A changing admission dynamic
Sluggish economy, emerging Honors Colleges create new challenges for private liberal arts colleges

At the University of South Carolina school officials recently celebrated the opening of the Honors Residence, a “living and learning complex” exclusively for first-year Honors College students. The $16.4 million complex is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, houses the entire honors freshman class, and is a vital component of the university’s marketing plan to attract top students, some of whom might otherwise prefer an education from a private liberal arts university.

Admission officials in Columbia tout the Honors College’s undergraduate research opportunities and extensive travel abroad programs by proclaiming, “The Honors College is a small liberal arts college” where “you’ll receive more attention and support than you imagined possible at a large university.”

All at a state school price.

As the sluggish economy continues, the USC message is reorienting more with parents and prospective students. And it is changing the admission dynamics at Furman, says Bill Berg, vice president for enrollment.

“When admitted students tell us they’re going elsewhere, we’re not seeing names like Rhodes and Washington & Lee as often,” he says. “Now it’s the Honors Colleges at Clemson, USC and Georgia.”

According to data supplied by FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), Furman’s cross applications with Clemson, USC, Georgia and the University of North Carolina rose this year, while those with Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, Davidson, Washington & Lee and University of the South fell.

Berg says the data does not mean Furman’s reputation is slipping. It simply reflects the public’s growing concern about the bottom line.

Mary Wagner, senior associate director of undergraduate admissions at USC, agrees. “Because of the economy, brighter students are staying in-state and looking at in-state schools,” she says. “We [the Honors College] had about four percent growth in applications, and most of that came from the [academic] high end and from in-state candidates.”

At Furman, applications have increased as well, up two percent over last year’s record high. But Berg says that the number of applicants is no longer a reliable gauge of demand because students are casting a wider net.

“It seems as if every college is receiving more applications,” says Berg. “Students are applying to more colleges. They are concerned about costs and want to compare the financial aid. They want to find the best deal.”

In 1999, 22 percent of Furman students applied to five or more colleges. Last year 45 percent did, according to the Office of Planning and Institutional Research.

When determining class quality, Berg says the average SAT score remains a fairly good indicator and is widely used. “The average SAT is still the coin of the realm, but it is not completely reliable because many schools don’t include all students in their averages.”

The average SAT score for last year’s 320-member USC Honors College freshman class is 1484. At Clemson’s Calhoun Honors College and the University of Georgia Honors College, the numbers are 1410 and 1403, respectively. At Furman, the average SAT score of the incoming 710-member freshman class will be 1286, second highest in school history behind the 1301 of the class entering in 2005.

Furman’s acceptance rate, another good barometer of student demand, averaged 57 percent between 2001 and 2008. The figure jumped to 68 percent in the fall of 2009 as economic uncertainty settled in. According to a report issued by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, there is growing skepticism in the United States about the rising cost of higher education. Even though $8.7 billion of stimulus funds were directed toward student financial aid in 2008-09, college tuition and fees rose, on average, 6.5 percent at state-funded schools and 4.4 percent at private colleges during a time of general deflation.

The report, “Squeeze Play 2010: Continued Public Anxiety on Cost, Harsher Judgments on How Colleges are Run,” found that in ten Americans say colleges should operate more like a business.

“The public is becoming frustrated with higher education and more dubious that colleges and universities are cost-effective and doing all they can to keep tuition affordable,” states the report, which analyzed data compiled during 1,031 telephone interviews.

The increasing doubt over budget operations at colleges and universities during a time when many Americans have embraced frugality and students are less inclined to go deep into the red to pay tuition, according to the report.

Forrest Stuart, director of financial aid at Furman, says that, on average, Furman students with loans graduate with approximately $22,000 in debt. “When admitted students tell us they’re going elsewhere, we’re not seeing names like Rhodes and Washington & Lee as often,” he says. “Now it’s the Honors Colleges at Clemson, USC and Georgia.”

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Forrest Stuart, director of financial aid at Furman, says that, on average, Furman students with loans graduate with approximately $22,000 in debt. “When you consider the increased earnings potential from that investment, that’s not a lot of debt,” he says. “And that debt is on an appreciating investment. People don’t think twice about going into that much debt for a car, which depreciates the moment one drives the car off of the lot.” (continued on page 4)
Springing to life

Photographer Jeremy Fleming has captured some images from a very active month of April.
PROFILE

Furman’s Guggenheim Fellow

If you were searching for a metaphor to describe the spate of awards that Furman music professor and composer Mark Kilstofte has won in his career, you could do no better than a musical term: crescendo.

Add the Guggenheim Fellowship as the latest in a long passage of career-advancing and career-defining awards for Kilstofte. The fellowships go to individuals who have shown “exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts.”

Earlier in his career, Kilstofte won the Prix de Rome (which includes a residency at the American Academy on Rome’s highest hill) and the Aaron Copland Award (he has won it three times, enabling him to live and work in the home of the American composer near New York City).

Kilstofte plans to complete the libretto and piano/choral version of an opera based on Henrik Ibsen’s major drama “Brand” initially after seeing it in his 20s, then again about eight years ago in a London production.

“For a composer both are prestigious. It’s hard to say whether one is something that leads to the other or vice versa. But I’d say for the Rome Prize, they select only two composers a year. For the Guggenheim there may be a handful (chosen) in the United States part of the competition. The Guggenheims are for mid-career professionals, so you have to have achieved a certain level of work before you are considered.”

Kilstofte’s other prestigious prizes and fellowships include ASCAP’s Rudolf Nissim Award, the Goddard Lieberson Fellowship and Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and Gardner Read and Frances and William Schuman fellowships from the MacDowell Colony. He has also received commissions from the Dale Waltur Sangers and the Fromm Foundation.

His award-winning compositions have been premiered and performed by such groups as the San Francisco Choral Artists, the New York Virtuoso Singers, the Washington Square Contemporary Music Society, the Borromeo String Quartet and Moscow’s Studio for New Music.

Kilstofte, who joined the faculty in 1992 as a professor of composition and music theory, will use the Guggenheim Fellowship to compose a chamber opera based on a play by Henrik Ibsen, “Brand” and slowly began to formulate the song cycle. He then secured permission to use the poems. All of the poems are living except for Merrill, he said.

“The poems are connected by some version of white. In Funkhauser’s poem, she refers to the color of bone. They also deal with a point in time when one is approaching the winter of one’s life, looking back at the past, at loss and grief, as well as at fond memories,” Kilstofte said.

The songs will serve as a study for the second part of his Guggenheim project—a chamber opera based on Ibsen’s “Brand,” a play whose title character is a clergyman with uncompromising religious beliefs.

Kilstofte plans to complete the libretto and piano/vocal score. He hopes to spend much of his 12 months on the fellowship in the American Southwest, but he will also travel to Norway or Scandinavia for inspiration as he works on the opera. He said he especially wants to experience a Norwegian winter.

“I’ve never been to Norway,” he said, although he noted that his maternal grandparents were Norwegian immigrants. There’s also an interesting Norwegian footnote to the family history through his wife, Leslie: Edward Grieg played at the wedding of her great-great-grandfather.

A native of Minnesota, Kilstofte was drawn to Brand initially after seeing it in his 20s, then again about eight years ago in a London production.

“The main character is a well-intentioned man of the cloth. He’s either brought to ruin by his uncompromising beliefs or you could also say he achieves a cataclysmic redemption, depending on your view of the story,” the professor said.

Kilstofte wrote in his proposal for the Guggenheim that the Brand project appeals to him because he was raised in “a rather austere sect of Lutheranism” and also because “themes of well-meaning fundamentalism and misguided piety seem all the more poignant in today’s world of ‘all or nothing’ religious fervor.”

He wrote, “I believe I now possess the tools — musical, psychological, eschatological — to take on such a task.”

Daniels honored

Carol Daniels, longtime coordinator of student life, received the Chiles-Harrill Award during Founder’s Convocation last month, becoming the first two-time recipient of that honor.

Members of the senior class annually choose the winner, deemed to have had the greatest influence on the class. Daniels, who also won the award in 2000, graduated from Spartanburg Methodist College and joined Furman in 1972 as a secretary. Four years later she began taking night classes and graduated from Furman in 1982. The next year, Daniels was named to her current position.

For many years Daniels has coordinated freshman orientation and served as an advisor to student publications. She coordinates student disciplinary measures and advises campus societies and fraternities.

The award, established in 1998, is named in honor of Marguerite Chiles and Ernest Har- rill. Chiles joined the university’s staff in 1943 as director of student personnel; she retired in 1980 as vice president for student affairs. Har- rill, a longtime member of the political science department, also served as dean of students.
Introducing: The EngageFurman Community

During the months leading up to the 2008 presidential election, Web Marketing Director Ryan Fisher joined “Obama for America,” a social networking site for Barrack Obama supporters. “I’ve been getting a lot of positive feedback from the current users, but it has yet to be tested to see if it can advance our marketing initiatives,” he said.

Furman has so far accumulated points and a standing for participating in campaign events: hosting Obama parties, attending a rally, passing out flyers. The site raised millions of dollars and organized and motivated a huge swath of volunteers.

“You need to keep the momentum going,” says Fisher, “but you don’t have any control and if you lose everything there is no recourse,” says Fisher.

Last summer, the university contracted with STAMATS, a marketing firm specializing in higher education, to develop a custom social networking site for Furman. There was no established template.

The product — EngageFurman Community — debuted to about 60 universities earlier this spring.

“We are in a very labor intensive market right now,” says Berg, “similar to the field of social media.” According to a study released recently by the Association of Higher EducationMarketing, 40 percent of college marketing professionals and 19 percent of university faculty, staff and students say they are already using social networking sites to market their universities.

Much like Facebook, the site includes a “friending” feature. Users may also join groups that interest them, including majors and academic and career interests.

Fisher is monitoring usage and gathering input with an eye toward working out the kinks and rolling the network out to the university community in the fall.

“Facebook is free, but you don’t have any control and if you lose everything there is no recourse,” says Fisher.

Admission dynamic

(continued from page 1)

The new fragility comes as the final wave of children of the baby boom generation leave college. In the immediate future, Berg says that the number of students seeking a college education will decline, with colleges in the Midwest and Northeast likely to be hit particularly hard.

“Two years ago the number of high school graduates in the United States peaked. The supply was at an all-time high,” he says. “In the Northeast and Mid- west there will be a decline of 10 to 12 percent over the next decade. In the Southeast we should see a modest increase, and most of that will be from the Hispanic population.”

Berg says that during the economic downturn Furman and other private liberal arts colleges need to “shift the conversation with what we talk about” and stress academic quality and the long-term value of a liberal education.

Eighty-three percent of Furman students graduate in four years, compared to about 50 percent for public universities, says Berg. And businesses place a high value on employees with the “higher order skills” that a broad-based liberal arts education provides.

Berg also says that Furman must try to keep tuition increases to a minimum, funnel more resources to financial aid, and articulate why tuition costs rise.

“We are in a very labor intensive market. Ninety-five percent of our classes are taught by professors with terminal degrees. Students are paying for intangible personal interaction within the classroom and accessibility outside the classroom. There is competition for faculty. That’s a large part of our costs. These things propel costs faster than other things,” says Berg. “We have to be wary of a college education being seen as a commodity instead of as an investment that pays lifelong dividends.”

Studying Sustainability: Opportunities for Everyone

Furman’s broad-based sustainability efforts extend to all areas of campus, from operating our facilities to educating our students. The focus of the David E. Shy Center for Sustainability, however, is academic: to expand curricular, co-curricular, research and service opportunities for students, staff, faculty and the community, with a goal of integrating sustainability into and across the curriculum.

Furman has adopted a unique, holistic approach to developing curricular opportunities in sustainability. Students at Furman, no matter their major, can complement their studies with a sustainability focus. This includes not just undergraduates but students pursuing graduate degrees or enrolled in Continuing Education courses.

The university now offers a wide range of sustainability-related courses at all levels, and the new curriculum requires all students to take at least one course that focuses on the relationship between “Humans and the Natural Environment.” Thirty-one courses that fit this category were offered in 11 of 22 departments in 2008-09, giving students the chance to select a course related to their interests and demonstrating the breadth of areas relevant to this topic.

Students also have more opportunities to make sustainability an in-depth focus. A new major in sustainability science is under consideration by the faculty, and the current environmental studies concentration may become a sustainability studies concentration to reflect the current state of the field.

Similar initiatives are under way in Graduate and Continuing Education. A Master of Arts in Community Sustainability is under consideration, and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Corporate Sustainability (offered by Continuing Education) will offer its first class this fall. The diploma is geared toward executives and professionals and is being advertised nationally. In addition, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) offers courses that focus on sustainability in a variety of areas, such as “Gardening in South Carolina,” “Conservation in the Upstate” and “Perspectives on Global Climate Change,” among others.

The creation of the Shi Center for Sustainability was sparked by a four-year, $850,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 2008. The funds support sustainability curriculum development through the employment of the center’s director and a program coordinator, as well as through workshops and stipends for faculty and students.

The financial support provided by the Mellon Foundation has enabled Furman to become a national leader in integrating sustainability across the curriculum. Other external funding, specifically related to enriching the curriculum, includes a $132,000 grant from Associated Colleges of the South (ACS) to support a post-doctoral fellow who has offered courses in “Landscape Ecology” and “Sustainability and the Carbon Societies.”

The Mellon Foundation has also funded intensive faculty workshops designed to infuse sustainability into the curriculum and to create ongoing learning communities centered on sustainability. The workshops assist faculty from a variety of disciplines in developing creative approaches to incorporating the concepts and practices of sustainability into their courses, both as curricular content and as a focus for applied research. After the latest workshop this month, faculty members from 21 departments will have participated.

—Angela Halfacre

Sustainability Across the Curriculum

Campus to Community: Research, Internships, Service, Living Learning Laboratories

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<th>Undergraduate programs</th>
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H ave you been trying to find healthier options while living on campus? Just look for the Eat Well logo. It designates foods that can help you maintain a healthier lifestyle.

What items are eligible for the Eat Well logo?

Most foods can fit into a healthy diet. However, some foods should be eaten more frequently than others. Items designated with the Eat Well logo will be rich in nutrients such as complex carbohydrates, unsaturated fats, lean proteins, vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals. Eat Well foods will also be lower in calories, fat, saturated fat, trans fats, sodium and added sugar.

How do I find Eat Well items?

Look for the Eat Well logo on healthier choices in the Dining Hall, Paladar, Tower Cafe and other campus dining locations. To help you plan your meals in advance, Eat Well items are posted on Public Announcements each week.

How do I learn more about healthy eating?

Please visit our Eat Well website at <http://web.furman.edu/depts/health/EatWellMain.html>. You will find information about healthy eating, delicious recipes, easy meal and snack ideas, tips for navigating the supermarket, and nutritional information about Eat Well items.

Who sponsors Eat Well?

The Department of Health and Exercise Science has partnered with Dining Services to help you find healthier food choices on campus. This initiative was designed by Active South Carolina interns Sam Hooper, Kiri Powers and Josh Mattock. For more information about Eat Well, please contact Kelly Frazier at kelly.frazier@furman.edu or by phone (ext. 2816). We welcome your comments and suggestions. —Kelly Frazier

Henderson recognized by SCICU

Education professor Scott Henderson has been awarded a 2010 Excellence in Teaching Award from the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) organization. The SCICU annually recognizes one faculty member at each of its 20 member schools. Previous winners from Furman are Lloyd Benson (history), Brannon Andersen (earth and environmental sciences), Gil Einstein (psychology) and Elizabeth Smith (political science).

Henderson, who joined the Furman faculty in 1998, was praised as a superb teacher and mentor who regularly goes beyond the call of duty to support his students and the university as a whole.

He has served on the Curriculum Review Committee, which produced a fundamental revision of Furman’s curricula, and the Constructive Disagreements special committee for the Furman community to debate controversial issues. As a teacher and mentor to student candidates for graduate scholarships and fellowships, Henderson “exemplifies the best of what liberal arts institutions can offer,” said Furman provost and executive vice president Tom Kazez. The SCICU recognized the award winners at a dinner in Columbia. Each received a $3,000 stipend for professional development. Established in 1953, SCICU has a primary mission of promoting independent higher education in South Carolina and carries out that mission through funding, raising scholarships, research and collaboration among the 20 member institutions.

A Doughboy update

In July of 2007, Craig Waldon’s son Wayne was hit by a projectile from a detonated roadside bomb on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Days later, the 2004 Furman graduate and army captain had his leg amputated above his right knee.

Like his son, Craig Waldon, director of research development, is a Furman graduate and student veteran who served during the Vietnam Wars. So updating the Doughboy memorial is a perfect fit and personal interest to him.

The venerable statue, located near the Lay Physical Activities Center, currently memorializes war dead from World War I and World War II. Waldon and Lt. Colonel Bill Price (Military Science) are collecting names to update the statue by including Furman alumni who died as a result of the Korean and Vietnam wars and subsequent military engagements. So far, they have six names.

They hope to have the plaque in place by Memorial Day and have been working with the Alumni Association and Marketing and Public Relations to get the word out. Waldon says any former Furman student who completed at least 32 hours of academic work is considered an alum.

The Doughboy has a long history at Furman. It was first erected on the campus in 1920 as a tribute to six students who died during World War I. The life-size soldier was one of numerous Doughboy statues that were erected throughout the nation during the 1920s to commemorate veterans of World War I. The statue depicts a soldier rushing into battle while wielding a grenade in one hand and a rifle with bayonet in the other.

The term “Doughboy” was used by European soldiers to describe their U.S. allies. At the time many U.S. soldiers entered the European campaign from a training base in Texas that was known for its white adobe soil. The soil often covered the U.S. soldiers and discolored their uniforms, giving them a doughboy-like appearance.

Five hundred and forty Furman men — almost the entire student body of what was then an all-male school — volunteered for service during “The Great War.” Six of them — Pvt. Thomas J. Lyon, Jr., Pvt. Otis Brodie, Lt. John H. David, Lt. Charles S. Gardner, Sgt. Charles E. Timmons, Jr., and Cpl. Salmadge W. Gerald — died. Their names are inscribed at the base of the Doughboy. In the late 1940s a plaque bearing the names of Furman students lost during World War II was added at the base of the statue.

The Doughboy was transported to Furman’s new campus in 1957 and installed as the centerpiece of a small circular drive on the south end of the lake. Over the next four decades, however, the statue, then made of copper, was vandalized several times. In the late 1980s its rifle-wielding left hand was removed.

In 2003 the statue was replaced with a sturdier bronze model. It was rededicated near the PAC, across from the Bryan Center for Military Science. The original Doughboy is now on display at the Greenville History Museum.

Inside Furman

Inside Furman is a quarterly publication produced by Furman University Marketing and Public Relations.

John Roberts, editor
Ann Green, contributing writer
Jeremy Fleming photographer
Rosanne Chase, art director

Online archive <http://www.furman.edu/InsideFurman/index.html>
Biology
Travis Perry traveled to the Ladder Ranch in New Mexico to co-teach the Cougar Field Workshop, a training program for conservation professionals that provides instruction on the identification of cougar tracks, signs and prey caches as well as information on cougar biology, research and management. Seven state agencies, one federal agency and one international conservation organization sent participants.

Min-Ken Liao received an Associated Colleges of the South Faculty Renewal Grant for “Acquiring Technical Skills at the Great Lakes WATER Institute in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.”

CTL
Diane Boyd presented an essay on “EchoLocation: Teaching Texts in Dialogue with Contemporary Culture” at the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies meeting in Johnstown, PA in February. She facilitated a workshop in March titled “Endlessly Sustainable: The Persistence of Creativity in Solving Institutional Problems” at the Southern Regional Faculty Instructional Development Consortium in Helen, GA.

Jane Love, Lynne Shackelford, Tony Cosentino and Mary Fairbairn (library) presented the opening plenary session for the Institute. The Independent College’s recent workshop on information fluency and the literature studies majors March 3-5 in New Orleans. The session focused on enhancing student research experiences within Shackelford’s senior seminar for English majors and addressed institutional aspects of promoting information fluency in upper level courses.

Mike Winski made two presentations at the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education Technol- ogy Leaders Conference and National Summit in March. The first was on “Using and Creating Visualizations for Teaching and Learning.” The second, with Wade Shepherd (Computing and Information Services), was titled “Learners as Designers: Furman University’s ChalkMobi Project.”

Chemistry
Brian Goess and three student co-authors (Thomas Graham, Erin Gray and James Burgess) published “An Efficient Synthesis of Grandisol Featuring 1,5-Enyne Metathesi- sis” in The Journal of Organic Chemistry (2010), Issue 11. VagroglycRadisol is a natural product important for protecting cotton crops against the boll weevil. Furman now holds, the world’s record for the shortest and highest-yielding synthesis of the compound. Goess authors two reviews published in the organic chemistry in March: “Reactions for Homologations,” (John Wiley & Sons, 2010). The chapters are titled “The Pinnacle Rearrangement” and “The McMurry Coupling.” He also contributed an oral presentation at the Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Juan, Puerto Rico on “Reorganizational Semihydrogenation of Dimers.” More than 40 Furman students, each of whom gave a poster presentation or a talk, also attended the conference.

In January Patrick Kneckt was invited to present a seminar at UCLA on “An Investigation into Small-Displacement/Small-gap Behavior for Energy Transfer.” As chief of small-gaps in charge of external evaluators for Occidental College’s Core Program in Chemical Biology and published a peer-reviewed paper with Furman under- graduate co-authors Michael T. Vagnini and W. Caleb Rutledge titled “Measurement of Both the Equilibrium Conformation and Rate Constant for Electronic Energy Transfer by Control of the Limiting Kinetic Regimes.” In Organic Chemistry, 2010. Wagen- knecht also co-authored with David L. Grisenti, Mary Beth Ellis, Luxi Fang and Nicholas Bishop a paper titled “A Convenient Synthesis of Tyrannosuberin and Its Analogs and the Photophysics of Their Dicyanomethylene (III) Complexes.” in Organoberica Chimica Acta, 2010.

Laura Wright organized a symposium on “Successful Mentoring Strategies to Facilitate the Advancement of Women Faculty” for the spring meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Francisco. The program showcased an array of National Science Foundation-sponsored projects designed to enhance the leadership, visibility and recognition of women scientists in academia. Wright also co-authored a commentary in the April issue of the Journal of Chemical Education titled “Mentoring Strategies to Enhance Women’s Science and Engineering.”

Education
Temi Bidjare’s article “Self-conscious emotions in response to perceived failure: A structural equation model” was published in the Journal of Experimental Education, 78 (3). She also co-authored the article “Creative perception and online learner engagement: A cluster analysis of the LMSs of Inquiry-frame- work,” which was published in the Journal of Computing in Higher Education, 21 (3).

In March, Bidjare presented “The Effect of Participation in Organized School Activities on Academic Achievement in Adolescence” and “The Expectancy- Value Model of Achievement Motivation in Mathemat- ics: Gender Differences in Adolescence” at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Adolescence, held in Philadelphia, Pa.

George Upscomb participated in a two-week study tour of New Zealand organized by the Interna- tional Society of Technology in Education’s Teacher Education Special Interest Group. While there, he visited both primary and secondary schools and made a presentation at the Learning@Schools Conference in Rotorua on “Capturing the Teachable Moment: Using Flip Video Cameras in a Teacher Education Program.”

Paul Thomas authored three articles that have been accepted for forthcoming peer-reviewed journals; “The Payne of Addressing Race and Poverty in Public Educa- tion: Utopian Accountability and Deficit Assumptions of Middle Class America” in Souls (Columbia University); “As a Part of the Past, a Knowledge of the Pres- ent, and a Concern for the Future; The Role of History in English Education” in English Education (National Council of Teachers of English); and “Diving into Genre — A Case for Literature as Text” in the Journal of English Education (National Council of Teachers of English).

History

Mathematics
John Harris spent two weeks in South Africa participating in a workshop on graph theory. While there, he worked with four colleagues on questions relating to the existence of long paths in networks.

Modern Languages
Marianne Bessy interviewed author Василий Алексеев in Athens, Greece, in early Janu- ary for her forthcoming book Василий Алексеев: Биографическая-Путешествие. In February she presented “Contemporary Haitian Women Narrating Home and Exile” at the Contemporary French and Francophone Studies International Confer- ence at Florida State University. She also co-organized and chaired the session “Les pratiques scripturales de la migration italienne” at the Northeast Modern Language Association Convention in Montreal in April.

Music
Mark Kilstofte’s chamber work “Ballade IV” was featured by Musica (Houston) and the Thornton Contem- porary Music Ensemble (Los Angeles), as well as in the GSO Spotlight Series (Green- ville). His choral setting, “Peace,” was performed by the New York Virtuosos Singers at Merkin Concert Hall dur- ing a two-day festival in April sponsored by the Society for Universal Sacred Music.

Daniel Koppelman gave the premier performance of composer Benjamin Broen’s Nocturne Fragments for solo piano. The new work is part of an ongoing collabora- tion between Koppelman and Broen sponsored by a Faculty Renewal Grant from the Associated Colleges of the South. Koppelman has received funding through a Research and Professional Grants award to commission an piece to use a piano piece in honor of Koppelman’s former teacher, Pulitzer Prize-winning com- poser Wayne Peterson.

Charles Tompkins performed an organ recital at March on Christ Church (Episcopal) in Savannah, Ga., as part of the 2010 Savannah Music Festival. He performed works by Bach, Franck, and Dupre; he was invited to present the program by Christina Cavciu, soprano, and Allison Davis, flute, for works by Telemann, Haydn, and Langlais.

Bing Vick, Jr., conducted the annual-Greenville Choral Society Bobby Graham and the Rose- Concert in the Daniel Chapel in February. He conducted the Furman Sing- ers’ final concert tour under his direction in Asheville, N.C., Knoxville, Tenn., Atlanta, Jackson Miss., and Memphis, where the Singers performed for the 13th State Southern MENC Conference, Women in Science and Engineering Leaders Conference and the Associated Colleges of the South Spring Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in March, the 15th biennial European concert tour for the Furman Singers.

Political Science


Akan Maili published an article titled “Rogue States: Enemies of Our Own Mak- ing?” in the journal Pajitso Polsica.

Ty Tessitore was invited to the All Col- lege Honors Program of Carinss University in Buffalo, N.Y. In March he was invited to present workshops on Political Science and Political Philosophy” at the conference on Great Books and Ideas at Meredith College in May. —Compiled by Lori Law
Marketing and PR

Late spring is always a busy time for us. Many publications are printed during this time, and other projects are due.

Ryan Fisher (Web marketing) continues to work on Furman’s new online social networking system, Engage-Furman Community. There are about 60 members on the network now during the ongoing test phase. For more information, see the article on page 4.

Carol Anne Winchester, an editor in our department, recently reached two milestones. She completed a master’s degree in English (with honors) from Clemson University and also celebrated her 10th year at Furman University.

Our design staff — Rusty Kikk 100, one of the greatest players in Furman women’s basketball history, was introduced as the new coach on April 13. She came to Furman after five seasons at James Madison University, where as associate head coach she helped the Dukes average 25 wins per season and advance to post-season play each year.

Football added two new assistants in February in defensive line coach Brian Hill, formerly of Concord University, and linebackers coach Rusty Wright, who joins the Paladins following one season at Gardner-Webb. Lastly, Furman football mourned the passing of longtime football equipment manager Earle Sedgeley, 65, on April 1 following a year-long battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

— Hunter Reid

Athletics

Volleyball and men’s golf proved to be headliners for Furman athletics for the 2009-10 school year.

Micah Young’s volleyball squad claimed a school record 19 consecutive matches en route to a 26-8 record and the 2009 Southern Conference regular season championship, and Todd Satterfield’s linkersters posted an impressive 16-60 winning margin to claim the 2010 league tournament and earn a bid to the NCAA Regionals.

Fittingly, volleyball standout SoCon Player of the Year Kelsey Salava and junior golfer Austin Reeves were named Furman Female and Male Athletes of the Year, while Young and Satterfield reaped SoCon Coach of the Year accolades.

Among athletic milestones, the women’s tennis team’s incredible 100-match SoCon winning streak, which began in 1998, finally came to an end on March 27 — exactly 12 years after it began — with a 6-1 loss at Samford.

The conclusion of basketball season in early March was followed by the resignation of women’s head coach Sam Dixon after eight years at the helm. His successor, Jackie Smith Carson ’00, one of the greatest players in Furman women’s basketball history, was introduced as the new coach on April 13. She comes to Furman after five seasons at James Madison University, where as associate head coach she helped the Dukes average 25 wins per season and advance to post-season play each year.

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Student Activities/UC

The Office of Student Activities & the University Center had an amazing active spring semester. We sponsored a ton of student events, many of them in the University Center.

Two Paladin Nite programs were held during spring semester, with the first sponsored in February by FUSAB (which was held on the same night as one of our multiple winter snowstorms!), and the second co-sponsored in April by the Residential Life Council (RLC), the Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs, and the UC.

The highlight of the second program was the ThinkFast game show, in which a student won $250 by being the best trivia player in the room! Look for a new late night program next year, as well as a dedicated film program coming to Burgiss Theater that will show second-run movies on a weekly basis.

The staff of the department have been busy with their professional associations, with Jessica Berkey (Assitant Director for Activities and Orientation) serving as Block Booking Coordinator for the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA), Brad Hill (Assistant Director for Event Services) serving as the South Carolina State Representative for Region 5 of the Association of College Unions International (ACUI), and J. Scott Derrick (Director) serving as ACUI Region 5 Director.

Amber Lollis and Derrick have been busily preparing several programs related to Commencement, including a new website www2.furman.edu/STUDENTLIFE/EVENTS/Programs/Commencement, a new look for our halls and marquees, and an exciting party for the late night hours after Commencement. There is also a new look to the Student Life website (www2.furman.edu), as well as the University Center (www2.furman.edu/studentlife) and Student Activities (www2.furman.edu/studentlife/activities) sites, so please visit when you can!

We capped off spring semester with “Shi Night” at the Greenville Drive,” with students, faculty and staff traveling to Fluor Field in downtown Greenville to honor Dr. Shi with entertainment, surprises and baseball. It was a perfect way to cap a great year and to celebrate the presidency of David Shi! — J. Scott Derrick

ANNIVERSARIES

35 years

April
Janice Knighton Career Services

30 years

March
Frances Ashley Art Department

25 years

January
Debbie Southern Women’s Basketball
Larry Laxter Store Operations

February
Eleanor Hugdins Tennis Center

March
Linda Sokol Housing
Bo Layton Facilities Services

20 years

March
Lucy Dean Student Life

15 years

January
Kathryn Smoke Physical Therapy

March
Tammy Bradley

March
Kyra Zollman

March
Kris Mullinax

February
Lori Okamoto Public Safety
Kim Rhodes Financial Services

January
David Enter Public Safety

February
March

CETL

Mickie Spencer Theatre Arts

Tammie Sigsbee CTEF

Shirley Haines CFT

Joe Hilteldig CFT

Angela Durham Housing

NEW EMPLOYEES

January
Amy Robinson Continuing Education

January
Janice C. Holloway Tennis
Elizabeth Mobley Paladin Club
Dianna Hilteldig Academic Dean

February
Michael J. Legat Facilities
Scott A. Hibbert CFT
Gerard Baskey Softball
Cindy N. Youssef Navy Institute

March
Kenya Zollman CFT
Barry Mullinax CFT
Shirley Haines CFT
Joe Hilteldig CFT
Angela Durham Housing

April
J. Scott Derrick Director

Charles Adams Custodial Chemistry
John G. Kaup February
Russell Wight Football
Brian Keith Hill Public Safety
Julia A. Craft Library

March
John Lackey Golf Course
John McCombs Commerce
Nikole Nells The Vikings
Christopher Manning Golf Course
Judith Griggs Continuing Education

April
Shannon Knutti Admission
Jennifer Grissup Continuing Education

March
William Sapp Grounds
Jackie Smith Carson Women’s Basketball

5 years

January
Frances Davis Physical Therapy

February
Nancy Griffith Admission

7
Furman’s new first lady

Michele Smolla had never seen Greenville or Furman when she drove into town in the early morning of September 27, 2008. It was 1 a.m. She and her son, Miles Taylor, exited off Interstate 385, took a left into the Hyatt Regency parking lot, quietly checked in, and went to bed.

Seven hours later they awoke to a crisp fall morning, and after breakfast they decided to take a quick tour of downtown. Driving south on Main Street, they admired the street-side cafes and shops. They crossed over the Reedy River into the trendy West End area and saw Falls Park, the Liberty Bridge and Fluor Field.

“I was like, ‘Whoa,’” says Smolla. “The colors were beautiful. The downtown was gorgeous.”

Twenty minutes later, Michele and Miles entered the campus for the first time to attend Fall for Furman, an event for prospective students. They saw the fountains, the manicured grounds and the colonial architecture — and like many who had come before them, they were smitten.

“Within our first hours on campus Miles knew this was where he wanted to go,” says Smolla. “Miles loved it. We loved it.”

Having grown up in Maryland and raised her family in Richmond, Va., Smolla says she had heard about Furman through a number of alumni. “All of them were so passionate about this place,” she says.

In less than two months, “this place” will become home. In December, during a whirlwind tour and welcome, Smolla, her husband (and next Furman president) Rod, Miles and 9-year-old Dylan were introduced to the Furman community and to their next home, White Oaks.

After Rod began work in Lexington, Va., in 2007 as the dean of the law school at Washington & Lee, the couple elected to maintain their Richmond home as their primary residence rather than uproot the family.

But now, after living in two places and making countless two-hour drives between Richmond and Lexington, Michele says she is anxious to put down roots in Greenville and have Rod, Miles, Corey (15) and Dylan living under the same roof.

The couple’s other two children from their blended family, Sarah and Erin (both in their early 20s), live outside the home. One of two children, Michele Smolla was raised in Eastern Shore, Md. Her father was a police officer and her mother was a psychiatric nurse at the state mental hospital. The couple’s other two children from their blended family, Sarah, and Erin (both in their early 20s), live outside the home.

“That was the big joke around school,” she laughs. “But I grew up in that atmosphere and absolutely loved it.”

The experience sparked a lifelong passion for psychology. She received her B.A. in psychology from the University of Maryland-College Park and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Maryland-Baltimore.

After graduate school she worked for several years with a child advocacy agency, calling on dysfunctional homes and placing children with foster parents. She left the workforce after Sarah was born.

She continued to work with children as a volunteer, tutoring third- and fourth-grade students in Richmond County Public Schools through a mentoring program sponsored by her church, St. James Episcopal. She has also been a volunteer at the Massey Cancer Institute.

Always athletic, Smolla grew up playing field hockey, lacrosse and rugby.

Later she took up tennis and skiing until two knee injuries forced her to limit her physical activities to golf and walking.

“I tore both of my ACL (anterior cruciate ligaments) skiing,” she says. “I lost one in the Grand Tetons and the other in the Rockies.”

Currently, she is getting some exercise by cleaning out closets, throwing out things and preparing to pack for the move to Greenville. “We are all looking forward to the move to Furman and opening up this exciting new chapter in our lives,” she says.

What will President Shi’s legacy be?

“Sustainability and a whole lot of new buildings.”
— George Lipscomb
(holding a copy of Shi’s book, The Bell Tower and Beyond)

“Community connections, how he has helped Furman to connect with the Greenville community.”
— Mike Winski

“Buildings. Everything sprung up everywhere during his tenure here. We are a residential campus now.”
— Steve Richardson

“Engaged learning and a dramatically expanded campus.”
— Scott Henderson

“I think he has done a lot for Furman. The retirement center (The Woodlands) will be good for Furman in the future.”
— Janice Knighton

Mike Winiski