Taking on Greenville’s food deserts

Imagine that you live in a neighborhood with no supermarket. There are no produce stands, only convenience stores and fast food restaurants. And your transportation options are limited.

How would you get fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthy foods? This situation and question faces many residents in Greenville County.

Since 2010 Furman Health Sciences Professor Alicia Powers, Ph.D., has led an ongoing project to identify and map all areas in the county that lack availability of healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate foods—areas known by health experts as food deserts.

Her goal is to help replace these food deserts with food access to promote healthier eating and living.

“The important aspect of this research is that it is intersecting with a real issue to promote positive change in the community,” said Dr. Powers. She began her project by helping to conduct community health assessments in the Sterling, Nicholtown, and Berea communities, as part of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant.

“But the idea expanded to the entire county as interest in improving the local food system grew,” Dr. Powers said.

Part of the study, utilizing 20 Furman students, was to determine the location of all food establishments—including supermarkets, convenience stores, and all types of restaurants—then personally visit and survey more than 1,000 of them to see what kinds of food they offered, and at what price and quality.

“In order to know what to change, we had to know to what extent food deserts existed in Greenville County,” Dr. Powers said.

In their research, students found that many local residents had to rely mostly on snacks, fried and other fatty foods from neighborhood convenience stores or fast food stops, often with no fresh vegetables or fruit.

As a result, Dr. Powers said, health-related issues such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and cardio-vascular disease are likely to be more prevalent in these Food Desert communities.

Mari Gallagher, national food deserts expert and Principal of Mari Gallagher Research & Consulting Group in Chicago, Ill., said the issue has grown in lower-income and minority communities.

“We’re conservatively projecting that about 10 percent of the U.S. population, roughly 31 million people, are living in a food desert,” Gallagher said. “It’s a very serious problem in all 50 states, in rural and urban areas.”

Gallagher further cited a 2011 article for National Public Radio that she knew of no U.S. city that has “eradicated food deserts."

Powers and several Upstate allies are preparing for a long fight and could help Greenville could become the first.

For example, Reece Lyerly, an original Furman research student in the food deserts study, began a partnering network of community gardens in 2011 called Gardening for Good.

“We now have 80 community gardens,” Lyerly said. “And Dr. Powers’s project was a main reason I stayed in Greenville after graduation—to help see it through as a true culture shift in this community.

Dan Weidenbenner, a 2012 Furman graduate, started another venture that same year called Mill Village Farms to establish fruit and vegetable farms in food desert neighborhoods.

“We have three local farms and are developing a fourth,” Weidenbenner said. “And next year, through aquaponics (growing food in water), we plan to deliver fresh fruit and vegetables year-round to the local food deserts.”

And Loaves & Fishes, a local mobile food rescue organization, has teamed with Furman employees since 2012 to distribute produce to those in need.

In the coming weeks a series of articles describing the ways the campaign has changed lives, improved opportunities, and supported programs will be posted on the Furman homepage. On May 17, the university will host its annual gala, Night of the Stars, to celebrate the donors who helped make Because Furman Matters a success.

(continued on page 6)
Meet the Blockers

Integrative business core (The Block) knits disciplines together, and a whole lot more

Few private liberal arts colleges offer business degree programs. Even fewer incorporate a rigorous MBA-like experience in those undergraduate disciplines.

Furman does both.

“The Block,” marshes the fundamental elements of management—accounting, finance, marketing and operations into a single four-course experience for junior business majors.

Meeting 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. five days a week, the Block exposes students to the core of business as a seamless, interconnected unit taught by four professors, it helps students identify and solve complex management problems, hones business acumen, fosters unity and gives students a profound understanding of the inner workings of a successful business.

“In the Block, we essentially take students out of college for a semester and throw them into the real world,” says finance professor Katie Young who teaches the course with Karl Karwan, Suzy Summers, and Robert Underwood.

The group, normally around 30 students, also visits successful manufacturers and other firms, interviews business leaders and attends seminars on networking, interviewing, resume writing, social media, and leadership.

In true liberal arts fashion, the professors also weave in subjects including ethics, leadership, globalization, and sustainability. Susan Zeiger (Internship Programs), John Barker (Career Services), Kim Kaefer (Shucker Leadership Program), and Peggy Batchelor (Computer Science) are honorary faculty who lead classes throughout the semester. Faculty say students emerge from the program with a broader understanding of how businesses work, a solid set of business skills, and a keen awareness of their natural abilities.

“The issues facing practicing managers are rarely confined to one functional area of business,” says Karwan. “We believe an integrative, interdisciplinary view of management is essential to effective decision making.”

The approach was instituted in 2010, in part, to help improve internship prospects for majors entering their senior year.

“Before the Block, students wouldn’t have a good grasp of the core of business or a mastery of business parlance until just before they left the university,” says Karwan. “With the Block, students are equipped earlier in their academic careers so they can take advantage of internships and study away assignments following their senior year.”

Amanda Souré ‘14 interned with BMW last summer and says the Block boosted her recruiting IQ. “Without understanding operations and supply chains, marketing and human resources, BMW might have been out of reach for me.”

Tackling group projects, taking group tours, and spending countless hours together, Block participants also develop an esprit de corps. They learn to trust and depend on each other.

“It’s 30 students working together toward a goal,” says Underwood. “The importance of the bonding and the team approach in the Block can’t be overstated.”

This sense of community is played out in a semester-long project where students work in groups of five to dissect and evaluate a company. Says Player, “They learn delegation skills and how to apply their strengths in a group setting.”

In just three years, Underwood says the Block has become a symbol of what makes a Furman education distinctive. It is a blend of liberal and experiential—hands-on learning that prepares majors for the challenges of graduate school or the job market.

“It’s unlike any other class students will encounter,” says Underwood. “Besides the value it imparts to students, the Block represents something unique for the department that sets us apart from other undergraduate liberal arts institutions and even some business schools.”

— Tina Underwood

New employees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Arnold</td>
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<td>Erika Tomayo</td>
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<td>Pierre Curtis</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor De Lench</td>
<td>Marketing and Public Relations</td>
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<td>Caitlin Fakes</td>
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<td>Lynne Huff</td>
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<td>Katherine Sloan</td>
<td>Library</td>
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<td>Karen Turberville</td>
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Anniversaries

25 years

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<tr>
<td>Danny Lamb</td>
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20 years

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<td>Ann Bryant</td>
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<td>Bernie Stanton</td>
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<td>Anne Smith</td>
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15 years

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<td>Kathy Faust</td>
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<td>Annie Queen</td>
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10 years

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<td>Wendy Bremer</td>
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<td>David Tedrow</td>
<td>University Police</td>
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<td>Gail McGinnid</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
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<td>Marian Woods</td>
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5 years

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<td>Kala Kenmore</td>
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<td>Laura Baines</td>
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Growing a program from the ground up
Furman professor opens undergrads to new world in Tanzania

In 2000, Betsy Beymer-Farris, Ph.D., first set foot on the fertile plains of the Serengeti, a vast African plain in Tanzania renowned for its abundant wildlife. Then an undergraduate student, she was intent on using the experience to become a wildlife biologist. But when she arrived Beymer-Farris discovered an interesting dynamic that led her down a different career path.

“Then in the savanna grasslands a struggle was taking place pitting well-meaning conservationists and the Maasai, a largely nomadic group that had long lived off the land. As the governments of Kenya and Tanzania passed laws to limit access and land use, they were threatening the culture of the Maasai, a group who have lived in harmony with the environment for centuries and long resisted government entreaties to embrace a sedentary lifestyle. The struggle fascinated Beymer-Farris so much that she refocused her academic attention to sustainability science—an emerging academic discipline seeking to bridge the divide between the social and the natural sciences in order to theorize and understand complex environmental issues. Today, she is helping to build the major at Furman while returning to coastal Tanzania during the summer with students to research and monitor the plight of local villagers experiencing similar impacts as the Maasai.”

Earlier this year, Beymer-Farris and her small research team, which includes partnering faculty in Norway and Tanzania, secured a $3.2 million grant from a Norwegian donor agency to continue their work. “Furman was the first school in the country to offer a sustainability science major at the undergraduate level in 2011,” said Beymer-Farris, who joined Furman after completing her Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “And since I was interested in helping to create a university program, I thought this major would be perfect.”

Beymer-Farris teaches classroom Principles of Sustainability Science, Social Systems and Resilience and Adaptation, part of Furman’s Earth and Environmental Sciences Department. She focuses students on the integration of ecology with environmental politics and global economic development, and their potential to handle “some of the problems we’re facing,” such as water scarcity and sanitation, pollution and waste management, and natural resource access, control, and management.

Beymer-Farris, who speaks fluent native Swahili, makes arrangements for each student to lodge in a thatched-roof hut with a Tanzanian family. They eat what the family eats, sleep on floor beds, and live with no running water, no electricity, and no English.

After earning the local villagers’ trust, students interview and document how growing restrictions on land use has changed their culture. Conversely, some students work within the national marine parks. They question park managers and document how conservation is helping to preserve the abundant marine and coastal biodiversity there, which includes dolphins, whale sharks, and sea turtles.

“During my research, I spent part of my time with a local farmer clearing weeds in fields with a garden hoe, and cutting brush with a machete so the soil nutrition would get to the crops,” said George Flowers, 22, the program’s first graduate in 2012. “But I never wanted to pack up and come home.”

As a bonus Beymer-Farris notes that students also observe the endless marine and wildlife, such as lions, hippos, and whale sharks, in a natural setting, “As land use restrictions have grown in recent decades, so has the tension between the local villagers like the Maasai and the government. Beymer-Farris hopes her findings will encourage the groups to work to find a delicate balance that will preserve both the land and a way of life.”

— Clark Leech

— Photo by Surend Muthukrishnan Ph.D.

John Worsham attempts to climb a coconut tree under the watch of field guide Abdullah Saidi. Worsham was one of four undergraduates in Furman’s Sustainability Science program to accompany Dr. Betsy Beymer-Farris to Tanzania in the summer of 2013 for field research.

— Photo by Surend Muthukrishnan Ph.D.

Dr. Betsy Beymer-Farris meets with Maasa Village Chairman near the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in northern Tanzania to discuss the impacts of conservation in Tanzania. — Photo by Surend Muthukrishnan Ph.D.
systems case, “Bellwether Garden Supply: Revising Purchase and Disbursement Processes and Controls in the Implementation of a New Accounting Application.” At the AIS Educators’ Association Annual Meeting in July, Daniel Smith ’13 and Michael MacGuidwin ’13, received the Jack and Maye Stewart Student Project Competition award in recognition of “Creating work by students on accounting information systems class projects and cases.” At the conference, McHugh presented the related class material and his students’ analysis. Jeanine Stratton co-presented research posters with Blake Williams ’14 on retailer advertising strategies, and John Kiser ’14, and Haley Jones ’14 on “greenwashing and prevalence rates at the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis in Daytona Beach. Stratton served as a guest grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation. Stratton was nominated by the Shi Center to attend the Feeding the Planet Summit in Washington, D.C., with Glen Haala-Neubauer (PS) and eight students. Stratton is also the recipient of the Duke Endowment’s research fund for 2013-2014.

CTL Diane Boyd, along with Josie Roudier and Soc Stover, presented a paper on “Reframing the Minstrel Show: Development Catalysts” at this year’s Anchor Session at the Professional and Organizational Development network international meeting in Pittsburgh in November.

Communication Studies Brandon Inabinet presented at two conferences in Europe, in Germany on “Rhetoric in Europe,” regarding his research on the ethical theories of Chaim Perelman, and in the Netherlands and Belgium on “Weapons of Mass Seduction,” regarding the circulation of capitalist and anti-captalist discourse in the early U.S. Inabinet’s talk publications include a book review in Rhetoric Society Quarterly and a short essay in the international journal, Controversia.

Earth and Environmental Sciences Betsy Beymer-Farris was an invited speaker for Clemson University’s Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Biology Annual Seminar Series in September. Beymer-Farris published a chapter titled “Producing Biodiversity in Tanzania’s Mangrove Forests: A Combined Political Ecology and Ecological Resilience Approach to Sustainably Utilized Landscapes” in an edited volume: Land Change Science, Political Ecology, and Sustainability: Synergies and Divergences ( Routledge 2013). Weston Dripps, Brannon Anderson, and Brad Harnar presented a poster “Furman University’s Sustainability Living Learning Communities” at the annual Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) national conference in Nashville in October. Weston Dripps, Greg Lewis, Brannon Anderson, and Rachel Baxter ’13, recently published a peer reviewed original article “Hydrogeochemical Characterization of Seawater Seapores Inhabited by the Endangered Bunched Arrowhead ( Sagittaria fasciculata ) in the Upper Piedmont of South Carolina” in the journal Southeastern Naturalist.

Education George Upsomb was elected to a three year term on the Executive Board of the College and University Faculty Assembly (CUFA) of the National Council of the Social Studies. CUFA’s purpose is to promote the common interest of social studies educators in research, teaching, and other scholarly activities. Paul Thomas published three edited volumes: Becoming and Being a Teacher, which includes chapters from Katie Stover, Scott Henderson, Dawn Mitchell, and Mike Svec. Science Fiction and Speculative Fiction, which includes chapters from Svec, Mike Winkski (CTL), and Aaron Passell (SOC), co-edited with Joe Bower, De-Testing and De-grading Schools. The National Council of Teachers of English named Thomas Council Historian (2013-2015) and awarded him the 2013 George Orwell Award for his blogging. Lorraine Dejong published an article with Meredith Burton (CDC) entitled “Book clubs strengthen family-teacher partnerships and build community” in the journal Young Children in November.


Modern Languages and Literatures Marianne Bessy presented “‘I ne faît pas trop demaner aux mats’ : paroles linguistiques dans l’œuvre alexandienne” at the Vassilik Alexakis colloquium organized by the Université de Picardie Jules Verne in Amiens, France, in September.

Music Omar Carmencita performed on a recording of Inukshuk by John Luther Adams in October. This 75-minute outdoor percussion tour-de-force was recorded in the forests of Guilford, Vermont, by 33 percussionists from across North America. The work received positive reviews from Alex Ross in the New York Times, David Gross (piano), Deirdre Hutton (violin), and Christopher Hutton (vocals) spent May playing a thirteen-concert tour of recitals in New Zealand with programs of music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johannes Brahms, Antonin Dvorak, Gabriel Fauré, and American composers Paul Schoenfield and William Bolcom.
**Philosophy**

Aaron Simmons published a book entitled *The New Phenomenology: A Philosophical Introduction*, which has been adopted as a graduate course text at the University of Vienna. Simmons is currently the vice-president of the South Carolina Society for Philosophy and an officer in the Soren Kierkegaard Society, Society for Christian Philosophers, and the American Academy of Religion (Southeast Region).

**Political Science**


**Religion**

Eloch Nix was recently interviewed by members of the Oral History Project at Morehouse College and will be recognized in publications in honor of Morehouse’s Sesquicentennial in 2017.

**Theatre Arts**

Maeghan Azar directed The Warehouse Theatre’s Educational Touring production of Julius Caesar, part of the Peace Center for Performing Arts’ POP Series, in Greenville and Charleston. Azar is also the programming Chair for the South Carolina Theatre Association and planned the 2013 Convention “Engaging the Imagination,” which took place November 15–17 at Charleston County School of the Arts with such keynote presenters as John Patrick Shanley, The Warehouse Theatre, and Knighthorse Theatre Company. Randall David Cook ’91 directed a reading of his play *In A Town Near Faith* at the Furman Playhouse as part of Homecoming 2013, with a cast that included professional actors from Trustus Theatre in Columbia alongside Kevin Treu (CS) and Elho Baba (PH). Nick Radel (ENG) led the talkback. Cook’s play *Pomp and Circumstance*, directed by Jay Oney, made its world premiere in November and included designs by Rhyett Bryson, Margaret Casteriano, and Gene Funderburk.

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**Music**

Mark Kilstofte is currently a guest researcher and Fullbright scholar at the University of Oslo’s Center for Ibsen Studies where he is composing an opera based on Henrik Ibsen’s Brand. Kilstofte was invited to give a composition seminar at the Malmö Academy of Music (Sweden) earlier this fall. His “To Music,” commissioned by the Furman Singers, was recently performed by the Nova Singers under the direction of Laura Lane.

Matt Olson presented guest saxophone master classes at three North Carolina high schools. Olson also had fall seminar performances with the Greenville Jazz Collective, Asheville Jazz Orchestra, Nashville-based singer Diane Marino, the touring Broadway show *Anything Goes*, and his own jazz group at Furman. Charles Tompkins performed a recital at the Porter Center for the Performing Arts at Brevard College in September. The program featured works by Brunns, Sweelink, J. S. Bach, Robert J. Powell, Reger, and Carl Retti, performed on the Porter Center’s 3-manual Jcausal organ.

**Philosophy**

**Politics**

**Religion**

**Theatre Arts**

Singer-songwriter Arlo Guthrie will bring his “Here Come the Kids” show, a tribute to American folk music, to Furman University in February as part of Greenville’s “Year of Atrium” commemoration. Guthrie, the son of American folk musician Woody Guthrie, will perform Sunday, Feb. 16, at 2 p.m. in McAlister Auditorium. Tickets are $20 in advance ($25 at the door), free for children under five, and $5 for youth and students with an ID. They are available at the Ticketmaster Box Office or through TicketMaster.

Guthrie has been performing since the 1960s and has enjoyed a successful career as a singer, songwriter and storyteller. His latest tour features members of his family performing with him. Burton is a quiet champion for sustainability

**Music**

**Philosophy**

**Politics**

**Religion**

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Continuing Education

Like many institutions of higher learning, the Division of Continuing Education at Furman is continuously evaluating its programs so that we can align and focus our efforts into areas where they are needed the most. For a number of years Learning for You has seen some select courses flourish, even as many of its class offerings have experienced declining enrollments. Our plan is to dedicate our resources to strengthening those programs which have high interest, and to discontinue programs which have, for various reasons, seen declining participation from the community.

We are planning to continue the Piano for Young People, Connections: Women Leaders of the Upstate, SCOPES, domestic and international travel programs, and some select classes, but under new structures and departments, some within and some outside of Continuing Education. As a result, fall 2013 will be the last official semester of Learning for You.

In other news, I am delighted to announce Beth Crowes has been appointed to serve as our director of Undergraduate Evening Studies effective October 3. Beth has done an admirable job steering Learning for You over the past year, and I am confident she will bring the same passion and expertise to her new role. I also extend my thanks and best wishes to our stalwart Learning for You program assistants, Amy Krause, who has taken a position outside of Furman, and Donna Rogers, who retired on December 31. Donna has served Furman with great loyalty since 2003, and she will continue providing excellent support and customer service for Learning for You until she retires, and perhaps on occasion in the future for continuing education.

Winter registration for OLLI begins November 19. We have 95 courses and 50 one-time events on the schedule and expect almost 1100 members to take classes. OLLI also announced a new initiative, Senior Leaders Greenville, which is a year-long program that will educate, inspire, and encourage senior adults to learn more about Greenville, and ways they can get involved to ensure the senior voice is represented in decisions being made throughout the community.

The Bridges to a Brighter Future Saturday College component is off to a great start this academic year. On average, 82 percent of Bridges students participate in each monthly session. In addition to tutoring provided in Saturday College, Bridges is partnering with Kaplan to provide preparation classes and Junior Achievement to provide financial planning workshops. Saturday College is funded through a grant from the Jolley Foundation.

Crews of Undergraduate Evening Studies (UES) has been conducting a scan of the overall program, looking toward creating process efficiencies, gauging improved student retention, and proposing innovative new programs. She has begun initiating greater cross-campus collaboration with Career Services, the University registrar, ITS, academic deans, the Center for Collaborative Learning & Communication, and other student services departments. This fall, (UES) has been in the process of hiring new adjunct faculty, proposing new courses, and researching new degree majors and post-baccalaureate certificate programs which have been suggested by student advising.

The Center for Corporate and Professional Development faculty and staff have been busy providing customized corporate education programs for business and industry. New clients this year have included SAGE Automotive, World Acceptance Corporation, and Southern Weaving.

A new course entitled, “Mexico: A Liberal Arts Perspective” was developed and taught by Erik Ching, Cleve Fraser, Jeremy Cass, and Angelica Lozano Alonso for Grauman.

More information about the library can be seen in its annual report and newsletter which is available on the library website.

Library

In the fall, Outreach Services worked with an increasing number of student groups to help orient them to the library. This included first-year students, transfer students, graduate students, and international students.

Librarians have increased their work with students by 25 percent in the past two years and have needed teaching space designed to encourage active, hands-on learning. To that end, one of the library’s teaching classrooms (Library 043). The vibrant room colors and mobile chairs have been a hit with students.

The main library home page has been updated. Improvements include streamlined access to the most frequently used search tools, databases and services. Also available are “smart” floor plans that highlight the locations of commonly used spaces in the Library.

We recently added 164,000 new eBook titles to the library catalog, covering a broad range of academic disciplines, travel handbooks, and fiction. 98,000 of the titles come from a combined package acquired through our statewide consortium (PASCAL) and from academic proxies. The other 66,000 eBooks are titles that are only purchased after they have been viewed or used a specified number of times. This trend in eBook purchasing, known as Demand Driven Acquisition (DDA), allows us to provide access to more titles to our library users without an increase in cost.

Special Collections opened a new exhibition highlighting the collection of legendary Furman basketball coach and athletic director J. Lyles Alley.

Significant progress has been made on the Peter Wedel Digital Museum with over 4000 items digitized. A video documentary about the project is being created for educational and promotional purposes.

The library will administer the MISO Survey to faculty, staff, and students beginning in February. This is an important tool to assess how the University community uses our tools and services, and to identify areas for growth.
in the fall of 2012, Forrest Stuart (Financial Aid) decided to begin an exercise program. “I was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in 2008 and used medication and injections to control my blood sugar for several years. I had been told that exercise would affect my body’s use of insulin, but I was skeptical,” he recalled. “For me, the hardest part was the decision to start. There is nothing about exercise that I find attractive, except for the after effects. So once I admitted that and found out that others felt the same way, I felt that I could push through.” Stuart committed to use the elliptical trainer in the Herman W. Lay Physical Activities Center (PAC) during his lunch hour. “I enjoyed the social aspects of that time more than I thought I would.” With the influence of his daughters, Stuart also began to adopt a healthier diet. He added a simple resistance-training program and other forms of aerobic exercise to provide variety. Over time, his blood work improved significantly, and his physician decided to discontinue all of his diabetic medications. Stuart was astounded by the results of his recent physical examination. He proudly proclaimed, “I have not taken any medication in three months. I’ve lost 17 pounds, and my blood glucose and hemoglobin A1C are now in the healthy range.” He told me that I am not even considered ‘pre-diabetic’ anymore.” Stuart is one of a growing number of employees who are taking great strides to improve their personal well-being. The Department of Health Sciences is proud to offer a wide variety of workplace wellness resources to assist employees who desire to adopt healthier behaviors.

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**Employee Health Awareness Program**

The Department of Health Sciences is proud to offer an individualized exercise training program for employees. The program is designed to promote teamwork, running and walking, and friendly competition among area organizations. Employees and their families may run or walk to participate. Events are hosted throughout the year and range from two miles to 8K races. The Furman track team accumulates points for every participant who completes at least one event, regardless of finish time. The Furman Institute for Running and Scientific Training (FIRST) is available to provide a training program for employees who would like to begin or improve a running program. Please visit www.greenvilletrackclub.com or contact Scott Murr via email at scott.murr@furman.edu for more information.

**Employees strive to improve health, well-being**

Liz Seman (executive director of Corporate Engagement) has worked with the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and Greenville Meals on Wheels of Greenville. Liz is also a member of Greenville County Council, having been elected in 2008 and again in 2012.

Santin Towle Warfield ‘03, assistant director of Alumni Programs earned BA in communication studies, a women’s studies concentration and a MS in organization development and coaching certificate from the McCall School of Business at Queens University of Charlotte. She recently served as associate director of Residence Life at Queens University of Charlotte.

—Kate Oabbs

**Marketing and Public Relations**

We have had a many new additions this fall:

First, Taylor De Lench joined our staff as videographer in October. A graduate of Skidmore College (Saratoga Springs, New York), Taylor earned a BA degree in sociology and has worked as a videographer, editor, and writer since 2006. Before moving to Greenville, Taylor and his wife, Lauren, lived in Chattanooga where he was the director of Len films, a film he founded.

Jessica Kalbarczyk joined our group last month. She was formerly employed at Samsung Electronics as a Social Media Analyst. Originally from Buffalo, she holds a BA in Communications from Canisius College and a MA in Integrated Marketing Communications from St. Bonaventure University. She currently lives in Simpsonville with her husband, Kyle.

Damien Pierce and Ryan Fisher recently attended the Conflab Higher Education conference in Atlanta. The conference brought together 173 higher education institutions from across the country to share best practices related to content development across social media, email marketing and university websites.

Lindsay Niedringhaus ‘07 and her husband, Steven welcomed their first child, Henry, into the world on August 20. After a maternity leave, Lindsay returned to work in November. Carol Winchester ‘02 performed outstanding work this fall by pulling double duty and filling in for Lindsay during her time away. Also, Damien Pierce and his wife, Renee Chosed celebrated the birth of their first child, Ari, on December 3.

—John Roberts
What should Furman’s New Year’s resolution be?

We should have a midnight breakfast once a week.
—Cameron Smith
Student Organizations and Greek Life

Open up Einstein’s till late at night.
—Lake Rabenold,
senior

I’d like to see more live music events inside Trone Center during the colder months.
—Andrew Cantor,
Senior

Somehow, the powers that be need to make it snow so we can all enjoy some snow days...we haven’t had snow in two years
—Kim Keefer,
Leadership Programs

Furman should make a resolution to increase awareness of global issues on campus and increase outlets for students to participate in finding solutions.
—Sarah Killebrew
senior

A note from the editor

As December came to a close, our office said so long to Roxanne Chua, retiring after 16 years. Roxanne is an extremely talented designer. For eight years, this publication benefited from her artist’s eye and creative genius. She was the architect of its redesign in 2005. Along the way, inside Furman, Furman Magazine, and many other publications and print materials she touched have collected many design awards.

Roxanne was trained in New York City and also worked in Greece and Washington, D.C., before settling in South Carolina and later joining Furman in 2001. Through her time at Furman she has been a tireless champion of the Furman brand. Roxanne’s love for the University extends beyond Marketing. She mentored students and has been deeply involved in the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI).

We will miss her tireless work ethic and passion for design but wish her well as she and her husband Mike, a professor emeritus at Clemson, open this new chapter in their lives. If you need to contact Roxanne, you’ll have to do so by telephone. She promised Mike to stay away from computers and email for a while.

Food Deserts

with Weidenbenner to create a mobile produce market called Good To Go Greenville to serve the Greater Sullivan and West Greenville communities.

“It’s like a farmers market to go, where we sell the produce in these areas at a reasonable price,” said Paulette Dunn, executive director of Loaves & Fishes. “Dan at Mill Village had the produce to donate, we had the refrigerated trucks that we use for our food rescue, and that led to the idea.”

Though it is too early to tell how far the effort will go toward wiping out Greenville County’s Food Deserts, Dr. Powers said she expects it at least to make enough difference to count.

“When I started at Furman seven years ago, I wondered, ‘What information do we need to improve the food landscape in Greenville?’” she said. “And I want this effort to make a change for the better in all Greenville County communities.”

— by Clark Leech