I

n March, Ryan Fisher, Furman’s Director of Web Development, surveyed the university’s prospective student pool. He wanted to know how the teenagers were accessing the Furman webpage.

“What he found “really astounded me.”

Thirty-six percent of the respondents said they used smart phones as their primary device to surf the internet.

“If we need to do any heavy browsing most of us will go to our desktop, but young people are very comfortable with smart phones. They grew up with the devices and are used to the small screens,” says Fisher.

He knew Furman had a problem. Try accessing the current Furman webpage on your phone or a small tablet and you’ll see. The text is tiny and navigation is clumsy. Still, the university is not alone. Most colleges don’t have websites that are friendly to phones.

Early next year, though, Furman will leap the digital divide when it debuts a new website that has what those in the information technology field call “responsive design.”

This sort of design is programmed to reshape content to custom-fit the screens. For example, those using a mobile browser on a phone may see a one-columned website with a single photo. However, another user accessing the same site through a personal computer will view three columns and multiple photos.

“Notre Dame was the first to make the move about a year ago and they have done it really well,” says Fisher. “Furman is on the crest of a wave of universities making this move. In about a year the wave will crash and you will see many more colleges moving in this direction.”

A key component of this shift to mobile formatting is Edge, the university’s new digital magazine. The university partnered with Merge, a Greenville-based web design firm, to develop the site. Edge will debut after the holidays and packages news, features and photos in an online book format that is easily navigated by mobile browsers.

Most of Furman’s content (articles for a variety of print publications, photos and videos) will be featured in Edge. These posts, too, will eventually feed to other university websites.

Matt McFadden, director of marketing for Merge, says the edition-based method of news and content distribution, where media outlets package and push content to an audience in printed copies, has been cast to the curb. Today, consumers pull content from the web and want it in real time.

“What Furman is doing with Edge is really nice,” says McFadden. “It gives you a publication experience while most colleges are simply posting PDFs,” he says. “Moving away from the edition-producing mindset is tough and not many can do it. Furman is doing it well.”

Furman’s Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations Mark Kelly says the website design and digital magazine help the university speak to prospective students through a medium they are comfortable with. The project also places Furman on the front line of emerging technologies.

“Digital publishing is a train quickly running down the track,” he says. “We want to be at the station when it gets here. These are important student recruitment and yield tools.”

Fisher says the project also positions the university for the coming of another mobile boom: tablets. With lower priced devices such as Google’s Android and Amazon’s Kindle entering the market, tablet use is going mainstream. In fact, tablet sales are expected to crest 100 million this year while PC sales will decline for the first year. Too, industry experts predict the number of users accessing the web through tablets to surpass those using desktops by 2014.

“Before, consumers only had the Apple iPad and they were over $500,” says Fisher. “Now there are several tablets starting at $200 and they, along with iPad, are the big gifts this year.”

—John Roberts

A team approach

Guest coaches program helps professors mentor, support outside the classroom

A
fter graduating from Lee University in 1999, Aaron Simmons took an unconventional approach to selecting a graduate school.

A Florida native, he grew up pulling for the Florida State football team, one of the top programs in the nation throughout the 1990s. But he didn’t feel fully vested in the Seminoles.

“I felt the only way to be a true fan was to be an alumnus of the school, so I chose Florida State,” he laughs. “It’s definitely not something I would recommend to my students.”

Athletics have played a large role in Simmons’ life. He played intramurals as an undergraduate and served as a faculty mentor to the baseball team at Division III Hendrix College in Arkansas, where he taught before coming to Furman in 2011. Since joining the philosophy department, Simmons has been a regular at Paladin sporting events. He’s especially known for his enthusiastic support at home basketball games.

Most recently, he’s found a way to blend athletics with the cerebral and community pursuits of campus life by helping to found the Furman Faculty Guest Coaches program.

(continued on page 3)
A big Furman footprint

Gordon has founded academic programs, is driving force behind Riley Institute

“...and other topics of national concern. Its numerous student-centered offerings include a fellows-in-residence program that has attracted leading policymakers and academics to campus. Former Greenville Mayor Max Heller was the first to participate. As a professor Gordon knew that study abroad trips, internships in Washington, D.C., and participation in academic conferences with national and international leaders could be life-changing for students. Such participatory programs ignite academic passions and spark career choices. They turn average students into lifelong learners.”

“The hands-on programs really moved our kids forward,” he said. “But these programs cost money and not everyone could afford them. So what we found ourselves doing was educating a ‘series of kids who could afford it.”

In the mid-1990s, Gordon hatched the idea of the Riley Institute, a program that would bring the world to those who could not afford to see it.

“Our department [political science] has always been interested in educating all our students,” said Gordon. “We were all raised middle class. We wanted to create conditions at Furman where any of our students, wealthy or not, could come here, graduate with a superior, richly textured education, be able to get into the best graduate programs, and compete with anyone anywhere at the highest level.”

More recently, the institute’s influence has expanded beyond the campus gates. It has launched a variety of off-campus initiatives and programs — the Diversity Leaders Initiative, the Center for Education Policy and Leadership, and Wilkins Leadership Awards among them — that promote diversity, educational improvement and political civility in South Carolina. Gordon, a hard-charging, Honda-loving idealist with a knack for networking and fundraising, and Richard Riley, a respected former South Carolina Governor and U.S. Secretary of Education for whom the institute is named, have been the perfect partners.

“Dick is so nice to everyone and everyone loves him. He is so committed to this university, our state, and this country. He has woven across the aisles. He helps us attract the very best speakers,” said Gordon. “They come here to speak because they love Dick and they come here for a minimal cost. The successes we have had are a reflection of Dick Riley’s decency, hard work and lifelong commitment to public service.”

Says Riley of Gordon: “If you are around him, you become energized. He gets people moving in the right direction. He is involved mentally and spiritually, and everything he does gets you excited. Don really has a strong commitment to doing what he thinks is right.”

Gordon credits much of his personality to upbringing and genetics.

His mother, Tea, was a award-winning teacher and reading specialist. Trained as a biologist, she created in her children a love for nature and for education. She was a public school teacher for 51 years.

His father, Lloyd, was a teacher and coach who had the ability to squeeze great seasons from athletically unmatched teams through motivation, communication and hard work. The elder Gordon was also an entrepreneur. He ran a small town barbecue and grocery store and never met a stranger.

Talk around the Gordon house was varied and continuous: science, current events, politics and sports.

A talented athlete and student, Gordon skipped grades and graduated from high school two years early. He attended Georgia Tech to run track. After a freshman-year knee injury, he transferred to South Florida, where he earned B.A. degrees in psychology and political science in 1964. By 1969, the year he came to Furman, Gordon had obtained a master's degree and finished his Ph.D. coursework in political science from the University of Florida.

For nearly three decades, Gordon made the two-hour commute to Furman from Rock Hill, S.C., where his wife served on the faculty at Winthrop. During the week Gordon uses a tiny rented apartment on East North Street. The couple has recently moved to Mount Pleasant, so his commute is now three hours.

A cell phone, which transforms Gordon's Honda into a workspace, makes the long drives bearable.

“I really don’t even notice I’m driving until I get through Columbia,” he said. “I am getting work done.”

The Riley Institute, he says, has never enjoyed the deep pockets that similar programs at large state-funded universities have. Although Furman provides some financial support, much of the institute’s budget is sourced through government grants, foundation support, and private and corporate donations.

Partnering with the development office and with Richard Riley, the institute is now raising to raise approximately $5 million to create an endowment. Income from the endowment will support operating expenditures, provide a firmer financial footing and, as Gordon puts it, allow the institute to “continue to do good things.”

“Dick Riley says to go out each day and do good things,” said Gordon. “The Riley Institute staff comes to work knowing what we are doing is good for Furman’s students, for our school, and good for the people of South Carolina. That keeps us going.”

— John Roberts
A team approach *(continued from page 1)*

when I get interested in what interests my students, they get interested in what interests me in the classroom.”
— Aaron Simmons

Building a tradition, one dart at a time

From popping gum right before a toss to calling someone a rookie or teasing them about errant attempts, trash talking is embraced.

The concept is fairly simple. Faculty coaches are selected by the student-athletes of each varsity team. The professors check in on practices, attend some home and away games, and generally act as supportive friends and fans for the teams. They are even welcomed on the sidelines.

But you won’t see a faculty coach calling a post pattern on third down and four. “We are there in a strictly supportive role,” Simmons says.

The program is modeled after the Faculty Fellows initiative Simmons participated in at Hendrix.

“The idea is to encourage faculty engagement with students in all areas of their lives. It is part of a commitment to educate the entire person,” he says. “The faculty members are able to get to know the students outside the classroom and develop good friendships with the coaches. If I have a student who is struggling, the hope is that I have a personal relationship with a coach who I can call. I hope that it will develop into a fantastic program of mutual support here at Furman.”

The program, which currently includes 15 faculty members, is designed to build relationships and cultivate a culture where learning and development permeate all aspects of campus life.

“When I get interested in what interests my students, they get interested in what interests me in the classroom,” says Simmons.

Simmons began piecing together the plan with athletic academic coordinator Rob Carton. Last spring they Zhoued the idea to coaches and administrators, who embraced it.

Coaches and players worked together to select and invite a faculty coach to join their squads. Some sports, such as football, have several coaches (Simmons, Suzi Simmons, Marion Martin and Bruce Clemens). Smaller programs, such as men’s golf (Kirk Kanway) and softball (Tom Smythe), have one.

Football coach Bruce Fowler says the greatest benefit of the program is that it brings different groups together. “We all have our schedules and our jobs, which can be specific. Our faculty are working very hard in the classroom and our coaches are doing their jobs,” says Fowler. “This gives us a chance to get to know one another better. The more we can come together to work on the common goal of educating and developing our students, the stronger our university will be.”

Last month, for example, Fowler, at Simmons’ request, worked to allow football players to attend a lecture on gender violence. “We had about 40 football players attend,” says Simmons. “That kind of dynamic, having coaches and faculty working together to develop our students, is part of what makes Furman such an amazing community.”

— John Roberts

M any academic departments have traditions.

Some, for example, dress up each year for Halloween. For others, it’s an annual dinner or outing. Theatre Arts at Furman, though, may have the most longstanding tradition — a weekly dart game.

The event originated in 1975, when Jay Oney ’78 was a student working on “The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia.” The set included a dartboard in an old saloon, and the students would throw darts to make the board look used. When the play completed its run, no one was ready to retire the dartboard. Students and faculty continued to play, and eventually theatre darts was born.

The game went in and out of vogue after Oney graduated, but it became a departmental staple when he returned as a faculty member in 1996. Now the faculty can be found in the scene shop every morning, sipping espresso and playing darts with students.

Every now and then the game gets huge, with 14 people, and those tend to become chaotic,” Oney said. “But it’s typically a lot smaller than that.”

The group plays a game called golf, where the goal is to get the lowest score on each of the 18 “holes.” But there’s some Furman flair thrown in: “If you throw out of turn, you get a rookie mark next to your name. If the dart bounces back to you, you get to throw again. If you don’t get a red score during the game, you get a butt-kicking. Literally.

There are even ways to score zero points, which isn’t possible in a standard game. You get nothing if a dart hits the Barbie nailed next to the dartboard, or if you hit a bullseye.

“Christine Aeschliman Forrester ’03 came back with her husband for Homecoming,” said theatre arts professor Rhett Bryan. “She wasn’t a particularly good dart thrower and she went 17 holes with no red score. We were all primed for the kicking. On the last dart on the last hole, she threw a bullseye. There was so much screaming and yelling we had to close both doors between stage and shop because we were so loud.”

For the department, darts is much more than a game. It’s a chance for faculty and students to get to know each other, build trust and perfect their craft.

“There are a number of things about our department that have a family atmosphere, and the dart game is certainly one of them,” Oney said.

From popping gum right before a toss to calling someone a rookie or teasing them about errant attempts, trash talking is embraced. It has a larger theatrical purpose, too.

“Trying to throw people off their game helps them learn how to focus,” Bryan said. “In the theatre, you have to shut out environmental and social distractions and focus on the play.”

The playful taunts and teasing don’t damage relationships. If anything, they build them.

“Ensemble building is something that’s incredibly helpful in productions,” said Tyler Mitchell ’13. “It’s important to be able to trust the people you’re working with, and this is a camaraderie-building game.”

The spirit of camaraderie permeates everything in the playhouse. From the mementos of past plays to the easy banter between faculty and students and the stories that get passed down from class to class, it’s easy to see why students and faculty seem at home in the Playhouse.

“Students come back with their families and they point to these things and say, ‘I was a part of this,’” Bryan said. “It creates a sense of belonging.”

— Kylee Perez
When Jane entered the Furman University Eating Lean (FUEL) Dietary Intervention early in 2012, she was exercising regularly and using blood pressure and cholesterol-lowering medication. Despite these efforts, many aspects of her blood pressure were still elevated—which increased her risk of chronic disease. She also discovered that she was at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. With the consent of her physician, she participated in FUEL in an attempt to improve these health outcomes.

The concept of FUEL is simple. Participants are asked to consume meals from the FUEL plate, which consists of one half vegetable and/or fruits, one quarter whole grains or potatoes, and one quarter lean proteins. This low-energy density diet emphasizes ample amounts of nutritious foods while promoting weight management and improved health outcomes associated with cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. Similar plates are also advocated by the American Institute for Cancer Research's New American Plate, U.S. Department of Agriculture MyPlate, Harvard School of Public Health Healthy Eating Plate, and the American Diabetes Association.

FUEL is a share in a local farm and then receive a portion of that season’s crops, often offering a festive atmosphere and the convenience of a variety of local foods in area restaurants. The plate concept is the easiest way to stay on course for healthy eating.


In 2013, an increasing number of Greenville area restaurants menus feature local ingredients. CSAs enable you to buy a share of a local farm and then host a swap in diverse locations (including windowsill pots), forgive occasional negligence, and are plenty of workshops, books and websites to support aspiring farmers of all backgrounds. Herbs can be a great introduction to gardening. They do well in diverse locations (including window box pots), the right recipes, and are available to offer up to six individualized exercise programming sessions in the Furman Fitness Center. A weekly class will explore the theory behind the FUEL plate and offer practical applications to incorporate the plate into daily living.

FUEL is pleased to announce a new partnership with the physicians from Stoneview Internal Medicine at the Employee Onsite Medical Clinic. Stoneview will assess blood work before and after the FUEL intervention and be available for medical consultations throughout the program as needed. The Health Sciences Department will assess changes in body composition with state-of-the-art via Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry and the BODPOD. Health sciences majors will also be available to offer up to six individualized exercise programming sessions in the Furman Fitness Center. A weekly class will explore the theory behind the FUEL plate and offer practical applications to incorporate the plate into daily living.

FUEL welcomes new partnership with Stoneview Internal Medicine

Throughout the 16-week course, Jane enjoyed her regular physical activity and modified her meals. She experienced significant reductions in blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes markers and body fat. The outcomes that were previously elevated were lowered to healthier standards. In fact, her physician reduced or eliminated several of her medications, and she claims that she feels better than ever. “Even my husband has been getting compliments about not aging, and he’s been eating what I eat,” she said.

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of a May Experience course in which students spent three weeks visiting primary and secondary schools in Auckland, Dunedin, and Queenstown, New Zealand. Katie Stover had two articles published in November: “Can you hear us? Using voicemail to teach primary students’ writing,” for the International Reading Association’s Technology in Literacy Education Week’s “Writers in Education Week’s “Writers in Education,” and “Developing a进球 community transformation small Communities Grant Program. The grant’s funding will provide support for policy and environmental changes promoting healthy eating and physical activity in school and out of school settings in Greenville County. Powers gave three presentations at the South Carolina Clinical and Translational Research Obesity Retreat in October at the Medical University of South Carolina.

History

Courtney Tolison and William Shelley ’16 served as the historians for the redesign and recitation of the Major Rudolf Anderson Jr., Memorial along the Swamp Rabbit Trail in Greenville’s Cleveland Park. Anderson, a Greenville native, was the sole combat fatality of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The redesigned memorial is the product of collaboration between Furman, the Upcountry History Museum, and the city of Greenville. On Oct. 27, several hundred people gathered to rededicate the memorial on the 50th anniversary of Anderson’s death. Tolison is also featured in a documentary about Anderson and his role in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Integrative Research in the Sciences

Furman hosted a STEM Workshop for more than 125 high school students and teachers from across the state in November. The workshop was sponsored by the Office of Integrative Research in the Sciences, the South Carolina Junior Academy of Sciences, Western Carolina ACS, and SC EPSCoR Office. John Kaup directed the day’s activities, which featured leadership from many of Furman’s science faculty, staff, and students, and a plenary lecture on “Nano technology: The smallest Big idea in Science,” delivered by Tim Harell.

Modern Languages and Literatures

Bill Prince presented a full-day workshop on assessing writing proficiency at the November conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, which was held in Philadelphia. Linda Bartlett delivered a paper on “Unanswer’s Existent Thermodynamics,” at the annual meeting of the American Geometric and Developing Foreign Language Conference hosted by Wake Forest University.

Music

Linda Leidholdt, as a Certified McCloudy Voice Teacher, coordinated and taught at the McCloudy Institute of Voice Summer Seminar held at Furman in late summer. Bardkine was the clinician for a McCloudy choral workshop presented for the Low Country Chapter of the American Geometric and Organists of Hilton Head Island in October. She gave a duet recital with Lucie Svatnova, mezzo-soprano, at Furman and at Presbyterian College. The recitals featured works in Latin, Spanish, German, Czech, and French, as well as the premiere of a work by composer and Furman alumnus Don Shabbie, who was also the collaborative pianist for the recitals. Omar Camarones’ debut solo CD, “The Gaia Theory,” was released in November. The recording features environmentally focused percussion music and is available through Rattle Records’ website and major online outlets. Keith Davis received his Jai Teacher’s Certificate through the Center for Taqi Studies in September. Davis is now qualified to teach private lessons or classes in taqi and qigong. Hugh Floyd was guest presenter for the South Carolina Music Educators Association Choral Arts Seminar, presenting workshops on rehearsal techniques and acting methods to help conductors and conductors become more expressive in performance. Floyd served as guest conductor for the University of North Carolina, Greensboro School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. His presentation was focused on issues related to poverty and inequality. Thomas’ “Missing the forest for the trees” was included in Education Week’s “Writers retreat: Faster, higher, smithie” in October.

English

Gilbert Allen has three poems in the new anthology American Poets: The Next Wave. Allen also edited the short story “Peregrine” in the Fall 2012 issue of Shenandoah and the short story “Dog Days” in the Fall 2012 issue of Tampa Review. Michelle Spetz served as an invited keynote speaker at Clemson University in October, as part of a university-wide focus on issues related to poverty. Her talk, “Poverty is destiny: Ignoring the MLK imperative in corporate education reform,” examined the “no excuses” performance movement in the context of poverty and inequity. Thomas’ “Missing the forest for the trees” was included in Education Week’s “Writers retreat: Faster, higher, smithie” in October.

Sociology

Million Hurst is working on a school-to-work survey that asks college seniors and recent graduates of participating American Colleges of the South (ACS) how they find jobs. Hurst also published a article titled “The different meanings of ‘Living beyond your means’: Distinguishing debits in undue hardship bankruptcy cases,” in the Fall 2012 edition of Michigan Sociological Review. Ken Kolb co-authored an article, “Centering pregnancy drawing: early care in the shift toward student-centered learning in medical education,” with Lauren Gifford and Lucie Svatova, a paper titled “Religious experience upon ‘Religious experience’ in the 1990s and its recent critical response,” at the Sixth Pan-European Conference on Ethics, at the University of Tampere in Finland in September.

Theatre Arts

Maegan Azar was recently elected vice president of the South Carolina Theatre Education Association.
Furman Christmas traditions

Unlike its college neighbor Bob Jones, Furman does not quite burst forth in a magnificent holiday spirit each year. For most, it’s a time for hurrying down and academic rigor. Students are taking exams, and faculty are grading them.

Still, Furman is not devoid of Christmas traditions, although many have come and gone through the years.

The Greenville Women’s College celebrated Christmas with many rituals that were lost when the school became part of today’s united campus in the early ‘60s.

According to emeritus professor Judy Banbridge’s book Academy and College, GWC students took only two days off from study for the holiday but hosted an annual Christmas Soiree where they invited male students from the Furman campus down the road. Anticipation began in September for the gentlemen hoping to get dates.

In 1933, the “Hanging of the Greens” became a major Christmas event. Students spent days gathering laurel, cedar and holly to make garlands and wreaths to decorate the campus. Senior Order, a leadership honor society for women organized in 1937-38, was placed in charge of the Hanging of the Greens in 1946.

During the 1930s, there was also a campus-wide medieval feast served by the home economics department while the drama department presented the “Oxfordshire Mummings Play.” The celebration included a Yule Log, a roasted boat’s head, and a “Lord of Misrule” appointed as master of ceremonies.

Perhaps the longest standing tradition on the current campus is the Moravian Lovefeast. The ceremony began some 25 years ago after students from North Carolina shared stories of Old Salem’s Moravian customs. The early apostolic tradition, which includes the serving of Moravian buns and coffee and the lighting of beeswax candles crafted in Old Salem, is still thriving.

Former Furman chaplain Jim Pitts remember a particularly meaningful Lovefeast when a student who had been severely injured in an automobile accident painfully used two hands to raise his beeswax candle. Pitts also recalls a more lighthearted occasion when the candles set the Advent wreath aflame in Towes Lecture Hall in then unremodeled Plyler Hall.

In recent years, former president David Shi became known for his reading of The Night before Christmas. “When Dr. Shi began to read from his podium, there was an incredible silence as the students listened intently, completely rapt by his reading,” said Scott Derrick, director of the Trone Student Center and Student Activities.

Past years have included such Furman University Student Activities Board-sponsored events as gingerbread house contests, snow machines by the library, carriage rides with the president, and mug-up mug of hot cocoa. The organization has also sold raffle tickets for trips to Christmas at Biltmore.

This year Rabbi Alana Waisman celebrated the Chanukah season with the Jewish Student Association, sharing latkes, lighting the menorah, playing the dreidel and singing Chanukah songs.

There are many ways to enjoy classic carols, the Greenville Chorale’s Christmas concert among them. Students and visitors enjoy going to the Alumni House and mugging with the statue of Richard Furman, which is decked out in Santa hat and scarf.

The university also embraces a spirit of service during the holiday season. The Heifer Service Corps sponsors the Holiday Giving Tree Project that offers opportunities to provide gifts for the agencies the Corps supports. Specific needs are included in a gift list, placed on tags and hung on trees scattered throughout campus. All participating agencies are invited to campus for a luncheon and are presented the gifts and cash donations that have been gathered. “It is an amazing program and we are so appreciative of the kindness and generosity of our students, faculty and staff,” said Nancy Cooper, coordinator for volunteer services.

— Kate Hofler Dabbs
Information Technology Services

The conversion from First Class Office to an electronic mail is complete, with all accounts having been moved. The First Class server was permanently retired on December 12.

Chief Information Officer Fred Miller recently signed an agreement with Box Cloud Storage for a Furman server that will house approximately 25 gigabytes of data storage for each Furman user. Box is serving Furman alongside other cloud-based storage solutions, except that it has enhanced security features and meets the privacy requirements of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act. It will begin testing the service in January. Box for Furman users will be administered by the Cloud-based IT Service and will use existing Furman IDs and passwords. Michael Vick and Cathy Frazier are providing project management for the initiative.

To accommodate increasing requests for folks off campus to have access to materials within Moodle, an additional Moodle server has been set up on an Amazon cloud. The initial user of the new server will be the Ray Library, but we expect the server to be used by a number of faculty where collaboration with some external users is indicated. The cloud-based server will be able to communicate with the existing Moodle server so that users may access appropriate content on both servers. Cort Holdeman from learning technologies group and Russell Emely from systems and network are working this project. IT will be piloting a virtual desktop initiative this spring. Starting with a few of the academic labs that are due for replacement, having the labs run virtual desktops will enable IT to more efficiently distribute academic software and expand access to lab resources. The desktop software for these lab systems will actually be run from a server and eventually be accessible by logging into systems throughout campus. Systems and networks director, Dexter Caldwell is working with staff from the learning technologies group to roll out this project.

After several years of study and a two-year pilot, a print quota for student printing in labs will be put into effect this year. The quota system is intended to manage wasteful printing by simply bringing the print count to the attention of students. The likely average will be 500 pages per term, 250 for the summer, with duplex printing counted only as a single page. Initially, students who exceed their quota will be able to obtain additional pages in increments of 100 by miking up a server account. Service center director Mike Gifford, who is helping with this project, has already had conversations with other institutions that has the requirement to request additional pages even without the incentive of cost, will likely reduce printing significantly.

— Susan Dunnawant

Auxiliary Services

The department has been in full swing this fall as the ongoing fall component, as a vehicle for preparing our new students for life at Furman.

— Scott Derrick

Office of Admission

This fall, 13 admission counselors traveled to 875 high schools across the nation, meeting with countless students and college counselors and representing Furman at 137 college fairs. With the early decision and early action deadlines now past, the officer of admission is promoting regular decision applications and preparing for the yield phase of the admission cycle—the period when accepted students make decisions about where they will enroll.

The office has focused special attention to recruiting students interested in the arts. Marts Lanier, fine arts recruitment coordinator, was hired to assist in these efforts. She is currently traveling to schools and meeting with arts students, representing Furman at fine arts fairs, and working with the departments of theatre, arts and music to streamline and strengthen the audition and scholarship processes. New marketing materials were produced to augment the efforts, including an invitation that was sent to every high school counselor in Furman’s prospect pool who indicated an interest in the arts. In addition, admission is working with marketing and public relations to produce an arts brochure that will be mailed during the second wave. There are plans to work with each department to strengthen and enhance their websites.

— Lindsay Niedergans

Housing And Residence Life

The department said farewell recently to Jim Brazi, assistant director of housing operations, who retired in September after serving Furman since 1995.

Eddie Young, assistant director of residence life for North Village, also departed after serving since 2005. Eddie is now the director of residence life at Queens University.

Succeeding Jim and Eddie are Matt Riddle and Jud Sammons. Matt earned a B.S. degree in psychology from Presbyterian College and Jud works for Greenville County Disabilities and Special Needs Board since 2006. Jud brings to our team six years of full-time experience focusing on the management of residence hall communities. He earned a B.A. in business management from Toccoa Falls College and an M.A. in higher education administration from Penn State.

Preliminary work has begun for this summer’s implementation of geometric project work, which will conclude the venture North Village buildings G, H, I and K will be unavailable following graduation.

Our team has begun to work to strengthen its relationships with residents, especially in the North Village community. RA’s, assistant area coordinators, and assistant directors are working more closely with residents and espousing our care, inclusion and partnership values. Our entire department is thrilled to be making our work count for students.

— Ron Thompson

Trone Student Center and Student Life

All eyes are on the soon-to-be completed Trone Student Center, where what was known as the old “UC” used to stand. Much of the staff spent the summer months displaced around campus while demolition and renovations progressed. The newly renovated spaces of the building, including a student organization commons, a grand hallway with student organization lockers, new administration and student media suites, and a suite that will house career services, undergraduate research and internships, and study away and international education, all opened August 15. The new construction, which will add approximately 6,000 square feet to the building and will include a massive living room and atrium, replete with video wall and fireplace, will open Jan. 2. One of the main thrusts behind this renovation and expansion was to reconnect the students with the lake, as well as to provide student organizations with appropriate collaborative space and to give the student body a whole lot more space to “hang out.”

We feel that the new Trone Student Center exceedingly accomplishes all these goals, and we are extremely excited to open the building fully for spring 2013. On a side note, the last phase of the renovation, which includes developing the south side area, adding a restaurant, and reconfiguring the outdoor space on the first floor of the building, is scheduled for this summer. It should complete the transformation of the facility.

Thanks to a generous gift from June and David Trone ’77, as well as another gift from Margaret and Robert Hill (both Class of ’83), the dream of a truly vibrant and exciting student center at Furman is becoming a reality.

In other notes, the new summer orientation program focused on academic advising and class registration. Approximately 75 percent of the new student class attended one of the five summer orientation sessions and evaluations show that they were a great success.

As the year started and family orientation out of the fall and into summer orientation, and we received very positive feedback for this endeavor. We are excited about the comprehensive orientation program, which now includes this summer component as well as the ongoing fall component, as a vehicle for preparing our new students for life at Furman.

— Scott Derrick

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Every year on Christmas Eve we get to open one present, but it's always a book my mom picks out for us. Sometimes it'll be a book she thinks will be good for us to read—and other times it'll be a picture book from our childhood.

—Jackie Turnage ‘13

Santa Claus always comes to see me. As old as I am, he continues to see me. My husband has carried on that tradition till now. So I wake up on Christmas morning and there's always a surprise under the tree from Santa Claus.

—Debbie Quattlebaum, Assistant Manager/Buyer, Furman Bookstore

We are just coming up with what we want our holiday traditions to be. Our daughter is just two. Last year she didn’t know what Christmas was. I’m looking forward to going and picking out a Christmas tree and putting it up with her, and talking about what Christmas means when she goes to church.

—David Bernardy, Adjunct Professor, English

Being Italian, our traditions center around food. With my children we shape pancakes for whatever holiday we are celebrating. So for Christmas we’ll do candy cane-shaped pancakes. We’ll decorate them with colored sugars. Sometimes we’ll just do round pancakes and my kids will get silly with the whipped cream and do Santa faces and things like that.

—Sandi Annone, Department Assistant, Philosophy

What is your favorite family holiday tradition?

Every Christmas my family reads New Year’s predictions we wrote the year before about the family. It’s always fun to see what happens or doesn’t happen!

—Mary Grace Short ‘13

Pops to perform February 26

The Boston Pops Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Keith Lockhart ’81, will perform in Greenville in February with members of the Furman Symphony Orchestra as part of the university’s new fine arts initiative, Vice President for Academic Affairs John Beckford has announced.

The Boston Pops Esplanade Concert will be performed Feb. 26 at the Peace Center. Tickets are available through the Peace Center box office (www.peacecenter.org).

The university worked with the Peace Center and with the Pops Orchestra to arrange the concert as part of Furman’s new fine arts initiative, a multi-faceted effort to strengthen the visual and performing arts at Furman through intense student recruitment and by creating opportunities to collaborate with arts organizations and artists in the Greenville area.

The initiative is funded in part by a $2 million grant from The Duke Endowment, the largest single gift in Furman’s history to support the arts.