

# FINISH LINE

## Furman Undergraduate Evening Studies



### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## A LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Kunkel's tenacity pays off with dream job, future opportunities.

*By Leigh Savage,  
Contributing Writer*



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

education. Kunkel explains, "There's something important in talking about how beneficial the journey is and not just the destination. I try to get people to focus on bettering themselves, and to take the leap of faith."

### FINDING HER WAY

Kunkel had graduated from high school and started out in radiology technology at Greenville Tech, but quickly realized health care was not the right fit. Getting the job at Reliant proved to be life-altering, and she immediately fell in love with the company and its people.

While working, she continued to take classes at Greenville Tech and considered accounting or other finance majors when that fateful day came she spoke with HR.

### ***She'll never forget the sight of her youngest on her husband's shoulders holding a sign that said, "Way to go, Mom!"***

The day she walked onto Furman's campus was unforgettable. "I had never been on a college campus before," she said. "Never even to a football game. I was scared to death."

She met with Jack Dickey, then head of UES, and found that despite a steady flow of coursework, none of her credits transferred. She had to start over at Furman, which was discouraging.

She was doing well in her career and had already moved up to a management position as a customer service representative. "I knew this company was my home," she said. "I was building great networks, and I loved what we were making, the culture we had." The company makes power transmission equipment that goes into all areas of industrial manufacturing.

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.

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 fixated 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.

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.

# DATA SECURITY: A GROWING FIELD WITH GROWING CHALLENGES

By Leigh Savage,  
Contributing Writer

In 2012, an attack at the S.C. Department of Revenue affected 6 million taxpayers.

Each year, the organization OWASP (Open Web Application Security Project) releases a list of the top 10 security risks that year, "and every year, it changes," Sims said. "It's our job to stop the bad guys, so it's our job to mitigate the risks."

Top risks for 2017 included injection (the cause of the Sony Pictures hack of 2014), broken authentication (basically, passwords guessed or stolen), and using components with known vulnerabilities (said to be the reason for the Equifax breach of 2017).

The work is always changing, so the ideal data security professional is always one step ahead. "Getting into this field, you have to be a lifelong learner. You have to be curious by nature," Sims said.

Wagner often tells his students to focus on the creativity of computer science instead of one aspect of it, like security. The word security really refers to privacy, he said, and since "social media completely destroyed privacy," data security is often more about giving consumers the feeling of security than offering total security.

"It is impossible to make humans behave in a secure way," he said. "Therefore, we must limit risks by trying to inhibit people from sharing their secrets to everyone in the world."

Wagner works in health informatics, which requires him to maintain a database containing decades of health information for millions of people. "The security of that data is more important than the research that I do," he said. "All it takes is one minor security breach, and all my work will instantly be shut down."

Another issue, according to Wagner, is that many companies do not value IT security. They often seek high school graduates with no higher education to serve as self-trained security "experts."

**A**s more transactions move online, a recent study found that there will be 726 billion digital payments annually by 2020, making data security an even more pressing issue. When companies are attacked by hackers wanting to steal their data, their key line of defense is data security specialists, who have the tough job of shoring up the company's defenses and keeping the data safe.



SHAUN WAGNER

your system," he said. "You do get fired, sued and possibly charged with a crime if someone does."



WILLIAM SIMS

level of knowledge and certification required. "It can be a high-stress job," he said. "I've had intense conversations with security people who don't want to lose their job or go to jail. But it does pay very well if you are good."

### EVOLVING RISKS

Data breaches continue to make news internationally and locally. Last fall, a breach at Equifax exposed the personal information of 143 million people, including 2.4 million people in South Carolina, or nearly half of the state's residents.

# NEW FURMAN OSHER SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS ADULT STUDENTS REENTERING COLLEGE

By Pamela Rastatter

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/osher](http://info.furman.edu/osher).

## *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](http://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")

## Data Security

*continued from page 3*

When he reads about a company being hacked, he finds out that it was a problem that no student of his would have had. "It's obvious that the company didn't value security and hired an uneducated person to be in charge of security. In my opinion, it isn't about improving security, it is about implementing security properly, which requires education, which requires companies to hire educated employees."

## FINDING SOLUTIONS

Companies can shore up their defenses by hiring "ethical hackers," individuals or companies who try to hack the system. Sims said this has been done at BCBS during required audits. "The hired hackers give us a report on what they tried and how far they got. If they find a breach, they can show how they got through." Then staff members can create systems to counteract the technique the hackers used.

Another safeguard is making sure all employees know how the basics of how to avoid security risks. People tend to think information they are sharing is secure when often, it isn't. Wagner has even seen people post their credit card numbers on Facebook. "It's a numbers game," he said. "As it gets easier and easier to post your private information online, the problem of securing private information grows."

Hackers can find a weak link by sending an email to everyone in a company that claims the company's password server has been upgraded, requiring all employees update their information. "All it takes is one user to do it, and they can access the internal network and start hacking the company," Wagner said.

There is no way to create a perfect system, and this "game of cat-and-mouse" has been going on for centuries, Sims points out. In decades past, secrets were kept in safes, and criminals wanted to find ways to crack them. Today, it's the same concept, but with computers. "A computer that can do billions of instructions per second doesn't take that long to try all possible combinations of four-digit PINs," he said. "The thought is the same. They want to get your secrets."

***"As it gets easier and easier to post your private information online, the problem of securing private information grows."***

While a degree isn't necessary to succeed in data security, Wagner and Sims say a college degree shows the ability to learn as well as the perseverance it took to earn it. The critical thinking and communication skills developed in college are also essential, since data security professionals must solve problems and then share that information with other departments.

One of the biggest assets in this field is the ability to question the status quo. Sims observes, "The average person doesn't question why that much, but people in my field, we are looking for someone who says, 'Why do we do it that way?' Because, the unethical hackers, the guys in the black hats, are always trying to figure out ways to get in. It's an ongoing struggle."

## A Long and Winding Road

*continued from page 2*

Now with the career she always dreamed of, Kunkel continues to assist others, telling her story and how her Furman experience affected her life.

"There are other people who started with Reliance when I did and had the same opportunities, and maybe sometimes their trajectory was limited by their decisions," she said. "I didn't watch TV or go to happy hour every night, but look what I have to show for that time. The experience is something no one can ever take away from me."

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

### 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 Alpha Sigma Lambda Inductees

Jennifer B. Cote, Dale Byers, Helen Reynolds,  
Susan M. Simmons (not pictured),  
Elizabeth M. Zeager (not pictured)

### 2018 MAY GRADUATES

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

### 2018 AUGUST UES GRADUATES

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



## ANOTHER SHOT

Byers finds success after 30-year break from the classroom.

by Leigh Savage, Contributing Writer

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 GRADUATES AND FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS RECOGNIZED AT COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION

By Pamela Rastatter



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.





# 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 untiring 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."



## 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.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR\*

- |                    |   |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|---|
| Sept. 28 .....     | Withdrawal deadline, Block A                  | Nov. 21-23 .....  | Thanksgiving Break                                      |
| Oct. 1 .....       | Spring 2019 Evening Studies schedule released | Nov. 30 .....   | Withdrawal deadline, Block B                            |
| Oct. 8-9 .....     | Fall Break for Block C courses only           | Dec. 1 .....  | Spring Evening Studies scholarship application deadline |
| Oct. 12 .....      | Final exams for Block A Mon. / Tues. courses  | Dec. 13-19 .....  | Spring registration deadline                            |
| Oct. 13 .....      | Final exams for Block A Wed. / Thurs. courses | Dec. 17-20 .....  | Final exams, Block C courses                            |
| Oct. 15 .....      | Fall Block B classes begin                    | Dec. 22 .....   | Final exams, Block B courses                            |
| Oct. 19 .....      | UES Annual Art Exhibition Opens               | Dec. 22 .....   | Holiday break begins, Furman offices closed             |
| Oct. 19 - 21 ..... | Furman Homecoming                             | Jan. 2 .....  | Furman offices reopen                                   |
| Oct. 22 .....      | Add/drop deadline, Block B                    | Jan. 7 .....  | Spring 2019 semester begins                             |
| Nov. 1 .....       | Spring registration opens                     | *Dates subject to change. Current information available at <a href="http://calendar.furman.edu">calendar.furman.edu</a> |   |
|                    | Spring admission application deadline         |   |   |
| Nov. 13 .....      | Withdrawal deadline, Block C                  |   |   |

\*Dates subject to change. Current information available at [calendar.furman.edu](http://calendar.furman.edu)



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