FEATURES

2
Seeing Red
BY KAREN GUTH
In the book Brand Aid, Lisa Richey ’89 and her husband take a critical look at the rise of celebrity-driven “compassionate consumerism.”

7
Lessons in Service
Two alumni reflect on their Peace Corps experiences on the occasion of the organization’s golden anniversary.

12
A Window to Furman’s Past
BY MATTHEW SOHNER
A Duke Library intern uses modern technology to bring old images of the university to life.

16
Broadening the Base
BY JOHN ROBERTS
Furman is developing new strategies to increase applications from a broader spectrum of students.

18
Not Your Typical Morning Dip
BY MELINDA MENZER
An English professor tells the tale of her own “escape” from Alcatraz.

DEPARTMENTS

22
BECAUSE FURMAN MATTERS

30
ALUMNI NEWS

24
FURMAN REPORTS

39
LETTERS

29
ATHLETICS

40
THE LAST WORD
A provocative book offers a sharp critique of the connection between consumerism, international aid and the culture of celebrity activism.

It is not unusual to become immobilized when confronted with the world’s pressing problems. What to do in the face of abject poverty, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, or devastating environmental degradation? The sheer magnitude of these and other challenges proves overwhelming for political leaders and academic experts, let alone individual citizens.

But what if there were an easy, immediate way to respond to these problems in the course of one’s ordinary, daily activities?

This is exactly the solution proposed by a new model of international development, examined in a recent book by Lisa Ann Richey ’89. In Brand Aid: Shopping Well to Save the World, published by the University of Minnesota Press, Richey and her husband and co-author, Stefano Ponte, offer critical perspectives on an approach that weds consumerism and aid to address urgent global issues.

Their study focuses on Product RED, a joint effort of corporations such as American Express, Converse, Emporio Armani, Gap, Hallmark, Starbucks, and others, to provide support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS. Launched in 2006 in Switzerland, the initiative relies, in part, on the celebrity of U2 singer Bono to promote brands sold by the corporations. The profits generated from Western consumers provide HIV/AIDS medications to Africans suffering from the disease.

Richey, a professor of international development studies at Roskilde University in Denmark, and Ponte, a senior researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), call such approaches “Brand Aid” because they provide “aid to brands” by helping sell branded products — and they involve the sale of “brands that provide aid” by directing a portion of the profits to help others.

In effect, these new initiatives bypass the old debates about aid versus trade, combining the two in innovative forms of corporate social responsibility where proceeds from the sales of items that people buy every day — clothing, coffee, greeting cards — are given to public and private aid groups.

At first glance, Product RED appears to be an ideal marriage. Corporations enhance their brands, consumers get the satisfaction of supporting a good cause, and Africans receive needed medications.

But Brand Aid suggests it’s not that simple.
Irish rocker Bono enlisted Oprah Winfrey to help promote the launch of his Red product line in 2006. Clinics hearing people try to negotiate the very /f_i at an AIDS treatment clinic, and the message completed a year in South Africa doing research became aware of Product RED, Richey had just formula of “Shop and Save Africa.” When she reduces complex global problems to a simple for consumers could get the notion that they were luxury products, and somehow Western con- really upset by it,” Richey says. “The situations of powerless African victims.

The impact of celebrities on public policy exacerbates the problem. Celebrities like Bono come to stand in for African leaders who are, in fact, addressing the problems themselves. “Whenever there’s a supermodel, or Bono, or some other AIDS celebrity taking the stage and speaking on behalf of other people, they’re taking up space that could belong to someone else,” says Richey. “There are plenty of African superstars. We don’t see them accompanying every picture about something happening in Africa.”

But what really worries her is the increasing evidence that initiatives like Product RED create political avenues for effective change.” Instead of dealing with issues at a political level,” says Richey, “it engages people as consumers citizens. Instead of voting, you just need to shop better. That has a potentially problematic outcome.” Richey points to recent studies that indi- cate that people who buy “do-good shopping purchases” are more likely to decrease their charitable contributions to nonprofits, non- governmental organizations and faith commu- nities. “People think, well, I’ve done that work already. I’ve already contributed to that cause. I bought this necklace, this really great product that does something.”

Whether such a causal relationship exists is contested by social scientists, as is the effective- ness of Product RED in an approach to inter- national development. But regardless of one’s own views on the subject, Brand Aid provides an informative read on a host of issues — issues that Richey encountered for the first time dur- ing her days at Furman.

The book leaves the impression that approaches like Product RED create as many, if not more, ethical dilemmas as they solve. Brand Aid considers these “innovative mechanisms” of international development from the standpoint of social scientific and cultural analyses, examining the impact of celebrities on policymaking, consumption as a means for helping, and corporate shifts away from traditional forms of social responsibility. But the book is undercut by what Richey char- acterizes as a deep “moral disassociation” with these new approaches. “I became interested in RED because I was really upset by it,” Richey says. “The situations of Africans were suddenly being used to sell luxury products, and somehow Western con- sumers could get the notion that they were helping somebody just because they chose one pair of sunglasses over another.”

Richey and Ponte contend that Product RED reduces complex global problems to a simple for- mula of “Shop and Save Africa.” When she first became aware of Product RED, Richey had just completed a year in South Africa doing research at an AIDS treatment clinic, and the messagecontrasted with what she had observed about the realities of treating AIDS. “We had just come back after such a really difficult time in clinics hearing people try to negotiate the very complicated things in their lives, and then we hear Bono come on the screen and say it’s really easy. It’s, like, 10 cents a day.”

While Richey does not deny the impor- tance of access to the medicine that Product RED supplies, she contends that treating HIV/AIDS requires more than mere access to drugs. “It’s definitely not easy, and there’s an awful lot going on in terms of support networks, in care- giving, in really keeping people socially alive. It’s not just a matter of keeping people’s bodies functioning from one day to another but of who they are as mothers, or fathers, or brothers, or workers in their communities. [With Product RED] that whole component is left out.”

The book juxtaposes simple solutions and complicated problems also made her ques- tion why Product RED’s message was so appeal- ing. She wondered, “Why is this a message that’s flashy, that sells? Who is this what people want to hear?” Richey and Ponte offer several possible explana- tions. Part of the appeal is what they refer to as “low-cost heroism” — that we can address complicated global problems without making personal sacrifices or increasing our awareness of the problems. They note that Product RED encourages a kind of “consumer citizenship” with- out calling normal patterns of consumption into question, and it allows corporations to improve their brand image without reforming unethical business practices. In the end, the seductiveness of Product RED becomes clear: it engenders a sense of moral accomplishment while leaving unquestioned our own unethical practices — and those of corporations.

Richey and Ponte also criticize the way Product RED focuses on “distant others,” allowing us to evade important ethical concerns closer to home. By appealing to unstopped portraits of helpless, suffering Africans and using these images to sell luxury products, Product RED reinforces global power dynamics that picture Westerners as privileged saviors of powerless African victims.

Originally from Hanahan, S.C., Richey enrolled at Furman intending to become a lawyer. But political science courses with John Green and Don Gordon changed her plans. Green planted the idea that she major in poli- tical science, and from there, she says, “It was all Don Gordon’s fault. I was the head of the Pre-Law Society before I had Gordon’s classes, and after that I wanted to work in Africa on international development issues.”

“Lisa is a remarkable woman. She is keenly intel- ligent and has a massive amount of energy and enthusiasm for any project she works on. Her work with St芬cina in Africa is important and in many ways cutting edge. She’s what you hope a Furman graduate would be — committed, thoughtful, intellectually stimu- lating, personable, and working to leave the world a better place.”
right thing to do,” she says, “and I’ve probably been working ever since on trying to understand if that was the right thing to do.”

After graduating, Richey pursued a Ph.D. in political science at the University of North Carolina. As part of her dissertation work, she conducted research in Tanzania from 1995-96. She examined the impact of international development policies on population and reproductive health, including access to family planning and childbearing health. She published the results in her 2005 Population Politics and Development: From the Policies to the Clinics.

But how did she get from UNC to Denmark? As it turns out, the story involves Richey, an Italian she met in Michigan, and, to an extent, a former Tanzanian president.

In preparation for her dissertation research, Richey took a course in Swahili at Michigan State University. There she met Ponte, a native of Tanzania who was also studying Swahili in advance of a trip to Tanzania for his own Ph.D. work. The two hit it off and arranged to travel together.

While in Tanzania, Richey and Ponte decided to marry. She describes the ceremony, conducted in Swahili by a town official in the Morogoro Municipal Office, at the foot of the Uluguru mountains, as “extremely unpretentious and lots of fun.” The exchange of vows took place in a “typical government office” amid “hot, polishing paint, government-issue wooden chairs, a desk, and a picture of the country’s first president, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.”

Together they went to Denmark in 1999 when Ponte was recruited by the Danish Institute for International Studies. Richey took a position at the Center for African Studies at the University of Copenhagen, where she stayed until 2000. After finishing postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard and Columbia, serving as a project researcher for DFS itself, and completing a six-month stint on a coffee farm in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, Richey returned with Ponte to Denmark. They considered returning to the United States but decided on Denmark because of the opportunity it provided to achieve a reasonable work/life balance for them and their children, Sasha (14), Arianna (10) and Zeno William (6).

Today, in addition to teaching courses in international development, Richey is at work on a new project that leads further into the role of celebrities in ad work. She says she is examining “how celebrities are shaping public debate and, producing new ways to think about connecting individual donors with worthy recipients of their help, and changing the ways that traditional development institutions work.”

She is also working to establish partnerships between Danish and Tanzanian universities to support Ph.D. programs, researcher education, and organizational development for research on human health, and she and a colleague are involved in a project on images of HIV/AIDS in China and notions of human security.

To complete the adventure, the Tanzanian couple featured a surprising array of marital options — for Ponte, at least. Because Tanzania is a multi-religious country, citizens are offered several marriage choices. Ponte was asked to decide whether he would like a monogamous marriage, a polygamous marriage, or a potentially polygamous marriage. “He started to laugh,” Richey says. “It was not amused. I kicked him softly under the desk and we moved forward — after checking the appropriate box.”

The couple went to Denmark in 1999 when Ponte was recruited by the Danish Institute for International Studies. Richey took a position at the Center for African Studies at the University of Copenhagen, where she stayed until 2000. After finishing postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard and Columbia, serving as a project researcher for DFS itself, and completing a six-month stint on a coffee farm in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, Richey returned with Ponte to Denmark. They considered returning to the United States but decided on Denmark because of the opportunity it provided to achieve a reasonable work/life balance for them and their children, Sasha (14), Arianna (10) and Zeno William (6).

Today, in addition to teaching courses in international development, Richey is at work on a new project that leads further into the role of celebrities in ad work. She says she is examining “how celebrities are shaping public debate and, producing new ways to think about connecting individual donors with worthy recipients of their help, and changing the ways that traditional development institutions work.”

She is also working to establish partnerships between Danish and Tanzanian universities to support Ph.D. programs, researcher education, and organizational development for research on human health, and she and a colleague are involved in a project on images of HIV/AIDS in China and notions of human security.

These projects will likely shed new light on the field of international development, as has Brand Aid, which brings us back to the question at the heart of the book: Is it possible to shop well to save the world?

If the answer is yes, it is not in the way initiatives like Product RED intend, suggests Richey. She does think we should take the consumer realm seriously, but less in terms of buying luxury products to support the purchase of AIDS medications and more in terms of conscientious consumption. She believes we need to pay more attention to what we buy, where the products come from, and the conditions under which they were produced — and then make a fair choice.

While hesitant to support a kind of localism or nationalism, Richey does think it’s worthwhile to “look at our own backyards” rather than to focus our efforts exclusively on distant locales. “We could look to our own neighborhoods. We could look to groups that are being socially, economically and politically excluded in our own communities, and think about how to work in solidarity with those people,” she suggests.

Lisa Elliott Grose ’91, a classmate of Richey at Furman who has been inspired by her friend’s work, is struck by what she calls Richey’s “humanitarian side.” Grose marvels that even when Richey’s children were small, she took them with her to Tanzania when she worked there. “She thought nothing of it,” Grose says. “There was just no question that this was a job that must be done. She left a calling to do it. She is clearly a very gifted academic. She’s also that must be done. She felt a calling to do it. She is clearly a very gifted academic. She’s also

The rules of celebrities in ad work. She says she is examining “how celebrities are shaping public debate and, producing new ways to think about connecting individual donors with worthy recipients of their help, and changing the ways that traditional development institutions work.”

She is also working to establish partnerships between Danish and Tanzanian universities to support Ph.D. programs, researcher education, and organizational development for research on human health, and she and a colleague are involved in a project on images of HIV/AIDS in China and notions of human security.

These projects will likely shed new light on the field of international development, as has Brand Aid, which brings us back to the question at the heart of the book: Is it possible to shop well to save the world?

If the answer is yes, it is not in the way initiatives like Product RED intend, suggests Richey. She does think we should take the consumer realm seriously, but less in terms of buying luxury products to support the purchase of AIDS medications and more in terms of conscientious consumption. She believes we need to pay more attention to what we buy, where the products come from, and the conditions under which they were produced — and then make a fair choice.

While hesitant to support a kind of localism or nationalism, Richey does think it’s worthwhile to “look at our own backyards” rather than to focus our efforts exclusively on distant locales. “We could look to our own neighborhoods. We could look to groups that are being socially, economically and politically excluded in our own communities, and think about how to work in solidarity with those people,” she suggests.

Lisa Elliott Grose ’91, a classmate of Richey at Furman who has been inspired by her friend’s work, is struck by what she calls Richey’s “humanitarian side.” Grose marvels that even when Richey’s children were small, she took them with her to Tanzania when she worked there. “She thought nothing of it,” Grose says. “There was just no question that this was a job that must be done. She left a calling to do it. She is clearly a very gifted academic. She’s also very clearly got a heart for what she does.”

But where does this passion come from? “I think anger is a very good motivating force,” Richey says. “When I see injustice in the world, I feel angry. That’s a big motivator for me.”

The rules of celebrities in ad work. She says she is examining “how celebrities are shaping public debate and, producing new ways to think about connecting individual donors with worthy recipients of their help, and changing the ways that traditional development institutions work.”

She is also working to establish partnerships between Danish and Tanzanian universities to support Ph.D. programs, researcher education, and organizational development for research on human health, and she and a colleague are involved in a project on images of HIV/AIDS in China and notions of human security.

Since President John F. Kennedy announced the establishment of the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, more than 200,000 people have volunteered to spend two years of their lives — or more — in the cause of world peace and friendship. While the organization may have reached middle age, its heart and commitment remain forever young. Today more than 8,600 people (average age: 28) work in 76 countries as advocates for education, health, business development, environmental and agricultural causes, and more.

Through the years many Furman graduates (and faculty) have committed their time and energy to the Peace Corps. To recognize their contributions — and the organization’s anniversary — Furman magazine asked two alumni to offer reflections on their experience and its impact. Their stories follow.
As newlyweds, my parents served as Peace Corps volunteers in Brazil in the late 1960s. Taking up John F. Kennedy’s call to service, my father taught forestry and helped to launch a tree genetics program at a university, and my mother trained teachers and worked with the children of people with leprosy. “It was the best two years of our lives,” was a mantra I heard often growing up, and from both sides; my parents agreed on this point unequivocally. My fourth-grade teacher must have found it strange that I knew the quote “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country” well enough to correct another student presenting a book report, but that’s just the kind of home I grew up in.

When I began exploring career options during my junior year at Furman (nearly 30 years after my parents had served), I pretty much knew that a two-year stint in the Peace Corps would be the starting point. I was thinking through any number of potential pathways, but they all existed on the other side of those 27 months during which I would serve as a volunteer. How could I not try out this experience that my parents had so admired?

Just 10 days after graduation in 1999, I went to Burkina Faso, a wind-swept, hard-scrabble, poverty-stricken country in the heart of West Africa. Despite its challenges, I found Burkina to be downright wonderful. I taught English, managed a high school building construction project, engaged in the fight against HIV and AIDS, and worked with promising young women to persuade them to stay in school. The work was tough and sometimes confusing, but it felt vital to me. To this day, I have never felt more alive than I did during my years as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Burkina seeped into my skin. Day by day and conversation by conversation, I fell in love with a land and its people. Two years turned into three, then three and a half. I eventually returned to the United States to attend graduate school, but I went back to Africa for short pieces of work or research whenever I could. A few months after I completed graduate school, I succumbed to the urge again and returned to West Africa for several more years. Without setting out to do so, I ended up dedicating my career to development work or research whenever I could.

Although I no longer work for the Peace Corps, my work continues to focus on children and families in a region where poverty, conflict, and disease have put families under siege. The work has been thrilling and sometimes confusing, but it felt vital to me. To this day, I have never felt more alive than I did during my years as a Peace Corps volunteer.

A few months after I completed graduate school, I succumbed to the urge again and returned to West Africa for several more years. Without setting out to do so, I ended up dedicating my career to development and humanitarian assistance in West Africa. Although I no longer work for the Peace Corps, my work continues to focus on children and families in a region where poverty, conflict, and disease have put families under siege. The work has been thrilling and sometimes confusing, but it felt vital to me. To this day, I have never felt more alive than I did during my years as a Peace Corps volunteer.

A few months after I completed graduate school, I succumbed to the urge again and returned to West Africa for several more years. Without setting out to do so, I ended up dedicating my career to development and humanitarian assistance in West Africa. Although I no longer work for the Peace Corps, my work continues to focus on children and families in a region where poverty, conflict, and disease have put families under siege. The work has been thrilling and sometimes confusing, but it felt vital to me. To this day, I have never felt more alive than I did during my years as a Peace Corps volunteer.
When people think about Peace Corps service, they envision volunteers living in mud huts, digging wells and working the land, cut off from friends and family. But as Peace Corps volunteers in Romania, my husband, David, and I live in a Communist-era block apartment with running water, super-fast Internet, and even a washing machine.

On the street outside our bloc, Mercedes-Benzes, Dacias (Romanian-made cars), bicycles and carute (horse-drawn wagons) are parked next to each other. In the town center is a McDonald’s, just a block away from the bustling farmer’s market offering local fruits, vegetables, meats and cheeses. Walking down the street is a young woman wearing Dolce & Gabbana, and another in traditional costume.

These juxtapositions of wealth and poverty, of globalization and small-town life, of modernity and tradition, may seem contradictory. Part of Romania’s challenge is reconciling and blending these dualities as Romanians seek to establish their national identity. As Peace Corps volunteers we have the opportunity to share skills, build capacity, and encourage civic engagement during this crucial phase of Romania’s developmental process.

During pre-service training we were warned that Peace Corps service in Romania is different from service on other continents. We might enjoy the creature comforts of living in a European Union country, but Romania bears the scars of an oppressive regime, including apartheid and homophobia. We were told that we would work toward social and behavioral changes yet produce tangible results. Without walls and crops to mark our progress, we would need to persevere and focus on small victories.

So we did. Learning new vocabulary was a small victory toward my language acquisition. Getting my butcher or the veggie lady to smile and practice Radical progress was a small victory for my community integration. But teaching Radu to crochet I had a small victory of my Peace Corps service thus far.

With my background in expressive arts therapies and mental health counseling, I was placed at a rural non-governmental organization (NGO) providing therapeutic services to youth and adults with disabilities. Radu is one of the beneficiaries at the NGO.

With salt-and-pepper hair and a limp, he seems older than his chronological age of 24. He is quick to anger and quick to smile. His disabilities take on most of the adult responsibilities at home. His grandmother is sick and bedridden. This young man with physical and developmental process.

As Peace Corps volunteers, we dream big dreams of sustainable national projects — the kind that are featured in press releases. It may not be so glamorous, but by teaching Radu to crochet I had an impact on his quality of life.

I remind myself daily that the Peace Corps is a person-to-person organization. My small victories may not be the spinoff of international development work, but I would assert that building people up helps build nations up. Our shared experiences and cultural exchanges are fundamentally strengthening both nations — Romania and our own.

Governor John Gardiner Richards (holding hat) attended the 1928 Furman-Clemson game at Manly Field (Clemson won, 27-12); W.L. “Billy” Laval, dubbed “The King,” coached football from 1915–27.

Opposite: Students enjoy a match on the courts outside Geer Hall, 1930.

A Window to Furman’s Past

By Matthew Sohner ’11

As a recorder and collector of all things Greenville, few could match Bill Coxe. Coxe, a prolific photographer, came to Greenville in 1920 and spent the next five decades taking and collecting photographs of the city. When he died in 1973, he left a visual history of more than 120,000 images dating from the late 1890s to the 1960s. Included in the collection were glass-plate images of Furman and the Greenville Woman’s College, most of them from the 1920s and early 1930s.

In 1989 a member of the Coxe family contacted Furman’s James B. Duke Library about donating the collection to the university’s archives. Furman held the images until 1991, when the Greenville Historical Society took on responsibility for their preservation. The images were stored in several places, but remained undisturbed and uninvestigated.

About a decade ago, the historical society decided to reduce the size of the collection. When Steve Richardson, Furman’s coordinator of reference services, and archivist J. Glen Clayton learned that images of the school might be disposed of, they quickly moved to reacquire and return them to the university archives.

Last spring, as part of Courtney Tollison’s class on “Experiential Learning in Public History,” I was an intern in the library’s Department of Special Collections and Archives. I had the opportunity to scan, digitize and identify many of the Furman images from the Coxe Collection, and to create a guide to the photos.

From January to March I worked on the project three days a week, three to four hours a day. The individual images — some stained, some broken or dirty — were recorded as photographic negatives on 8x10-inch glass plates, which are extremely delicate and must be handled with the utmost care.

The process was painstakingly slow. The images had to be scanned at high resolution and saved as large, uncompressed files. But it was amazing to see how technology could convert the glass-plate negatives into beautiful, crystal-clear black-and-white digital images. Using the yearbooks from the 1920s and 1930s, I worked to identify the student groups, faculty members, buildings, sports teams and campus events recorded on the images.

By the end of the internship I had scanned and identified 150 photographs — still less than half the collection. I developed a brochure and organized an exhibit of selected photos, and included a video describing their discovery, “rescue,” and the work I did in cataloging the images.

My goal for the project was to introduce the Furman community to a piece of its collective history. In doing so, I worked with photographs of students who had long since died and who had attended college on campuses that no longer exist. The photos were taken at a time when photography was deliberate, and when society did not have camera phones or the ability to upload pictures instantly to the Internet for the whole world to see.

It led me to ask questions that I hope everyone who sees these images will consider: What value will my own photographs have to another generation in 50 or 100 years? And how will those images be archived and preserved? One day, someone may be peering at my face on a computer screen, yet may know as little about me as I do about the people in the Coxe Collection photographs. This thought reminds me of the importance of photographs not just as entertainment, but as visual records.

The author, who earned a degree in history, is working with AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) in Rock Hill, S.C., developing a children’s literacy program.
This page:
A triumphant finish on the dirt track; President William J. McGlothlin (front row, second from right) with faculty and staff in 1931.

Opposite:
The late 1920s edition of the Furman band, ready for a halftime show; Greenville Woman’s College’s most valuable players, 1929–30; May Day 1931, where a bird and a turtle exchanged pleasantries.

To see all the Cone Collection photos that have been digitized, visit http://digicenter.furman.edu and click the Luna Online Collection link. All photos courtesy Furman Department of Special Collections and Archives.
Broadening the Base

FURMAN Admission Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FURMAN is working to expand its applicant pool by adopting a more holistic approach to the recruiting process.

FLASH WITH THE SUCCESS of enrolling a record 824 first-year students (freshmen and transfer) and significantly lowering the amount of financial aid awarded to the freshmen class, Furman’s admission and financial aid offices are focusing their energy on boosting applications.

“By a lot of objective measures this was an extraordinary year,” says Brad Pochard, associate vice president for admission. “The academic profile of the freshman class is strong, and we were able to enroll a second number even as we deliberately lowered our discount rate”—which is the percentage of tuition revenue awarded in institutional financial aid.

Now, Furman is seeking to expand its applicant base. Pochard says, “We’ve had the advantage of a strong reputation among a fairly narrow band of students, which has kept the quality of our applicants and incoming classes strong. But we don’t believe that is a sustainable model.

“What we want is to increase applications from a broader spectrum of students, leveraging our strong academic reputation to maintain our base while extending beyond our traditional markets, and thus raising our selectivity level.” Total applications for 2011–12 were 5,058.

In addition to adding several staff positions, the new admission strategy features a more holistic approach to recruiting students that places greater emphasis on high school grades and curriculum, and takes extra steps to evaluate such qualities as persistence, drive and intellectual curiosity. These qualities are assessed, in large part, through personal interviews, recommendations from high school counselors, and essay questions that serve as supplements to the Common Application.

As part of this holistic approach, Furman is loosening its emphasis on standardized test results. Applications are “not optional,” students are no longer required to submit their ACT or SAT scores.

“If in the past we’ve spent a lot of money to attract students with the highest scores,” says Rod Smolla, the university’s president, “now we want our campus visit to be the most important factor in the admission decision.”

The result: The percentage of high school seniors who visit campus has increased from 47 to 57 percent in the past five years.

As part of this holistic approach, Furman is also lowering its emphasis on standardized test scores in determining admission. But it admits that trying to identify qualities such as heart, determination, and potential can be tricky: “I’m not pontificating this is easy,” he says. “It is real people-intensive.”

To help, the university has launched the Furman Admission Network (FAN). FAN involves more than 700 friends and alumni nationwide who interview prospective students and submit reports that are included in the applicants’ files. Nearly 1,000 applicants for the Class of 2015 were interviewed last year by FAN members. (See page 19.)

Pochard says the FAN reports have been quite helpful. “They often solidify our decisions based upon what we see in a student’s file,” he says. “But there are also cases when the report makes us reconsider.”

Another significant aspect of the admission strategy is continued discipline in awarding financial aid—a policy that produced a 38 percent financial aid discount rate, down from 48 percent in 2010.

“The money we spent on aid in the past can be better deployed to strengthen our academic and co-curricular programs,” Smolla says. “This is a more financially sound and sustainable approach for us, and we were pleased that record numbers of students still recognized the value of a Furman education and chose to enroll.”

Other recruiting initiatives include aggressive marketing efforts to differentiate the university and attract students with a wide range of backgrounds, interests and potential. New positioning strategies and collateral material (print and Web) have been adopted or are in the works.

In recent years Pochard and his staff have also strengthened the campus visit for prospective students and their families. “We set the expectation for families to spend at least half a day here, and we work to personalize the visit,” he says. “In addition to both a walking and riding tour of campus and an information session, we encourage them to attend a class, meet with a professor, eat in the dining hall, even visit downtown Greenville.”

The result: The percentage of high school seniors who visit campus and then apply has grown from 52 to 66 percent in the last three years.

“At our price tag ($49,750 for the first year), we need to do a good job of showing them our value,” says Pochard. PI

The author is Furman’s director of internal/electronic communications.

By John Roberts

FURMAN\FALL 2011

16

FURMAN\FALL 2011

17
On June 12, 1962, three men engineered a notorious escape from Alcatraz, San Francisco's island prison. Almost 50 years later, a Furman professor takes on the challenge of the Alcatraz swim.

By Melinda Menzer
Illustrations by Julie Speer

When the word got out around Furman that I was preparing to do the Alcatraz Sharkfest Swim, people began to ask me, "Why?" Students asked, colleagues asked, people I didn't even know would stop and ask me, "Why are you doing the Alcatraz swim?"

Why? I was stumped. And even though I got the same question over and over, I never became any better at answering it. Why eat ice cream? Why sing silly songs in the shower? Why do anything? My husband's sister Allison asked if I wanted to swim the Alcatraz Sharkfest with her and their brother Michael, and I said yes.

I wouldn't have wanted to swim Alcatraz if I thought I might drown. But even before I started training specifically for the event, I knew it was doable.

The distance from Alcatraz Island to shore is 1.5 miles, or 2,640 yards. During the school year, I swim 2,000 yards at lunch time, four or five days a week. I have an inviolable appointment with the pool. I eat lunch at my desk while working, and sometimes I go to class with wet hair, but I make that swim.

I am fortunate to be at Furman, where I have a beautiful pool on campus and an administration that encourages fitness for all members of the community.

So last fall when I signed up for the swim, I was confident that I could make the distance. The problem, however, is not the distance. Nor is it the sharks, popular myth aside — there are sharks in San Francisco Bay, but they stay to the bottom and aren't interested in people.

The swim is difficult for two reasons: the current and the cold. If you are not strong enough (or not paying attention), you can be pushed off course, out toward the ocean, missing the entrance to Aquatic Park, where the swim ends. Someone would rescue you, of course, but no swimmer wants to be rescued; it's not good for your ego to be towed to shore by a kayakist.
I decided to buy a wetsuit, rather than rent, so I would have an opportunity to practice in it. I didn’t know that trying on a wetsuit is a lot like trying on a wedding dress. First, you put on your undergarments while a salesperson talks to you about fit and material, using words you do not understand. Then you go into a little room where you discover, in spite of carefully following the salesperson’s instructions, that you can’t get into the outfit by yourself.

You manage to get dressed enough that you will not be naked in public, then come out for help. The salesperson starts to adjust you. People don’t know come up and offer congratulations. They ask questions: What’s the big day? Where will it be? Is this your first?

First, you pick out some possibilities while a salesperson talks about the weather in Furman Hall all year round. I am cold in my office, but I couldn’t see the buildings of San Francisco sparkling ahead of me. There were other heads bobbing in the water, no one too close. I followed the pack toward the shore.

As I was treading water and looking at the golden clouds, I realized that I was uncontrollable. Whatever disasters were occurring on land, whether at work or at home, they were not my problem. Other people would have to deal with them; I was in the middle of a lake. It was an amazing feeling of freedom. I swam back to shore, took a quick look around, and went out for the one-mile loop again.

I realized that I was unreachable. Whatever disasters were occurring on land, whether at work or at home, they were not my problem. Other people would have to deal with them; I was in the middle of a lake. It was an amazing feeling of freedom. I swam back to shore, took a quick look around, and went out for the one-mile loop again.

At this point, I was completely in love with open water swimming. I went every Wednesday I could, even after it got too warm to wear a wetsuit and I switched to swimsuit only.

On Saturday morning, June 25, we all woke up well before our 5:30 alarm. There was no point in trying to go back to sleep. We packed our stuff and headed for Aquatic Park, where we checked in and put on our wetsuits.

I felt good about everything until we got on the boat to head for Alcatraz Island. It was very cold on the deck. I was shivering, and my teeth were chattering. It hurt, and I was afraid I would get my teeth so hard that I would have a headache before I even started swimming. I was worried. I knew that in the cold, how cold would I be in the water?

But as we got to the island we went below, where it was plenty warm. There is no way for everyone in the race to leave from the island — there is no beach — so the first hurdle is to jump from the boat into the water. The mass of people started to move to the doorway. Michael was in front of me. He jumped, I jumped. As soon as I hit the water, I knew everything was going to be all right.

The main challenge in the race was disorientation. In the chaos, we missed the official starting horn. I was slowly swimming with Allison and Michael toward what we thought was the starting line when a person in a pink cap came bailing by,icking me in the jaw. That seemed to be a sign that the race had started, so I picked up the pace and headed toward land.

Every time I came near a kayaker, he or she would yell at me, “Go left! Go left!” So I went left. You don’t argue with the kayakers, who are volunteering their Saturday morning to save your useless butt. I must have been close to the right of the pack the whole way, which is not a bad strategy, since it was the straightest line toward shore and the shortest course.

But I noticed missing the entrance to Aquatic Park and being swept toward the open ocean.

And frankly, I had no idea where the entrance was for most of the race. I just kept swimming, enjoying every minute of it. The water was cool and surprisingly green, a gray-green. There were waves — not choppy little lake waves that slap you in the face, but big waves that lift you up and give you a view of where you are. And where I was amazing. It was cloudy, but I could see the buildings of San Francisco sparkling ahead of me. There were other heads bobbing in the water, no one too close. I followed the pack toward the shore.

But as I got to Aquatic Park, time began to speed up. The entrance is made by two carved concrete barriers which form a circle with a gap to swim through. People on top of the barriers were cheering for the swimmers. Suddenly the water was crowded as we were funneled into the park. I felt some urgency; I couldn’t set all these people beat me. At the same time, my throat began to sting, and I realized that I had burns from my swimsuit out there and struggled into the wetsuit on the beach.

I had a respectable time: 42 minutes, 25 seconds. That placed me sixth of 41 in my age group, 49th of 241 female finishers. This is all good, and I am content. But the joy of swimming is in the swimming, not the finishing time. When I close my eyes, I can see that color, the surrounding gray-green of the water. And I can feel the coolness of the water and the waves.
I couldn’t decide whether to stand up in deep division in the country. Vice President gone to Martin Luther King’s funeral in Atlanta. McCahan. I was challenged greatly by this course — a course taught by psychology professor Gerda McCahan. OK, but not exceptional. I would ever get out of Furman. My grades were ship is looking for such qualities as leadership, personal accomplishments. The Merit-based exceptional academic ability and distinctive high school seniors whose parent or grandparent based Legacy Scholarship to be awarded to now offering increased support for alumni whose family atmosphere. In that spirit, the university is University introduces Merit-based Legacy Scholarship Furman has ALWAYS TAKEN PRIDE in its family atmosphere. In that spirit, the university is now offering increased support for alumni whose children or grandchildren want to continue the family tradition by attending Furman. Furman is introducing a competitive, Merit-based Legacy Scholarship to be awarded to five high school seniors whose parent or grandparent attended Furman and who have displayed exceptional academic ability and distinctive personal accomplishments. The Merit-based Legacy Scholarship is worth $25,000 annually and is renewable. The selection committee for the scholarship is looking for such qualities as leadership, service, character, creativity and passion. To be considered, applicants must complete the Merit-based Legacy Scholarship application, as well as a Furman Admission Network interview. The deadlines for requesting an interview are January 15. Additional information and a link to the application are available by visiting www.furman.edu/scholarship. Recipients will be notified no later than April 1, 2012.

Also beginning with the Class of 2016, Furman will increase, from $5,000 to $10,000, the value of the scholarship it awards to each accepted legacy student. If the student is eligible for any Furman scholarship in excess of the amount of the Legacy Scholarship, the higher scholarship will be awarded and will replace the Legacy Scholarship. Furman has found that legacy students bring unique qualities to the university. Information compiled by the Office of Admission confirms that legacies are traditionally strong scholars at Furman and are highly competitive in the overall application pool — no doubt because of their exceptional ancestry.

One mentor’s influence: Gerda McCahan

My personal life was disheartening, too. I was an English major, I had been persuaded to take a textbook, which, like the professor, was a walk across the stage at graduation, and I’m forever grateful to her. I will have the course textbook, which, like the professor, was a repository of wisdom. Furman wasn’t easy. But it was, for me, an invincible experience.

— BILL HIGGINS

The author, a 1968 graduate, works with E.O. Editions, a used and collectible books store in Columbia, S.C.

ONE OF THE CHIEF PRIORITIES of the final phase of the $400 million Because Furman Matters Campaign is a $25 million to strengthen the overall student experience. Thanks to a $5 million pledge from an alumna who has requested anonymity, the university is well on its way to reaching this goal. The majority of the gift — the largest outright commitment by an individual in the university’s history — will support the renovation and expansion of the University Center and strengthen its role in the hub of campus activities and student involvement. The designation for the remainder of the $5 million will be announced at a later date.

The $5 million gift, the campaign has reached $340 million in commitments. “This gift gives us great momentum in the concluding phase of our campaign to launch the tremendous support we enjoy among our alumni,” says Rod Smolla, Furman’s president. “A major emphasis of the campaign is to transform the undergraduate experience at the university, and this generous commitment will help us accomplish our goal by transforming the University Center from a campus custodian to an energized campus destination.”

The upgrade to the University Center is one of several aspects of the campaign’s student experience initiative. With a new student life master plan as its blueprint, the initiative calls for additional changes to the campus and enhancements for specific programs. They include:

❖ Developing a freshman residential village by reconnecting South Housing, the former men’s residence hall. The five buildings that make up the complex (Blackwell-Well, Greer, Mundy, McGilvery, Potter) will be updated, with some areas converted to meeting spaces and lounges. The quadrangle in the center of the complex will be transformed into a student commons with scoring areas. A new residence hall (for females), located on a now elevated site on the former Blackwell Hall, may be added.
❖ Classroom and advising space will be incorporated into South Housing to more fully integrate the academic and residential lives of students. Professors and their families will be invited to live in the village in an effort to strengthen the intellectual and social bonds among students and their mentors.
❖ Student life is planned for Lakeside Housing (the former women’s residence hall). Meeting areas and casual spaces will be added, and landscaping will be reshaped. (Estimated need: $20 million.)
❖ Expanding the work of the Lilly Center for Vocational Reflection (see page 40), which encourages the exploration of ultimate questions and concerns in an effort to help individuals match their gifts and values with the needs of the academic and residential lives of students. Professors and their families will be invited to live in the village in an effort to strengthen the intellectual and social bonds among students and their mentors. The Lilly Center’s programs extend to students, faculty, alumni and the greater community. (Estimated need: $4 million.)
❖ Increasing support for such high-profile student life programs as career services, Stickney Leadership Institute, Heller Service Corps, multicultural affairs, club and intramural sports, and others. (Estimated need: $1 million.)
❖ Connie Carson, vice president for student life, says, “We want to change the culture of the campus, to blend and bridge academics and student life. They should meet together and complement one another.”

Besides student life, the campaign’s concluding phase is focusing on three other priority areas: reinforcing academic excellence and increasing scholarship support, with a goal of $45 million; renovating and building on intramural and intercollegiate athletics ($20 million); and enhancing the university’s relationship with the community ($15 million). For updates on the campaign, visit www.becausefurmanmatters.com.

Record $5 million gift provides major boost to student life initiative

FURMAN HAS ALWAYS TAKEN PRIDE in its family atmosphere. In that spirit, the university is now offering increased support for alumni whose children or grandchildren want to continue the family tradition by attending Furman. Furman is introducing a competitive, Merit-based Legacy Scholarship to be awarded to five high school seniors whose parent or grandparent attended Furman and who have displayed exceptional academic ability and distinctive personal accomplishments. The Merit-based Legacy Scholarship is worth $25,000 annually and is renewable. The selection committee for the scholarship is looking for such qualities as leadership, service, character, creativity and passion. To be considered, applicants must complete the Merit-based Legacy Scholarship application, as well as a Furman Admission Network interview. The deadlines for requesting an interview are January 15. Additional information and a link to the application are available by visiting www.furman.edu/scholarship. Recipients will be notified no later than April 1, 2012.

Also beginning with the Class of 2016, Furman will increase, from $5,000 to $10,000, the value of the scholarship it awards to each accepted legacy student. If the student is eligible for any Furman scholarship in excess of the amount of the Legacy Scholarship, the higher scholarship will be awarded and will replace the Legacy Scholarship. Furman has found that legacy students bring unique qualities to the university. Information compiled by the Office of Admission confirms that legacies are traditionally strong scholars at Furman and are highly competitive in the overall application pool — no doubt because of their exceptional ancestry.

To learn more about legacy scholarships, contact admission@furman.edu.

The author, a 1968 graduate, works with E.O. Editions, a used and collectible books store in Columbia, S.C.

University introduces Merit-based Legacy Scholarship

Furman BECAUSE FURMAN MATTERS
A GREENVILLE HUMANITARIAN and an alumnus with a long record of service to Baptist causes received major honors September 1 at the Opening Convocation of the 2011-12 academic year.

Gillaine Warne, an agronomist and native of Australia, was awarded a Doctor of Humanities degree for her mission work in Haiti. Through Christ Church Episcopal in Greenville, she partners with the citizens of the Central Plateau, one of Haiti’s poorest regions, to promote reforestation, teach the values of sustainable agriculture, nutrition and community awareness, and help restore hope to the residents of the area that in recent years has been devastated by natural disasters. Glen Adkins ’77 received the Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award, which honors an alumnus who reflects Baptist ideals by thinking critically, living compassionately and making life-changing commitments. Adkins has served as a music minister at Baptist churches in the Southeast for more than 33 years. Having spent 2007-10 in Hungary as a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionary to the heavily persecuted Roma Gypsies, he is now minister of worship, music and fine arts at Emorywood Baptist Church in High Point, N.C.

Five members of the Class of 2012 were also honored at the convocation as Furman Fellows. The fellowships, worth $7,500, are awarded each year to members of the senior class who have demonstrated unique leadership skills and potential to make a difference in the world and in the lives of others. The awards are made possible through the generosity of Bob Buckman, a Furman trustee, and his wife, Joyce Mollerup. This year’s recipients are Susan Bitetti, a physics major from Norwell, Mass.; Lindsay Harroff, a political science/communication studies major from Concord, N.C.; Cortney McEniry, a theatre arts major from Anderson, S.C.; Michael Sauer, a business administration major from Richmond, Va.; and Brandon Tensley, a political science/German major from Columbia, S.C.

Warne, Adkins honored at Opening Convocation

NEW band uniforms, good food, vintage, Furman-themed cars, and a 26–21 victory over Wofford were highlights of Homecoming 2011 October 21-23. This year’s major honorees (above, from left) included Laura Waters Hinson ’01, an Oscar-winning filmmaker for “As We Forgive,” the story of reconciliation and renewal in Rwanda; Outstanding Young Alumni Award; and 1972 graduates Ty and Sandra Milton Talton; Gordon L. Blackwell Alumni Service Award winners for their leadership in establishing the Vick Professorship in Music. Honorees who could not attend were Brian Garcia ’97, Wayne and Ruby Reid Award recipient for his support of students’ career development, and Brad Faxon ’83, an eight-time winner on the PGA Tour, Distinguished Alumnus Award. Photos by Jeremy Fleming.
JOHNNIE MAC WALTERS ’42, Our Journey (Stroud & Hall, 2011). The author, a retired teller and former commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, offers this memoir. Starting with his formative years near Hartsville, S.C., he recounts his time at Furman University and the impact it had on his life.

JEREMY FLEMING

"I have been fortunate and have survived what is usually a fatal diagnosis. I simply continue to live day by day, happily thankful for the gift of continued life. I retired in the summer of 2008 and spent my first year of retirement reflecting on my life. In the process I identified five important things that have sustained me through the easy and not-so-easy times: faith, family, friends, fun and free enterprise. On the Road and Daydreams is a collection of true stories and reflections about my five Frauens: New friends in Iowa. Visit www.ontarye.com.

C. MELISSA SNARR ’92, All That Labor: Religion and Ethics in the Working World (New York University Press, 2011). The book analyzes and evaluates the contributions of religious activists in the working world. The author, associate professor of ethics and society, is a co-founder of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. The book is a study of the social, political and ethical implications of religious activism, with a focus on the experiences of students and faculty at Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

M. AN MALICI, A. K. GRIER and S. C. MELISSA SNARR, Fruitful Friends: A Practical Guide for Parents Raising Widowed Children (Fruitful Friends, LLC, 2011). The authors, who were widowed before age 50, are co-principals at Fruitful Friends, and together they offer guidance and support to families affected by the loss of a spouse.

ELLEN CULBERTSON ABRAHAM ’00, (Stanford University Press, 2011). This book explores the role of women in the field of psychology, with a focus on the contributions of religious activists and academics. The author, a psychologist and author, offers case studies and reflections on the experiences of women in the field of psychology and offers advice on career development.


DAVID JORDAN ’72, Fruitful Friends: A Practical Guide for Parents Raising Widowed Children (Fruitful Friends, LLC, 2011). The book provides guidance and support to parents who are raising children who have experienced the loss of a parent.

STEWARD SIMMS ’69, Words Not Worn (Yorkshire Publishing, 2011). The book offers reflections and insights on life and faith, with a focus on the experiences of a pastor who has been deeply affected by the loss of a loved one.

STEWART SIMMS ’69, Words Not Worn (Yorkshire Publishing, 2011). The book offers reflections and insights on life and faith, with a focus on the experiences of a pastor who has been deeply affected by the loss of a loved one.

JEREMY FLEMING

"I have been fortunate and have survived what is usually a fatal diagnosis. I simply continue to live day by day, happily thankful for the gift of continued life. I retired in the summer of 2008 and spent my first year of retirement reflecting on my life. In the process I identified five important things that have sustained me through the easy and not-so-easy times: faith, family, friends, fun and free enterprise. On the Road and Daydreams is a collection of true stories and reflections about my fiveFrauen: New friends in Iowa. Visit www.ontarye.com.

C. MELISSA SNARR ’92, All That Labor: Religion and Ethics in the Working World (New York University Press, 2011). The book analyzes and evaluates the contributions of religious activists in the working world. The author, associate professor of ethics and society, is a co-founder of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. The book is a study of the social, political and ethical implications of religious activism, with a focus on the experiences of students and faculty at Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

M. AN MALICI, A. K. GRIER and S. C. MELISSA SNARR, Fruitful Friends: A Practical Guide for Parents Raising Widowed Children (Fruitful Friends, LLC, 2011). The authors, who were widowed before age 50, are co-principals at Fruitful Friends, and together they offer guidance and support to families affected by the loss of a spouse.

ELLEN CULBERTSON ABRAHAM ’00, (Stanford University Press, 2011). This book explores the role of women in the field of psychology, with a focus on the contributions of religious activists and academics. The author, a psychologist and author, offers case studies and reflections on the experiences of women in the field of psychology and offers advice on career development.


DAVID JORDAN ’72, Fruitful Friends: A Practical Guide for Parents Raising Widowed Children (Fruitful Friends, LLC, 2011). The book provides guidance and support to parents who are raising children who have experienced the loss of a parent.

STEWARD SIMMS ’69, Words Not Worn (Yorkshire Publishing, 2011). The book offers reflections and insights on life and faith, with a focus on the experiences of a pastor who has been deeply affected by the loss of a loved one.

STEWART SIMMS ’69, Words Not Worn (Yorkshire Publishing, 2011). The book offers reflections and insights on life and faith, with a focus on the experiences of a pastor who has been deeply affected by the loss of a loved one.

JEREMY FLEMING

"I have been fortunate and have survived what is usually a fatal diagnosis. I simply continue to live day by day, happily thankful for the gift of continued life. I retired in the summer of 2008 and spent my first year of retirement reflecting on my life. In the process I identified five important things that have sustained me through the easy and not-so-easy times: faith, family, friends, fun and free enterprise. On the Road and Daydreams is a collection of true stories and reflections about my fiveFrauen: New friends in Iowa. Visit www.ontarye.com.

C. MELISSA SNARR ’92, All That Labor: Religion and Ethics in the Working World (New York University Press, 2011). The book analyzes and evaluates the contributions of religious activists in the working world. The author, associate professor of ethics and society, is a co-founder of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. The book is a study of the social, political and ethical implications of religious activism, with a focus on the experiences of students and faculty at Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

M. AN MALICI, A. K. GRIER and S. C. MELISSA SNARR, Fruitful Friends: A Practical Guide for Parents Raising Widowed Children (Fruitful Friends, LLC, 2011). The authors, who were widowed before age 50, are co-principals at Fruitful Friends, and together they offer guidance and support to families affected by the loss of a spouse.

ELLEN CULBERTSON ABRAHAM ’00, (Stanford University Press, 2011). This book explores the role of women in the field of psychology, with a focus on the contributions of religious activists and academics. The author, a psychologist and author, offers case studies and reflections on the experiences of women in the field of psychology and offers advice on career development.


DAVID JORDAN ’72, Fruitful Friends: A Practical Guide for Parents Raising Widowed Children (Fruitful Friends, LLC, 2011). The book provides guidance and support to parents who are raising children who have experienced the loss of a parent.

STEWARD SIMMS ’69, Words Not Worn (Yorkshire Publishing, 2011). The book offers reflections and insights on life and faith, with a focus on the experiences of a pastor who has been deeply affected by the loss of a loved one.

STEWART SIMMS ’69, Words Not Worn (Yorkshire Publishing, 2011). The book offers reflections and insights on life and faith, with a focus on the experiences of a pastor who has been deeply affected by the loss of a loved one.
By your predecessor at Furman, Walter Cottingham, was a legend. Now you’ve been here longer than he was. How did it feel stepping into those shoes?

It’s hard to believe I’m in my 26th year at Furman. From day one, Harry Stickler, the vice president for student services who hired me, did everything he could to help me succeed in replacing Walter, who was admired by the entire Furman family. When I introduced myself to the faculty and staff, they would tell me all about Walter — a man who was gentle, compassionate, unspoil- ed, and always smiling or whistling. I was not about to let anyone down. Walter would often ride his bike to campus. He loved to stop and watch the intramural games, and we would chat on occasion.

Your predecessor at Furman, Walter Cottingham, was a legend. Now you’ve been here longer than he was. How did it feel stepping into those shoes?

It’s hard to believe I’m in my 26th year at Furman. From day one, Harry Stickler, the vice president for student services who hired me, did everything he could to help me succeed in replacing Walter, who was admired by the entire Furman family. When I introduced myself to the faculty and staff, they would tell me all about Walter — a man who was gentle, compassionate, unspoil- ed, and always smiling or whistling. I was not about to let anyone down. Walter would often ride his bike to campus. He loved to stop and watch the intramural games, and we would chat on occasion.

What’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?

“That’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?”

“Hold a hallway professor?” My response: You are capable of doing the work or you would not be at Furman. Some professors will challenge you more than others. It is better to be challenged than to skate through, because you never know what the next class may bring. It is better to be overturned.

During your days as a bellhop, did you ever sneak onto the Furman campus for a look at the Citadel blue paint? Or support those who did?

Bellhop! I object to that insensitive, politically incorrect word. But I can honestly say that the first time I stepped on the Furman campus was when I interviewed in May of 1984. I do remember some classmates going to Furman intending to paint the buildings. They were caught, received 120 hours of marching with the Citadel tour group, and were dismissed from campus. How did it feel stepping into those shoes?

It’s hard to believe I’m in my 26th year at Furman. From day one, Harry Stickler, the vice president for student services who hired me, did everything he could to help me succeed in replacing Walter, who was admired by the entire Furman family. When I introduced myself to the faculty and staff, they would tell me all about Walter — a man who was gentle, compassionate, unspoil- ed, and always smiling or whistling. I was not about to let anyone down. Walter would often ride his bike to campus. He loved to stop and watch the intramural games, and we would chat on occasion.

What’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?

“That’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?”

“Hold a hallway professor?” My response: You are capable of doing the work or you would not be at Furman. Some professors will challenge you more than others. It is better to be challenged than to skate through, because you never know what the next class may bring. It is better to be overturned.

During your days as a bellhop, did you ever sneak onto the Furman campus for a look at the Citadel blue paint? Or support those who did?

Bellhop! I object to that insensitive, politically incorrect word. But I can honestly say that the first time I stepped on the Furman campus was when I interviewed in May of 1984. I do remember some classmates going to Furman intending to paint the buildings. They were caught, received 120 hours of marching with the Citadel tour group, and were dismissed from campus.

What’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?

“That’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?”

“Hold a hallway professor?” My response: You are capable of doing the work or you would not be at Furman. Some professors will challenge you more than others. It is better to be challenged than to skate through, because you never know what the next class may bring. It is better to be overturned.

During your days as a bellhop, did you ever sneak onto the Furman campus for a look at the Citadel blue paint? Or support those who did?

Bellhop! I object to that insensitive, politically incorrect word. But I can honestly say that the first time I stepped on the Furman campus was when I interviewed in May of 1984. I do remember some classmates going to Furman intending to paint the buildings. They were caught, received 120 hours of marching with the Citadel tour group, and were dismissed from campus.

What’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?

“That’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?”

“Hold a hallway professor?” My response: You are capable of doing the work or you would not be at Furman. Some professors will challenge you more than others. It is better to be challenged than to skate through, because you never know what the next class may bring. It is better to be overturned.

During your days as a bellhop, did you ever sneak onto the Furman campus for a look at the Citadel blue paint? Or support those who did?

Bellhop! I object to that insensitive, politically incorrect word. But I can honestly say that the first time I stepped on the Furman campus was when I interviewed in May of 1984. I do remember some classmates going to Furman intending to paint the buildings. They were caught, received 120 hours of marching with the Citadel tour group, and were dismissed from campus.

What’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?

“That’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?”

“Hold a hallway professor?” My response: You are capable of doing the work or you would not be at Furman. Some professors will challenge you more than others. It is better to be challenged than to skate through, because you never know what the next class may bring. It is better to be overturned.

During your days as a bellhop, did you ever sneak onto the Furman campus for a look at the Citadel blue paint? Or support those who did?

Bellhop! I object to that insensitive, politically incorrect word. But I can honestly say that the first time I stepped on the Furman campus was when I interviewed in May of 1984. I do remember some classmates going to Furman intending to paint the buildings. They were caught, received 120 hours of marching with the Citadel tour group, and were dismissed from campus.

What’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?

“That’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?”

“Hold a hallway professor?” My response: You are capable of doing the work or you would not be at Furman. Some professors will challenge you more than others. It is better to be challenged than to skate through, because you never know what the next class may bring. It is better to be overturned.

During your days as a bellhop, did you ever sneak onto the Furman campus for a look at the Citadel blue paint? Or support those who did?

Bellhop! I object to that insensitive, politically incorrect word. But I can honestly say that the first time I stepped on the Furman campus was when I interviewed in May of 1984. I do remember some classmates going to Furman intending to paint the buildings. They were caught, received 120 hours of marching with the Citadel tour group, and were dismissed from campus.

What’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?

“That’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?”

“Hold a hallway professor?” My response: You are capable of doing the work or you would not be at Furman. Some professors will challenge you more than others. It is better to be challenged than to skate through, because you never know what the next class may bring. It is better to be overturned.

During your days as a bellhop, did you ever sneak onto the Furman campus for a look at the Citadel blue paint? Or support those who did?

Bellhop! I object to that insensitive, politically incorrect word. But I can honestly say that the first time I stepped on the Furman campus was when I interviewed in May of 1984. I do remember some classmates going to Furman intending to paint the buildings. They were caught, received 120 hours of marching with the Citadel tour group, and were dismissed from campus.

What’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?

“That’s the most common question you get from students during the advising process, and how do you typically respond?”

“Hold a hallway professor?” My response: You are capable of doing the work or you would not be at Furman. Some professors will challenge you more than others. It is better to be challenged than to skate through, because you never know what the next class may bring. It is better to be overturned.

During your days as a bellhop, did you ever sneak onto the Furman campus for a look at the Citadel blue paint? Or support those who did?

Bellhop! I object to that insensitive, politically incorrect word. But I can honestly say that the first time I stepped on the Furman campus was when I interviewed in May of 1984. I do remember some classmates going to Furman intending to paint the buildings. They were caught, received 120 hours of marching with the Citadel tour group, and were dismissed from campus.
54
John Cohlan of Greenville has received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Coordinating Council. John has been a part of CBF since its founding in 1990. He is a former member of the organization’s interim steering committee, chair of the finance committee, and was a member of the first global missions ministry group. He has spent several terms on the board of directors and served as the group’s moderator.

68
Jim Childress is chief executive officer and chairman of Geneus Homes, a non-profit that works to provide affordable housing for families in Greenville.

73
Diane Martin, an internist and thoracic disease specialist at Washington Hospital in Fremont, Calif., was chosen the 2011 best Doctor in Fremont by the readers of the weekly Fremont Bulletin and the daily Argus News. MARRIAGE: Bob Farmavorz and Matt Barret Gill, July 23. They live in Maryland, Conn.

74
Tom Faber recently accepted a faculty position to the Department of Neuroscience at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia. His research centers on novel approaches to mitigation of neuronal injury in acute traumatic brain injury. Rich Wedemeyer won the 2011 Great Ideas for Teaching Award from the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges. He is a professor of psychology at Rose State College in Oklahoma City.

75
Robert Harris of Gutherie, N.C., has received Patent No. 7,342,795 for a device that facilitates a variety of stretching and toning exercises. Ann Harris Rybicki of Houston, Texas, has joined the Alexian Brothers Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, which serves the senior citizens of Hamilton County.

79
Jay Cory became president and chief executive officer of the Phoenix (Ariz.) Rescue Mission on September 1. He had previously spent almost 17 years with Union Mission.

80
MARRIAGE: Constance Peterson and Douglas Benson, March 26. Conne is director of operations at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

81
Cynthia Miller completed an internship with AWIC magazine in Asheville, N.C., and now works as a freelance writer. She recently earned an associate degree in horticulture sciences from Haywood Community College. Coll. A. Kent Schwikert of Burke, Va., received his 12-year U.S. Army commission command and is a member of the armed forces as the executive to the assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

83
Paul D. Fester of West Chenr, Pa., has been named global head of consultant relations and managing director at Turner Investments, an employee-owned firm based in Berwyn, Pa. Paul was most recently with Deloitte Investments, where he was vice president of consultant relations. He is a Charter Financial Analyst Charterholder and a member of the CIA Society of Wealth Managers. He is the senior consultant at the Investment Management Sales Executives. Carla Pressman is a lead system architect with Pegasystems in Cambridge, Mass. She is the lead developer of a new product offering.

84
C. Stuart Mauney, an attorney with the Greenville firm of Mauney, Young & Young, PA, has been designated as a state chair for the Council on Litigation Management. Its goal is to promote the influence of the representation by firms, and to promote and further the highest standards of litigation management in pursuit of client defense.

85
Christopher and Barbara Silva Souza, twins, a son, Dan, and a daughter, Anya, May 20, 2010. Christopher recently moved from the U.S. Marine Corps. They live in Greenville.

86
James H. Mason has been promoted to brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve. He lives in Raymond, Miss. MARRIAGE: Leah Rogers Greene and Robert Chandler Foster, June 25. They live in Anderson, S.C.

88
Lance Richay is a associate professor of theology at the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, Ind.

91
Randall David Cook’s new play “3rd finger, left hand” kicked off the 2011–12 Black Box Late Night Series at Trusta Theatre in Columbia, S.C., in September. The play also was read at a staged reading of its full-length play “Southern Discomfort” at the Kettle of Columbia area who now lives in New York City, where he is the resident playwright of Zionsville Stage Company and a member of the Executive Staff. Christopher Topor “Topper” Dooshery of Zionsville, Ind., vice president of medical affairs for FranciscanSt. Francis Hospital, has earned a master’s degree in medical management from Carnegie Mellon University.
Glenn and Heather Willis Allen have taken positions at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Heather is assistant professor of French, and Glenn is a bio-statistician in the Health Innovation Program in the School of Medicine.

Nancy Fullbright of Savannah, Ga., is the corporate communications director of Gulfport Airport. She previously worked with the Georgia Tech News and Research Office.

Story Starling Yates completed her MPH with an emphasis in health from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix. And she and her husband, Steven, a U.S. Air Force officer, moved to Las Vegas, Nev. This summer she is a member of the Utah-Thunderbirds air demonstration squadron.

Amy Love has joined the South Carolina Department of Commerce as director of marketing and communications. She was formerly deputy executive director of New Jersey’s South Carolina Council on Competitiveness.

Gabriel Loving earned his Master of Worship Studies degree from the Robert E. Webber Institute of Worship Studies in Orange Park, Fla. He serves as minister of music and worship at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

Greg and Susan Flowers Elliott have moved to the Philippines. Greg is the mining and metals operations manager for Fluor Corporation’s Manila office. 

Greg McGaue (M’90) of Lopxing Town, Jilin, China, has been named a visiting professor at the University of Jilin in Jilin, China. Greg has 28 years of teaching and administrative experience, and was previously director of human resources in the Rudong Hopkins School District in Jiangsu, China.

Claude and Jewel Givey McRoberts, a son, Luke Isac, born February 27, 2015, in Daegu, South Korea, adopted March 22, 2015. They live in Millington, Tenn.

Michael Good has been named chief executive officer of real estate firm Furman in Greenville, effective in January 2012. He has been director of the Greater Greenville Association of Realtors and was named Commercial Realator of the Year in 2003. 

Brenda McAlpine3 is an administrative assistant for the Lilly Center for Vocational Reflection at Furman. Her husband, Matt, recently graduated from Gardner-Webb University in May with a Master of Divinity degree. He is a minister of worship and youth minister at Greenville First Baptist Church.

Seth Howard is a twin, a son, Robert Wayne II, and a daughter, Early Jay, March 16. They live in Simpsonville, S.C. Ashley is a global studies teacher at Hillcrest High School.

Michael Hobert and Paige Turner, a son, Ellis-Martin Hobbert, March 18. Page is on the faculty of the Department of Endocrinology at Virginia Commonwealth University and is an associate at Southside Endocrinology in Colonial Heights.

Jamie Duncan has been called as senior pastor at Oak Fork Presbyterian Church in Dallas. He previously was pastor of Good Hope Church in S.C.

Paul D. Satterwhite, an attorney with the firm of Husch Blackwell, a daughter, Kiana Matthews Satterwhite, July 6.

Gabriel Loving is a global studies teacher at Hillcrest High School.

For McElrath, the project was another chapter in a musical odyssey that has brought him financial and artistic success on the Last Frontier. He says, “There’s always a tug between my business and creative side, but that tension gives my life balance, variety and energy. I joke that I tune pianos to support my addiction to playing, but both bring great rewards and often complement each other.”

Many communities couldn’t afford to bring in a performer like me, but there are always pianos to tune in the communities and to make it more feasible. That way I not only leave them with a memorable musical experience, but a well-tuned piano.”
BIRTHS:

99

Greenville Business Magazine manager at KPMG, LLP, was named to:tologists with Charlotte Medical Clinic.

Lee

BIRTHS:

99

Furman

Columbia, S.C.

Adair Nanette, July 27. They live in West

and Rob works in the university’s academic

is women’s basketball coach at Furman,

daughter, Londyn Elaun, August 12. Jackie

Atlanta.

at Mount Vernon Presbyterian School in

degree and is now head of Upper School

Career Master in Public Administration

ERIN KELLY SAMMIS has been named executive

nuclear cardiology and vascular imaging.

MARRIAGES:

30

BIRTHS:

99

TARA BYER-PARSONS, a daughter, Adelaide,

MARRIAGES:

30

Myers

, a son, Parker

DUMITRU

2010 list of the city’s Best & Brightest 35 and


KATTOUF TO DAUTHIOL WORLD TITLE

JOY OF COMPETITION PROPELS KATTOUF TO DAUTHIOL WORLD TITLE

GAIL PENNACHIO KATTOUF ’95 says she has reached

the point in her life where she isn’t thinking about

results when she raises. No wonder, her competitors

might retort. What’s there to ponder when you’re just

time all the time? “Why am I so physically motivated? Maybe it’s because I haven’t learned another way. Maybe I should join a book club and outread everybody,” she says with

Gail Pennachio Kattouf

101

BIRTHS:

49

THIEF, Darrin

, a son, Owen Daniel, June 2. They live in

Tallahassee, Fla.

and Under. Rodney is principal of Lead

On a practical level, in the elite division drafting is

not go pro? Her time at the worlds was a minute faster

nearly 10 minutes and

of her true dominance. Her time of two hours, four

completed her collegiate career with more than two

possible — as long as my body will allow me to race.”

On a practical level, in the elite division drafting is

allowed during the cycling leg, which would erase

ended the only

bested her. The story was similar a month earlier at

most people don’t realize that the

women, regardless of age or nationality, and would

would have placed seventh among the “elites,” or pros.

Kattouf admits, but not the point. “Any time

you put your whole self into something, the reward is so

that’s that small but that powerful, it’s like this light

that’s really nice, but I think my motivation is correct at this

as long as my body will allow me to race.” — KATTOUF

While it’s true that duathlon doesn’t get much atten

bike ride/5K run event was the fastest by any amateur

Of course, Gail’s dominance beg the question: Why

the time during the runs. “When you get an individual

that’s really cool to be a pro athlete, I’m pretty happy with where I am and what I’ve achieved.”

nice, Kattouf admits, but not the point. “Any time

the time during the runs. “When you get an individual

“Why am I so physically motivated? Maybe it’s because I haven’t learned another way. Maybe I should join a book club and outread everybody,” she says with a

which is a limiter, and if I stepped up to the pros I’d

her career in the U.S. short- and long-course championships in equally

change that. Her world championship comes on the

sprints, and followed up with a new national record of

Fred, Kattouf in

The sport is so small, it’s like a family, and

Members were like, how much longer are you going

members were like, how much longer are you going

leadership role with CRC Insurance Services.

PhD. She finished her collegiate career with more than two

in the long-course worlds, also in Seattle. “I’m 29,” she

She credits her husband, Rick, with rekindling her

Rick has no plans to give up her trimer active

It’s been difficult to go pro. Her time at the worlds was a minute faster

why not go pro? Her time at the worlds was a minute faster than the

to think about winning a notch, which I might not be able to do with the injury. Prize money would be

BIRTHS:

49

KATTOUF, Darrin

, a son, Owen Daniel, June 2. They live in

Tallahassee, Fla.

and Under. Rodney is principal of Lead

On a practical level, in the elite division drafting is

allowed during the cycling leg, which would erase

ended the only

bested her. The story was similar a month earlier at

most people don’t realize that the

women, regardless of age or nationality, and would

would have placed seventh among the “elites,” or pros.

Kattouf admits, but not the point. “Any time

you put your whole self into something, the reward is so

that’s really nice, but I think my motivation is correct at this

as long as my body will allow me to race.” — KATTOUF

While it’s true that duathlon doesn’t get much atten

bike ride/5K run event was the fastest by any amateur

Of course, Gail’s dominance beg the question: Why

the time during the runs. “When you get an individual

that’s really cool to be a pro athlete, I’m pretty happy with where I am and what I’ve achieved.”

nice, Kattouf admits, but not the point. “Any time

the time during the runs. “When you get an individual

“Why am I so physically motivated? Maybe it’s because I haven’t learned another way. Maybe I should join a book club and outread everybody,” she says with a

which is a limiter, and if I stepped up to the pros I’d

her career in the U.S. short- and long-course championships in equally

change that. Her world championship comes on the

sprints, and followed up with a new national record of

Fred, Kattouf in

The sport is so small, it’s like a family, and

Members were like, how much longer are you going

members were like, how much longer are you going
They live in Kailua Kona, Hawaii. Elizabeth Wood
Deloitte. They live in Roswell, Ga.
2010, passed the Texas Bar, and is now with
Andrew completed his J.D. degree from
Flury
sustaining a system that ensures the success
of students that ensures the success of
children. She was an employee of
Houstoun she lived in New Orleans, where she
teaches at Armstrong Hall, where she was active in
the Mental Health Clinic, the Salvation Army,
District and was director and president of
the Greenville County Medical Auxiliary and
served with the Marine Corps during World
at Furman.
and an athletics media rela-
ties, among them the Science Advisory
Committee, and secretary/treasurer of the
Rotary Club District International Student
Committee, and a member of the board of First Federal
of Nursing closed, she served in the Green-
ville Memorial Hospital Staff Development
Committee. She was active in such groups as Saint
Anthony she lived in New Orleans, where she
served with the Marine Corps during World
at Furman.
and an athletics media rela-
ties, among them the Science Advisory
Committee, and secretary/treasurer of the
Rotary Club District International Student
Committee, and a member of the board of First Federal
of Nursing closed, she served in the Green-
ville Memorial Hospital Staff Development
Committee. She was active in such groups as Saint
Anthony she lived in New Orleans, where she
served with the Marine Corps during World
at Furman.
and an athletics media rela-
ties, among them the Science Advisory
Committee, and secretary/treasurer of the
Rotary Club District International Student
Committee, and a member of the board of First Federal
of Nursing closed, she served in the Green-
ville Memorial Hospital Staff Development
Committee. She was active in such groups as Saint
Anthony she lived in New Orleans, where she
served with the Marine Corps during World
at Furman.
and an athletics media rela-
ties, among them the Science Advisory
Committee, and secretary/treasurer of the
Rotary Club District International Student
Committee, and a member of the board of First Federal
of Nursing closed, she served in the Green-
ville Memorial Hospital Staff Development
Committee. She was active in such groups as Saint
Anthony she lived in New Orleans, where she
served with the Marine Corps during World
at Furman.
Letters

Clemson University

FALL 2011

9/11 STORIES STRUCK A CHORD

I READ THE STORIES ABOUT 9/11 in the Summer 2011 magazine with great interest, since it is a topic of particular significance to me and my family. I was at the World Trade Center with two of my children when the first plane hit. My daughter Maggie was 11 at the time; she is currently a senior at Furman. Thankfully, we escaped unscathed physically, but just living a few blocks to the south, we are constantly reminded of the sacrifice made by so many.

Neither of my children will ever escape the memory of the horrific events they witnessed. In the days that followed, we all discovered the resilience of the American spirit and, through service to others, found the true to live both.Both children have chosen areas of study in college that have been inspired by what we served for weeks that followed. Perhaps more significantly, I am reminded that it is our duty to give them an early start in developmental programs, coordination with the school district and federal government to purchase their Center building in Florence, and launched a Title I program for 3-year-old students to get them an early start in developmental activities.

Grace Aline Johnson Edwards '11, September 1, 2011

Marcus Bank Sanders '11, August 18, 2011

Wahabila, S.C. He served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force and later retired from the South Carolina Army National Guard. He also retired from Schihammer, an oilfield service company, where he worked for 26 years.

Tony Ettorre '12, June 12, Columbus, Ind. He spent the majority of his career in the U.S. Army and retired from the South Carolina Tax Commission as an air traffic controller in the investigations department.

Whitehead Howard '17, September 7, Simpsonville, S.C. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and United Daughters of the Confederacy. She volunteered with Meals on Wheels and enjoyed genealogy research as a 4th cousin of President Bill Clinton.

John Marlow Ryan '12, July 10, 2010, Ridgeland, S.C. After retiring from the U.S. Coast Guard, he served with the U.S. Coast Guard's law enforcement strike team.

Major Van McCarty 'M '05, August 25, Saluda, S.C. He was a teacher, coach and principal in South Carolina schools for many years. He was superintendent of Saluda County School District from 1975 to 1978 and retired as principal of Irmo High in 1998. He was elected Outstanding Principal of the Year by the South Carolina School Counselor Association.

John Kelly Talkington '16, June 22, Anderson, S.C. A football player at Furman, he was a member of the 1973 and 1975 Furman teams.

Marilyn Jobe Hendricks '71, August 8, 1972, June 22, High Point, N.C. She was a former vice president of K&M Fabrics. He served as Pickens County Missionary and was a U.S. Army veteran.

Cynthia Lawrence Roysours Hyde '79, June 14, Greenville, S.C. She worked as an accounting supervisor with the water system in Spartanburg, S.C.

William Dallas Holland '59, August 25, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. He was employed by United-Industries Industries in Charlotte, N.C., and London, England, before going to graduate school. He earned his MBA from Indiana University and worked in the financial industry in Baltimore, New York and Chicago before moving to Florence to help manage his family's business.

Louise Bums Cartledge '71, Black Mountain, N.C. She was a reference librarian at Furman from 1972 to 1981. The Affordable Book Store named her Librarian of the Year.

All members of these teams realize the influence Coach Rohe had on their lives and will always be appreciative of his support, motivation and encouragement. All alumni and the current student body had to be made of Furman's impressive track history under the leadership of Coach Rohe. Because of his determination and hard work, he moved the programs of Furman and received national acclaim.

I thought you would like to know. Thank you for your articles.

— Kathi Capsidotto

The writer’s family runs Capesso Finesse, a New York restaurant. Her daughter is double-majoring in philosophy and violin performance and is concert master of the Furman Symphony Orchestra.

STILL SAVVY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

WHEN I CAME ACROSS THE Flash Mob article in the Summer 2011 issue of Furman Alumni News, I was very interested to learn how someone felt it necessary to explain to those of us over 30 what a Flash Mob is. I know this is not merely dead to us, but I assure you we still manage to get out and age. Oh, and I used the barcode app on my iPad 2 to see the video, by the way.

— Jill Tilmann

The writer, a 1980 graduate, stays hip and current in Atlhbus, Pa.
The lure of the pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is not your typical vacation. Pilgrimages differ from other types of travel in that the physical demands create a strong and unique camaraderie with fellow travelers, as well as the opportunity to viscerally connect with your surroundings and engage in a spiritual adventure. A pilgrimage enables your mind and body to seem as well as the opportunity to reconnect with fellow travelers, as well as the opportunity to explore your vocational calling at various points of personal transition. What’s calling you now?

— BECKY HOOD BECHNER

The author, a 1989 graduate, also provided the photos accompanying this article. She is a physician in Louisville, Ky., a former member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and a member of the Lilly Center Task Force. With her husband, Tom, she endowed the center’s alumni programming component.

Pilgrimages differ from other types of travel in that the physical demands create a strong and unique camaraderie with fellow travelers, as well as the opportunity to reconnect with fellow travelers, as well as the opportunity to explore your vocational calling at various points of personal transition. What’s calling you now?

— BECKY HOOD BECHNER

The author, a 1989 graduate, also provided the photos accompanying this article. She is a physician in Louisville, Ky., a former member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and a member of the Lilly Center Task Force. With her husband, Tom, she endowed the center’s alumni programming component.