Looking back
University to commemorate 50th anniversary of new campus

When university dignitaries gathered in 1953 on barren, windswept ground to turn the first spade of dirt for Furman’s new campus, the event was remarkable in many ways.

Just seven years before the college had been in debt. With declining enrollment and mounting money troubles, Furman, a small Baptist-affiliated school located on the banks of the Reedy River, nearly shuttered its doors for good during the Great Depression.

Only a steady flow of funds from The Duke Endowment helped the university remain afloat. Emerging from the Great Depression and World War II, President John L. Plyler, a frugal administrator, put Furman in the black in 1944.

Fortunes continued to improve as droves of veterans flocked to U.S. colleges during the post-war years. Furman acquired 25 trailers, 50 temporary housing units, a barracks, and three army surplus buildings from the municipal airport to accommodate the growing student body. But the growing pains were acute. The university faced the logistical difficulties of maintaining two deteriorating campuses: the century-old downtown campus and the campus of the Greenville Woman’s College, located across town.

Surrounded by neighborhoods and cramped geographically, neither could be easily expanded. As classroom sizes swelled, so did student unrest. Uptown over substandard housing and dilapidated campus buildings, students hunged and burned in effigy a mockup of President Plyler in 1946. Angst continued to mount as administrators and trustees grappled with a conundrum of classic proportions.

Against that backdrop of uncertainty, beleaguered university officials met in early 1947 to discuss facility needs. At the meeting, trustee John Dean Crain, minister at Pendleton Street Baptist Church, suggested, “apparently as a sudden inspiration, that Furman move to a new campus site that would allow room for necessary expansion”.

Though there was some apprehension, the suggestion, later adopted, united the campus community with a sense of optimism and energy. Plyler and the trustees considered five possible locations for the new campus before settling on a site near Paris Mountain because of its “ample room” and “excellent view”.

In August 1950, Furman, which just a decade before had been in debt. With declining enrollment and mounting money troubles, Furman, a small Baptist-affiliated school located on the banks of the Reedy River, nearly shuttered its doors for good during the Great Depression. Looking back University to commemorate 50th anniversary of new campus

The plaza is shaded by ginkgo trees like those that lined the streets of the downtown campus. A water fountain that was relocated from the old campus is the centerpiece of the plaza. While few remnants of the downtown campus remain, university and city officials will soon place a monument in Falls Park to mark the site of the old campus.

History professor Courtney Tollison, a Greenville native and 1999 Furman graduate, and senior Myles Surrett have produced a display titled “The New Digs: Furman Campuses and the Evolution of a University, 1939-1973” that is on display in the University Archives and Special Collections Office of the James B. Duke Library throughout fall semester. The large exhibit includes 150 photographs, oral histories, the shovel used during the groundbreaking of the campus, and artifacts that were part of the two downtown campuses. In January, the exhibit will move to the Upcountry History Museum.

“We put a lot of energy and effort into this, and it will be worth seeing,” says Tollison, who has researched Furman history for the past decade.

The 50th anniversary theme will resonate during Homecoming Weekend (October 9–11) as the university recognizes the classes of 1958-62, the first groups to live and learn on the new campus.

Also, 1950s-era automobiles will be featured in an on-campus parade and will transport the Homecoming court to the stadium. A 1950s film festival has been planned for January and February. Films from the era will be shown in Burgiss Theater, followed by panel discussions.

University and local dignitaries will dedicate the 50th anniversary plaza and downtown monument during Founders Week in late March. The move to the new campus will also be highlighted during Commencement ceremonies in May.

Plinet will post a series of short articles on several campus objects that were once part of the old campus. Those items include the bricks around Judson Circle, the seal on Judson Hall, the Shack, Old College, the Chiles Bell and Block F.
We’ve basked in the Year of the Library. We’ve reflected during the Year of the Humanities. We’ve sustained ourselves throughout the Year of the Environment, and beyond.

Now, Furman is preparing to launch another thematic celebration: the Year of the Sciences.

From opening convocation September 4, when recently retired chemistry professor Tony Arrington delivered the keynote address, until the final day of classes on April 28 (or May 29, for those in the May Experience), the 2008–09 academic year will be filled with programs, lectures, performances and assorted events designed to promote and extol the virtues of scientific inquiry.

Arrington heads a committee that began meeting in July to exchange thoughts and to brainstorm, in the finest scientific tradition, about the possibilities for the year. While many ideas are still under consideration, some programs are already scheduled or in development. They include:

- **Copenhagen.** The opening production by the Department of Theatre Arts runs September 17–21 and 25–27. In September 1941, in the midst of World War II, noted physicist Niels Bohr and his former protégé, Werner Heisenberg (a German), who were on opposite sides of the conflict, met at Bohr’s home in Copenhagen. The two had collaborated on work that led to the development of the atomic bomb. What they said to each other—and what they learned from each other—remains a mystery. Playwright Michael Frayn attempts to re-create the events of that night in a powerful intellectual thriller.

  The play, directed by Jay Oney, features a three-person cast consisting of professors Kevin Treu (Computer Science) as Heisenberg, Doug Cummins (Theatre Arts) as Bohr, and Margaret Oakes (English) as Margrethe Bohr.

- **Dedication of the Charles Townes Center for Science.** The $63 million complex, now complete and fully functional in all its stunningly spacious, LEED-certified glory, is named for the 1964 Nobel Laureate who is Furman’s most illustrious graduate. It will be formally dedicated October 31.

- **Survival of the Fittest: Happy 200th.** Charles Darwin, evolutionary icon or villainous heretic, depending on your point of view, was born February 12, 1809. Furman plans a commemorative program that will highlight his contributions to scientific discovery and thought.

- **Townes Lecture on Faith and Reason.** Freeman Dyson, a Templeton Prize recipient and professor emeritus of physics at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., will speak in late March.

- **Furman Engaged!** Set for April 3, the event will feature public presentations and reports by students about their research. Dean John Beckford says that classes will be canceled for the day “so that all students can attend the exhibits and other programs celebrating research and creativity.”

Other likely scenarios include a series of talks by alumni about careers in the sciences, programs focusing on the interdisciplinary nature of the sciences, and presentations relating the sciences to such areas as education, technology and ethics. Watch for further announcements and a schedule of events as the committee finalizes plans for the year.
Over the past 10 years or so, Furman’s commitment to sustainability has become one of the university’s primary strategic emphases. In fact, this year the university’s emphasis on sustainability has resulted in the creation of a new staff position to promote more curricular and co-curricular initiatives. In July, Angela Halfacre began work as Furman’s first director of sustainability and environmental education. When Halfacre graduated from Furman in 1992, there were no LEED-certified buildings on campus. There was not even a university-wide recycling program.

How quickly things have changed. Today, Furman has more LEED-certified buildings than any other college in the state, and trustee policy requires that every new or renovated building be constructed according to LEED standards.

In addition, a growing number of students and faculty members are engaging in activities related to sustainability, from recycling and energy conservation to organic gardening and the restoration of the Furman lake. The new Southern Living Showcase Home (The Cliffs Cottage), a model for sustainable design and construction, attracts hundreds of visitors each week. President David Shulman has also joined 965 other college leaders in signing the Presidents’ Climate Commitment, whereby colleges and universities pledge to develop plans to become climate-neutral in their operations. Furman’s commitment to sustainability helped stimulate Halfacre’s interest in the new position. As a political science professor at the College of Charleston with a personal and professional interest in sustainability, Halfacre took pride in her alma mater’s emergence as a national leader in the fast-growing area that often wrestles with zoning ordinances regulating land use, water and air quality, and other environmental concerns have been traditional agents of change for decades. Halfacre says sustainability is more of a grassroots effort, with local citizens and communities (including neighborhood associations) increasingly leading the charge.

“About one-sixth of us are part of some sort of community association, whether it is a homeowner’s association or condominium association,” she says. “These groups are making decisions that directly affect the quality of life in their communities, the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the ways in which zoning ordinances regulate and enhance neighborhoods.”

South Carolina’s coastal region, a fast-growing area that often wrestles with the conflicting pressures of development, conservation and ecological stability, has been an ideal case study for her research related to the dynamics of local environmental policy. At the College of Charleston, Halfacre worked with students and professors to explore several case studies in the Lowcountry region. For example, she documented how coastal activism led to the conservation of Sandy Island through a wetlands mitigation bank, a 12,000-acre island located near busy Myrtle Beach.

Her research has explored the environmental perceptions of a range of stakeholders in the region, including Latino migrant farmworkers, farmers and rural residents. In several articles, Halfacre has detailed how the shortage of sweetgrass, a coastal grass used by the Gullah people to weave baskets, impacted that community. She has also studied how coastal municipalities devised stormwater run-off policies and provided guidance for community associations to address stormwater issues.

Since beginning her work at Furman, Halfacre has been impressed by the energy and creativity of the Furman campus community. “Sustainability concerns are definitely taking hold across the campus,” she says. Among her top initial priorities are to organize the new office of sustainability and environmental education and clarify its scope and responsibilities. Working with her will be James Wilkins, an environmental associate, and Professor Frank Powell, a longtime champion of environmental studies and campus sustainability.

“There are only three of us,” says Halfacre, “so we cannot handle every question or concern that arises across the campus. But we will make sure that people know where the best resources are to address their questions and concerns. In essence, we will serve as a clearinghouse to bridge interests, ideas, and implementation of sustainability studies and initiatives.”

The office of sustainability and environmental education is currently located in the lower level of the Earle Infirmary. A year from now, it will relocate to The Cliffs Cottage.

Halfacre has designed a university-wide survey to gauge current perceptions of sustainability. She is also examining how other institutions have organized their sustainability efforts. She adds that she is especially excited about working with students and professors to create more curricular and co-curricular opportunities related to sustainability initiatives and environmental education.

The ultimate purpose of her new position, she stresses, is to better coordinate and champion the array of efforts across the campus and in the community related to sustainability and environmental citizenship.

“There is a growing global awareness about the fragile but fundamental connection between the quality of the environment and the quality of human society,” says Halfacre. “We want our campus community and the Upstate region to develop a deeper appreciation of this connection. We also want our graduates to become effective proponents of sustainability in their homes, communities and professions.”
Biology
Travis Perry has received grants from the Oregon Zoo Future for Wildlife Conservation Fund and the Tumor Endangering Species Fund. The money will be used to purchase GPS collars for continued cougar research on the Ladder Ranch in New Mexico this fall.

Business & Accounting
Robert Underwood, Kirk Karran and Thomas Smythe have authored "Undergraduate Management Education for Sustainability: A Perspective from the Liberal Arts." The chapter was accepted for publication in the Management Education for Global Sustainability, in the Research Management Education and Development Series, 2009. Underwood has also helped to author two articles, "Integrating Concepts Across Marketing Courses via Experiential Learning" and "Automotive Foreign Direct Investment in the U.S.: Economic and Cultural Consequences of Market Globalization," which were published this summer in the Journal for Advancement in Marketing Education and by the Macromarketing Society Conference.

Center for Engaged Learning
Diane Boyd is co-editor of Everyday Revolutions: Eighteenth-Century Women Transforming Public and Private (University of Delaware Press, 2008).

Chemistry
Tim Hanks chaired the National Science Foundation’s Research Experience for Undergraduates Leadership Group and is serving as director of Furman’s REU site. He also recently helped to author two published articles: “Halogen Bonding with Dihalides and Interhalides” and “Synthetic and Functional Organization of Cis-platodiolactones.”

Earth & Environmental Sciences
C. Brannon Andersen has co-authored three papers that were recently presented at the meeting of the Southeastern Geological Society of America, and one paper presented at the American Association of Geologists. He has been appointed associate editor of Environmental Geosciences and participated in a Mellon Faculty Enhancement trip to the Galapagos Islands in June. John Garihan is serving as editor-in-chief of South Carolina Geology, a peer-reviewed journal covering all aspects of earth science in the state.

Education
George Lipscomb and several senior education majors will be giving a presentation titled “Pay It Forward: Invigorating Instruction Through ‘I-Dee History’” at the South Carolina Council for the Social Studies Conference October 3 in Columbia. He is in his second year on the Notable Trade Books Committee sponsored by the National Council for the Social Studies and the Children’s Book Council.

English
Vincent Haumann is serving as the editor of the Byron Mixer Review of Comparative Literature, an electronic scholarly journal (www.byronmixer.edu/). He also published an article, “Envisioning the Whole World Behind Things: Denying Otherness in Sam Mendes’s American Beauty,” in the May 2004 issue of Camera Obscura.

Health & Exercise Science
Allieca Powers received a summer 2008 grant from the IDEA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). She is also serving as an abstractor for the Nutrition Evidence Library through the United States Department of Agriculture Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion and is an evaluator for Activate South Carolina, a wellness initiative. Julian Reed has earned a master’s of public health degree from the University of South Carolina, a terminal degree in this field.

History
David Spear delivered a lecture at London’s British Museum at a Bata Shoe Tapestry conference on July 15.

Library
Libby Young is serving as vice president (president-elect) of the South Carolina Library Association. Janis Bandelin attended the American Library Association Conference in Anaheim, Calif., June 26–27. She served on the board of directors for the College & Research Libraries, the largest division of ALA, and on the board of directors for the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL) consortium.

Marketing & Public Relations
In July, Nancy Splett, Greg Carroll, Jane Dorns, Roxanne Chase, Brian Faulknerben and Ryan Fisher went to Chicago for the Integrated Marketing of Higher Education Conference.

Modern Languages & Literatures
Dawn A. Strickland presented a paper at the 38th Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages at the University of Illinois in April. In the paper, titled “The Evolution of est-ce que: A Split-CP Account,” she uses a minimalist framework to examine the syntactic development of this question-formation strategy from Old French to Modern French. In May, Ronald Fris hosted a dinner for a faculty member at the University of Illinois in October, the title of his talk was “Returning a Synthesis of Knowledge: Energy — of Man, Creation and CalistHENY.”

Philosophy
Carmen Epiphant has been invited to give a Thomas A. Potts Memorial Lecture at the Medical University of South Carolina on the topic “Coping with Future Freedom: Consent and Capacities for Autonomous Choice.” She will also give a paper titled “Psychology and CHS” at the Psychiatry and Psychology Conference in Dallas, Texas, in October.

Physics
Bill Bradtley gave an invited talk July 22 at the 20th anniversary of the Oxford Round Table in Oxford, England. The title of his talk was “Task a Synthesis of Knowledge: Energy — of Man, Creation and CalistHENY.”

Political Science

Psychology
As an invited participant, Charles Brewer attended the American Psychological Association’s (APA) National Conference on Undergraduate Education in Psychology at the University of Puget Sound during June. Brewer gave the keynote address for the opening plenary session at the Third International Conference on the Teaching of Psychology in Saint Petersburg, Russia, during July. At the annual convention of the APA in Boston during August, Brewer received the 2008 Raymond D. Fowler Award that recognizes “his exemplary contributions to teaching, the APA, and the discipline of psychology.”

Religion
Brian Siegel’s “Water spirits and mermaids: the Copperbelt Chitapo” is coming out this fall in Henry J. Dresva’s Sacred Waters: Art for Mami Wata (Indiana University Press).

Music
In July and August, John Beckford attended a three-week workshop in Bali, Indonesia, sponsored by the Center for World Music. This cultural immersion experience was to further prepare him to teach a new course in world music this spring. Daniel Koppelman received an extension to his Fulbright Scholarship award and will be returning to Ukraine in 2009 as artist-in-residence with the Odessa-based Association for New Music. Koppelman’s Esclavament, a two-disc set of 21st-century music for piano and electronics featuring DVD audio in 5.1-channel surround sound, will soon be released by Evolvable Records. Charles Tompkins presented a lecture titled “Teaching the Organ Music of Messiaen” for the biennial national convention of the American Guild of Organists, held in late June in Minneapolis-St. Paul. He also conducted a performance masterclass on Messiaen’s organ music for the convention, featuring undergraduate and graduate organ students from Trinity University, the University of Montana and the University of Iowa.

Anneniversaries
35 years
September: Faye Jordan October: Eileen Hartin November: Sandra Clark
30 years
October: Willie Miller
25 years
September: Susan D’Amato
20 Years
September: Rebecca Looper
10 years
September: Wade Shepherd November: Jane Dungan Marchella Frese Glenn Faust Cathy Frazier Maggie Milt Annie Queen
5 Years
September: Mary Lou Merkt Wendy Donley Gail McDiamid Marian Woods
NEW FACULTY

Catherine A. Bork  
Visiting Instructor in Political Science  
B.A., Oglethorpe University; M.A., University of Notre Dame; Ph.D. candidate, University of Notre Dame

Ellen Becher  
Assistant Professor of History  
B.A., University of Michigan; M.A., M. Phil., Ph.D., Columbia University

Omar Camarantes  
Instructor in Music  
B.M., University of Central Florida; M.M., The University of North Texas; B.S.A. candidate, Florida State University

Jeong Ok Chi  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
B.S., Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology; M.S., Ph.D. program, University of Science & Technology; Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Nathaniel F. S. Cook  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
B.A., Dartmouth University; M.A., Ph.D., Michigan State University

Angela Ciallasso  
Director of Sustainability and Environmental Education and Associate Professor of Political Science  
B.A., Furman University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Florida

Marianne Hallinan-Berry  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures  
B.A., Université René Descartes (France); M.A. (French), University of Wisconsin; Ph.D., Louisiana State University

Amy A. Heaton  
Assistant Professor of Education  
B.A., Virginia Tech; Ph.D., University of Georgia

Michelle Horfeta  
Assistant Professor of Psychology  
B.S., University of Toronto; M.S., Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology

Jason Cannon Jones  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
B.S., Utah State University; Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Forrest Stuart  
Assistant Professor of History  
B.A., Vassar College; M.A., M.L.S., University of South Carolina; Ph.D. candidate, Clemson University

William M. Maddox, ITC  
Professor of Military Science  
B.A., Carson Newman College; M.A., Vanderbilt University

Caroline Cury Mills  
Assistant Professor of Historical Studies  
B.A., Wolford College, M.L.S., University of South Carolina; Ph.D. candidate, Clemson University

Max C. Dorneski  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology (one year)  
B.A., M.S., M.A., Ph.D., Florida International University

Joni Tevis  
Assistant Professor of English  
B.A., Florida State University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Houston

Dana R. B. Adams  
Visiting Instructor in Political Science  
B.A., University of Minnesota; M.A., University of Minnesota, Ph.D. candidate, University of Minnesota

Eho Baba  
Assistant Professor of Asian Studies and Philosophy  
B.A., International Christian University, Tokyo; M.S., M.A., Ph.D., University of Hawaii at Manoa

John R. Conrad  
Visiting Lecturer in English  
B.S., St. Mary University; Ph.D., Dartmouth College

John S. Cook  
Visiting Instructor in Religion  
B.A., Yale University; M.Div., M.A., Vanderbilt University; Ph.D. candidate, Vanderbilt University

Nathan E. Ybarra  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
B.A., Newberry College; M.M., University of Nebraska; Ph.D., University of Virginia

Robert E. Hughes Assistant Professor of History  
B.A., Newberry College; M.M., University of Nebraska; Ph.D., University of Miami

Edward Yrazon  
Visiting Lecturer in Asian Studies and Religion (part-time)  
B.A., Swarthmore University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Chicago

Bonzi Britt, The C.R.I.S Cottage  
Lucy Woodhouse, Continuing Education  
Crystal Weaver, Women’s basketball  
Adam Harvey, Athletics  
Troy Mayes, CIS  
Amy Fletcher, Women’s basketball  
Andrew Waters, Admissions  
Michael Dostie, Admissions  
Nancy Reeves, Athletics  

NEW EMPLOYEES

John Kiddly, Sports Medicine  
Chad Fisher, grounds  
Della Sue Black, grounds  
Jill Price, Film Institute  
William Reames, Men’s basketball  
Brad Harmon, Housing  
Adam Mistry, Sports Medicine  
Raymond Clark, Human Resources  
Forest Stuart, Financial Aid  

Jason Hayden, Psychology  
David Robinson, Public Safety  
Tedd Nix, Grounds  
Susan Vass, Biology  
Dayna Folk, Custodial  
Christopher Everhart, CIS  
Sylia Evette, Child Development Center  
William Robinson, Public Safety  
Sue McCann, Custodial  

Jill Hendrix, Custodial  
Helen Reynolds, Graduate Program  
Sherry Jordan, Custodial  
Mary Tyner, Communication Studies  
Bridget Posey, Women’s track  
Fred Miller, CIS  

Not Pictured:

David S. McCarthy  
Visiting Assistant Professor of History  
A.B., Dartmouth College, M.A., Ph.D., William and Mary

MILESTONES

Not Pictured:

Eva Mosberg  
STINT Fellow in Mathematics  
STINT is the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education. Mosberg teaches at Karlstad University in Karlstad, Sweden

Desmond T. Tayan, Jr.  
Visiting Lecturer in Music  
B.M., Mars Hill College; M.M., D.M.A., University of Illinois

J. Stephen Watson  
Visiting Lecturer in Music  
B.A., Nevada College; M.M., University of Miami

Edward Yrazon  
Visiting Lecturer in Asian Studies and Religion (part-time)  
B.A., Swarthmore University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Chicago

Dongming Zhang  
Assistant Professor of Asian Studies, Modern Languages and Literatures  
B.A., Peking University; M.A. University of Colorado at Boulder; Ph.D., Cornell University

Jonas Kaufeldt  
Director of Sustainability and Environmental Education and Associate Professor of Political Science  
B.A., Oglethorpe University; M.A., University of Notre Dame; Ph.D., University of Florida

Kenneth H. Kolb  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology  
B.A., Bates College; M.A., Ph.D., University of South Carolina

William B. Maddox, ITC  
Professor of Military Science  
B.A., Carson Newman College; M.A., Vanderbilt University

Caroline Cury Mills  
Assistant Professor of Historical Studies  
B.A., Wolford College, M.L.S., University of South Carolina; Ph.D. candidate, Clemson University

Alan Blake Coulson  
Visiting Instructor in Earth and Environmental Sciences  
B.S., Bowling Green State University; M.S., Ph.D. program, North Carolina State University; Ph.D. candidate, University of South Carolina

Matthew Bryan Gillis  
Visiting Instructor in History  
B.A., University of Wisconsin; M.A., Western Michigan University; Ph.D. candidate, University of Virginia

David M. Hollis  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
B.A., B.A., California State University; Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

Yang Hui  
Visiting Instructor in Modern Languages and Literatures and Asian Studies  
Ph.D., University of Texas, R.O.C.

Dewitt T. Tipton, Jr.  
Visiting Lecturer in Music  
B.M., Mars Hill College; M.M., D.M.A., University of Illinois

Jason Cannon Jones  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
B.S., Utah State University; Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Joseph Cannon Jones  
Assistant Professor of History  
B.A., Newberry College; M.M., University of Florida
Miller named CIO

Frederick Miller has been named Chief Information Officer and Director of Computing and Information Services. He joined Furman September 15. Miller comes to Furman from Illinois Wesleyan University, where he has served as Associate Vice President for Information Technology for the past four years. He joined Illinois Wesleyan in 1996 as Director of Information Technology.

Miller will oversee and direct all functions of Furman’s Computing and Information Services department.

“Fur will bring to Furman a diversity of experiences and an impressive understanding of technology and the liberal arts,” said Thomas Kazee, university provost and executive vice president. “He has an exemplary leadership record, both at the institutions at which he’s served and in the national community of information technology professionals.”

Before moving to Illinois, Miller was Assistant Vice President for Information Technology at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. He earned B.A. and M.B.A. degrees from Boston College, and has an M.S. degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois. He has also studied at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the Berklee College of Music.

Miller is active in EDUCAUSE, a national organization whose mission is to advance higher education through the use of information technology. He has spoken at conferences and has written articles for EDUCAUSE Quarterly and the C auselEffect journals. He has also served EDUCAUSE as a member of the Publications Advisory Committee and chair of the Quarterly Editorial Committee.

So long, Sarah

When Sarah Wells began working for the Academic Records in 1965, Gordon Blackwell was president and she spent much of her time typing thousands of index cards that were passed among students, professors and administrators each year during registration.

A different card was needed for each class. By Wells’s account, she typed nearly 20,000 cards each year, all on an old-style electric typewriter.

Of course, much has changed during that time. But Wells’s professionalism, devotion to task and endearing personality have not.

After 43 years in the same office, Wells decided some months ago that she would retire with the old academic calendar. As it turned out, she became more than just a little intrigued by the job and was named Furman’s director of financial aid earlier this summer.

“What I found was that what I could offer and what Furman needs were a good match,” Stuart says. “I’m excited about being here.”

Stuart hopes to move the financial aid office to the “next level” in efficiency and automation, concentrating on the “smart” use of technology to provide timely information to students and their families.

“We want to continue to provide one-on-one attention for those who need and want that kind of assistance,” he says, “but we also want to provide more ‘self-service’ opportunities for students to transact financial aid business on-line any time of day or night. This includes reviewing and accepting or declining financial aid awards on-line, reviewing items or documentation that our office needs in the file to process with the processing of financial aid, and the like.”


He is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern and holds a master’s degree in higher education administration from the University of Alabama. He also holds an elected position on the College Scholarship Service Assembly’s National Council of the College Board, and is a member of the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

Stuart has a wife (Pam) and two daughters (Emily, 12 and Katelyn, 9). He is a huge University of Alabama football fan who very much enjoyed the Crimson Tide’s win over Clemson earlier in the season. He also claims to be an over-the-top fan of the Andy Griffith Show. (His greatest episode ever? The one where Barney buys his first car.)

“Furman is going to continue to prosper and be a national leader in higher education, it’s important that we enroll the type of student that can succeed here and make a positive contribution to the institution,” Stuart says. “And to do that, we have to maximize the use of our institutional financial aid funds.”

Making a life change one step at a time

As her being sedentary most of her life and being raised on traditional Southern fried foods, Robyn Andrews of the library staff didn’t expect much. “I didn’t think I could do it,” she recalls.

Despite her reluctance, she signed up for the Greater Greenville Shrinkdown (renamed Activate Greenville) in January of 2007 and attended the event kick-off. At the private weigh-in, Andrews learned that her weight had crept up to 203 pounds. She decided it was time for some changes.

“I really didn’t expect much at first. I decided to give up junk food and then the weight started coming off. That gave me the confidence to keep going,” she says.

But Andrews soon found that deprivation was not the key to a lifelong change. She discovered that she could still enjoy an occasional candy bar or cheeseburger as long as she ate healthy food and stayed active most of the time.

New, physical activity has become a regular part of her lifestyle. As a member of the Eastside YMCA, she participates in step, boot camp, kickboxing, and weight training classes several times a week. Andrews has even accomplished a feat that she once considered impossible — running.

“I signed up for a 10-week ‘Walk to Run’ program. We started running for only 30 seconds and gradually built up over time. At first it hurt and I thought I would never be able to make the two-minute mark. But before long, I was able to run three miles. Now I am hooked and run several days per week on the treadmill, at the YMCA, or around the Furman campus,” she says.

Lightening steps

Over the past year and a half, the 46-year-old Andrews has become considerably more fit and reached her weight loss goal of 50 pounds.

“The regular weigh-ins at Furman were one of the best parts. Every time I left, I felt like I was walking on air. Staff member Lauren Perry was always positive, taught me new things, and helped me to stay on track,” she remembers.

While Andrews never wanted a strict diet plan dictating her every meal, she found programs such as Activate Greenville, the YMCA’s Wellness Works and ‘Walk to Run’ to be an integral part of her success. “I don’t think I would have started these changes without those programs. They helped me focus on the scale and more on how much stronger and fit I was becoming.”

You can do it . . .

If you are interested in making a few strides toward a healthier lifestyle, there are many resources at Furman to help you along the way. Activate Greenville is a free ongoing program with educational materials, recipes, weigh-ins, health talks, and an on-line tracking program to measure your progress.

The Furman Fitness Center, in its new location inside the Herman W. Lay Physical Activities Center (PAC), offers more equipment, free equipment orientations, and free cycling classes in a designated cycle room. The Furman Group Exercise Program will still be hosting several classes at alternate locations.

Finally, our staff members in the Furman Fitness Center and Department of Health and Exercise Science are always willing to provide you with individual assistance with eating and exercise plans. For more information about Furman wellness programs, please contact me at ext. 2816.
Academic Records & University Registrar

Navigating academic calendar and curriculum changes; suspending the registration fee for the fall semester was September 2.

Dining Services

Dining Services has gone through many exciting changes over the past year. We have seen positive change in our personnel, operations and sustainability efforts.

New additions to the management team include Don Dahling and Kelly Sanderson (location manager) and Barry Phillips (dining hall location manager). Each new hire brings a fresh perspective and has already made a positive impact.

In new roles this year, Reasha Birton was promoted to location manager of the Pala Den, accompanied by Sheryl Butler, Pala Den assistant location manager. Lisa Klintz moved across the rose garden as the assistant location manager of the dining hall. Lastly, Adam Summer took over as assistant food service director. All are excited about their new roles and look forward to making an impact.

Our operations are also seeing some positive changes. The Traditions grille at the Furman Golf Course anxiously awaits a grand reopening this fall. Traditions will have new menu items to go with the new greens and sand traps on the course.

Catering’s executive chef, JJ Tramontano, hosted numerous cooling classes inside the residence halls in conjunction with Housing. The classes helped him build a strong rapport with the student body. Finally, new equipment will be arriving this fall, which will allow us to offer an array of new menu items.

A key to our sustainability success last year was the introduction of 100 percent biodegradable disposable products in all locations. These products are produced and supplied by Dispozo, a local company out of Fountain Inn. Moreover, Dining Services ranked fifth nationally in waste reduction through Recycling America. We were able to salvage pre-consumer waste by taking it to a compost area on campus where it could be cultivated and later used as fertilizer. Dining Services also works closely with campus students groups on issues related to sustainability, highlighted by a locavorganic theme meal in the dining hall to create customer awareness of Furman’s mission. Lastly, we donate used coffee grounds as a compost additive at the organic garden.

We look forward to seeing you all this year.

—Adam Summer

Facilities Services

Things were humming around Facilities Services this summer. Some departmental restructuring has occurred, including Jeff Holdser’s appointment as assistant vice president for Facilities Services. Congratulations Jeff! Scott Sherman arrived in March as Director of Campus Planning and Environmental Design, and he is making significant contributions.

Jim Hudson and Linda Campbell have relocated to our area from Montague Village, as we assume the responsibility for insurance and off-campus property management. Linda’s office is in the administration portion of facilities, while Jim is adjacent to the planning and construction offices. Jeanette Elledge is now handling keys, while Carolyn Holliday works with uniforms, utilities and everything involved with assisting Jeff in his new role. Rick Schosky has been promoted to director of operations, overseeing all of the operational functions of the campus, including maintenance and custodial.

Karen Zader will be moving to the grounds department as department assistant.

We have gone “live” on our new work order system. “Megamation” is our new Computerized Maintenance Management System. This software is Web-based, which will allow for work orders to be entered via the Internet. The system also has many new features, one of which will not only allow our campus clients to enter work order requests on-line, but also to check on the status of work orders.

We are very pleased with this software so far and are excited with the possibilities it offers us to improve our level of customer communication and service with the campus at large.

We will be working with the rolout of the new features as the school year progresses. Many thanks to the Megamation implementation team of Rick Schosky, Eddie Keeler, Bernie Stanton, Allen Gosnell and Ty Bowling.

—Mike Hawkey

Library

The fall semester promises to bring many exciting changes for the library and its patrons. After many years of preparation and work, the science library in the Townes Center has opened. It contains books, DVDs and print periodicals, as well as computers with access to a wealth of electronic resources.

This is also the first semester of the information fluency program in which libraries will be teaming with the teaching faculty in the first-year writing seminars. The library is now able to provide desktop delivery through a new inter-library loan system called ILLiad. You will have to create an account first time you access the system, but thereafter you will receive articles that you have requested through ILL as a PDF downloadable file to your desktop.

After a lengthy application process, the Duke Library was awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification at the gold level. We are the first library in the state to receive certification at this level. A new plaque now adorns the entrance to the building.

On the state front, there is reason for concern. PASCAL, the consortium of 60 academic libraries across the state, has had its funding eviscerated, from $2 million to $200,000. As a consequence, PASCAL delivers the statewide delivery service for books, which will end its deliveries from five days to a week. PASCAL will also have to reduce the number of scholarships it provides statewide.

PASCAL will survive this year through an increase in membership dues and the imposition of special fees paid for by the participating libraries. However, if it does not receive appropriate funding in 2009-10, PASCAL will cease to exist.

Please visit <http://pascal.exp.org/content/view/15613/15> and provide your testimony of how PASCAL’s electronic resources and its rapid book delivery service have helped. Your testimony will be posted on the PASCAL story page and may be used in publications, which will help tell the PASCAL story.

—Pongracz Sennyey

Public Safety

We have three new officers on our staff. Chris Hefner, who was hired with the department in December, graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy this summer and will be working the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift.

Two new officers joined our department in August. David Robinson retired from the South Carolina Highway Patrol in July, and William Robinson was a police officer with Greenville Technical College. They will both be working the 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift.

We currently operate two hybrid patrol cars. When funding is available, we will replace our third patrol car with another hybrid vehicle. Traffic regulations for the community are on-line at <www.furman.edu/Police>. We formerly printed and distributed 4,000 copies. Now we print about 200 hard copies each year.

Also, this summer we removed 38 metal parking signs and replaced them with curb or pavement markings. Over the past three years, we have removed more than 100 metal parking signs.

This past year several of our outdoor Code Blue Emergency and Assistance Telephones were hit by lightning. All have been repaired except the one in the Daniel Chapel lot near the Paladin Stadium field house.

One has been hit three times by lightning. We are in the process of moving it to a new location. Each time a unit is hit by lightning repairs cost between $2,500 and $4,500.

—Bob Miller

INSIDE FURMAN

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John Roberts, editor

Vince Marble, managing editor

contributing writers

Jim Browning, editor

Rosaane Chase, art director

Online archive <www.furman.edu/~archivist/index.html>
Lucy Woodhouse (left) replaced Sara Fletcher, who retired this summer. Fletcher retired this summer after leading OLLI through 15 years of steady growth. The program began with seven classes and 62 courses. This fall, OLLI will enroll more than 600 people in 80 courses covering topics ranging from the “Lewis and Clark Journey” to “Introduction to the Internet.” Some classes are taught by current or retired Furman faculty, who volunteer their time. Others are led by OLLI students, local business executives or anyone with a passion to share knowledge in his or her field.

In a society where family members often live in different states and grandparents move away to retire, learning programs help seniors make new friends. They also serve as a source of intellectual stimulation for some retirees who miss the daily mental exercise of holding down a full-time job. Woodhouse says Fletcher cultivated an educational program that doubles as a social network of close friends and volunteers who are passionate about OLLI. “I have nine standing committees and 200 volunteers to work with,” says Woodhouse. “People are constantly dropping by here just to catch up and talk.”

On the job for three months, Woodhouse wants to harness the energy of those volunteers to launch OLLI in more directions. And with a background in fund-raising, entrepreneurship and volunteerism, she is well-equipped for the job.

A native of Greenville, she graduated from Wofford College in 1990 and worked for Congresswoman Liz Patterson, the Peace Center for the Performing Arts and South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities. From 1995 to 1999 she served as the executive director for Habitat for Humanity in Georgetown County. Her efforts helped raise the organization’s annual budget from $40,000 to $225,000, increased volunteers and donors from 200 to 2,500, and boosted the number of houses built from 1.5 to 12.

After moving to Davidson, Woodhouse worked as a free-lance grant writer and publications specialist with a client list that included universities and a number of non-profit agencies. Before joining Furman, Woodhouse had served four years as the senior development officer for Crisis Assistance Ministry, where she was responsible for fund-raising, donor relations and campaign management.

With a third of Greenville County’s population over 55 and the nearby Woodlands at Furman, a senior living community, nearly completed, Woodhouse says OLLI’s growth is inevitable. “Looking ahead, our challenge will be how to manage the growth while keeping the spirit of the program alive — kind of like nurturing those purple and white pansies while they are in full bloom!”

What is your favorite campus scene?

“I’m especially fond of Furman’s rugby pitch. After playing rugby in view of Paris Mountain for four years, I finally got to see the mountain and the pitch as the backdrop and setting for my wedding.” —Drew Ferguson

“My favorite campus scene is the view from my office window. I can see the Furman lake, as well as various aspects of wildlife.” —Susan Perdue

“I really appreciate the Furman Mall. It is a great place to go for a walk and a very scenic entrance to campus.” —Clay Evans

“One of my favorite campus scenes is to look up at the recently constructed Japanese shrine from the bottom of the hill. I see it everyday as I drive onto campus and feel it shows Furman’s new initiatives as a university.” —Savita Nair

“I most enjoy Eugene Stone Soccer Stadium. It is a well-designed venue in the middle of campus. I also like that you can watch soccer games from your dorm.” —Eric Ballard