

Furman

FOR ALUMNI
AND FRIENDS
OF THE UNIVERSITY



SPRING

2019

AROUND THE LAKE

Furman offers new Master of Arts in Strategic Design. **pgs. 10-11**

Q&A

Anthony Herrera, executive director of Furman's Office for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. **pgs. 14-15**

ONE STATE, ONE PEOPLE

As the Riley Institute turns 20, Dick Riley '54 isn't resting. **pgs. 26-31**

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Stanford Jennings '84 makes a lasting connection. **pgs. 16-19**

THE COMEBACK

Ty Houck '93 connects lives and cities on the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail. **pgs. 40-45**

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Your contribution helps ensure the success of Furman athletics, while leaving a lasting impact on current and future Paladins.

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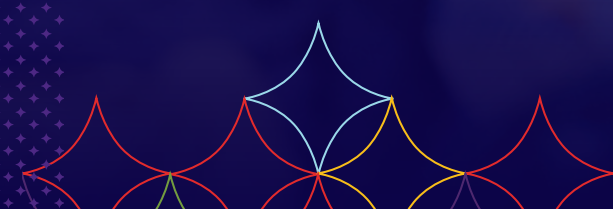
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Thirty-five years ago, Cincinnati Bengals player **Stanford Jennings '84** made a life-changing decision — a play that *The Cincinnati Enquirer* in 2018 would name the top play in the 50-year history of the Bengals.

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by **Lindsay Niedringhaus '07**

Aneesh Borah '18 journeyed from India to Furman to New York City — and found his voice along the way. **pgs. 22–25**

ONE STATE, ONE PEOPLE

by **Ron Wagner '93**

For two decades, the Riley Institute has focused on improving life for all South Carolinians. The institute's not stopping and neither is **Dick Riley '54**. **pgs. 26–31**

THE ART OF HEALING

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Ellen Culbertson Abramo '00 offers healing through art to shooting victims' families. **pgs. 32–35**

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TJ Fleming '10 sips success as head winemaker at Rocklands Farm Winery in Maryland. **pgs. 36–39**

COVER



One is an institute. The other is an institution. As the Riley Institute looks to its 20th anniversary, its founder keeps his eye and his energy on improving educational opportunities and promoting equality in South Carolina.

THEN, NOW, NEXT

Reflections on what was, is and will be important at Furman. **pgs. 9, 13 and 15**

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Ty Houck '93 connects lives and cities on the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail. **pgs. 40–45**

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Where you have been, where you are going. What life is like *After the Aisle* for **Lauren and Wyatt Messinger**. Getting *Up Close* with **Kathryn Petralia '92** and **Steven Weathers**. **pgs. 52–59**

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



I was in the right place. I knew soon after I climbed into that golf cart.

The soft-spoken student who trundled me across campus on my first day at Furman was proof personified: This is where a life of purpose takes shape. During our half-hour ride, my guide told me the history of the university with scholarly precision and measured opinions. He showed me the trees that would soon be replaced for student safety while wondering about all the events, big and small, those leafy giants had witnessed over the decades. He let me in on his stress-relief secret (Disney movies with the sound turned off). And even as he told me he was an introvert, “Hey, man!” and “What’s up?” punctuated our trip when he passed friends.

Critical thought, curiosity, good will, a generous spirit — my golf cart charioteer had it all. And he perfectly embodied Furman.

Since I became the editor of Furman Magazine in December, I’ve had daily reminders — from wandering through stacks of treasures at Special Collections to telling the stories of the English major who leads the e-commerce world and the former park ranger who has helped improve countless lives by championing the area trail system.

It is an awesome privilege to tell the Furman family’s stories.

As the experience unfurls in front of me, let me give special thanks to **Carol Anne Ward ’02**, who stepped in to deftly edit the magazine before I arrived. And, of course, I’m grateful to the entire staff of the University Communications office, who all pushed to make each issue as soaring as you have come to expect.

As I get to know more of you – on campus, online, on the phone – through the journey of each new magazine, I hope you’ll keep in touch and join me on this ride.

Sarita Chourey, Editor

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We welcome letters on any subject covered in the magazine. Letters should be limited to 150 words, refer to a subject from the most recent issue and include the writer’s name and city/state. They may be sent to magazine@furman.edu. Although we make every effort to include as many submissions as we can, letters may be edited for length or clarity. Letters that address a topic before the most recent issue of Furman will be published at the editor’s discretion.

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The Results Are In: Alumni Are Thriving

BY ELIZABETH DAVIS

Commencement is on my mind, and not just because I'm preparing for my fifth here at Furman. We have been thinking a lot lately about how we prepare our students for graduation and beyond.

A year ago, we partnered with Gallup to measure engagement and quality of life among our students, faculty and staff, and alumni, and how that relates to the success and evolution of The Furman Advantage. Our first year's findings show not only the strong impact of a Furman education but also tremendous alignment with our strategic vision and opportunities for it to have an even greater impact for alumni.

Current and former students report being academically challenged at Furman,

an experience that, according to Gallup, prepares graduates well for life beyond college. In fact, 78 percent of Furman alumni strongly agree they were academically challenged, compared with 42 percent nationally. Why is this so important? Graduates who strongly agree they were academically challenged are more than three times as likely to say their college education prepared them well for life.

Furman alumni scored exceptionally well on Gallup's "Big Six" college experiences in emotional support and experiential learning. Research shows that graduates who had these experiences are three times more likely to be engaged at work and thriving in their wellbeing. Furman far outperforms the national average. (See chart below.)



As a result of this challenge-and-support experience, Furman alumni report they are thriving. In each of Gallup's key wellbeing indices – purpose, social, financial, community, physical – Furman alumni scored 14 to 19 points higher than the national average. With The Furman Advantage intentionally leveraging the strengths of the "Big Six," we expect these scores to grow.

At the same time, our research shows that we have some work to do to build greater affinity among alumni and to prove the value of their degrees immediately. We believe part of this involves placing greater, more meaningful emphasis on career development beginning the day students arrive. We're

also working to improve the university's rankings as part of a larger strategy to increase the prestige of a Furman degree.

There is more good news. We have also learned from Gallup that Furman faculty and staff are highly engaged. In fact Furman's employee engagement ranks in the 95th percentile among higher education and in the 75th percentile among all industries. This is important, because the greatest driver of alumni engagement is student engagement, and the top driver of student engagement is faculty and staff engagement.

Among the best conduits for engagement, experiential learning, career connections, and growing prestige are Furman's excellent centers and institutes. The Riley Institute celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. We feature its namesake, former South Carolina Governor and U.S. Secretary of Education Dick Riley '54, on page 26.

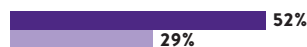
Our centers and institutes – which also include the Shi Center for Sustainability and the Institute for the Advancement of Community Health – allow us to make visible contributions to communities beyond our gates while providing valuable opportunities for Furman students not available elsewhere.

This is The Furman Advantage. And I'm really excited to see how our Gallup research is guiding our improvement while confirming we're on the right path. We're well on our way, the numbers show, to becoming a national model for value, high-impact learning and proven results. ●

GALLUP'S 'BIG SIX' FOR SUCCESS

■ FURMAN ALUMNI ■ NATIONAL AVERAGE

Strongly agreed they had "professors who cared about me as a person"



Strongly agreed they "had at least one professor who made me excited about learning"



Strongly agreed they "had a mentor who encouraged my goals and dreams"



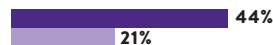
Strongly agreed they "had a job or internship that allowed me to apply what I was learning in the classroom"



Strongly agreed they "worked on a project that took a semester or more to complete"



Strongly agreed they were "extremely active in extracurricular activities"





Around the Lake



Howard Thompson '68,
Furman's original
carillonneur, revisits the
Bell Tower, which he used
to ascend, hymnal in hand,
when he was a student.



Howard Thompson '68, who taught himself to play the carillon at Furman, hopes future students will learn to play the instrument.

Towering Sounds

Howard Thompson '68 ascended the Bell Tower as Furman's first carillonneur

BY KELLEY BRUSS

Standing in the chamber behind the clock faces of Furman's iconic bell tower, Howard Thompson '68 remembers sensations as vividly as sounds: vibrations that would fill the space as he struck the batons connected to clappers in 60 bells just above him. The mechanical clacking that a carillonneur experiences is as prominent as the bell tones themselves.

The weather, too, is an inescapable part of playing a carillon in an open tower.

"It's a fun instrument to play," Thompson says. "You freeze in the winter, you burn in the summer, but that's just part of it."

Thompson is Furman's original carillonneur. He was in school when the

current bell tower was completed and its bells installed. Curiosity drew many music students up the spiral staircase in those years, but Thompson was the one who brought along a hymnal when he made the climb.

He taught himself to play in practice sessions that rang out across campus.

When he retired to Greenville in 2016, Thompson hoped to moonlight in his old role. But the bells are only rung electronically now. The mechanism that allowed them to be played by hand fell into disrepair and was removed more than a decade ago. Thompson, who spent his career teaching music in Texas, would love for a new generation of students to experience the instrument as he did.

"It deserves to be heard, more than just to chime the hour," he says.

'A really cool feeling'

A carillon is played using a clavier, wooden batons arranged as a keyboard with transmission wires connected to clappers in the bells.

When the musician strikes a baton – typically with the side of a loose fist – the wire pulls the clapper and rings the bell. The lowest bells sometimes are played by foot using batons arranged near the floor.

"It's a direct connection to the clapper, which is a really cool feeling," Thompson says.

In the tower, a concrete floor separates the carillonneur from the bells – an inches-wide gap in the concrete allows the transmission wires to move between levels.

"You actually heard more of the clack of the mechanism than you did the bells," Thompson says.

From manual to electronic

Once Thompson left, the carillon was rarely played manually. Another student played it in the 1980s, but for the most part, the clavier sat unused for decades. When Thompson finished at Furman, he headed to Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He spent his career as a music teacher and organist and continued to play the carillon in churches and universities. His wife, Mary Ann, who is also a musician, learned to play as well and became known for her Broadway on the Bells concerts.

When they were retiring to Greenville, Thompson reached out to Furman to say he and his wife would love to play the carillon if their services were needed. It was then he learned the manual clavier had been removed and the instrument was only played electronically. He was devastated.

"It kind of died for lack of use," he says.

Thompson would love to see the day when it could again be played manually. That would mean a new clavier, transmission lines and clappers. It would also have to mean commitment outside of the Thompson family.

"We really can't restore this so my wife and I can play it," he says, smiling. ●



Brian Boda '14 (second from the left) attends a reception at Tortilla Coast restaurant in Washington, D.C., for the program's mentors and students.

Furman alumni can be found across the nation's capital, working in a variety of fields — and their connections to one another are strong. **Brian Boda '14** found that out quickly when he took a defense consulting position with Deloitte Consulting.

“Just because I say ‘Furman,’ they are willing to sit down and have a conversation with me,” Boda said.

He wanted a way to pay his Furman experience forward and to draw current students into those conversations. So Boda pitched a mentoring idea to Danielle Vinson, Furman professor of politics and international affairs.

Helping Handshakes

When navigating D.C. — and later the job market — interns benefit from alumni mentors.

BY TINA UNDERWOOD

His idea was to make sure each student received an advantage: one-on-one mentoring from a Furman graduate.

“It’s really neat to see him wanting to do the same thing for other students,” Vinson said.

Vinson came back to campus with the idea, only to find that Paige Blankenship,

manager of student programs and events for the department, was already working on the same concept as an outflow of The Furman Advantage. The two joined forces, with Boda recruiting mentors in Washington, and Blankenship coordinating from campus.

Accommodating any major, the Washington Internship places about 15 students each spring semester and another 10 to 20 every other summer. The program, created in the late 1970s, places students in internships for 30 to 35 hours a week. They fill the rest of their hours with evening classes and professional development.

“Literally anything students can imagine, there’s something in D.C. that fits their interests,” Vinson said. “It’s a nice transition to the real world. And being in D.C. makes it a whole lot easier to find a job in D.C.”

Boda and Blankenship introduced the mentoring



“WE TELL STUDENTS, ‘FURMAN IS FAMILY,’ BUT I DON’T THINK THAT THEY ALWAYS NOTICE THAT UNTIL THEY GET OUT.”

idea in a departmental newsletter. Nearly 50 alumni responded to that first call for help.

Furman has “such a strong political science department, it’s so natural for Furman students to come up here to D.C.,” Boda said. “What we can do is leverage this massive network we have here and tie people to one-on-one relationships.”

The students and their mentors meet formally at a reception in Washington. Then they connect throughout the semester for individual support.

Mentors give the students a “better sense of what a job is really like,” Vinson said.

Jack Ligon ’19, a politics and international affairs major, interned in Washington in 2018 and plans to pursue a law degree and possibly a career in public interest law.

He interned in the Office of the Inspector General for the AbilityOne Commission, an investigative body overseeing nonprofits that serve people who are blind or severely disabled. His mentor was an attorney in private practice. He and his mentor have stayed in touch this fall as Ligon prepares to apply to law school.

“We traded stories about our experiences,” Ligon said. “It was the perfect balance to my public interest internship.”

To support student internships, go to www.furman.edu/givenow. ●



(Above) **Brian Boda '14** meets Sen. Lindsey Graham and retired Gen. David Petraeus at the 2012 Wilkins Legislative and Civic Leadership Awards.

(Below) Gil Klein, past president of the National Press Club (in bright red) gives students in the summer 2018 Washington Internship Program a tour of the NPC.




COURTESY/PHOTOS

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402 
gallons of milk

 **1,106**
pounds of cheese

 **1,400**
pounds of chicken breast

 **280**
pounds of cereal

 **70**
pounds of local
goat yogurt

700 
pounds of locally sourced
goat and lamb

 **1/4**

OF THE INGREDIENTS SERVED IN THE DH
ARE LOCALLY SOURCED.



WITH THE ENVIRONMENT IN
MIND, STUDENTS COMPOST

more than

16,000 lbs
OF WHAT'S LEFT EVERY WEEK.



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THE FURMAN FARM

supplies a number of seasonal ingredients, including rosemary, spinach, Swiss chard, collard greens, bell peppers, cilantro, mint, parsley, eggplant and jalapeño peppers.



Each week, local farmer and Furman Farm Manager Bruce Adams supplies

600 lbs
of hamburger.



Stephen Arnold '94

THEN

Reflection on the importance of Furman as it was

In the fall of 1992, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in Furman's foreign exchange program in Japan.

With little travel experience under my belt, I ventured out on my first trip to the other side of the world, knowing only that I would be living with a homestay family in the Kansai Prefecture and attending a local university for about five months.

The first few days in Japan almost seemed like I was living in a dream. The sights, sounds and even smells were so different from what I was accustomed to in my cozy hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee.

In the first few weeks I recall commiserating with other Furman students on the exchange program, and we shared wild stories about individual experiences. For example, one student had to buy all his own dishes to use at his homestay. As one would expect, I felt quite a bit of anxiety and frustration at first. My homestay family spoke very little English, which was the main impetus to learn the language. Over time I learned to communicate better with the family, which alleviated some of the challenges. By the end of my time in Japan, we had deeper conversations that included touchy subjects like religion and even WWII.

Looking back, I realize that the foreign exchange program truly changed my DNA, and I am truly grateful. I learned a ton about myself while expanding my worldview. I came to understand better and respect a different culture. The foreign exchange program changed my life, impacting my future decisions, including attending graduate school at the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University.

I have been asked, "From your experience, what is your best advice for those considering a foreign exchange program?" First, when you put yourself out there and take risks, you will always mature as a person. And more often than not, you are better off when you take risks and fail than if you had never taken that risk at all. Taking on new challenges will always include times of struggle when you question just about everything, but the effort is all worth it in the end. I have found that through this tension, we grow.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephen Arnold '94 is the chief financial officer at Arkis BioSciences and manages his own business consulting practice.



Students develop solutions for a design challenge during the second annual 24-hour design competition in January.

It's the kind of opportunity some strategic design students only dream about: a chance to learn at a prestigious institute in Atlanta, to participate in a portfolio review session in New York and to talk jobs with industry leaders.

But for Furman students, it's very much a reality.

Furman's Master of Arts in Strategic Design, unveiled in October, combines theoretical knowledge with in-depth exposure to creative strategic concepts through a partnership with Atlanta-based Miami Ad School @ Portfolio Center.

Furman students and others pursuing a career in strategic design will come out of the 18-month, five-semester program with a master's degree from Furman in strategic de-

Designed for Success

New graduate-level program trains the next cultural influencers

BY TINA UNDERWOOD

sign, a network of contacts and mentors, hands-on training in advanced design concepts, and a comprehensive portfolio that demonstrates acumen in the fields of design, advertising, branding, and innovation and management consultancy.

While the program's first cohort of students will enroll in June, the relationship with Miami Ad School @ Portfolio Center has been developing

over decades. Even before Art Professor Ross McClain arrived on campus in 1999, Furman students were stretching their design thinking skills at the Miami Ad School @ Portfolio Center, known internationally for developing young talent.

A truly multidisciplinary initiative, the master's degree features content and courses from communication studies,

business and English. Twenty-two of the 42 proposed credits for the program are taught, directed or supervised by Furman faculty.

McClain, who is the chairman of the art department, says liberal arts students are particularly primed for the program. "They are accustomed to approaching problems from a unique perspective, which is the very essence of innovation and creativity," he said.

The first summer term at Furman focuses on design thinking, typography, communication and composition. Three of the remaining four terms will be housed at Miami Ad School @ Portfolio Center in Atlanta, with courses supervised onsite and remotely by the Furman faculty and program director.



McClain says students will intersect with design, advertising and branding practitioners, future employers, an “amazing global alumni network” and invited speakers, such as acclaimed designer Stefan Sagmeister of New York-based Sagmeister and Walsh.

All graduating students work with an instructor to develop their final portfolio of 20 or more pieces. After refining their portfolios through expert critique, students participate in a portfolio review session in New York where more than 50 principals, presidents, creative directors and recruiters from design, advertising, consultancies, fashion, retail, e-commerce, branding and other industries are invited to view students’ work and discuss employment.

“This program grooms students for careers and future working environments full of rapid-fire changes — accelerating development, disruptive technologies and societal issues,” said McClain. “Students who have the creativity and agility to respond to these conditions in an entrepreneurial economy will be highly rewarded.” ●



SOPHIE HARRIS '19 | JEREMY FLEMING | COURTESY PHOTO



Song as a Time Machine

BY JEFFREY MAKALA

Students in several history and music classes at Furman regularly come to Special Collections and Archives in the James B. Duke Library to learn how the university’s collection of medieval manuscripts were created and used. But this past November, a music history class got a bit more hands-on with one manuscript.

When students in Music History I, team-taught by Associate Professor of Musicology Laura Kennedy and Professor of Music John Beckford, visited Special Collections, they saw a selection of more than 35 medieval manuscripts. The collection is the second largest in South Carolina. Among the 10 or so music manuscripts that were reviewed by the class were leaves from several large-format songbooks, known as graduals or antiphonals. These large works are choir books meant for several singers to view and sing from simultaneously. Furman’s examples come from Spain, France and Italy, and they range in dates from circa 1230 to circa 1550.

The largest leaf in Furman’s collection is pictured here. It is from an Italian gradual and dates from about 1500. Furman acquired it in 2016; however, Cornell University also owns a leaf from it.

Toward the end of the class period, Kennedy suggested that her students try to sing the tones on the staff together. A group of students formed around her, and the impromptu choir worked its way through the beginning of the new hymn on the manuscript’s front side. The large initial “T” begins the hymn “Telluris alme conditor,” or “the maker of the earth,” a piece attributed to Pope Gregory I (circa 540 - 604) and normally sung on Tuesdays in the Roman Catholic breviary. When the singing broke out, the rest of the class in the Special Collections Reading Room stopped what they were doing and listened. Medieval plainsong – or at least a rough approximation of it – filled the air. The music class had brought the 600-year-old manuscript to life. ●



Thomas Farmer '50, who died in 2014, gives a speech in 2007 at the dedication of Thomas Spann Farmer Hall. Farmer Hall houses the Office of Development.

Helping the next generation is a noble aspiration — and one that Thomas Farmer realized countless times over during his lifetime and beyond.

The estate of the late Thomas Farmer, a 1950 graduate who was among Furman's strongest supporters, made a \$6 million bequest, bringing his total giving to the university to nearly \$10 million.

Furman University President Elizabeth Davis announced the gift in December. Farmer, who died in 2014 at the age of 90, gave Furman a total of \$3.8 million during his lifetime.

"Thomas Farmer was a loyal alumnus and one of Furman's most generous supporters," Davis said. "He gave much to the university during his life-

Farmer's Vision, Gifts Benefit Students

BY VINCE MOORE

time, both in terms of his time and his financial resources, and this bequest is another example of his amazing generosity. It also demonstrates the power of planned giving, and how it can provide a lasting benefit to our current and future students."

A portion of the bequest will go to the Thomas Spann Farmer Endowed Scholarship and the Christina Farmer

Waring Endowed Art Scholarship. Both support Furman's Partners Program, which allows scholarship donors to personally connect with students who benefit from their philanthropy.

The bequest will also support Furman's Office for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which develops entrepreneurial leaders on

campus, regardless of major or discipline, and encourages a culture of innovation.

"The gift from Tom Farmer is very special and a testament to his passion for Furman," said Vice President for Development Heidi McCrory. "It demonstrates his belief that the university, through its students and alumni, is positively shaping and strengthening our community and the broader world. Bequests and other planned gifts like this are statements of confidence in Furman's mission, and they create a legacy of philanthropy that will impact generations of students to come."

Farmer's devotion to Furman began decades ago.

He graduated magna cum laude in 1950 after returning

"THOMAS FARMER WAS A LOYAL ALUMNUS AND ONE OF FURMAN'S MOST GENEROUS SUPPORTERS."

from duty with the United States Army and Army Air Corps during World War II. While a student, he served as president of the student council and a member of Blue Key and Quaternion.

After graduation, Farmer spent a year at Furman as director of public relations and then worked for Berlin Myers Lumber Corporation until joining Lowe's Companies, from which he retired in 1986. He opened the first Lowe's store in South Carolina and was active with the Low Country Food Bank, the Rotary Club of North Charleston and his church, Bethany United

Methodist in Summerville, South Carolina.

The ways he committed his talents and resources to Furman remain innumerable.

Farmer served on Furman's Advisory Council and was a sustaining member of the Richard Furman Society and an adjunct member of the Furman Board of Trustees Development Committee. In addition to supporting the Partners Program, his financial contributions to Furman funded the Elizabeth Young Farmer Commons Room in Johns Hall and Thomas Spann Farmer Hall, which houses the Office of Development. ●



Thomas Farmer '50 was a cheerleader for Furman as a student and would go on to donate nearly \$10 million to the university.



Caroline Daly '19

NOW

Reflection on Furman as it is now

I began my freshman year at Furman eager to be shaped by my experiences over the next four years. Little did I know that the most impactful moments for me would entail investing in others to help shape and develop leaders.

My story begins with the Shucker Leadership Institute, a two-year program designed to help students develop leadership skills and engage the community through collaborative partnerships and meaningful service. Designing STEMulate as my Leadership Challenge Project for Shucker remains a highlight of my time at Furman. STEMulate was a program aimed at bringing professionals in science, technology, engineering and math fields into contact with fifth-grade students at a local Title I school. Its purpose was to expose students to new job fields, help them envision possibilities for their futures, and empower them to set and achieve goals through education. Our team navigated many obstacles while implementing this project, and those lessons remain invaluable. Watching the students' enthusiastic response to the program revealed to me the impact that effective leadership and perseverance can have on a community.

The positive feedback our team received inspired me in my leadership role for the Shucker Leadership Institute. I grew from my role as a new fellows

coordinator, which allowed me to develop a leadership curriculum for the program's incoming freshmen. This program included mentoring these new fellows as they devised and implemented their own Leadership Challenge Projects. Perhaps my favorite Furman experience has been coaching these students as they develop their own personal leadership styles and observing them as they apply their new skills across campus.

As I conclude my role as student director for the Shucker Leadership Institute, I cannot help but be grateful for the opportunities the program has afforded me. The experience has equipped me to lead and serve in many capacities. Esteemed mentors and treasured friends within the Shucker community have empowered me to invest in others toward the goal of achieving shared success. Ultimately, the time I spent at Furman was not primarily about my own formation. Rather, it has been about casting myself to create a ripple, touching the lives of those around me. Shaped in this way, I leave Furman prepared to lead through service, inspiring others to create their own ripples.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Caroline Daly '19 served as the student director for the Shucker Leadership Institute.



Q&A with Anthony Herrera

BY RON WAGNER '93

Anthony Herrera joined Furman last August as executive director of the university's new Office for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

What is the purpose of the Office for Innovation and Entrepreneurship?

AH: We are a start-up, and the start-up is to develop and grow an institute that is focused on innovation and entrepreneurship for Furman. What that means is growing an entrepreneurship and innovation culture here on campus and ultimately contributing to the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region. But before we can contribute outside of the walls, we've got to make sure we have a vibrant system here internally. That comes from building an infrastructure, from access to mentors to space to coordinating and organizing talent — which is student, staff and faculty and even alumni — and then preparing and equipping them to develop ideas and make those ideas operational or launch a venture.

Furman isn't generally associated with tech and start-ups. Why do you think this can work at a liberal arts and sciences school?

AH: When people hear innovation and entrepreneurship, there's this bias to always think tech. Silicon Valley, what's the next Amazon or Google. But entrepreneurship can be your family-owned businesses, franchise businesses, retail, restaurants. Innovation is advancing an idea. It's problem-solving. It's dealing with ambiguity, all these characteristics or themes that are taught and developed at a liberal arts and sciences university. That education model lends itself really well to innovation, so I think Furman's well-positioned to be a leader in developing innovative leaders. And those innovative leaders can do two things. One, they can either be entrepreneurs and start ventures, whether they're tech-based or not, or intropreneurs, going to work in an organization and helping create breakthroughs and bringing new ideas.

How will an innovation and entrepreneurship culture at Furman impact Greenville and the region?

AH: Universities that launch innovation and entrepreneurship centers or offices or institutes, they fall in a spectrum. Typically, large state schools are going to be very economic-development focused. How are we creating jobs? How are we impacting the regional economy? And then when you look at small private schools or liberal arts colleges, they're going to be very student-focused, almost neglecting the outside of their walls. I think Furman, because of the region, because of Greenville and the vibrancy and the interest in

entrepreneurship and innovation and growth, and the size of the city, can play in the middle, and we can tie it together.

Is the Office for Innovation and Entrepreneurship here to show Furman what it needs, or is it giving Furman what it already wanted?



JEREMY FLEMING

AH: When I came here I wanted to do an assessment. Is there even an interest in entrepreneurship? And what I'm finding is that it is widely sought after. A lot of students are interested in it, a lot of staff. I've adopted student organizations that are focused on innovation and helped come alongside and give some infrastructure for a new entrepreneurship club called Inventure. That's a group of about 40 to 50 students who are entrepreneurially minded. It was already in pockets around the university.

Why do Millennials and Gen Z seem so much more interested than previous generations in pursuing innovation and entrepreneurship as a career?

AH: I think a couple of things are influencing this entrepreneurship interest. One, this generation, the Millennial generation, and the generation coming up behind the Millennials, saw a lot of organizations grow in front of their eyes. Starbucks. Google. Amazon. Apple. They see these start-ups that have an impact on their lives, and that gives them an interest in something they can relate to. The other thing is, I think they see a changing economy and a changing workforce, meaning gone are the days of "spend 30 years at one company and retire." The model doesn't exist anymore, even for the organization. There's no loyalty on the company side or the individual side. I think this generation sees there is no guarantee anymore of lifetime employment, so taking your career into your own hands also means you're almost becoming your own corporation. I came from Toyota, executive leadership development. The reality is the challenges facing even some of our largest established corporations are requiring them to move in an instant in changing their workforce demand. We are not completely developing our students if we're not showing them how to take ideas and use them or understand their value and be prepared to be self-employed. ●



NEXT

Reflection on Furman going forward

How did I transition from being a first-generation college student from rural South Carolina to the program director of the Furman College Advising Corps, serving students just like me? I never imagined that my passion for college access and equity would someday allow me to help change the narrative for economically disadvantaged, traditionally underrepresented and first-generation prospective college students.

FCAC is one of 25 prestigious institutions of higher education within the College Advising Corps network. Furman University, in partnership with the Duke Endowment and the J. Marion Sims Foundation, embarked upon the journey of serving students in Lancaster and Chester counties two years ago. Through community-based research, the consensus among students was, "We need more support in preparing for life after high school."

Why does this matter? By 2020, more than two-thirds of professions are expected to require some form of education beyond high school. Therefore, students need intentionally designed, committed support to identify the best pathway for them upon graduation. This is the work of CAC advisers nationwide.

Seven college advisers, including five Furman graduates, make up the Furman CAC. They work tirelessly to create and strengthen the college-going culture within their assigned high school. The advisers use one-on-one sessions, parent engagement programming, federal student aid assistance, placement testing guidance, college visits and scholarship searches to address barriers and help students navigate the college entry process.

Serving in rural communities requires humility and grace to earn the trust of those who call these

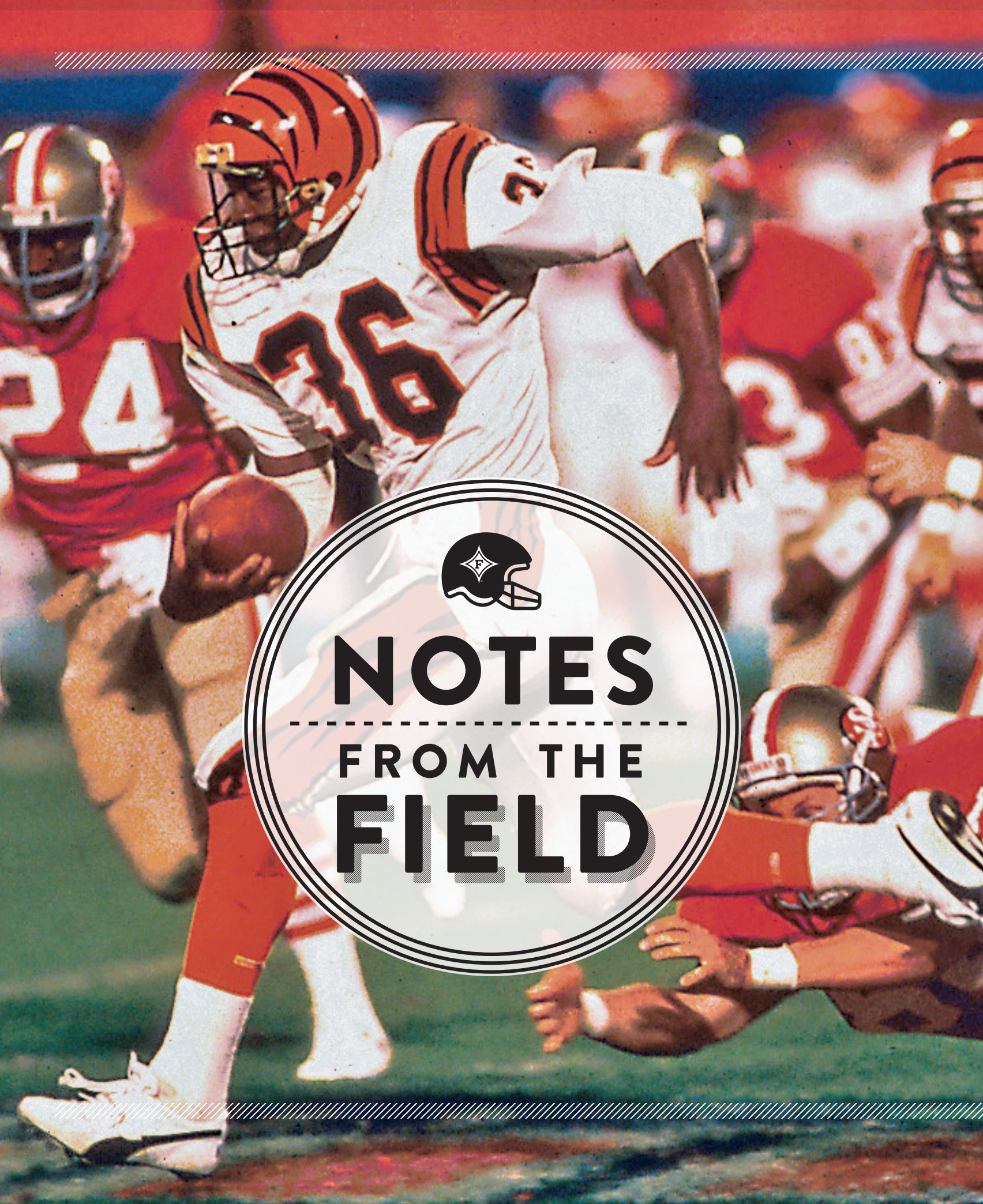
close-knit, beautiful places home. Considering the work of the Task Force on Slavery and Justice, Furman's connection to three rural communities around the state and the mission to give back to them present opportunities for Furman and CAC to walk hand-in-hand and extend education and opportunities to Edgefield, Sumter and Winnsboro.

The task force findings will help inform what comes next for the Furman College Advising Corps. While serving the Greenville community is a priority, so is our effort to serve these rural communities and to tell the story of the Furman influence in these areas. This matters to me on a personal and professional level, as I am a native of Sumter County and had no knowledge of Furman's presence in my beloved home. I have often asked myself if Sumter County would be different if Furman University had remained there. I know Catchall and High Hills and have passed by the historical marker of Furman's former campus all my life without knowing their significance. I now think of Furman Field Road in Rembert and Furman Middle School and marvel at the Furman family influence.

Furman seeks to right some wrongs. That is commendable. In the process, I hope that alumni in these communities rise to the occasion and become part of Furman's next challenge. The College Advising Corps is part of the solution. We hope to extend our reach into these communities to serve as a source of reconciliation and hope.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tomeika Bennett is the program director of the Furman College Advising Corps.



NOTES

FROM THE

FIELD



Once Stanford Jennings hit full speed and eluded the grasp of a San Francisco defender, he was on his way to a 93-yard kickoff return in Super Bowl XXIII.

FURMAN SPORTS INFORMATION

Notes from the Field

STANFORD JENNINGS IS STILL SUPER

BY VINCE MOORE

It was late in the third quarter of Super Bowl XXIII, and **Stanford Jennings '84** had a lot to think about as he stood in the end zone awaiting the kickoff from the San Francisco 49ers.

For starters, Jennings' Cincinnati Bengals were tied with the 49ers, 6-6, in the biggest sporting event in the world. Of equal importance, however, was the fact that his first child, daughter Kelsey, had been born the day before in Cincinnati while he was in Miami preparing for the game.

His wife, Kathy, and baby were doing fine, and Jennings was thinking it would be nice to do something special for them during the game. He even had written Kelsey's name on his cleats.

What happened next had happened only once before in the previous 22 Super Bowls and only eight more times since. Jennings caught the football on the seven-yard line, sprinted through a gap in the middle of the field and ran 93 yards for a touchdown.

It was an electrifying play that gave the Bengals the lead and elicited a legendary "Oh, my" from NBC announcer Dick Enberg.

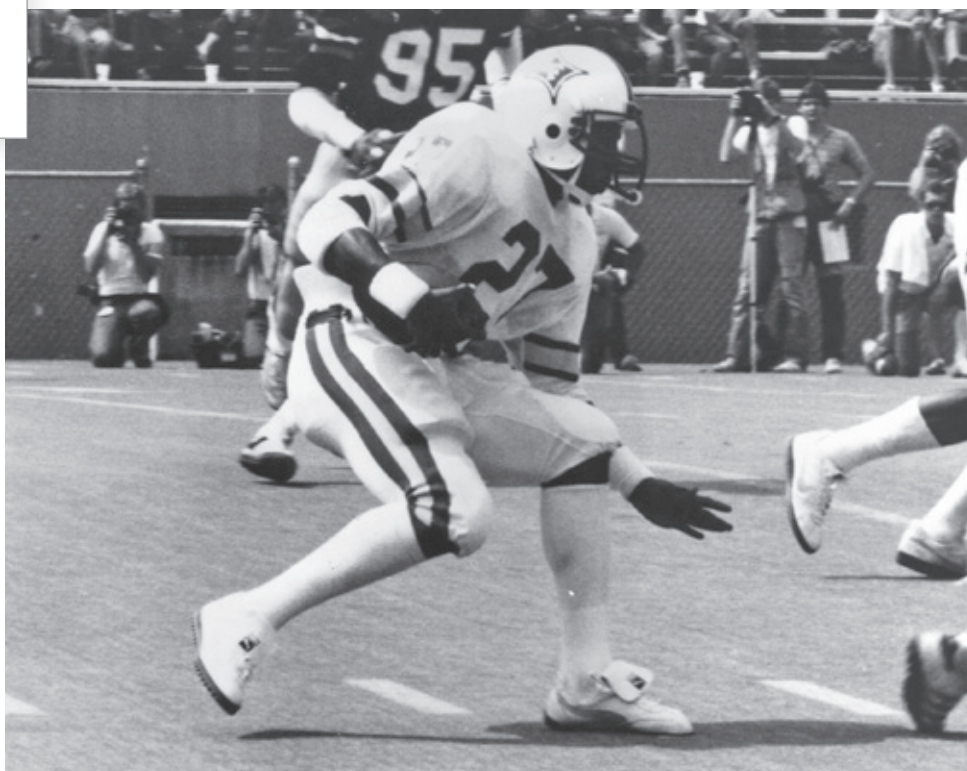
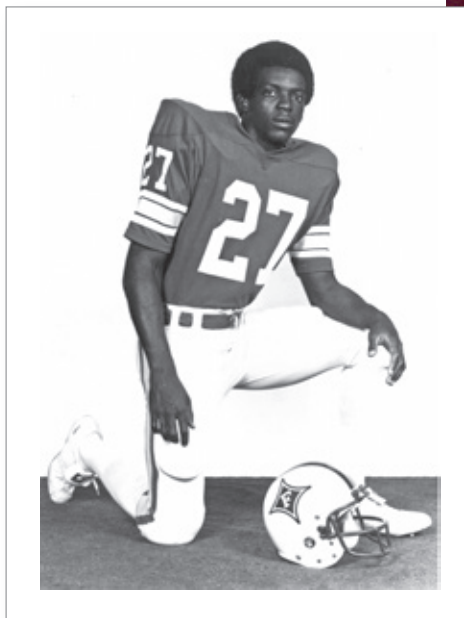
"I can't really say I was nervous," Jennings says. "The blocking scheme

is called before every kickoff, so I knew exactly where I was going to run. The guys made their blocks, the hole was there and I ran through it as fast as I could. The adrenaline carried me the rest of the way."

Following the kickoff return, after Jennings and Bengals head coach **Sam Wyche '66** had embraced in a hug on the sideline, Enberg duly noted that both men were Furman alums. And what were the odds, Enberg might have added, that two men who played football at a small school in the South would find themselves together on the National Football League's grandest stage?

"While nobody could have predicted we would return that kickoff for a touchdown, I knew I could count on Stanford to hang onto the football and make the right decisions," Wyche said. "A lot of kick returners like to cut left or right when they're following their blocking, but Stanford hit the hole at full speed and just took off. It was a great play."

Notes from the Field



While the Bengals would ultimately lose, 20-16, in the game's final seconds, Jennings' feat in Super Bowl XXIII has not been forgotten. In the summer of 2018, the Cincinnati Enquirer named his kickoff the top play in the 50-year history of the Bengals. A year earlier, he was also named one of the top 50 players in Bengals history.

"We (the Bengals) wanted to draft Stanford because we understood what a great player he was at Furman," Wyche said. "The scouts talk to one another, and we knew we weren't the only team interested in drafting him. He turned out to be everything we thought he would be."

Jennings remains, 35 years later, one of Furman's greatest student-athletes. The Paladins won Southern Conference championships each of his four seasons, and he graduated as the school's leading career rusher with 3,868 yards and 39 touchdowns. His teams recorded victories over South Carolina and Georgia Tech, and he was the first person in the history of the conference to be named league Player of the Year three times.

Jennings, shown here during his years at Furman, graduated as the school's leading career rusher.

He was drafted in the third round by the Bengals, the highest draft choice in Furman football history. He played a total of nine years in the NFL – seven with the Bengals, and one each with New Orleans and Tampa Bay – before retiring in 1992.

It's no surprise that Jennings has been as successful off the field. He and Kathy currently live in the suburbs of Atlanta, where he serves as the regional sales manager for New Balance Athletics. His daughter, Kelsey, graduated from

Notes from the Field



Family has been every bit as important to Jennings as football. From left: son, Jamie, daughter, Kelsey, and wife, Kathy.

Furman in 2011, and his son, Jamie, attended Georgia Southern.

Of all the good things Jennings has done since graduating from Furman and finishing his NFL career, giving back to his alma mater has to be near the top of the list. He established the Stanford Jennings Football Scholarship just a few months after he graduated, and he has served multiple terms on the Furman Board of Trustees. He's on campus quite often for activities and events, and not just ones involving athletics.

"It's nice to look back on the choices you made in life and realize you made some good ones," Jennings says. "I'm very appreciative of the fact that I had the chance to go to Furman, get a scholarship and be associated with such a great, character-building football program and a top academic institution. Being a true student-athlete was important in my development. And still being involved with the university as a trustee and a Furman parent has provided a lasting connection."

The Jennings household contains more than a few memories of Super Bowl XXIII. There are newspaper articles and photos of the kickoff return staged in sequence. The official football of Super Bowl XXIII is still in its Wilson box, unopened. So Jennings doesn't mind reliving the memories, especially when another Super Bowl rolls around. In fact, he and Kelsey make a point every year of getting together and watching videos of his kickoff return. Yet, there is one thing.

"It's the thing that still sticks with me, that sticks with all of us (on the team)," Jennings says with a wry laugh. "As great as it was, it would be a lot better had we won the game." ●

**"It's nice to look back on the choices you made in life
and realize you **MADE SOME GOOD ONES.**"**

SPORTS BRIEFS

BY VINCE MOORE

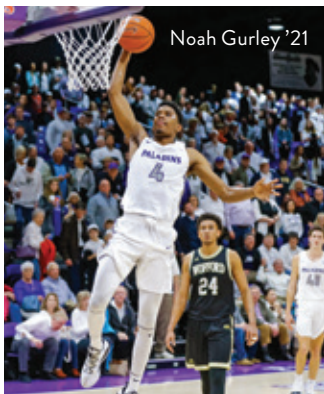
IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR

Before the 2018-19 basketball season got underway in November, nobody knew what to expect from the Furman men's team.

The Paladins had lost four important players to graduation, and they were picked to finish fourth in the Southern Conference by both the league's head coaches and the media.

But the season would prove to be anything but ordinary. And while the Paladins did not realize their ultimate goal of qualifying for the NCAA tournament, that was just about the only thing all year that didn't go Furman's way.

Furman won its first 12 games and became the first team in the 106-year history of the men's program to be ranked in the Associated Press Top 25 poll. The Paladins rose to No. 23 before finally losing on the road to Louisiana State, which would go on to become the SEC regular-season champion.



Noah Gurley '21



Matt Rafferty '19



A BANNER SEASON FOR THE WOMEN

The women's basketball team finished second in the Southern Conference regular season and advanced to the finals of the league tournament,

where Furman lost to regular-season champion Mercer, 66-63, to just miss an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. The Paladins were awarded a berth in the Women's National Invitation Tournament and fell to Virginia Tech in the first round, 92-65.

The team finished with a 19-14 record, with the 19 victories matching a season high under ninth-year head coach **Jackie Carson '00**. The Paladins were led by a pair of all-conference performers – junior guard Le'Jzae Davidson and sophomore center Celena Taborn – and guard Milica Manojlovic, who was named to the league's All-Freshman Team. Senior forward Kaitlyn Duncan earned a spot on the five-player SoCon All-Defensive Team.

The perfect start included road victories over defending national champion Villanova (76-68) and fellow 2018 Final Four participant Loyola Chicago (60-58). Junior Jordan Lyons also tied the NCAA Division I record for three-point baskets in a game, hitting 15 shots beyond the arc and scoring 54 points in a 107-67 victory over North Greenville.

Furman finished third in what was an especially strong year for the conference before losing to No. 2 UNC-Greensboro in the semifinals of the league tournament in Asheville, North Carolina, which might have been the loss that kept the Paladins out of the NCAA tournament. But Furman received a bid to the National Invitation Tournament for the first time since 1991, hosting a good Wichita State team as a No. 3 seed. The season ended with a 76-70 loss to the Shockers.

Overall, the team set a school record for regular-season wins (24) as well as total victories (25) and surely drew more attention from the national sports media than any team in Furman history. Matt Rafferty, a first-team all-conference selection, and fellow seniors Andrew Brown, Jalen Williams and Brady Schuck were also part of the winningest class in program history.



TRIPtych

A Peek at APEC

BY MARY BRADLEY PAZDAN '19

When I applied to be a student delegate for the 2018 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Voices of the Future Program in Papua New Guinea, I had no idea what kind of impact it would have on my life. Having studied away several times and participated in student-run organizations on campus, I thought I had done everything Furman had to offer me. I was wrong.

Through the conference, I connected with four other student leaders at Furman, who inspired me with their leadership skills and genuine passion to serve others. I also made friends with student leaders from across the world and got to appreciate the similarities between our countries. I was constantly inspired by the stories I heard from my new friends and have maintained the friendships since returning to the United States.

What was most memorable to me was how all of my fellow delegates came together to discuss our countries' common challenges and seek solutions. Although we were considered the future leaders at APEC, I left knowing that our voices are important and will make a difference in our world. That, I realized, is truly The Furman Advantage.

To support study away opportunities, go to www.furman.edu/givenow



1 Katherine West '19, Davis Cousar '20, Jackson Robinson '20, Mary Bradley Pazdan '19 and Rob Cain '19 represent the United States at APEC Voices of the Future, where they discuss foreign policy, listen to speeches and experience new cultures.

2 Davis Cousar '20 and Mary Bradley Pazdan '19 learn alongside students from around the world in Papua New Guinea for the 20th anniversary of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation 2018 Voices of the Future program.

3 Politics and International Affairs Professor Cleve Fraser, Katherine West '19, Mary Bradley Pazdan '19, Rob Cain '19, Davis Cousar '20, Jackson Robinson '20 and Jessica Hennessey, associate professor of economics, attend events on ships like the Pacific Jewel and the Pacific Explorer.

SAYING YES.

ANEESH BORAH '18 found his voice at Furman. | by Lindsay Niedringhaus '07

In the four years that he was at Furman, **Aneesh Borah '18** completed three majors, worked three jobs (at the same time) and participated in numerous clubs and organizations. According to Borah, there are people who are talented, and then there are people who “do a lot and learn from the experiences.” He sees himself as part of the latter group.

“I like to stay busy. I see opportunities, and I go after them,” says Borah, who majored in Asian studies, studio art, and information technology. “I look at a lot of my design heroes, and they’ve all said that at the beginning of your career, you should say yes

to everything. So that’s what I’ve done.” His heroes’ advice seemed to work. Borah now lives in New York City working as a junior graphic designer at Penguin Random House, the largest paperback publisher in the world. He is on the brand marketing team, working on everything from book-marks to email blasts, shelf designs to what they call “event kits,” or the pieces that accompany a book at a conference, presentation or party. He gets to work on big-name brands such as Nickelodeon, Disney, Sesame Street, DC Icons and Superheroes, Dr. Seuss, Little Golden Books and Magic Tree House.

JEREMY FLEMING | COURTESY PHOTOS



Aneesh Borah '18 graduated with three majors: Asian studies, studio art and information technology. Borah is pictured at left with President Elizabeth Davis after accepting the Lillian Brock-Flemming Award in 2018.





A native of Guwahati, a city in northeast India, Borah is no stranger to large cities.

He also spent the last two years of high school in New Delhi, so making the move from Greenville, South Carolina, to New York City felt more like going home than discovering a new place.

“Life moves so fast here,” says Borah. “It’s the only place I’ve ever lived that makes me tired (in a good way), and I love that.”

Borah credits friendships at Furman for getting him, literally and figuratively, to New York.

“My friend, a Furman grad, was working at Penguin Random House

books, and she let me know there was a position open here, so I applied,” explains Borah. “The next thing I knew, I had a job and needed to move to New York in two weeks.” So he moved there and crashed at friends’ places, including many Furman alumni, while searching for an apartment.

When asked what their favorite part of Furman is, a common answer among Furman alumni is “the people.” Of course, the beautiful campus and the top-notch education are also part of those answers, but the students, faculty, staff and alumni always take first place.

It wasn’t a completely seamless transition for Borah. He remembers being the only student from India his freshman year, and that wasn’t a very comfortable feeling at first. But in many ways, this is why he chose Furman.

“I was between Furman and Drexel University,” explains Borah. “I had narrowed it to these two schools because both offered me full scholarships. I am a twin, and my parents didn’t have the finances to send both of us to schools in the U.S., so much of my college decision was based on scholarships.”

But, he says, the international student scholarship is what really put Furman on his radar.

“Furman’s admissions counselor was honest with me, which I appreciate,” Borah says. “He told me that Furman’s international student population was small, and my response was that if I wanted to be amongst a bunch of other Indians, I would have stayed in India. Drexel had a large Indian population, so I purposely chose Furman because I knew I could make a difference there.”

COURTESY PHOTOS



From left: Aneesh Borah '18 pictured at the Penguin Random House Books office in New York City, where he works as a graphic designer.

Borah's final senior show project, shown here, featured a hybrid typeface of Latin and Devanagari.

Borah sits in his office at Penguin.

"I HAVE A VOICE, AND I WANT THAT VOICE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

While at Furman, Borah says he became the spokesperson for the international student population, taking an active role in the Furman University International Students Association (FUISA).

"My freshman year, FUISA was really small, and no one knew who they were. I felt like they needed a voice, so I guess I kind of became that. By my senior year, we were hosting events large enough that we had to use McAlister Auditorium to house all of the people. Now, everyone knows what FUISA is."

Borah was also involved in the Student Diversity Council and, along with Furman's Associate Director of Diversity Engagement Deborah Allen, was responsible for bringing a large international flags installation to the Trone Student Center.

"My twin brother was at Dickinson, and when I went to visit him, I noticed they had flags displayed of all the home countries of their

students. I appreciated how it helped the international students feel more at home. So when I got back to Furman, I, along with some other Furman students, spoke with President Davis about it."

And she made it happen.

Borah also made his voice known in the classroom. He recalls his favorite art class, Ross McClain's branding class, in which they worked with real companies who became their clients. The class had to design a logo for My Neighbor's Voice, a local organization that encourages healthy discourse about civic concerns. Each student designed a logo, and then as a class they chose three to present to the client. At first, Borah's logo wasn't chosen.

"But I felt so strongly about what I designed," he explains. "I couldn't be OK with the company not seeing my design."

So Borah kept bringing it up to McClain.

"I don't know if Professor McClain was tired of listening to me or what," laughs Borah, "but eventually he said, 'Fine. Show them your logo, too.' So I did, and they picked it! That's when I knew that this is what I wanted to do with my life."

In many ways, Borah was the typical Furman student who took on a list of clubs, majors, jobs and responsibilities, including an internship with Furman University Communications, where he learned from seasoned professionals. He was also involved with the Furman University Student Activities Board and the Japan Summer Experience.

"Above all, Furman has taught me that if I'm not able to give 100 percent to something, then I shouldn't do it," Borah says. "I have a voice, and I want that voice to make a difference." ●





ONE STATE, ONE PEOPLE

AS THE RILEY INSTITUTE TURNS 20,
DICK RILEY ISN'T RESTING.

by Ron Wagner '93

People have been trying to put **Richard W. “Dick” Riley ’54** in charge of things for almost all of his life. But to this day, one of Furman’s most celebrated and accomplished alumni has never been more surprised at finding himself in a position of power than when he was elected president of the Woodside Music Club in elementary school.



“I definitely was not the best pianist in the crowd,” Riley remembers with a laugh, but it was the start of a trend. A few years later at Greenville High, the football team selected Riley as one of the team’s co-captains despite a similar level of ability in the sport — or lack thereof.

That’s when he started getting suspicious.

“That told me I might have some leadership ability,” Riley says. He tested his hunch by spending the next seven decades transforming the lives of thousands with an unwavering dedication to improving education while relentlessly championing diversity, equality and inclusion.

Now 86 and one of the country’s most beloved public servants, it’s official: He can drop the “might.”

A TOWERING FIGURE

As the Richard W. Riley Institute at Furman University approaches its 20th anniversary in October, it seems no corner of the Palmetto State is untouched by its “leadership, knowledge, impact” model. Two landmark education studies, the opening of 13 New Tech Schools in low-achieving, low-income communities, and more than 2,100 Diversity Leaders Initiative graduates who have carried out 250 civic action projects are just a few of the programs and research activities that have made the institute one of the most important organizations for change in the country.

“Dick Riley has more respect, quite frankly, than anybody I have ever seen,” says Don Gordon, the institute’s executive director and a Furman professor of politics and international affairs. “If he ran for governor right now, I’ll bet you Dick would win because he has that kind of cross-aisle importance. But nationally, he’s even more important.”

When the Riley Institute launched in 1999, Riley still had more than a year left as President Bill Clinton’s secretary of education and was approaching the fourth decade of a political career that had begun as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1963. His popularity became so great after he was elected to his first term as South Carolina governor that voters overwhelmingly approved a change to the state constitution, allowing him to run for a second term, which he won with 70 percent of the vote.

Riley went on to pass the Education Improvement Act, still one of the most comprehensive education bills the nation has ever seen, while serving as the first two-term governor in the state’s history. Passing the education law was an achievement that

would not have been possible in only four years, he says.

As secretary of education, Riley implemented the first federal grants to charter schools and hosted the first Conference on Education Technology, while expanding college grants and loan programs. No other secretary of education has ever served all eight years of a two-term president. His accomplishments led to Riley being named one of Time magazine's "Top 10 Best Cabinet Members" of the 20th century. Certainly, if anyone had earned the right to sail off into the sunset, it was Riley. The thought never occurred to him.

"I'm a Furman devotee, and I have fond memories of sitting down with (then-Furman president) David Shi ('72) and Don Gordon and several of his key people and really thinking about what I was going to do when I came out of the secretary's office. This was in 1998 and 1999," Riley remembers. "I got very interested in what now is the Riley Institute as a way to take my vision for the state that I love, and the country that I love, and the city that I love, and the university that I love, and do something meaningful with it. And I really wanted to get into something that would have some sustainability. Here we are, celebrating the 20th anniversary."

A SPREADING CANOPY

While they weren't sure exactly what the institute would look like at the start, everything the organization did to take on "issues critical to South Carolina's progress" was to be data-driven and nonpartisan. In the years since, what started as an acorn has grown into an oak tree with a canopy spreading over three centers, making it appear that the Riley Institute is everywhere. Still, the institute remains deeply rooted where it was first planted.



From left: Riley (middle) with father Ted Riley and First Lady Tunky Riley at his inauguration.

Riley confers with civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

Left: Then-Education Secretary Riley speaks with President Bill Clinton.

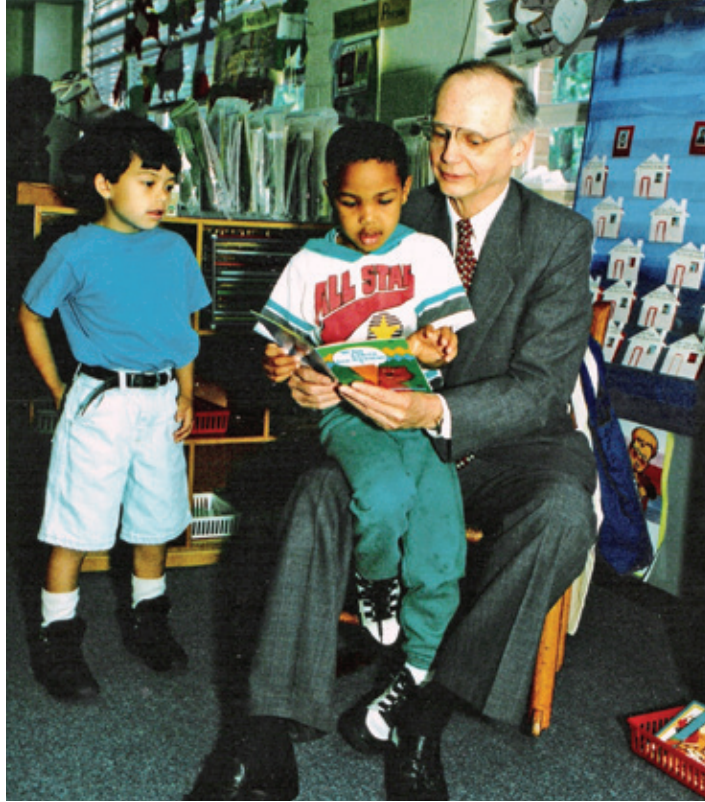
“My first love in terms of service has always been education, especially for people who were unfortunately not involved in the kind of education that they needed in today’s world.”

“My first love in terms of service has always been education, especially for people who were unfortunately not involved in the kind of education that they needed in today’s world,” Riley says. “That was my overriding interest.”

Riley grew up in the segregated South, attending school with only white students and teachers, surrounded by institutionalized racism. But rather than being blinded to the rest of the world, he only saw it more clearly. Riley has fought his entire public life to give everyone the same opportunities for advancement, which meant facing some demons.

“When I was inaugurated governor the first time, I had them change the ceremony from the north side of the State House to the south side, and I made my inaugural address about that subject that the country was now facing south,” Riley says. “When you look at the history of the South after the Civil War and

Riley visits schools and speaks at an event about federal education legislation during his term as President Bill Clinton's secretary of education.



during the Reconstruction, we had the deepest economic problems of any part of the country by far. It was just a tragic area, the South. Things were beginning to happen, though, in the so-called New South in the late '50s and '60s. That really interested me to move that forward."

Riley's father, Ted, who graduated from Furman in 1926 and served as the longtime Greenville County attorney, instilled in him a lasting value system.

"He was a very fair-minded person, and that's something I've tried to carry forward, too," Riley says. "A lot of people who were proper-minded in terms of equality have always been there (in the South). You've seen it in the churches. You've seen it in the universities."

Today, the Riley Institute is a pioneer in breaking down racial barriers. For 15 years, the Diversity Leaders Initiative, created and led by nationally known diversity expert Juan Johnson, has trained leaders of all races to effectively manage increasingly diverse workforces.

"Things were straightened out legally. The Supreme Court had seen to that," Riley says, referring to the multiple rulings that racial discrimination was illegal. But public attitudes had to catch up.

"They had not straightened it out in terms of people understanding how far we could go if we all worked together," Riley says. "It could be one state, one people. And that's exactly what the DLI does. I've talked to hundreds of (graduates), and I've never talked to one who didn't tell me that it changed their life and their whole attitude about dealing with other people."

NEVER ABOUT POWER

When President Clinton asked if he'd be interested in replacing the retiring Byron White on the Supreme Court, not one person told Riley to turn it down. Yet he did anyway. "I really was terribly honored by the offer, but that's not what I wanted to spend the rest of my life doing," says Riley, a practicing attorney throughout his professional life. "I had never been a judge, and I really liked what I was doing, making things happen."

He admits the decision was difficult, but the support he received from his wife was invaluable. Riley and the former Anna Yarborough, known to her friends and family as "Tunky," met when they were teenagers. They were married for 51 years until she died in 2008. They have four children: Richard Jr., Anne, Hubert and Ted.

"My wife was a very thoughtful person, and the first thing she told me was, 'You do what you think is right, what you think you'd be best at and what you'd be happy with,'" Riley remembers. "I thought, 'I know what I want to do, and I'll just go ahead and do it.' And I haven't been sorry a bit."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg ended up accepting the nomination and being confirmed to the court, where she remains. "Ginsburg has been a very loyal, good member of the Supreme Court and very supportive of women's issues" Riley says.

Riley also later turned down the chance to be Clinton's chief of staff, saying he had no interest in that "cutthroat" world. Instead, he returned to the place he has always lived, and today Riley is a senior partner in the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough law firm.

Attempts to get Riley to look back during a conversation often result in failure, because he remains, as he always has been, singularly focused on a better future.

"I have been a goals person since I was a very young child. Whatever I did, I would decide this was important and I was going after it," he says. "I don't care if it was small or big, I went after it."

Yet somehow Riley has seemingly never managed to make an enemy. "He has innumerable qualities, but I think the overriding one is I've never heard him say an unkind word about anyone," says David Wilkins, who was a representative in the State House when Riley was governor and is the namesake of the Riley Institute's annual Wilkins Leadership Awards. "He treats the doorman that's going to open the door for him as well as the president of the United States. He's always gracious and generous with his time and just a good, all-around person."

Jacki Martin, the Riley Institute's deputy director, says Riley is "the only man I ever met who inspired in me the impulse to curtsy." In fact, he's been dubbed "chief inspiration officer" within the institute.

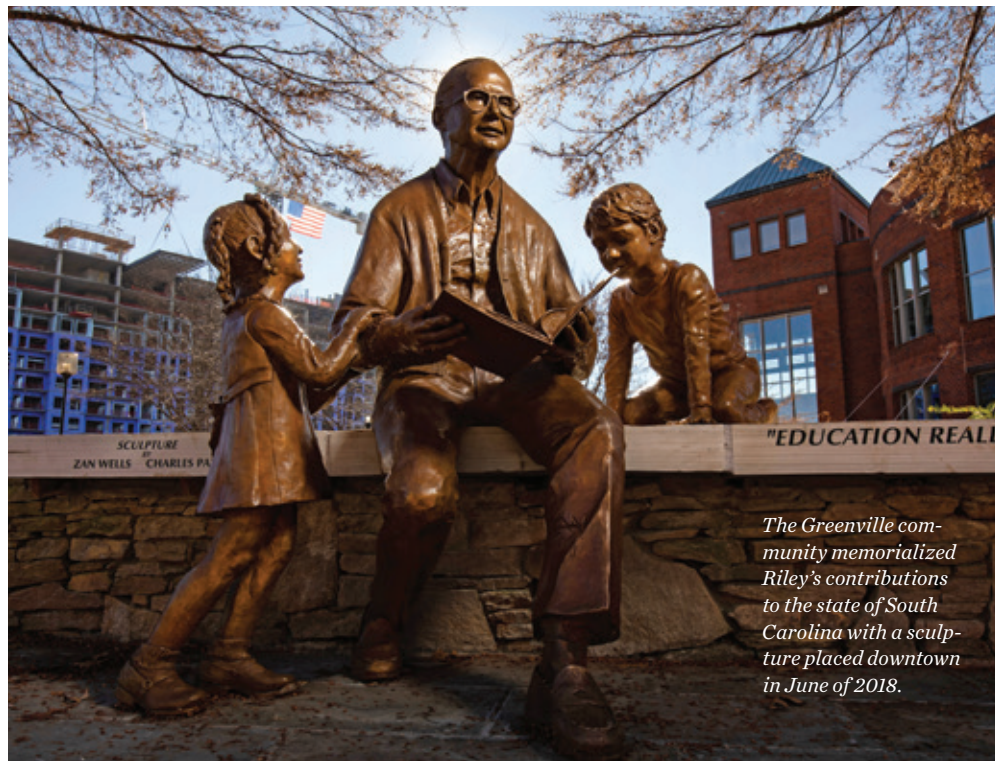
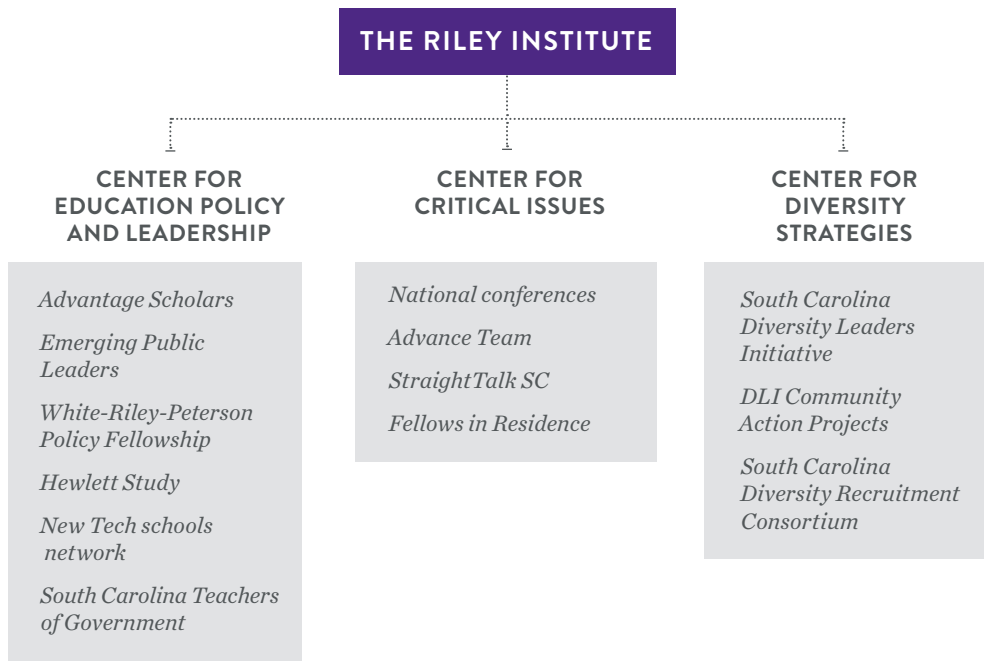
Gordon says the Riley Institute's success would have been impossible without the man who inspired it, noting the impact the institute has had inside the Furman gates through the more than 800 speakers, panelists and fellows in residence who have visited

campus and the multitude of engaged learning experiences it has made available to Furman students.

"Dick's name is magic, and that created an advantage for the Riley Institute that is just amazing," Gordon says.

All of that impact makes people grateful. Riley is one of them.

"I've had such wonderful opportunities for public service. I don't know anybody who's had more opportunities than I've had," he says. "I had no idea (the Riley Institute) would be as involved as we got statewide, but we are really into a major South Carolina improvement and focus to help all people do better. That's big. That's enormous. And it makes me very proud." ●



The Greenville community memorialized Riley's contributions to the state of South Carolina with a sculpture placed downtown in June of 2018.





CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE ART OF HEALING

by M. Linda Lee

On October 1, 2017, a lone gunman opened fire on the outdoor Route 91 Harvest Festival concert from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip, killing 58 people and wounding some 500 others. When the news broke, shock waves rolled across the country.

The shock hit **Ellen Culbertson Abramo '00** in Pennsylvania, even though she didn't know any of the victims. The fact that the art-major-turned-education graduate had recently lost her father may explain why she so strongly empathized with the victims' families. "I felt a little bit of what they were going through, but I knew that losing someone through a tragedy like that would be even worse," she says.



Ellen Culbertson Abramo (left) and her cousin, Kortney Struempf, attended the exhibit in October of 2018 in Clark County, Nevada.

Abramo's father, John Culbertson, grew up in Greenville and had devoted his life to counseling people, including traveling to New Orleans to counsel Hurricane Katrina victims in 2005. With her father as a role model, Abramo felt compelled to help the families of the Las Vegas victims. "I wanted to do something in memory of my father, to honor him, and to help these families," says the mother of six. (She met her husband, **Don Abramo '00**, during her first week at Furman.)

As it happens, Abramo and her cousin, Kortney Struempf, an art major and real estate agent who lives in Marietta, Georgia, had participated in the 49 Portraits Project after the mass shooting at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in 2016. Both women submitted their artwork through an application page on Facebook and were chosen to do portraits of two of the victims.

"When I found out about the Las Vegas shooting on the news, I thought maybe the lady who ran the Orlando project would do another one, but she was not able to," Abramo

Artists from several countries submitted portraits to the Las Vegas Portrait Project, which resulted in an exhibit to honor the shooting victims.



“I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING IN MEMORY OF MY FATHER, TO HONOR HIM, AND TO HELP THESE FAMILIES.”

recalls. “So I called my cousin and said, ‘Would you help me lead this project for the Las Vegas victims?’ And, of course, Kortney agreed.”

The cousins set up a Facebook page for the Las Vegas Portrait Project in early October that called for artists to submit their work. Abramo alerted her local news station, which sent a reporter to interview her and help get the word out locally.

The women then doubled down on their efforts, widening their search to portrait artists’ groups on Facebook. “That’s how we went international,” Abramo reports. “We ended up with five artists from Canada, two from Australia, one from Greece and one from Peru.” One artist, Amanda Roth, was a survivor of the shooting whose work on a portrait helped her come to grips with her own feelings about the tragedy.

The goal of the Las Vegas Portrait Project was to recruit 58 portrait artists to create 8x10 or 24x24-inch likenesses of all the victims to present to the families. The idea was not only to pay tribute to those who lost their lives, but to help the families heal and let them know that their loved ones mattered to other people too.

Over the next four months, the organizers received some 90 entries. In choosing the artists, they aimed for a mix of media and styles, always keeping the families in mind. “Our main focus was that the artist get a good likeness,” notes Abramo. “We did have some portraits that were more stylized, and that speaks to the individuality of the artists and the people who passed.”

Participating artists were sent a packet with all the victims’ photos and background information so artists could choose their subject based on who they felt most drawn to. “It was important to us not to assign a person to the artist, so artists could have that connection to an individual and feel that inspiration,” Abramo says.

One particular connection stands out in Abramo’s mind. The artist from South Africa, Kayla Beukes, chose a young man to draw and connected with his family on Facebook. When the young man’s aunt realized the artist was from South Africa, she related that her nephew’s grandmother was also South

African. “After the artist finished her portrait and we posted it on our Facebook page, the grandmother got in touch with Kayla and told her that her last name was also on their family tree,” Abramo recounts. “It was miraculous that the artist and the young victim she drew ended up being related.”

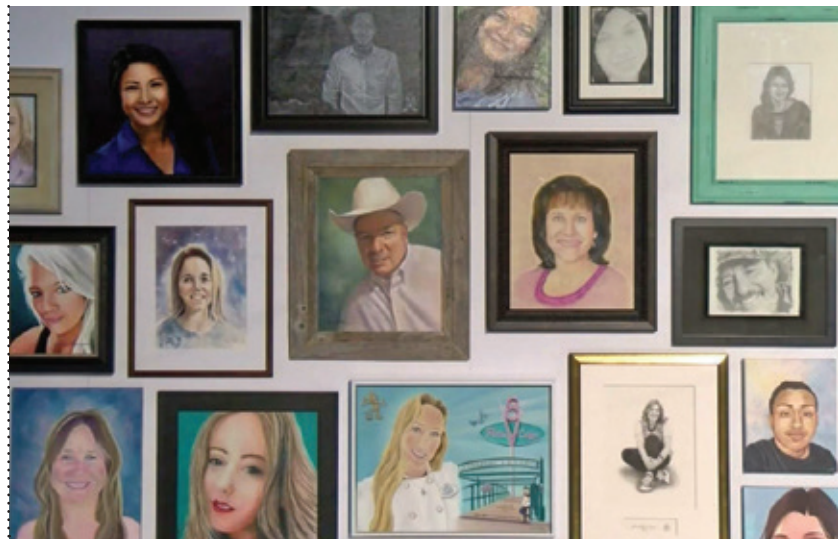
She and Struempf also painted portraits for the project. Abramo chose Rhonda Le Rocque, who left behind a husband and child. “I was drawn to Rhonda because we were in similar stages in our lives and she seemed like the kind of friend I would like to have.”

During the process of gathering the portraits, Abramo contacted the Clark County Government Center and the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center, which was created after the tragedy to help find counseling and legal services for victims’ families and survivors. She explained the project and asked if the centers would help coordinate a memorial where all the portraits could be displayed. The two organizations agreed to help get the portraits to family members and also staged a month-long exhibit in October at the Clark County Government Center.

On October 4, 2018, the center hosted a special event for the families and artists. “I felt like a proud mom, seeing artists and families hugging and meeting for the first time in person,” Abramo remembers. “And the families were so touched and excited at the thought of bringing the portraits home. It was a very special evening.”

Motivated by a love of community service that was fostered during her years at Furman, Abramo hopes the portraits will help the families heal. “It’s been such a profound experience, and I’ve gotten to meet so many artists and family members who have connected in such a meaningful way,” says Abramo. She can bet that her father would be proud. ●

The Las Vegas Portrait Project artwork depicts the victims of a shooting in 2017 in which 58 people were killed at a concert on the Las Vegas Strip.





SCIENTIST, FARMER,
artisan

Alum turns math and science into wine.

BY KELLEY BRUSS

TJ Fleming '10 prunes grape vines in winter, one of his many duties as vineyard manager at Rocklands Farm Winery.





Fleming and another winery employee sample one of Rocklands Farm Winery's white wines.

TJ FLEMING '10 *used to talk about making wine after he retired. He got about a 40-year jump on that.*

Fleming is the vineyard manager and head winemaker at Rocklands Farm Winery in Montgomery County, Maryland. In 2017, the winery produced 50,000 bottles of wine and cider. Before Fleming arrived in 2012, making wine was a basement hobby.

“At the beginning, it was just him with the vines by himself,” says his wife, **Bethany Fleming '11**.

Even now, with a small team, the work challenges him physically, mentally and creatively. He’s struggled in the past with his enthusiasm outpacing his focus.

“I need a box in order to get anything done,” he says.

Building a winery out of all but nothing seems to be that box.

“He’s a super part of the team,” says Greg Glenn Jr., CEO and cofounder of Rocklands Farm.

Fleming’s science and math training is on display in formulas on the winery’s whiteboard. He keeps a face-mask-style hat tucked in the pocket of his barn coat for winter work in the vineyard. He is part farmer, part businessman, part scientist. But ultimately, he is making wine that customers love.

Science applied

Fleming came to Furman from Florida with a plan to study physics. But when he almost failed Calculus II, he had an epiphany: “Maybe I’m not going to be a physicist.”

He shifted toward earth science and hit another wall. “I’m not about rocks, but I like earth science,” he told his professors. With their help, he created an individualized curriculum program that he called environmental communications.

“There’s going to be a market for people who know about science in the next 30 years,” Fleming says. “That was the extent of my plan.”

Enthused by his undergraduate thesis on green homebuilding, he was accepted into a graduate program in architecture. But his wife received an offer from Urban Teachers, a program that would pay for her master’s while she taught in a Washington, D.C., school.

The finances made their decision simple. The Flemings moved to D.C., where Bethany began her program, and TJ found a job teaching at a private school in Maryland.

“Not a lot of people want to teach middle school science and math,” he says. “I liked the relationships.”

Through school connections, Fleming met Greg Glenn Sr., who had bought a 34-acre former horse farm in 2003. In 2010, his son, Greg Glenn Jr., and two friends started Rocklands Farm with a mission to nourish and engage the community. They began raising cows, chickens, lambs and pigs in their pastures and selling the meat in their market.

The property comes by its name honestly.

“It’s horrible to farm,” Fleming says with a laugh, “so we decided to start a vineyard there. That’s fun, to pound posts into rock.”

Glenn Sr. was experimenting with making wine in the basement of the century-old farmhouse but had been unable to get any fruit from his half-acre of vines.

“His problem was, he couldn’t grow grapes,” says Fleming, who took a plant science class at Furman, complete with a weeklong unit on wine and beer.

“I knew a little bit about growing grapes,” he says. “I was looking for a side gig.”

Fleming taught during the week, read books about winemaking in the evenings and spent weekends coaxing the Rocklands vines back to health. Bethany Fleming remembers helping with the first harvest from that original half-acre.

“We probably didn’t even get half a ton, but we were so proud,” she says.

In 2013, Fleming took an online wine-making course through the University of California-Davis, “the Harvard of wine” in the United States, he says. That year, he processed 9 tons of fruit in the basement.

The following spring, construction started on the Rocklands Farm Winery — and the private school where Fleming had been teaching closed. He became a full-time farmer and winemaker.

Days on the farm

The main entrance to Rocklands is dominated by a symmetrical brick house and a weathered barn that has become a popular wedding and event venue.

Fleming points out the springhouse, the smokehouse, the corncrib. But he’s most proud of his “toys,” the pricey pieces that have increased productivity as the winery grew: a narrow tractor to fit between the rows of vines, a steam cleaning cart for the tank room, a wine press with an inflatable bladder. The press paid for itself in a year by increasing production from 150 to 170 gallons per ton of grapes.

Fleming’s work cycles with the seasons — pruning in the winter, tractor work in the spring, spraying in the summer, wine-making through the fall, bottling in early winter.

His goal is to use only Mid-Atlantic grapes in Rocklands wines. The vineyard, planted in stages over the last several years, should eventually provide about 40 percent of the fruit he’ll need.

For now, Fleming drives a refrigerated box truck around

the region during harvest, buying fruit from other vineyards. He could hire a driver, but he wonders if any driver would share his passion for the cargo.

Trying harder

The weather in suburban Washington is no friend to a farmer.

“Some weeks you’re living in a jungle; other weeks it’s dry,” says Fleming, who battles fungus, insects, raccoons, opossums and the occasional skunk. And for a people person, the long hours alone are a challenge.

“Farming is lonely work,” Fleming says. “I listen to a lot of podcasts.”

Bethany Fleming has watched him pour himself into the vines.

“And then things out of your control dash those hopes, and you have to adjust your expectations and problem-solve,” she says.

But once he’s in his box, Fleming can’t help pushing himself.

“I like to try harder. That’s my personality.” ●

“THERE’S GOING TO BE A MARKET FOR PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT SCIENCE IN THE NEXT 30 YEARS,” FLEMING SAYS. “THAT WAS THE EXTENT OF MY PLAN.”



A Trail Runs Through it

Houck connects lives
and cities on the
Swamp Rabbit Trail

BY KELLEY BRUSS

JEREMY FLEWING

The Comeback



Ty Houck '93 would like to make a suggestion: Come have lunch in Daniel Dining Hall.

Let your kids discover the thrill of unlimited soft-serve ice cream. And then ride that sugar rush right onto the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail.

The 22-mile greenway system celebrates its 10th birthday this year. Houck joined the Greenville County Rec department two years before the trail opened to shepherd it into existence and champion its growth.

"It was probably the role he was meant to play in his life," says Dianna Gracely, former city administrator for Travelers Rest.

"Ty's enthusiasm is contagious," says Julian Reed, professor of health sciences at Furman. "Do I think the trail would be successful without a Ty Houck? Yes, but not at the same level."

The Comeback



Students participating in the Riley Institute's Momentum Bike Clubs program encounter Houck while enjoying the trail, accompanied by volunteers Tedra Sheperd '18, Jose Morales '18, Hope Moore, and Meshelle Hannon.

Even Houck has been surprised. "I knew it would be popular," he says. "But it has exceeded my expectations."

The trail is used more than a half million times each year, for everything from exercise to recreation to transportation.

Reed completed a four-year study of trail use with the help of 150 students. He calls the trail "the largest and most

significant public health intervention" in the county.

A new experience for students

The trail has fundamentally changed the feel of Furman's campus since his days as a student, Houck says. Downtown Greenville and Travelers

Rest used to seem like unreachable outposts. Both are now accessible — and worth accessing.

Alumni rolling into Travelers Rest may find the view unfamiliar, either because they never saw a reason to visit while in school or, more likely, because the community was revitalized by the birth of the trail. Restaurants,

The Comeback



shops and green spaces line the trail through downtown.

Toward Greenville, the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail winds through the historic Textile Crescent.

"It is highly probable students never went to these parts of town," Houck says.

There's no getting lost. Google Maps, including Streetview, has trail users covered.

*"I knew it would be popular.
But it has exceeded my expectations."*

"The trail puts Main Street on a county scale," he says, which allows people to experience a broader sense of community.

That's the perspective that has made Houck such an effective advocate for the trail. "He looks at it universally and not just in this very small realm," Gracely says.

She was city administrator for Travelers Rest for 13 years before taking the same position in Simpsonville in early 2018. In the rush of interest that surrounded the opening of the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail, Gracely and Houck received numerous speaking invitations from other groups interested in creating trails.

No matter how many times she's heard Houck talk about the benefits, she always catches something new.

"It always inspires me to do something else," Gracely says. "He's so passionate about what he's doing."

The trail leads home

Houck followed a high school soccer teammate to Furman, but he didn't play soccer in college. In high school, he was yearbook editor and worked on the school newspaper, but his brief stab at an English major didn't pan out. He took some business classes, but that wasn't for him, either.

Then he took Geology 101.

"The smartest girl I knew was asking me for help, and I thought, 'I might need to stick in this realm,'" he says.

After earning his degree in geology, Houck moved to Colorado for a job at a summer resort accessible only by train or helicopter. Next came a stint as a "snowboard bum," but something inside kept bothering him: "This is not the best return on my investment for college."

Houck came back to South Carolina and became a park ranger with the State Park Service, a path that ultimately led him to Paris Mountain State Park.

When Greenville County created a position to manage trail development on the railroad corridor it had recently purchased, Houck was a natural fit.

Trails have always been part of his experience. His mom worked with the parks and recreation department when his family lived in Palm Beach, Florida. Houck used trails there not just for recreation but as his main way to get around without a car.

He biked and rollerbladed through his years at Furman, including skating the lengths of Plyler Hall. It's fair to say he's an advocate of life on wheels for everyone.

"You can ride on a bike before you can walk and you can ride a bike when you can no longer walk," Houck says.

The Comeback



Cyclists have easy access to local businesses located trail-side.

Personal connections

Houck can't talk very long without using the word "connections." A community connecting around the idea that a trail might be a good fit. Friends finding exercise more enjoyable when they connect on the trail to do it. A trail that connects once-isolated cities. Municipal leaders connecting across jurisdictions for the sake of a broader cause.

Every anecdote Houck collects about trail users seems to fit under that same heading: A legally blind mom who moved from Simpsonville to Travelers Rest so she could walk her children to school. The post-surgery patient who reconnected with the outdoors on the trail and now writes poems about it.

"I always liked that really individual connection ... knowing that the individual

adds up to the bigger picture," Houck says.

He thinks the link between Greenville, Furman and Travelers Rest distinguishes the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail and has contributed to its success. "That spacing is long enough that you enjoy the journey, but it's not so far that people think they can't do it," he says.

Reed agrees. "Very few trails in this country connect two towns," he says.

Houck's long-term vision is a universally accessible, connected system that reaches out across the county in multiple directions, a vast, carless transportation network. A Travelers Rest-Marietta spur is already in the works, and plans are underway for a Greer spur, too.

For Houck, it's about a simple question: "How can I make your life better?" I know trails do that. ●



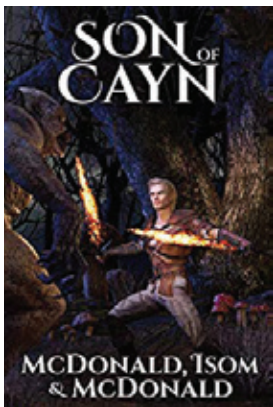
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Shelf Life

*A fantasy world, Southern drinks
and childhood delights*

COMPILED FROM PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS



“SON OF CAYN (THE CAYN TRILOGY, VOL. 1)”

*by Alan Isom '91, Jason McDonald
and Stormy McDonald
(New Mythology Press)*

It was supposed to be a simple assignment — look into a caravan destined for the White River. But when Marcus, the leader of the Kral’s security forces, dug deeper, he knew something was amiss. Not only was it the teamsters’ third trip east of the Wall, a no-man’s land haunted by the dead, but their cargo was one of the least profitable — soap.

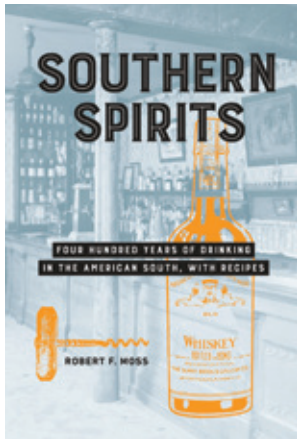
All was not as it seemed, so Marcus hired outsiders, a team not tied to his organization of spies, to find out what was really happening. A ranger, a dwarf, a mage and a half-orc gladiator

had the tools and experience to infiltrate the caravan and get the answers he needed.

Until the appearance of a strange knight set in motion a chain of horrible events.

Time grew short as the people of Pazard’zhik began dying — including Marcus. The healers couldn’t understand why, just that the deaths were somehow tied to the caravan. Could the investigators solve the mystery of the caravan in time to save the Kral’s kingdom, or would the Blood of Cayn claim the land?

Isom grew up in northeast Alabama and moved to South Carolina to study physics at Furman University. He became a licensed engineer, served with the Army National Guard, and now works for an international engineering-procurement-construction company.



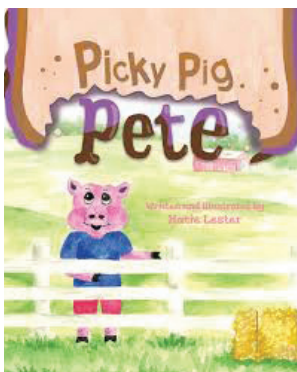
**“SOUTHERN SPIRITS:
FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF
DRINKING IN THE AMERICAN
SOUTH, WITH RECIPES”**

by Robert F. Moss '92
(Ten Speed Press)

Ask almost anyone to name a uniquely Southern drink, and bourbon and mint juleps – perhaps moonshine – are about the only beverages that come up. But what about rye whiskey, Madeira wine, and fine imported Cognac? Or peach brandy, applejack and lager beer? At various times in the past, these drinks were as likely to be found at the Southern bar as barrel-aged bourbon and raw-corn likker. The image of genteel planters in white suits sipping mint juleps on the veranda is a myth that never was – the true picture is far more complex and fascinating.

“Southern Spirits” is the first book to tell the full story of liquor, beer and wine in the American South. This story is deeply intertwined with the region, from the period when British colonists found themselves stranded in a new world without their native beer, to the 21st century, when classic spirits and cocktails of the pre-Prohibition South came back into vogue. Along the way, the book challenges the stereotypes of Southern drinking culture, including the ubiquity of bourbon and the geographic definition of the South itself, and reveals how that culture has shaped the South and America as a whole.

Robert F. Moss is a food and drinks writer and culinary historian living in Charleston, South Carolina. A native of Greenville, South Carolina, he attended Furman University and received a Ph.D. in English from the University of South Carolina.



“PICKY PIG PETE”

by Katie Lester '96
(Mascot Books)

Ever heard of a picky-eating PIG? Lester tells the story of a pig named Pete and his love of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. It was inspired by her son's real-life pickiness with food. Jump into this adorable, rhyming story about a picky pig and his favorite meal. Will Pete ever try something new?

Katie Lester grew up on a South Carolina farm and graduated from Furman University with a degree in studio art. She works with many different types of art mediums, but her favorites to work with are illustrations and children's décor. Lester lives in Peachtree Corners, Georgia, with her husband, Mark, her son, Brandon, and their dog, Toby. “Picky Pig Pete” is her first children's book, inspired by Brandon, a picky eater just like Lester was as a child. His favorite meal, of course, is PB&J.



“UNDER THE TREE”

by Tonya Woods '97
(Hadassah's Crown Publishing, LLP)

Have you considered what's under your tree? “Under the Tree” is a children's book based on a collection of experiences from author Tonya Woods, who graduated from Furman in 1997 with a degree in elementary education. It inspires young readers to

consider the importance of nature. They will learn that nature can enhance creativity, play, friendships and relaxation. To aid parents and teachers, coloring, drawing and other fun, engaging activities are included, and this early reader, for ages 3 to 6, can be used as a springboard to informally teach prepositions or the relation between objects. The large print is ideal for early readers, the elderly and the visually impaired.

SCENE AND BE SEEN



1 Trustee Emeritus Bob Buckman and wife Joyce Mollerup founded the Furman Fellows program to recognize outstanding seniors. Seen here celebrating during Furman's October Partners Program event with 2019 Furman Fellows are (L to R): **Craig Yount '19**, Bob Buckman, Joyce Mollerup, **Chambers English '19**, Paul Yoon '19.

In February the university honored several alumni, a corporate partner and friends for their personal achievements, generosity, service and leadership both to Furman and the community during the annual Bell Tower Ball. 2 Student leaders from class of 2019 — **Cate Harmon**, **Elizabeth Davis**, **Maddie Gonzalez**, **Anna Hoffman**, **Caroline Tucker**, and **Shania Gaspard**.

3 Keith and Kimberly Ferrari, parents of **Domenico Ferrari '22**.

4 Bell Tower Ball Award Recipients (L to R): **Spence Taylor**, **Stanford Jennings '84**, Leighan Rinker, a former trustee on the Furman University Board of Trustees, **Dave Rinker**, **Julie McElrath '73**, **Kris Kapoor '94**, **Arianna McLain Shirk '02**.



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's 25th Anniversary Celebration at the Greenville Convention Center was held Nov. 29. **5** Judy Vick, Nancy Yan and Ann Littlejohn. **6** Founding FULIR Director, Sarah Fletcher welcomes guests. **7** Bob Dwyer, Sally Bornmueller and Alan Bornmueller. **8** Sarah Fletcher, Bob Dotson, Lucy Woodhouse, **Nancy Thomas Kennedy '90**, Steve Thaxton **9** Paul Schaaf with Furman student, **Adib Young '22**.



COURTESY PHOTOS

I just had a feeling when I drove onto Furman's campus for the first time as a sophomore in high school. Even as a professional writer almost two decades later, I can't even fully put it into words. I would look at other possible colleges, but something kept drawing me back to Furman each and every time.

It may have been Furman's undeniable beauty that hooked me, but the more I learned about it, I knew it was the perfect place for my liberal arts education. I wanted a small school with close relationships with faculty and staff that would enhance my education, instead of just being a face in a sea of hundreds. What I left with was not only my degree but a family and support system that's continued nearly 12 years after my graduation.

After I decided upon a political science major, Danielle Vinson, professor of politics and international affairs, became my adviser and continued the same role well after I graduated. I took every single class she taught – Media and Politics, Congress, the Presidency – all of which are incredibly relevant to my career today. She was also my adviser as editor of *The Paladin* and helped me weather turbulent stories and pursue political coverage that's unique to South



***Jessica Taylor '07,**
based in Washington, D.C., covers
national politics for NPR.*

Carolina every four years. We still continue to email about the news of the day, and I've often turned to her for advice, as I'm considering a career change or just wanting to talk.

Professor of Politics and International Affairs Elizabeth Smith's Women in Politics class proved especially prescient in covering recent politics, including a record number of women joining the United States House of Representatives and the first woman nominee

of a major political party. John Armstrong in the Department of Communications Studies convinced me that taking his broadcast journalism class was important, despite having my heart set on a career in strictly print journalism. Now having worked in multiplatform environments in radio and TV, I'm glad I listened.

Without help and guidance from the political science department in pursuing internships and

getting grant money to help with living expenses, I wouldn't be where I am in my career now. One internship in D.C. with *National Journal* magazine led to a job offer right after graduation and set me on a successful path in the competitive world of political journalism. That's one reason I was so happy to see the launch of *The Furman Advantage* – a formalization of everything I had experienced at Furman to help students pursue opportunities outside of the classroom.

When I was finally secure enough in my career to think about giving back to Furman financially, it was an easy decision. My professional goals wouldn't have been possible without the ways Furman professors had invested in me, along with the internship opportunities and foreign study I had access to along the way. I currently give back monthly as a donor to the political science department, the undergraduate research and internship fund and to scholarship support, so that a new generation of Paladins can have the same wonderful experiences I did, not only at Furman but after graduating. Every time I've been fortunate to come back to campus and talk with students about their plans and goals and experiences, I know I've made the right decision. ●



INVEST IN THE FUTURE

**ANNUAL GIFTS TO FURMAN OPEN A WORLD
OF POSSIBILITIES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE
STUDENTS – SCHOLARSHIPS, RESEARCH
OPPORTUNITIES AND STUDY AWAY EXPERIENCES.**

***THAT'S THE HEART OF
THE FURMAN ADVANTAGE.***

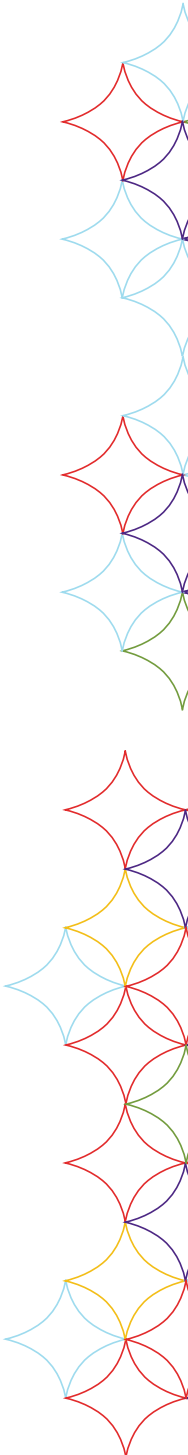
We're committed to giving this advantage to the next generation of leaders. To attract the best and brightest students, Furman aims to strengthen its rank among the nation's finest liberal arts and sciences institutions.

Your support could be the driving force. U.S. News & World Report measures alumni participation as the percentage of four-year degree-holders who have made a gift to the university. If you are an alumnus, your contribution counts – no matter the size.

***MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY
AND HELP ELEVATE FURMAN'S
REPUTATION AND IMPACT.***

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 **FURMAN**
UNIVERSITY



CLASS NOTES



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STEPHANIE POLEY '00
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FRANK BONNER '69
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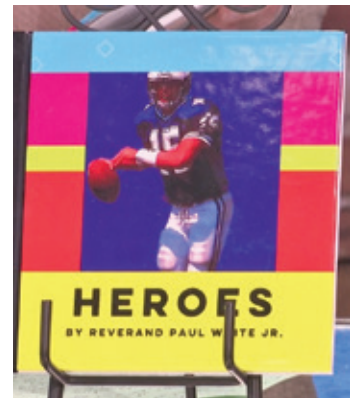
SUNRISE, HOMECOMING AND
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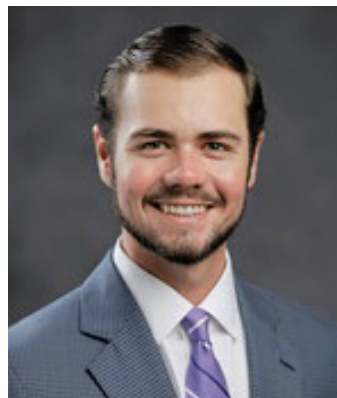
REV. PAUL WHITE '75
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DAVID BURTON '99
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THOUGHTS AFTER
THE WEDDING
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CLAYTE HUBBARD '18
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TERRA GREENE '90
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1960

John Sutton '60, received an honorary membership in Furman's class of 1960. He received his honorary Bachelor of Science degree in May 2018. Sutton served as chief of cardiovascular surgery from 1972 to 1980 and then chief of staff at Providence Hospital. He served on the board of the Sisters of Charity Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio. He and his wife, Lauren, now reside on Seabrook Island, South Carolina. They have one son, John Perry Sutton III, and two grandchildren.

1966

Ken Lister '66 is serving this year as chairman of the board of the Kenya Methodist University Development Association. They raise funds for Kenya Methodist University in Meru, Kenya.

1975

Rev. Paul White '75 recently published his second book, "Heroes."

1977

LD Russell '77 received the Kathleen Connolly-Weinert Leader of the Year Award from the national board of the religious studies honor society, Theta Alpha Kappa.

1983

David Allsopp '83 was appointed to a three-year term on the Professional Advisory Board of the Learning Disabilities Association of America. Allsopp is professor of special education, assistant

dean of educator preparation and partnerships, and endowed chair/director of the David C. Anchin Center in the College of Education at the University of South Florida. He teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, focusing on instructional methods for students with high-incidence disabilities and research methods for developing and validating effective practices for students with disabilities.

1984

Stuart Mauney '84, an attorney with Gallivan White Boyd, received the Greenville County Bar Association's highest honor, the Tommy Thomason Award. The award, established in 1993, is named for the late Tommy Thomason, a 1949 Furman graduate and distinguished member of the Greenville Bar Association, who practiced law for more than 40 years.

1986

Bill McGinnis '86 recently moved to Columbus, Ohio, as pastor of adult discipleship at Dublin Baptist Church in Dublin, Ohio.

1987

Bert Brannon '87, a partner at Callison Tighe & Robinson, was named Lawyer of the Year in Litigation — Trusts and Estates by "Best Lawyers in America." A South Carolina Supreme Court-certified specialist in estate planning and probate law, Brannon assists clients with all stages of the business life cycle, from planning and creation to succession planning.



Frank Bonner '69 Retires as Gardner-Webb University's 12th President

Frank Bonner '69 retired in January as Gardner-Webb University's 12th president. He served Gardner-Webb for more than three decades, including 14 years as president. He is married to **Flossie (Black) Bonner '69**. His father, Francis Wesley Bonner, served as provost at Furman.

1990

Bryan Christensen '90 retired after 26 years in the U.S. Army and joined Camden Bone and Joint.

Marti Bluestein '90, a founding partner of Bluestein Attorneys, was sworn in as a member of the South Carolina Bar Association Board of Governors for the 2nd Judicial Region on May 24. Bluestein practices in the area of workers' compensation and is also a certified mediator. She has been recognized the past three years in "Best Lawyers in America" and has received numerous other recognitions.

Terra Greene '90 has been hired as the first female city manager for the city of Lexington, North Carolina. She will be the 10th city manager appointed by the City Council in the city's 84-year history of the position.

1993

Ben Hartman '93 was recognized as a 2018 Legal Elite by Georgia Trend, a statewide business publication.

1997

Michael Barfield '97, a lawyer with Barnwell Whaley, was named as one of "Best Lawyers in America" 2019.

Continued on page 55

Although Wyatt '04 and Lauren '06 Messinger graduated more than a decade ago, Furman University still plays an important role in their lives. The couple met at Furman in the fall of Lauren Buquo's freshman year when she went to visit a friend from her hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee. During that fateful visit, she met her friend's roommate, a political science major named Wyatt Messinger.

Through a common group of friends, Lauren and Wyatt got to know each other over the following year and "officially" started dating in fall of 2003. They continued to date long distance after Wyatt graduated and took a job with a corporate communications and management firm in Washington, D.C., a position he landed with the help of a Furman alumnus.

A biology major, Lauren started medical school at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond in 2008. The couple was apartment hunting for Lauren in Richmond one weekend when Wyatt asked her to marry him.



Wyatt and Lauren Messinger

A Capital Couple

By M. Linda Lee

They married a year later. As Wyatt was still living in D.C. at the time, thus began what he refers to as the "long national nightmare" of maintaining a long-distance relationship while Lauren finished her medical degree in Richmond and then a four-year residency in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Happily, the duo now lives and works in Washington, D.C., where Lauren practices as an OB-GYN and Wyatt is a managing director for

Purple Strategies. Between their demanding careers and keeping up with their 2-year-old son, it's difficult to imagine that this power couple has any spare time. Yet, just as they have stuck together over the years, they have remained involved with their alma mater.

"Wyatt's career was strongly influenced by the Furman alum who hired him," Lauren says. "To see that play out showed me what an important impact alumni

could have on students and their careers."

Last spring, the couple joined the Furman Partners Program, where donors can invest in a student's future.

So the couple established the Messinger Family Scholarship. "You get to define some of the parameters of the scholarship, and we merged our academic experiences by asking that the recipient be interested in a career in either health care or health care policy," explains Wyatt.

"It's nice that the student knows who you are and you get their name and information, so there's a personal touch to it, too," Lauren adds.

From the academic rigor that prepared them for success to the lifelong friendships they formed in college, Furman has left a lasting imprint on the couple, who continue to look for ways to give back to their university.

"We now find ourselves in a location where there's opportunity to give back, and we're at a point in our lives where we have the time and the energy and the means," Wyatt says. "It's very much a priority for us." ●

1999

David Burton '99 announced the opening of his fifth restaurant concept. Burton was named one of Tampa Bay's 25 People to Watch by the Tampa Bay Business Journal. One of his concepts, The Getaway, was recognized as one of the 50 fastest growing businesses in Tampa Bay.

2000

Stephanie Poley '00, one of 32 attorneys from Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP, was recently included in "Best Lawyers in America."

2001

Maj. Ed Waller '01 is serving in Wiesbaden, Germany, as the lead construction project officer for Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine at the Facilities and Construction Division in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer in the U.S. Army.

2002

Capt. Andy Pascual '02 is an assistant United States attorney in the Southern District of Georgia. He was also appointed as the senior defense counsel for the Georgia Army National Guard Trial Defense Service.

2004

David Johnson '04 completed his residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and has accepted a position with the ear, nose and throat division of the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage, Alaska.

2005

Bernadette (Allegood) Skodack '05 graduated with her master's degree in music therapy from Western Michigan University. Prior to graduation, she was inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society. Skodack continues to work at Eisenhower Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she provides music therapy to adults who have suffered brain injuries, and to veterans and former athletes suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders and post-concussion issues.

2006

Matthew Johnson '06 graduated with a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina. He lives in Campobello, South Carolina, and is employed with the Spartanburg County Public Libraries.

Kimberly Witherspoon '06 was selected for the Liberty Fellows Class of 2020. Witherspoon joins 20 other leaders from across the state who make a lifelong commitment to use their creativity, network and energy to move South Carolina forward.

2008

Brian Lupo '08 graduated from Western Carolina University with a Master of Science in nursing in nurse anesthesia and moved with his partner, Aaron Cusick, to Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Lupo will be working as a certified registered nurse anesthetist at Aurora Health Care.

Capt. William Pryor '08

completed residency training in general surgery at East Tennessee State University in June 2018. He and his spouse are moving to Omaha, Nebraska, in July, where Pryor will practice as a surgeon with the U.S. Air Force at Offutt Air Force Base.

Jeff Ryckman '08 received an M.S. in medical physics from Georgia Tech ('11) and an M.D. from the Medical College of Georgia ('15). He is now in his fourth year of residency in radiation oncology at the Buffett Cancer Center, University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

2011

Sterling Johnson '11 had his first major article published in Governing magazine's online platform for the "Living Cities City Accelerator" series, where he is serving as project manager. This cohort is tackling strategies for growing and scaling minority businesses through the use of government purchasing.

2014

Caley A. DeGroote '14 joined Gentry Locke as an associate. DeGroote will practice on the firm's personal injury and medical malpractice teams, while also assisting with litigation matters.

Christine Gwinn-Ross '14 joined Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC in Birmingham, Alabama, as a first-year associate.

2018

Clayte Hubbard '18 attended the annual South Carolina Ducks Unlimited awards banquet in Charleston July 14, where the Furman Chapter received three awards: Top Ten Chapter Award, Chapter Efficiency Award and the Gold Chapter Award. Hubbard, a member of the Furman men's golf team throughout his career, was a founder of the FU Ducks Unlimited Chapter in 2016 and served as its president. Hubbard is now pursuing a graduate degree at Auburn University.

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS



Cherod Webber '89 and **Jasmine Webber**, Leighton, July 2018

Courtney Tollison Hartness '99 and **Sean Hartness '92**, Gladden, Oct. 1, 2018

Nathan Adams '03 and **Jamie Adams '01**, Abigail, July 31, 2018

Jean Schwab '04 and **Thomas Albert '05**, Eben, Nov. 5, 2018

Brent Soder '04 and **Lauren Soder '07**, Mark, Sept. 7, 2018

Continued on page 57



UP CLOSE

From English to e-commerce

Kathryn Petralia '92 uses her liberal arts and sciences education to conquer the fintech world.

“I must have changed my major at least four times when I was at Furman,” laughs Kathryn Petralia '92. “I finally landed on English, but that was after exploring business, theatre arts and psychology. I just had so many interests that I couldn’t make up my mind about what to pursue.”

So perhaps it makes sense that this former English major is now cofounder and president of Kabbage, Inc., a fintech company that issues lines of credit to small and medium-sized businesses.

To some, her education may not seem to match her professional destination. But that’s because many view a college major and a career as a one-to-one connection. English majors become

journalists or authors, just like business majors work in finance and theater majors direct productions.

Not at Furman.

“No matter your major at Furman, you learn how to communicate,” says Petralia. “And those communication skills are critical for whatever career you may pursue.”

Petralia initially took the traditional route, attending graduate school to study literature, imagining that she would one day be a college professor. However, during that time, a family friend introduced her to a technology company that developed data compression technology for the internet (think HBO’s “Silicon Valley”). She was hooked. Petralia spent the next 25 years working in credit and

e-commerce industries while founding or cofounding seven start-ups, including her current business, Kabbage.

According to Petralia, the small business industry needed a company like Kabbage.

“Getting a small loan, \$250,000 or less, is very difficult for a small business,” she explains. “The typical bank doesn’t view it as worth the trouble to provide the loan, as they don’t generate sufficient fees to cover their expenses.”

But Kabbage uses data and technology to make this funding readily available for businesses.

“A company can land on the site, and in less than 10 minutes, they can complete the application and have funds in their account.”

Kabbage is now celebrating its 11th year,

employs nearly 500 people and has provided more than \$6 billion to more than 150,000 small businesses.

“And now we’re seeing businesses who borrowed from us in 2011 coming back to borrow more in 2019,” she says. “That proves that they’re growing, and we’re helping them to do that.”

Add to this the fact that SoftBank just recently invested \$250 million into Kabbage, and it looks like the company has nowhere to go but up.

Petralia, who has landed on Forbes magazine’s “The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women” among big names like German Chancellor Angela Merkel, philanthropist Melinda Gates, and Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, recently visited Furman to speak with the business block and English majors about her business and career path.

“My advice to the students? Look for reasons to say ‘yes’ rather than ‘no,’” says Petralia.

“I never interviewed for any job I ever had. I just moved to the next role after meeting someone and seeing an opportunity.”

One of the most important lessons she learned from Furman was to keep her eyes and ears open to new possibilities.

“There are a lot of parents who were the first in their families to obtain a college degree, or perhaps their children will be the first, and they are understandably anxious about a liberal arts education,” Petralia says. “They feel like their kids should be in premed or engineering, something with a direct path to a career. But my path proves that a liberal arts education sets you up for anything.” ●

– Lindsay Niedringhaus '07

Brian Fisher '05 and **Jessica Fisher '05**, Mary Alexandra, Jan. 13, 2018

Erin Fortenberry Presley '05 and **Mark Presley**, Luke, May 7, 2018

Erin Presley '05 and **Mark Presley**, Luke, May 7, 2018

Sarah Mardam-Bey '08 and **Sami Mardam-Bey**, William, May 4, 2018

Amanda Boron '09 and **James Boron**, Lilly, May 16, 2018

Sarah Lucas '09 and **Marion Lucas '09**, Audelia, Sept. 7, 2018

Jacob Ogle '10 and **Katherine Ogle '11**, Hattie, Aug. 5, 2018

Aubrey Elizabeth Peterson '11 and **Tyler Peterson**, William, Aug. 2018

MARRIAGES



Ruth Alsbrooks '01 and **Michael Ward**, April 7, 2018

Lathan Pooser '05 and **Taniesha Hines**, July 21, 2018

Leah Branch '08 and **Donald Boyce**, March 10, 2018

Jonathan Harrill '08 and **Jade Harrill**, Dec. 1, 2018

Alexander Henderson '08 and **Jennifer Henderson**, Feb. 3, 2018

Alexandra Berrios '08 and **Richard Montgomery**, July 14, 2018

William Pryor '08 and **Kate Robertson**, Sept. 23, 2017

Sheronda Witter '08 and **Joseph Fleming**, Aug. 4, 2018

Maeve Johnson '10 and **J. Adams**, Oct. 27, 2018

Jack Ulrich '10 and **Kerri Jo Ulrich**, Oct. 13, 2018

Kierstin Ruppert '11 and **Parker Johnsen**, April 7, 2018

Trisha A. Smith '13 and **Anthony C. Adams**, March 17, 2018

Cameron Hallman '14 and **Molly Gunson '14**, June 2, 2018

Helen Reed '14 and **Jonathan Bittner**, June 16, 2018

Kathleen Solomon '14 and **Zachary Bell**, June 23, 2018

Jared M. Crowe Tipton '15 and **Marybeth K. Garrett '15**, Aug. 4, 2018

Amanda Gonzalez '15 and **William Thompson**, June 30, 2018

Caroline Harris '15 and **Charles Hill**, July 28, 2018

Turner Morsches '15 and **Catherine Thurston '15**, July 14, 2018

Shelby Price '15 and **Michael Meehan**, June 10, 2018

Reese Hannon '16 and **Jessica Hannon**, Dec. 15, 2018

Kelly Pusch '16 and **Harrison Lowlicht**, July 21, 2018

Justin Kane '17 and **Caroline Kane**, June 30, 2018

OBITUARIES



Vivian Crawford McCall '39, Sept. 15, 2018, Marietta, Ga.

Frank Fawcett '40, Oct. 5, 2018, Wilmington, Del.

Thomas Sturgis '40, Aug. 21, 2018, Rock Hill, S.C.

James Reid '41, Oct. 5, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Claudius Huggins '43, June 28, 2018, Little River, S.C.

Eleanor Mims Glenn '44, Sept. 20, 2018, Greer, S.C.

Alvin Rampey '44, Sept. 30, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Anita Owens Austell '46, Sept. 12, 2018, Hendersonville, N.C.

Ruthemma Hare Hancock '46, Aug. 9, 2018, Greensboro, N.C.

Marcelle Babb Long '46, Oct. 23, 2018, Simpsonville, S.C.

Edith Fleming Powell '47, Oct. 26, 2018, St. Augustine, Fla.

Travis Cash '49, Sept. 10, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

James Williams '49, Aug. 30, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Bill Bozeman '50, Nov. 5, 2018, Mauldin, S.C.

Ruth Childs Brown '50, Oct. 25, 2018, Laurens, S.C.

John Caldwell '50, Aug. 8, 2018, Anderson, S.C.

Claude H. Huguley Jr. '50, Jan. 5, 2018, Columbia, S.C.

John Byars '51, Oct. 7, 2018, Murrells Inlet, S.C.

Martha Hendricks Gregory '51, July 10, 2018, LaGrange, Ga.

James Hammond '51, Oct. 23, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

James Gunnells '52, June 19, 2018, Durham, N.C.

Robert Hodgens '52, June 30, 2018, Anderson, S.C.

Earl Pitts '52, Aug. 22, 2018, Williamston, S.C.

Barbara Shelley Allen '53, Oct. 25, 2018, Latta, S.C.

Anne Vanderford Brooks '53, Oct. 19, 2018, Simpsonville, S.C.

Claude Daniels '53, June 24, 2018, Georgetown, S.C.

Elizabeth Burn Fennell '53, July 15, 2018, Anderson, S.C.

Harold Kirkland '53, Sept. 27, 2018, Sumter, S.C.

Leroy Winesett '53, Sept. 5, 2018, Virginia Beach, Va.

John Dyer '54, Sept. 20, 2018, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Continued on page 59



UP CLOSE

Steven Weathers: China's connection to the American South

When Steven Weathers first moved to China in 2005, he was served a bowl of boiled peanuts as an appetizer at a local Chinese restaurant.

"It was this surreal moment," says Weathers in an email from his luxury apartment high above the bustling blue-lit streets of Shanghai. "I remember thinking, 'Only Southerners and Chinese eat boiled peanuts.'"

Thirteen years of living and working in China has presented plenty of opportunities to connect the dots from his Southern upbringing to his status as one of China's most recognizable foreign faces.

But the question remains: How does a kid from Greenville, South Carolina, become a favorite foreign son in Shanghai? The answer lies somewhere between ambition and luck.

Weathers spent his first two years of undergraduate study at Furman but transferred to St. Andrews College in Scotland in 1993. He speaks fondly of his Furman days, however, and is quick to credit the college for sowing the seeds of his present-day success.

In 1998, Weathers visited China as part of a tour group and developed a deep appreciation of the country. But it wasn't until 2005 that he decided to move to the small town of Luoyang, where he taught English and learned Mandarin.

Ready to tackle the big city, Weathers made his way to Shanghai in 2006 and began teaching marketing and advertising, as well as courses in British and American literature, at Normal University.

"I often thought of my Furman professors and classes," Weathers recalls, "specifically grammar, writing, and interpreting poetry. I even used some of the poems, short stories and novels I had read at Furman as part of my curriculum."

By 2008, Weathers was recording his travel experiences with a handheld camcorder and created a web travel series called "Foreign Perspective." The low-budget online travel and cultural program explored everyday China through the eyes of an outsider.

By immersing himself in the language and culture, he learned more than enough Mandarin to communicate, do business and perform as an actor or emcee.

"I recently realized I would never be able to master all the characters," Weathers says. "But that's a healthy

thing for me. It means I'm always learning."

Following the success of "Foreign Perspective," Weathers secured a recurring role on a top-rated Chinese series called "Dwelling Narrowness." A born entertainer, he quickly became a fan favorite. That was 2009, and nothing has been the same since.

Then in 2012, he won an "Outstanding Director Award" at the 15th Shanghai International Film Festival for a short film he created. That same year, the city of Shanghai awarded him the prestigious Magnolia Award, given to international residents who make significant contributions to the city.

Thanks to the Magnolia Award, Weathers now has a five-year work visa, allowing him to return home to Greenville more often. Weathers hopes to parlay his hometown visits and Furman connections into his next big project: working with Furman alum Vivian Wong and her Global Trade Center to establish film studios in Greenville to keep up with the demand for Chinese film crews who want to shoot abroad.

"Vivian and I often speak Mandarin together to discuss our projects," says Weathers. "And we've even used it as our code language in business meetings when we want to discuss negotiation strategies in front of the clients."

This type of international, fast-forward thinking is Weathers' greatest gift. And judging from his current list of projects, including a role in the upcoming sci-fi film "Shanghai Fortress," he's poised to expand his brand of Southern-laced charm in China. ●

— Brent Hill

Fred Ellenburg '54,
Oct. 25, 2018, Newland, N.C.

Carol Carter Everett '54,
Aug. 30, 2018, Waycross, Ga.

Jesse Maddox '54, July 22, 2018,
Jefferson City, Tenn.

Wofford Malphrus '54,
Aug. 24, 2018, Savannah, Ga.

Effie Worley Sewell '54,
Sept. 20, 2018, Sacramento,
Calif.

Otis Cox '55, Nov. 4, 2018,
Bossier City, La.

Lawrence Pfaff '55, July 14,
2018, Taylors, S.C.

Col. Edwin Rowan III '55,
March 2, 2018, Surfside, S.C.

Alice Blake Pearce '56,
Aug. 16, 2018, Belton, S.C.

Albert Ashley '57, Aug. 17, 2018,
Greenville, S.C.

Frank Hinton '57, Aug. 9, 2018,
Six Mile, S.C.

Beth Ballentine Hanks '58,
Nov. 22, 2018,
Saint Helena Island, S.C.

Robert Lee '58, Nov. 2, 2018,
Lumberton, N.C.

Eugene Rasor '58, Aug. 19, 2018,
Midlothian, Va.

Susan Harbin Schmidt '58,
July 24, 2018,
Boynton Beach, Fla.

William Dunn '59, Sept. 30,
2018, Greenville, S.C.

Jodie Galloway '59, Sept. 9,
2018, North Augusta, S.C.

William Gantt '59, Nov. 14,
2018, Greenville, S.C.

Elizabeth Roth Mannion '59,
July 8, 2018, Clearwater, Fla.

Patricia Hood McCarter '59,
Nov. 13, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Ramon Ergle '60, Sept. 3, 2018,
Aiken, S.C.

Marian Touchberry Smith '60,
Sept. 27, 2018, Duluth, Ga.

Bettina Boney Beecher '61,
June 16, 2018, Savannah, Ga.

Jerry Freeman '61, Nov. 16,
2018, Melbourne, Fla.

Sylvia Brown Lacefield '61,
Sept. 6, 2018, Lexington, Ky.

Mary J. Taylor '61,
Aug. 1, 2018, Rockledge, Fla.

Nancy McCurly Yeargin '61,
Nov. 3, 2018, Greer, S.C.

Larry Abbott '62, Oct. 22, 2018,
Easley, S.C.

Laurence "Larry" L. Jepson '62
Jan. 9, 2019, Kearney, Neb.

Clarence Christmas '62,
Sept. 17, 2018, Graham, N.C.

Walter Foster '62, Aug. 1, 2018,
Columbia, S.C.

Walter King '62, Nov. 28, 2018,
Pelzer, S.C.

Wayne Stevens '62, Dec. 1, 2018,
Anniston, Ala.

T. LeGrand '63, Sept. 25, 2018,
Greenville, S.C.

Fred Mims '63, Nov. 1, 2018,
Greenville, S.C.

Glenn Williams '63, Oct. 1, 2018,
Shelby, N.C.

Arthur Hays '64, July 18, 2018,
Greenville, S.C.

James Mullen '64,
Aug. 30, 2018, Spartanburg, S.C.

Joseph Smith '64, Dec. 7, 2018,
Union, S.C.

Jane Ambrose Childress '65
Oct. 10, 2018, New London, N.C.

**Linton Baldwin "Buddy"
Puckett '65**, Jan. 8, 2019,
Greenville, S.C.

Homer Hinton '67, Dec. 5, 2018,
Simpsonville, S.C.

Carol Hughey Lee '67, July 1,
2018, Wilmington, N.C.

Michael Tighe '67, Nov. 17, 2018,
Laguna Niguel, Calif.

Lawrence Childress '68,
Sept. 12, 2018, East Ellijay, Ga.

Patricia Anderson Cox '68,
July 23, 2018, Anderson, S.C.

Myra Epting '68,
Oct. 12, 2018,
West Columbia, S.C.

David Adkins '69, Sept. 14, 2018,
Martinsville, Va.

Ann McElrath King '69, Sept. 18,
2018, Simpsonville, S.C.

Elizabeth Brunson Wilson '69,
Sept. 2, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Howard Poole '70, Aug. 6, 2018,
Boston, Mass.

Billy Sercey '71, Sept. 1, 2018,
Detroit, Mich.

Polly R. Penland '74,
June 24, 2018, Horse Shoe, N.C.

Alan Cochran '75, Aug. 2, 2018,
Greenville, S.C.

James Stertz '75, Oct. 28, 2018,
Edgefield, S.C.

Randolph Finley '76,
Sept. 23, 2018, Fort Myers, Fla.

Charles Weathersbee '76,
Nov. 3, 2018, Manhattan, Kan.

David Belcher '79,
June 17, 2018, Cullowhee, N.C.

Sarah Harvie Kitzmiller '79,
Sept. 16, 2018, Cincinnati, Ohio

Barry Ellis '82, Oct. 20, 2018,
Platteville, Wis.

Anne Barden McKinney '88,
June 25, 2018,
Spartanburg, S.C.

William Barnwell '90,
Aug. 28, 2018, Dalton, Ga.

Karrah Leary '08
Feb. 8, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

CLASS NOTES POLICY

We welcome your submissions to Class Notes. Due to the amount of material Furman receives for this section – and the time needed to edit that material – items are often not published until six months after they are submitted. However, please be advised that we rarely publish items more than 18 months old and no announcements of things that have not yet occurred. When sending news of births, please include the parent name(s), child's name, birthdate, and city of birth; for marriages, include the city and date of the event, the new spouse's name, and his/her year of graduation if from Furman. News about couples who graduated from Furman in different years is listed under the earliest graduation date. It is not listed with both classes. Incomplete information for any of the above may result in the submission remaining unpublished. The magazine reserves the right to edit submissions.

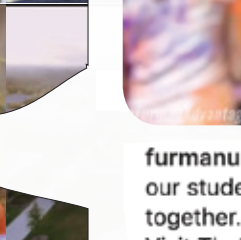
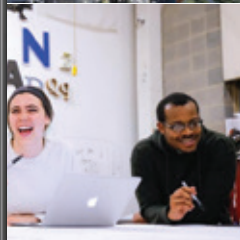
Postings from the Interwebs



furmanuniversity What a day for the @furmanpaladins! Claim the SoCon Football Championship title: ✓ Beat the reigning NCAA basketball champions: ✓ Finish top 25 in the Cross Country National Championship and have two runners earn the All-American title: ✓



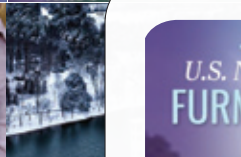
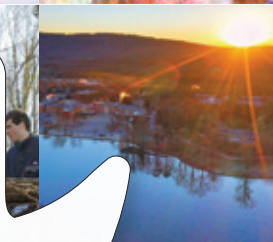
furmanuniversity We wish our Paladin alums were #HomeAtFurman every weekend. Check out the photos from one of our favorite weekends of the year.



furmanuniversity This is how we prepare our students. This is how it all comes together. This is #TheFurmanAdvantage. Visit TheFurmanAdvantage.com for the full video.

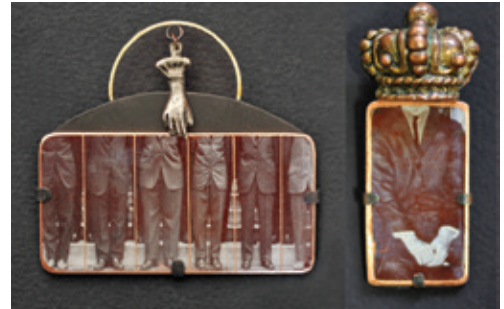


furmanuniversity Good morning, Furman ☀️



furmanuniversity Making our mark ✓

Still



Hosted by Furman University's Department of Art, the exhibit "Lineage: Tom Flowers & Family," featured the work of Tom Flowers, who taught art at Furman from 1959 to 1989; Mark Flowers; Kristy Higby; Carson Higby-Flowers; Morgan Higby-Flowers; Virginia Griswold and Tia Flowers. In "Lineage," the artists honor the creative spirit that has grown through three generations and inspired six visual

artists, all connected through family ties. The exhibition showcased works by Flowers' son, daughter, daughter-in-law, grandsons and granddaughter-in-law. It included acrylic painting, sculpture, mixed media narrative paintings, street photography, small metals wearable art, electronic integrated art and glass sculpture.



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(Clockwise from left) Furman students make blankets for children, clear brush at the historic Brutontown Cemetery and participate in ice breakers to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Furman's Day of Service in January.



JEREMY FLEMING