 COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Well, we’ve had another year of massive change in the History Department. Let me bring you up to date. A.V. Huff is Furman’s vice president for academics. John Block is the new vice president for athletics. Bill Lavery is head of International Education, although fortunately he’ll still be teaching half-time. Ed Jones is retiring after this fall’s Furman in England program. David Spear is now the department chair.

We’ve brought some good people on board. John Barrington (Ph.D., William and Mary) is teaching U.S. Colonial history. Demetrie Faitler (Ph.D., University of Michigan) is covering China and South Asia. Diane Vecchio (Ph.D., University of Syracuse) is doing both American cultural and European women. And Ernest Jenkins (F.U. class of ’90; a.b.d. University of Kansas) is back home teaching Western Civ. and completing his dissertation on medieval Spain.

Danny Varat (F.U. class of 88), who taught as an adjunct last year and again this fall is heading to M.S.U. to begin work in their Ph.D. program in U.S. history. And Jim Leavell won Furman’s distinguished teaching award last June, a distinction we in the department knew was long overdue.

Many of you will want to know that Bill Leverette continues to enjoy his house in the mountains, and that he has found a retirement niche in Furman’s Learning in Retirement program. Bill has been teaching such courses as American Writing in the 1920s, Nature Writers, and Fathers and Sons (a major theme, as you know, in his novel Shooting the Limit). And Jim Smart has been enjoying his retirement as well, restoring furniture, volunteering with local groups like Meals on Wheels, reading for pleasure (eg. John Gresham).

If you would like to get hold of anyone in the department via e-mail, the formula is lastname_firstname@furman@furman.edu (eg. spear_david@furman.edu). Nearly every current and retired member of the department has an e-mail account. And of course we still appreciate communications by regular post as well.

David Spear, Chair

ALUMNI NEWS

William J. Baker (‘60) is professor and chair of the Department of History at the University of Maine. Having written or edited seven books, including Jesse Owens: An American Life (1986), and Sports in the Western World (1988), Baker is nearly finished with a manuscript tentatively entitled "Washed in the Blood: Religion and the Rise of Modern Sport," that is under contract with The Free Press. He is also working on a social history of basketball.

Jane Jordan (‘75) is an attorney with Kilpatrick and Cody in Atlanta, specializing in health care law. Lynn Robeson, formerly Pearson (‘79) is a doctoral candidate in American history at Columbia University. Her article, "The

**Barbara L. Griffin** (’80) lives at 616 N. Shore Dr. in Holland, Michigan 49424 (ph. 616-396-2543), and is working at Smith Barney in Grand Rapids. **Celia Blackwell McCauley** (’85) married to Scott McCauley, is home (4309 Omni Place, Raleigh, NC 27613) with their daughter Erin Blair (ph. 919-781-4432). **Lauren Averyt Livingstone** (’85) is married to Dennis Livingstone, and is living at home with their three daughters at 1613 Shades Park Cove, Birmingham, AL 35209. **Jacquelyn Poland Hoagland** (’85) is a lawyer at Hoagland, Longo et al in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She and her husband Gary live at 92 Rt. 537 West, Colts Neck, NJ 07722 (908-866-9081). **Shannon Bates Willis** (’85) had a son, Jesse Albert Bates Willis, born on May 30, 1995. Shannon is working at BMW in community and corporate relations. **Dan Mueller** (’85) after graduating from law school at the University of South Carolina, is practicing law in Seattle. Dan says, "I moved out here last January and really like it." **David Ellis** (’86), living in Jacksonville, is Associate Director of the Northeast Florida Builders Association. **Sean O'Shields** (’88) runs his own fire prevention company in Greenville. **Scott Pfeiffer** (’88) is practicing corporate and immigration law in downtown Greenville.

**Donald Butler** (’90) is quality manager at the Jenkins Metal Company in Gastonia, North Carolina. His address is 800 South York St., Gastonia, NC 28052. **Sean Millis** (’90) is enrolled in the graduate educational administration program at U.N.C.-Charlotte. **Sonja Gaschler Bryant** (’90) teaches A.P. American History at Mauldin High School, in Mauldin, S.C. And **Thomas Riddle** (’91) is also teaching at Mauldin High School. **Steven Rodgers-Ramey** (’91) is working on his Master of Divinity at Emory University and hoping to do Ph.D. work in South Asian Religions. **Kristin Borman Tunnell** (’91) and **Andy Tunnell** (’91) are in Birmingham, Alabama. Kristin is manager of BCBS of Alabama, and is working on a Masters degree in Communications at the University of Alabama. Andy is an attorney, and still enjoys reading. **Evan Brooks** (’91) is beginning graduate school in business. He writes that "I am proud to say that I am the only Liberal Arts grad in my class of 60 MBA students at SMU in Dallas. I am still working for Prudential HMO." **Russ Merritt** (’92) participated in the Strom Thurmond Institute for Teachers, studying ethnic conflict in world history with 15 other social science teachers from the South. (This took place in Clemson and in Washington, D.C.) His article on the Greenville County Schools appeared in the December 1995 issue *Equity and Excellence in Education*, and another article on the origins of the South Carolina Republican Party will appear in *The South Carolina Historical Magazine* in the summer of 1997. Russ is starting his third year at the Hammond School in Columbia, where he teaches Western Civilization as well as African-American History and U.S. History since 1945. **James Scott Brown** (’92) has just completed an M.S. in Applied Sociology at Clemson University. His thesis is an examination of the association of race and occupational status in magazine pictures from 1954 to 1994. He has been accepted with a fellowship into the Ph.D. program in sociology at Duke University. **Michelle Pope** (’92) writes that "after teaching S.C. History for three years at Landrum Jr. High School, I am currently on a leave of absence while working on my Master's in history at Clemson." Two other Furman graduates are also in the program: **Diana Dimitrova** (’94) and **Robert Hart** (’95). **Steven Feyl** (’94) graduated with a Master of Library Science degree from Simmons College in Boston Massachusetts. "I accepted and am starting a full-time position as a Reference Librarian at the Kingsbridge Branch of the New York Public Library located in the Bronx borough." **Mark Shelley** (’94) completed his Masters in Education (U.S.C.) in student personnel services. He is teaching social studies at Woodruff High School, S.C. **Tripp Jeffers** (’94) is teaching modern history and American government in Richmond, Virginia.