Athletics upgrades

**Football, golf, soccer, baseball and softball get boost**

G ary Clark came to Furman in 2000 as director of the Paladin Club. Now athletics director, he has worked long enough in higher education to understand the rhythms and cycles of university funding. For the past 15 years, Clark watched as the university poured resources into improving academic facilities. During that time, Johns Hall was completed and Wappie Hall was constructed, and the Duke Library, Furman Hall and the science facilities were expanded and renovated.

Since the late 1990s, though, the university’s major athletic facilities, with the exception of construction of Pepsi Stadium (softball), remained relatively untouched.

Furman’s once-cherished reputation of having the finest athletic facilities in the Southern Conference faded. Other universities were making impressive improvements to athletic facilities, and Furman’s facilities were expanding and renovating. They are seeing, in a real symbolic way, our commitment to the role athletics plays in the university’s mission and to the role athletics plays in campus life, character development and school spirit.

**Construction on the expansion, to be erected on the present-day ticket plaza, is scheduled to begin at the conclusion of the 2012 season and should take eight months to complete.**

The plan was developed by McMillan Pazdan Smith, a Greenville-based architecture firm that also developed plans for football facilities at Coastal Carolina and Campbell universities. The first floor of the building will house locker rooms and a training and equipment room, while the second floor, accessible from Paladin Plaza, will contain a “Heritage Hall,” conference rooms and offices.

The remaining three floors will house club seating, suites and a press box. Clark says the project also calls for upgrading the stadium sound system and renovating the field house.

“This has really rejuvenated our fan base. They are seeing, in a real symbolic way, our commitment to football,” Clark says.

A soccer field house that will contain restrooms, locker rooms and storage space is planned for the south end of Stone Field. The second story of the $1.5 million building will feature an open-air plaza. A construction timetable for this project has not been set.

At Latham Baseball Stadium, construction on indoor batting cages, coaches’ offices and locker rooms, located down the first-base line, is nearly completed. This summer, workers will begin renovating the building that houses the restrooms, press box and concessions.

Construction is also under way on a two-story softball complex that will include restrooms, concessions, a press box and coaches’ offices. Near the REK Golf Center, workers are polishing a three-hole, par 3 practice course. The area will be available for play in late summer, near the end of the growing season.

While gleaming athletic facilities may seem excessive to some, Clark says modern stadiums and buildings excite alumni and recruits and are tangible symbols of the university’s commitment to the role athletics plays in campus life, character development and school spirit.

“With those improvements, we will be at the top of the conference from a facility standpoint,” says Clark.

“All of this will certainly help with recruiting. These things [facilities] are very important to 18-year-olds.”

Joyner to be awarded new Riley Medal

T he late C. Dan Joyner ’59, will be the first recipient of the newly created Richard W. Riley Medal for Promise and Achievement, to be awarded at Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 5.

The University’s Trustees approved both the resolution to create the medal and the emotional nomination of Joyner by his Furman classmate and lifelong friend, William Howse ’59, during its meeting last week. Both motions received unanimous votes.

Joyner, a successful Greenville businessman who was one of Furman’s most ardent supporters, died in January. The posthumous presentation of the medal is expected to be accepted by his family.

The medal honors Richard W. Riley, ’54, who is stepping down as a Trustee after serving since 2000, the last two years as chair. He is a former two-term Governor of South Carolina and served as U.S. Secretary of Education from 1993-2001.

The board elected Richard Cullen ’71, to succeed Riley as chair, Robert Hill, ’83, as vice chair, and James Ney, ’64, as Secretary.
A work of art Longtime teacher inspires, mentors

School was closed for the day, but that didn’t mean Pat Grills took the day off.

Instead, during a recent Monday, he took a drive down to Frink Hotel, where he purchased two four-foot-by-three-foot canvases and loaded them into his faithful old Toyota, which has now logged almost 200,000 miles.

During the weeks that followed, nearly 70 of his students at Riverside School would transform a total of 40 such canvases into a collection of paintings that will ultimately decorate art classrooms at the Greenville Zoo.

After finishing the day with his high school students, Grills frequently heads to Furman to teach in the Learning for You program, a routine he has faithfully kept for decades.

A Furman grad, Grills is celebrating his 35th year with Learning for You. In addition to being the program’s longest-serving instructor, he’s also one of the most sought-after, working with all ages and teaching classes in everything from Civil War history to watercolors.

Grills has also taught in the summer Sosspe program, been an adjunct graduate instructor, and worked with at-risk high school students in the Bridges to a Brighter Future program. He earned a bachelor’s degree in art from Furman in 1972 and a master’s degree in education with a concentration in art in 1976.

Grills was named South Carolina’s Outstanding Continuing Education Instructor of the Year in 2006. His extraordinary teaching ability shines through in class evaluations from students, says Tommy Reece, learning for You program manager.

“You set in a lot of classrooms in my day, but Mr. Pat is my first real teacher. I learned in a classroom. Thank you, Furman,” wrote one student.

A Bridges student wrote, “I loved art this summer. Art never has really been a good subject for me, but now I know that you don’t have to know how to paint or draw to be an artist.”

One of Grills’ goals is to improve each student’s abilities and provide a basic appreciation and understanding of the concepts of art. “I don’t really believe in the word ‘talent,’” Grills said. “I prefer to use ‘ability,’ and ability is something that can be learned or developed with time and practice.”

Grills, chair of the Fine Arts Department at Riverside, is a member of the world’s largest National Art Honor Society, with 242 members. Community service is a major part of the honor society’s work, and is something Grills models for his students.

He is included in a number of community organizations and was recently honored by the Greenville Hospital System for organizing and encouraging student volunteers. He volunteers with the Greenville Zoo and with the Upcountry History Museum, where he is a first-person history interpreter.

Thanks to his influence, a number of his students have gone on to be professional artists. Their memories of Grills reflect the personal interest he showed in them and his enthusiasm for art.

“He’s always been a very caring teacher. He went above and beyond to help students,” said Bill Reenish, creative director for Dallas Cowboys Merchandising. “He just had a way of teaching students that really brought everyone in.”

“He has put a lot of people on the right path,” says Cathy, a 1973 Furman graduate, works as a reading intervention teacher at Duncan Elementary School. “Her extraordinary teaching ability shines through in her classroom. Thank you, Furman,” wrote one student.

Students at Riverside, who know Grills as their art teacher, are grateful for his efforts. “He’s so patient and understanding,” said one student.

This year, Grills, 58, is again staying busy at Furman, where he will be one of the featured artists at the annual Furman Art Sale. “Pat is my reading intervention teacher at Duncan Elementary School. She is always there for me,” said one student.

“Pat truly supports the university and personifies our philosophy of engaged learning and delivering education to people in a variety of venues,” Reece said. “He is an inspiration to all of us.”

—Erlah Haan

A new look for Commencement

Commencement, a time-honored university ceremony, will have a different look May 5.

After months of study a Commencement committee opted to add an 11 a.m. Baccalaureate Service and outdoor lunch. The event will be followed by the RodTC Commissioning Ceremony at 2:30 p.m., the traditional walk down the mall and the 7:30 p.m. Commencement exercises in Paladin Stadium.

President Rod Smith and Chaplain Vaughn Crowe-Tipton will speak during the Baccalaureate Service, which will also include a performance by the Furman Singers.

“Today, he has a different perspective on life. His work as a regional development officer is much less harried than the other Furman jobs he’s held since coming to the university in 1980 as an area coordinator for men’s housing.”

“I have about 100 alumni and parents that I try to keep happy so that we can move up the ladder,” says King. “I have really enjoyed in Development is reconnecting with alumni who I knew as students. Some of them are bringing their children to Furman.”

Wayne King’s smile is back. So are his sunny disposition, sense of humor and personal charm.

It was not always this way.

Three years ago, he was diagnosed with cirrhosis, a progressive, incurable liver disease that was consuming his body. King’s 150-pound frame had melted to 115 pounds. Clothes that once fit snugly bunched from his bony, sloping shoulders.

King, a longtime Furman employee, tried to maintain his work schedule as director of donor relations. But his days were often a blur filled with confusion, fatigue and nausea. Still, he tried to soldier through.

He was dying. Friends and colleagues could do little but pray and offer comfort as they watched him deteriorate.

“One day I came to work and thought ‘I forgot I was in a classroom. Thank you, Furman,’” said Mary King, a 1973 Furman graduate, works as a reading intervention teacher at Duncan Elementary School. “Her extraordinary teaching ability shines through in her classroom. Thank you, Furman,” wrote one student.

Perhaps one of the most telling tributes to Grills came at the close of the 2008-09 school year when students and friends came together to raise more than $10,000 to send Grills and his wife, Cathy, to Europe to see the art masterpieces he had talked about for decades in class, but had never seen personally.

More than 400 of his students, past and present, came together to surprise the couple with the trip, which allowed them to visit museums in New York, England, France and Italy.

Despite all the accolades he has received over the years, Grills remains humble about his contributions. “The students teach me far more than I teach them,” he said. “I can’t wait to get up in the morning. It’s 90 percent fun for me.”

Four decades of teaching, Grills has no plans to retire, especially when teaching is still such a family affair. Cathy, a 1973 Furman graduate, works as a reading intervention teacher at Duncan Elementary School.

Grills earned her degree in art in 2001 and has an MFA from Meredith College in Raleigh. Their memories of Grills remain a work of art.

“We are so grateful to have had Wayne as a part of our community,” says Mary King, a 1973 Furman graduate, works as a reading intervention teacher at Duncan Elementary School. “His extraordinary teaching ability shines through in her classroom. Thank you, Furman,” wrote one student.

During the weeks that followed, nearly 70 of his students at Riverside School would transform a total of 40 such canvases into a collection of paintings that will ultimately decorate art classrooms at the Greenville Zoo.

Grills, chair of the Fine Arts Department at Riverside, is a member of the world’s largest National Art Honor Society, with 242 members. Community service is a major part of the honor society’s work, and is something Grills models for his students.

“This will be a meaningful and memorable enhancement of the students’ graduation experience. The plans for beautiful music, interfaith reverence, and inspiring messages from the President and Chaplain will quickly define this as a signatory event in the life of the university.” says John Beckford, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean.

Lunch will be served on the Roe Art Building lawn at the conclusion of the event.

Former U.S. Secretary and South Carolina Governor Richard Riley will deliver the keynote address at Commencement.

Return of the King

Wayne King wore this stylish garb at Carol Daniels’ retirement party last year.

Today, he has a different perspective on life. His work as a regional development officer is much less harried than the other Furman jobs he’s held since coming to the university in 1980 as an area coordinator for men’s housing.”

“I have about 100 alumni and parents that I try to keep happy so that we can move up the ladder,” says King. “I have really enjoyed in Development is reconnecting with alumni who I knew as students. Some of them are bringing their children to Furman.”

King, in fact, has devoted more than half of his career to working directly with students. A native of Taylors, he grew up in a textile mill village. Both of his parents worked at a Southern Bleachery mill that was later purchased by J.P. Stevens.

King graduated from Mars Hill College in North Carolina with a B.A. in English and was offered a teaching position in nearby Buncombe County. But, on impulse, he decided on a career in higher education after meeting with a college friend who was then enrolled in a higher education master’s program at Florida State University.

“I thought that would be a fun and interesting thing to do,” says King. “I have made a lot of good decisions without having the knowledge to back them up.”

After graduating from Florida State, King worked at Furman from 1980 to 1982, when he became director of housing of Mars Hill. After just 18 months at his alma mater, though, King got the same job at Furman.

During his tenure in housing, orientation hours were liberalized. The university also endowed a housing crunch in the late 1980s, when many freshmen and some sophomores were placed in triples rooms.

In the late 1990s, King played a key role in developing what would become the North Village apartment complex. The completion of the apartments laid the groundwork for the university’s off-campus residential requirement, which was adopted in 2003 and helped to reshape campus life.

By 1999, the increasing demands of the job began to wear on King. “I remember waking up in the middle of the night and thinking ‘I could quit this job and just stay. Overall, those 15 years were wonderful.’

Fortunately, he was able to put his people skills to work in Development, where he has served as associate director of annual giving, director of annual giving, director of donor relations, and regional development officer.

“I thought I was burned out with Furman, but I was not,” says King. “I was just burned out with that job.”
Communication Studies
Brandon Hardin won the Janie Holder Rushing Early Career Award from the Southern States Communication Association. The award honors members who have demonstrated exceptional scholarly ability through research and teaching, and who have made contributions to their academic careers.

Math
Doug Raith won an eight-week internship at the University of Virginia’s long-running Bondage Program on identifying Codas in Graphs held in fall 2016 at the Laboratory of Networked DeRecherche Informaticque Bordeaux. Raith, a junior in Mathematics and Computer Science at UVA, will work as a data engineer and collaborate with students on a project to analyze social network data.

Business & Act. Robert Underwood’s article, “Automotive front-end development in the U.S. Economic and Market Consequences of Globalization,” has been accepted for publication in the September/October issue of Business Horizons.

CTL
Mike Weiskit and student Drew Werson presented “Landscapes of Remembrance: Spatial Distribution of New Orleans Katrina Memorials” at the Association of American Geographers national meeting. Weiskit also received a Blended Teaching and Learning Grant from Associated Student Body of the South to collaborate with faculty from Trinity University to develop online geographic information Systems (GIS) resources.

Chemistry
Brian Lyle continued his research students Brooks Duff and Tyler Abbé, published the book “Math Synopses Featuring Classic Chemicals” for the Advanced Organic Chemistry Library in the Journal of Chemical Education. This textbook and the long tradition of chemical synopses sequence can be used by any chemistry department to address the challenges of natural product synthesis. Gues also gave an invited research lecture at Converse College titled “Bioactive and Biological Activity of Hicumbic” and presented research lecture at the National Meeting of the American Chemical Society.

Library
Jennifer Patterson presented “Wangari the Information Universe” at an Institutional Portals to a Shared Resource for Online Music Students at the Music Library Association meeting in Dallas, Texas. Patterson also traveled to the plenary session also feature two projects from other institutions and served the newly digital project indices, presented at the National Student Subcommittee of MLA, which collab.

Music
Robert Charleston was invited to adjudicate the Masters Performance Recital held in North Charleston in February. The event was sponsored by the South Carolina Band Directors Association.

Religion
A recent study conducted at Washington University suggested that more than half of the campus community in America have experienced sexual assault during their college career. However, many individuals are not aware of the potential mental health challenges faced by survivors of sexual assault.

Peter’s decision to purchase the Fisk organ was based primarily on his visit to the Furman’s organ at Notre Dame University in March and presented a recital at the University of New Mexico and several college campuses. In the performance for the American Church Choral Directors Association regional convention in Winston-Salem, Tompkins accompanied the choir of First Baptist Church, Greenville, in March. He also accompanied the Furman Singers on their spring tour.

Philosophy
David Shanks’ final book, ‘Living with the Wild at Your Back’, will be published in Russian this year by KOSTA Publishing, St. Petersburg. The Russian Federation. In addition, Shanks is program director and chief instructor of The Eastern Mysticism Society, which was founded in 1978. Shanks is an experienced and certified instructor of the Eastern Mysticism Society, which was founded in 1978. Shanks is an experienced and certified instructor of the Eastern Mysticism Society, which was founded in 1978. Shanks is an experienced and certified instructor of the Eastern Mysticism Society, which was founded in 1978.

Science
The lake has always been a popular destination for wildlife enthusiasts. For example, waterfowl populations, in particular Canada geese, have been reduced through landscape changes and educational efforts. The lake is an important ecological resource that provides shelter and food for a variety of aquatic and terrestrial species.

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“I have you churning Public Announcements or walking around campus. You have a few times for events focused on water issues. The spring semester featured the Global Issues Forum (GIF), a student-led initiative created to engage and inform the campus community about the challenges of an increasingly globalized world. GIF will select a particular global issue each semester and sponsor a series of events to promote awareness of the issue. The focus has been global water issues. The student group has sponsored speakers, movies and other events to raise awareness of global water issues. The organization is an independent, as well as an initiative that is closer to home, such as the practices of bottled water companies in the United States. As we have focused on this topic on a global scale, we have also been asked about how to conserve water supply and protect water quality on our college campus. We have also been asked about clean drinking water supplies and how to conserve water quality on our local campus.

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“After a little while, the students have gone on, but the book remains. It can also be difficult to detect some cancers, such as breast cancer, when localized in a small area. It can also be a challenge to detect some cancers, such as breast cancer, when localized in a small area. It can also be a challenge to detect some cancers, such as breast cancer, when localized in a small area. It can also be a challenge to detect some cancers, such as breast cancer, when localized in a small area.

“Avoid tobacco. Tobacco is responsible for more than 250 public school deaths each year, and is the overwhelming majority of lung cancer cases. It can also be a challenge to detect some cancers, such as breast cancer, when localized in a small area. It can also be a challenge to detect some cancers, such as breast cancer, when localized in a small area.

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A changing landscape in Career Services
Social media playing larger role, but personal connections still preferred

The hardest part for Alex Bimonte is the waiting game. Posed to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in communication studies in a few weeks, the Boca Raton, Fla. native isn’t sure exactly where life will take her after graduation.

Bimonte has sent out her résumé, attended an open house at a large Greenville company, and participated in Furman career fairs. Although she doesn’t yet have a job offer, she said she is both optimistic and confident.

“I’m as prepared as I can be,” said Bimonte. Furman’s Office of Career Services offers students like Bimonte a multitude of resources to prepare them for the transition either to the workforce or to graduate school. As students continue to lean more heavily on the Internet for career advice and planning, Career Services has been retooling and expanding online resources to meet the demand.

“It’s important to adapt in order to be able to provide good quality services,” said John Barker, Director of Career Services.

Prior to 2002, the office provided preparation for careers and graduate school on its website and maintained an online job board. Over the last decade, the online offerings have increased drastically, giving students access to a wide range of specialized job search engines and allowing them to participate in virtual job fairs, résumé and cover letter tutorials, webinars, training videos and alumni networks. LinkedIn online network now includes nearly 3,000 Furman alumni.

More students are also taking advantage of online career counseling with Career Services staff members. The amount of email correspondence between students and staffers has more than doubled since 2008, according to Barker. Despite the continued shift to electronic resources, the staff continues to emphasize to students the importance of networking and face-to-face interaction. “A well-developed, well-constructed career plan takes time,” he said. “It’s difficult to make well-informed career decisions merely by going to the Internet.”

Several interactive workshops on résumé writing, interviewing skills, and job searching for graduating seniors have already been offered this year. Career Services hosted a Career Networking Night April 4, where students connected with alumni in a host of careers. During March, the office also offered a roundtable discussion titled “Realities of the First Year on the Job” and a seminar called “Business Etiquette 101,” which was designed to improve students’ business and social management skills.

Barker has more recruiting visits than any another private college in South Carolina, something Barker credits to the university’s strong academic reputation.

Six months after graduation, 41 percent of the Class of 2010 were employed, 44.7 percent had gone on to graduate school, 5 percent were seeking employment, 4.8 percent were involved in other activities such as volunteering, getting married, or sharing in mission trips, 3 percent were taking time off, and 1.4 percent were participating in postgraduate internships or fellowships.

Anastasia Halkias, who graduated from Furman in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in communication studies, found the Career Services Office to be accessible and extremely helpful with her career planning.

As a freshman, “I was so worried because I had no idea what I was going to do with my life,” she said.

Barker and assistant director Kristin Irwin helped her to step back, reflect and focus on her interests and, in time, begin her career search.

“They encouraged me to keep searching,” she said. After graduation, she began a yearlong education outreach internship with Greenville Water, which brought her into local classrooms to talk with middle-schoolers about the value of water conservation.

“It’s wonderful . . . I enjoy working with students, and it’s something that’s aligned with my values,” Halkias said.