In higher education, few events have caused as much hand-wringing and hand-washing as H1N1. As students flowed back to U.S. campuses this month, administrators mobilized emergency preparedness committees and began to pose questions that until recently were unthinkable:

- What happens if we close the campus?
- If we suspend classes, how are students going to make up the work?
- Should we quarantine infected students?
- During a one-hour national teleconference late last month, Anita Banker, chair of the American College Health Association’s Coalition for Emerging Public Health Risks and Emergency Response Planning, urged college officials to consider these “tipping points.” About two dozen Furman staff tuned in to the teleconference titled “Planning to Pandemic.”

While the H1N1 virus is milder than most strains of flu, college personnel, students and faculty are still worried. At this writing, there have been more than 550 H1N1-related deaths in the nation, and federal officials estimate that 30 percent to half of the U.S. population could catch the virus, with the potential for 30,000 to 90,000 deaths.

Still, many are skeptical about the disease’s strength, and with good reason. Nations in the southern hemisphere weathered the H1N1 flu season this summer without much upheaval or calamity. And past dire predictions of widespread deaths from avian flu and legionnaires disease never materialized.

Connie Carson, vice president for student life, says intense media coverage — some of it sensational — often stokes the embers of worry, particularly among parents.

“There is nothing more important to someone than their children,” says Carson, who has worked in student life for 25 years. “Most people believe that you should err on the side of caution. I think it’s better to over-prepare and over-communicate to your community than the alternative.”

No one, however, can dispute that the virus will have some impact on college campuses. At the University of Kansas some students infected with the strain were quarantined. Weeks ago, Emory University isolated 50 students who had the H1N1 virus in a separate dormitory, where school workers brought them food. Closer to home, scores of students at South Carolina, Clemson and the College of Charleston have come down with flu-like symptoms.

Mary Haselden, director of student health services, says about a dozen Furman students have been diagnosed with Type A influenza. She explains that H1N1 is a Type A strain and a second test — usually administered by the state’s Department of Health and Environmental Control — must be administered to identify the H1N1 strain. As of early September, DHEC was limiting those tests to hospital patients only.

To date, H1N1 has not taken a firm foothold here. So Carson and others are stressing preventative measures and keeping a watchful eye. Carson receives regular updates, and the university has placed posters that emphasize the importance of good hygiene throughout the residence halls and other public areas. The university has also posted, and frequently updates, an H1N1 webpage <furman.edu/influenza> that includes additional resources.

Furman’s Crisis Management Team has met three times since last spring to receive updates on the virus and discuss possible scenarios. The group, composed of about a dozen faculty and staff, meets several times a year to discuss emergency scenarios and preparedness.

Carson says emergency preparedness has assumed a larger role on college campuses since the 2006 shootings on the Virginia Tech campus. When a misfortune — a shooting, fire, disease outbreak or natural disaster — befalls a campus, the Furman team often assembles to break down and discuss how university officials responded and how Furman should respond when faced with a similar situation.

A college campus can come under great scrutiny during a crisis. Campus officials must respond quickly, decisively and correctly to avoid misinformation, bad public relations and, perhaps, litigation. Carson was an assistant vice president at Wake Forest two years ago when Skip Prosser, coach of the men’s basketball team, died suddenly of a heart attack after a morning jog. As word began to filter out, Wake officials frantically tried to contact Prosser’s wife while trying to hold a growing media horde, hungry for confirmation, at bay.

“People were accusing us of trying to keep everything quiet,” says Carson. “We were just trying to reach his wife. With the media, everything is so public now. It’s the environment in which we live.”

Preparing for the worst
The Smithsonian frequently is referred to as the nation’s attic. But Furman has its own attic. And like the Smithsonian, it isn’t confined to one building.

Furman’s attic stretches over dozens of buildings. It includes temperature-controlled rooms and vaults. There are paintings on walls, rare books on shelves and ancient lamps from Biblical times on display in Daniel Memorial Chapel. There are bizarre Goya prints, taking a satirical swipe at religion and the clergy. There are precious coins with the images of ancient rulers.

Debbie Lee Landi, special collections librarian and university archivist, also chairs Furman’s Decorative and Fine Arts Committee to protect the artwork, antiques and artifacts owned by the university. That includes art department collections used for teaching purposes; artwork, artifacts and memorabilia; the Cherrydale Collection, which includes antique furniture, china, silver, paintings and other items from the 1800s; and the furniture and art at White Oaks, the president’s home.

“It’s a diverse collection. We have more than 2,500 items in our inventory, but we estimate we have over 3,000 items on campus,” Landi says. “We manage collections spread across 27 buildings, on and off campus.”

Landi’s office employs a half-time university collections manager to help with the work. Elizabeth McSherry, who held that post for a year, left Furman in July to join the Children’s Museum of the Upstate. Her replacement will be hired later this fall.

No one has put a price tag on the collection. Many of the items haven’t been appraised, and Furman won’t make public the value of those items that have been appraised.

“It’s a collection that only appreciates in value, and it serves an educational purpose as well as an illustrative purpose highlighting the history of Furman. This campus is only 50 years old, but a lot of the collection of our artwork and antiques began with the founding of the university in 1826. The entire Furman community continues to add to this collection so it’s one of the few things showing our full history,” Landi says.

Her office contracts with preservation specialists, conservators and furniture experts to restore, clean and protect the collection. On occasion, her staff will pull together items for a rotating exhibit.

For many years Furman officials had no comprehensive idea of what exactly the university owned in terms of artwork, antiques and artifacts.

In 1999, President David Shi formed the Decorative and Fine Arts Committee. Comprised mostly of alumni, volunteers and friends of the university, the group was tasked with helping to decorate and find interior furnishings for the Cherrydale Alumni House.

With that task completed in 2005, Landi reorganized the committee. It now includes Furman staff (Frances Ashley, Linda Campbell, Doris Childress, Landi, Betsy Moseley, and Tom Triplitt) and Furman First Lady Susan Shi, among others. The current function is to catalogue and protect Furman artifacts and collectibles.

“It’s a job that is never completed. “We have dozens of contributions each year, which is good,” says Landi. “But now that we have over 2,500 items in our database, the next step that the Decorative and Fine Arts Committee wants to take is to make sure these objects are being used for educational purposes.”

She hopes to help future teachers learn to use Furman artifacts in their lesson plans, for example, and to persuade more Furman faculty to explore what’s in the collection and how to use it in their classrooms.

“We have evocative artwork that reflects different movements for art classes,” Landi says. “But artwork can also be related to other disciplines. There are objects related to religion, artifacts from different cultures, and historical objects; these resources could be used for history, language, sociology, religion, and education classes, to name just a few.”
James H. Keller was at Furman in the summer of 1967 when the first computer arrived on campus.

It was about the size of the desk that takes up a big chunk of space in his current Montague Village office in Computing and Information Services. Keller, a senior programmer analyst, has spent more than four decades riding the wave of the computer age. At age 75, he jokes that Furman has put up with him for 42½ years. But dig a little deeper and you find an individual who has discovered how to strike a perfect balance between using technology and making a living from it without letting it become his master.

A 1956 Furman graduate, Keller fit the bill of the type of person the university needed to usher it into a brave new world. “I was a student on the old campus downtown, then after a couple of years of graduate work, I came back and taught math at Furman for two years,” says Keller, who grew up in Columbia, S.C. “I never earned an academic credit in computer science,” he says. “It was all in math.”

After a brief stint in the Army, he was with IBM for six years in New York and Alabama. In Huntsville, Ala., he worked on the guidance computer for the Saturn V rocket. Around 1966 Keller learned that Furman was planning to get a computer. The school asked him to return to Greenville, and Keller left IBM in early 1967.

He remembers that the school took its first step into the world of computers with a small IBM computer, a lot less powerful than the laptop he uses today. J.E. Sirrine, an engineering company in Greenville, had a similar computer and allowed Keller and a few students to work at Sirrine during the spring before Furman got its own computer.

“They’d work on their homework, and I’d work on registration and payroll programs,” he says.

He taught one class in computer science that spring, then more in the fall after the computer arrived. “We didn’t have a department [of computer science] for maybe six years,” he says.

A lot of his work these days involves writing programs, the instructions needed to get a computer to use the data available. As programs are modified, errors are created, and Keller tracks down where the problems lie.

Looking at how far Furman and its students have come from that first computer, Keller sees the pros and cons of technology—and the limitations.

“As far as the culture, there are times I think we’ve overloaded ourselves with technology. We’re overloaded with this business of having to be in instant communication with everybody all the time. We don’t pay attention to some of the other things we ought to be doing.”

A lot of his work these days involves writing programs, the instructions needed to get a computer to use the data available. As programs are modified, errors are created, and Keller tracks down where the problems lie.

Looking at how far Furman and its students have come from that first computer, Keller sees the pros and cons of technology—and the limitations.

“As it progress? It’s been a good way for me to earn my keep in the world,” he says. “We’re able to do more things more quickly. But if those of us who work with computers make a mistake, the computer will process that mistake just as fast as if something was correct and throw out a lot of garbage awfully quickly if we’re not careful.”

Keller likes email for the convenience it affords. He enjoys exploring genealogy on various websites, but he’s just as likely to do research using microfilm in various libraries in pursuit of his hobby. He keeps records on his personal computer, but he hasn’t ventured into using Twitter or Facebook and doesn’t plan to do so.

Keller, soft-spoken, deliberate and affable, prefers to make and maintain friendships the old-fashioned way: in person, with a handshake and a kind word. While others are buried in the grind of the work week, Keller knows that it’s important to take time to attend university functions such as groundbreakings, dedications and convocations.

From his office in Montague, he will often walk to campus events, without a cell phone. In fact, he does not own a cell phone.

“There’s enough communication available without it, and I really just sort of don’t want it,” he says. “I’ll be taking a walk across campus, I don’t want my phone ringing halfway there. I’ll wait until I get to the other end or until I get back to the office.

“But then again, I appreciate the fact that there is this technology. I appreciate the fact that I’m able to work in it, and I’ve thoroughly enjoyed doing the work. I think it has been helpful to Furman to be able to do some of these things.”

At age 75, he is not the oldest member of the Furman faculty or staff. But like a lot of people who work well beyond age 65, he has found that he still enjoys getting up each morning to go to work and feels he has a contribution to make.

“Certainly, Furman has been good to me,” he says.
News Briefs

Cliffs Cottage named in honor of Shi

After 14 months and thousands of visitors, the Southern Living Showcase Home is no more. Enter the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability.

The facility, a model of green construction and innovation, has been named in honor of President Shi, a driving force, both here and nationally, for promoting sustainability and energy conservation.

Shi is retiring at the end of the 2009-10 academic year, capping 16 years at the helm of Furman. His name will grace the new academic center to be located in the Cliffs Cottage, which is currently being retrofitted for office and meeting space for the university’s award-winning sustainability initiatives.

“The executive committee of the board of trustees unanimously approved naming the new sustainability center for President Shi,” said trustee chair Kathy McKinney. “This is a fitting tribute in that it recognizes the many initiatives David has championed during his time at Furman. These include enhancing the university’s national reputation, developing stronger ties to the local community, renewing the campus infrastructure, and promoting the concept of engaged learning — as well as recognizing his leadership in the area of sustainability in higher education.”

The David E. Shi Center for Sustainability will coordinate Furman’s academic, co-curricular and community outreach activities involved in sustainability. It’s a web-based search engine to locate all the resources and opportunities of this generation are available in the future through conservation and stewardship of the environment. It will be located in Cliffs Cottage, adjacent to the Susan Shi Garden, named for the Furman First Lady.

Cliffs Cottage ended its public tours at the end of August and was Southern Living magazine’s first “green” showcase home. Built on campus in 2008, it has served as a model of environmentally responsible design, sustainable building techniques and materials, and energy-saving systems.

Kiosks will help visitors navigate campus

What are the drive-in stations near the campus entrances? No, they are not automated teller machines.

The stations are actually part of a three-year plan that will change the way visitors navigate campus. The kiosks — located at the main gate, near Tennis Arena and behind South Housing — contain colorful campus maps.

Greg Carroll, vice president for marketing and public relations, said, “[This map] divides the campus into North, Main, and South areas, to [help visitors] orient themselves to campus and find their way around. By doing this, we will be able to eliminate many of the signs that currently exist and not decrease the visitors’ ability to find their way.”

The maps feature information about the university as well as key areas to visit on campus.

About a decade ago Furman implemented a signage program to help visitors navigate campus. Those purple signs are now faded.

With the kiosks completed, the department will move onto phase two, eliminating some signs and repainting and reinstalling others. Finally, next year, traffic control signs on campus will be re-outfitted to match the university’s new signage style.

Staff are also developing an online flash-based Google Earth style map that will allow visitors the same kind of bird’s eye view provided by programs like Google Earth, in addition to the detail provided by the new map.

“Visitors can click on a building to see its name, a photo and a description of the offices contained within as well as the nearest parking location. Users can also type the name of the building they are looking for and it will highlight on the map,” said Ryan Fisher, director of web marketing.

The map will also allow visitors to select categories of items they wish to find, searching for groups like athletic facilities or residence halls.

A web makeover

Furman’s webpage doors to our internal and external audiences are receiving a major makeover.

At this writing, changes to FUnet and www.furman.edu were scheduled to debut in late September. Both facelifts have been in the works for the past year.

The current features on FUnet — updated news stories, press releases and photos — will continue to anchor the new FUnet. But users who log-in to FUnet will now have access to the same kind of bird’s eye view provided by programs like Google Earth, in addition to the detail provided by the new map.

“Visitors can click on a building to see its name, a photo and a description of the offices contained within as well as the nearest parking location. Users can also type the name of the building they are looking for and it will highlight on the map,” said Ryan Fisher, director of web marketing.

The new FUnet will be a true portal interface,” says Soren King, a database administrator for computing and information services. “It pulls important information for one site.”

King, who managed the upgrade, says FUnet portal will eventually integrate email and Moodle, a course management system for educators.

Orangeacove, a Greenville based web design firm, was contracted in March to help overhaul and redesign furman.edu, which has been relatively stagnant for seven years.

The news site, says webmaster Ryan Fisher, features a more contemporary design that will be hosted on SharePoint, Furman’s web-based content management system.

“The system will host the pages as well as provide a web-based tool for updating pages. That means there is no need to install new software to install new content,” says Fisher. “It also allows multiple users to update a single site. We looked at a dozen or so peer institutions and did a lot of research before we reworked our design.”

Students Engaged with Sustainability — Creative Conservation through SCARF!

by Angela Hallace, Director, Center for Sustainability

Reducing what we spend on energy is good for everyone—and the environment. Yet many energy conservation projects, whether at home or on campus, cost money to implement. While many projects save money or generate revenue over time, they require up-front financing.

One solution for on-campus efforts is to create a revolving loan fund to finance projects intended to reduce utility bills. Such funds provide start-up loans for conservation projects that will generate direct or indirect revenue (or savings), which is then used to pay back the initial loan. This creates a self-perpetuating fund for future projects. Maranlege College and Harvard University have implemented such funds with great success.

This summer, Furman received a $43,000 seed grant to develop such a fund. We are calling it the Student Climate Action Revolving Fund (SCARF), and both the fund itself and the individual projects it supports will be student-led.

Energy conservation funds can generate last funding by raising campus awareness and deepening campus engagement, stimulating entrepreneurial creativity, generating monetary savings, and demonstrating that sustainability initiatives can indeed produce a tangible return on investment.

The ideas and funding behind SCARF resulted from Furman’s involvement with the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), a national think-tank located in Colorado that promotes energy conservation and energy-efficient building designs. Last year, RMI selected Furman to be one of twelve “exemplary” schools promoting sustainability; this distinguished group also includes Yale University, the University of Missouri, University of Minnesota-Morris and Unity College, among others. As part of the project, the schools were asked to develop projects that the Kehlberg Foundation might fund to support climate change initiatives on the campuses.

At Furman, one of the major goals of the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability is to increase student engagement with campus-wide conservation efforts. Several initiatives (see below) have increased student awareness and involvement and the process has stimulated more conversations across campus to encourage collaborative energy conservation efforts among students, faculty, staff and administrators.

The SCARF program (and the dollars it makes available for student-generated conservation ideas) is yet another opportunity to engage students in the effort.

For more information, see <furman.edu/sustainability>

Students and Sustainability: Some Recent Examples

In spring 2008, Furman was chosen by Apple Inc. and the Chronicle of Higher Education as one of four schools in the country to create a video about the university’s decision to join the President’s Climate Commitment in 2007. Five Furman students worked to create the video, which will be posted on the Chronicle website this fall.

In 2008, three students involved in the Harry B. Shucker Leadership Program created Conserve Furman, a new peer-to-peer education network focused on educating students about energy conservation and sustainability.

Students serve with faculty and staff on each of the five committees of the recently expanded Sustainability Planning Council, which is responsible for shaping policies and programs related to energy conservation and sustainability.

This year, the four students selected as Mellon Sustainability Fellows (externally funded) have been involved in managing the Furman Farm, developing a community volunteer network on campus, researching conservation behavior, planning first-year orientation activities, and developing the Sustainable Connections student group.

During the 2010 May Experience, Furman will offer a course on campus conservation and renewable energy that will probably include students from two other colleges: the University of Minnesota-Morris and Unity College in Maine. The course will involve travel to all three campuses to study conservation and renewable energy.
Athletics
The 2009-10 athletic year is already under way for the approximately 340 student-athletes who comprise the university's 18-sport intercollegiate program. Football, men's soccer, women's soccer, volleyball, and men's and women's cross country have begun competitive play, and optimism is high for success this fall.

There are a number of new faces in the university coaching ranks this year. In football, Rocco Adrian '99 returned to his alma mater to coach the squad comebacks. Football also filled its team with fresh faces, including running back Nick Fast, who competed for the head position for football at North Carolina State University.

In volleyball, Ashley Board has been appointed the new assistant coach, and in men's basketball, David Willson has taken over for Mark Price, who was named head coach at Duquesne Baptiste University earlier this year.

Furman football's home game experience received a visual boost this fall with the installation of a new scoreboard in Paladin Stadium. The structure features a new video board, full color ribbon, and static scoreboard equipment to display a wide variety of statistics, information, graphics, animation, and audio and recorded video.

— Hunter Reid

Computing & Information Services
A number of active projects are in the works in CIS. Our campus bandwidth was doubled from 100Mb to 200Mb over the summer. Internet usage continues to increase along with the growing proportion of multimedia, bandwidth-intensive content.

A tool of wireless access in Blackwell began in September. Based upon priorities expressed by student groups, CIS will be evaluating the cost and performance of wireless for student residences through this pilot project in Blackwell Hall.

Access to the campus wireless network now requires authentication for use. Faculty, staff, and students may connect to one of the wireless access points using their NTID and password. The formerly open wireless—FU-PUBLIC—is gone. All users of the network must now be identified and known to the university. A visitor wireless strategy is in place.

Folks anticipating visitors to the campus who may require access to wireless are advised to call the Help Desk to make advance arrangements for visitor network access.

In keeping with Furman's environmental priorities and efficiency standards, more than 50 of Furman's 160 servers in the data center are now running in a virtual environment. Sever virtualization allows 160 servers in the data center to be running in a virtual environment. Server virtualization allows 160 servers in the data center are now running in a virtual environment. Server virtualization allows 160 servers in the data center are now running in a virtual environment. Server virtualization allows 160 servers in the data center are now running in a virtual environment. Server virtualization allows 160 servers in the data center are now running in a virtual environment.

A security audit was completed in August that was targeted toward both data issues and business processes. Overall the findings were positive in Furman's handling of sensitive information. The audit did provide some suggestions for ways to increase information security through both technical and operational means.

A review of our current email platform is ongoing, with Gmail one of the alternatives under consideration as a potential replacement for First Class. This review is in the early stages, and members of student governance organizations will be invited to participate as the review proceeds.

For the first time, more Mac computers than Windows systems were brought to campus by entering freshman. Macs made up about 55 percent of the freshman systems.

— Susan Donnavant

Enrollment
Six hundred and eighty-nine new students arrived at Furman with the start of classes this fall. They are an exceptional and accomplished group, coming from 36 states and 21 countries. The class is 45 percent male and has an average SAT score of 1285. They represent the end point of an admission process that began with more than 30,000 prospects, nearly 4,700 applicants, and more than 3,000 admitted.

The Hartness Welcome Center received more than 3,000 visitors this summer. The Summer Scholars Program brought 121 rising high school juniors and seniors to campus for a week of classes with Furman faculty.

With much energy and enthusiasm for the year ahead, admission counselors have hit the road to begin recruiting the class of 2014. They will visit 500 high schools this fall and participate in 155 college fairs. In addition, they will host 12 receptions in various cities and conduct individual information sessions from coast to coast.

Heath Beasley joined the admissions staff this summer in the new position of regional admission counselor in Dallas/Fort Worth. The position is being funded by a grant from the Carter Foundation of Fort Worth.

The Office of Financial Aid awarded more than $40 million in Furman grants and scholarships for 2009-10. Furman trustees, alumni, faculty, staff and students have contributed more than $350,000 to the Furman United Campaign. These funds allowed us to respond to financial hardships experienced by some returning students and helped them return to Furman this fall.

After 35 years of service to Furman, Faye Jordan has decided to step down as director of student employment. Faye has been responsible for the federal work study program as well as Furman's participation in the America Reads and America Counts programs, which sent students to serve as tutors in the Greenville school system.

— Mary Hearne

Marketing and Public Relations
Staff turnover is very rare for our department, but the process. This was one of change for our office. To start, Jane Dorn, graphic designer and photography coordinator, resigned to pursue her interest in teaching. She is now on the faculty at Anderson University. Adam Murphree, our videographer, also left to pursue a master's degree at New York University.

Replacing Jane and Adam, respectively, are Katherine Irvin and Lauren Farrar. Katherine, a graduate of Georgia State University, worked for advertising and public relations firms in St. Louis and Atlanta before coming to Furman. Lauren, an Atlanta native, graduated from Furman in May with a degree in communication studies and history.

Also, as many of you may know, we closed our Printing Services office this summer. As a result, Tony Hatley, who had been at Furman for almost 20 years, is no longer here, and Melvin Cureton is now working for Facilities Services. We miss them and wish them well.

After more than 14 months, the Cliff's Cottage is no longer being administered by our office. Thousands of visitors toured the house, which is now being retrofitted as the David E. Shriver Center for Sustainability.

Lastly, John Roberts is getting a piece of the university named in his honor. Furman's rugby pitch will be named for John in a ceremony to be held at 10 a.m. October 17 (Homecoming Saturday). John has worked in marketing for 13 years and helped found the rugby program in 1998. Gayle Wirth, his neighbor, is organizing the event.

— John Roberts

Student Activities & the UC
As the summer quickly rolls into the fall, activity is at a premium at the University Center. The new assistant director for event services, Brad Hill, comes to us from Mississippi State University, where he recently received his M.S. degree in student affairs and worked as an undergrad and graduate student in the Colvard Student Union.

Brad's responsibilities include oversight of the UC, supervision of the student managers and other student staff, and audio visual and technological management. Brad has already implemented an electronic work shift program for the student staff. It is designed to make obtaining and trading work shifts much easier. His other goals include bringing new and innovative technology to the UC, implementing regular in-service and social activities for the student staff, and becoming involved professionally in the Association of College Unions International (ACUI).

Jessica Berkey, assistant director for activities & orientation, has taken over the supervision and administration of the new student orientation program. The orientation staff, which she now advises, welcomed almost 700 new students to the campus to begin the fall semester.

Jessica continues to advise the Furman Student Activities Board (FUSAB) and to oversee the Paladin Nites late night program. Jessica is heavily involved in the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA), serving on the South Region Leadership Team and on the “Basics of Programming” Summer Workshop. She will be presenting educational sessions at the upcoming South Regional Conference with J. Scott Derrick and FUSAB student leaders.

Orientation. Student Programming. Student Organizations. Commencement. University Center Management. Assessment. Webpage Development. Student Talent Showcases. This department works on all of this and more. Just wondering … is it summer again yet?

— J. Scott Diemack
Space is limited. Please email Kelly.frazier@furman.edu to register.

Nutrition and exercise consultations.

Optional program is free of charge for Furman faculty, staff, dependents and students. Optional programs can make a big difference in our health,” says Hay.

She also coordinated a seminar and gave a recital on the biomechanics of the voice and vocal disorders.

She lectured on vocal health, developing voice, and the McClosky Institute of Voice Summer Seminar at Columbus (Ga.) State University in mid-July.

Lisa Barksdale’s book, Shifting from Deficit to Generative Practices: Addressing Impoverished Literacy will be published in the 58th edition of the Yearbook of the National Reading Conference. The article is titled “Finding Our Way with Teachers and Families — Reading and Responding to the Holocaust.” She also presented the paper “Children, Culture and Conflict: Using Multimedia Test Sets to Explore Diverse Perspectives” at the Whole Language Umbrella Conference in July, 2009.

Paul Thomas authored “Shifting from Deficit to Generative Practices: Addressing Impoverished and All Students” in Teaching Children of Poverty (Fall 2009) a peer-reviewed online journal at Francis Marion University. He also published “The Futility and Failure of Flawed Goals: Efficiency Education as Smoke and Mirrors” in Power and Education, an international peer-reviewed journal in the United Kingdom. His op-ed article “Understanding the ‘Research’ about School Choice” appeared in the Greenville News in August.

Mathematics

Modern Languages and Literatures
Cherie Maiden presented a paper, “Education Gender Reform, and African Women’s Writing” as an invited participant of the Oxford Round Table. The idea of Education in Nineteenth-Century Women’s Writing. The conference was held in July at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, England.


Music
Lisa Barksdale provided a two-day workshop for the Cullman County (Ga.) elementary music teachers. She also served on the staff for the McClusky Institute of Voice Summer Seminar at Columbus (Ga.) State University in mid-July. She lectured on vocal health, developing voice, biomechanics of the voice and vocal disorders. She also coordinated a seminar and gave a recital at Legacy Hall at the city’s River Center for the Performing Arts.

In May, Mark Britt conducted two performances by The Palmetto Fissurant at the Spoleto Festival USA and the 2009 Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C. The group was also featured at the Spoleto USA Opening Ceremonies where they played for numerous dignitaries (including former National Endowment for the Arts chair Jane Alexander) and performed again that night at the U.S. Custom House with guest soloist, Wycliffe Gordon, a veteran member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Media coverage for their concerts included IC-Ethi Radio, International Web-media, and the Associated Press. Britt has been named the 2010 and 2011 instrumental music director for the Mountaineer Music and Worship Conferences sponsored by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. He will perform a solo recital October 1 in Arezzo, Italy, while teaching in the department’s study away program.

Thomas and Anna Barbrey joined were presented the Distinguished Alumni Award by the board of trustees of the Brevard Music Center in July. The Joiners were honored for their years of service (30 years and 20 years, respectively). Thomas holds the William J. Pendragon Artist Chair at the Brevard Music Center.

Political Science

Psychology

Religion
Echol Nix has been invited to deliver a keynote lecture on October 9, 2009 at Baylor University’s Symposium on Faith and Culture. His talk is titled “Secularization and Revival: The Fate of Religion in Modern Intellectual History.”

Sociology
Kyle Longest received the “Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award” presented by the American Sociological Association Aging and the Life Course Section for “Integrating Identity Theory and the Life Course Perspective: The Case of Adolescent Religious Behavior.” He also received the “David Lee Stevenson Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award” presented by the American Sociological Association Children and Youth Section and the “Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award” presented by the American Sociological Association Children and Youth Section for “Popularity Lost: Identity Status and Its Consequences in the Transition to Young Adulthood.”

Business and Accounting
Tom Smythe received the Chiles-Harrill Award from the Class of 2009 last spring. He also co-authored a paper that appeared in the Financial Review and two published book chapters. One was co-authored with several Furman colleagues for the Competition Paradigm work; the other focused on how the Department of Business and Accounting has integrated the university’s sustainability concepts into its actions. Tom recently had an article accepted in the Journal of Consumer Policy, one of his co-authors is Beth Pontari from the Department of Psychology.

Economics

Education
Reneta Schmidt’s paper on Holocaust children’s literature will be published in the 58th edition of the Yearbook of the National Reading Conference. The article is titled “Finding Our Way with Teachers and Families — Reading and Responding to the Holocaust.” She also presented the paper “Children, Culture and Conflict: Using Multimedia Test Sets to Explore Diverse Perspectives” at the Whole Language Umbrella Conference in July, 2009.

Please email Kelly.frazier@furman.edu to register. Space is limited.
NEW FACULTY / EMPLOYEES

NEW FACULTY

MSG Benjamin Cortes
Instructor in Military Science

Mata Culumovic
Visiting Assistant Professor in Classics
B.A., University of Pennsylvania; M.Phil., University of Cambridge; Ph.D. Harvard University

Amélie Y. Davis
ACS Post-Doctoral Fellow in Sustainability
B.A., Earlham College; M.S., University of Delaware; Ph.D. Purdue University

Thomas E. Edwards, Jr.
Visiting Instructor in Chemistry
B.S., M.Ed., Clemson University

David J. Fleming
Assistant Professor of Political Science
B.A., University of Notre Dame; M.A., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sarah Frick
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
B.S., College of Charleston; Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Lane J. Harris
Instructor in History and Asian Studies
B.A., Drake University; M.A., Washington University; Ph.D. candidate, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Jessica Hennessy
Robert E. Hughes Assistant Professor of Economics
B.A., Carleton College; Ph.D., University of Maryland at College Park

Allison L. Hurst
Assistant Professor of Sociology
B.A., Columbia University; J.D., Pepperdine University; LL.M., New York University; Ph.D., University of Oregon

Brandon M. Inabinet
Instructor in Communication Studies
B.A., Furman University; M.A., Ph.D. candidate, Northwestern University

Stephanie M. Knouse
Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures
B.A., Towson University; M.A., Middlebury College; Ph.D., University of Florida

Qiqian Lin
Visiting Assistant Professor in Modern Languages and Literatures and Asian Studies
B.A., M.A., Ph.D. candidate, Soochow University

Kolawole P. Olaiva
Assistant Professor of English
B.A., Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria; M.A., University of Maiduguri, Nigeria; Ph.D., University of Toronto, Canada

Joseph Parrino
Assistant Professor of Business and Accounting
B.S., Western Michigan University; M.S., Ph.D., Florida State University

Staff Not Pictured

SSG James Bowen
Instructor in Military Science

Janet D. Kwami
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B.A., Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana; M.Phil., University of Ghana; Ph.D. candidate, University of Oregon

Marion R. Martin
Assistant Professor of Chemistry
B.S., M.S., Furman University; Ph.D., Stanford University

FC Robert Mills
Instructor in Military Science

Danielle Fisher
Librarian

Camdon Tomlinson
Golf Coach

David Willson, Men's Basketball

Rocco Adrian, Football

John D'Avittorio
Public Safety

Elizabeth Beasley
Admission

Katherine Irvin
Marketing & PR

Rebecca Marshburn, Child Development Center

Adam Benson, Lilly Center

Chris Ball, Football

Daniel Tate, Football

Chris Loubier, Sports Medicine

Craig Clark, Sports Medicine

Krista Grunh, Sports Medicine

Abby Schreiter, Sports Medicine

Timothy Mitchell, Equipment Manager

Eva Smith, Chaplain

Kathy Vermillion, Academic Records

Bryan Zollman, Academic Records

Lauren Farrar, Marketing & PR

Brittany DeKnight, Sustainability

Amy Cockman, Communication Studies

Jonathan Bowden, Golf Coach

Jacqueline Martin, Riley Institute

Yumi Soesinha
Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures and Asian Studies
B.A., Kansai Gaidai University, Japan; M.A., University of North Carolina, M.A., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin

Susannah Steele
Visiting Lecturer in Music

B.M., Furman University; M.M., D.M.A. candidate, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

NEW EMPLOYEES

Robert M. Inabinet
Instructor in Communication Studies

MSG Benjamin Cortes
Instructor in Military Science

Mata Culumovic
Visiting Assistant Professor in Classics

Amélie Y. Davis
ACS Post-Doctoral Fellow in Sustainability

Thomas E. Edwards, Jr.
Visiting Instructor in Chemistry

David J. Fleming
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Sarah Frick
Assistant Professor of Philosophy

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B.M., Furman University; M.M., D.M.A. candidate, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
A search is currently underway for Furman’s next president. In your opinion, what is the most important characteristic for the new president to have?  

“Our next president needs to have a broad outlook for both academics and student life. Student life plays a very important role in the development of our students.” — Brad Hill, Student Life

“I’d look for someone who has national recognition in academics and ties to people who can further Furman’s mission. We need someone who works well with fundraising foundations and corporations. It’s important for them to be able to keep us afloat financially, especially in today’s economic times.” — Don Areia, Political Science Professor

“We need someone who’s going to be engaged with the student body. We’re not going to be bosom buddies with the man, but he needs to be available and interested.” — Jessica Cauther, ‘13, Undecided/ ROTC

“Our next president needs to be an individual of integrity who can continue to build on what Dr. Shi has done.” — Jason Cassidy, University Housing

“I’d like a president that is friends with the students. If I ever had an issue, I know I could go to him; I feel like I could email him.” — Katie Sichan, ‘10, History

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“Original “Leatherheads” uniform on display

Tobe Todd played football at Furman for a single season, in 1928. He played in the offensive and defensive backfields for the “rat,” or freshman, football team that finished 4-0-1.

As with many men of his generation, however, Todd’s college life was brief. He left Furman after his first semester and went to New York to help support his family during the Great Depression.

There is nothing in the Furman archives to suggest that Todd was a remarkable player. But his uniform and picture are on display in the Hall of Fame Room at Paladin Stadium alongside images and memorabilia of some of Furman’s greatest athletes.

Sometime after his death in 1996, Todd’s children found the uniform, a team photo and other related items while sorting through his belongings at his Simpsonville home. In January they carefully packaged the memorabilia, drove to Furman and showed up unannounced at the Paladin Club office. They asked if the university would take the uniform.

Ken Pettus, director of athletic development, could not believe what had dropped in his lap. “It’s amazing,” he says. “Sometimes you get bits and pieces. But this was the entire thing, the helmet, cleats and even the socks. They were all in perfect condition, perfectly preserved.”

The uniform was squeezed onto a modern-day mannequin (Pettus says it was a tight fit) and is on exhibit alongside a current uniform.

Constructed before the era of manufactured plastics, the 80-year-old uniform is a model of homespun ingenuity. Wooden studs are secured with tiny nails to the sole of the bulky leather football boots. The shoulder pads are fashioned from cowhide and rib-bones from a pig.

Barbara Fitzgerald, Todd’s daughter, says her father “cared an awful lot for Furman. If he had had the money and so forth he would have gone [to school] longer than he did. He enjoyed it so much while he was there, but the Depression was coming on and he had to go to work for the family.”

Pettus says the uniform will remain on display throughout the fall.