

Furman



FOR ALUMNI
AND FRIENDS
OF THE UNIVERSITY

A HUB for *Improving* COMMUNITY HEALTH

SPRING

2017

QUOTABLE

How can finding time for reflection change your life and career outlook?

pg. 64

Q&A

Legal and Program Compliance Director Cameron Tommey '08

pg. 12

IACH

Furman's Institute for the Advancement of Community Health is providing meaningful out-of-classroom experiences for students

pg. 22

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Clay Hendrix '86 named head football coach

pg. 16

THE COMEBACK

A crash course at the BMW Driving Performance School

pg. 50



Discover

the ultimate travel experience

Furman University offers unique opportunities for alumni to travel the globe together. Discover the culture and history of exciting destinations as revealed by local guides, trained historians, and members of the Furman faculty. Featured journeys will include Alaskan and Iberian cruises, the Scottish Highlands, the Grand Canyon, Iceland, the Canadian Rockies, and Cuba. Learn more and view full itineraries at alumni.furman.edu/connect/travel-programs



FURMAN

Alumni Journeys

Presented by  Direct Travel

pg. **22**

Maddie Ritter, who works with patients at North Greenville Hospital, confers with Biology Professor Victoria Turgeon.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Davis on The Furman Advantage. **pg. 3**

AROUND THE LAKE

John Harris '91 and his daughter, **Sophie Harris '19**, have published a children's book about integration at a Georgia public school. **pg. 5**

Work has been completed to improve the aesthetics and ecology of Swan Lake. **pg. 6**

A chance meeting between an art professor and middle school coach produces a community partnership that is benefitting students at Legacy Charter School and Furman. **pg. 8**

A gift from former President **David Shi '73** and his wife, **Angela Halfacre Shi '92**, will support student fellowships. **pg. 10**

THEN, NOW, NEXT

Reflections on what was, is and will be important at Furman. **pgs. 7-11**

Features

IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH

by Kelley Bruss

Furman's Institute for the Advancement of Community Health is working to improve healthcare and provide meaningful out-of-classroom experiences for students. **pg. 22**

RAPTOR RAGE

by Ron Wagner '93

Jeff Curtis '86 has a passion for falconry, a practice that is some 5,000 years old. **pg. 28**

ON TOP OF THE HEAP

by Ron Wagner '93

Austin Watson '05 (AKA Xavier Woods) has risen to the top of World Wrestling Entertainment. **pg. 34**

A WITNESS TO CHANGING TIMES

by Courtney Tollison '99

As National Public Radio's Paris-based correspondent, **Eleanor Beardsley '86** has reported on the Syrian refugee crisis, terrorism, the Arab Spring and Brexit. **pg. 42**

COVER



Maddie Ritter '17 and other Furman students are getting unparalleled access to health facilities, patients and physicians through the university's Institute for the Advancement of Community Health.

Q&A

Cameron Tommey '10 works for the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities as the director of legal and program compliance. **pg. 12**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Clay Hendrix '86 returns home to lead the Paladin football team. **pg. 16**

Men's rugby makes a run at a national championship. **pg. 19**

SHELF LIFE

The story of Furman's greatest basketball player is masterfully retold in *Frank Selvy, Coal Miner's Son*. **pg. 46**

THE COMEBACK

Hang on. You're about to experience the BMW Driving Performance School. **pg. 50**

CLASS NOTES

Where you have been, where you are going. What life is like *After the Aisle* for **Brittany DeKnight '07** and **Nick Kline '07**. Getting *Up Close* with **Elizabeth Bishop '89**, **Zach Kelehear '81**, **Judi (Harris) Wilson '90** and **Ashley Gess '95**. **pgs. 56-63**



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

UP CLOSE

Jim Stewart’s fine tribute to Marguerite Hays in the Fall 2016 issue is certainly faithful to my long-ago experience with her when she recruited me to write what turned out to be the lead article for the women’s issue of the *Furman* magazine way back in the early ’70s. I was an unknown to her, and she contacted me based on a single letter of mine that was published in the *Paladin* newspaper regarding the first woman president of the student body. I will always be grateful to her for extending that opportunity to me; and if one believes in anything like karma, that Stewart’s article about her and my poem “What if Emily Dickinson was wrong ...” were published in the same Fall issue of the magazine tends to support the concept ...

In any case, Marguerite Hays was indeed “an irreplaceable blend of civility, wisdom, talent, graciousness and class.”

Connie Ralston ’70

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.



FURMAN MAGAZINE

Furman magazine is published for alumni and friends of the university by University Communications, Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina 29613. Correspondence may be directed to magazine@furman.edu.

- EDITOR**
John Roberts
- ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR**
Carol Anne Ward ’02
- CREATIVE DIRECTOR**
Elizabeth Geer
- ART DIRECTORS**
Katherine Irvin
Chris Turner
Kaylee Welgraven
- DESIGNER**
Cara Sanders Robb
- CONTRIBUTORS**
Kelley Bruss
Jack Dylan
Brian Faulkenberry
Jeremy Fleming ’08
Erikah Haavie
Sophie Harris ’19
Lori Hendrick
Eli Hestermann
Grace Honohan ’18
Susannah Kay
Linda Lee
Nan Melville
Vince Moore
Cathy Nelson ’01
Lindsay Niedringhaus ’07
Damien Pierce
David Poleski
Charlie Register
John Roberts
Courtney Tollison ’99
Chris Turner
Ron Wagner ’93
Mike Wilson ’88
Noah Zimmermann ’18
- CLASS NOTES EDITOR**
Nell Smith
- PRINTING**
Hickory Printing Solutions

©Copyright Furman University 2017. Furman University is committed to providing equal access to its educational programs, activities, and facilities to all otherwise qualified students without discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other category protected by applicable state or federal law. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, Furman also affirms its commitment to non-discrimination in its employment policies and practices. For information about the University’s compliance with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and the IRS Anti-Bias Regulation, please contact the director of human resources by telephoning 864.294.3015, or by writing to Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, SC, 29613. For information about Furman’s compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact the disability services coordinator at 864.294.2320, or by writing the address noted above.

Letter from the President

Commitment Breeds Courage

The Furman Advantage paves a pathway to success.

This past fall, we launched The Furman Advantage—our promise to provide an unparalleled education that combines classroom learning with real world experience and discovery. Combined with mentoring and reflection, The Furman Advantage creates an individual pathway to success for each and every student.

This promise takes courage. In turn, it delivers the same. Our vision guides faculty and staff as much as it creates a purposeful structure to ensure students have the education, experience and courage needed to take on life beyond graduation. It is our North Star.

The painter Pablo Picasso said it well: “Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success.”

The Furman Advantage builds on our tradition of excellence, intentionally combining our outstanding liberal arts and sciences education with guaranteed engaged learning opportunities and enhanced advising and mentoring, all integrated and tracked in a four-year pathway with an “exit plan.”

This is amplified through our institutes and centers, like the Riley Institute and Shi Center for Sustainability and our newly formed Institute for the Advancement of Community Health, which raise Furman’s national profile and connect students with faculty experts and community members to explore and tackle important issues.

Combining and connecting the elements of The Furman Advantage creates an educational path to launch our students into lives of purpose, which takes many forms, including successful careers. Those who have satisfying and rewarding careers are more likely to live lives of meaning. And we know jobs are an important outcome for students and families who are considering Furman.

In fact, in the most recent Gallup survey, 88 percent of incoming freshmen in colleges of all types and sizes across the country said that getting a “good job” was a critical factor in their decision to enroll in college. At the same time, only 11 percent of business leaders agreed strongly that colleges are equipping students with the 21st century skills needed to be successful.

In this regard, the Gallup-Purdue Index Study identified key, critical undergraduate experiences that relate to positive outcomes. The 2016 report was clear: “The research (in this study) is designed to provide a road map for continuous improvement, focusing on those outcomes prospective students expect to achieve as a result of obtaining a bachelor’s degree, including a great job and a great life.”

This research shows, in fact, that graduates who were “emotionally supported” and who had “experiential and deep learning” in college were more likely to be engaged in their work and thriving in all aspects of their lives. Yet only 14 percent of the graduates surveyed had experienced all three indicators related to emotional support:

- At least one professor who excited them about learning.
 - Professors who cared about them as a person.
 - A mentor who encouraged their goals and dreams.
- And only 6 percent had experienced all three indicators related to experiential and deep learning:
- A long-term project that took a semester or more to complete.
 - An internship or job where they applied their learning.
 - Highly engaged involvement in extra-curricular activities and organizations.

Not surprisingly, of those 24 percent who reported having none of these experiences, only 5 percent felt they were pre-

pared for life. Conversely, of the 3 percent who reported having all six, 85 percent of them felt prepared.

I’m proud that the 2016 Gallup-Purdue report highlighted in its first page the work that Furman is doing through The Furman Advantage to provide “the key collegiate experiences identified through this research.” We’re on the right track, and people are noticing. Such recognition gives us confidence as we work to fully realize The Furman Advantage. We’re off to a good start. Since its launch, we have implemented a number of supporting initiatives:

- Developed and promoted a Personal Financial Literacy seminar for seniors that attracted more than 100 students
- Increased stipends and housing support for the Summer Research Fellowship Program.
- Launched a new career support model, “Customized Connections,” linking career services and students with faculty, alumni and other mentors.
- Launched the Institute for the Advancement of Community Health, a collaboration with the Greenville Health System that makes Furman unique as a liberal arts and sciences partner in an academic health center. (See page 22.)
- And, we’re weeks away from launching the first version of the four-year pathway tracking and reporting system.

While this is a clear sign of our progress, we know we will have to continue to test, assess and adjust as we move forward. “There are no secrets to success,” said Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State and retired four-star general. “It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.”

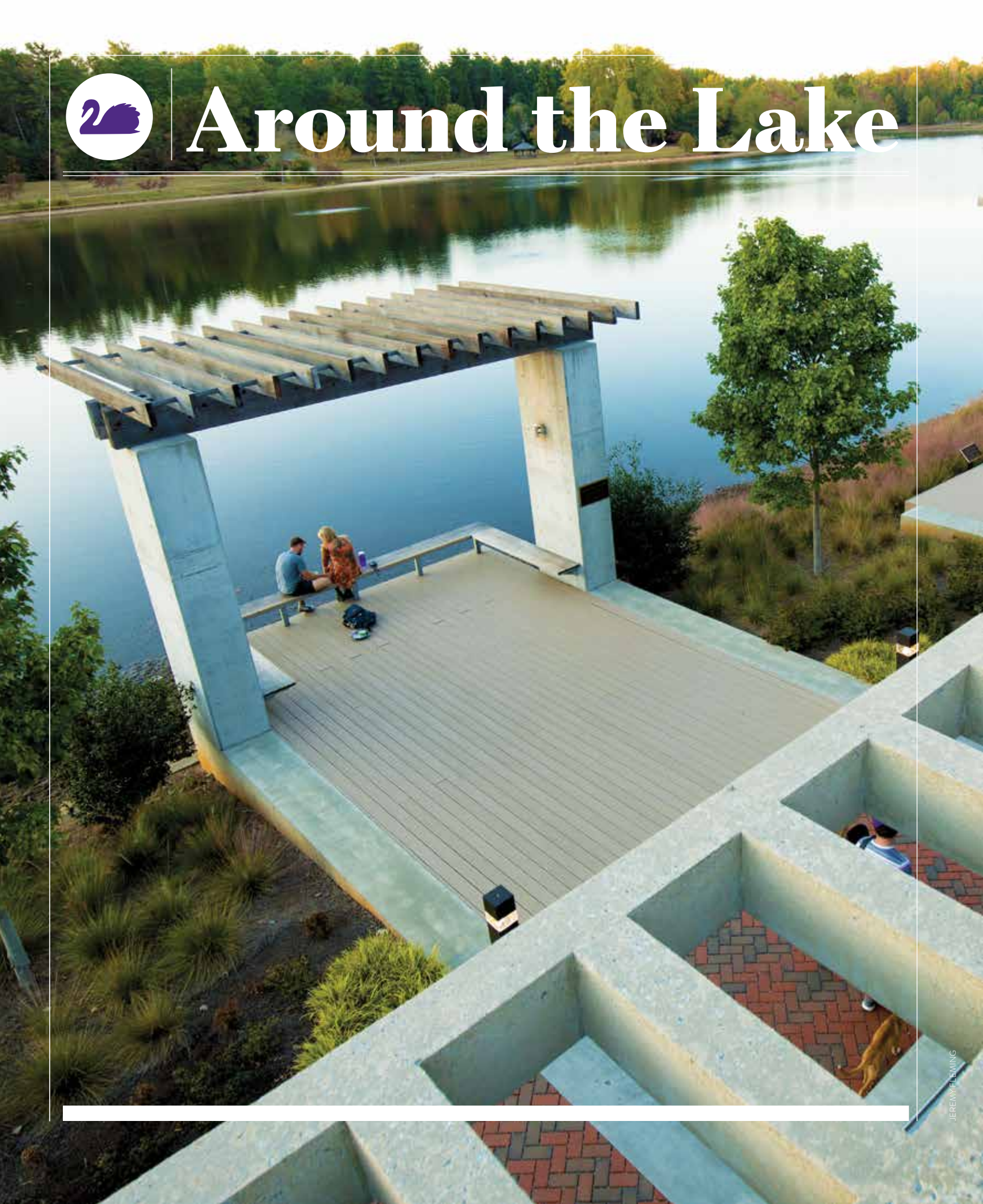
The Furman Advantage is ambitious. This is our time, and it is time to make clear the power and impact of a Furman education. Yes, it will be a challenge, but I know we can do this because of our tradition and because of great alumni and friends like you. *You* are, in essence, The Furman Advantage.

Warmly,

Elizabeth Davis



Around the Lake



JEREMY LEWIS



Around the Lake | Briefs

John Harris '91 loved to tell stories to his children. Mostly he told stories about Amy, Betty and Christy, a trio of imaginary girls he used to teach morals or lessons to his daughter, Sophie '19, when she was younger.

Sometimes Sophie decided she wanted to be part of the stories and would draw pictures of her three friends.

One day Harris heard a true story about unsung heroes that needed to be told, and Sophie volunteered to illustrate it.

This summer the father-daughter duo published the true story of school principal Brooks Tuck in their first children's book, *Mr. Tuck and the 13 Heroes* (Regeneration Writers Press).

Professor John Harris joined the mathematics faculty at Furman in 2000 and serves as assistant director of the Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection, while Sophie Harris is an art major at Furman.

The book tells the inspiring story of the integration of the first school in Henry County, Georgia, and how a courageous commitment to do the right thing helped to overcome fear and prejudice, stem the tide of racial injustice, and open a door of opportunity for generations who would follow.



A Hero's Story

Father-daughter duo publish children's book about integration at Georgia school

BY ERIKAH HAAVIE

ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIE HARRIS '19

Curtis Brooks Tuck (1938–2012) was an educator for 50 years, first as a teacher and principal in Henry and DeKalb county schools in Georgia, then as a teacher with Mercer University in Atlanta. He received a Doctor of Humanities degree from Mercer in 2010. In his commencement

address that day, Tuck told the story of the 13 heroes publicly for the first time, according to Colin Harris, professor emeritus of religious studies at Mercer University, who also collaborated on the book with his son and granddaughter.

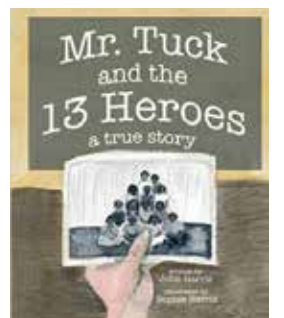
"Brooks Tuck was a modest man, and he didn't like to

draw attention to himself," said John Harris. "But when he heard the idea of turning the story into a children's book, he gave the project his blessing. It's really a story that wrote itself."

"We hope everyone who reads the book feels the same emotions we did when we heard it," said Sophie Harris.

Award-winning children's book author Melinda Long '82 described the book as "a well-told story that beautifully explains a difficult time in our history."

"This true story is a 'must tell' story that should indeed be shared with today's youth, who may know very little about any of the pioneers in the desegregation of public education," said Jacqueline Culpepper, associate professor of reading education at Mercer University. ●



Mr. Tuck and the 13 Heroes is available at the Furman Bookstore and through Amazon.com.



A BRIDGE OVER SERENE WATERS
A wooden bridge was completed earlier this year on the north end of Swan Lake.

Restoring Furman’s Lake

BY LINDA LEE

If you were in town for Homecoming weekend and thought that Furman’s centerpiece Swan Lake looks lower than normal, your eyes weren’t deceiving you.

There’s a good reason for this. Work has just been completed on two projects

that will improve both the look and the ecology of the stream-fed lake. The first one was repairing the dam on the south end, which was damaged by the heavy rains that flooded much of the lower part of the state in October 2015.

“There is a laundry list of things that DHEC (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) has asked us to do,” says Scot Sherman ’88, Furman’s director of campus planning. “We removed trees, replaced drainage, repaired the outfall structure, and more.”

The second project took place at the north end of the lake, where, with the help of a grant from Duke Energy, the workers dredged that section of the lake, removed invasive plants, added marsh islands sewn with aquatic plants, and built an arched wooden bridge to replace the earthen causeway that used to cross the water. They also installed

THE NEW BRIDGE AND FLOATING MARSH ISLANDS HAVE ENHANCED THE AESTHETICS OF FURMAN’S CAMPUS, WHICH IS CONSISTENTLY RANKED AMONG THE COUNTRY’S MOST BEAUTIFUL.

native plants around the edges of the lake to filter sediment that enters the water. To do all of this, they had to lower the level of the lake two to three feet.

JEREMY FLEMING



A SNOWY SCENE
Students enjoy a rare winter weather day (and a day free of classes) on the lake.

“We timed these two projects together, and chose a period that is usually pretty dry,” explains Sherman. “We started by removing the earthen causeway.” This improved the water flow and siltation in the lake. The marsh islands, actually floating mats of aquatic plants, are helping to clean the water and discourage algae growth.

This isn’t the first time the lake’s water level was lowered. In 1999, the lake was drained during the renovation of the Trone Student Center. The water level was lowered again in 2008 to do some necessary dredging.

Beyond restoring the lake’s wetland habitat, the new bridge and floating marsh islands will enhance the aesthetics of Furman’s campus, which is consistently ranked among the country’s most beautiful. ●



THEN

Reflection on the importance of Furman as it was

Nearly 20 years ago, I arrived at Furman.

Cell phones were not ubiquitous. Texting was nonexistent, and digital photography was about to obliterate the gates of our visual consciousness.

I’m grateful for the everyday mindfulness I acquired without the distraction of a cell phone growing out of my hand. I’m also grateful for the lifelong awareness I learned as Furman and I both pushed each other to define my educational experience.

When I enrolled, there wasn’t a communications major. By my sophomore year there was momentum to create one, but the curriculum had not yet integrated for-credit internships in that field. Entering my junior year, I panicked. How was I going to be relevant in the industry I wanted to enter?

I picked up my bulky Nokia cell phone and cold-called the executive producer of a regional television network and inquired about a summer internship. This opportunity opened a door, and I was able to secure another internship for the winter term of my senior year at the network’s headquarters in New York City.

It wasn’t enough to have secured an impressive opportunity. I was asked, “Why should this be considered for credit within Furman’s curriculum?” I was frustrated, but it was a fair question. At the time, I remember some emotional eye-rolling and thinking that Furman doesn’t get it. I appreciated higher education versus technical training, but I needed both to parlay my 5th century B.C. rhetoric knowledge into an actual career.

Eventually, the internship was approved. When I returned, my self-secured internship

at a major television network in the top market had received the following feedback: “B+: while savvy and impressive, too technical for the philosophy of a liberal arts education.”

Now I weigh the fairness and foresight of that grade with a light-hearted smirk.

Furman was evolving, and evolution is a process. The department wanted to ensure that this opportunity was vetted as an educational vehicle for growth, specifically for my growth. That dedication to students is a hallmark of Furman’s commitment. And it taught me that you can progress while remaining true to your values and identity.

Fifteen years later, my career has progressed and advanced outside of television. It includes as much art and design as it does technology; as many investment reviews as storyboards. Furman fostered that versatility. My college education helped me to be able, capable and resilient. And it taught me to follow through on vision, to reenvision and to reinvent.

In 2001, engagement was not yet a social metric, it was a learning strategy at Furman. And for me it worked. Through it I learned how to analyze and access an audience and then how to adapt my message. Furman and I learned and grew together, a student and her professors equally responsible for the standards that continually make Furman great.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cathy Nelson ’01 is a creative director of media and content for a well-known global retailer in Northern California.



LEARNING BY DOING

Art major Aaron Navarro '17 shows his students how to make their own journals.

It is 4 p.m. on a December afternoon and a dozen middle-school students cluster around a bucket of gooeey white liquid at the front of a classroom at Legacy Charter School in Greenville. Each clutches an unglazed clay plate as they await instructions about what to do next.

Standing over the bucket, Emily McPeters '18, a Furman art major with a focus in ceramics, dips each plate one by one into the white goop in the bucket. She explains that the liquid is a ceramic glaze that will need to dry before the students can move on to the next step.

After-School Art

Furman students get a taste of teaching while sharing art at Legacy Charter School

BY LINDA LEE



These middle schoolers (fifth to eighth grade), led by Furman art students, are all participants in an after-school art club, a partnership between Legacy Charter School and Furman that began last September.

The idea for the Art Club was hatched when Jessica

Auguste, the coach of Legacy's girls' basketball team, met Ross McClain, chair of Furman's Art Department, last summer when she was working at an on-campus sports camp. In the course of their conversation, McClain learned that the Legacy Charter School was short an art teacher.

McClain mentioned this to Marta Lanier, his department's art program specialist, and the wheels began to roll. She connected with Elizabeth Toney, instructional coach and special education coordinator at Legacy Charter School, and proposed an after-school art club that would meet every other week.

Thirty Legacy students signed up for the club, which was taught by a core group of five art majors. Lanier and the Furman students designed the curriculum, and the university provided the needed materials for each session.

Back in the Legacy Charter classroom, the middle school-

JEREMY FLEMING



(Top) Alexis Hawkins '17 demonstrates how to stitch a journal designed by one of the students. (Bottom) Listening closely to a lesson on journal-making.

ers retrieve their plates after the glaze is dry and take them to their seats. Now comes the fun part: painting the plates.

Laurie, a seventh-grader, is painting a "pirate fox" on her plate, while Stephanie (seventh grade) brushes on a rainbow, and Aaliyah (sixth grade) decorates her plate with a snowflake. "I like making the plates," Laurie says, "I can use my own ideas and no one tells me what to do."

JEREMY FLEMING

Toney sees it from a different perspective. "Our school's mission is that every student goes to and completes college, so being able to build a relationship with the Furman students is so beneficial to them."

The middle schoolers, though, aren't thinking that far ahead. "I love Art Club," Stephanie exclaims, "because we can do whatever we want—and I like getting my hands messy!" ●



NOW

Reflection on Furman as it is now

The global experience is closer than you think. You don't even need to buy a plane ticket to immerse yourself in other cultures.

That's what I discovered when I interned with the Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte Refugee Resettlement Office this past summer. For the first time in my life, I, a white upper-middle-class male, was in the minority. And it was liberating.

People who did not look like me, sound like me or have a background similar to mine surrounded me. I worked with the most diverse group of clients and coworkers in my brief work history. Many of my colleagues were former refugees, and almost all of them spoke at least one foreign language, including Arabic, Farsi, Pashtu and Swahili. Our clients came from countries all over the world, including Burma, Bhutan, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.

I found all of this diversity without even having to leave the Southeast, where I have lived the majority of my life. Despite everything I had heard about a sudden increase in immigrants and refugees, I realized that they have been a part of our communities for years. As I learned in my American Immigration History class at Furman, every American comes from an immigrant family, myself included.

Through my time working with the refugees, helping them with job and benefits

applications, apartment bills and bus orientations, and adjusting to the culture, I saw what America can mean to an immigrant. For some, it is just a safe place away from the terrorism that dictated their lives in their home countries; for others, it is a land of opportunity greater than anything that was ever available to them before.

I doubt I would have been prepared to help our clients this summer if it weren't for the classes I had taken at Furman before starting my internship, like Poverty Studies 101, a required course for all poverty studies minors. The core concepts of the class helped me grapple with the everyday struggle of poverty, the challenge of education, and the search for meaningful gainful employment that I saw each one of our clients go through.

My exposures to such struggles in the internship and my classes at Furman have taught me much about the world and myself. Being a student at Furman has given me the opportunity to make the most of my college experience by fully immersing myself in the areas of my interest while engaging with the backgrounds and experiences of others.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Noah Zimmermann '18 from Camden, South Carolina, is a *Politics and International Affairs and Philosophy* major with a *minor in Poverty Studies*.



Former President **David E. Shi '73** and his wife, **Angela Halfacre Shi '92**, have long championed sustainability.

Former Furman President David E. Shi '73 and his wife, Angela Halfacre Shi '92, have given \$500,000 to the university to provide additional financial support for students who are actively involved in the work of the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability.

The gift, which creates an endowed fund to support student fellowships in the Shi Center, was made in honor of specific individuals who “have made extraordinary contributions to Furman and its commitment to sustainability or to the larger national effort in recent years,” says David Shi. The Shi Center Sustainability Fellowships will be named for those individuals.

Giving Back

Gift from former President David Shi and Angela Halfacre Shi to support student fellowships

BY VINCE MOORE

“Angela and I were eager to step up in support of President (Elizabeth) Davis’s recently announced strategic focus on The Furman Advantage, which ensures that every student has opportunities for engaged learning experiences, and the

Shi Center Fellowships do just that,” says Shi.

The Shi Center was established in 2008 to foster and promote interdisciplinary research and teaching in support of sustainability on campus and in the greater community.

One of the center’s signature programs has been the Student Sustainability Fellows program.

The Fellows program supports Furman undergraduate students in sustainability research, service and internships focused on campus and community-based projects. The fellowships are open to students with any major who are interested in sustainability-related work and are available during the academic year and summer. To date, the program has supported 236 student fellows from almost every major across campus, including 82 summer fellowships and 154 academic year fellowships. The new endowed fund will help expand the fellowship program.

JEREMY FLEMING

“This timely and important gift will create even more quality experiences for Furman students who are interested in sustainability and who want to make a difference in the communities where they live,” says President Davis. “The Shi Center fellowships will also support The Furman Advantage, our new vision to transform the student experience and redefine a liberal arts and sciences education. We are grateful to both David and Angela for their extraordinary generosity and their commitment to the university.”

The Shi Center has developed innovative, award-winning programs that provide educational and research opportunities for students,

Those honored by the Shis’ gift with named endowed student fellowships include:

Carroll Rushing and Billie Cleveland	Carl '65 and Lynne Kohrt	Minor Shaw
Judy Cromwell '70	Jaime '79 and Mary Anne Lanier '79	Tom Skains
Richard Cullen '71	Erwin Maddrey	Fred Stanback
David '72 and Frances Ellison	Richard Robb	Mary Sterling
James Grantham	Todd Rupert	Peace Sterling
Francie Heller	Frank '61 and Susan Shaw	Jim Thompson '65

faculty, staff and community members. In addition to the student fellows program, the center oversees the Community Conservation Corps, in its sixth year, which partners students with community volunteers to weatherize homes for underserved families in the greater Greenville community.

The center also hosts applied research projects centered on sustainable food and farming, energy conservation,

renewable energy, water quality, transportation, economic development, campus practices and other quality of life issues. Upon Shi’s retirement as president in 2010, the Furman Board of Trustees voted to name the center in his honor to recognize his commitment and national leadership in sustainability and energy conservation during his 16 years as president.

Furman has been widely recognized for its commit-

ment to sustainability. The University received the 2016 Campus Sustainability Achievement Award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) “for outstanding achievements and progress toward sustainability.” AASHE also awarded Furman a STARS Gold Rating in recognition of its sustainability achievements nationwide. ●



NEXT

Reflection on Furman going forward

Obesity. Autism-spectrum disorders. Food and insect allergies.

All of these conditions are seen with increasing frequency in America’s children, and none of them can be “cured” by the health care industry acting alone. How do we harness the collective power of health care providers, public health experts, advocacy groups and others to create communities that support the health of these children? Furman’s new Institute for the Advancement of Community Health (IACH) is tackling such issues and making Greenville a model for improving the health of the whole community.

(See feature on page 22.)

Traditionally, health care systems have focused on treating patients when they enter the doctor’s office or emergency room. Recently, though, many have been asked to promote health and prevent illness in populations as part of the effort to contain health care costs. This means understanding not just the anatomy and physiology of the human body, but also the social, legal, educational, political and religious factors that affect people’s health where they live and work.

Our faculty and students are already doing this. For more than 20

years, Furman students in medical ethics and medical sociology courses have spent time in local health care practices, seeing how these disciplines inform professionals in their daily work. Nearly a decade ago, Furman led the creation of a program at Greenville Health System (GHS) that continues to provide pre-med students exposure to practicing physicians to better know if this is their vocation before spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on medical school.

Our students have been working with LiveWell Greenville (a network of organizations that promotes healthy eating and active living) since its inception to deliver community health programs and conduct faculty-supervised research to assess their effectiveness. Our new minor in medicine, health and culture and major in public health are preparing students to address health issues in all of their scientific, social and human dimensions.

IACH is connecting these efforts, creating a “home” for faculty, staff and students from different

departments, and in the community with our partners. Our partnership with GHS continues to expand as we work together to address social determinants of health and envision the future workforce that will best support the health of our community. Recognizing that this workforce must reflect the diverse populations it serves, we are partnering with the Riley Institute, the USC School of Medicine—Greenville, and regional historically black colleges and universities to increase diversity and support inclusion.

IACH is helping create forward-thinking education and research opportunities. As communities across the country grapple with these same issues, we are establishing Furman and Greenville as models to help guide others. Ultimately, though, our goal is to help communities support the health of our children and adults.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Eli Hestermann is executive director of IACH at Furman and pre-professional studies at GHS.

Cameron Tommey '10

*Director, Legal and Program Compliance,
U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities*

BY LINDSAY NIEDRINGHAUS '07



Cameron Tommey graduated with a B.S. in earth and environmental sciences and a minor in Latin American studies. After graduation, he worked in Guatemala as a Compton Mentor Fellow. He attended law school at Washington and Lee University before returning to Greenville in 2015 to take a job at the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities.

Are you a lover of nature or the law? Which comes first for you?

CT: Nature. I grew up hiking and camping and being outside. Being in nature is the closest thing I have to religion. When I'm away from people, development, noise, pollution, artificial light—that's when I can think the most clearly. It's regenerative, cleansing. I need that time by myself to solve problems, make decisions, think clearer, reboot.

So I knew I wanted to do something to protect nature

for others to appreciate it as much as I do. It wasn't until I had an internship with the Endowment that I understood how I could pursue this environmental passion in a different setting other than, for example, forestry. Every day, I'm working to conserve forests and watersheds and create new markets for materials that help to sustain the nature that I love so much.

Law school wasn't easy. And I'm not talking about the studying; of course that was difficult. More difficult for me was being in that cutthroat, academic environment 24/7. I can't go for long periods of time without going for a hike or a trail run, and it was difficult to fit that in during law school. So every semester during reading days, I would rent a cabin in the woods to get away from the insanity. I could mentally check out for a few days then. Also during that time I was growing a long beard, which was funny because I'd disappear for a few days into the woods by myself, come back for exams wearing flannel and sporting a long beard, and everyone would be like, "Where have you been?!"

I have friends who tell me that they can't go a day without talking to people. They need that interaction. I'm the opposite. I rejuvenate being alone.

So was it a straight path from this internship to your position at the Endowment now?

CT: Not at all. While interning at the Endowment, I told the CEO, Carlton Owen, that I might be interested in interning for the Conservation Fund

in Washington, D.C. Carlton picked up the phone, and the next thing I knew, I had a paid internship with them the next summer.

That internship was a bit of trial by fire, considering I didn't have any background in law, yet I was working in legislative affairs. I basically had to learn what Congress was before I could even work on the first assigned project. But that didn't intimidate me; it's been a theme throughout my career so far. I'm thrown into environments in which I have a keen interest, but I don't have a background in them. It's an inherent curiosity. So I have to do a quick study and make do with what I can learn at the moment.

It's a common assumption that many Furman alumni have perfectionist tendencies. You seem to fit this mold. Do you ever find that your need to do everything perfectly can sometimes slow your progress?

CT: Yes, I am a perfectionist, but I don't let that define me. My experience in the White House's Council on Environmental Quality taught me how to keep this in check.

My first project, I was told that I had done a terrible job even though I felt like I had worked really hard on it. But it wasn't an option to quit. I told myself, "You worked 10 hours on this. You need to work 20 hours on the next one." I was determined to succeed there, and I felt pressure to do so, which sometimes really wore on me. While in the White House, I confided in another classmate who had worked there for a few years.

His response was, "This is what you signed up for." He was right. For better or worse, there's no room for emotions in a presidential administration. The world literally moves on.

That clerkship taught me to have a thick skin and to let some things roll off my back. I'm definitely still a perfectionist, and I believe that my work is a reflection of myself, but I also don't let that perfectionism paralyze me from moving the objective forward.

The recent election has brought forth very polarizing views, and it appears that the new presidential administration will be less supportive of environmental causes. What's your take on the current political landscape, and what does this mean for your work at the Endowment?

CT: Well, first, the Endowment isn't a governmental agency. It's a public charity established at the request of the governments of the United States and Canada. We've been endowed with funds under the terms of the Softwood Lumber Agreement. So we'll continue to operate as usual despite the change in administration. We do partner with many governmental agencies, though, like the Environmental Protection Agency, so project funding could change depending upon the status of these agencies.

I think the main issue with the White House these days—no matter who is in it—is this fight for power versus real policy. In general now, politics equate to power. And

"I WANT MY LOVE OF NATURE TO ALWAYS DRIVE MY WORK—NOT POWER . . . I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO HAS TO BELIEVE IN WHAT I'M DOING AND KNOW THAT IT'S MAKING A DIFFERENCE."

humans are innately hungry for power.

That's why even though I someday see myself working at the national policy level in D.C., I don't think I could ever work in another presidential administration. I want my love of nature to always drive my work—not power. At the Endowment, I'm surrounded by people who spend their free time hiking, kayaking, trail running . . . It's obvious that their love of nature supersedes all else. I want to be in that environment. I'm the type of person who has to believe in what I'm doing and know that it's making a difference.

So what are you doing right now with the Endowment that's making a difference? What makes you excited to go to work every day?

CT: I manage a portfolio of what are called Program Related Investments, low-interest loans with very favorable terms that both advance our mission but also provide some financial return. The Endowment has invested in a number of start-up companies across the country that are trying to develop technologies to use wood in new and innovative ways. My involvement with these projects involves quite a bit of travel, but I find it incredibly exciting to make site visits and see these technologies in person—like turning wood chips into natural gas that can fuel a bus, or transforming wood to be used as a cleaner, more sustainable alternative to coal in existing power plants. This makes my work very tangible and gives me the sense that I'm having a broader, lasting impact. ●

Postings from the Inter-webs

What do you do to stay healthy?

BEN LONGNECKER '17

"For me, maintaining a healthy lifestyle adds a degree of consistency to the chaotic rush of college. Attempting to balance everything (academics, clubs, friends, sleep, etc.) can be stressful. Though by exercising every day and eating healthy, I add something in my routine that is always under my control. In addition, Furman makes this even easier for students to sustain their healthy habits by having a gym open 17 hours a day, a dining hall that always carries healthy options, and the most beautiful running campus in America."

ELIZABETH STOKES '14

"I am doing my best to maintain a healthy lifestyle by realizing I can take control of my own health. I make a point to enjoy some of the local nature trails, the Swamp Rabbit, the Furman lake, multiple dog parks in the area, and downtown Greenville. I try to enjoy time to myself after work by maintaining healthy hobbies and activities."

CANDLER REYNOLDS '17

"As seniors, we have the privilege of driving to our classes, but Furman's healthy initiatives across campus have really empowered me to make small changes that encourage healthy habits. In light of this, I am committing to walking to class every day ... besides, Furman is pretty beautiful and I want to savor every last minute."



The Strongest Man to Walk the Earth

Paul Anderson once recorded a back lift of 6,270 pounds (the weight of a limousine).

BY RON WAGNER '93

On a Gorky Park stage in the summer of 1955, a great Soviet strongman delights a crowd of 15,000 with an Olympic record-tying overhead press of 330 pounds.

Moments later, the Moscow throng scoffs when workers add 72.5 pounds to the weight bar. Feet spaced far apart to accommodate his 36-inch thighs, Paul Anderson strides confidently on stage. A fresh qualifier for the U.S. weightlifting team, he wears no official uniform. The team's manager did not have one to fit him.

With little pause, he grasps the bar and does what no man before has: overhead pressing 402.5 pounds. As the weight thunders back onto the stage, the crowd stands in stunned silence for a second. Then there is a roar. The Russians dub Anderson "chudo prirory," a wonder of nature.

Four years before, Anderson was a freshman on the Furman

football team when he and teammate **Bob Snead '54** covertly assembled a weightlifting station in a room above the gymnasium on the downtown campus. At the time, weightlifting was frowned upon by coaches. So Anderson, Snead and a few others had to sneak around.

In that room, Anderson astounded his classmates with his natural gift. A passion was sparked that would propel him to international fame. Home-sick, he left Furman after his freshman year, moving in with his parents in Elizabethton, Tennessee, where he began competing in local weightlifting competitions.

At his peak, Anderson weighed 390 pounds and is credited with a 1,200-pound squat, a 628-pound bench press, a 1,000-pound deadlift, and a 380-pound one-arm side press. All are weights that have remained virtually unattainable by natural professional lifters.

In 1957, he earned a spot in *The Guinness Book of World Records* with a 6,270-pound back lift (lifted off trestles), which writers called "the greatest weight ever lifted by a human being." By many, Anderson has been called the strongest man to walk the planet.

Anderson's faith was as strong as his trunk-shaped body. In 1961, he and his wife, Glenda, founded the Paul Anderson Youth Home for troubled children in Vidalia, Georgia. For decades he traveled the country to preach the gospel and perform feats of strength to raise money for the home.

Anderson died in 1994. A life-sized statue of him hoisting a loaded bar over his head is the centerpiece of Paul Anderson Park in his hometown of Toccoa, Georgia, and the Paul Anderson Youth Home is still in operation. ●

COURTESY PHOTOS



TRIPtych

A glimpse of my semester in Arezzo, Italy

BY GRACE HONOHAN '18

From medieval jousts to Mozart, my semester abroad in Italy held a wide range of experiences and memories. The semester was filled with music, art, history and, of course, food. Armed with a new camera and a binder of sheet music, I felt ready for my time abroad. However, nothing could prepare me for the sights and sounds I would encounter.

1 Long Walks into Town: Arezzo, Italy, a town I had never heard of, became my home away from home. Inside our villa, I was able to study Italian opera and sing in a practice room with a view of Tuscan hills and vineyards. The trek into town was long, but passing an aqueduct from the 16th century and seeing the Duomo di Arezzo (an ancient cathedral) in the distance made the walk fly by. The first day I made that journey was to see the medieval joust that Arezzo puts on every year, complete with costumes, horses and flag-throwers. Although I had only been in Arezzo for 48 hours, I felt like a local as I cheered alongside the loud and large crowds that filled the Piazza Grande.



2 Lost in Firenze: Occasionally I was able to hop on the train to Florence, and on every trip I discovered something new, which was almost always by accident. I could never follow the same path twice, no matter how hard I tried. I relied on glimpses of the Duomo, which I caught on every other corner I turned, since it really is the heart of this city. My favorite place in Florence was the Museo di San Marco. Each cell of this Dominican convent features a small fresco by Fra Angelico, and in each fresco you will find San Domenico himself in a blue robe. This museum was a peaceful refuge from the bustling streets of Florence.



3 Bagpipe Dreams: One of my favorite trips was our weekend in Milan. We were able to see "Le Nozze di Figaro" by Mozart at the Teatro alla Scala. We waited in three different lines in order to get our rush tickets for the second balcony from the top. I stood for almost all of the four hours of our evening at La Scala, leaning over the edge just to catch a glimpse of the singers on stage. Although we had a small view of the stage, it was a memorable evening for a group of young musicians. The opportunity to listen to music at its highest quality, in a venue filled with history, is something that I will appreciate for years to come.



COURTESY PHOTOS



CLAY HENDRIX '86
was introduced as Furman's
Football Coach December 19.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Back Home

Clay Hendrix named head football coach.

BY VINCE MOORE

Clay Hendrix '86 got a solid ovation from the large crowd at the Pearce-Horton Football Complex when he was introduced in December as Furman's new head football coach. He got another good round of applause when he joked he would do his best to beat the "rear end" of lifelong friend and former Furman teammate Bobby Lamb, who now coaches at Southern Conference foe Mercer.

But the biggest applause came when he promised that his team would run the football next season.

It's easy to understand why the Furman supporters cheered Hendrix's proclamation. Because if there is anything that has epitomized the struggles of the Paladins' football program since 2010—five losing seasons and only one playoff appearance—it has been their inability to run the ball effectively, which is something the Paladins did exceptionally well when they were winning a lot more often than not.

"We'll be committed to running the football," Hendrix told the crowd. "I know that's important to a lot of people around here, and it's important to me, too."

Running the football has occupied Hendrix's entire career. He played on the offensive line for some of Furman's greatest teams in the 1980s, and he coached the Paladins' offensive line for another 19 years before moving on to the Air Force Academy, where he coached the offensive line and served as both offensive coordinator and associate head coach for a program that runs the ball as successfully as anyone in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

"I've been in coaching for 31 years, and I've never been part of a team that wasn't fully committed to running the football," said Hendrix, who spent 10 seasons at Air Force. "I know that's not everybody's philosophy these days, but I'm of the old school of thought that you've got to be able to run the ball and you have to be able to stop the run. It makes you tougher and better on both sides of the ball when your defense is facing a good running team in practice every day."

If there is a blueprint for achieving the level of excellence Furman enjoyed for the better part of three decades under coaches

JEREMY FLEWING

“WE’LL BE COMMITTED TO RUNNING THE FOOTBALL.” —HENDRIX



When Hendrix played at Furman, the Paladins defeated South Carolina, Georgia Tech and North Carolina State.

like Dick Sheridan, Jimmy Satterfield and Bobby Johnson, Hendrix has gotten a good look at it.

During his time as a player, Furman beat South Carolina, Georgia Tech and North Carolina State (twice). As an assistant coach from 1988 through 2006, he helped the Paladins post a 155-77-1 record and claim six league championships. The Paladins also made 11 appearances in the NCAA FCS playoffs during that period, which included a national championship in 1988 and a national runner-up finish in 2001.

“We’ve done it before and I know we can do it again,” Hendrix said. “If I didn’t believe we can recruit the kind of players that can graduate and win

football games, I wouldn’t be standing here now.”

Hendrix’s first two assistant coach hires prove he is committed to upgrading things on the offensive side of the ball. He named former Furman assistant coach Drew Cronic as offensive coordinator and chose former Furman receiver and legendary Tennessee high school coach **George Quarles ’89** to serve as associate head coach.

Cronic spent the past two years as head coach at Reinhardt (Ga.) University, where he posted a combined record of 22-3. Last fall, his team went 13-1 and reached the semifinal round of the NAIA tournament while averaging 51.1 points and 550.6 yards per game.

In 18 years as head coach at Maryville High School, Quarles’ teams appeared in 15 state title games and won 11 of them. The Rebels won 74 consecutive games from 2004 to 2008, and Quarles posted a 240-9 record over his final 16 seasons. At the end of 2016, the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* listed his leaving Maryville for Furman among the top 10 Tennessee sports stories of the year.

“I feel like I’m batting a thousand on those two hires,” Hendrix said. “The three of us think alike when it comes to running the ball and what it takes to be successful offensively, but we’ve all been a little bit different in our approach. I’m looking forward

to all of us getting together in a room and deciding exactly what it is we’re going to do.”

Hendrix is optimistic and ready to get started, especially since he believes the football program has more going for it than it did 10 years ago when he left for the Air Force Academy. Those advantages include the addition of the new football complex and the fact that Greenville’s remarkable growth and good press over the past decade can only be a boon for recruiting.

“We have the best school, the best campus, and the best city of any schools we compete against,” Hendrix said. “That’s a pretty good combination for success.” ●

COACH JOHN ROBERTS, normally reserved, could not contain his enthusiasm after the Paladins handed the University of Minnesota – Duluth their first loss in four years, to advance to the national championship game.



A Season to Remember

Furman advances to national championship game.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Furman men’s rugby team climbed back into the national limelight this fall, advancing to USA Rugby’s Division 2 National Championship Game Dec. 4.

The Paladins were the toast of the small college rugby world a decade ago. Playing in Division 3, Furman teams racked up three national championships in 2003, 2004 and 2005.



PATRICK MUSAU '17, an eight-man from Kenya, serves as the Furman captain.

THE BOYS IN PURPLE
CLOSED THE SEASON
WITH A 13-1 RECORD,
THE BEST RUN SINCE
2004-05.

The Paladins finished runner-up in 2007 and 2008. In 2010, Furman moved up to Division 2 but was a minnow in a bass pond. Of the 124 D2 programs, only Middlebury College has a smaller enrollment than Furman.

Since that time, the Paladins have elbowed their way to the top. The team finished ranked sixth in 2014 and narrowly missed the playoffs in 2015. On the road to the 2016 championship game, the Paladins captured the Southern Rugby Conference Title and defeated Sacred Heart University 68-31 and North Carolina State 41-19 to win USA Rugby's South Regional.

Those victories set up a dream scenario for the Paladins. Furman, which hosted the Division 2 Final Four 2013-15, was selected this past August to host the event once more. The Paladins would have home field advantage.

In the semifinals, Furman faced a daunting task. The Paladins had to take on three-time defending champion Minnesota-Duluth. The last time the Penguins were on the losing end of a match was spring 2013. When junior Matty Newman slotted a 50-meter drop kick in the opening two minutes of play to put the Dins up 3-0, the wildly partisan crowd was euphoric.

Duluth fought back and constructed a 12-3 lead late in the first half before Furman's Adam Miller, Jeffrey Rein and Newman each scored a try to construct a 29-12 lead. But Duluth would not go away. The Penguins nibbled away at the Paladin lead. With 12 minutes remaining, Furman clung to a 32-29 lead.

In the final moments, Duluth pressed. But the Paladins' defense held.

The next day, Furman played three-year runner-up University of Wisconsin-



THOMAS TRANKLE, a sophomore from Pretoria, South Africa, surges ahead against Whitewater.

sin-Whitewater. The wet, cold conditions did not suit Furman's fast-paced offense. During the first half, both teams slugged their way to a 7-3 score with Whitewater holding a slim edge.

Near the game's midway mark, the Warhawks found the try zone twice, but Furman continued to fight and sliced Whitewater's lead to 22-13 when Furman prop Jeff Tonge bullied in a try from the one-meter line with 15 minutes remaining. With the Furman fans screaming, the Paladins pressed and nearly scored twice. But the physicality of a close win the day before was taking its toll when a Whitewater flanker nabbed a bobbled ball and raced to the try zone with four minutes remaining to seal the victory 29-13.

The boys in purple closed the season with a 13-1 record, the best run since 2004-05, when the program notched 21 consecutive wins. The team is coached by John Roberts, who cofounded the team with **Marc Roberts '99** (no relation). Now coaching his 19th year, Roberts has amassed a record of 178-61-2.

It was not the only fall accomplishment for the program. In October, the team announced that it had formed a Furman Rugby Alumni Board. The eight-member board, headed by **Trent Emenecker '02** and **Chris Helps '01**, will work to deepen connections with rugby alumni, mentor current players, help recruit student athletes and raise funds for the program. ●

A HUB for improving COMMUNITY HEALTH

BY KELLEY BRUSS

ELI HESTERMANN,
executive director
of IACH, identified
partnerships and
helped Furman shape
its role in improving
health outcomes
in the Greenville
community.

JEREMY FLEWING

Madison Ritter '17 has put in the class time. She's shadowed doctors in multiple specialties. She's spent two summers doing laboratory research. But as she completes her senior year at Furman, she's adding a unique piece to her undergraduate experiences—she's working directly with patients in the emergency room at North Greenville Hospital in Travelers Rest.

"A huge part of medicine is unspoken and is hard to teach," Ritter says.

That's the part she's learning now in the ER, one patient at a time.

"It expands your own idea of what a person's health is and what exactly that means," she says.

Ritter is part of a team of about a dozen Furman students working with the Greenville Health System (GHS) on a project to boost participation in MyChart, an online portal where patients can access their records and communicate with physicians.

The team is one of the first new partnerships to be supported by Furman's Institute for the Advancement of Community Health, or IACH, which launched this past October. The institute creates a hub for work that simultaneously involves the healthcare system, community organizations and the academic world—work centered on improving the health of the entire community.

It's not that the groups haven't cooperated before now, but the partnerships have been scattered and sometimes isolated from each other. The institute will help focus the work, streamline communication and identify new potential partnerships, all with a goal of benefitting the commu-

nity while also meeting needs within the healthcare system and the academic world.

IACH is a next step in a partnership that dates back about three years when Furman joined the University of South Carolina and Clemson University as formal partners with GHS. Clemson was designated the research partner, USC the graduate/professional partner and Furman the undergraduate partner.

"My first job was going to be to figure out what that meant, practically," says Eli Hestermann, executive director of IACH and of preprofessional studies at GHS.

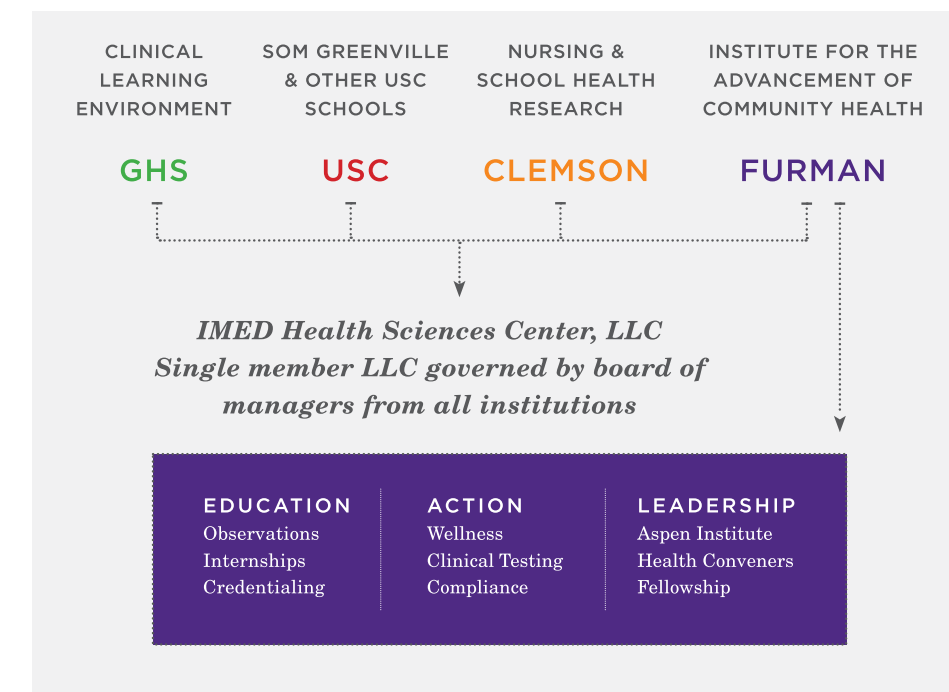
Furman explored possibilities such as a physical therapy or physician's assistant programs. But those ultimately didn't seem a good match for the school's

focus on liberal arts and sciences. At the same time, GHS was asking for better organization of the connections that already existed between institutions.

As Hestermann considered partnerships, and the notion that the overall health of a community depends on more than a strong medical presence, Furman's role became clear.

"Here's where we have our opportunity," he says.

The institute's mission to improve health outcomes for people throughout Greenville County will play out both in research and work on the ground. It will involve the healthcare system as well as numerous community organizations working toward the same goals.



THE INSTITUTE'S MISSION TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE THROUGHOUT GREENVILLE COUNTY WILL PLAY OUT BOTH IN RESEARCH AND WORK ON THE GROUND.



University students and faculty will be hands on with research that both identifies needs and evaluates solutions.

When the data uncover poor outcomes or racial disparities, “you drill down and you say, ‘What causes those?’” Hestermann says.

For example, people with diabetes who live in poverty can manage their health better with improved access to more nutritious food. Medical care is only one piece of keeping these patients out of the doctor’s office. While GHS might not be able to have a direct hand in a person’s diet, a local organization focused on food access could.

“We know prevention works, and prevention doesn’t happen in the four walls of the hospital,” says Kerry Sease, medical director of the Bradshaw Institute for Community Child Health & Advocacy at GHS and senior medical director of pediatric academics.

As her Bradshaw Institute develops initiatives that focus on the health of children in the community, staff will look for ways for Furman students to

assist in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs.

“We’ll create opportunities for these students,” Sease says. “If we’re going to do a community-based intervention, why wouldn’t we?”

KEY TRAINING

These opportunities aren’t simply rounding out students’ education. They’re often a necessary piece of experience leading into graduate work. To get into a physician’s assistant program, for example, it isn’t enough to have volunteering or shadowing hours in a clinic or hospital.

“They have to have actual patient contact hours,” says Susan Ybarra, associate director of IACH, whose work revolves around creating these types of opportunities.

The number of students requesting or needing these types of experiences has doubled in the past eight years. In 2008–09, 509 Furman students were interested in healthcare careers. This

academic year, that number is 1,107—with representatives from every major on campus.

“We’re becoming more visible as one of the premier institutions for providing students a pathway to healthcare,” says TJ Banisaukas, chief health careers advisor and an assistant professor of chemistry.

He says the partnership with GHS has contributed to the reputation, and he expects it to continue to grow with the formation of IACH. The timing couldn’t be better. According to a late-2015 report by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 13 of the 20 fastest-growing occupations in the nation are in the healthcare industry.

With a full third of Furman’s student body planning to pursue some type of healthcare-related career, there will be plenty of people to fill the internship and shadowing slots that are being developed through IACH, whether in research or direct interaction with patients. Many students count on their school to connect them to this kind of experience.

“I come from a family background having nothing to do with medicine,”

**SUMMER 2016 RESEARCH
EXPOSURE STUDENTS**
*visited the Hawkins
Foundation Surgical Training
and Innovation Center
(Greenville, SC) June 2016.
Through the guidance of a
local surgeon, students were
able to explore orthopedic
surgery techniques as
well as dissect a knee and
surrounding tissue.*

Ritter says. “The only way I’ve had a connection to the medical field is through Furman.”

Talking with patients face-to-face and learning the barriers to their health can be a radical experience for students.

“It ingrains something in you so different than sitting in a classroom and theorizing what poverty looks like,” Sease says.

She hopes the work will ignite a fire in some students for less traditional healthcare career paths that involve community-based work. In an industry where the demand for workers is endless and new jobs are continuing to be created with developing technologies, the more students can experience as undergraduates, the better prepared they are to make the best choices for their next steps. “Because our students have the opportunity to get these immersive, self-reflective experiences in the clinical world, they are at a higher maturity level” as they start to make choices about graduate school and medical programs, Banisaukas says.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

While many of these partnerships will take place within the GHS structure, IACH also will be the link to community organizations working toward the same goals. These smaller groups often have a mission directed toward a specific issue, such as food access or housing, but they typically don’t have the research base to measure the impact of their work. And they may be working in isolation when a partnership with the healthcare system could streamline work for both sides.

“That’s where the institute is really going to play a role,” Hestermann says. The hospital system could identify a problem, create an office, hire staff and address the need.

“The other option would be to find a community organization that’s already doing that and partner with them,” Hestermann says.

Melissa Fair, community action program director with IACH, will spend much of her time connecting with these organizations and helping to identify places where Furman and GHS can be supportive. She describes her role as a “community matchmaker for health.”

Assisting small, community-based groups with research will help them evaluate their programs and approaches.

“Sometimes to get a federal grant, you need to show how the work you’re doing impacts the community,” Fair says.

Handling the research piece allows these groups to focus on what they do best while also creating sustainability through scientific evidence that can be used for writing grants or pursuing funding from foundations.

This kind of work blends perfectly with the renewed commitment of The Furman Advantage—the university’s strategic vision to build meaning and mentorship into each student’s education. Fair wants to take the theories students are exposed to in the classroom and put them to work in real life.

“It’s not just the experience,” Fair says. “It’s how you reflect on it, internalize it, and reframe your interaction with the community.”

NOT JUST MEDICINE

Hestermann envisions learning experiences for students that extend far beyond the typical medical roles. Students in information technology or economics or business and management might find places to connect and learn at GHS.

“When you’ve got a \$2.3 billion system, there are very few career paths that you don’t use somewhere,” he says.

The same is true for community organizations. While many will focus specifically on health, they may come at it from a variety of directions.

Kirby Mitchell ’90 is a senior litigation attorney with South Carolina Legal Services. He recently was designated full-time to the new medical legal partnership (MLP) between Furman and GHS. Mitchell says IACH should help clarify the ways the three worlds—medical, academic and community services—can work together.

“You’re trying to get them to row at the same time, and where our purposes and values intersect; that’s good,” he says.

Mitchell says the MLP is already working in this direction by identifying when a health problem may have roots in, or be exacerbated by, a civil legal barrier.

“It’s thinking beyond the old, ‘You go to the hospital,’” he says. “Actual health involves so much more.”

A recent GHS referral to Mitchell’s office led him to investigate the housing situation of a young mother whose 1-year-old daughter has cystic fibrosis. The child was experiencing bronchial infections that doctors had been unable to control with medication.

Mitchell found what looked like mold in the home and sent a letter threatening to sue the landlord if the situation wasn’t rectified. It wasn’t long before the owner moved the two into another apartment with new tile flooring. The girl’s condition improved to the point that her mother was able to cancel an appointment with a pulmonologist.

“What presented as a medical problem turned out to have an environmental cause that could be addressed through a legal remedy . . . I’ve got a client who is breathing better because of something I did last week,” Mitchell says. “My goal is to bring Furman students along for the ride for that.”

Hestermann is already fielding creative proposals: music therapy and cancer patients, art history and how people process



KIRBY MITCHELL '90, an attorney with the new medical legal partnership, speaks at the Nurturing Developing Minds Conference held earlier this year at Greenville's Kroc Center.



MARY FRANCES DENNIS '18, the first intern assigned to the new South Carolina Medical Legal Partnership (MLP), gathers information from a family at the Center for Developmental Services in Greenville.

visual information. At the same time, the institute's staff will strategically seek out opportunities to match specific learning needs.

"But a lot of it still is matchmaking, based on these sorts of opportunities," he says.

Some of the matchmaking has already begun. Last fall, Ybarra secured slots with hospital chaplains for five juniors each semester in a shadowing program studying vocation and ministry.

UNIQUE ACCESS

Will Stevens '18 came to Furman because of its reputation for placing pre-med students. He started as a biology major but soon shifted his focus to religion, business, and pre-med.

He took advantage of Furman's shadowing program to follow multiple doctors.

"I have seen what doctors do," Stevens says. "I understand what it takes."

Then he participated in the newly defined chaplain shadowing program, which gave depth and shape to his understanding.

"I'm concerned with more than how does the body work," he says. "It's how do people work."

He's discovered that his access to hospital experiences is more unique than he knew. His friends at bigger schools are "incredulous at how easy it is for me to get into the hospital, shadowing doctors."

In fact, Stevens says there are more opportunities than he even has time to take advantage of.

"I'll see the fruit of a lot of these opportunities down the road," says Stevens, who's considering both medical school and seminary as future paths. "It's a great problem to have."

Ritter, the MyChart team member, already is seeing the fruit of her experiences beyond the classroom. Most recently, her work in the ER has helped her practice approaching and communicating with patients.

"I think that's a huge part of medicine that kind of goes overlooked, the social aspect," she says.

The team members sit down with patients while they're waiting and help them sign up for MyChart.

At the same time, they're gathering data—why haven't people signed up so far? And if they don't want to sign up, even with help and a screen right in front of them, why not? The research will help GHS identify barriers to patients using the portal and, hopefully, ways to work around those barriers.

"They're getting to talk to patients; they have to problem-solve," Ybarra says.

Hestermann says there's no other program in place now that gives students such in-depth access to a medical records system or such concentrated face time with patients.

It's the kind of meaningful partnership he hopes to soon see across the hospital system and the community.

"These actually can all work together," Mitchell says. The Institute "is the place that makes it all make sense." ●

JEREMY FLEMING

AN UPDATE: FURMAN'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

BY KELLEY BRUSS

In its first year, Furman's Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) has completed an extensive review of current and potential community partnerships and launched two pilot programs that are putting university students and faculty to work in the community.

Like the new Institute for the Advancement of Community Health, the CEI is energizing and providing more focus to partnerships that are improving lives in the community and producing meaningful student experiences.

Angela Halfacre '92, a political science professor and former director of the Shi Center for Sustainability, was appointed special advisor to the president for community engagement in February 2016. The Community Engagement Initiative was formalized in May, when the university made a public commitment to strengthen existing community partnerships and establish new ones.

Building on the pillars of Furman's new vision, The Furman Advantage, the university hired two 2016 graduates last year—Victoria Wornom and Hannah Wheeler—to guide the planning process and collect data. As CEI post-baccalaureate fellows, the pair have conducted surveys, interviewed more than 100 faculty and staff and guided the work of three on-campus project teams and two outside consulting groups.

Wornom and Wheeler have worked closely with the project teams and consultants to explore community engagement on campus, inventory past and current community engagement activities and identify potential and active community partnerships. The groups

have also developed training modules for those engaging in the community, analyzed Greenville's perceptions of Furman and assisted with creating recommendations for furthering community engagement at Furman.

This past fall, the CEI launched two pilot community projects. In partnership with the Greenville Homeless Alliance, Furman students

and faculty are working to compile a snapshot data report on the state of homelessness in and around Greenville. The study will inform nonprofit agencies that serve the homeless as they seek to coordinate, streamline and improve offerings.

The second project, made possible through a \$50,000 grant from the United Way of Greenville County, will assess the educational needs and available resources in several low-income neighborhoods that feed into Carolina and Berea high schools. The findings will be presented to members of the affected communities, school officials and the United Way with a long-term goal of developing a system to improve educational outcomes.

"My work over the past 11 months has really opened my eyes," says Wornom, a native of Richmond, Virginia. "Now I can see and understand the social issues and challenges facing Greenville. And I see opportunities for Furman to become more involved and how we can help through objective research and data collection."

Wornom and Wheeler, who grew up in Detroit, also worked with Halfacre to produce *Engaged Furman*, a 356-page report that details the group's findings and makes recommendations for the road ahead. The draft document was made available to faculty and staff in February. Forums are being held this spring and summer to solicit feedback.

"This is very much a dynamic plan," says Wornom. "We are still refining and reworking. It is not a closed document."

The final document will help guide the work of a new community engagement executive director. After completing the draft plan and report, Halfacre will take a leave of absence June 30 to conduct research in sustainability science and environmental policy.

"We have a lot of ideas," Wheeler said. "Community engagement is an under-utilized part of Furman's expertise. Our initiative is showing that we have a lot of potential in that arena, and the horizon is wide open for great success and more opportunities for students to experience The Furman Advantage through community networks." ●



JEREMY FLEMING

Raptor Rage

**JEFF CURTIS '86 HAS A
PASSION FOR FALCONRY THAT
WAS SPARKED AT FURMAN**

By Ron Wagner '93

Sam was 100 yards away and 60 feet up a tree—so far I could barely see him. He could see me, though, and I could feel his piercing eyes, at least eight times superior to any human's. Waiting.

Jeff Curtis '86 told me to turn and raise my left hand. Sam is supposed to wait for Jeff's whistle, but the hawk had already launched himself when the shrill tweet rang out, knowing from years of experience that my motion meant it was time to eat. As he cut through the damp air on an overcast December day, the exhilaration of this beautiful predator racing toward me began to mix with something unexpected: fear, and a sudden gratitude for my protective leather glove.

JEFF CURTIS, a falconer since 2014, lives near Asheville, N.C. and owns two fly-fishing stores and a bed and breakfast inn.

SUSANNAH KAY



CURTIS USES A WHISTLE to summon a bird.

It was silly, I knew. Sam, a Harris’s Hawk, weighs about a pound and a half, and compared to the speed he could reach if I were an unsuspecting rabbit (about 120 mph) he was in gentle-cruise mode. As he closed in, though, the sight of this powerful, streamlined body brought out a primal dread of being hunted, and when the raptor raised his outstretched talons—four on each foot, an inch long, razor sharp, crushing power 10 times a man’s handshake—to alight on my arm, time seemed to stop. Heart racing, I watched as he ripped a piece of stew beef from my fingers and gobbled it down. There was no asking or performing tricks—the meat was his. And when Sam was ready for more he eyed me with disinterest before flapping away toward another tree to do it again. Only when he was gone did I realize I’d never even felt him land.

From ancient times

Curtis is one of roughly 4,000 licensed falconers in the U.S., with most of them living in California. He works with his birds every day, often for hours at a time, and like others who practice his craft he often ponders its origin.

“Some 4,000 to 6,000 years ago, a couple of people were sitting around a fire, out in the desert, and one goes, ‘Hey, we could trap that falcon and go hunting with it,’” says Curtis, whose fascination and intense interest in birds of prey was sparked while a student at Furman. “It’s like somebody going, ‘Oh, I’m going to grab that shark and go fishing with it.’ How does that happen?”

Yet somehow it did, around 1300 B.C. in ancient Mongolia. And falconry most definitely didn’t start out as a leisure activity. Humans ate the meat the birds caught, and the practice became so widespread and efficient it helped feed marauding armies. Through the centuries, falconry spread across Asia through China and Russia, reaching Europe about a thousand years after it began. And though falcons are the sport’s namesake, along the way falconers learned to work with hawks, goshawks, owls, and even the mighty eagle. Golden eagles, which can weigh 11 pounds and unfurl a wingspan of more than seven feet, are still unleashed by Mongols to hunt—and kill—grown wolves.

Falconry survives in America today through people like Curtis who are captivated by the opportunity to share a wild animal’s world and have the extreme dedication and unwavering patience to do so.

Curtis grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida, and made Furman his only college application after riding past the regal front gate many times on the way to his family’s summer home in Montreat, North Carolina.

Despite this familiarity, Curtis was uneasy when he arrived on the leafy campus in the fall of 1982.

“I was scared to death of the new college thing. For me Furman was huge,” he says. “I was looking for things to do.”

An animal lover, Curtis had volunteered in an animal shelter back home. So he naturally gravitated to an on-campus club that worked with the Greenville Humane Society to rehabilitate wildlife, which included birds of prey.

“When you go clean their cages, hawks will typically back away from you as their defense mechanism. They told me owls will attack you, and sure enough they did. You’d go in there to get the screech owl, and that little guy’s coming,” Curtis says with a smile. “We had a great horned owl, and you’d actually go in with two people. One person would have a broom, not to hurt the bird but to kind of keep him away . . . We’d go up to Paris Mountain and release red-tailed hawks back into the wild. It was cool. Then I started reading about falconry.”

The magic window

Curtis went on to earn a psychology degree, and after settling in North Carolina he met his future wife, Susan, a Petersburg, Virginia, native, while leading outdoor programs for children with special needs. They married in 1992, and a few years later they joined Susan’s parents in opening the Sourwood Inn, a retreat bed-and-breakfast on 100 acres between Asheville and Weaverville. In 2003, Curtis launched Curtis Wright Outfitters, a fly fishing store and guide service located in Weaverville.

Curtis’s courtship with falconry became serious in 2012 when he met Peter Kipp-DuPont, who requested that he be allowed to set up an educational table with his two peregrine falcons in front of Curtis’s second store in Asheville’s Biltmore Village.

SUSANNAH KAY

Kipp-DuPont has been a falconer for more than 40 years, and Curtis knew this was his chance.

But becoming a falconer is sort of like ascending to the rank of Jedi Master, and the first step requires convincing a falconer to sponsor your mandatory two-year apprenticeship. It’s not a decision they take lightly, and it took weeks of persuading before Kipp-DuPont agreed to take Curtis under his wing.

Naturally, Curtis wondered how he’d get his first bird. Kipp-DuPont’s answer was simple: You catch one. Only juvenile birds, less than a year old, are legal to capture, and if you have the right equipment and knowledge, snaring one is surprisingly easy.

His first bird was a feisty female red-tailed hawk he named Rocket Girl after an American pale lager brewed by Asheville Brewing Company. (Curtis names all his birds after beers or bourbons.) Once she was in captivity the real work began.

First you must simply spend time holding the animal to get it accustomed to a human’s presence. “It’s just hours and hours,” says Curtis. “But within about two to three hours they’re usually standing calmly on the glove. And then it’s a food-based relationship. They don’t eat until they take food from you, the falconer.”

Sometimes that can take a while, as Curtis found out with Rocket Girl.

“She was stubborn: I don’t like you. I don’t like this. Forget it. It was five days without food before she took anything from me,” he says.

Birds, like all animals, have different personalities, and red-tails are no exception. Curtis’s second hawk, Green Man, took food from him within an hour. While catching a bird of prey and training it to rely on you to eat can be arduous and time consuming;

SUSANNAH KAY

convincing the animal to stick around is a greater balancing act.

“All the books say the minute you think your bird loves you, you’re going to lose that bird,” Curtis says matter-of-factly. “I can’t free-fly my two hawks unless their weight is about 750, 740 grams. If it gets up to 850 grams, they aren’t coming back.” That’s because, when not hungry, the animal literally forgets the human exists. Curtis is quick to point out, however, his birds go to bed full every night.

“We don’t want to be cruel,” he says. “We want to find that magic window where the bird will be responsive to come back to us but also be keen to where he’s looking around for stuff to kill and to eat, because that’s what falconry is.”

Educational experiences

The birds Curtis catches from the wild never lose the ability to hunt, and he and his wife have agreed to release them after no more than two years. Little Sumpin’, a kestrel he caught early in 2016, was symbolically released July 4, joining both Rocket Girl and Green Man, who were let go after two years and nine months, respectively.

The birds never look back. That doesn’t mean a small part of Curtis doesn’t wish they would. “With Rocket, my first one, I don’t think I cried, but you spend hours and hours and days with these birds. . .” His voice trails off, the implication clear.

Today, Curtis works with Sam and Hoppy Boy, another Harris’s Hawk, and probably will for the rest of his life unless he sells them. The birds, native to the U.S. Southwest as well as Central and South America, have been captive-bred and, according to law, can’t legally be released. They will likely live nearly 30 years.



CURTIS’S INTEREST in falconry is reflected in his library. His face is reflected in the eye of RocketGirl, the first red-tailed hawk Curtis worked with, in a painting done by his sister, Susan Averill, as a 50th birthday present.



SUSANNAH KAY



A WARY EYE
Walker, Curtis's
feline friend, casts
a cautious eye on a
Harris's Hawk

“I’ve found when you give somebody that experience, when you’re holding that bird two feet or a foot from you and you get to look at it up close, you never see another bird of prey the same.”

Traditional falconry is about hunting with the raptors, which learn to watch for prey that humans or dogs flush out and strike. Curtis can’t stop his birds from capturing live game if they see it, but that isn’t his main motivation with Sam and Hoppy Boy. Instead, Curtis believes they serve a dual purpose: educating the public and hunting.

“I’ve found when you give somebody that experience, when you’re holding that bird two feet or a foot from you and you get to look at it up close, you never see another bird of prey the same way again,” he says. “And I think it teaches people just a little bit more respect for them. To share in their lives for that brief time period—it’s just amazing.”

David Heidrick and his wife, Lisa, have driven two hours from their home outside of Charlotte to take advantage of Curtis’s two-hour falconry outing at his 30-acre valley property nestled between two mountains near the Blue Ridge Parkway. They own a macaw, and Lisa tracked down Curtis’s outing as a gift to her bird-loving husband.

The three venture out first with Sam, who is nearly eight, and then one-year-old Hoppy Boy. Sam’s experience shows with soft landings on David Heidrick’s arm and quick flights back to the trees. Hoppy Boy comes in faster and doesn’t see the point of leaving again when he knows the food is near.

For their reward, both cap their afternoon by tearing apart a dead, but fresh, baby chicken, in fairly gruesome fashion.

“If you’re an animal person, this is a once-in-a-lifetime kind of deal,” says Heidrick. “I enjoyed every moment of it.”

Curtis is a General class falconer and will become a Master class falconer in 2019. He hopes to trap his first screech owl soon or work with a falcon like a peregrine (kestrels are the world’s smallest falcons and primarily hunt things like grasshoppers).

As the Heidricks drive up the driveway, headed south for dinner, a distinctive sound emanates from the mountain and echoes down the valley.

Whhooooo hooooo. It’s a great horned owl.

Curtis smiles. ●

**WATSON'S
THEATRICALS**

include playing
a trombone
named Francesca
to trumpet his
wrestling stage
arrival.



ON TOP OF THE HEAP

By Ron Wagner '93

AUSTIN WATSON '05 (AKA XAVIER
WOODS) IS THE TOAST OF THE WWE

THE NEW DAY

Watson (Woods) is the centerpiece of The New Day, a wrestling trio that includes Big E (left) and Kofi Kingston.



WHEN IT COMES TO POP CULTURE, Austin Watson '05 may be one of Furman's most famous graduates. "But wait," you might be saying, "I've never even heard of Austin Watson."

If you're one of millions of pro wrestling fans, though, you've undoubtedly heard of Xavier Woods and his team, New Day, which at the moment are as big as big gets in the highest level of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), the most watched wrestling organization on earth.

Well, they're the same person, with or without the kaleidoscope singlet.

"He's always been theatrical. No matter what, he was in character," says Furman Psychology Professor

Onarae Rice. "So when I see him up there, that's not a stretch."

By up there, Rice means inside the ring at one of WWE's sold-out shows around the world, including periodically at Greenville's 15,000-seat Bon Secours Wellness Arena. Watson gives Rice tickets when he comes to town, and it's hard to say what impresses Rice's sons more—Xavier Woods in person, or their dad knowing Xavier Woods.

"I have young boys, and they look at him and they're like, 'You know him? You know Xavier Woods?'" Rice says.

"He's a big deal. He even has an action figure."

Frenzied crowds often chant "New Day rocks" during shows. *Rolling Stone* named New Day 2015's WWE Wrestlers of the Year, describing Woods, Big E, and Kofi Kingston as "a hat-trick of pro-wrestling awesomeness." On December 14, New Day became the longest-reigning tag-team champion in WWE history, capping a rise that began when they united on July 21, 2014.

The success is the result of tremendous popularity with fans, which stems from over-the-top silly antics and exceptional oratory skills. It's fair to say that Woods (Watson) leads the way.

His theatrics include playing a trombone named Francesca backstage to announce his presence to the arena and introducing Francesca II's Scottish cousin, Agnes, a set of bagpipes at a show in Scotland (the original Francesca was broken by Chris Jericho, forcing Woods to replace "her" with "her sister" Francesca II. When Francesca II was also broken by an opponent she was replaced by Francesca II: Turbo. You really need to watch WWE and play video games to

understand). The shtick is so popular that not only are there multiple videos on YouTube of Woods playing his trombone, there are videos showing how to make his WWE 2K17 video game character play the trombone.

"Once you're in, it's all based on your work ethic and your personality, because personality is 80 percent of the game," Watson says. "If you can get people either to love you or hate you then you're doing your job. Me, I am very outspoken and try to be quick-witted when possible."

New Day credits "unicorn magic" and "the power of positivity" for its success, and considering the success Watson has achieved and the obstacles he overcame to get there, it's tempting to say he used the same thing. The reality, however, is something far more impressive: determination. "Everything that I've done in life has been to gain some sort of skill to help me become a pro wrestler," Watson says.

PRO WRESTLING IS FILLED WITH BEHEMOTHS who were once professional athletes, bulging with muscles and exuding testosterone. Growing up, Watson was small, uncoordinated and, by his own admission, "a nerd." Still, he knew that was his world.

"I was into wrestling and video games and Jackie Chan movies pretty much all my childhood," Watson says. "Wrestling was just awesome—the spectacle, the fireworks, the action, the larger-than-life characters . . . It's something I've wanted since I was in elementary school, and I got made fun of my entire life for it."

When Watson recounts the decisions that led to professional wrestling, it's hard to imagine anyone in any profession being more singularly focused.

"In middle school, I didn't play any sports. I wasn't athletic at all," says Watson, who hails from Atlanta. "So I thought, well, I should probably get in shape and get my mind right. So I started amateur wrestling and playing football because they had a great weight-training program. I started doing track and field because I wanted to learn how to run properly because I was just a mess all around."

And those weren't even the biggest problems.

"Senior year of high school, I had really bad stage fright," he says. "So I joined the show choir, because I figured if you could sing and dance in front of people then you can do anything in front of people. I did that to push the stage fright out of my mind, which helped a lot."



AS A STUDENT, WATSON enjoyed time cheering from the stands and in front of them as a cheerleader.



"I'D DRIVE TO GEORGIA OR NORTH CAROLINA OR DOWN TO MYRTLE BEACH OR WHEREVER TO WRESTLE. AND I'D WRESTLE FRIDAY NIGHT, SATURDAY, AND THEN TWO TIMES ON SUNDAY, AND BE BACK IN CLASS AT 8 A.M. ON MONDAY."

Once he arrived at Furman, Watson challenged his comfort zone again by joining the cheerleading team. Why? To learn to do flips and other gymnastics that would be required in the ring. He also began traveling around the Greenville area to participate in amateur wrestling events on the weekends.

"I'd get done with class on Friday, and I'd borrow my friend's car, at least until I got my own, and I'd drive to Georgia or North Carolina or down to Myrtle Beach or wherever to wrestle. And I'd wrestle Friday night, Saturday, and then two times on Sunday, and be back in class at 8 a.m. on Monday," Watson says. "If you want something, you'll figure out a way to make it work. So, yeah, I'd miss out on all the parties and stuff, but in the long run it didn't have any bearing on me because I got what I came to get."

That included a degree. Watson was intent on attending the University of Miami or UCLA, but unbeknownst to him his mother also sent an application to Furman after hearing about the university from friends at her hair salon. When he was accepted, she then persuaded him to visit, even though he'd never heard of the school. On campus, Watson immediately knew all he needed to know.

"I'll never forget this. When we pulled in and we saw the huge fountain and all the trees, it immediately felt like home for

COURTESY PHOTO

CHARLIE REGISTER

some reason,” he says. “It felt right, and that’s why I picked it.”

Watson made no secret of his ambitions, even organizing wrestling shows on campus. But more quietly he was devoting himself to his psychology major. A serious student, he was one of Rice’s first summer research assistants, and he points to a seminar class on autism taught by Erin Hahn that changed his life.

“Sometimes they would have parents come in and tell us stories about their kids, and it would be three hours of us sitting in class crying because it was so sad,” Watson says. “I love children. They’re awesome, and that was probably one of the turning points that told me I wanted to work with children with autism, because there’s so many things going on in the field that people don’t know about, and there’s not enough hands on deck to help.”

There were times when Watson needed help, too, and without Rice there to give it he’s not sure what would have happened. The two formed a bond so tight that Rice attended Watson’s wedding.

“Without him I honestly don’t think I would have graduated, because Furman is a very difficult school,” Watson says. “We’d talk in his office for hours some days. He’s a huge part of my college life and my actual life . . . Going to Furman helped shape who I am as an adult, because of the relationships I was able to make with my professors.”

Often, their conversations dealt with race and the expectations African-American students sometimes feel. “I made myself very available to him to talk to me in a way that would allow him to not be polished all the time,” Rice says. “You don’t want to necessarily feel like you’re representing all of the black culture, but at the same time you do have that pressure . . . I told him that it was very important you be culturally aware no matter what goes on because you’re going to have a platform where you could impact a lot of kids.”

Rice may not have thought Watson would have quite this much of a platform, but that only makes him more thrilled to see that his protégé has taken his words to heart. One of the most unique aspects of New Day is the fact all of the members are black, and they’ve built their identity on being “nerdy” to the point of parody. That’s no accident.

“We all have kind of the same background: young, African-Americans, nerdy, into our

own stuff,” Watson says. “We’ve tried to change the landscape of what it means to be a black nerd. I kind of want to show kids who are in the position I was, no, it’s fine: Be whatever you want and enjoy it.”

AT BARELY 5-FOOT-10 AND ABOUT 200 POUNDS, Watson is small compared to most WWE wrestlers. That began as a significant impediment to his career as he worked through wrestling’s minor leagues, but now it’s merely a testament to how good he is at entertaining. He signed with WWE in 2010 and was called up to the top level in 2013. The magnitude of what he’d accomplished hit him shortly thereafter during a match at the AT&T Stadium in Dallas.

“To wrestle in front of 101,000 people, and at the end of our match be in the ring with Mankind, Shawn Michaels, and Stone Cold Steve Austin and it not be weird . . . that was probably the pinnacle,” Watson says.

Wrestling’s cartoon violence isn’t real, but the physical toll is. Watson had his front teeth knocked out in a match, struggles with two bulging discs in his neck that will likely herniate, and has no posterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. Now in his 30s, the clock is ticking on his body. He’s wise enough to know it. “What I do hurts every single time I do it,” he says. “There are a lot of guys that get addicted to the rush, because it is unreal when you come out and people are chanting your name and wearing your merchandise . . . It’s not something I will be trying to hold onto once my time has passed. I have lots of other things on the back burners for when this is finished because I understand this job will not last forever.”

Despite his time-consuming day job, Watson keeps busy pursuing other “nerdy” endeavors. He’s working on a Ph.D. in psychology, and a YouTube channel he hosts using his first wrestling moniker, Austin Creed, called UpUpDownDown, has 810,000 subscribers who go out of their way to watch him play video games. There may never have been a more validated nerd in history.

“I always believed in myself that I would be in this ring doing what I love to do, but I never imagined that people would be crying at the sight of (New Day),” he says. “It’s a very humbling feeling, and it isn’t something I thought would ever happen to me.” ●



COURTESY PHOTO

HIGH-FLYING CELEBRITY

Watson has his own action figure and a prolific fan base.

HIGH NOTES

By LINDA LEE

KRISTEN CHENOWETH on stage the opening night of her one-woman show, *My Love Letter to Broadway*.

KRISTEN CHENOWETH graciously pauses for some post-show photos with The Furman Singers, Conductor **Hugh Ferguson Floyd '84**, President Elizabeth Davis and Charles Davis.

(LOWER LEFT) **Mary Mitchell-Campbell '96**, Hugh Ferguson Floyd, and **Seph Stanek '08**

(LOWER RIGHT) Mary Mitchell-Campbell leads a pre-show rehearsal with the Furman Singers.

Paris, London, Moscow, Vienna, Berlin. These are but a few of the European capitals that have welcomed the Furman Singers during their biennial summer concert tours abroad.

Even still, the Furman Singers hit a high note in November when 16 of its members were selected to perform on Broadway alongside Kristin Chenoweth as part of her one-woman show, *My Love Letter to Broadway*. The show was held at the 1,505-seat Lunt-Fontanne Theatre in New York City.

Students sang two numbers—for the grand finales of both acts—with Chenoweth, who won a Tony Award for her portrayal of Sally in the 1999 revival of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and starred as the witch Glinda in the original Broadway production of *Wicked*.

Recognized as one of America's premier collegiate choirs, the Furman Singers consists of 68 undergraduate students whose repertoire ranges from Renaissance motets to 20th century choral music. The group was founded in 1946 by **DuPre Rhame '24**, who conducted the Singers until 1970. His successor, Bingham Vick Jr., led the choir until 2010.

"The Furman Singers really *are* the university, in a sense," says Furman Professor of Music Hugh Ferguson Floyd, the current director of the group. "We are the ambassadors for the school when we travel, and we are also an integral part of the life of the college."

In 1990, the group was the first choir since 1917 to sing in the 15th century Cathedral of the Assumption inside the Kremlin. In December 2006, the choir's voices rang out with the Boston Pops as part of the Holiday Pops tour under conductor and Furman alumnus **Keith Lockhart '81**.

The invitation to perform with Chenoweth came from Furman music ma-



"The Furman Singers really *are* the university, in a sense."

jor **Mary-Mitchell Campbell '96**, who is Kristin Chenoweth's music director. "It was a galvanizing experience," says Floyd. "The energy onstage was palpable. The students were literally shaking when they stepped off the stage after the first number."

"Having the opportunity to sing on a Broadway stage with Kristin Chenoweth was not something I could have ever imagined," says **Julia Woodward '17**. "Just by singing next to her I felt like I could conquer the world. Her confidence gave me confidence that I brought back with me to my musical studies at Furman."

The high point of being on Broadway for **Laura Lynn Brickley '19** was when they sang "Upon this Rock" with Chenoweth to a packed house at the end of the first act.

"While the audience was clapping, Kristin turned to us and said, 'Take it in,'" Brickley recalls. "I don't think I will ever forget that moment. I'm eternally grateful to Dr. Floyd, Mary-Mitchell Campbell, and Kristin Chenoweth for making a dream come true for me."

This spring the Furman Singers will take the stage in France, though it may be difficult to top the experience of treading the boards on Broadway. ●

COURTESY PHOTO | NAN MELVILLE

"This is a selfie I took on the rooftop of the advertising firm Publicis. I was interviewing the director. Their offices offer a view of the Champs Élysées and the Arc de Triomphe."
—Eleanor Beardsley '86

today's NEWS *tomorrow's* HISTORY

BY COURTNEY
TOLLISON '99

The oft-repeated phrase "journalism is the first draft of history" reveals the media's deep and enduring influence. Journalists significantly shape the public's understanding of our world. Throughout the 20th century, reporters such as Walter Cronkite, Eric Severeid and Edward R. Murrow have significantly molded what American readers, viewers and listeners not only felt was important but also why it was important.

Eleanor Beardsley '86 may one day join this revered group of journalists.

Indeed, her work has been cited in academic journals, master's theses and doctoral dissertations. It is frequently referenced in the shaping of public policy and diplomacy in Europe and North Africa. Recently, she was invited to speak on terrorism in Paris at the Pentagon but had to decline.

For more than a dozen years Beardsley has had a front row seat to history as National Public Radio's Paris-based correspondent. A Columbia, South Carolina, native, she has filed stories from political hot spots in Europe and North Africa. Each week, her steady but engaging voice—with a



COURTESY PHOTO



❶ “I interviewed this older lady in eastern Ukraine. We were looking for the boyhood home of Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovic. We found it. She was his next-door neighbor when he lived there as a youngster. She told us about him as a boy.”

❷ “I first met this Tunisian gentlemen on the night of the revolution. I had seen police beating up young people, and he was running from the police. I let him sleep in my room, and I slept with a colleague. When I was covering Tunisia’s first democratic election

after the revolution we met again. He was working as an election observer when this photo was taken.”

❸ “This was taken while I was doing the story on Aristides de Sousa Mendes (see pg. 44). These people came to France from a variety of countries to retrace the steps of their parents and grandparents as they escaped Europe with his help. This woman gave testimony. She was 16 and from the Netherlands when the diplomat got her out with her family.”

slight Southern lilt—reaches nearly 30 million listeners.

Beardsley has guided her U.S. audience through a tumultuous decade in Europe: the Greek debt crisis, the strife in eastern Ukraine, the Syrian refugee crisis, the Arab Spring and Brexit. Beardsley, too, has reported from many sites of terror including the 2015 attack on *Charlie Hebdo* and the siege on the Bataclan. Last year, she covered the Bastille Day massacre in Nice.

While the present-day news cycle dictates much of her work, Beardsley is drawn to the past. One of her favorite places is Normandy. “I always find beautiful stories there,” she says.

Recently she recorded “Les Fleurs de la Memoire,” or “Flowers of Memory,” a program founded by a French couple in which Normans adopt the graves of American servicemen whose families are unable to visit. In another story, Beardsley featured a group of 50 people who gathered in Bordeaux to retrace the pil-

“Don’t look for that great, well-paying job when you’re 22, because you’re not going to get a great job when you’re 22 . . . Build a base, layer after layer.”

grimage made by those saved in the early years of World War II by Sousa Mendes, a Portuguese diplomat known as Portugal’s Schindler, who issued 30,000 visas to Jews.

Beardsley typically records six feature stories a month. But during times of crisis, she is expected to report on the hour, live, and often from the scene. In eastern Ukraine, while covering the Malaysian Air flight that was shot down near the Russian border, Beardsley rushed to escape a nearby explosion and shelling. The next day, she wanted to get closer to the downed plane but was advised against it. Before her now 10-year-old son was born, she might have chanced a closer

look. But not now. “I am adventurous but not stupid,” she says. “I would never want to leave my son without a mother.”

Her most challenging assignments usually involve European Union summits in Brussels, where she must efficiently and creatively summarize information in ways that will resonate with American audiences. Among her most rewarding assignments have been those in Tunisia, where she has covered the nation’s transition to democracy. Beardsley has been surprised and delighted by the extent she has been able to “unlock” this North African society with her fluency in French.

Beardsley was a relative newcomer to journalism. After graduating from Fur-

man with a B.A. in history and French, Beardsley moved to Washington, D.C., where she served on U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond’s staff. In 2000, she visited a friend working with the United Nations in Kosovo and became fascinated with the stories she heard from those who had endured the recent Yugoslav wars. Soon thereafter, she left the United States to accept a position as a spokesperson in the press office of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo.

Later, she was hired by a French broadcasting company who needed someone who spoke French and could explain the American electoral process to a French audience. Beardsley used the position as a springboard to land a freelance job for NPR in 2004 and has been moving up the ladder since.

Her skill set and life path seem perfectly suited for the job. Beardsley’s father, a former historian at the University of South Carolina, nurtured his daughter’s interest in French culture and life

beyond the United States. From her father, young Eleanor learned the value and art of good storytelling. During a South Carolina History course that focused on the theme “Transportation and Communication,” she captivated her third-grade class with a story about Chinese leader Mao Zedong’s 5,600-mile march in 1934–35. At the age of eight, Beardsley had already grasped that telling a story about human suffering and passionate commitment to political ideals was a more interesting and effective way of learning about concepts such as transportation and communication.

At Furman, Beardsley became immersed in 19th and 20th century history classes (her favorite professor was John Block). A semester-long study away experience in Versailles stoked her passion for French culture and a quest for knowledge and greater understanding.

“I was inspired by all the world had to offer,” she says. “And I knew that I’d be back.”

Now 52, Beardsley says she owes her success, in part, to her Furman education. The liberal arts and sciences and experiential learning helped her understand “how countries and relations came to be” and gave her an “understanding of the broader picture.” The critical thinking and adaptive learning skills she developed in college helped Beardsley navigate different cultures and career paths.

She encourages young people to be inquisitive, search broadly and not be discouraged if they don’t know exactly what they want to do. Be curious, follow your passion and have patience, she says.

“Don’t look for that great, well-paying job when you’re 22, because you’re not going to get a great job when you’re 22,” Beardsley says. “Think about the job you’re going to have when you’re 34 . . . and go for a meaningful job. Build a base, layer after layer.”

The writer is an assistant professor of history at Furman, specializing in American and South Carolina history.

COURTESY PHOTOS

COURTESY PHOTO

A GLORIOUS STORY, A MODEST MAN

Frank Selvy, Coal Miner's Son recounts the life and career of Furman's greatest athlete.

BY JOHN ROBERTS

Most Furman alumni know the story of **Frank Selvy '54**. Or at least they should.

Selvy was arguably the finest athlete Furman has produced and one of the best college basketball players to ever grace the hardcourt. From 1950 to 1954, Selvy led some storied Furman teams and brought a national spotlight on the small then-Baptist college.

A two-time All-American, the native of Corbin, Kentucky, twice led the nation in scoring. On Feb. 13, 1954, Selvy scored an incredible 100 points against Newberry College in Greenville's Textile Hall, a single-game scoring record that stands today. Selected first overall in the 1954 NBA draft, Selvy went on to play nine seasons in the pros. The two-time NBA All-Star was a teammate of Jerry West and Elgin Baylor on some of the best Los Angeles Lakers teams.

Selvy's rise to national fame is one of Furman lore. And it has been told many times, particularly in the pages of this publication. But no one has told it as well as Jack McIntosh '52, a retired Anderson, South Carolina, attorney and Selvy's classmate, in *Frank Selvy, Coal Miner's Son*.

Published in 2016 and available on Amazon.com, the 126-page work provides a colorful and richly detailed account of Selvy's youth, his rise to national fame and a rough and tumble NBA career that was interrupted by a two-year stint in the U.S. Army. In particular, McIntosh does a masterful job of re-creating Selvy's days growing up as the son of a coal miner in Corbin, a hard-scrabble town near the Appalachian Mountains.

Named after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who helped ease the Great Depression in the region through the New Deal public works projects, Selvy was one of 10 children. The large family lived in a two-bedroom home. Selvy's father, James, began working in coal mines at the age of 12 and continued until a mining accident forced him to retire at 54.

Frank Selvy was spared a life in the mines. Instead, at the age of 12, he began traveling to nearby Indiana during the summers to pick tomatoes as a migrant worker. After sending money home, the young Selvy cobbled together enough cash to buy basketball shoes, a purchase he

soon put to work on the outdoor basketball courts of the Corbin YMCA.

A gifted athlete, Selvy was only able to play a season and a half of basketball at Corbin High School because he had to work. Still, he was selected to play in a series of all-star games where he was named the most valuable player. Like most young basketball players in the area, Selvy hoped to attract the eye of Adolph Rupp, the legendary basketball coach at the University of Kentucky for whom the Wildcats' current arena is named. Rupp, who coached Kentucky from 1930 to 1972, did recruit him for a short time but decided that Selvy, then 150 pounds and six feet tall, did not

have the size to successfully compete in college. It would be one of the worst recruiting mistakes Rupp would make in a coaching career that spanned more than 40 years.

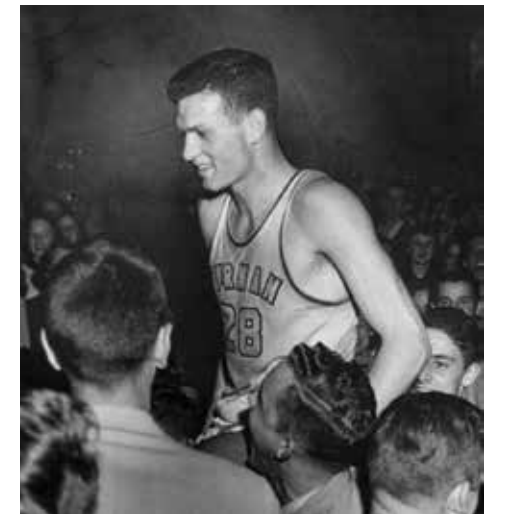
Another coach who attended Selvy's games was Furman's Lyles Alley. Coach Alley recognized talent when he saw it and invited Selvy to Furman. During the summer after his high school senior year, Alley put Selvy to work at Camp Pinnacle (near Hendersonville, North Carolina), where the 17-year-old ate well, honed his skills and grew three inches and gained 30 pounds.

When Rupp heard of Selvy's growth, he sent a group of coaches to Greenville in an effort to lure Selvy back to his home state. When the coaches arrived, though, Selvy was tucked away at Camp Pinnacle. They asked around and even called the home of Furman President John Plyler, who was not there. No one on the small campus seemed to know where the young prospect was.

The coaches, much perturbed, left town. But it did not matter. Selvy had decided to stay true to Furman.

Selvy's path to Furman is just one of many richly told stories by McIntosh in *Frank Selvy, Coal Miner's Son*. Others include:

- How James Selvy and his family traveled six hours to see Frank score 100 points against Newberry. It was only the second time James had seen his son play.
- How Coach Alley, a consummate showman and meticulous planner, orchestrated that magical evening in Textile Hall (the state's first live television broadcast of a sporting event) by arranging for a seven-piece jazz band to play and instructing his team at halftime to "feed Frank."
- A harrowing account of how Selvy and his Lakers teammates survived a 1960 plane crash by landing in an Iowa cornfield.
- How Selvy and his wife, Barbara, befriended Hollywood celebrities Doris Day, James Gardner and Pat Boone during Frank's playing days with the Lakers.



Frank Selvy '54 and Jack McIntosh '52 (above) participated in a book signing late last year. Selvy reached the pinnacle of his professional career while playing for the Los Angeles Lakers. (bottom left)

AN ACCURATE PORTRAIT OF AN UNASSUMING, HUMBLE AND SOFT-SPOKEN MAN WHO REMAINED GROUNDED AS HIS BASKETBALL STAR ROSE.

McIntosh devotes his greatest prose, though, to capturing Selvy's intensely competitive and gritty drive to excel during an NBA career that was rife with setbacks. He also paints an accurate portrait of an unassuming, humble and soft-spoken man who remained grounded as his basketball star rose. *Frank Selvy,*

Coal Miner's Son is captivating and compelling, a remarkable recount of an extraordinary journey. ●

The author may be reached through email at jackmackt@aol.com.

Three verbs drive our Alumni and Parent Engagement Office: Connect, Serve and Give. We encourage alumni, parents and friends to be active in these three areas every year, and our team constantly works on programs and processes to make it easier for these important constituents to connect, serve and give at unprecedented levels.

Today, however, I want to focus on the giving component, especially from our alumni. Please don't stop reading because you think the alumni director is going to pester you to give more. I just want to explain why alumni participation—at any level—is vitally important. And, I want to give you some insight into the annual giving process at Furman.

First, the percentage of alumni who give to Furman annually is extremely important. This ratio, a measure of alumni satisfaction, is used by *US News and World Report* to compile their immensely popular annual rankings of the top colleges and universities.

Alumni participation for Furman in the fiscal year



Participation Matters

2015–16 was 21 percent. Our goal this fiscal year is to increase that to 23 percent. My dad always said that people vote with their pocketbooks and wallets. One can argue that this has been validated in our elections, especially national elections. Making an annual donation to Furman is your way of voting for the success of your university and our students—and for improving how we rank among the best.

Second, our alumni participation rate often plays an important role in securing grants for the university. Many foundations want to know the percentage of alumni who give annually. Once again, the number of alumni who give, not the amount

they give, is very important. Higher participation bolsters our chances of securing more and bigger grants. This funding, in turn, provides more opportunities for our students. As you can see, participation can pay big dividends.

Having dispelled the myth, “If you can't give a lot, it's not important to give,” let's examine another misconception—that tuition covers all of the costs of educating students. Actually, only 70 percent of the total cost for a student to attend Furman is covered by tuition. We rely heavily on endowments, grants and annual giving to make up the difference. In addition, 93 percent of our students receive scholarships of

some variety from Furman, yet our annual giving and endowments only cover 20 percent of the cost of those scholarships.

Without overdoing the numbers, I hope I've made a case for how important annual giving is to Furman, and how grateful we are for your participation and the impact it has. We also want you to connect and consider serving your alma mater. We will launch a new program this year to recognize and reward alumni, parents and friends who are active in all three categories: connecting, serving and giving.

We value and appreciate every gift, as well as your time and talent. Let's finish this fiscal year, which ends in June, in record-breaking fashion by engaging the Furman family like never before.

Your giving makes the Furman experience possible. Please give online at ForFurman.com and tell us why you give #ForFurman. ●

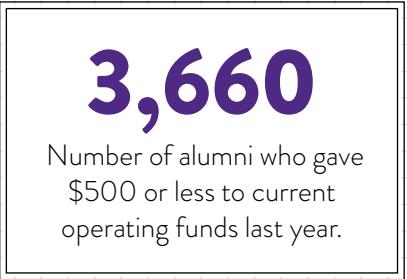
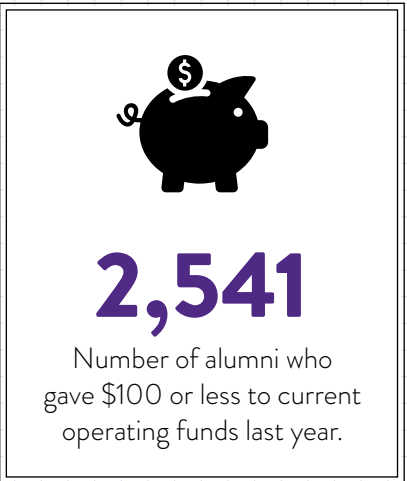
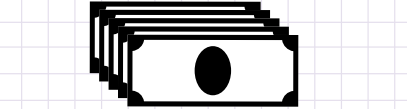
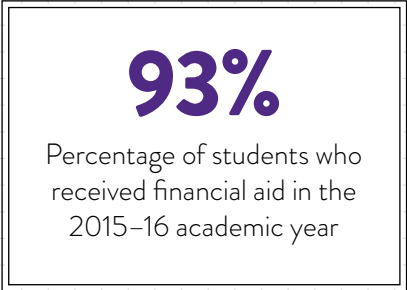
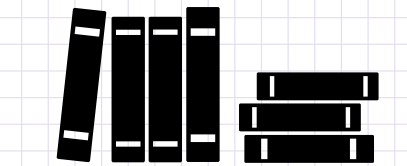
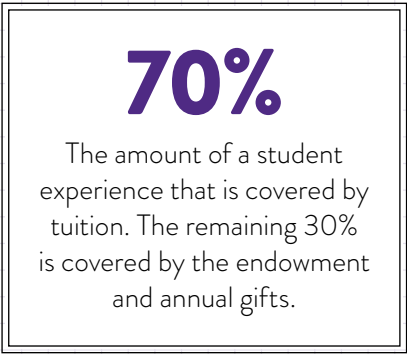
Mike Wilson '88

Mike Wilson '88
Executive Director,
Alumni and Parent Engagement

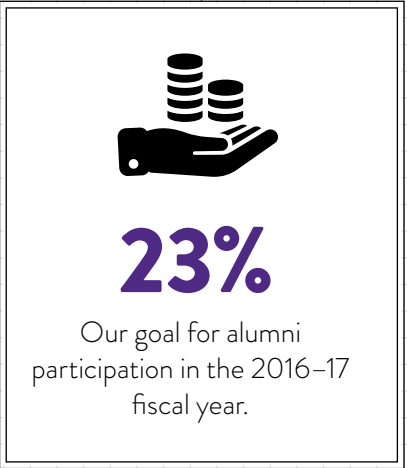
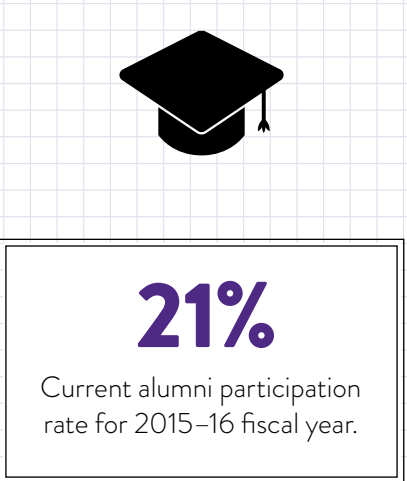
FUmerical

Facts and figures about alumni giving.

Ever wonder if your donation to Furman makes a difference?
Yes! All gifts make an impact.



The percentage of alumni who give each year affects Furman's national rankings and the value of your Furman degree.



Every gift counts.
Make a donation at ForFurman.com OR use the enclosed envelope and make your gift TODAY!

Race Course

BMW Driving Performance School

BY DAMIEN PIERCE

There are many things to fear in this fragile world—the American political divide, *Game of Thrones* spoilers, a new Nicholas Sparks novel. But the most terrifying? The South Carolina driver.

One study after another has shown that Palmetto State drivers are among the nation's worst. The latest, conducted by CarInsuranceComparison.com, found that South Carolina has the highest mortality rate per miles driven. Our drivers are careless, easily distracted and slow to respond. The self-driving car can't get here fast enough.

So how does one adapt when the roadways resemble something out of a *Mad Max* film? I decided to learn how to drive.

To be clear, I have no interest in relearning how to parallel park with a handful of pimply-faced teens. However, if I'm being honest, I'm no Steve McQueen. I don't have a clue how to drive in icy conditions, and view the use of a turn signal as divulging secret information to the enemy. Accident avoidance? By the time I've registered what's happening to the vehicle, I'm already on the phone with the insurance company. Simply put, I could be a more

responsive driver. I need to learn how to control my vehicle when things go wrong.

For such an experience, there's the BMW Performance Driving School. Located in Greer, South Carolina—a quick drive from the Furman campus—the performance center is part of a series of automotive manufacturing and research facilities that have transformed Interstate 85 into the American Autobahn. BMW, Michelin and Porsche—to name a few—have their North American headquarters located between Charlotte and Atlanta. BMW's manufacturing facility is the largest car exporter in the United States, building more than 1,200 vehicles every day. If you ever find yourself in Germany, that X5 M whizzing by at 120 mph wasn't built in Munich. It was put together in the Upstate.



SLIPPERY WHEN WET

On the wet skid pad, drivers are encouraged to lose control—so they can learn how to regain it.

Drive to Succeed

There are nine other drivers signed up for the class, and we're paired off to share two toys for the next eight hours: the M240i coupe and the 340i M sport sedan. Our instructors are BMW-certified professional drivers who have spent most of their lives racing cars, go-carts and anything else that moves forward. Their task is to push us beyond our comfort zone and teach us how to handle our machines in real-life situations—and maybe even convert a few

THE SCHOOL'S REAL DRAW IS THAT IT TEACHES DRIVERS HOW TO REACT WHEN THE ROADWAY AROUND THEM IS IN CHAOS.

The Comeback



ON THE TRACK

Our writer takes the M240i Coupe for a timed lap around BMW's autocross course.

of us into BMW owners. Turns out, one out of eight people who take a course at the performance driving school purchase a BMW.

WHEN I GET BEHIND THE WHEEL, MAZZACANE PROMPTS ME TO SPEED UP, EVEN THOUGH EVERYTHING IN MY BEING IS TELLING ME THIS IS A BAD IDEA.

"We don't sell cars here," says Laura Hayes, one of the center's instructors. "But we sell cars."

Following classroom instruction and a short drive through a slalom course to get acquainted with our vehicles, our first lesson is in emergency braking. This involves taking the 340i M sport sedan to 55 mph and engaging the car's anti-locking brake system (ABS) upon entering a corner.

Who needs practice applying the brakes? We all do. If every driver used the capabilities of ABS, body shops would have more free time.

"We're a nation of wimpy brakers," barks instructor Paul Mazzacane. "Put your foot through the floor."

Of course, there are circumstances when braking isn't an option. For our next tutorial, we're told an imaginary trac-

tor-trailer is parked in our path as we come through a bend in the road at 50-plus mph. There is a small window where we can swerve our M240i coupe into the left lane before colliding into the trailer and avoiding the traffic following us to our left. Traffic cones represent these hazards.

This short course is meant to drive home something the instructors preach throughout the day: Look down the road. As drivers, one of our most common mistakes is we lock our eyes on our immediate surroundings or the large obstruction we're about to plow into. However, if our eyes are up, we have a better chance to utilize our peripheral vision and find an escape route.

Five tries through the hazard, I've come close to mastering the maneuver. The key

is taking your foot off the gas, and weaving through the empty space with your eyes on the back of the opening. I just can't seem to avoid the cone that represents the back left corner of the tractor-trailer.

"Nice job," says instructor Andy Van Cleef. "But you lost another side view mirror."

If this had been a real accident, the joke would be on my instructor: It's not my BMW.

Still, that minor detail is the least of my worries as we steer our vehicles toward the skid pad. Since signing up for the class, this exercise has been the one I've been looking forward to the most. It's also the one I've been dreading. For the past two hours, our instructors have drenched a 360-degree track with sprinklers, turning the pavement into a Slip'N Slide.

JEREMY FLEMING

The Comeback



PRO TIPS

Paul Mazzacane (left) and Laura Hayes provide instruction before turning drivers loose through a series of obstacles.

When I get behind the wheel, Mazzacane prompts me to speed up, even though everything in my being is telling me this is a bad idea. I grip the wheel and I feel my body tense up at the mere thought of going into a spin. Once the car reaches somewhere around 45 mph, the instructor tells me to take my foot off the gas. Inevitably, the car's back wheels slide to the front of the vehicle.

The first time we try it, I nearly take the car off the track. I react too slowly and accept my fate on the merry-go-round that I never wanted to be on. A few more attempts, more of the same. I start to feel dejected.

"Relax," Mazzacane says. "Where are your eyes? You're too tense. You're thinking too much. Feel what the car is telling you."

His words are an epiphany. Rather than reacting to my conditions, I've been anticipating. My eyes have been focused on the muddy grass—not the road—and I've been gripping the wheel as if it were a handlebar on a roller coaster. Worst of all, I've never actually felt the car begin its skid.

As we start our final laps around the pad, I loosen my shoulders and release my grip on the wheel. When the time comes to take my foot off the gas, I actually feel the back tires begin to get away from the vehicle. Within a moment's notice, I steer out of the skid and pull the car back on course. I don't have to think about what to do. It's a reaction. Imagine how many opportunities I might have had to get this maneuver right without this driving program.

Our driving experience ends with two competitions, including six timed laps around the facility's half-mile autocross course. Driving the nimble M240i coupe, I complete my best lap in 28.49 seconds—not terrible for the day's rainy conditions, but

not fast enough for any of BMW's professional instructors to be concerned about their job security.

More importantly, I left the driving performance center with one less thing to fear. Now, if we could only get Nicholas Sparks to stop writing. ●



JEREMY FLEMING

SCENE AND BE SEEN

February 25 was a night to celebrate. More than 650 guests attended Furman’s Bell Tower Ball, an annual donor appreciation gala that honors the university’s alumni and friends for their generosity, leadership, and support. The formal affair, hosted by President Elizabeth Davis and Charles Davis at the TD Convention Center, included a wine reception, seated dinner, dancing, and live music. During a post-dinner program, seven awards were presented to recognize alumni, parents, and friends.



1 Les '76 and Kay Knight, Susan Thomson Shi '71 and Baxter Wynn. 2 Lee Dilworth '83, Kelly Driver Massey '84, Julie Krug Dilworth '84. 3 Max Dutcher '12 and Libby Wallin '13, Amanda Hodge and Zach Rosen '11. 4 Award Winners with President Davis: Paul Scarpa (Honorary Alumni Award), Brad Merkl '86 (Wayne and Rubye Reid Award), Mike Baur, Chief Executive Officer and founding member of ScanSource Inc. (University Partnership Award), Robin McGary Herrnstein '98 (Gordon L. Blackwell Alumni Service Award), David Trone '77 (Carl F. Kohrt Distinguished Alumni Award), Frances Flowers Ennis '09 and Will Flowers '17, representing William and Carroll Flowers (Engaged Parent Award)



DAVID POLESKI | JEREMY FLEMING | COURTESY PHOTO



5 George '71 and Fran Smith Ligler '72, Sandy and Paul Scarpa, Dave '72 and Frances Ellison. 6 650 guests attended the annual gala. 7 Frances and Paul Robertson '82, Matt '91 and Gwinn Earle Kneeland '89. 8 Angela Walker Franklin '81, Gil Einstein, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Psychology, and Thaddeus Franklin, reconnect at the Department Drop-Ins at Homecoming on the Furman Mall. 9 President Elizabeth Davis takes a moment to get a selfie in front of the nation's Capitol with young alumni at a reception announcing The Furman Advantage in Washington, D.C.

CLASS NOTES



ASHLEY GESS '95, ZACH KELEHEAR '81
AND JUDI (HARRIS) WILSON '90
pg. 63

Quotables



FINDING TIME FOR
REFLECTION
pg. 64



ELIZABETH BISHOP '89
pg. 61



NICK KLINE '07 AND
BRITTANY DEKNIGHT '07
pg. 58

1958

Harry Eskew was recently honored by the Georgia Baptist Church Music Conference with a Lifetime Ministry Achievement Award. He is retired from the faculty of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

1962

Cartoonist and humorous illustrator **John R. “Jack” Cassady** was recently presented the Jack Davis Award (Cartoonist of the Year) for his lifetime achievements and contributions to the funny business and education of cartoon art. Presentation of the award, named after the nation’s late premier humorous illustrator and *MAD* magazine artist Jack Davis, was made at the annual meeting of the

Southeast Chapter of the National Cartoonists Society in Roanoke, Va. Cassady started cartooning around age 5, and as an undergrad at Furman became cartoonist for *The Paladin*, the student newspaper. A decade later, as a graduate student, he researched and designed the university’s official academic banner. He is an expert on the copyright law for visual communicators, is former chair of the Department of Sequential Art at Savannah (Ga.) College of Art and Design, is producer and host for the national Public TV Series “Funny Business, the Art in Cartooning,” and is a regular contributor to *Heartland Boating Magazine*. His freelance visual humor has appeared in hundreds of national and international publications and books.

1964

Nancy Barker DuPree continues to work at the University of Alabama Libraries where she is curator of the A. S. Williams III Americana Collection of books, maps, manuscripts, photographs and other materials accumulated by A. S. Williams III of Eufaula and Birmingham, Ala.

1968

Nelda Christine Leon is completing her third and final year on the vestry of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Charlotte, N.C., where she has helped organize the church’s social justice ministry and has been active in the areas of racial justice, immigrant rights and voter protection.

1970

When the annual conference of the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys was held in San Francisco in May 2016, **Richard B. Collins** of Tallahassee, Fla., was elected to serve as president of the organization for a two-year term. Collins, who has been a member of the Florida Bar since 1973, has served in many leadership roles and is currently president of the Tallahassee Bar Association. He is a member of the Perry & Young law firm, with his practice primarily focused on medical malpractice claims.

1973

Furman’s Riley Institute named **Hayne Hipp** to receive the David H. Wilkins Award for Excellence in Civic Leadership. The annual

ceremony for this award was held Jan. 10, the first night of the South Carolina legislative session in Columbia, S.C. Wilkins, who served as speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives and as U.S. Ambassador to Canada, cohosted the event with former U.S. Secretary of Education and former two-term Governor of South Carolina Dick Riley ’54, and Furman President Elizabeth Davis. Hipp is former CEO of The Liberty Corporation and founder of the Liberty Fellows. His civic and community leadership is far-reaching, but no greater impact has been made in the community than through his vision and creation of the Liberty Fellowship, an incubator for exemplary leadership in South Carolina.

Frances Smith Ligler has been elected to the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), an organization established several years ago to recognize and foster innovation and invention in academia and nonprofit research institutions (like the Naval Research Laboratory, where she was on staff for 27 years). Ligler holds 28 issued U.S. patents, a number of which have been important to the development of the field of optical biosensors.

1975

Baptist minister **Paul J. White Jr.** has written a book titled *The Tater Family*. It is a Christian, family-oriented book, illustrated by members of White’s family and a friend. Copies are available

for purchase from: The Rev. Paul White Jr., 215 Pine Street Extension, Greer, SC 29651.

1979

Barry Hall, along with his wife, Vania, and their five children, founded and run two orphanages in the Amazon region of Brazil. They currently take care of 50 children, all of whom were rescued from high-risk situations by the authorities. Read more at www.thefathersheartbrazil.org.

1980

David A. Merline Jr. has been selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2017. He has also been named as the Best Lawyers® 2017 Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law “Lawyer of the Year” in Greenville. *Best Lawyers*® only honors a single lawyer from each community in each high-profile legal specialty as a “Lawyer of the Year.”

1984

Karen Miller Boda recently accepted a call as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Clay, Ala.

1986

Cindy Davis Weathers has been named president of the Greenville County Childcare Association. Weathers is the owner and director of Park Place Children’s Center, a nationally accredited pre-school in Simpsonville, S.C.

1991

Mark Bakker has joined Nexsen Pruet in Greenville, S.C., an employment and labor law group listed among the top practices in South Carolina by the leading legal publication *Chambers USA*. Bakker brings more than two decades of employment litigation and human resource counseling experience to the firm.

1993

J. Benedict Hartman, an attorney with HunterMaclean, was recently honored as a 2016 Georgia Trend Legal Elite. *Georgia Trend* is a statewide business publication that honors Georgia’s leading attorneys for their outstanding achievements in various practice areas.

1994

Sarah Watkins Satterfield has been awarded the prestigious Gladys Webber Memorial Chair, an endowment that will fund an outreach program exploring the therapeutic usages of music, art and dance. Satterfield is chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at the College of Central Florida in Ocala where she teaches courses in music history and humanities.

Jonathan Souther of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, was promoted to professor of history at Cleveland State University in August 2016.

1995

Jeffrey Sexton of Missouri City, Texas, is an associate

engineering director for the Dow Chemical Company.

1996

Andrea McMahan Damewood received her Ph.D. in adult learning from the University of Tennessee in August 2016. She is employed at the university as information technology director of the school’s college of nursing.

1997

Jason Searl was recently selected to serve on IBERIABANK’s Central Florida Advisory Board for a one-year term. In this role, he will give legal counsel to the bank’s senior members. His extensive experience with real estate and corporate law, as well as insight into local market conditions, will provide significant value to the bank’s Central Florida team.

1999

Mary Wannamaker Huff was named interim director of the Lake Junaluska Singers, a prestigious choral group that has been part of Lake Junaluska’s history for more than 60 years. The legacy of this choral group includes national and international performances for conferences, dignitaries and major events. After graduating from Furman, Huff received a Master of Music degree from Yale University in 2001 and furthered her postgraduate studies in music education at Westminster Choir College, specializing in training children’s choirs. She is the

Continued on page 59

COURTESY PHOTO | LORI HENDRICK

John Campbell, a 20th century American writer and lecturer, was most famous for coining the phrase “follow your bliss.”

But he also wrote, “When you make the sacrifice in marriage, you’re sacrificing not to each other but to unity in a relationship.”

It’s a sentiment that **Brittany DeKnight ’07** and **Nick Kline ’07** have lived since the couple began dating during their sophomore year shortly after setting eyes on one another by accident.

DeKnight was going through sorority rush and was forbidden to speak to sorority members during the short bid period in the winter term. As she explains, some sorority friends were in her Introduction to Politics class. Instead of speaking, she waved and smiled to them each morning as she entered the class. Kline, who sat nearby, mistook DeKnight’s gesture.

“He thought I was waving to him,” laughs DeKnight. But soon, she began flirting for real.

Career-minded professionals with advanced degrees, both have taken sidesteps to give their partner a step up. After earning a master’s degree in social work from the University of Georgia in 2010, Kline limited his job search to Greenville where DeKnight had landed a plum first job as the associate director of the Shi Center for Sustainability.

Both had endured the travails of long-distance dating and had come to the same conclusion: If they were going to make it work, they had to do it together.



Brittany DeKnight ’07 & Nick Kline ’07

It took seven years for their careers in social work to intersect.

By John Roberts

So while DeKnight, who earned a master’s degree in sustainability from Arizona State University, managed the student fellows program and coordinated community outreach for the Shi Center, Kline took a job with Furman’s catering services.

“It was important for me to move to Greenville and put the time into the relationship.

It was tough because I could not contribute to the household (income) as I would have liked,” says Kline, who played rugby at Furman and earned a B.A. in philosophy.

In 2012, Kline was offered a job in Lexington, Virginia, as a program manager for Father’s First. He would be in charge of seven staff members, manage a healthy annual budget and

develop outreach programs to help fathers separated from their children develop healthy family relationships.

The couple, married in 2013, moved to the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, and DeKnight took a job as a restaurant server and hostess.

“We had always agreed that both of our careers are equally important and that, at times, we would each have to take time and sacrifice for the other,” says DeKnight.

A little more than a year later, their professional careers finally intersected when Kline was promoted and the couple moved 45 minutes away to Roanoke, Virginia, where DeKnight took a job as program manager with the United Way of Roanoke Valley. A political science and earth and environmental sciences major, DeKnight manages a program that works to improve the health and wellness of low- to moderate-income community members. Kline continues to work with men, many of whom have served time in prison, to improve parenting and secure employment.

An affable giant with an easy smile, Kline helped connect them quickly to neighbors in their urban neighborhood, which offers a scenic view of the city. And DeKnight has made connections through her work with the United Way.

Now Kline, who grew up in Indonesia and New Orleans, and DeKnight, a Columbia, South Carolina, native, have made Roanoke theirs.

“We have really developed a close community of friends here,” says Kline. “It feels like home.” ●

LOBI HENDRICK

founding director of the New York City Children’s Chorus and associate director of music at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. Her choirs have performed in Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Radio City Music Hall, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, as well as for national broadcasts on “Good Morning America,” the “Today Show,” and “CBS Sunday Morning.” She also plays the organ for liturgies, accompanies and conducts the church choir and Saint Andrew Chorale and manages the church concert series.

2001

Karen Guth was recently hired at the College of the Holy Cross as an assistant professor of religious studies. Guth followed her studies at Furman by earning a Master of Theology in literature, theology and the arts from the University of Glasgow, a Master of Theological Studies in religion and society from Harvard University Divinity School, and her doctorate in religious ethics from the University of Virginia. She is the author of *Christian Ethics at the Boundary: Feminism and Theologies of Public Life* (Fortress Press, 2015), as well as several articles and essays published in peer-reviewed journals and publications such as *Theology Today* and the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*. Guth also serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*.

2003

LaJoia M. Broughton has taken a new position as director of the South Carolina legislative black caucus.

Vanessa Koestner Torres has received the Milken Educator Award and a \$25,000 cash prize for her outstanding contributions in elementary academics. She and her school were unaware she would receive the award and were surprised in December by Milken Educator Awards Senior Vice President Jane Foley, South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman, and Lexington-Richland School District 5 Superintendent Stephen Hefner coming to her school to make the presentation. Torres, who teaches grades K-5 at Nursery Road Elementary School in Columbia, S.C., is the only Milken Educator Award recipient in South Carolina this year. She has invigorated the Spanish program at her school by engaging students, parents, teachers and the community.

2004

Robby Hendry completed a fellowship in neurocritical care at Duke University in 2016 and is now a practicing neurologist and neurointensivist with Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C. His practice focuses on patients in the intensive care unit with severe brain injury and critical neurological illness.

2005

George Campbell and **Elizabeth Jordan Teague** opened a new law firm, Campbell Teague LLC, in Greenville, S.C., in December 2016. Prior to starting the law firm, they both had careers in other fields—Campbell in trusts and private equity and Teague in Web analytics for a marketing firm and software company setups. Along with their new business, they just might have the best “law-firm band” around. George is a drummer and Jordan plays guitar.

Allen Mendenhall has been named associate dean and executive director of the Blackstone & Burke Center for Law & Liberty at Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law. His recent books include *Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., Pragmatism, and the Jurisprudence of Agon* (Bucknell University Press, 2016), and *The Southern Philosopher: Collected Essays of John William Corrington* (University of North Georgia Press, 2017).

2008

Kristen Nicole Pitts completed a Master of Divinity degree at Virginia Theological Seminary in May 2016 and was ordained to the transitional diaconate in the Episcopal Church in June.

2009

David Ehrlich has joined the Bryan Cave LLP international law firm as an associate in the transactions group in Atlanta.

Ehrlich focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance and corporate governance. He advises public and private companies in the public and private issuance of equity and debt securities, as well as mergers, asset purchases and sales, joint ventures and divestitures. Before attending law school, he worked in health care compliance. He is also a logistics officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, holding the rank of first lieutenant.

2011

Courtney Orr has accepted a position as assistant attorney general in the Criminal Appeals Division of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General.

2012

After **Jason Terrell** graduated from Furman, he participated with Teach for America and is now a cofounder of Profound Gentlemen, an organization established to support the careers of male teachers of color. Profound Gentlemen has been named Forbes 30 Under 30: Social Entrepreneurs, Class of 2017. They were selected by *Forbes* for their work to build a community of male educators of color who provide a profound additional impact on the lives of boys of color.

Continued on page 60

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS



Daniel R. and **Carroll Carter '99**, a daughter, Elizabeth Louise Carter, Sept. 15, 2016

David and **Jenny Milhous '01 Scott**, a son, John Riley Scott, March 2, 2016

James '04 and **Sara Burnett '03 Granberry**, a daughter, Mary Alice Granberry, July 21, 2016

Glen S. Jr., and **Sarah-Ann Turpen Davis '04**, a son, William Turpen Davis, Sept. 29, 2016

Robby and **Sydney Hendry '04**, a daughter, Larkin Celeste Hendry, July 30, 2016

Penn '06 and **Marissa Coffers '10 Garvich**, a daughter, Emma Grace Garvich, Aug. 25, 2016

Ryan and **Dixie Clayton McClure '06**, a daughter, Hadley McClure, May 2015

Brian and **Mary Ellen Suitt '07 Barnwell**, a son, Robert Ford Barnwell, Aug. 12, 2016

Phillip and **Laura Padfield Braun '07**, a daughter, Diana Catherine Braun, May 15, 2016

Emmanuel '07 and **Joinné Ruff '09 Chandler**, a daughter, Isabella Alise Chandler, Oct. 19, 2016

John and **Marjorie Dornette '07 Connell**, a son, George Kells Connell, May 27, 2016

Bartley and **Katy Carlson Sides '07**, a daughter, Emery Lucille Sides, March 31, 2016

Ron and **Ashley Berkland '07 VonderBecke**, a daughter, Olivia Elizabeth VonderBecke, Aug. 11, 2016

MARRIAGES



David Sibley '07 and Emily Larson, Oct. 1, 2016

Kristen Capogrossi '08 and Anthony Giombi, Oct. 22, 2016

Kristen Nicole Pitts '08 and Elizabeth Tossell, April 29, 2016

Sophia Persusquia Jaso '12 and **Peter Lehmann '13**, Jan. 16, 2016

Sara Beth Melick '13 and Coty Schneider, Aug. 27, 2016

Rep Penny '13 and **Katherine Lee Schuitema '13**, April 16, 2016

Heather L. Erdmann '15 and **William R. Lorenz '16**, Oct. 1, 2016

OBITUARIES



Pholia Emerson King '35, Nov. 28, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Ruby Klintworth Henson Preacher '39, Sept. 27, 2016, Summerville, S.C.

John Roy Folsom '40, Nov. 4, 2016, Columbia, S.C.

Willie Mae Brumley Witcher '40, Dec. 8, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Monique Whelpton Harrison '41, Nov. 22, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C.

James Hart Long Jr. '41, Oct. 6, 2016, Conway, S.C.

Emmala Louise Young, M.A. '42, Jan. 3, 2017, Spartanburg, S.C.

James Robert Brooks '43, Aug. 24, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Donald Stewart Robinson Sr. '43, Oct. 15, 2016, Lyman, S.C.

Margaret Sloan Drake '44, Aug. 10, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Mable Sawyer Jenks '44, Sept. 28, 2016, Durham, N.C.

Louise Wells Wilbur '44, Oct. 21, 2016, Athens, Ga.

Ellen Holston Denny Gallant '45, Aug. 2, 2016, Charlotte, N.C.

Dorothy Rabb Hammond '45, Sept. 17, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Jack P. Lowndes '46, Nov. 28, 2016, Atlanta, Ga.

Mary Elizabeth Roper Posey Meadows '46, Nov. 7, 2016, Fairburn, Ga.

Anne Ballenger King McCuen '47, Oct. 27, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Thomas Cade Sherwood '47, Nov. 8, 2016, Louisville, Ky.

Sarah Lee Hegler McGee '48, Sept. 7, 2016, Mount Airy, N.C.

Geraldine Hayes Nantz '48, Sept. 25, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C.

Harold Larry Dillard '49, Nov. 6, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Lester C. Garner '49, Nov. 14, 2016, Lansdale, Pa.

Suzanne Maxwell Faris Heape '49, Aug. 28, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

James Edwin Hall '50, Aug. 13, 2016, Anderson, S.C.

Eleanor Ruth Patton Mayfield '50, Nov. 20, 2016, Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Helen Elizabeth Goodwin Roberts '50, Aug. 24, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Continued on page 62

JACK DYLAN

COURTESY PHOTO



UP CLOSE

Diverging Pathways

Bishop’s career has moved from opera to teaching and back again.

Elizabeth Bishop ’89 is nothing if not practical.

When her opera career stalled, she skipped the obvious opportunity for drama and evaluated her options. The break from her own work provided the space she needed to create the Potomac Vocal Institute, a nonprofit that will celebrate its two-year anniversary in May.

It’s a classic example of how Bishop handles challenges.

Her father, John Bishop, graduated from Furman in 1967 and it was the only place she wanted to study music. But money was tight and Bishop knew it wasn’t going to happen unless she “had skin in the game.”

She cobbled together multiple scholarships in music and academics, and a random check from Wal-Mart that she earned for writing a short

essay. She worked three jobs. When you put every piece together yourself, “you begin to understand the worth of things,” Bishop said.

She started as a music major but “followed a boy” into political science.

“The boy got away but the poli sci stuck,” she said, laughing.

It’s the degree she ultimately earned, along with her degree in music—and the kind of education that builds a better musician, Bishop said. Young artists excel when they don’t pigeonhole themselves early.

“What makes you musical is who you are,” she said. “You need to know a lot . . . Otherwise, you’re just a technician, and nobody cares.”

With her voice not yet mature, she focused on violin. But at some point, the practical side kicked in again and she ac-

knowledge she wasn’t willing to practice enough to make a living as a violinist. She played first violin in a Furman performance of Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 1 and decided it was the perfect high point. She hung up her violin and turned her attention to her voice.

In 1989, Bishop left Greenville, her hometown, for New York City’s subways, a tiny apartment and Juilliard School. Her Furman education had been so thorough that during placement exams, she tested out of all but the last semester of graduate music theory and most of Juilliard’s music history classes; she knew the material already.

“I was very, very lucky,” she said. “I had no frame of reference up until then on how well I had been prepared.”

Her first professional job was for New York’s Metropolitan Opera, in a role so small, Bishop couldn’t find it in the score without help.

She went on to perform across the country for years, from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon, and numerous cities in between. Like most full-time American opera singers, she was a contract employee, taking jobs for weeks at a time with one company after another.

And then she had a chance to be practical again.

“I was given the gift of unemployment for about nine months one year,” Bishop said.

It wasn’t shocking. Older voices cycle out and new ones rise to leading roles. But the lack of work came sooner than she had expected.

Still, she’d learned long ago the lesson she passes on to young musicians now: “There

was more than just one place for me.”

Her time at Furman, studying across disciplines, contributed to that perspective.

“When you’re aware of a bigger world, it makes a bigger world less scary,” Bishop said. “I believe in educating yourself outside the bounds of just your narrow world.”

The professional lull gave Bishop time to turn her attention to her handful of private students. Many showed great promise but hadn’t made the cut for elite programs where they could train further and launch professional careers.

Bishop created the Potomac Vocal Institute in May 2015 to offer a la carte workshops so these students and others like them would have a way to stay sharp and ready.

“Otherwise, they simply stall out at the last place somebody said, ‘No,’” Bishop said.

Her passion for the work surprises even her. In its first six months, nearly 300 students attended classes at the institute.

“I would have never thought that I’d be OK if I stopped singing,” Bishop said.

Meanwhile, the job offers started coming again. These days, she’s balancing singing, the institute and time with her husband, pianist and conductor Ken Weiss, and their 14-year-old daughter, Katherine, at their Virginia home.

“It’s a good problem,” she said.

When the balance shifts again, somewhere down the road, you won’t find her fretting. It’s the old lemons-into-lemonade adage.

“You might find you like lemonade better,” Bishop said. ●

— by Kelley Bruss

Jack W. Thames ’50, Aug. 2, 2016, Randallstown, Md.

Benjamin W. Thomason Jr. ’50, Aug. 26, 2016, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Thelma Thurman Venters ’50, July 31, 2016, Chesterfield, S.C.

Evelyn Jones Agnew ’51, Aug. 8, 2016, Concord, N.C.

Richard B. Jones ’51, Sept. 7, 2016, Wilmington, N.C.

Harry Stewart Kuper ’51, July 30, 2016, Norfolk, Va. Kuper taught at Furman from 1955 to 1958 and 1960 to 1968.

Alice “Mickey” Gresham Erwin ’52, Oct. 12, 2016, Easley, S.C.

William David Herring ’52, Sept. 19, 2016, Columbus, Ohio

Marvin Tomkins Mauldin Jr. ’52, Aug. 11, 2016, Eastanollee, Ga.

Robert Samuel Chambers ’53, Dec. 9, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Mary Frances Cater Greever ’53, Jan. 19, 2017, McKinney, Texas

Jacob Preston Miller Pope Jr. ’53, Nov. 20, 2016, Shallotte Point, N.C.

Dorothy Anne Greene Owen ’54, Aug. 19, 2016, Columbia, S.C.

Bobby Delorme Graham Sr. ’55, Sept. 14, 2016, Fayetteville, Ga.

Spero “Speedy” Steve Petrakos ’55, Oct. 16, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Joseph Shepard Sublette ’55, Oct. 9, 2016, Sumter, S.C.

Barbara Smith White ’55, Sept. 29, 2016, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Charlie Edward Brock ’56, Nov. 8, 2016, Greenville, S.C. Charlie was director of admissions at Furman for 25 years and associate dean of academics for five years. He retired in 2005.

Charles Ray Robbins ’56, Aug. 10, 2016, Union, S.C.

Patricia Mealing Setzer ’56, Sept. 23, 2016, Columbia, S.C.

Billy Bruce Gaines Sr. ’57, April 7, 2015, Old Hickory, Tenn.

Faye Grainger Worley ’57, Nov. 4, 2016, Loris, S.C.

Ernest C. Bolt Jr. ’58, Nov. 3, 2016, Richmond, Va.

Thomas Stewart McCraney ’58, Nov. 30, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Frank E. McCravy Jr. ’58, Aug. 20, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Homer Leroy Stewart ’58, Oct. 27, 2016, Six Mile, S.C.

Riddick Cornelius Trowell Jr. ’58, Nov. 12, 2016, Beaufort, S.C.

Thomas H. Conley ’59, Aug. 25, 2016, Atlanta, Ga.

Robert Burns King ’59, Sept. 25, 2016, Burlington, N.C.

Raymond Talley Stone ’59, Dec. 8, 2016, Simpsonville, S.C.

Frank Gilliard Allison Sr. ’60, Sept. 28, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

James William Boroff ’60, Nov. 7, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Walter Edward “Bubba” Eaves ’60, Sept. 4, 2016, Elberton, Ga.

Joel P. Jenkins Sr. ’60, Nov. 13, 2016, Piedmont, S.C.

James Martin Ryle ’60, Aug. 5, 2016, Richmond, Va.

Joseph W. Alfred ’61, July 30, 2016, Olathe, Kan.

James Givens Carpenter IV ’62, Sept. 27, 2016, Anderson, S.C.

Charles A. Pfaff ’62, Dec. 27, 2015, Charleston, S.C.

Burl Hunter Ashley ’64, Aug. 19, 2016, Taylors, S.C.

Mack M. Gault Sr. ’64, Aug. 21, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

William Young Davis Jr. ’65, Aug. 3, 2016, Kings Mountain, N.C.

Marion Wynette Fore Jr. ’65, Dec. 15, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

John Beverly League Jr. ’65, Dec. 12, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

T. Dewey Goin Jr., M.A. ’66, Sept. 23, 2016, Abbeville, S.C.

Ronald William McKinney ’70, Nov. 1, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

James E. Newmeyer ’71, Aug. 13, 2016, Miami, Fla.

George Eison ’73, June 19, 2016, Pineville, N.C.

Helen Barbara Lawson Merritt, M.A. ’73, Aug. 23, 2016, Simpsonville, S.C.

John Randall Hall Sr., M.A. ’75, Nov. 5, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Rhonda Edge Buescher ’80, Oct. 10, 2016, Nashville, Tenn.

Sarah Jacqueline Austin, M.A. ’86, Nov. 3, 2016, Spartanburg, S.C.

William Henry Napier Ellis Jr. ’98, Sept. 7, 2016, Greenville, S.C.

Myron L. Kocher Jr., Dec. 31, 2016, Greenville, S.C. Myron taught at Furman from 1959 to 1992 and retired as professor of modern foreign languages emeritus.

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.



Judi Wilson ’90, Ashley Gess ’95 and Zach Kelehear ’81 on the Augusta University campus.

UP CLOSE

The Furman Connection

Three alums are leading the way at Augusta University.

Zach Kelehear ’81, Judi (Harris) Wilson ’90 and Ashley Gess ’95 share a common bond as teachers and Furman alumni.

Though they graduated at separate times over nearly 15 years, their Furman connection binds and guides them as they lead the education program and train future teachers at Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia.

Kelehear, a native of Dalton, Georgia, came to Furman on a football scholarship, earned B.A. degrees in history and Latin (1981), and an M.A. in education (1982). After

earning his Ed.D. from North Carolina State University, he returned to Furman to teach in the education department.

He later taught at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and then at the University of South Carolina, where he was promoted to associate dean for academic affairs in 2011. Kelehear joined Augusta University in 2015 as dean of the college of education. Augusta University’s College of Education offers undergraduate and graduate degrees to about 1,100 students.

When he arrived in Augusta, Kelehear saw in Wilson a “remarkably powerful” edu-

cator and appointed her as associate dean in July 2016.

“Dr. Wilson is a steady and thoughtful educator. She is committed to her students and provides impactful teaching every day, in each class,” says Kelehear.

Wilson, who spent a decade as a public school teacher and administrator in Georgia, says her career in higher education was directly influenced by a talk with her advisor at Furman, Doris Blazer, associate professor of education emerita.

“I had never considered teaching in higher education,

but that powerful conversation altered the trajectory of my whole life. I will always be grateful to her for taking the time to invest in me through her words,” says Wilson, a Durham, North Carolina, native who graduated with a B.A. in elementary education. “That day, Dr. Blazer cast a vision for me much larger than I might have ever cast for myself. I do my best each day to ‘pay it forward’ and do the same for our students at Augusta University.”

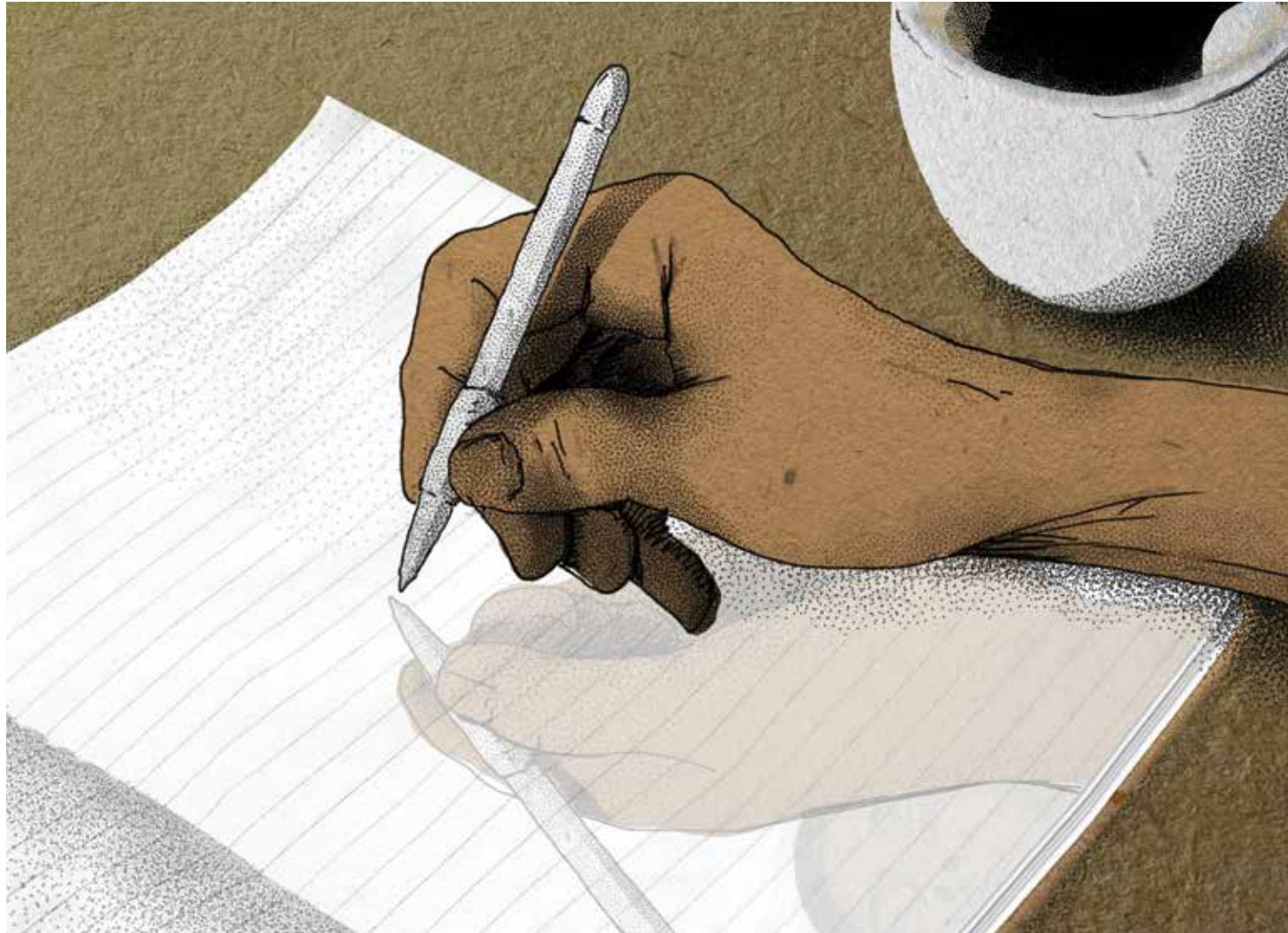
When a position leading the university’s science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (STEAM) initiative was created, Kelehear again looked to a Paladin who was also one of his former students.

Gess, a native of Fort Mill, South Carolina, earned her M.A. in secondary education with an emphasis in biology from Furman in 1995 and completed her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in integrative science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education from Virginia Polytechnic and State University in 2015.

“The professors at Furman empowered me to teach from my heart, using research to inform my practice,” says Gess. “I know what kind of experience Zach and Judi have been through—the dedication and drive that it took to excel at Furman—because I did it too! We are all bringing that drive and our skills and work ethic to Augusta University every day. In my mind, the Furman connection gives us an edge and makes us stronger.”

— by Kelley Bruss

COURTESY PHOTO



Quotable

How can finding time for reflection change your life and career outlook?

“The Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection taught me to take time to look back for moments of opportunity and transformation, then make career choices based on that reflection. I use my calendar on my laptop as a sort of diary. Then looking back over it, I find those moments when I felt most passionate for what I was doing, as well as when my capabilities really made a difference in a situation. Once you identify those, plan more of them in your life, even if it’s not what the experts in your field might say is best. We’re all jagged and don’t need to fit one mold laid out by those experts. Success can be self-defined through reflection.”

—Brandon Inabinet ’04

“One measure of well-being seems directly proportional to how well we identify and utilize our gifts in ways that are meaningful, not only to ourselves but to others. Reflection is the *sine qua non* of self-knowledge, the essential path to a richness of experiential and creative fulfillment that might otherwise go unrealized. We are the cartographers of our own lives whose best journeys begin with reflection, travel the switchbacks, and end with a foothold on transcendence.”

—Connie Ralston ’70



INTRODUCING THE LOOP, a comprehensive resource that connects Furman University alumni, parents, students, and friends.

- Connect with Paladins from around the globe.
- Advance careers using custom professional development tools.
- Elevate the alumni experience through shared learning, storytelling, and networking.
- Learn from field experts through panel discussions.
- Celebrate successes.

Connect. Advance. Thrive.
Get in the Loop.



alumni.furman.edu/theloop



FURMAN

University Communications
3300 Poinsett Highway
Greenville, South Carolina 29613

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Still

WORD & IMAGE, a Community Art Show presented by Furman Undergraduate Evening Studies, featured sculpture, clothing design, photography, quilting and poetry by alumni, staff and faculty. The exhibit was on display in the Baiden Gallery at the Herring Center from Homecoming through winter break.

Works from: (left to right) Bryan Hiott, Erikah Haavie, Joe Hiltabidel