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COVER: About 700 students, faculty and staff volunteered their time and talents April 11 to launch a community-wide project designed to invigorate the Poinsett Corridor, the road between Furman and downtown Greenville. Photo by Jeremy Fleming.
By Allen Mendenhall

I'm a prison teacher. I teach literature. In prison, literature is currency. A book is a valuable unit of exchange. It's bought and sold, used as collateral, traded for sex. In the prison where I teach, many if not most prisoners are indigent. They shine shoes, make beds, beat up (or beat down) prisoners for nominal fees.

The books and supplies I give my students are, like drugs or weapons, contraband. Some supplies — pens, for instance — become weapons. I contribute to the system of abuse by providing goods that prisoners fight over. I do so because every class, without fail, I sense that I'm helping someone, because the pens and books usually generate thoughtful and creative essays or poems that the prisoners share with me.

I do so, in other words, because the students seem to learn and reflect when I visit them. Not all of them, but enough. At least one student, each class, appears to have a text-induced epiphany. I can tell because of what he says and how he says it, or because he thanks me so intensely, as if I might not come back next week. If I can make epiphanies happen, I've succeeded.

Wardens say that murderers make the best students. That's because, most of the time, murderers kill out of heat-of-passion. Their crimes aren't premeditated. Their minds aren't flawed or evil. But the habitual offenders — they're the ones to worry about. They can manipulate you. They're professionals, even behind bars.

I'm not saying their minds are flawed or evil — merely capable of sustained and concerted deception.

The first day I taught in prison I was, as you might expect, anxious. I didn't think I would be. I wasn't anxious when I observed a prison class as part of my mandatory training — maybe because I wasn't alone then.

But I wouldn't be alone on the first day of class, either. Keys Stevens, director of the Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project, was with me. She was to sit in on the first class, provide feedback, then release me from her gracious supervision.

Keys drove me to the prison that day. When I stepped onto the gravel parking lot, I didn't want to look at the naked buildings. It wasn't that I felt paralyzed under the panoptic gaze of the guard towers, or victimized by the penetrating stares from the other side of the chain-linked, barbed-wire fences. I looked down because my pockets felt empty. They were supposed to be carrying my driver's license.

I patted my front pockets, and then, realizing where I left my wallet — in the glove compartment of my jeep — I pretended to check my back pockets to delay the moment when Keys would realize my mistake.

It didn't take her long. “You forgot your wallet,” she said. “Hang here. I'll talk to the chaplain. But you won't be able to get in. We'll have to drive back.” I watched her shuffle into the prison office.

Feeling guilty, I looked down again — and noticed a dead frog on the ground. It hadn't been dead long because its sides were rounded and fleshy and its skin still moist. Its eyes seemed to register my presence even though neither they nor I moved. I half expected a warble to issue from its tubby belly and thick throat, but it lay still, a heart-shaped object on an unattended blanket of rock.

Suddenly Keys returned. Relieved that my first class wouldn't be today, I was ready to apologize and get back into the car. But she was smiling. My relief turned to worry.

"We're good," she said. "Chaplain says you can come in. Just bring your ID next week."

"Good news," I lied. We went in.
I tried to explain what I meant by comedy as a genre, and a few students grasped the logic behind the idea of a private copy of a public work. Some students asked about the broader implications of this. I explained that the idea of a private copy of a public work is a fundamental idea in the study of comedy. It means that comedy is not just a form of entertainment, but also a means of resistance against established power. The prisoners often used comedy as a way to resist their captors and to express their thoughts and feelings. I was proud of them for their ability to find humor in their circumstances.

The syllabus discusses comedy as literature, and also the role of comedy in literature. Comedy can mean many things, but humor is only one aspect of the genre. My goal was for the students to learn about various expressions of comedy and how authors use comedy to comment on ethics or morality. A course on comedy was not just for the students to look for the comic and relief, the syllabus explained, but for the students to develop the ability to see the humor in the human condition — one of the things that makes it possible to laugh at suffering. I hoped that the course would help the students to develop a greater awareness of the relation of comedy to comment on ethics or morality. If they do good, I thought, they will be rewarded. If they do evil, they will be punished. I wanted to teach them to see the human condition in a new way.

The book opens with sex, and I assumed when I left — and that I tried, unsuccessfully, to fight off. During the drives to and from prison, I asked myself why teaching there made me feel good about myself. Was it because I was doing something for others, or for me? Does it matter? What was the difference?

One day I distributed copies of J. M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace*, a novel that I had never read, and I expected that the book would be challenging to the students. I also expected that the book would be challenging to the prison administrators. But the prisoners, the people whose lives were a perverse source of pleasure for me, appreciated the book. They read it, and they discussed it with me. I let them know that I was interested in what they had to say, and I let them know that I would do my best to help them learn to help themselves.

I'm a creature of habit. I reserve my judgment for what I can understand. I rely more on what the students have to say, and I try to understand them. I try to understand them as I understand myself. I try to understand the human condition as I understand the students. I try to understand the students as I understand myself. I try to understand the human condition as I understand the students.

The author, a 2005 graduate, is a writer, lawyer, English instructor, and currently a Ph.D. student at Auburn University. Visit www.allenmendenhall.com.
The students were clearly disappointed about missing class because of the stabbing. They wanted to talk. They wanted new reading assignments.

Two weeks after the stabbing, they came to me with a proposal. Would I, they asked, take their petition supporting more prison classes and give it to Kyes?

They explained that the only opportunity for intellectual fulfillment during my class was to discuss and analyze such a play as Waiting for Godot, and that they thought poetry was pointless and that literature wasn’t worth studying.

I taught a film during the last class. I distributed certificates of completion, and after the film I gave my obligatory departure speech. Prison teachers are shuffled from facility to facility to avoid long-standing relationships with students. I knew I wouldn’t be back in this prison and that I’d never see these students again, unless they got out one day and thought to look me up. I hadn’t planned a speech. I never plan speeches.

“In the outside world,” I said, “people don’t think much of poetry or literature. That others look down on a thing — literature — that they had come to practice and love. Maybe they didn’t understand why anyone on the outside would neglect something so precious as knowledge or literature.”

Or maybe they could understand, and that’s what hurt the most: knowing they’d lost the freedom not to care.

The article appeared in its original form in the Birmingham Arts Journal.

I thought about the student whose poetry I had agreed to read but never actually read. That student quit coming to class.

Moments like this made me wonder what these men were like when I wasn’t around. They couldn’t be this polite and enthusiastic around me and then turn their backs, as they did, on something so meaningful. To me, reading assignments.

No more gravel. The ground was smooth and black and hot.

I was still here in prison, still doing something decent and right, still helping prisoners to learn. But putting yourself into a situation to do good is not the same as doing good.

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Settled into your couch, you don’t have to flip channels long before you see it: the television screen divided into little boxes, each filled with a talking head. Sometimes it’s a shouting head, locked in heated battle with another shouting head, wagging fingers, citing polls, casting blame, and performing something awfully close to black magic with statistics seemingly spun from thin air.

What you’ve found is a pundit, or a pack of them, and it seems they’re the main attraction more often than not in today’s cable news programming. Who are these people? And why should we believe anything they shout at us?

One of them (don’t worry, he’s not a shouter) is Josh Treviño ’97, vice president for communications at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. He knows politics, and he was first invited to share his wisdom a few years ago by Al Jazeera English, the Arabic television news network. “I was in demand because I was a conservative willing to appear on Al Jazeera English,” he says. “There weren’t a ton of those.”

In 2010, MSNBC came calling. Treviño became a semi-regular on a show hosted by Cenk Uygur, then by Al Sharpton. Treviño had no illusions about what he was in for at left-leaning MSNBC. “People are brought on these shows to fulfill specific roles,” he says. “I’m a stand-in for conservative, Republican, Texan, all the things that the MSNBC viewing audience just hates and despises. And so oftentimes I am called upon to answer for the perceived sins of everybody on the right.

“It’s not fair, but it’s how it is. If you are a leftist on a right-wing channel, like Fox News, I suspect you tend to be treated much the same way.”

He’s been shouted at, interrupted, even called “a great distorter” and “the rearranger of words” by Sharpton, all on live television. “It can be a bit abusive,” Treviño admits, but adds, “There certainly no sympathy asked.”

“That’s because it’s all part of the game. There is kind of a market imperative, if not to make the news into entertainment, at least to make the news entertaining,” he says. “So you can’t hold it against the producers for doing their best to elicit that.”

They do so by hiring fiery hosts. A big name like Sharpton is certain to evoke a response before he even opens his mouth. Other hosts, like Fox News’ Bill O’Reilly and Sean Hannity, HLN’s Nancy Grace, and MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow, snag high ratings for the same reason.

But guests on these shows are expected to perform as well. “The producers are frequently speaking into your ear and urging you to do things,” Treviño says. “One thing that’s been interesting to me is the extent to which the news programs are really staged as what I’ll describe as kind of entertainment-type reality television. It’s not uncommon to be on a show and somebody makes a comment — either an attack or a cut or some sort of a tendentious statement — and you’ll hear the producer in your ear saying, ‘That’s it! That’s your opening. Go, go, get him, get him!’

“I’ve had producers appear in my ear and say to me to interrupt another guest,” says Treviño, whose appearances on MSNBC are beamed from a studio near his home in Austin, Texas. “Sometimes I heed them, and sometimes I don’t, but it happens.”

By Stacy Schorr Chandler

Josh Treviño ’97 knows politics — and is frequently invited to represent the conservative viewpoint on talk shows and other fare. Photo by Kenny Braun.

Are pundits — those talking heads you see on cable news programs — entertainers or informers? According to two alumni, they’re both.
Pundits are most often brought in to talk politics, especially in an election year, but they’re deployed to help us understand the state of affairs, and to sort out complicated court cases in simple terms, makes her a sought-after guest voice in American justice.

Her debut came in 2006, when an Atlanta news station interviewed her about her constitutional challenge to a state sex offender law. Fox News called the next day, and her appearance there turned into a regular gig. She’s since appeared on CNN and HLN shows, including “Nancy Grace,” and she’s a frequent guest on TV’s “In Session.”

While shows that focus on legal issues can get by with less in the political department, Fox’s tone is calm and measured. She says the producers she’s worked with are OK with that.

“Every person has a different personality and a different technique,” she says. “When they see you on set, or when producers and actors from another show call you, you’re being booked for your own personality.”

So sure, there’s a bit of string-pulling behind the talking heads. But Treviño and Fitz say they believe there’s plenty of room for your own personality.

She says the producers of “Nancy Grace” were great at what they do. “You have a lot of people that get very impassioned and emotional about certain issues, but they’re being sensationalized, they’re playing on the emotions of the public,” says Fitz.

So sure, there’s a bit of string-pulling behind the talking heads. But Treviño and Fitz say they believe there’s plenty of room for your own personality.

“Too much sugar can cause teeth to decay, there’s a line past which getting whipped up about a political argument or a court case can cause trouble. And just as too much candy can cause teeth to decay, there’s a line past which getting whipped up about a political argument or a court case can cause trouble. And just as too much candy can cause teeth to decay, there’s a line past which getting whipped up about a political argument or a court case can cause trouble.

“Nancy Grace,” for example, Fitz says the producers told her, “Nancy is the provocateur, and she likes it when you are the defense attorney, and she doesn’t want you to be the prosecutor and agree with her, so you’ve got to take the defense side.”

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But turning serious matters like politics or the legal system into entertainment is hardly a new phenomenon. “Back before television,” Fitz says, “people used to go to courtroom and watch trials as entertainment. There’s always been a fascination with the criminal cases. I think part of it is understanding why people do the things they do and how one person becomes a criminal, while the people that do these things —

Whether you like her or hate her, she’s on fire here. She will never have a normal life again.” Fitz says. “To have even the slightest idea of someone taking justice into their own hands because they have been so emotionally and textually by the media coverage.”

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“Here’s another scary thing: Despite their pedigrees — the advanced degrees, the fancy titles, the years of experience working in the trenches of whatever it is they’re talking about — most pundits, taken together, aren’t much better at making predictions than the rest of us. Sure, they regale us with tales of the past, but they’re seen as more emotionally and tactically by the media coverage.”

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Coming up next: a talk about the state of affairs, and to sort out complicated court cases in simple terms, makes her a sought-after guest voice in American justice.

But, he adds, “Everybody owes it to themselves to have their views challenged a bit.”

So maybe today’s talking head is there because he has expertise in what he’s talking about — or maybe she just has a style that appeals to producers. After all, says Richard Letteri, a Furman communication studies professor, “They want kind of a certain personality; moody, tough, ready to yell. But at the same time they know what you’re going to say before you get on there. They know who’s going to make sparks fly and who’s going to be too calm and tepid for them.”

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One of the things I’m always acutely conscious of, especially if it’s an explicitly combative show like the Sharpton show, is that you’re essentially in the rhetorical equivalent of a schooled argument in front of the entire country, or at least in front of the entire viewing audience,” Treviño says.

In this way, it’s up to viewers to judge whether a talking head is worth a listen. And the best tool with which to make that judgment is a deep understanding of your own.

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Beware, though, of a know-it-all — something Letteri says he was plenty of on television news shows. “You have the same guy speaking on a political matter something that comes up, from politics to economic policy to domestic policy to foreign affairs to global policy to national security policy,” he says. “These guys can only know so much, right?”

“They get braced on something, they read some newspapers, and then they go to expand on everything. They don’t have the background, they’re not intimately involved in one or the other of these kinds of issues that are at hand. . . . They’re allowed to speak and be considered experts on all those in between when they’re not.”

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And that’s something that people should really kind of recognize and understand.”

Ultimately, then, it’s up to viewers to judge whether a talking head is worth a listen. And the best tool with which to make that judgment is a deep understanding of your own.

Get your news from multiple sources, Letteri advises, and “look at them from multiple perspectives.”

After all, “You need a good pundit from a bad pundit unless you’re well-informed to begin with.”

The author, a 1999 graduate, is a freelance journalist in Raleigh, N.C.
Finding Faith
By Kyle Longest

How much do today’s young people value religion? What is their view of God? The author, who has taught sociology at Furman since 2009, is part of a research team involved in the National Study of Youth and Religion. Under the primary direction of Christian Smith of the University of Notre Dame, the ongoing project is following more than 2,500 adolescents from their teenage years into their early 20s. By surveying these young people at different stages of their lives, the researchers are developing a comprehensive picture of how adolescents manage and interpret religion, and how this process changes as they make the transition into young adulthood.

The National Study of Youth and Religion was motivated, in part, as a way to address several misperceptions about adolescents as propagated by popular media and news outlets. One of the most common misperceptions is that adolescents are no longer religious, and that their participation in religious activities and devotion to faith are dramatically dropping compared to generations past.

Yet that is not what our research shows. In fact, more than 80 percent of adolescents, defined in our study as 13- to 17-year-olds, say that religion is at least somewhat important in their lives, and more than 80 percent go to church at least a few times per year. More than 60 percent go to church more than once a month, and more than 50 percent say they attend services at least once a month. Similarly, 65 percent claim to have read scripture in the last year and more than 80 percent say they believe in a God, or higher power, that created and watches over the world. Adolescents tend to see religion as a de facto “requirement” adolescents perceive. Third, the central goal in life is to be happy, and as long as we are being good and nice and not interfering with others’ happiness, we have satisfied the goals of religion. Finally, teens see God becoming involved in their lives only when needed — primarily when they want to be happier. In the end, God is there to help people reach the ultimate goal of being happy.

To clarify, Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD) is not a concept teens have come up with themselves. Rather, it is a reflection of the overall adult culture that adolescents absorb. Specifically, the trend to prioritize the individual has played a major role in the development of MTD. The individual has become the center of society, and therefore focusing on and developing ourselves as individuals is of utmost importance.

The predominance of MTD as a way of understanding religion does not necessarily mean adolescents are becoming less religious in terms of behavior or devotion. As I noted earlier, their actions are consistent with those associated with a relatively religious person. But they practice and understand religion in a qualitatively different way — from a tradition- or community-centered religion to a person- or individual-centered version of religion. According to teens, religion is not something that you give yourself up for, that you sacrifice yourself to for a higher power or particular church or specific denomination. Instead, it is something that is there to serve a person’s needs.

The belief system consists of four main parts. First, there is a God, or higher power, that created and watches over the world. Second, God wants people to be good and nice, which forms the primary (if not only) religious “requirement” adolescents perceive. Third, the central goal in life is to be happy, and as long as we are being good and nice and not interfering with others’ happiness, we have satisfied the goals of religion. Finally, teens see God becoming involved in their lives only when needed — primarily when they want to be happier. In the end, God is there to help people reach the ultimate goal of being happy.

So in many ways adolescents are similar to adults in how they participate in religion. But they are far less similar in how they think about or define religion. Adolescents tend to see religion as a de facto “requirement” adolescents perceive. The belief system consists of four main parts. First, there is a God, or higher power, that created and watches over the world. Second, God wants people to be good and nice, which forms the primary (if not only) religious “requirement” adolescents perceive. Third, the central goal in life is to be happy, and as long as we are being good and nice and not interfering with others’ happiness, we have satisfied the goals of religion. Finally, teens see God becoming involved in their lives only when needed — primarily when they want to be happier. In the end, God is there to help people reach the ultimate goal of being happy.
A second question: our study addressed was how adolescents’ religious identity changes as they begin to make the transition into young adulthood. When we examine religiosity — assessed by attendance at worship services, frequency of personal prayer, and self-rated importance of religiosity — we find several interesting patterns. 

First, we observe a high level of religiosity among young adults, between the ages of 18 and 22. Less than 30 percent experience a decline in attendance at services, limited prayer, and less emphasis on the importance of religion. About 50 percent of teens considered in the “upper levels” of religiosity as adolescents drop into one of the lower groups by the time they are young adults, between the ages of 19 and 22. Less than 30 percent experience a decrease in religiosity, which indicates that there is little movement upward, a lot of people staying the same, and sizable shifts to a lower level of religiosity.

These patterns beg the question: What factors during the teenage years cause some to remain highly religious, and what factors drive others downward? After we examined a vast set of possible predictors, we found that having highly religious parents was virtually a necessity for being a highly religious young adult. In other words, teens can’t out-religious their parents. In this way parents essentially cap how religious the child is going to be, even as the child becomes a young adult.

The first consists of internalized subjective religion, based on how important they believe religion is in their daily lives and their level of doubt about their faith when they were teenagers. The next set of factors is more a personal, or metaphysical, experience with religion — whether they felt they had experienced a miracle or had a prayer answered. The last set of factors had to do with ties to others, primarily parents but also religious adults in their congregations. This group was the most influential in determining religiosity during young adulthood.

While these more objective aspects of religion are clearly important, our research team is also concerned with what happens to young people’s understanding of religion. We believe this type of thinking also has important consequences for how young adults address pressing social issues. If everything is up to the individual, then how today’s young adults think about such issues as healthcare or international conflicts may be systematically different than how older generations think. Having no connection to a civil or religious authority outside the individual puts questions of right or wrong back on each person. Everyone can decide for themselves.

Of course, the long-term impact of this shift in moral thinking has yet to be seen. Potentially, this moral individualism could be just a phase that young adults will outgrow as they make the full transition into adulthood. Or it may signal a more widespread cultural change. We will be talking to these young adults again as they reach their late 20s. Hopefully their responses will provide further insights into these questions. 

* Kyle Longest holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina. To learn more, consult Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers (Oxford University Press, 2005) and Souls in Transition: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults (Oxford University Press, 2009), both Christian Smith (with Melinda Denton and Patricia Ferguson- Snell, respectively).


Are we there yet?
At High Point University, an ice cream truck makes daily rounds around campus. The posh student center features a terraced dining area and an outdoor swimming pool with Jacuzzi. In fact, the campus will soon have four outdoor pools.

A campus townhome community includes its own wellness center, and in December the university announced plans to build a 400-bed residential/student services facility that will cover two city blocks. Students can also take advantage of dry-cleaning services, and “campus concierges” collect feedback and provide answers to questions about all areas of campus life.

Nido Qubein, the North Carolina school’s seventh president, came to High Point in 2005 from a career as a business entrepreneur and motivational speaker. He pushed the liberal arts institution to pursue a recruiting edge through student services, with an emphasis on gleaming new facilities and special amenities.

The customer-service, business-centered model has produced results. Since 2005 undergraduate enrollment at High Point has increased from 1,450 to 3,800; the operating budget has tripled, the campus has doubled in size, and parent giving has soared from $14,000 per year to $2.9 million. The school’s goal is to enroll 4,800 students by 2015.

Along the way High Point has bulked up its faculty and academic programs, and in the past six years its students’ average SAT scores have jumped 100 points. The explosive growth has been called the “Miracle on Montlieu Avenue.”

So, can we expect to see the Furman campus undergo a similar explosion in construction any time soon?

Not exactly. But changes designed to more tightly integrate academic and student life — and offer a more edifying campus experience — are on the way.

Last fall, the Furman board of trustees voted to approve an expansive Housing and Student Life Master Plan that will reshape some campus facilities and cultivate a richer environment for intellectual development and social interaction. The plan calls specifically for sweeping renovations to the University Center and the residential areas.

“Students are coming to us with stronger credentials,” says Connie Carson, Furman’s vice president for student life. “They want a higher level of experiences than they had in high school.”

While Furman’s 82-page plan includes facility renovations and upgrades, Carson emphasizes that its overarching goal is to strengthen the connection between academics and student life. “They should meld together and complement one another,” she says. “Philosophically, we are moving along this path.

“We want to ensure that the in-class and out-of-class experiences for our students are integrated and provide a strong academic focus. We want our facilities to be nimble to changing student needs. This new plan will allow us the flexibility to adjust our programs over time.”

The upgrades are in line with conventional thought. Higher education experts say that all universities, regardless of their reputation or level of selectivity, need to have modern facilities and student-centered services to meet the expectations of prospective students.

Which is why, on today’s college campuses, student centers are replete with high-tech digital signage, plush movie theatres, and game rooms outfitted with flat-screen televisions and pool tables. Workout rooms rival those at private clubs, residence halls are roomier, and dining hall food is healthier and tastier. Some schools, including High Point, Wake Forest and Georgia Tech, now offer restaurants with wait staff.

“Many colleges talk about bridging academic and student life. We want them to be seamless.”

— Connie Carson
Vice President for Student Life
Both residential areas will have enhanced sustainability features. Lounges, meeting and advising areas, seminar rooms and gathering spaces.

As Carson says, Furman envisions a campus in which academics permeate residential and extracurricular life.

The University Center, where renovations recently began, will soon become home to three programs currently housed in academic buildings: the Lilly Center for Vocational Reflection, Study Away/International Programs and Health Services. Student expectations are likely to increase. The need: Student life divisions are playing a more prominent role on campuses, and their staffs are beefing up their programs to ensure that they meet expectations.

During her years as assistant vice president of campus services and planning at Wake Forest, Carson played a leading role in developing the university’s master plan, which was updated in 2007. From that experience when she arrived at Furman in 2008, she saw several immediate needs.

“Students were coming to Furman with more disability concerns and who had more serious health issues,” she says. “They were also moving to campus earlier now, and the medications have really improved.”

Furman’s Vinings apartment complex, a Greek village, A pedestrian and bike path connecting University Center and residential buildings and physical improvements than about creating a life-changing environment.

Jane Wright, president of Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas, the architectural firm that helped craft Furman’s plan, says colleges and universities began to integrate living and learning environments in the late 1990s. The most common adaptations include placing seminar rooms and classrooms in residential environments. Some schools have also introduced a faculty-in-residence program, which Furman is considering.

In general, she says, this kind of environment helps students adjust to college more easily. They tend to have better grades and establish deeper friendships, and they are less likely to transfer or drop out of school.

Parents and students are also gravitating to institutions that provide strong on-campus medical care and mental health support, areas of student life which Furman is already addressing.

When Steve Dawes, director of the Furman Counseling Center, came to the university in 1995, his staff included two counselors. He now manages four clinicians, a nutritionist and two consulting psychiatrists.

“We have grown in size and scope to meet student need,” he says. “We do many more psychiatric consultations and have more of a clinical focus.”

This year the center’s appointment load was up 27 percent, and Dawes says most of the cases he and his staff see are linked to depression and anxiety.

“Students are not as resilient in coping with their emotional problems on their own as they once were,” he says. “There is a lot of speculation about what’s causing this. We live in a society that is increasingly reliant on technology. Often, relationships are shallow, and we see and communicate with people face to face much less.”

Dawes adds that more students enroll each year with existing conditions that need to be monitored. “Children with problems are identified much earlier now, and the medications have really improved,” he says. “Fifteen years ago some of the people with these conditions could not have attended college. Now they can.”

Given these issues, Furman’s Housing and Student Life Master Plan, which encourages the development of more in-depth relationships among students, faculty and staff, will further complement the university’s ongoing efforts to help students copy with the demands and stresses of college life.

Parents and students are also gravitating to institutions that provide strong on-campus medical care and mental health support, areas of student life which Furman is already addressing.

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The author is director of communications at Furman.
Renovations began this spring on the student center’s upper level.

Among the building’s most prominent new features will be a two-story, glassed-in lobby, made possible by an anonymous donor. The area, to be known as the “campus living room,” will overlook an expanded lakeside courtyard for performances, festivals and other major events. Inside, comfortable furniture in intimate arrangements will create cozy spots for students to linger and relax.

As part of the redesign, International Education and Study Away, Internships and Undergraduate Research, and the (Lilly) Center for Vocational Reflection will move into the building — further integrating academic and co-curricular activities and making services for students more convenient.

Phase I (under way): Renovation of upper level, including student “living room,” Student Life areas, vocational programming, Study Away and International Education.

Phase II (begins May 2013): Renovation of lower level (Paladin, lower atrium, food court).

Phase III (contingent on funding): Construction of sports restaurant and patio that leads to boardwalk beside lake.

**Naming Opportunities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower level</td>
<td>Paladin</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sports Restaurant/Game Room</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patios</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper level</td>
<td>Career Center</td>
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<td>Student Media Suite</td>
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<td>Student Life Suite</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Student Organization Center</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student Organization Patios</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conference Room</td>
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</tbody>
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To learn more about the Trone Student Center renovations, contact patricia.carswell@furman.edu or visit www.becausefurmanmatters.com.
Stepping outside the bubble

APPROXIMATELY 700 students, faculty and staff converged on Poinsett Highway April 11 for a day of service that kicked off the Poinsett Corridor Revitalization Coalition (PCRC) project. The Furman volunteers worked along the road and in nearby neighborhoods, painting buildings, weeding community gardens and cleaning up the roadside. The PCRC is a collaborative, multi-year venture between Furman, county and city government, and local agencies to revitalize the community and aid village efforts in a tangible, life-changing way.”

“More importantly, it will leave a lasting environmental impact. There are the stories that Dr. Furman died in another upstairs room (front left). There are the stories: that Dr. Furman died in an upstairs bedroom (front right, if you’re on campus, where it sits in solitary — some might say ghostly — isolation.

The project provides a unique learning experience for students,” says Clemens. “More importantly, it will leave a lasting mark and help a very impoverished village in a tangible, life-changing way.”

The Duke Endowment has committed up to $12,500 to match gifts made to the project, which is estimated to cost $25,000.

Learn more at www.furmanwaterwalk.com or e-mail bruce.clemens@furman.edu.

Where things go bump in the night (and at other times)

NO ONE HAS BEEN sucked into the television set or otherwise vanished without a trace — at least not yet — but for years the denizens of Cherriehide, Furman’s Alumni House, have been looking over their shoulders. The place, they say, is haunted, and they wonder if James C. Furman himself, the school’s first president and the antebellum house’s first owner, is causing the problems.

Perhaps their concerns are not far-fetched. After all, the university did disturb Cherriehide 13 years ago, uprooting it from its moorings three miles from campus and transporting it to its current spot overlooking the Furman Tennis Center, at the highest point on campus, where it is in solitary — some might say ghastly — isolation.

Where things go bump in the night (and at other times) — JIM STEWART

Furman REPORTS

Weight of water: Student project to aid village

FURMAN’S STUDENT-LED Global Issues Forum (GIF) addresses the challenges of an increasingly globalized world and promotes discourse about issues of global importance. GIF sponsors a different series of events each semester on a topic of general interest.

This spring, the focus was on global water issues. But GIF did more than talk about the subject. Through its sponsorship of a “Water Walk” April 15, the group sought not only to build awareness of how water is connected to other sustainability themes, but to raise funds to complete a potable water system for the Guatemalan village of Esperanza San Antonio.

The WaterWalk was a simulation of the lengthy trek that millions throughout the developing world experience each day to find drinkable water. Participants carried water bottles and containers of various sizes around campus to help raise awareness of the problem. The Furman effort will provide the means for the Guatemalan community to purchase and construct a system that piped and filters spring water to the village.

Furman professor Bruce Clemens (business and accounting) and students have visited the site to collect baseline information and begin the process. Subsequent visits will be made to check on the installation, confirm that the money is spent as intended, and examine the program’s public health and environmental impact.

“The project provides a unique learning opportunity for students,” says Clemens. “More importantly, it will leave a lasting mark and help a very impoverished village in a tangible, life-changing way.”

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Distinguished guests come to call

WHEN SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR came to town in March to preside over several cases with the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, she made a side trip to Furman in conjunction with the Carol N. Ney National Mock Trial Tournament. Furman was one of eight sites for the opening round of the 2013 championships.

O’Connor was the first woman to be chosen for the U.S. Supreme Court, where she served from 1981 to 2006. Retired justices are allowed to sit on appeals courts and render binding decisions.

At Furman she spoke briefly to the Mock Trial competitors — 24 teams representing 38 colleges. O’Connor told the students to value what Mock Trial taught them about the art of persuasion. “If you can learn to persuade fellow classmates, or a judge on a moot court competition, or a group of people . . . you’ve learned a skill that is really important for the rest of your lives,” she said.

A Furman team was among the 48 nationwide to advance to the finals in St. Paul, Minn., marking the 8th consecutive year Furman has qualified for the finals.

Another distinguished guest who visited the campus this spring was Vicente Fox, the former president of Mexico, who spoke to a large crowd in McAlister Auditorium April 18. Fox’s visit was his first to South Carolina.

A coalition of student and departmental groups, from Young Republicans and College Democrats to Students in the Hispanic Organization of Learning and Awareness, joined forces to sponsor the program.

Fox touched on a number of issues during his hour-long appearance but devoted much of his time to the drug trade. He argued that the United States has been ineffective in the drug wars and done too little to address the international nature of the problem. On a more positive note, he emphasized to students the importance of “building bridges, not walls,” and quoted Cicero in praising the rejuvenating spirit present at universities like Furman.

A shift in orientation

FOR YEARS, FURMAN held freshman orientation at the beginning of the academic year. First-year students arrived on campus a few days before everyone else, and while they enjoyed carnivals, mixers, field day and a picnic at the president’s house, they would also meet with their advisors and plan their class schedules.

This year, Furman has tweaked orientation to offer a separate summer program that focuses on academics and class selection. New students may attend one of two two-day sessions between June 18 and 20, during which they’ll work with their advisors to plan their initial class schedules — without the excitement (and distractions) of moving in.

The intent is to help students make a successful transition to college, better understand the value of a balanced class schedule, learn about the registration system, and be introduced to the academic support systems on campus. They will receive their official class schedules later in the summer and will have an opportunity to make adjustments when they arrive in August.

Students who are unable to attend a two-day session will have an opportunity to work with an advisor on the phone or via Skype.

When school officially opens August 16, the majority of new students should be ready to go. And they’ll still enjoy four days of traditional meet-and-greet activities before classes begin August 20.

Commentary: Selected quotes and observations from Furman programs and personalities

"If universities are able to convince the justices that adoption of a color-blind standard for admissions would dramatically impact the quality of the educational experience for all students, and by extension damage the long-term interests of the nation, they may have some chance of persuading the critical swing vote, likely to be Justice [Anthony] Kennedy, that it would be wrong and highly disruptive suddenly to abolish all race-conscious programs in college admissions."

— ROD SMELLER, FURMAN PRESIDENT, IN AN INSIDE HIGHER ED ARTICLE ABOUT THE SUPREME COURT’S DECISION TO REVISIT THE ISSUE OF WHETHER COLLEGES HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONSIDER RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THEIR ADMISSION DECISIONS.

"Evangelicals like their leaders with a little zing — and that Romney doesn’t have. And, of course, his social milieu and cultural expression just don’t match theirs very well."

— JIM GUTH, WILLIAM R. KENAN, JR., PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, IN AN ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY ABOUT MITT ROMNEY’S STRUGGLE TO CONNECT WITH WHITE EVANGELICAL VOTERS.

"What I learned, other than the obvious insight that if you want to run fast you have to run fast, is that being secure enough to ask for and receive help is a hallmark of growth and maturity. You receive a more realistic image of yourself than the one in the mirror. Sometimes it’s hard to face, but most of the time it feels like a gift."

— RACHEL TOOR, WRITER AND TEACHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, IN A RUNNING TIMES ARTICLE ABOUT HER WORK WITH FIRST FURMAN INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RUNNING AND TRAINING.

"I was a good Catholic girl in a good Baptist school."

— MADELINE ROGERO ’79, MOST RECENTLY ELECTED MAYOR OF KNOXVILLE, TENN., DISCUSSING HER FURMAN DAYS IN A KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL STORY.

"Lots of people have laws in their hearts. You do not have a right to force that on other people."

— ATTORNEY SARA HINDSBERG, WHO SUCCESSFULLY ARGUED THE ROD V. WADE ABORTION CASE BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT, DURING A FURMAN APPEARANCE IN MARCH.

"Protecting gun rights does not mean that gun fights are going to break out."

— DAVID KEENE, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, DURING A FURMAN APPEARANCE IN MARCH.

"I always thought that being homeless was the last place I could go, but as it turns out, being homeless was the first step up."

— MARGARET TRIPP, GRIEVESVILLE RESIDENT, DURING A FURMAN PANEL DISCUSSION ON HOMELESSNESS. SHE NOW OWNS A HOME.

"It’s important to come to places like this and play big teams on their own soil and get results. At times it wasn’t pretty, but we grounded out the result tonight."

— A. SOCCER STAR CLINT DEMPEY, QUOTED BY THE HUFFINGTON POST. DEMPEY SCORED THE ONLY GOAL IN THE UNITED STATES’ 1-0 WIN OVER ITALY FEBRUARY 29, THE FIRST AMERICAN VICTORY OVER THE FOUR-TIME WORLD CHAMPIONS IN 18 YEARS.
FURMAN ATHLETICS will open new territory when the university introduces men’s and women’s lacrosse as varsity sports for the 2014–15 academic year. In making the announcement February 5, director of athletics Gary Clark described lacrosse as “the fastest-growing sport in the NCAA.”

The addition of varsity lacrosse (Furman’s club lacrosse program data to the mid-1980s) will give the university 20 intercollegiate sports, 10 each for men and women. The Southern Conference, of which Furman is a member, does not sponsor lacrosse, so the university’s league affiliation is to be determined.

NCAA Division I Lacrosse, which competes in the spring, currently features more than 90 women’s and 60 men’s programs and has the top graduation success rate (GSR) among all Division I sports. According to NCAA figures released last May, women’s lacrosse posted a four-year class average GSR of 94 percent, which topped all NCAA-sanctioned sports. Men’s lacrosse achieved an 88 percent GSR over the same period, the best among any sport’s division.

As to where the teams will play, Clark said Furman hopes to have head coaches in place soon so that they can begin to recruit the first class of scholarship players, to enroll in the fall of 2015. The first assistant coaches are expected to be in place soon so that they can begin to recruit the first class of scholarship players, to enroll in the fall of 2015.

Furman All-Stars lacrosse teams when Furman goes varsity in 2015.

For Fastest-growing sport’ coming to campus

BOOKMARKS: Featuring summaries of recent publications by alumni and faculty

KIMBERLY BUTTON ’91, The Everything Regulatory Guide to a Healthy Home (Adams Media, 2012). The author struggled for more than a decade with medical conditions that could not be cured by conventional medicine. After examining her life and the hidden toxins lurking in everyday items, she discovered that many of her health problems could be attributed to items in the home. Her health improved after she created a non-toxic space. With this book she shares her story and ideas. Button is a television correspondent, a writer for national print publications, and the owner of a green living consulting company in Orlando, Fla. Visit www.kimberlybutton.com.

J. MICHAEL SOUHER ’94 and Nicholas Dagen Bloom, editors, American Constructing a National Tradition (Center for American Places, 2012). According to the publisher, the book “rehabilitates the remarkable stories behind the places Americans love to visit. From Independence Hall to Las Vegas, and from Silver Springs to Seattle’s Pike Place Market, the collection pulls back the curtain on many of America’s most successful tourist attractions to reveal the carefully hidden transformations that turn places into destinations. [Covering] issues of design, culture, and impact, American Constructing will appeal to scholars, tourism professionals, and armchair travelers alike.” Souther is associate professor of history at Cleveland State University. Bloom teaches history at New York Institute of Technology.


GOFFINET McRAE ’92, Save the Seaw (Preise, 2011). McRae, an ocean lover who lives on Pawleys Island, S.C., is an activist against plastic pollution and its effects on ocean habitats. This children’s book tells the story of 12-year-old Sullie who discovers that plastic pollution is destroying her precious Turtle Beach. Sullie calls his friends to action, and they take aim at those who are causing environmental damage to turtle and to Sullie’s ocean pals. The book targets children 8 to 12 years old, but it’s also enjoyable and learn from the savvy seagull’s schemes, while discovering ways to pre- serve and protect the ocean.

J. MICHAEL MARTINEZ ’94, Coming for Your Life:nar Race in America from Abolitionism to Jim Crow (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011). In his eighth book, Martinez, an attorney and educator from Montana, Ga., examines race relations from the 1850s to the 1880s, analyzing how Lincoln and his contemporaries developed their views of race and following their work through the start of the Jim Crow era. Historian Brenda Varron Burton ’60 of Clemson University calls the book “an unflinching portrait” in which “philosophy, politics, and friendships of political leaders provoke high drama as well as compelling history.” This book is an important contribution to understanding the evolution of our politics during a critical half century of charged race relations.” Historian Ronald C. White, Jr., in his preface to Martinez’s narrative, is the rich mixture of ways [he] invites readers to feel the tensions and experience the ambiguities of known and unknown Americans who struggle with the nation’s most enduring moral dilemma.” Visit www.jmichaelmartinez.com.

FROM FACULTY

ERIK CHERNG and Hector Lindo-Fuentes, Modernizing Miami in 1920: Education Reform and the Cold War, 1930–1980 (University of New Mexico Press, 2012). When the military regime in El Salvador instituted reforms in the 1940s in an effort to modernize the country and undermine ideological rebellion, its most ambitious reform focused on education—in particular, the use of televisions in classrooms. From 1968–79, students received instruction through programs broadcast from the capital city of San Salvador. The Salvadoraian teachers’, union opposed the content and the method of televisions and launched two massive strikes. The military’s violent response enlisted educators and pushed many of them into guerrilla fronts. The authors examine how education reform became entangled in debates over theories of modernization and the politics of anticommunism, and how the movement quickly fractured. As the Cold War grew, Erik Cherung has taught history at Furman since 1998. His co-author teaches at Florida International University.

FURMAN ATHLETICS

President Rod Smolla said, “From our students to our alumni and the greater lacrosse community, there is tremendous momentum around the addition of these two teams to our Division I athletics program. We intend to be competitive at the national level and reward our fans with an exciting brand of the fastest game on two feet.”

To declare the addition is linked to the university’s strategic initiatives. Lacrosse is expected to boost recruiting efforts in several key markets, among them the Atlantic Coast, the Northeast, Florida and California.

THE DECISION TO ADD THE SPORT IS LINKED TO THE UNIVERSITY’S STRATEGIC INITIATIVES. LACROSSE IS EXPECTED TO BOOST RECRUITING EFFORTS IN SEVERAL KEY MARKETS, AMONG THEM THE ATLANTIC COAST, THE NORTHEAST, FLORIDA AND CALIFORNIA.

The announcement also marks the latest indication of rising interest in the sport in the Upstate of South Carolina. A number of local high school teams have introduced programs in recent years, and this May Enaisville hosted the Men’s Collegiate Lacrosse Association championships. MCLA is a national organization of non-NCAA college lacrosse programs. More than 250 colleges in the United States and Canada are affiliated with MCLA.

Chair Clark said Furman hopes to have head coaches in place soon so that they can begin to recruit the first class of scholarship players, to enroll in the fall of 2015. The first assistant coaches are expected to be in place soon so that they can begin to recruit the first class of scholarship players, to enroll in the fall of 2015.

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I’m sure that many schools have groups of friends who stay close through the years. But Furman seems to have more than most — just what it means to meet up with friends and great friends, like those of the man from Nona Street.

**WELCOME KATE!** Kate Holter ’19 has joined the constituent relations staff as Web communications coordinator. She previously worked as communications director for Greenville Forward, a local nonprofit whose goal is to enhance the city’s quality of life by developing and promoting a strong vision for growth and development in the years ahead.

Kate graduated from Furman with a double major in English and political science. She was a member of Tri Delta and Senior Order, was Panhellenic president, and served as the student editor of the university’s internal news site.

The Web communications coordinator is a new position for our department and will help us strengthen our digital communication program. As we learn and grow with this new venture, we want your thoughts. Please share any ideas you may have by emailing kate.holter@furman.edu. With Kate at the helm, we look forward to connecting with you in creative new ways.

**HOMECOMING 2012: It’s never too early to begin planning for Homecoming. Homecoming 2012 will be the weekend of October 19–21, with Southern Conference arch-rival Georgia Southern coming to town for the football game. Classes ending in 2 and 7 will have reunions, and the Class of 1962 will be celebrating its 50th in grand style. We will once again hold the "5th Quarter" event for alumni who have graduated in the last 10 years immediately after the game.

We always try to make each Homecoming more exciting than the last, so please plan to attend and we will have what we have in store this year. Information should be coming your way by mid-summer.

**I’VE GOTTA WEAR SHADES:** I recently had the pleasure of working with the Furman Admission Office when it hosted events for accepted students and for major scholarship candidates. I was amazed at the caliber of students — and parents — who are interested when it hosted events for accepted students and for major scholarship candidates. I am an alumnus of the senator of students — and parents — who are interested.

The author, a 1976 graduate, is executive director in service, leadership, community, visibility and professionalism. Career is a state administrative law judge. She has been a staff attorney and law liaison to C.S. Supreme Court Justice George T. Dabney, Jr., an assistant attorney general, and counsel to the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. She is a graduate of the Key Leadership Institute at Furman and currently serves as president of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association.

**John Weatherford**, chief operating officer of Public Broadcasting-Alabama, has been elected to the board of the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Board of Directors. Among other duties, John oversees all operations of Alabama's NPR affiliate and its PBS station.

**Sidney Bland** was invited to give the "States of the Field" address at the 2012 Advanced Placement U.S. History Reading in Louisville, Ky. Sidney is a retired professor at James Madison University in Virginia. She writes and speaks on American women’s history and the Gilded Age/Progressive Era.

**Beverly Bindley Hunter** of Greenville, chief nursing service officer for the South Carolina Department of Social Services, received the 2012 Southern Young Childhood Association (SCA) President’s Award for her contributions to public policy on behalf of South Carolina’s children and families. Beverly, the first South Carolina to receive the award, was nominated by the state’s Early Childhood Association for her years in setting stakeholder standards and professional development support for early care and education programs. SCA is a 14-state group with more than 20,000 members.

**THIS YEAR IS REUNION!**

Carolyn Cason Matthews was one of five women honored by the Girl Scouts of South Carolina — Mountains to Midlands at the Woman of Distinction Awards Dinner on March 22 in Columbia. The event recognized women who exemplify excellence in service, leadership, community, visibility and professionalism. Carolyn is a state administrative law judge. She has been a staff attorney and law liaison to C.S. Supreme Court Justice George T. Dabney, Jr., an assistant attorney general, and counsel to the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. She is a graduate of the Key Leadership Institute at Furman and currently serves as president of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association.

**John Vernon Platt ’60**

On February 29, the South Carolina House of Representatives passed a resolution honoring Anne Pickens Collins for “her enduring legacy of selfless service and meaningful accomplishments.” Anne, who lives in Chester, celebrated her 102nd birthday on Feb. 9. She worked for many years as a journalist and in the family real estate business. Active in Chester County organizations, she has been a member of 13 books, most of them about local history, and is a recipient of the state’s Order of the Silver Circle, which recognizes outstanding achievements and community contributions.

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**Furman ALUMNI NEWS**

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Ex-Officio and Other Members: Rod Smith; Nate, president; Mike Gathch ’91, vice-president for development; Tom Tripplet ’76, director of Alumni Association; Tim Hays Balles ’78, associate director of Alumni Association; Cal Hurst ’84, president, Young Alum Council; James Costarick ’12, president, Student Alumni Council; Teddy Hays ’12, president, Association of Furman Students; Joel Bloom ’12, president, Senior Class.

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Kevin Byrne of Atlanta, vice president and chief operating officer of The University of Cincinnati finance foundation, is the 2012 president of the Association of University of Cincinnati Retirees. The group’s focus is on creating programs to help develop the next generation of research park directors and university administrators.

Lee Smith of Jacksonville, Fla., was selected to become director of pricing for RailAmerica. In this new position she focuses on gaining revenue for rural trans- portation moves across the RailAmerica network in the United States and Canada. Lee is a president-elect of the Furman Alumni Association Board of Directors. In November, Laura Saunders Wernim completed the process to become a National Board-Certified Teacher of students with exceptional needs. She teaches English and special education at Panther Creek High School in Cary, N.C.

Demol Kong is a vice-president of athletics at Dalhousie College State in Georgia. Dalhousie is preparing to start an athletics program. Demol previously was every basketball coach and then assistant athletic director at Stonehill University.

James Coteys is to become a member of the site’s Harvard family in Nashville, Tenn. He works with the firm’s real estate and banking service group.

Brian and Emily Theyer Crenshaw, a daughter, Caroline Elizabeth, November 17. They live in Atlanta, Ga.

BIRTH: John and Margaret Moyer Stewart, a son, Robert Grant, December 22, Atlanta.

Elizabeth Herne Campbell ’88, a son, the Arthur in the Atlanta law office of Locke Lord LLP. The firm’s public sector practice focuses on healthcare mergers, acquisitions and regulations. (BIRTHS: Ronald E. and Stephanie Cole Long, a daughter, Melissa Elizabeth, October 25. They live in Goosen Creek, S.C. Saide is a freelance grant writer and Charles is a health and safety officer for Pol. Park District.

Elizabeth Suidkson has joined United Funds for Network for Organ Sharing as a site supervisor and relishes the chance to teach kids the same lessons he learned.

For his commitment to protect their investment, and the public sector is the place to start. We build com- munities, and our communities are judged by what the public infrastructure looks and feels like.

Kevin Byrnes, a real estate and banking service group. He was promoted to city manager in 2010.

The author, a 1994 graduate, is a freelance writer in Simpsonville, S.C.
Andy Kidd, who has been director of advancement with Episcopal School of Jacksonville (Fla.), has been named the school’s director of athletics.

BIRTHS: Scott and Rebekah Tribble Cleveland; a son, Brandon David, February 12. They live in Atlanta, Ga.

They are having their first child.

Andy is an account manager with Booz Allen Hamilton supporting the NASA Kennedy Space Center.

Among recipients of two major honors, including the 2012 Bancroft Prize, was Tamyra Menzies, who lives in Los Angeles, in the Winter Concert for Charity. The concert was broadcast on New York Public Radio and WebExtra.com.

Carissa May, June 15, 2011, Columbus, Miss.

She has been associate director of law admissions at Ohio Northern University.

Jennifer Williams Girard is a graduate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Andy is an account manager with Windstream Communications.

Alumni News

BIRTHS

Carissa May, June 15, 2011, Columbus, Miss.

Anna Furman McKenzie, a daughter, Catherine Paige, March 6, Athens, Ga.


Catherine Paige, March 6, Athens, Ga.

Columbus, Miss.

Their first child.

Torrio is a recipient of two major honors, including the 2012 Bancroft Prize.

Bill Cormier and Jamie is a physical therapist at the Army Wellness Center.

Benjamin Martin, November 18, 2010, of Portland, Ore., has been named the school’s director of athletics.

Bill is manager of personal training at Carolinas Healthcare System.

Anthony, who played soccer at Furman, was named the school’s director of athletics.

Bill is an attorney at Troutman Sanders Law Firm in Columbia, S.C.

Alyson Krokosky, a young and college director at First United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Ala., where David is executive minister.

BIRTH: Tony works as a Linux administrator for DataKnot.

BIRTH: Andrew played football at Furman and was previously editor of The Indiana Postscript.

BIRTHS

Carissa May, June 15, 2011, Columbus, Miss.

They live in Franklin, Tenn.

They live in Los Angeles, in the Winter Concert for Charity. The concert was broadcast on New York Public Radio and WebExtra.com.

They live in Anderson, S.C.

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FOOTBALL FEVER IN THE ARCHIVES

DO YOU KNOW THIS YOUNG MAN?

Furman Football Department

In this fall’s MU Alumni’s theme of “How Furman Changed My Life,” one of our contributors refers to Furman legend Dean Harrill as a man who “marched to his own drummer.” I find it amusing to read about a trip he made to visit Faulkner’s home place in Oxford, Miss. I contacted Faulkner about publishing it with a little editing. He said OK, and I must say it was the best thing in the magazine. The Faulkner essay won for that year.

All any of us is wondering is if anyone ever dug up that little piece of Faulkner’s prose for safe keeping.

— STEPHANIE MALINOFF ROBB ’65 Ekeakasoro, IL

MEMORIES REMINDED

I JUST GOT THE WINTER MAGAZINE and wanted you to know how much I enjoyed it. You covered several of my old students and professor friends. I was a professor in the history department from 1960–66 and am now retired from the Auburn University history department.

I really liked the article on Ernie Harrill (“A Man of Grace and Style”). He was a very good friend, and you captured the real teacher and administrator that he was. I loved the article on Marshall Frady (“The Outlaws of a Literature”). What a student! So much talent, and one who marched to his own drummer. I remember several funny things he did as a student and am so glad to know that his papers have been bought by Emory. As the former archivist at Auburn, I can appreciate the collection of papers of such a great individual.

Your obits on my old friends Benny Reece and T.C. Smith reminded me of our good times at Furman. We had a great faculty in the decade of the 1960s. You need to get someone to write an article about the “Prickers Pray” where the faculty all eat lunch every day. The faculty of the religion department usually held forth, especially Thomas Prick. He was the long. Dean Frank Bomar would come down when he wanted to find out what was going on at the university.

— ALLEN W. JONES, Auburn, Ala.

HARRILL’S TEXAS

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your gracious tribute to Ernie Harrill in the winter issue. I have many fine memo- ries of him, but one still makes me squirm when I recall it. I was a rough, conservative segregationist from south Georgia when Furman announced plans to desegregate my freshman year. I immediately draped my Confederate battle flag outside my Poteat Hall window to protest. Dean Harrill tracked me down and called me out of class. It was the only time I ever saw him really angry.

Over the years, as a student and a graduate, my respect and affection for him continued to grow. He worked hard to do the right thing all the time, even when it did not matter to anyone else and often at consider- able inconveniences to himself. What a wonderful man. He made so many of us better people.

When I first saw the magazine’s lead article on the value of a liberal education, I almost rolled my eyes. So many papers have been written on that topic over the years! I doubted the author could say anything fresh, or even interesting. I read it anyway, and it was as fine an essay on the subject as I have ever seen. My commendations to Professor Benjamin Storey for his essay.

— ED BRODIE ’67 Montgomery, Ala.
Leila Ruth Crawford Davis | January 1, 1911, Norway, Ga. She was supervisor of dietary services at West Georgia College before joining the U.S. Corps of Engineers in 1952. She worked more than 37 years, a charter member of the Delta Kappa Gamma society, and was an active member for Meals for Mankind in Fountain Inn.


Mary Frances Howard | January 25, 1927, Greenville, S.C.

William R. Pendegras Jr. | February 15, 1944, Greenville, S.C. After graduation he joined the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific Theatre until the end of World War II. Upon his return he enrolled at the University of South Carolina before taking a position as a professor of English at Kennesaw State University, and then completed his under-graduate degree in botany. He then attended dental school at the University of South Carolina in 1954. He completed his senior year in high school before enroll- ing at Furman. He completed his under-graduate degree at Concord University in West Virginia, then began a career in teach-ing and served on the faculties in South Carolina and Tennessee. He was the first president of the Furman College of Charleston and was on the U.S.S. barkalick in Brazil. After his duty ended, he completed his senior year in high school before enroll- ing at Furman. He completed his under-graduate degree at Concord University in West Virginia, then began a career in teach-ing. He was active in the Lions Club, and was on the U.S.S. Barkalick in Brazil. After his duty ended, he completed his senior year in high school before enroll- ing at Furman. He completed his under-graduate degree at Concord University in West Virginia, then began a career in teach-ing. He was active in the Lions Club, and was on the U.S.S. Barkalick in Brazil.
Jeff \textit{Wrenn} was 60, March 17, 2003, Greenville. An elementary school teacher, he earned a law degree from Harvard and a degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Drew University, John Cline Company. He was a director of the Gainesville State College and chair of the Greater Hall Education Board. He spent his later years of his career as director of summer camps and conferences at Furman, and in retirement he taught in the university’s Online Lifelong Learning program. He was a Master in Theology and was studied to be a Master Gardener.

### John Vernon Platt '60, March 17, 2003, Greenville. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. He returned to Lockheed Martin as a teacher and coach, earning a law degree from Harvard. In addition, he earned a degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Drew University. John Cline Company. He was a director of the Gainesville State College and chair of the Greater Hall Education Board. He spent his later years of his career as director of summer camps and conferences at Furman, and in retirement he taught in the university’s Online Lifelong Learning program. He was a Master Gardener.

### Mark Scarbrough '80, January 11, 2003, Columbia, S.C. He was a Viet Nam veteran. He died of cancer. He served as president of the Mauldin Garden Club and was recognized as a Master Naturalist and an advocate of outdoors education. She taught fourth grade at Mountain View School District of Greenville County, having taught fourth grade at Mountain View Elementary.

### Robert Patton, Jr., 93, January 3, Columbia, S.C. Bob served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army in Germany for 22 years. After his military service, he worked in the financial aid offices at the University of South Carolina and Columbia International University.

### Jerry Lee Hampton 2002 he moved to Simpsonville, where he moved to Wesleyan College in 2006. His work at Wesleyan College was in music education, and he was a member of the receiving committee for the Martin M. Smith Vanguard Award. He taught fourth grade at Mountain View Elementary School.

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Remembering a legend: Furman Bisher

THE FIRST TIME I saw Furman Bisher was at the 1979 Masters golf tournament. I was a 26-year-old sportswriter working for the Piedmont, an afternoon newspaper in Greenville, and Bisher was a famous columnist with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He was there in the middle of the press room, smiling broadly and joking with fellow luminaries like Dan Jenkins of Sports Illustrated and Dave Anderson of The New York Times, and I wouldn’t have felt much different if, five decades earlier and a continent away, I had spotted Ernest Hemingway in a Paris café.

Here was the man who, in addition to writing sterling prose that hundreds of thousands clamored to read every morning, had played golf with Bobby Jones, interviewed Shoeless Joe Jackson, given “Lord” Byron Nelson his nickname, traded good-natured barbs with Richard Petty, palled around with Bing Crosby, and even helped bring major league baseball to Atlanta. If you were a young sportswriter, there was a select group of writers who transcended the sports they covered, and Bisher was one of them.

Some 15 years later, I was working at Furman and, along with photographer Charlie Register, went to Bisher’s home just outside of Atlanta to interview him for a Furman Magazine article. Even though he had graduated from the University of North Carolina, Bisher spent his first two years of college at Furman and remained a loyal alumnus, even to the point of establishing a generous athletic/academic scholarship at the university.

He talked about how he had always loved Furman and never wanted to leave, but had no choice once the school cut the journalism program prior to his junior year. He admitted that the name of the university influenced his decision to matriculate from his hometown of Denton, N.C., and that he had followed Furman’s sports program from afar as a young boy. He used the term “we” when referring to the football team’s victories over Clemson during his days at the university, and he said there were very few people in the world he idolized more than Bob King, an All-America football player at Furman who would go on to become football coach.

Bisher’s considerable wit was also on full display that day. He revels in the memories of all the pretty girls who came to the men’s campus for classes, arriving in taxis like angelic visions, and he remembered how being assigned to live in McGee Hall, the athletic dorm, gave him special status, even though the building itself could best be described as a “slum.”

Bisher died of a heart attack on March 18 at the age of 93. He left behind a million words that attested to his talent and a string of tributes by his fellow scribes that showed he was much more than a mere chronicler of the era’s sporting events.

So we say goodbye to a University of North Carolina graduate who never forgot his time at Furman. It will be our pleasure to carry on the name.

— VINCE MOORE

The writer is director of news and media relations at Furman.
Furman University is committed to providing equal access to its educational programs, activities, and facilities to all otherwise qualified students without discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other category protected by applicable state or federal law. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, Furman also affirms its commitment to nondiscrimination in its employment policies and practices. For information about the university’s compliance with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and the I.R.S. Anti-Bias Regulation, contact the Director of Human Resources, (864) 294-3015, 3300 Poinsett Hwy., Greenville, S.C. 29613. For information about Furman’s compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, contact the Disability Services Coordinator, (864) 294-2320, 3300 Poinsett Hwy., Greenville, S.C. 29613.