholarly pursuits and leadership.

Funded in part by the Carolyn H. Dewey Scholarship Fund, recipients are selected by faculty on the basis of their knowledge of content, demonstrated ability to teach the content, excellent dispositions for teaching and evidence of leadership potential. The awards were presented during Furman’s Academic Awards Banquet this spring.

“Extraordinary and inspiring”
McCullom, Weisinger chosen for Childers Awards

Ashley McCollum, a fifth-grade math teacher at Holly Springs Motlow Elementary School in Campobello, and Rachael Weisinger, an English teacher at Travelers Rest High School, were chosen as recipients of the 2016 Childers Education Foundation Teaching Excellence Award.

Both McCollum, an elementary education major, and Weisinger, an English major who certified to teach high school English, graduated from Furman last year. They each received a $1,500 award during a conferral ceremony and special reception last year. The next honorees will be announced in December.

The award for first-year teachers was established in 2009 by Marybeth Bunting Childers ’80, an education major at Furman who founded two schools and was named North Carolina Teacher of the Year, and her husband, Alfred Childers ’80, a former member of Furman’s Board of Trustees.

 Congratulations to our students and alumni on their new positions!

Nichole Boseman (M.A. ’02)
Assistant Superintendent
Anderson District 4

Lisa Cassidy (M.A.’02, Ed.S. ’13)
Principal
Liberty Middle

Randy Dendy (M.A. ’11, Ed.S. ’17)
Principal
Laurens Elem.

Chris Moore (M.A. ’11, Ed.S. ’15)
Principal
Laurens High

Carrie Pennington (M.A. ’07)
Principal
Hunt Meadows Elem.

Lathan Pooser ’05 (M.A. ’17)
Director, School of Music,
Greater Atlanta Christian School

• Jamie Blount (M.A.’17), Assistant Principal, Emerald High
• Brad Fulton (M.A. ‘17), Assistant Principal, Belton-Honea Path High
• Lee Cromer (M.A. ‘14), Assistant Principal, Hunt Meadows Elem.
• Nathan Croston (M.A. ‘00), Assistant Principal, Palmetto Middle
• Matt Moore (M.A.’15), Assistant Principal, Dulles High, Texas
• Amy Jennings (M.A. ’17), Assistant Principal, Pendleton High
• Angela Rardon (M.A. ‘17), Assistant Principal, Nevitt Forest Elem.
• Colin Rork ’00 (M.A. ’02, Ed.S., ’17) Behavioral Interventionist, Liberty Middle
• Candace Strickland (M.A. ’17, Ed.S. ’19), Assistant Principal, Ralph Chandler Middle

Quotable

“I ensure each student views him or herself as a speaker, listener, teacher and supporter. This community team environment instills ownership of learning and allows each student’s talents and abilities to shine.”

-- Suzanne Billings ’95
GCS Teacher of the Year
Students participated working in the Department EDU 250 (EDU ‘25), a teacher at Hunt Meadows Elementary, shared the presentation, “Teaming Up With Seesaw to Support Balanced Literacy Stations.”

Kristen Marakoff ‘16 received two leadership awards during the past year. She was chosen for the 2017 NCTE Affiliate Leadership Development Award by the National Council of Teachers of English and will be publicly recognized at the 2017 NCTE Annual Convention in Atlanta on Sunday, November 19. Marakoff was also recognized with the South Carolina Council of Teachers of English (SCCTE) Leadership Development Award in January. She was chosen for both awards based on her demonstrated potential for professional growth and leadership. Marakoff, an English teacher at Travelers Rest High School, earned her B.A. in English from Furman and certified to teach secondary English.

Greg Peterson ’19 has been awarded the Lou Gassaway Shirley Burris Scholarship ($3,000). Graduate students Melina Bricker and Maddy Gentry ’17 are the recipients of the Waco F. Childers, Jr. and Elaine Duffy Childers Scholarship ($10,000 each).

Megan Schonhar ’10 (M.A. ’16) co-presented with Katie Kelly this past summer as part of a panel discussion, “Infographics to Reimagine Literacy Practices Within and Beyond the Classroom,” at the International Literacy Association conference in Orlando. Megan, who earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees from Furman, shared how her students created infographics to advocate for issues of social justice.

Alexandra Scott ’17 was inducted this past spring into Phi Beta Kappa, the national liberal arts honor society. When asked to identify a professor who has had a significant impact on her life, Alex wrote, “Dr. Judy Stuart has been a wonderful, encouraging advisor who has helped me move in the direction of my dreams and created my unique internship experience.”

What is the news media trying to say?

With the recent addition of a writing-research (WR) intensive requirement for Furman University students entering in fall 2017, the Education Department developed a new course, Scholarly Reading and Writing in Education (EDU 250), for education majors and certifiers, but also for majors in the social sciences and across campus.

The new WR requirement is designed to assure that all students receive a strong foundation in disciplinary writing while at Furman.

EDU 250 is an undergraduate version of EDRD 750, an elective course in the literacy master’s program. Being taught for the first time in Spring 2018, the course explores educational research and the challenges of writing about complex educational issues, as the course description explains:

For students interested in education as well as understanding how to read, interpret, and present research, this course invites students to investigate educational research and how that research is typically explained in the popular media. Students will analyze how well or not research is presented to the public through a formal and drafted cited essay and a related public piece. Course will carry WR and textual analysis (TA) credit.

New EDU 250 course looks for answers

Along with reading and reflecting on course texts, students will examine major topics in education — such as word gap, charter schools, school choice, teacher evaluation/value-added methods, standards and high-stakes testing — in order to prepare annotated bibliographies, conduct extended research, and complete two writing assignments through writing workshop practices.

Those assignments include cited essays using APA citation as well as crafting a related public commentary of about 750-1000 words so that students can practice addressing different audiences with clear and authoritative voices.

Throughout the course, students will critically examine how the mainstream media portrays education, as well as educational research as that contrasts with university-based and peer-reviewed research on important aspects of teaching and learning.

The course will be taught by Paul Thomas, who also teaches the graduate version of the course and FYWs on James Baldwin.
**FURMAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWS**

**GREENVILLE**
- Ellison Cleghorn 3rd Grade Cherrydale Elem.
- Sophia Denaro 2nd grade Oakview Elem.
- Porter Grant 2nd Grade Ellen Woodside Elem.
- Candace Johnson 3rd Grade Thomas Kerns Elem.
- Kendall Korey 3rd Grade Berea Elem.
- Chandler Massey 5th Grade Simpsonville Elem.
- Ashley Megregian 2nd Grade R.E. Cashion Elem.
- Catherine McNeela 3rd Grade Grove Elem.
- Justin Paden 4th Grade Mountain View Elem.
- Lindy Perry 5th Grade Oakview Elem.
- PollyRose Philpot 2nd Grade Sara Collins Elem.
- Dorothy Walton 4th Grade Rudolph Gordon Elem.
- Reilly Mahan 4th Grade Jesse Bobo Elem.
- Jessica McDowell 4th Grade Roebuck Elem.
- Kathryn Painter 3rd Grade Anderson Mill Elem.
- Caroline Brearley and Caroline Holley 4th Grade Fairforest Elem.
- Kelly Rae and Britt Viergever 5th Grade Roebuck Elementary School
- Katie Russell 5th Grade Fairforest Elem.
- Alex Armock Strings/Chorus Pickens High School
- Madi Earls Choral Director Kelly Mill Middle Richland District 2 Blythewood, SC
- Paul Haara Orchestra Director College Park Middle, Ladson, SC
- Jonathan Painter Graduate School Drexel University Philadelphia, PA
- Emily Salgado Graduate School Florida State University Tallahassee, FL
- Jada Tate Orchestra Director T.E. Mabry Middle School Inman, SC
- Erin Wilson Music Teacher Bell’s Crossing Elem. Greenville, SC

**Celebrating the first day of class with the Greenville Drive!**

More than 700 Tanglewood Middle School students were welcomed back for the first day of school with applause and high fives from members of the Urban League of the Upstate, the Greenville Drive and other community leaders. Furman TESOL Professor Bobbi Siefert has been working regularly with about a dozen Drive baseball players from Latin American countries to help them improve their English language skills. Each player greeted students by saying “work hard,” “do your best” and “have a great school year,” and gave each student a card with an inspirational quote. Siefert was joined by Furman alumns and Parent Education Partners President Dr. Ansel Sanders ‘09 for the first day celebration, the brainchild of new Tanglewood principal Dr. Edward Anderson (shown at right with players and guests).

**The Class of 2017: Now Teaching or Pursuing Graduate Studies**

**SPARTANBURG 1**
- Maddy Gentry 5th Grade Inman Intermediate
- Reilly Mahan 4th Grade Jesse Bobo Elem.
- Jessica McDowell 4th Grade Roebuck Elem.
- Kathryn Painter 3rd Grade Anderson Mill Elem.
- Caroline Brearley and Caroline Holley 4th Grade Fairforest Elem.
- Kelly Rae and Britt Viergever 5th Grade Roebuck Elementary School
- Katie Russell 5th Grade Fairforest Elem.

**SPARTANBURG 6**
- Melina Bricker 5th Grade West View Elem.
- Caroline Brearley and Caroline Holley 4th Grade Fairforest Elem.
- Kelly Rae and Britt Viergever 5th Grade Roebuck Elementary School
- Paul Haara Orchestra Director College Park Middle, Ladson, SC

Let us hear from you!

Have you earned or renewed your National Board Teaching Certification? Do you have a new teaching job or professional accomplishment you’d like to share? Contact Erikah Haavie at erikah.haavie@furman.edu or (864) 294-3083, and we’ll share your news with Education Department alumni and friends in the next edition of Chalk Talk.

[https://alumni.furman.edu/donate](https://alumni.furman.edu/donate)