For the first time in the program’s history, Undergraduate Evening Studies engaged a volunteer advisory council in 2017. The 24 members — community leaders representing businesses, non-profits, government agencies, and Furman alumni — met quarterly to learn more deeply about UES and to offer input into its strategic direction.

An active agenda was set for each meeting to solicit the most engagement and facilitate the greatest interaction between members.

At the initial January meeting, UES Director Beth Crews presented data about the program, and afterwards council members discussed paradoxical questions such as “How is it that Furman UES is simultaneously affordable and high quality?” Advisor Toby Louris ’06, vice president of IT at Benefitfocus, (continued on page 10)
STUDENT PROFILE

Loftin’s Steady Approach Earns Top Honors
By Beth Crews, Contributing Writer

Business administration major and environmental studies minor, Timothy Mark Loftin began Furman in 2004. During his years as a student and a full-time employee, Mark has achieved three career promotions, currently serving as data steward within the Treasury and Balance Sheet Management division of TD Bank. A member of Furman’s Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society, Mark is an avid reader and photographer, whose works have been exhibited in local galleries, as well as three UES annual homecoming art exhibitions. Described by professors as “nothing short of exemplary” with both “a thirst to learn” and “unparalleled persistence,” Mark was awarded the Gig Meredith Outstanding Student award at the Furman University Academic Awards Banquet on March 27, 2017. He graduated magna cum laude in August, and his future plans may include graduate school, a career transition from data governance to sustainability architecture at TD Bank, and a corporate communications start-up consultancy.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Every Din Has Its Day
By Beth Crews, Contributing Writer

UES alumni couldn’t be blamed for wondering, “What’s with the Dins thing?” At some point in Furman fandom, Paladins was shortened to Dins, and a “Dins thing” was born.

The third Dins Day was held April 25, 2017, to coincide with LDOC (Last Day of Class), a festivity that culminates with on-campus students leaping into the University’s fountains as a way to celebrate the last day of class and to blow off steam before finals begin.

Though Dins Day’s origin story may have a few degrees of separation from the Evening Studies student experience, its significance is the same for all Furman alumni and students. Dins Day is an opportunity for students and alumni to reconnect with their Furman experiences and memories, to reflect on what was learned, beyond the textbooks, through their Furman education. Giving back, reconnecting with Furman, and sharing Paladin pride are activities all Furman graduates can rally around.

UES encourages its alumni to stay connected with the current program, serve as mentors and provide internship opportunities to students, to hire graduates, and to give back to the program when possible. UES graduates can show their financial support by donating to the UES scholarship fund of their choice, to the UES Academic Excellence Fund, which funds technology innovations as well as faculty and student support initiatives, or to any meaningful campus initiative.

For more information about how you can contribute, contact the UES office at 864.294.2155, ues@furman.edu.
In 2011, UES created the annual Outstanding UES Faculty Award to honor one UES faculty member who has supported our students through outstanding teaching, service, and dedication to improving and building the UES program. Professor Melissa Ranhofer was chosen this year based on student feedback and because of her contribution to launching the environmental studies minor in Undergraduate Evening Studies, the first minor to be offered in the program’s 60 year history.

Students recount how much Professor Ranhofer’s class changed not only their thinking, but their actions in regard to their relationship to the planet. “I wish we had more professors like her,” one said. “She has made me more aware of global problems and how all of us need to contribute, even in small ways to leaving the planet in better condition for the future.”

Others cite the relevance of her classes, and her student support. “What I liked most in this class were the real world topics she included—topics we could relate to and understand. She was easy to contact and very helpful. She was accommodating when situations came up and helpful to work around them, so class information was not missed. She treated every student the same. She always did whatever she could to help out."

Even though environmental science is a complex subject, another student observed that, “she has a unique, organized way of putting environmental science details into a logical format that pushed and challenged us to learn. She has made me look at things in a whole new light.”

Professor Ranhofer is always prepared, making sure to document everything, state expectations clearly, and grade rigorously and fairly. She puts her heart into every student. UES is tremendously fortunate to have Professor Ranhofer as an instructor for the program.

UES Announces Theme for 4th Annual Art Exhibition

By Pamela Rastatter, Contributing Writer

Undergraduate Evening Studies has announced the theme for its 4th annual art exhibition, “VARIOUS SELVES: IDENTITY & IDENTITIES,” challenging artists to explore and express themselves through their works of art. The call for entries is open through September 20 for all UES students, alumni, advisory council members, faculty and staff. Any original works that explore or convey various aspects of one’s self will be considered for selection, regardless of medium. There is no fee to enter. Up to 5 pieces of artwork may be submitted for consideration. To enter, send an image of each item to UESArtShow@furman.edu. Artists will be notified of selection by September 29.

The UES Art Exhibition will kick off Furman’s Homecoming weekend on Friday, Oct. 20 with an opening reception from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at Furman’s Herring Center for Continuing Education. Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served. The exhibition will be open to the public at the Herring Center’s Baiden Gallery from Oct. 20 to Nov. 30, 2017.

“In the past we have had wonderful participation from our UES artists, using an array of media that have included photography, paint, and even fabric,” said UES Director Beth Crews. “Our juror, Furman Associate Professor in Studio Art Michael Brodeur, does a fabulous job putting together a meaningful exhibit, and I expect no less for this year.”

For more information, visit: furman.edu/ues/events.
On Saturday, Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Furman Undergraduate Evening Studies will host a homecoming tailgate for all UES students, alumni, faculty, and staff, along with their friends and families. The UES tent will be located at Reunion Village on the Furman Mall. There will be a ticketed barbecue lunch catered by Slopes BBQ. Cost for lunch tickets purchased online is $17.50 per ticket. Children four and under eat free. Tickets can be purchased online at furman.edu/homecoming through October 13. Tickets will be $20 at the gate.

According to UES Student Services Counselor Jennifer Grissop, “Activities like this give UES students and alumni a chance to get together and enjoy the Homecoming festivities with other Paladin Proud from all over the world. It’s a fantastic time of catching up with peers, spending time with friends and family, and cheering on the Paladins. Added perk: It just happens to take place at one of the most beautiful campuses in the country!”

Saturday night alumni and friends can continue to celebrate homecoming at the after-party taking place at Brazwell’s Premium Pub in downtown Greenville. The party starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for this event are $5 with Retro Vertigo performing. Please register in advance at furman.edu/homecoming.

The BBQ lunch, football game and after-party are the only ticketed events. Tickets purchased online are to be picked up on Homecoming Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Check-in & Information Tent located near the front gates and main Furman fountain. At 12:30 p.m., all remaining football tickets will be at the Paladin Stadium Will Call (Gate 11, visitor side).

In the event of rain, UES and other department tailgate tables will be located in the lower level of the Trone Student Center, and lunch will be hosted in the Watkins Room and surrounding area.
Congratulations to the 2017 UES Dean’s List and 2016-2017 Graduates

Furman UES Dean’s List achievement is awarded to students who are enrolled in six or more credit hours and earn a grade point average of at least 3.4 during a semester.

**SPRING 2017 DEAN’S LIST**

L. Brandon Balentine
Dale E. Byers
Doris M. Childress
Jennifer B. Cote
Joseph H. Frye
Lina M. Galan-Leon
Diana K. Godwin
Julia S. Gordievsky
Susan M. Simmons
Elizabeth M. Smith
Michelle E. Styles
Paul C. Whigham
David N. Williams

**SUMMER 2017 DEAN’S LIST**

Dale E. Byers
Jennifer B. Cote
Julia S. Gordievsky
Margarett A. Haisten
Christopher A. Reynolds
Helen Reynolds
Sukthavy Sisamouth
David N. Williams

**DECEMBER 2016 GRADUATES**

Paul A. Bridges, BLA
*Business Administration*

Lark M. Harrison, BLA
*Accounting and Business Administration*

Raven M. Ostlind, BLA
*Business Administration*

S. Taylor Owens, BLA
*Business Administration*

John A. Walsh, BLA
*Business Administration, Cum Laude*

**MAY 2017 GRADUATES**

Janice G. Paxton, BLA
*Accounting and Business Administration*
*Summa Cum Laude*

Breana B. Vachon, BLA
*Accounting and Business Administration*
*Summa Cum Laude*

Brandon D. Granger, BLA
*Business Administration*

Heather D. Hamby, BLA
*Business Administration*

Eric W. Rainey, BLA
*Business Administration*

Melissa J. Whitehead, BLA
*Business Administration*

Brenton H. Bailey,
*Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting*

Anna F. Latham,
*Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting*

**AUGUST 2017 GRADUATES**

T. Mark Loftin, BLA
*Business Administration, Magna Cum Laude*

Jonathan D. Cox, BLA
*Business Administration and Information Technology*
Advisory Council Offers Guidance and Advocacy

(continued from page I)

summarized his perspective that “Students want a Furman education that just happens to be at night, not night school at Furman.” Recurring themes were recapitulated to set the table for future meetings.

Advisor Kenneth Fields ’97, chief of staff at Michelin North America Research & Development, led the spring meeting using a “Business Canvas” discussion matrix. Council members were divided into consulting groups tasked with addressing different themes. They interviewed UES staff members to dig into each theme: Troy Terry, executive director for graduate and adult education, about value proposition; Beth Crews, UES director, about stakeholder segments; Jennifer Grissop, student services counselor, about stakeholder relationships; and Pamela Rastatter, administrative assistant, about marketing channels.

Provost George Shields visited the summer meeting to discuss the University’s role in supporting and promoting UES. Beth Crews also shared seven hallmarks of excellence recommended by UPCEA, the University Professional & Continuing Education Association, and the initiatives currently underway to align with these best practice principles. The Advisory Council members discussed key community partners and offered insights into the best ways to engage them in forwarding UES’s educational mission.

These council members will continue to be key constituents and evangelists for the program long after their meetings conclude this fall. At the November meeting, the program’s new strategic plan will be shared and discussed. UES owes a debt of gratitude for these Upstate leaders who have contributed their expertise and insight this year.

Undergraduate Evening Studies
2017 Advisory Council

We would like to take this opportunity to thank this year’s inaugural UES Advisory Council members:

Ken Abernethy, Ph.D.
Director, Raising Center
Furman University

Nestor Acosta ’89
Director Business Operations
Department of Psychiatry
Greenville Health System

Dayna Babb
Corporate HR Manager
Sage Automotive Interiors

John Buchanan ’10
Senior Manager, Internal Audit
Fluor Corporation

Matthew Clark
Editor
GSA Business Report

Steve Cole ’00
Executive Director
Greenville County Sanitation Commission

Jerry Denman
Distinguished Engineer, IT
IBM Watson

Mark Farris
President & CEO
Greenville Area Development Corporation

Kenneth Fields ’97
Chief of Staff
R&D Michelin

Fernando Fleites
Sr. V.P. Human Resources
Bon Secours St. Francis Health System

Elizabeth Feather
Director of Research
Upstate SC Alliance

Charlie Hall
Executive Director
Upstate Warrior Solution

Steve Hall
V.P. – Business Development
Find Great People

Whitney Hanna
Coordinator of Community Collaboration
Greenville County Schools

Greg Haselden ’94
V.P. for Finance and Operations
Erskine University

Hank Hyatt
V.P. – Economic Competitiveness,
Greenville County Chamber of Commerce

Nancy Johnson
Instructor
Furman University

Tim Justice
Co-Owner
Rescom Construction

Toby Louris ’06
V.P. – Technology
Benefitfocus

Ron Malone ’81
Private Equity Operating Partner
Furman University Trustee

Gregory Pickett, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, CBBS
Clemson University MBA Program
& Greenville ONE

Jim Shew
Director, National Accounts
Blue Cross Blue Shield of SC

Tom Traxler
Attorney
Carter, Smith, Merriam, Rogers & Traxler

Richard Walton
Reporter
The Greenville News

Lenna Young, Ph.D.
V.P. – Academic Affairs
Greenville Technical College

Mark Your Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Block A withdrawal deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Spring 2018 Evening Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>schedule released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8 - 10</td>
<td>Fall Break, Block C courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Block B begins; assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>posted in Moodle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Block A final exams, Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Tuesday courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Block A final exams, Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Thursday courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Block B in-class meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Block B add/drop deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Evening Studies spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>registration opens; spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>admission application deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2</td>
<td>Withdrawal deadline for Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>Withdrawal deadline for Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22 - 26</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Make-up class for Block B,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Make-up class for Block B,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Evening spring registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 9 - 14</td>
<td>Final exams; Blocks B and C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 3</td>
<td>Spring semester begins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>