Carol Kunkel’s human resources manager told her something in 1985 that changed the trajectory of her life. Kunkel had been working as an order entry clerk at what was then Reliance Electric, now ABB Motors and Mechanical Inc., and she had been taking classes and considering ways to further her opportunities. After telling Kunkel the company offered tuition reimbursement, the HR manager asked, “If your company offered to buy you a car, would you choose would you pick a Ford or a Cadillac? If the company is going to pay for your education, you need to get the best you can get. You need to consider Furman.”

More than 30 years later, Kunkel is grateful for that advice, as she went on to graduate from Furman Undergraduate Evening Studies (UES) in 1999 and is now director of inside sales for the company, which does more than $40 billion in sales annually.

She doesn’t think she would have achieved the same level of success without her Furman experience. “It’s more than just classes, but learning how to think, and how to apply what you’re learning right away,” she said. “I learned how to think, manage, structure and plan.”

At Furman, she also learned the importance of tenacity. For 14 years, through promotions, work travel, the birth of two children and a child’s serious illness, Kunkel never gave up on her dream of finishing her degree. Now, when she reflects on those days, she marvels at the juggling she did, but uses her story to remind her team not to let anyone hold them back.

“I have a department of 50 people,” she said. “I always try to encourage them to get started” on their
Kunkel graduated with a degree in business administration after 14 years of effort. “I never thought about quitting,” she said.

THE PAYOFF

One of Kunkel’s favorite memories is graduating alongside “kids” who were 21 years old. “Here I was, 38, with my husband there, and I had a 3-year-old and a 6-year-old,” she said. She’ll never forget the sight of her youngest on her husband’s shoulders holding a sign that said, “Way to go, Mom!”

She was also honored with the Frances Selby “Gig” Meredith Award, given annually to a UES student who best exemplifies tenacity. She attended the award dinner and now recalls how funny it was to be there with her husband when the other award recipients were accompanied by their parents. “But it’s such a good memory,” she said.

While she found the Furman program rigorous, as she expected it to be, the classes she was most afraid of were the ones where she excelled the most. “I was on the right path already, but I would not be where I am today without the degree,” she said.

She is continuing to reap the benefits. ABB bought the company in 2011 and recently began offering additional opportunities for leadership. The Zurich-based company is focused on gender diversity, and even in a male-dominated industry, Kunkel sees many opportunities to keep moving up.

Life kept throwing curveballs, including her new management role, chairing her company’s United Way campaign, getting married, moving her mother into the house, her husband being laid off, her mother passing away, and her first child being born. Despite having to take time off from classes, she always returned as soon as she could.

“It took me a while,” Kunkel said. “I couldn’t get too fixed on the end. Luckily, my company recognized my tenacity and never said, ‘You can’t get promoted until you have a degree.’ It was a very supportive organization.”

One key to sticking with it was not calculating how old she would be when she finished, or how long it would take. “I just kept looking at how many hours I had behind me,” she said.

To continue to move up, she knew that she needed to complete her degree, so in the fall of 1985, she started her journey. Taking two classes a term, she was typically at Furman from 6:45 p.m. until at least 9:30. “I’d get home late, get up early, go to work and do it all over again,” she said.
NEW FURMAN OSTER SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS ADULT STUDENTS REENTERING COLLEGE

By Pamela Rastatter

As a single mother, bringing up her son, Kunkel took the advice of a friend and went back to school. She took the classes she could fit in around her work and family life. "I did it by working at Reliance Heating, where you are always trying to figure out ways to get in. It’s an ongoing struggle."

Furman University Undergraduate Evening Studies (UES) has named the first recipients of its Osher Reentry Scholarships. The scholarships are made possible through a $50,000 grant Furman received earlier this summer from the Bernard Osher Foundation. Adult learners meeting the scholarship requirement may be eligible for awards of up to $5,000 to help supplement their education. Including Furman, there are 93 universities and colleges with an Osher Reentry Scholarship program across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For more information about the UES Osher Reentry Scholarships, visit info.furman.edu/usher.

Our first class of Osher Scholars is:

Mason Davis of Easley
Frances Moore of Marietta

Lanette Ervin of Greenville
Destiny Page of Taylors

Kwon Jang of Greenville
Joel Satterthwaite of Greer

Undergraduate Evening Studies scholarships are available each semester to returning students who demonstrate strong academic ability and financial need. To apply for a UES scholarship, visit our Student Resources page and select Forms & Applications to download the application.

The Jack Dickey Scholarship – open to juniors and seniors with demonstrated financial need and high academic achievement.

The Dr. Grace Hill Scholarship – an annual award to one UES student with demonstrated financial need and a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The Hazel Long Smith ‘41 Scholarship – awarded to students with demonstrated financial need.

The Sharon and Leonard Lee Scholarship – awarded to students who are U.S. citizens with financial need.

The deadline to apply each semester is two weeks prior to the first day of class. The 2018 – 2019 scholarship application deadlines are:

- December 1, 2018 for the spring semester
- May 7, 2019 for the summer term
- August 6, 2019 for the fall semester

UES welcomes gifts at all levels.

To give, please visit furman.edu/give
Choose “Other” to designate “Undergraduate Evening Studies”
By choosing “Other,” you may restrict your gift to a particular fund (i.e. “UES: Meredith fund” or “UES: Educational Excellence”)
CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE 2018 UES DEAN’S LIST, ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA INDUCTEES AND 2018 GRADUATES

The Furman UES Dean’s List is a prestigious honor awarded to UES undergraduate students who are enrolled in at least six credit hours during a semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher. Congratulations to our spring and summer 2018 Dean’s List!

SPRING 2018
Geoffrey S. Allen
Catherine C. Avinante
Jennifer C. Bobo
George G. Bobo II
Doris M. Childress
Katlyn A. Clark
Natali Franco Olarte
Christopher G. Haley
Rachel M. Holloway
Ryan J. Knutson
Sarah E. Lusk
Kate L. Milby
Stacy D. Ransom
Kelly R. Redding
Helen Reynolds
Susan M. Simmons
Sabrena L. Spearman
Sydney Townsend
Britton M. Walker
Tammy L. Watkins
Joshua S. White
John C. Wood
Fletcher G. Wulff
Derek A. Wynn
Elizabeth M. Zeager

SUMMER 2018
Devin G. Berlin
Whitney A. Conley
Christopher G. Haley
Sarah E. Lusk
Daniella M. Passwaters
Sabrena L. Spearman
Sydney Townsend
Britton M. Walker
Paul C. Whigham
Joshua S. White
John C. Wood
Fletcher G. Wulff
Derek A. Wynn

2018 ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA INDUCTEES
On May 4, 2018, Furman celebrated the induction of four new members to the Alpha Sigma Lambda (ASL) honorary society. Founded in 1945, ASL recognizes the outstanding academic achievement of adult undergraduate students who balance their studies with multiple career and family responsibilities. Undergraduate Evening Studies annually selects for ASL nomination students who meet the society’s high standards, including a rank in the top 20% of their class with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2. Furman’s chapter, Gamma Theta, was established in 1981 under the direction of former Continuing Education Director Jack Dickey.

2018 MAY GRADUATES
Alyssa K. Alsobrook, BLA
Business Administration
Margarett H. Howard
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting
Dale E. Byers, BLA
Business Administration
Robert W. Pappas, BLA
Business Administration
& Information Technology
Summa Cum Laude
Adam L. Perry
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting
Lauren S. Canady, BLA
Accounting & Business Administration
Tameka M. Simmons, BLA
Business Administration
Amelia D. Collins, BLA
Accounting & Business Administration
Ryan H. Whitaker
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting
Jennifer B. Cote, BLA
Accounting & Business Administration
Lina M. Galan-Leon, BLA
Business Administration

2018 AUGUST UES GRADUATES
Jonathan A. Gould, BLA
Business Administration
Christopher A. Reynolds, BLA
Accounting & Business Administration
Mary E. Hudak
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting
Magna Cum Laude
David N. Williams, BLA
Information Technology
Haley E. Hughes, BLA
Accounting & Business Administration

2018 Alpha Sigma Lambda Inductees
Jennifer B. Cote, Dale Byers, Helen Reynolds, Susan M. Simmons (not pictured), Elizabeth M. Zeager (not pictured)
In keeping with tradition, the 2018 graduates of Furman Undergraduate Evening Studies gathered at the Cherrydale Alumni House to celebrate the important milestone with their friends and family as well as UES faculty and staff. At the event, UES Director Beth Crews recognized the 2018 Alpha Sigma Lambda inductees, and Dale Byers, the 2018 Frances Selby "Gig" Meredith award winner, selected as UES’s outstanding student of the year. Crews then personally recognized each of the graduates, noting their highlights and challenges, and thanking those who provided encouragement and support to them. As the graduates raised their champagne glasses, Furman’s Executive Director of Alumni Development Mike Wilson toasted their accomplishment.

UES GRADUATES AND FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS RECOGNIZED AT COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION

By Pamela Rastatter

Dale Byers had many good reasons to do well in his coursework at Furman Undergraduate Evening Studies, but the biggest reasons were his four grown kids. “I hounded them so much through the years, that it probably had a good deal to do with me keeping my grades up,” said Byers, who graduated summa cum laude in May.

Byers went to Clemson right out of high school, majored in psychology, and like many young students, spent a lot of his time on the party circuit.

“After you go out in the world and work for a while, when you do go back to school, you’re doing it because you want to be there,” he said. “It’s very different.”

After dropping out of Clemson, Byers held a variety of jobs before joining Bostik, which provides adhesives and sealants to the industrial manufacturing, construction and consumer sectors and employs more than 5,000 people in 50 countries.

After joining the company 10 years ago, he was encouraged by his boss, also a Furman graduate, to look into the program. He had been away from the classroom for 30 years. “I told one of my first professors, ‘Last time I took a class, you weren’t even born,’” he said.

It took him five years to complete his degree. Thirty-eight credit hours transferred from Clemson. At the midway point, Bostik promoted him to production supervisor, overseeing around 25 people. “I was supposed to have a degree,” he said. “They gave me the job with the understanding that I would get the degree.”

Byers excelled in his coursework and found he loved the rigor of being back in school. He took two classes every semester for five years, including the summers. “I liked the challenge. I liked the way it was structured, and I’ve always loved learning things,” he said.

He was impressed with the quality and knowledge of his teachers and liked that the class sizes were small enough to get individualized attention, but large enough that he was able to interact and collaborate with other students.

Not only did he finish with a top GPA, Byers was inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda, an honor society for adult students who achieve and maintain high scholastic standards while also handling other life responsibilities.

Alongside his business degree, he added a second major in information technology. “I added it because I’m interested in computers, and the classes were fun,” he said. Now, although information technology is not an official part of his job description, he has taken over that role at Bostik. “People come and find me when they have a problem, so I took up that responsibility,” he said.

He finds that the coursework he took applies to many of his daily tasks, especially process improvement and project management. A human resources management class was also enlightening.

Enjoying his first summer out of school in five years, Byers has already begun considering his next move, and it likely involves more education. He’s looking into a possible MBA at Clemson, or maybe an online master’s degree in computer systems from Georgia Tech, which he could even take alongside his son, who is a Clemson grad.

“There are a lot of options I’m looking at,” he said.
UES ART EXHIBIT THEME REFLECTS TRAITS OF ITS STUDENTS
By Pamela Rastatter

RESISTANCE. PERSISTENCE. TENACITY.
UES 5th Annual Art Exhibition
October 19 - December 19

Undergraduate Evening Studies has announced the theme for its 5th annual juried art exhibition, “RESISTANCE. PERSISTENCE. TENACITY.” The theme exemplifies the strengths nontraditional adult students at Furman must personify daily to juggle their many responsibilities and their evening studies.

“Through the works submitted, we catch a glimpse into how these three related qualities are visually defined by others,” explained UES Director Beth Crews. “We see what it is they must resist, ways they are called to persist, and the tenacity required to achieve their goals.”

Entries were accepted through Sept. 22 by all UES students, alumni, and friends, as well as faculty and staff. All original works that convey aspects of the theme will be considered for selection, regardless of medium. Those whose works are selected will be notified by Sept. 28.

The UES art exhibition kicks off Furman’s Homecoming weekend on Friday, Oct. 19, with an opening reception from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Herring Center for Continuing Education. Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served. The exhibition will be open to the public at the Herring Center’s Baiden Gallery from Oct. 19 to Dec. 19, 2018.

RUSTY COPSEY NAMED OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR
By Pamela Rastatter

Each year, UES announces the recipient of its Outstanding Instructor of the Year award recognizing a UES professor that students have praised as an exceptional teacher who has demonstrated dedication and service to their students. This year’s award went to Rusty Copsey who has taught as an adjunct instructor for Furman University’s Continuing Education division since 1998. Aside from also being a faculty member for the South Carolina Bankers School, Copsey has worked in the banking industry for over 27 years and is currently vice president of the credit management division of Wells Fargo.

To be an outstanding teacher, it requires knowledge, creativity and innovation in the classroom. According to his students, Copsey impresses students with his expansive knowledge and his ability to make class fun and exciting by using real world experience mixed with his unflagging enthusiasm and humor. According to UES Director Beth Crews, “Students look forward to his classes because he takes time to relate the subject matter to the real world and encourages students to actively participate with his balanced approach that encompasses all different learning styles.”

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