Money Matters
Successful campaign will boost endowment, student financial aid

This spring, the annual cost of a Furman education will surpass $40,000.
Tuition, fees, room and board at the university have doubled during the past decade. And Furman isn’t the only institution raising costs.

Duke, Emory, Richmond, Wake Forest and Davidson have boosted their price tag significantly in recent years and remain more expensive than Furman.

According to the College Board, a national non-profit association, tuition and fees at American private colleges rose an average of 6.3 percent last year — an increase that has been consistent over the past five years.

During the same period inflation has increased 2 to 3 percent annually.

The increases in college costs come during a time when higher education is facing growing criticism from politicians and anxious parents.

Congress is now considering a bill that would publish an annual Oshana list® of colleges that raise tuition and fees at twice the rate of inflation.

Last spring, some state lawmakers suggested that South Carolina put a cap on tuition increases at state institutions, but the measure failed to gain traction.

The barrage of mail continues throughout the summer.

The deluge starts — after they’d met their academic requirements over the Web — when new Furman students arrive on campus in September to help gather a small group of students whose families’ annual income is that many top private liberal arts colleges—Furman included—ask nothing from parents earning under $60,000. The wealthiest university in the world even offers families with an annual income of more than $200,000 generous financial aid packages.

Many other top private liberal arts institutions, such as Williams, Colby and Amherst have launched programs that have, to a great extent, replaced low-interest loans with outright grants for many students.

In the Southeast, Duke University is eliminating parent contributions for families who earn less than $60,000 a year. Davidson became the first national liberal arts college to eliminate student loans from financial aid packages last spring.

The Emory Advantage program replaces loans for undergraduate students whose families’ annual income is $50,000 or less.

The financial aid incentive also caps need-based debt for families earning less than $100,000 at $15,000.

The handful of colleges and universities who have announced these generous financial aid initiatives are among the wealthiest.

Duke and Emory, for example, have endowments of $6 billion and $5 billion (continued on page 2).

Financial aid is a complex topic that is too often glossed over in college planning.

By the time students arrive on campus orientation would not be manageable.

So, more than a year ago, Barron and Lesley Quast, the assistant academic dean responsible for overseeing academic advising, began developing the idea of an on-line advising tutorial. The pair recruited John Harris, a mathematics professor, to help gather a small group of faculty who will author the tutorial and support new students as they make initial course selections over the Web. Even most placement tests will be completed online.

The idea for the site, launched this month, arose shortly after Furman decided to adopt its new curriculum and calendar. In the past, new students registered for classes after arriving on campus in September — after they’d met their academic advisor and completed placement tests.

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billion, respectively.

Furman, with an endowment of $554 million, cannot match such largesse. But the university is investing heavily in financial aid. While tuition has doubled during the past decade, total financial aid has nearly tripled over the same period. Benny Walker, vice president for enrollment, says Furman allocated approximately $32.2 million to 85 percent of the student body last year. About $9 million of that total was generated through endowment income and gifts, with the balance provided by the operating budget.

While the average income of Furman parents hovers around $140,000, Walker says the university traditionally enrolls more students from middle and low-income families than many competing colleges. In all, about 86 percent of Furman students receive some type of financial aid.

As colleges continue to boost both tuition and financial aid, the economy of higher education, some observe, has come to resemble the healthcare system, with price increases surpassing inflation but with more people paying much less than full price.

This “net price,” says Walker, has become the cornerstone message of Furman and other private colleges and a key concern of prospective students and their parents.

Regardless of price, most agree that higher education is a bargain investment. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, workers with a B.A. degree earn about $25,000 more annually than those with a high school diploma. About half of current Furman graduates eventually earn advanced degrees, which holds even greater earning potential.

As Furman winds down an unprecedented era of construction and capital improvements, the board of trustees is expected to direct more resources and fund-raising efforts toward boosting financial aid and reducing student debt.

Increasing financial aid for students through endowed scholarships, in fact, the top priority of the “Because Furman Matters” comprehensive campaign, which hopes to raise commitments for $400 million by 2011. While Furman boasts top facilities and academic programs, the university has traditionally lagged behind peer institutions in financial resources. (See chart below.)

President David Shi says a college’s endowment is its “engine of excellence.” “It is no accident that the most prestigious colleges are the most well endowed,” he says. “By growing the endowment, Furman can give more financial assistance to deserving students, recruit and support the most talented faculty and continue to enrich our academic programs. These are our top priorities looking ahead.”

Eight Bridges

In the movie It’s a Wonderful Life, George Bailey, a depressed and unlucky small-town savings and loan owner, contemplates suicide before he is rescued by his guardian angel. The whimsical angel inspires Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart, by showing him the fate that would have befallen his town and friends had he not been born.

The simple moral of the Frank Capra classic: A true measure of a life is how much you help others.

Marnie Bruce Sidley, who in the mid-1990s provided the lead gift to establish Furman’s Bridges to a Brighter Future program, is a real-life George Bailey. Last summer the program, which helps to mentor, motivate and prepare economically disadvantaged high school students for college, celebrated its 10th year. To date 147 Greenville County students have graduated from Bridges, with 115 enrolling in college.

In December, Bridges celebrated another milestone. Eight members of the Bridges Class of 2008 will enroll at Furman in August. Since its founding in 1997, 10 Bridges students have attended Furman.

“This is truly a dream come true for these students. A little over three years ago they joined our family not believing that college would be a reality,” says Bridges director Tobi Swartz. “However, through their very hard work, determination and utilization of opportunities, they are on their way to higher education.”

Other students in the 21-member class have been accepted to the University of South Carolina, Clemson, Newberry, Lander and the College of Charleston.

Included in the Furman group is Victor Orozco, a senior at J.L. Mann who was awarded a prestigious Hollingsworth Scholarship. The scholarship, named for the late John D. Hollingsworth ’39, is worth $25,000 per year for four years. In addition to helping to pay for tuition and room and board, the scholarship provides funding for a study-away experience and off-campus internship.

Web page for new students

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four-day process and turn it into a four-month process, so we don’t overwhelm the students, the faculty or the staff,” says Barron. “We expect it will make the entire advisor-student relationship stronger because they will have a base to work from— the students’ choices during the summer — once the student arrives on campus.”

Not long afterward, says Barron, Furman began looking at all its mailings from various departments and divisions in an effort to determine how to reduce them to a manageable level. The new student home page developed from this process.

Throughout the summer and fall, a group of about 30 began gathering the information mailed to new students and repackaging it in a Web format: Christen Cullum (Admissions), Jason Cassidy (University Housing), Jane Burton (Financial Services), Kyra Zollman (Computing & Information Services) and Furman (Academic Records) were among those who helped develop content for the site.

The Web site, designed by Marketing and Public Relations, includes all the information a new student will need. Eventually students will use the site to jump to a secure area that will allow them to access their class schedule, account information and roommate assignment.

The new student Web site committee reviewed more than 45 existing sites from a group of them small to mid-size liberal arts colleges — before settling on a format. Information posted on the site is segmented with tabs in six categories: what you need to know, what you need to do, what your family needs to know, non-negotiable deadlines, get involved, and news, tips and highlights.

While most new student mailings will be rendered obsolete by the “New at Fur” page, incoming students will continue to receive a few pieces, such as the orientation brochure, through traditional mail.
A new path
Walker retiring as V.P. for enrollment, to work on special projects

Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 1:24 a.m. Benny Walker, vice president for enrollment at Furman, rises suddenly from his sleep. He is wide awake and his mind is swirling. He has just had an epiphany: It’s time to close the final chapter on his days as a college administrator and begin a new one.

So he leaves his bed, powers up his computer and sends an e-mail to his financial advisor, asking him “to look at some numbers see if you can help me make this happen.”

The next week, he schedules an appointment with President David Shi.

In recent years the 58-year-old Walker has attended retirement parties and a few funerals for some close friends in his age range. These moments helped Walker take stock of his professional and personal life.

After 37 years of 60-hour-plus work weeks, he wanted less stress, more time for himself and his family, and the flexibility to manage his own schedule.

“I just think it’s a good time to step down. I’m happy with my legacy. My only regret is that I won’t be able to sit in committee meetings anymore,” he laughs.

A native of Laurens, the third son of a glass plant shift worker, Walker had a typical small-town childhood. His mother stressed academics, and each of the boys excelled in school and in sports. During his senior year Walker, then captain of the football team and student body president, attended a Furman student recruitment talk at his high school.

Someone asked about qualifications for admission.

The admissions counselor said that Furman was always looking for good students. But if you were captain of the football team and the student body president, you could just come on in,” says Walker. “Well, I figured I was set.”

After graduating from Furman in 1971, Walker turned down a job offer from South Carolina National Bank and chose instead to become an admissions counselor at his alma mater.

“There were two job openings that year, one male and one female,” says Walker. “I took the male one and Susan Thomson (now Furman’s First Lady) took the female one.”

Moving up the ladder, he served as assistant director of admissions before being named director of financial aid in 1974, a year before earning his MBA degree from the Furman-Clemson Master of Business Administration program.

As a first-generation college student from a blue-collar family, Walker related to many of the students he encountered at the time and worked tirelessly to find a way for them to attend college.

A 1980 feature in Furman Magazine by Marguerite Hays stated, “Benny Walker probably makes more people happy than any other person on campus. In his work he is able to make life easier for many students and their families, and he often helps people attend Furman who never thought they could afford it.”

Walker was named assistant dean for admissions and financial aid in 1986. Six years later, he took on the newly created position of vice president for enrollment.

Active in professional circles and fascinated with technology, Walker has managed to keep Furman ahead of the competitive curve over the past two decades.

His office was among the first to develop a hip and humorous recruiting video during the 1980s. Walker pushed the envelope again in recent years with on-line student journals and <engage.furman.com>, a recruiting Web site that is often emulated.

More recently, Engage magazine, a contemporary, colorful publication mailed three times a year to prospective students, is helping to separate Furman from the crowd.

The crown jewel of the enrollment division, though, has been the Hartness Welcome Center, a 2,600-square-foot, high-tech reception area for prospective students and campus visitors.

The center, completed in 2000 as part of the renovation of the administration building, is a staging area for tours and often helps create the all-important first impression visitors have of the university. It is a model admissions’ welcome center and often attracts visitors from other colleges who are considering a similar facility.

Under Walker’s watch student recruiting at Furman has evolved, perhaps, more than any other division. Whereas in Walker’s earlier days admissions counselors kept track of students on 5x7 index cards and rarely traveled outside the Southeast, today nine counselors typically log thousands of travel miles a year and visit more than 400 schools in 25 states. They also track their recruits with sophisticated software.

But despite the expensive gadgetry, flashy Web sites and clever marketing, Walker says such time-honored traditions as campus tours and personal, hand-written notes still help set Furman apart.

“Every day I see students and parents make that $160,000 college decision based on a tour guide or personal note from a faculty member,” he says.

Although Walker will be clearing out his ground-level corner office in the administration building this spring, he won’t be a stranger to Furman. Those who know him are familiar with his penchant for projects.

Between professional travel and managing a staff of 28, Walker has relished the opportunity to take on new and exciting challenges outside enrollment. He helped create and organize the Furman Advantage program and has helped coordinate the technology and marketing of the Younts Conference Center.

Walker has also worked closely with the Bridges to a Brighter Future program and the Riley Institute’s Diversity Leadership Academy.

Walker will continue to direct projects in his new, part-time role as special assistant to the president and senior associate with the Riley Institute. He will assist with some fund-raising projects, help develop programming for the FYI downtown center (see page 4) and represent the university at various functions.

“Because I won’t have a day job, I’ll have time to devote to various projects, and I’m excited about that,” he says. “I can use my network of contacts and my experience to help Furman and the Riley Institute be more successful.”

His daughter, Caroline, will be a freshman at Elon next year, so he and his wife, Nancy (also a 1971 grad), will be empty-nesters. Benny says he and Nancy are looking forward to having more time to travel, “play golf and take long walks on the beach . . . in the rain . . . with a glass of wine.”

And he doesn’t plan to rush to his computer every two hours to check messages and clean out his in-box. “It may take me a day or two to return an e-mail.”
Lake dredging delayed

Workers put aside plans to dredge portions of the Furman lake late last year after dredging equipment repeatedly became bogged down in the lake’s slushy bottom. The university lowered the lake about five feet in December as a prelude to dredging the areas near the Asia Garden and picnic grounds. As part of the project, the collected material from the dredging was to be used to construct several small marsh-like islands near two inlet points to promote aquatic plant growth. These “islands” would have helped filter creek water emptying into the lake.

Jeff Redderson, director of facilities services, said the poor quality of the collected soil and messy nature of the work led the university to delay the process and examine other dredging methods. Workers restored an outlet valve on the lake’s dam during the first week of January, which will allow the water level to return.

Redderson said that other portions of the lake project, which include bank restoration and plantings along the Amphitheater shore line and the stream behind North Village, will continue.

In an effort to improve water quality, the university has recently allowed ground vegetation to flourish along a portion of the lake’s shore and continues to discourage visitors from feeding the waterfowl. The actions have dramatically reduced the amount of waterfowl on the lake, and water quality has improved, Redderson said that Furman remains committed to the dredging and will renew work on the project as soon as funding allows.

A different method, called hydraulic dredging, will allow workers to dredge the entire lake at one time with much less mess involved.

Furman at 612 S. Main

In the late 1950s, workers packed up a few relics from the old downtown campus — among them the Doughboy and Old College — and moved them to the university’s sparkling new, sapling-lined campus at the foot of Paris Mountain.

With the exception of a small fund-raising office that was operational during the last capital campaign, Furman has not had a presence in downtown Greenville since. Now, 50 years after the old campus was shuttered and eventually razed, the university will open a new facility late this fall that will host receptions, art shows, small concerts and other Furman events.

Through an agreement reached last month, the university will share a 3,000-square-foot space at 612 S Main St. with the Greenville YMCA.

The FYI (Furman-YMCA Interactive) Center will be located across the street from Falls Park.

The second-floor center is located off Chicora Alley and above Go Fish, a gift shop. Starbucks and Spill the Beans are neighbors.

Carroll, who has been shepherding the project for the past year, says that, among other things, an information desk, performance space and art gallery will be featured at FYI. In addition to shows and receptions, he said the site will accommodate such activities as seminars, classes and lectures. The space will accommodate up to 150 people and will be flexible enough to seat 100 for a theatrical production or 70 for a dinner.

“It’s designed to be flexible and the programming reflects that faculty,” says Carroll.

The trendy and pedestrian-friendly West End is expected to produce a lot of informal walk-in traffic. “This is just a fabulous space that is located in the most vibrant and active part of the Upstate. We are excited about the possibilities,” says Carroll.
Change and challenges

Development staff has weathered losses, upheaval and growing workload by working together

N ew academic buildings, a new curriculum, a new calendar... change and evolution are constants at Furman. Yet no department has experienced more upheaval in recent years than Development, the fund-raising arm of the university. During the past two years the office has been reorganized and relocated, and weathered the tragedy of two staff deaths. Against this backdrop, department leadership has changed and the staff has embraced the challenge of raising $400 million by 2011.

Navigating this sea of change is Mike Gatchell, who at 39 is the youngest vice president ever at Furman. “Things have been a bit crazy here,” says Gatchell, a 1991 Furman graduate.

That’s an understatement. When Gatchell came to Furman in January of 2006 as executive director, the department was in the process of increasing its staff in preparation for the “Because Furman Matters” campaign. Eleven positions have been added since the fall of 2005, bringing the total staff to 43. Most of the new additions have been in the major gifts area.

Kelli Morris, who joined the department in September of 2005 as director of stewardship, was one of those new positions. Just six months after coming to work at Furman, Morris, a graduate and former employee of Winthrop University, died in an automobile accident. Two weeks later, Morris’ husband, Richard, lived. And late last year, Development suffered another loss when Jerry Coggins, who had worked in the office for more than 30 years as an administrative assistant, passed away. At the time of her death, Morris was pregnant. Kelli Morris had worked in the office for more than 30 years as an administrative assistant, passed away. At the time of her death, Morris was pregnant.

Gatchell credits longtime Development employee King, Betsy Moseley (senior development officer for planned giving and special relations and a 24-year veteran), and her husband, Jerry Coggins, who at 39 is the youngest vice president ever at Furman. “We have never felt like the roof was caving in,” says Moseley. “We’re such a family and just rally around each other. I think one of our strengths is that we all work together as a team and do what it takes to get the job done. No one should ever be above stuffing envelopes, for example. It’s all about caring for one another.”

Looking ahead, Gatchell says the department continues to transition to a different playbook as the public phase of the comprehensive campaign gains momentum.

While successful direct mail programs, telethons and the ability to cultivate a regional group of benefactors have been the cornerstones of past success, university fundraisers are aggressively branching out in different areas. As growing junk mail solicitations and telephone caller identification technology have made past approaches less reliable, other avenues are emerging, says Gatchell. Sophisticated software now gives staff the ability to research donors nationally, and Development officers are spending more time on the road cultivating relationships in person.

Gatchell cites the philanthropy of Chris Borch, a 1978 Furman graduate, as an outcome of these new techniques. A successful entrepreneur living in California, Borch had, for the most part, lost contact with the university until late 2005, when Gatchell contacted him.

Through meetings and conversations, Furman staff helped Borch reconnect to the university’s track and cross country programs, which he participated in as a student. He founded the Blue Shoes Weekend, a two-day event that has raised $1.8 million for track and cross-country scholarships, and recently provided the lead gift for a planned $2.5 million, 6,000-square-foot track and field complex.

Gatchell adds that the changing demographics of the university’s alumni will yield larger future gifts. “Once known primarily for educating clergy and teachers, Furman is now turning out a larger portion of alumni entering financially rewarding professions,” she says.

“Since about the late 1970s, we’ve noticed that a greater proportion of our alumni are going into fields that yield financial success,” says Gatchell. “There is a lot of potential now for us to build relationships with alumni and parents who can make a real difference for the university.”

It’s time to Activate Furman

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The Activate Furman Expo will be held 8-11 a.m. Feb. 6 in the Wbronner Room. Refreshments, door prizes, and free T-shirts will be provided.

Resources for the Furman Community

Monthly Health Talks will be presented in Burgis Theater of the University Center at 6 p.m. on Monday evenings by Alicia Powers (HES) and at noon on Tuesdays by Kelly Frazier. Weigh-ins will be held in the Herman W. Lay Physical Activities Center from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays. Please check the Activate program Web site calendar for specific dates and Health Talk topics.

NEW! Team Challenge

A wise man once wrote, "Together we stand, divided we fall." We are more likely to adhere to a healthier lifestyle when we have the support of our friends, family and co-workers. For this reason you may create and register a team of three or more people to participate in the Team Challenge. Each week you and your team members will attempt to meet the weekly goal of 30 minutes of physical activity, five days a week. For each week that you successfully complete this goal, you will be entered into a faculty/staff prize drawing for a healthy lunch catered for your team. The winning team will also be featured in a future issue of Inside Furman.

NEW! Nutrition and Fitness Consultations

As an exclusive benefit to Furman faculty and staff, we will offer free individual nutritional guidance, a PAC equipment orientation, and assistance in developing a personal fitness program. Appointments will be available in January and February. Contact Kelly Frazier at extension 2816 or e-mail <kelly.frazier@furman.edu> to schedule.

How Do I Register?

Activate Greenville began January 14 with a kick-off at the Carolina First Center. The program ends December 12. For more information, please contact Kelly Frazier at extension 2816 or e-mail <kelly.frazier@furman.edu>.
locations around campus. These transmitters allow us to beam network connections to a few areas of campus that are otherwise difficult or too expensive to network via normal infrastructure builds. Locations planned for service by these devices include the golf course picnic area, the REC Center, the amphitheater, and the soccer and baseball stadiums. This type of access will be used primarily for lower priority, convenience-based services such as guest wireless connections or other basic Internet-based connectivity. David Steenour worked with ITAC and some high-volume document handlers on campus to explore the options for a document imaging system. Such a system would enable high-speed scanning and efficient indexing of documents. In keeping with the C&IS objective of keeping an eye toward the future, a discussion of document imaging at this time will familiarize the user community with the benefits and costs of available alternatives and enable well-informed decisions about supporting and funding this and other priority technology initiatives.

Four entries were received for the Security Awareness Video Contest co-sponsored by C&IS and CTEL. Students were invited to prepare short clips demonstrating some aspect of information security. All of the entries were outstanding! The videos were shown and winners announced during a discussion of the societal impact of increasing information security concerns, held at Byness Theater in January. To view the videos, contact the Help Desk for details of scheduled showings.

— Susan Dunnivant & Dexter Caldwell

Facilities Services

Fall term always presents challenges to our department, but this year was especially busy with the move-in of Phase I of Tynesse Science Center. Work on Phase I A has begun, with completion expected in August of 2008. Move-in for the new and renovated space was a little rocky, with some unexpected snags, but we hope that the benefits of this terrific outreach will outweigh the frustrations of settling in.

We have a new information link on the Web for anyone curious about the progress on campus construction projects. This site offers construction pictures, a general campus construction update, specific reports on the individual projects (such as Townes and the FAC), and a FAQ area. Any questions you may have concerning the projects can be posted on the site, and our staff will respond in a timely manner. All questions and answers will be available on the site, which can be accessed at <www.furman.edu/busservices/ FacilitiesServices.htm>.

Renovation of Lay Physical Activities Center began in December. There will be some frustrations and inconveniences for everyone using the FAC, but the finished product will be very attractive and, we feel, worth the trouble. We will work hard to minimize disruptions during the project.

Facilities Services will soon implement our new maintenance management software, Directline’s Megamation. Megamation will allow our customers to send work order requests via the Web and give us the ability to furnish status reports directly to the customer. One of the best advantages to the new software will be the ability to pass purchasing info directly to Datatel.

— Jeff Roddertson

Library

In the past few months the James B. Duke Library has been busy implementing the strategic plan compiled over the summer. Committees have been appointed and the initial implementation planning has been completed. This year promises to be a busy and exciting one for the library as it focuses its resources on implementing the strategic plan.

One of our most important goals is to open the Space Library. The selection of furniture and the finishing touches on the internal design features of the facility are close to being finished. Preparation for moving books and journals into the new location are gearing up, with the relabeling of books already under way. The Science Library is scheduled to open in the fall of 2008. Work on campus has been involved in numerous conferences and workshops over the past few months as well. The library hosted a Carolina Innovative Users Group (CIUG) meeting here on campus in November. The CIUG annual gatherings allow libraries that use the same online catalog system to examine new products, evaluate implementation strategies and compare notes. Several members of the staff and faculty attended the Charleston Conference, an annual library conference dedicated to topics related to the acquisition of books and periodicals. Another contingent attended the South Carolina Library Association meeting in Columbia, held at the end of October.

The library has been invited in a number of NTILE (National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education) workshops as well. Together with CTEL and EES we hosted a workshop on GIS in October. Some of us attended NTILE workshops on serials management (Transferring to an Electronic Journal Collection), in November, and innovative services (Innovating for the Classroom) in December.

Last but not least, the library is pleased to announce that it has completed its search for the Instruction/ Access Services Librarian position. Caroline Mills joined the staff in mid-January. She comes from Clemson University, where she was working on her Ph.D. in educational leadership. She has a master’s degree in information and library science from the University of South Carolina and a B.A. from Wofford College.

— Pengragh Sorvany

Marketing and Public Relations

Our office was particularly busy during the fall working on several major projects, the largest of which was the CASE statement published in conjunction with the launch of the Furman Matters comprehensive campaign. This publication, which features eye-catching photography and design and elegant writing, outlines the goals of the campaign and the university’s primary strategic goals. Portions of the CASE statement have been posted to the campaign Web site, <www. becausefurmannatters.com>. If you would like a printed copy, please contact our office.

Greg Carroll, vice president for marketing and public relations, has been coordinating a joint venture between the university and the Greenville County YMCA to establish a center on Main Street in downtown Greenville. For more information about the Furman/YMCA Interactive (FYI) Center, see the story on page 4.

Marketing and PR also recently reached for Debbie Stagel, who worked for our office for the past decade as a graphic designer. Debbie has moved to the bookstore. We will miss her kindness, accommodating attitude, production and caring personality.

Shortly after Debbie’s departure, we welcomed Brian Faulkenberry to our design group. Brian injects some youthful enthusiasm and energy into our rapidly aging office. A native of York, S.C., he graduated from Erskine College in 2000 with a B.S. degree in biology, then taught at Highcrest High School for a year before moving to Charleston, S.C. Later he moved to Columbia and earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts design from the University of South Carolina. He did freelance design work before joining our staff in December.

— John Roberts

Around Campus

Computing and Information Services

Of course the biggest news is that David Steenour, chief information officer, has accepted a position as deputy chief information officer at George Washington University and will leave Furman February 1. Susan Dunnivant, director of client services, has been named interim director of C&IS.

David joined our office in 2004, and his leadership enabled C&IS to attain national prominence among IT organizations. He has been a key player in Furman’s success.

Before coming to Furman, Dave served as the vice provost of information technology at Gannon University in Pennsylvania. At George Washington, Dave will have a much larger staff and is looking forward to his move to our nation’s capital. We will miss him immensely and wish him all the best.

In other news, C&IS welcomes Mike Wilder as director of systems and technology. Mike comes from us to Ahmad and BWS where he was the manager of network services for four grocery stores owned by the Ahmad organization. This is Mike’s second position with C&IS; he served as network engineer in the 1990s.

After two years of planning and preparation, we are beginning the development phase of Microsoft Sharepoint. Implementation of Sharepoint is expected to span a year for basic installation and longer for the custom applications that are planned. We are confident that Sharepoint will be worth the wait! Once Sharepoint is fully implemented with the integrated Datatel Portal, users will be able to sign on through a single portal for access to all their primary electronic resources. Randy Dill and the Administrative Systems group will be providing further information to the campus community as the project progresses.

C&IS is in the process of installing microwave transceivers from a third party company in order to offer network services in new
MILESTONES

to collect cell telephone
e-file was downloaded into
telephone, text messages,
has the capability to send to
telephone and e-system
of urgency built into the
because of a winter storm
and urgent messages, such
will be used for emergency
Furman has acquired a
campus community to relay
In times of an emergency, it
Fixed cost must be identified
The process
with a new level of
This consists of

January
Richard A. Jones ......................... 10 years
Scott Johnson .......................... 5 years
Adam Summer (ARAMARK) ............. 5 years

February
Bruce Fox ................................ 10 years
Leonard Wettner (ARAMARK) ......... 35 years

March
Ruth Breznau ......................... 40 years
John Allen ............................ 20 years
Kyle Starn ............................. 5 years

April
Sandra Childress ................... 30 years
Danny Crain .......................... 20 years
Jule Williams ......................... 10 years
Donna Craig .......................... 10 years

Public Safety

In times of an emergency, it is necessary to contact the campus community to relay warnings and procedures. Furman has acquired a system for this purpose. It is called “Immediate Response Information System” (IRIS). The system will be used for emergency and urgent messages, such as cancellation of classes because of a winter storm. There are various levels of urgency built into the system. Our normal method of sending a message would be via cell telephone, office telephone and e-mail. IRIS has the capability to send to other sources, such as home telephone, text messages, pagers, etc. This system will only be as good as its current contact information. Initially, employee information that was on file was downloaded into the system. This consisted of business telephone and e-mail. We also wanted to collect cell telephone information. The process selected gave employees the ability to update their information through our commercial service company. Security issues were detected with this method and we shut down the process. CBIS is working on developing an internal process similar to the vehicle registration process which will be a secure means for employees to maintain their contact information. This should be in place in January. The IRIS system itself is operational now. We are adding two more outdoor surveillance/ emergency telephones. One will be located at the Mickel Tennis Center and track area, the other near the library.

PASCAL Delivers to Higher Education

By Janis Bandelin

A library consortium, little known outside its members, is accomplishing great things for South Carolina’s higher education community. That consortium is PASCAL—the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries. PASCAL is an exciting collaboration among 58 academic libraries in the state and it came about because of recognition that if academic libraries join together they can provide more and better information resources to patrons than if they try to do it alone.

Using state funds and membership dues, PASCAL is building the “Statewide Electronic Library for Higher Education,” which vastly increases knowledge available to South Carolina’s 300,000 students and faculty. Resources which are essential for teaching, learning and research are being provided. These resources include access to millions of articles from electronic journals and research publications. Many Furman students, faculty and staff have benefited from the databases made available by PASCAL through the library website. Full-text articles are made available in areas that include the sciences, business, humanities and social sciences.

PASCAL also has implemented a rapid book-delivery program called “PASCAL Delivers,” built upon the common holdings of the member libraries. Students can order books from any academic library in the state. With one or two clicks of a mouse, the items will be delivered in days, sometimes overnight. This program is about 75 percent implemented, and already represents a collection of over 9 million volumes. The James B. Duke Library will provide this service beginning sometime winter term 2008. There are some technical and logistical challenges to work out before we launch this program, however, you can be sure that we will advertise it once it is ready to go.

The State-Wide Electronic Academic Library helps to level the educational and economic playing field in the global information economy. Collections at our smaller colleges increase by well over 2000 percent, while research libraries see their effective collections double, or triple. For many students and faculty, it provides a gateway to core scholarly materials that would not otherwise be available.

This tremendous expansion in resources is cost-effective. Each dollar PASCAL spends on electronic resources returns $6 to $8 dollars in value when compared to single library access to the same material. Also, by making it easier and cheaper to borrow books, the statewide catalog and delivery system generates a dramatic increase in use at a fraction of current transaction costs.

The State-Wide Electronic Academic Library has been funded through a combination of state funds, member library dues, and federal grants. The General Assembly has appropriated $2 million annually since 2004. State monies are used for database and electronic journal licensing fees, and ongoing costs such as delivery, hardware and software maintenance and support. These are recurring annual expenses on which students have come to rely heavily, and libraries would be unable to match on an individual basis. In FY 2007-08, we are hoping to add materials and capabilities to support economic excellence and increased integration of libraries with research, teaching and learning. Thus $2.5 million is needed to fund core operations. PASCAL libraries work to extend the effectiveness of this core funding, cooperatively leveraging their institutional resources in many ways. We pool funds to gain licensing discounts; existing staff at member libraries handle daily operations of the borrowing program. We coordinate our licensing and delivery programs with the State Library’s DISCUS program to further leverage the effectiveness of the funding available for all South Carolina libraries, including K-12 and public libraries. PASCAL and the Statewide Electronic Library have transformed the information landscape for institutions of higher education in South Carolina. Funding these programs is an investment for the future and will enhance the state’s economy through the expansion of information resources at higher education institutions. It enables our state to provide resources and services that many states such as Georgia, Alabama, Missouri and Virginia have been providing for years.

PASCAL and the Statewide Electronic Library were launched by South Carolina’s public and private academic libraries in conjunction with their parent institutions, the Commission on Higher Education (CHE), the State Library, the South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities, the Office of State Chief Information Officer, and the Department of Archives and History. This is a remarkable collaboration that has benefited our state and the Furman community for the past four years and that must continue. Through the support of our citizens, governor and legislature, it will.

I urge those of you who have experienced the benefits of these programs to write your legislator and ask her/him to continue funding this important initiative. For more information about how you can help, please contact me.

(The author is director of the James B. Duke Library.)
Vinings purchase could ease housing pressure

Furman is exploring the possibility of purchasing the Vinings at Duncan Chapel, a 196-unit apartment complex near Timmons Arena, from Easlan Capital, a Greenville-based property management firm.

MaryLou Merkt, vice president for business affairs, says the university and Easlan have agreed to a purchase price and have entered into a due diligence process, which includes a physical inspection of the apartment complex and verification of financial and market data. The sale could be finalized as early as March.

constructed in 2002, the seven-building complex houses approximately 320 residents, about 90 of whom are Furman students. While details have yet to be worked out, Merkt says that the Vinings would continue to house a mixture of students and community members under university management. Furman currently houses 1,124 juniors and seniors in North Village, an 11-building on-campus apartment complex. The university, however, cannot accommodate all the students who want to live in North Village or on campus. Plans for extensive renovations to the original campus residence halls over the next 10 years will increase the housing shortage. By acquiring the Vinings, Furman will be able to meet the demand for apartment-style living and enable major residence hall renovations.

“The brick and siding structures of the Vinings, surrounded by wrought-iron fencing and accented with a water fountain, complement the campus architecture. The complex also includes a clubhouse, swimming pool, parking garages and storage units. “From an architectural standpoint, it’s a great fit for Furman,” says Boyd Yarbrough, director of university housing, adding that the university would honor existing leases for the current residents of the Vinings. “Current students residing at the Vinings either commute or take a short walk or bike ride to campus.”

Yarbrough is developing a committee of faculty, staff and students that will examine issues arising from the possible acquisition and ultimately craft housing policies for the complex. One of the first issues this group will address is developing a statement of principles about how the project will impact students and the community.

For more information about the Vinings project see news.furman.edu/housing.htm.

--David Enter, Public Safety

In your opinion, what was the biggest Furman-related story of 2007?

“I think that making condoms available on campus was the biggest story in 2007. It shows that Furman is willing to be progressive and change with the times. It shows that student health is a priority of Furman University.”
—Jessica Wortman ’08 (Psychology)

“I think the biggest story was the Kinsey Sicks performance. McAlister Auditorium was overflowing with students. Aside from graduation, it was probably the largest gathering of Furman students ever. Students seemed to love it. The Kinsey Sicks even received a standing ovation at the end of their performance.”
—David Gandolfo, Philosophy

“To list two: The North Village intruder who entered an apartment at night and attempted an assault, and the development of the Immediate Response Information System (IRIS) in response to the Virginia Tech shootings. Not to say that these were the only two.”
—Echol Nix, Religion

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“The biggest story of 2007 was the performance by the Kinsey Sicks. That controversy sparked a lot of conversation and emotions. To me, the biggest thing a person can do is spark conversation.”
—Steven Weeks ’08 (Religion)