As the university’s endowment plunged more than 20 percent earlier this fall, administrators gathered to gauge the impact of the free fall in the stock markets on the university’s current operating budget and to plan for future budgets. One of their first decisions was to reduce non-payroll expenditures, including equipment purchases. While Furman stopped short of a hiring freeze, President David Shi asked that all openings created by normal turnover be closely scrutinized to determine whether they need to be filled immediately or at all. Openings in existing faculty positions for next academic year will be filled. But the hiring of five new professors, approved two years ago as part of the new curriculum, has been delayed at least a year.

In other cost-control moves, the university capped the number of students participating in study-away programs so that the total number of participants would not increase substantially for the coming year. The university also suspended the Alumni Fellows program, a three-year-old initiative that supported six temporary Fellows program, a three-year-old initiative that supported six temporary staff jobs for recent graduates. The Stuart’s videos “Finances with Forrest” are for a more general audience. His eight videos, posted on YouTube, address loans, financial aid, have developed online videos that financial aid, have developed online videos that

With the economy worsening and the price tag for a college education continuing to rise, parental angst is growing. Against that backdrop, Bill Berg, vice president for enrollment, and Forrest Stuart, director of financial aid, have developed online videos that addresses: financing and higher education. Both are linked on <www.furman.edu/if/videos.htm>

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Mary Lou Merkt, vice president for business affairs, says that a year ago members of the university’s trustee investment committee, predicting turbulence ahead, began reallocating some of the university’s endowment to cash.

Also, the school’s conservative endowment spending policy helped to buffer the blow this fiscal year. But Merkt is aware that economic conditions my woman.

“We saved ourselves this year,” says Merkt. “Next year, we may be out of firepower.” As the credit crunch tightens and portfolio returns shrink, consumer spending is trending down. Particularly on annual gift pledges,” he says. “Many of our donors are being affected by layoffs and cutbacks by their employers. We are working hard to remain a philanthropic priority to them.”

While some non-profit fundraisers are turning down the volume during the economic slowdown, Gatchell says his office has been more active than ever.

“We have spent a lot of time this fall ramping up the thank-yous, not ramping up the asks. We share stories about how we’re being good stewards of their money,” he says. “We’re making contacts and building for the comeback. Times will get better.”

On a more positive note, early returns show that college-bound students and their parents continue to value a quality private-school education. Early Decision applications to Furman this fall totaled 819, second only to the 863 ED applications last fall. And the quality of the applicant pool continues to be strong with the average SAT score for the 2009 group up 10 points.

According to a recent article posted by Inside Higher Ed, an online source for news, opinion and jobs, Early Decision applications at other private universities are also trending up. The University of Richmond and George Washington University, for example, reported that their Early Decision applicant pools were up 14 and 30 percent, respectively.

Bill Berg, interim vice president for enrollment, says that while requests for emergency financial aid have grown in recent months, pre-registration for the spring semester is strong. And he does not sense that the economic slowdown will have a significant impact on student retention this year.

Although 84 percent of Furman’s operating budget is derived from tuition and fees, administrators and trustees will be taking a hard look at costs for 2009-10 after the holiday break.

“We’re certainly mindful of shrinking incomes and net worth at home,” says Merkt. “Our goal in setting tuition increases will be to find an appropriate balance between the need for revenue to sustain the quality of our academic programs and the financial strains many Furman families are now facing.”
A civil discourse on civil discourse

Main topic of on-campus discussion this year has been on-campus discussion: How Furman manages disagreements, articulates differences and grapples with conflict. Historically, Furman has had no stranger to controversy, but on-campus conflict, it seems, has been a constant bedfellow the past two years.

A spring 2007 performance by the Kinsey Sicks, a provocative, cross-dressing dance troupe, sparked a campus debate about the appropriate use of student fees. Last spring President Bush’s appearance at Commencement ignited a flood of criticism, much of it directed at a protest planned and supported by some faculty.

In both cases there were on-campus petitions and counter-petitions. The arguments also spilled into the Greenville community, where they played out on discussion boards and editorial pages. And in between the Kinsey Sicks and President Bush, Furman hosted a number of other colorful speakers that ruffled a few other feathers, such as Ann Coulter and James Carville.

Harry Shucker ’66, who retired last year as vice president for student services after a 40-year career at Furman, says a handful of issues have stoked the fires of controversy over the past several decades. The on-campus residence requirements stirred student protests in the late 1980s, as did the banning of national fraternities in the 1960s. But no issues have captivated the entire university community — faculty, staff and students — as much as the Kinsey Sicks, performance and Bush address.

“There have been some issues, but these [more recent] issues were back to back and they were contentious,” says Shucker. “This has been unusual.”

Much of the campus debate was played out through partially anonymous postings on FUNet, the internal campus Web site. While users were required to sign in before posting and could be identified internally if threats were made, they were allowed to post without signing their name.

Although some of the debate was substantive, the level of discourse became uncivil and personal at times. Tempers flared, and the FUNet comment board itself became a center of controversy.

Should the board be shut down? What about anonymous postings, respect for other viewpoints, freedom of speech?

Tom Kazee, provost and executive vice president, has formed a task force that is grappling with these issues and more.

“Specifically, the group will discuss ways in which Furman can better deal with disagreements and encourage responsible and constructive campus and community discourse,” says Kazee. “When there is a campus controversy, we are forced to confront issues that can be polarizing. When push comes to shove, these issues have the potential to make us very angry. And sometimes, we don’t always know how to respond to that.”

The group expects to share its recommendations with the university community by the end of the spring semester.

Paul Rasmussen, a psychology professor and expert on teen-age behavior, says the Internet has provided a forum in which people can express opinions without being articulated on anonymous message boards, forums where people can express opinions without compromising their standing in the establishment.

Unfortunately, the debate is not always polite. “The Internet has provided a forum in which it is easier to cross lines that would not be crossed in person,” says Scott Henderson, a professor of education and member of the “constructive disagreement” task force. “I think there need to be some ground rules for the way we discuss things. Furman is not a list serve or a local bar.”

To be sure, the Kinsey Sicks and Bush events, and the tone in which they were discussed, touched a raw nerve at Furman and created a divide. In November more than 60 students, faculty and staff attended “Engaging our Disagreements,” an interactive, moderated CLP program that was designed to foster dialogue and teach conflict-management strategies. Kazee says the program was the first step to bridging that divide and improving the tone of campus discourse.

The job of the task force will be to determine the next steps. As Kazee says, “The next time a controversy surfaces — and there will be a next time — we need to make sure we do a better job of dealing with it.”
A steady hand
Berg brings experience, reputation to new job

Bill Berg has been interim vice president for enrollment for seven months. During that time he’s jumped more hurdles than many in his position do in seven years. Since moving up a floor from his old office in the basement of the administration building, Berg has hired two directors (financial aid and admissions) and is now navigating the uncertain waters of marketing a very expensive product during an economic crisis.

While Berg is new to his position, he’s certainly no rookie. And he’s navigated turbulent waters before.

A 10-year veteran at Furman, Berg has worked in higher education for close to 30 years. Before coming to Furman as director of planning and institutional research, he served 13 years at Rhodes in a similar capacity.

Prior to that, the University of Connecticut graduate worked four years at DePauw University (Indiana) in admissions and financial aid.

It was this wealth of experience, Berg’s grasp of Furman’s culture and his reputation as a collegial consensus builder that led to his appointment as interim vice president for enrollment last summer. In this position, Berg directs a staff of 25 that includes admissions, financial aid and student employment.

It was a job that, ironically, he did not seek. But as the university launched its search last year to replace Benny Walker, the committee did not feel comfortable offering the position to any of the candidates in the applicant pool.

With the school year fast approaching, the group offered the job (on an interim basis) to Berg.

“We were very fortunate to have someone of his experience here,” says Tim Kazee, provost and executive vice president.

“We have not missed a beat with Bill. It’s really unusual to have someone in house who can step up and handle things the way he has.”

HEC chair Bill Pierce, a member of the search committee, says Berg had enhanced his reputation for being thorough and thoughtful as director of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Self-Study, an exhausting one-year review and evaluation of university programs.

Berg also played pivotal roles in two far-reaching university initiatives: the 2005 strategic plan and the adoption of the new academic calendar and curriculum, herculean efforts that required meticulous planning, research and consensual decision-making.

“I have a very high comfort level with Bill,” says Pierce.

“He’s impressed me with his leadership. He invites full participation from all constituents. He’s very careful, detailed and thorough.”

Although Berg may be soft-spoken, Pierce points out that he can be assertive, recalling how his colleague navigated a divisive NCRA issue with grace and firmness.

As director of planning and institutional research, Berg played dual roles, immersing himself in the minutia of details and surveys while crafting far-ranging strategic plans. He’s using this skill set in his new job.

“I think we need to take a more strategic approach to enrollment,” he says. “This is where strategic planning and research can help.”

While the enrollment division has a reputation for being innovative and ahead of the curve, he says the department must continue to be creative in an increasingly competitive college landscape.

“The number of high school graduates who have plans to attend college is shrinking (due to population demographics),” says Berg. “The numbers in the Southeast are up slightly but they are down in the Northeast. So the schools in the Northeast will be recruiting here. Most of the increase will be driven by an increase in the Latino population. We need to strengthen our recruitment efforts with Latino students.”

Against this backdrop, Furman is often at a financial disadvantage when compared to peer institutions such as Wake Forest, Davidson and Richmond, which can provide more generous student aid packages.

“We can meet only 85 percent of financial need,” says Berg. “We need to develop a strategic use of financial aid in recruitment. We hope to improve our use of research and the coordination between admissions and financial aid.”

While some in higher education have predicted that a sour economy would lead to more high school students applying to less expensive, state-supported universities, Berg says early returns show that students and their parents continue to place a high value on a Furman education.

Early Decision applications to Furman this fall totaled 819, second only to the 863 ED applications last fall. And the quality of the applicant pool continues to be strong, with the average SAT score for the 2009 group up 10 points.

Fall inquiries reached a record level and campus visits have been level, despite rising fuel costs and travel cutbacks.

“These numbers lead us to expect that we’ll have a strong pool for Regular Decision as well,” says Berg.

Kazee says the university has contracted with an executive search firm and expects to interview candidates for the vice president for enrollment position this spring, with plans to have the position filled before the start of the 2009-10 academic year. Berg says he hopes to be a candidate for the job.
May Experience an early hit

With registration for the inaugural May Experience just weeks old, associate dean and university registrar Brad Barron is pleased.

More than 70 students have already registered for the optional three-week term. He anticipates having around 200 signed on before the registration period ends March 6.

“I have been surprised by how many are already registering,” he says. “Things are shaping up nicely.”

The May Experience, a part of the university’s new academic calendar and curriculum, helps students immerse themselves in a single topic without the competing influences of the fall and spring semesters. It runs May 11—29, and participating students take one two-credit course. The program is available for any returning student or graduating senior.

Barron says creative courses have piqued the interest of students. English professor Lynne Shackelford, for example, is taking students to the Birmingham, Ala., headquarters of Southern Living magazine, where they will study magazine production. Helen Lee Turner (Religion) is leading a course where participants will study—and may interview—former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. And study away opportunities are planned for Germany, China, Guatemala, Senegal, Scandinavia and El Salvador.

“One of the elements driving our early success is the unique nature of what will be studied. This is not traditional instruction,” says Barron. “In most cases the classes will be challenging and rewarding. It is shaping up nicely.”

W

The Office of Sustainability & Environmental Education:

- Our office is currently located in the lower level of the Infirmary. Next year, we will move into the Cliffs Cottage (<www.furmandcliffs.com>).
- You can reach us at 864.294.3655. The Center serves as a clearing house of ideas, projects and activities related to sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- Sustainability and climate change efforts are highlighted on Furman’s website at <http://ees.furman.edu>.
- ECO-MUSINGS

In recent years “sustainability” has become a crusade at Furman—and across the nation as well. But what does it mean? In simple terms, sustainability is a conscious effort to consider the resource needs of future generations while meeting the needs of the present generation. In other words, promoting sustainable ways of living means being attentive to the needs of our children and grandchildren as well as ourselves. It means taking the “long view.”

Over ten years ago Furman formally adopted sustainability as one of its primary strategic goals. Sustainability was a major emphasis of the university’s strategic plan adopted in 1997, and in 2001 the Board of Trustees unanimously agreed that the university should promote “sustainability through educational programs, campus operations/construction practices and public awareness initiatives.” The university’s commitments to sustainability and environmental stewardship have encompassed campus operations, purchasing, the academic program, and community-based research and service learning.

Since 2001 Furman has assumed a leadership position in the national effort to promote sustainability. But there is much more to be done. We want to weave the principles and promises of sustainability throughout the fabric of university life. We also want our graduates to practice environmental stewardship and lead sustainable lives.

As the first director of Furman’s Center for Sustainability and Environmental Education, I have the privilege of promoting the university’s Climate Action Plan. Since graduating from Furman in 1992, I have spent much of my career studying how sustainability interacts with society, culture and nature; now I have the opportunity to help champion and coordinate Furman’s efforts to embed sustainability in everyday life.

My first five months in this new role have been very fulfilling—and very busy. It is truly amazing how many activities are blossoming across the campus and in the community. Perhaps the most significant of those activities is Furman’s involvement in the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) Leadership Circle (<www.acupcc.org>). In the spring of 2007 President Shulman was one of the first college presidents to sign the climate commitment. Since then almost 600 presidents have signed the agreement. The university has launched numerous climate-change initiatives in the past two years, including the construction of the $63 million Charles Townes Center for Science as a living laboratory for energy conservation and sustainability.

Other initiatives include the Cliffs Cottage/Center for Sustainability, the creation of the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Education; changes in the curriculum to include courses dealing with sustainability issues; the retrofitting of the lakeside cabins into eco-cottages for student housing; and various operational efforts to reduce energy use. More recently, we have expanded and reorganized our Sustainability Planning Group to be a Sustainability Studies and Planning Council, which will spearhead the next stage of Furman’s Climate Commitment, the development of a Climate Action Plan by September 15, 2009.

Even as we celebrate our progress toward greater sustainability, we continue to explore new initiatives. A bright future for our children and grandchildren demands that we be more careful stewards of our environment. So please join us on the journey as we strive to meet the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. Our lives—and those of our children and grandchildren—depend on it.

—Angela Hallace
director of sustainability and environmental education
White Oaks goes green

Through academic programs, green building practices, recycling efforts and conservation, Furman has developed a national reputation as a champion of sustainability. So it seemed odd that President David Shi, who has been a driving force in the sustainable movement, lived in the most energy-inefficient structure of all Furman buildings. – White Oaks.

Constructed in 1957 by Charles E. Daniel, a business giant and philanthropist, the mansion was bequeathed to Furman in 1992 and has served as the president’s home for 16 years. The 10,000 square-foot home, which includes a pool, guest house and gardens, is located about a mile from campus and has hosted ambassadors, governors and presidents.

But its high ceilings, marble floors and antiquated design make it expensive to heat. Jimmy Looper, building automation system control technician, says the annual electric bill for White Oaks was about $25,000. While a typical classroom building costs about $2,000 equipment budget, the department gradually added a rowing machine, a stair climber and a universal multi-station resistance training machine.

The Furman Fitness Center was officially established in 1994 and began offering a limited number of memberships to the community. But the demand for a comprehensive campus wellness facility continued to grow, and in late 2007, the PAC began a much needed expansion and renovation project.

These renovations are almost complete.

“With a $2,000 equipment budget, the department gradually added a rowing machine, a stair climber and a universal multi-station resistance training machine. The Furman Fitness Center was officially established in 1994 and began offering a limited number of memberships to the community. But the demand for a comprehensive campus wellness facility continued to grow, and in late 2007, the PAC began a much needed expansion and renovation project. These renovations are almost complete.”

Some of the new features include:

- Relocated and expanded fitness center. The Fitness Center, now two levels, has moved into the area previously occupied by the large gym. Seven ellipticals, four treadmills, two resident booths, and numerous accessories have been added to the already well-equipped facility.

- New therapy pool and salt water sanitation system. The diving well has been converted into a warm water therapy pool used primarily by Furman Sports Medicine.

- The therapy pool and lap pool have replaced chlorine with a new salt water sanitation system. The new system is gentler on the eyes, skin and swimwear and is safer than using chlorine.

- Expanded, air-conditioned locker rooms. The locker rooms have been refurbished with new lockers, carpeting and air-conditioning. Participants may bring a lock for use while using the facility. Private showers are also available for convenience.

- New card and keypad-controlled entry. To enhance participant safety and security, a valid Furman ID is required for access to the activity (non-classroom) portions of the building. A keypad is expected to be installed soon that will allow users to enter their seven-digit Furman identification number for access. The pool, Fitness Center, dance studio and gym are also now under video surveillance.

- Expanded dance studio. The dance studio on the second level has expanded and renovated to accommodate growing group exercise classes and other programs. The Fitness Center continues to offer a wide variety of classes, such as Yoga, Pilates, Body Fit Resistance Training, Jazz and Sculpt, Indoor Cycling, Cardio Power and Step, Aerobics, all for a modest fee.

- University faculty and staff are heaping praise on the upgraded facilities. “I have really enjoyed the new locker room facilities and shower set-up — open, attractive, functional, well-conditioned space,” says Bill Ranson (EES). “The aerobic center is more open and inviting, with views to the outside. I am mostly a runner, but an injury has kept me indoors lately.”

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Simple Ways to Save: Conservation Ideas

Turn Off Electricity. Turn off everything not in use: lights, TV’s, computers, etc.

Sleep. Activate “sleep” features on computers and office equipment that power down when not in use for a while. Turn off equipment during longer periods of non-use to cut energy costs and improve longevity.

Unplug appliances or use a power strip when not in use. Many appliances draw power even when they are turned off. The Department of Energy estimates that 75 percent of the electricity powering home electronics is consumed while they are turned off.

Replace. Check the furnace or air conditioner (AC) filter each month, and clean or replace as needed. Dirty filters block air flow through your heating and cooling systems, increasing your energy bill and shortening the equipment’s life.

Drive Less and Drive Smart. Plan ahead to combine errands and carpool when you can.

Dress appropriately for the weather, and set your thermostat to the lowest possible comfortable setting.

Bundle Up on winter nights. Put an extra blanket on the bed and turn down your thermostat more.

Stay Out of Hot Water. About 15 percent of an average home energy bill goes to heating water. To save hot water, take five minute showers instead of baths. Do only full loads when using the clothes washer or dishwasher. Use cold water for laundry and save up to $65 a year—detergents formulated for cold water get clothes just as clean.

Warm Water Setting. Lower the temperature on your water heater. It should be set at “warm,” so that a thermometer held through running water reads 130 degrees.

Turn Off Water when brushing your teeth, shaving, etc. Washing only full loads of dishes or laundry also saves water.

PAC renovations meet growing demand

Around 1989, the Herman W. Lay Physical Activities Center (PAC) Fitness Center was created with a mere two Monark stationary bicycles that were brought in for injured students who could not run. At the time, the sole activity for students enrolled in Health and Exercise Science (HES) 10, “Wellness Concepts,” was outdoor running.

Soon afterward students and faculty started knocking on the door of Bill Pierce, department chair, and asking to use the new bicycles. With a measly $2,000 equipment budget, the department gradually added a rowing machine, a stair climber and a universal multi-station resistance training machine.

The Furman Fitness Center was officially established in 1994 and began offering a limited number of memberships to the community. But the demand for a comprehensive campus wellness facility continued to grow, and in late 2007, the PAC began a much needed expansion and renovation project.

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Athletics

For the first time, the Paladin Club utilized an outside firm to handle our direct mailing at the beginning of the current fiscal year. As you open your mailing, you should have received a bonus — your own, personalized address labels complete with the “Diamond F” logo. We hope that you are enjoying your labels as you proudly show off your Paladin pride.

Take a look at www.furmanpaladinclub.org and you’ll notice a lengthy list of first-time members, many of them faculty and staff. If you did not receive the mailing this year and would like to check on your status with the Paladin Club, please contact our office at 294.3469. Be assured that EVERY penny of your donation goes straight to athletic scholarships and is 100 percent tax deductible.

We realize that 2008 has been a difficult year financially for many. Please remember that the Paladin Club and our student-athletes appreciate your gift, no matter the amount. If you have not yet given your yearly gift to the Paladin Club and would like to count it in your 2008 giving, please make sure you postmark your gift by December 31.

The Paladin Club is pleased to report that a Southern Conference-leading nine Furman athletic teams achieved a graduation success rate (GSR) of 90 percent, and Furman’s football program ranked in the top 10 percent nationally in GSR, according to the NCAA. Sports posting a perfect 100 percent GSR were men’s cross country and field, men’s golf, men’s tennis, women’s cross country/track and field, women’s golf, women’s soccer, softball, women’s tennis and volleyball. Furman’s overall GSR score of 95 places the university in the top 10 percent nationally. These are perfect examples of why the Paladin Club is so important!

Blue Shoes continues to gain momentum each year as we held both a spring and a fall 5K fundraiser. Blue Shoes is the name given to your scholarship endowment set up to raise support for Furman’s track and field and cross country programs. Now in its third year, the endowment boasts more than $2.2 million and has provided four new scholarships since its inception.

The Blue Shoes Weekend October 10–11 proved to be an exciting one. It kicked off on Friday with a pasta dinner under the stars at Furman amphitheater, where more than 400 people enjoyed hearing 2008 Olympic bronze medalist David Oliver speak of his rise to Olympic glory. For the first time, the Furman Corporate Shield 5K joined forces with the Blue Shoes 5K to host Saturday’s first event. More than 400 runners and walkers took to the cross country course. Afterwards, the Furman Invitational Cross Country meet kicked off with the collegiate and high school races.

Mark your calendars now — the spring Blue Shoes Weekend will take place April 10–11. The weekend’s festivities will kick off with a pasta dinner at the Hyatt. Guest speaker for the evening will be former marathoner Bill Rodgers.

—Rebekah Gregory

Enrollment

The Admission Office had a change in leadership this summer, following Woody O’Cain’s departure to become vice president for enrollment at Erkene College. Brad Pochard took over as director of admission on October 1. Brad comes to us from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, where he served for eight years in the admission office and as director since 2006.

Other new faces in the office include first-year admission counselors Michael Dostle and Andy Waters, both 2008 Furman graduates.

Jen Bishop Kerscher is on family leave following the birth of her first child in September. Filling in for Jeny is another 2008 Furman grad, Lucy Conaway. In January, Ashley Sang will join the staff as admission services coordinator, replacing Mary Hearne, who was named executive vice to the president for enrollment in July.

Collectively, the admission staff spent nearly 300 days on the road this fall, visiting high schools and college fairs from Vermont to California and from Chicago to Mumbai. The pool of applications for Early Decision was strong, both in number and quality. The Office of Financial Aid also has new leadership. Forrest Stuart joined us this summer as the new director. Forrest previously served as director of financial aid at Rhodes College, and also worked in admissions and financial aid at Birmingham Southern College.

Among Forrest’s many goals for the office is improving efficiency in the processing of financial aid information for students and parents. For example, students and parents will see much more individual financial aid information presented on the current WebAdvisor site. In addition, students will be able to use electronic means to see what documents the Office of Financial Aid needs from the family to complete the awarding process and will be able to respond to those requirements online.

The Student Employment Office oversees all institutional student employment funds and federal work/study funds. They’ve been working this fall to test a paperless time card system for student workers. They also will be implementing the new-every system which has recently been mandated by the state of South Carolina. This system verifies every student employee with the Social Security Administration.

Faye Jordan, director of Student Employment, will complete a two-year term as the vice president of Administration for the National Student Employment Association on December 31. The association established an award, the Faye Jordan/Heinemann Award, to recognize her for her dedication and leadership in student employment.

—John Roberts

Marketing P.R.

Our office has tackled several new projects this fall. The “High Noon” lunch series, which was launched in October, has been widely popular (article on page 8). Greg Carroll (vice president), John Roberts (internal and electronic communications), Vince Moore (media relations), Nancy Spiller (creative services) and Marie Newman-Rogers (department assistant) have all worked these events.

Many thanks to our faculty who have helped to make this outreach program so successful.

Ryan Fisher (Web development) has partnered with a local Web development firm (Orange Coat) to redesign the Furman Web site. Work on the herculean project began recently. Look for more information later this summer or fall.

Ryan and John worked closely with Soren King and George Leventis of Computing and Information Services to phase Punt into SharePoint, the university’s Web content management system. Generally the conversion went smoothly. Greg, Nancy and Virginia traveled to Chicago during November to deliver papers at an American Marketing Association meeting. John’s work was titled “Inside Baseball: Communicating effectively and efficiently with your internal audience.”

Nancy and Greg’s paper was named “Going Green: A differentiator or a way of life?”

Many of you know that Chandra Dillard (community relations) was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. Although Chandra will be making regular trips to Columbia this winter and spring, she anticipates keeping a busy Furman-related work schedule. We know she’ll do a great job in Columbia.

Lastly, we are excited to announce that Stacy Seigler (production) and her husband, Michael, are expecting their first child — a boy! — early in 2009.

—John Roberts

Mahone, Katie Fairman, Rebecca Garrett and Ben Jones has worked especially hard this semester to ensure that our clients receive the utmost in customer service and that the UC remains the most vibrant and exciting place on campus.

The semester began with an AMAZING Paladin Nites program, attended by more than 800 students, and featured popular comedian Michael Dean Estes, FJ Famous Bingo, a FUSAB movie, interactive attractions and great food. For the first time, Student Activities & the University Center participated in Family Weekend events, sponsoring comedian Ron G. and welcoming more than 325 parents and students to the show.

Comedian Mary Mack wrapped up the fall semester “Paladin Nites Presents” with a rollicking advising FUSAB on its many fall programs, which have included a trip to the Skytop Apple Dangos, a trip to popular shows at the Peace Center, the “History of Rock and Roll in the 1950s” presentation by Barry Drake, and the always popular hypnotism show of Tom O’Duka.

Amber Lollis has taken on new duties as the University Center reservationsist. She stays busy making sure that all clients needing to use our facilities are satisfied.

Be on the lookout for a new and dynamic Web site in the spring, as well as some exciting new programs for the campus community!

—Scott Derrick

Student Activities and the UC

The new school year brought a new calendar to Furman, and the Office of Student Activities has been moving at light speed since August! The student manager crew at the University Center, comprised of Nick Basinger, Alissa Ricci, Becca Jacobs, Briana
Biology
Travis Perry has confirmed that one of the cougars from the Furman Cougars project has cubs. The cougar was recaptured and recollared with the help of grant money from the Oregon Zoo Future for Wildlife Conservation Fund and a donation from the New York State Zoo. The collar will send GPS data to a Web portal that will be available to furman students conducting independent research and class projects. Details at www.furmcougar.blogspot.com.

Center for Teaching and Engaged Learning
Diane Boyd is co-editor of the National Research Council’s Eighteenth-Century Women Transforming Public and Private University (Delaware Press, 2008). Mike Wininski, with Brian Goess and Greg Springersteen from the Department of Chemistry, received the 2008 Innovation Award in Education for their Bio-organic Wiki Textbook project. The Innovation Awards Program recognizes technological excellence and innovation in the South Carolina Upstate.

Chemistry
Tim Hanks is chair of the National Science Foundation’s Research Experience for Undergraduates Leadership Group and a purring as director of Furman’s REU site. He recently helped to author two published articles: “Halogen Bonding with Dihalides and Interhalides” and “Synthesis and Optical Properties of Chiral Polyacetylenes.” Brian Goess has authored a chapter title “The McMurry Coupling” in Named Organic Reactions. He also co-authored two other chapters: “p-Toluenesulfonfyl Hydrazide Update” in Encyclopedia of Reagents for Organic Synthesis (online) and “Synthesis of a 10,000-membered Library of Molecules Resembling 10,000-membered Library” in the SCGS website.

Earth and Environmental Sciences
John Garvahan completed the geologic mapping of the Landrum 7.5-minute quadrangle and published results as a Geologic Quadrangle Map through the South Carolina Geological Survey, Department of Natural Resources. The map is available through the SCGS website.

Education
George Lipscomb and several senior education majors gave a presentation titled “Pay It Forward: Invigorating Instruction through Local S.C. History” at the South Carolina Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference Oct. 3 in Columbia. He is in his second year on the Notable Trade Books Committee sponsored by the National Council for the Social Studies and the Children’s Book Council.

English

History
David Spear delivered a lecture at London’s British Museum at a Bayeux Tapestry conference last July. Courtney Tollison recently attended the American Association of State and Local History Conference in Rochester, N.Y., to accept a national Award of Merit for her video documentary, “Threats of Victory: Upcountry SC During World War II.” Several majors assisted her with the research and oral histories collected in preparation of the documentary. Monica Black’s book, Death and the Making of Three Berliners, has been accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press. Her article “Death and the Making of West Berlin, 1948–1961,” will appear in the January issue of the British journal German History. Another article, “Reburying and Rebuilding: Reflecting on Proper Burial in Berlin after ‘Zero Hour’,” appeared last August in the volume Between Mass Death and Individual Loss: The Place of the Dead in Twentieth-Century Germany (Alon Confino, Paul Betts, and Dirk Schummann, eds.)

Library
Janis Bandelin attended the American Library Association Conference in Anaheim, CA, June 26–July 2. She served on the board of directors for the Association of College & Research Libraries, the largest division ofALA, and on the board of directors for the Partnership Among South Carolina-Academic Libraries (PASCAL) consortium. DebbieLee Landi was elected to the Board of Governors for the Academy of South Carolina Authors. The Board of Governors identifies and recognizes the state’s distinguished writers, living and deceased; it also offers literary fellowships to emerging writers, poets and dramatists.

Mathematics
Doug Rall is a co-author of Distance-Balanced Graphs,” which appeared last December in the journal Annals of Combinatorics; and “On the Upper Total Dominion Number of Cartesian Products of Graphs,” which was published in the Journal of Combinatorial Optimization last year. He also co-authored a book, Topics in Graph Theory: Graphs and Their Cartesian Product, published in October by A.K. Peters, Ltd., of Wellesley, Mass.

Modern Languages and Literatures
Ronald Friis has signed a contract for Doble via: Comunicación en español, an intermediate-level Spanish book that he is writing with a colleague from Campbell University. Jennifer Case, he is also organizing the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference, which will be held at Furman in October 2009. Mariannne Halloran-Bessy published “Vassilis Alexakis: bilinguisme, l’imagination et auto-transformation. Parcours linguistique et identité identitaire” in Essays in French Literature and Culture (Issue 45, November 2008). She presented “Déplacements géographiques et fragilité spatiale dans l’œuvre de Vassilis Alexakis” at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Convention in Louisville, Ky., in November. Halloran-Bessy also presented “Itinéraires identitaires, malaise existentiel et démarche auto-étrofique dans l’œuvre de Vassilis Alexakis” at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in October.

Music
Bob Chesebro attended the 2008 Clarnernet held in Kansas City July 2–6. He also collaborated with former Furman student Tod Kirstonter to write the book The Everyday Virtuoso, published in 2008. The book is a structured approach to practice techniques for collegiate and advanced high school students.

Political Science
A series of downtown, lunch-time public lectures launched in October are helping to connect faculty to the Greenville community. And they’ve become extremely popular, too. To date, about 200 have attended the informal “High Noon” lectures. The format is simple. Attendees are encouraged to bring a lunch. Furman provides the beverage and the professor.

Generally, the pundit delivers a short lecture about a current event, which is followed by a question-and-answer session. The series is hosted at FYI (the Furman-YMCA Interactive) Center at 612 South Main Street.

Tom Kazee, provost and executive vice president, launched the series with an October 2 talk about “The South and the 2008 Presidential Election.” During the weeks leading up to the election, political science professors Akan Malici, Danielle Vinson, Brent Nelsen and Liz Smith also spoke. Although attendance varied between 20 and 40 people, numbers generally increased each week as word of the lecture series spread.

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“Tom Kazee speaks to a packed house about the Federal Government’s financial bail-out initiative.

“Taylor took the good ones! But, I also think there should be more activities involving the Greenville community.”
—Marvin Manifo ’12, Biology Major

“I think our top priority should be stabilizing our financial situation. Next in line should be a return of the Queen Alverson pontoon boat.”
—Scott Dorris, Student Life

“I think our top priority should be continuing to create the best educational environment in these tough economic times.”
—Chandra Ziffer, Marketing & PR

“I would say trying to increase campus diversity and continuing our sustainability efforts.”
—Taylor Krumsey ’12, Physics Major

“Which was — you guessed it — the economy. More than 60 were on hand December 3 for “The ‘New’ Washington and Economic Picture: Rosy or Gloomy?” a lecture by economics professor (and director of international studies) Kailash Khandke. Thomas Smythe and Ken Peterson also delivered December lectures on the stock market and oil prices, respectively.

“People are now arriving early and reserving their seats,” says Carroll. “We are beginning to run out of room.”

Tom Smythe speaks to a packed house about the Federal Government’s financial bail-out initiative.

Carroll says the “high noon” series is a perfect match with the mission of the FYI, which is to help give the university greater downtown exposure. In addition to the lectures, FYI has hosted receptions, art exhibits and other events.

Coming Soon at High Noon...

January 21
The Shape of a Healthy Diet
Presented by Kelly Frazier from the Department of Health and Exercise Science (HES) at Furman.
High noon programs in this series will be repeated at 6 p.m. Mondays at FYI with Alicia Powers of Furman’s HES Department presenting.

February 4
The Shape of a Healthy Diet
Navigating the Supermarket
Starting an Effective Exercise Program
Presented by Kelly Frazier from the Department of Health and Exercise Science (HES) at Furman.
High noon programs in this series will be repeated at 6 p.m. Mondays at FYI with Alicia Powers of Furman’s HES Department presenting.