A HUB for Improving COMMUNITY HEALTH

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QUOTABLE
How can finding time for reflection change your life and career outlook? pg. 64
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.

Discover the ultimate travel experience.
Overheard

Still WRONG …

DICKINSON WAS

“Hope is the thing with feathers”

“It is difficult/to get the news from poems/

for lack/ of what is found there.”

– William Carlos Williams

and there were no feathers—

except poetry’s sufficiency elides that whole

answer (dare I say hoped-for?) imperative

preferring, instead, to plume itself sometimes

Connie Ralston ’70

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

enjoys pursuing the

nuanced art of the table tennis smash and European traveling.

Janke Klompmaker

Overheard

in the Fall 2016

Dickinson was wrong …” were published in the same Fall issue

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 Paladium newspaper regarding the first woman president of the student body. I will always be grateful for her extending that opportunity to me; and if one believes in anything like karma, the opportunity to me; and if one believes in anything like karma, the

in the Shi Center for Sustainability and our newly

created departments, like the Riley Institute and our new

SCIENCES, and other student-produced materials. Furman also strives to ensure its commitment to the environment through its energy-saving efforts. The university has made significant strides in reducing its carbon footprint, and it is committed to continuing to reduce its impact on the environment.

As a part of our commitment to sustainability, Furman University is a member of the −

Hickory Printing Solutions.

letter to the president

Commitment Breeds Courage

The Furman Advantage paves a pathway to success.

T

his past fall, we launched The Furman Advantage—the 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 shape in four ways:

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 college graduates are equipped with skills the 21st century needs to succeed in the workplace. 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 good job and a good 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 excelled 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 prepared for life. Conversely, of the 3 percent who reported having all six, 85 percent of them felt fully 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.

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Around the Lake

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.

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

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.

Curtis Brooks Tuck (1918–2012) 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.”

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A Hero’s Story
Father-daughter duo publish children’s book about integration at Georgia school
BY ERIKAH HAAVIE
ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIE HARRIS ’19

By Erika Haavie
ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIE HARRIS ’19

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A wooden bridge was completed earlier this year on the north end of Swan Lake. October 2015. was repairing the dam on damaged by the heavy rains that flooded much of the lower part of the state in lower the level of the lake two times 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.

“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.

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.

“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.

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Marina Project on Swan Lake

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 usual 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. Enrolling 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 senior 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 for the winter term of my senior year at the network’s headquarters in New York City.

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 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.
I is 4 p.m. on a December afternoon and a dozen middle-school students cluster around a bucket of goopy white liquid at the front of a classroom at Legacy Charter School in Greenville. Each clutches an unglaed 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 into the bucket. She ex-

The idea for the Art Club at Legacy Charter School was taught by a core group of five art majors. Lanier designed the curriculum, and the university provided the needed materials for each session.

Back in the Legacy Charter classroom, the middle-schoolers 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.”

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!”

**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. He worked this past summer at the Charlotte Refugee Resettlement Office and the Furman Immigration History class. Through his time working with the refugees, helping them with jobs and benefits applications, apartment bills and bus orientations, and adjusting to the culture, he saw what America means 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 challenges 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.

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**Learning by Doing**

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

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’s 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 overwhelming 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.

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Gifting 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 Shi’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.

Former President David E. Shi ’73 and his wife, Angela Halfacre Shi ’92, have long championed sustainability. The Shi Center oversees the Community Conservation Corps, 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 leadership in sustainability and energy conservation during his 16 years as president. Furman has been widely recognized for its commitment 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.

The Furman Advantage, our innovative, award-winning programs that provide educational and research opportunities for students.

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

Carl’ 65 and Lynne Kortz
Judy Cramond ’70
Richard Cullen ’71
David ’72 and Frances Ellison
James Grantham
France Holmes

Carroll Rushing and Billie Cleveland
Erven Maddrey
Richard Robb
Todd Rupert
Frank ’63 and Susan Shaw

Jennifer Shaw
Tom Skains
Fred Stanback
Mary Sterling
Peace Sterling
Jim Thompson ’85

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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 easier for me than being in a classroom. I need that time by myself to solve problems, make decisions, think clearly. 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.

Is it a straight path from your 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 a 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 perfectionistic tendencies. You seem to fit this mold. Do you ever find that you need to do everything perfectly or 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 on the status of these agencies.

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

“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.”

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 making a broader, lasting impact.

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The Strongest Man to Walk the Earth
Paul Anderson once recorded a back lift of 6,270 pounds (the weight of a limousine).

In 1957, he earned a spot in The Guinness Book of World Records with a 6,270-pound back lift (lifted off trellis), 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 truck-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.
lay 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
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.”

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. Notes from the Field

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. “I didn’t believe we can recruit the kind of players that can graduate and win

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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 allowed 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-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 Emeneker ’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.

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Adison 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 benefiting the community 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.

“That’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.
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?’” Sease says. As her Bradshaw Institute develops the four walls of the hospital, “it’s not just the experience,” Fair says. “It’s how you reflect on it, internalize it, and reframe your interaction with the community.”

The number of students requesting shadowing slots that are being developed 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 many students interested in healthcare careers. This academic year, that number is 1,107—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-2013 report by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 13 of the 20 fastest-growing occupations in the nation are in the healthcare industry.

“For a clinical or hospital program, they have to actually have a student contact hours,” says Susan Ybarra, assistant 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, 50 Furman students were interested in healthcare careers. This year, that number is 1,107—representatives from every major on campus.

“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, assistant 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, 50 Furman students were interested in healthcare careers. This year, the number is 1,107—representatives from every major on campus.

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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 internships 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,” 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 the 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-reflexive 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, Sease says, have worked 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,” says Fair. 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.”
Incredulous at how easy it is for me to get into the hospital, Ybarra secured slots with hospital chaplains for five juniors each semester in a shadowing program studying vocation and ministry. He took advantage of Furman’s shadowing program to follow doctors. “I have seen what doctors do,” Stevens says. “I understand what it takes.”

“I’m concerned with more than how does the body work,” he says. “They’re getting to talk to patients; they have to problem-solve,” Hestermann says. “It’s how do people work.”

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.”

The Institute “is the place that makes it all make sense.”

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. She’s discovered that his access to hospital experiences is more unique than he knew. His friends at bigger schools are shorthanded by the system, he says. “It’s how do people work.”

“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.”

“You have a lot of ideas,” Wheeler said. “We have a lot of ideas.”

“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 Hallace ’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. 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 Carolinas and Berea high schools. The findings will be presented to members of the affected community, schools 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 Hallace to produce Engaged Furman, a 356-page report that details the groups’ research 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, Hallace 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 story. 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.”

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 RiverCenter.

In February 2015, Furman launched the Center for the Advancement of Community Health, a $1.6 million initiative that will strategically seek out opportunities to match specific learning needs.

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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.
And when Sam was ready for more he
about 120 mph) he was in gentle-cruise
Only when he was gone did I realize I’d
CURTIS USES A WHISTLE to summon
Heart racing, I watched as he ripped a
Hawk, weighs about a pound and a half,
gobbled it down. There was no asking
or performing tricks—the meat was his.

He unleashed by Mongols to hunt—and kill—
unleashed by Mongols to hunt—and kill—
through people like Curtis who are
retired, and in opening the Sourwood Inn, a
retired, and in opening the Sourwood Inn, a
FURMAN | SPRING 2017
3130

From ancient times
Curtis is one of roughly 4,000 licensed
Curtis is one of roughly 4,000 licensed
Falcons from ancient times were trained to
take down humans, such as the screech owl,
to take down humans, such as the screech owl,
to point out, however, his birds go to bed
full every night.

“Women don’t have to be,” he says.

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Ed Enever
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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.

“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.”
ON TOP OF THE HEAP

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

By Ron Wagner ’93

WATSON’S THEATRICS include playing a trombone named Francesca to trumpet his wrestling stage arrival.
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.”


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, his 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, prepping all through childhood.” Watson says. “Wrestling was just awesome—the spectacle, the fireworks, the action, the larger-than-life characters. That’s something I’ve wanted since 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 in middle school, it was his world.

“Senior year of high school, I had really bad stage fright,” he says. “So I joined the cheer squad, 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.”

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 he 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 he’d never needed to know.

“T’ll never forget this. When we pulled in and we saw the huge fountain and all the trees, it immediately felt like home for me,” says Watson. “It immediately felt like home for me, and that’s what I was looking for. And I knew that Furman was the right place for me.”

“I was into wrestling and video games and Jackie Chan movies, prepping all through childhood.”

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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.

“When 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.”

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.”

HIGH-FLYING CELEBRITY
Watson has his own action figure and a prolific fan base.
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 major 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.”

Laura Lynn Brickle '19 says the high point of being on Broadway for her 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,’” Brickle 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. •
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

“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
"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."

“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 political system 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 Thurmond). 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 and adapt to job and career situations she never saw coming to be” and gave her an “understanding of the broader picture.” The critical thinking and adaptability and learning skills she developed in college helped Beardsley navigate different cultures and career paths.

She encourages young people to be curious, 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.
Most Furman alumni know the story of Frank Selvy ‘54. 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 Furman’s greatest athlete. 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.

McIntosh is captivating and compelling, a remarkable recount of an extraordinary journey.

Selvy was arguably the finest athlete Furman has produced and one of the best college basketball players to ever grace the hardwood. 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 of Kentucky for whom the Wildcats’ legendary basketball coach at the University of Kentucky for whom the Wildcats’ current arena is named. Rupp, who coached 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. When Rupp heard of Selvy’s growth, he was interested 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. They asked around and even called the home of Furman President John Pfyler, 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.

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 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 your 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, a 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
Executive Director, Alumni and Parent Engagement

70%
The amount of a student experience that is covered by tuition. The remaining 30% is covered by the endowment and annual gifts.

2,541
Number of alumni who gave $100 or less to current operating funds last year.

23%
Our goal for alumni participation rate for 2015–16 fiscal year.

21%
Current alumni participation rate for 2015–16 fiscal year.

93%
Percentage of students who received financial aid in the 2015–16 academic year.

3,660
Number of alumni who gave $500 or less to current operating funds last year.

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

FUmerical
Facts and figures about alumni giving.

Ever wonder if your donation to Furman makes a difference? Yes! All gifts make an impact.
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. The driving school offers one- and two-day courses for weekend racing enthusiasts, teens and inexperienced drivers like me who want to survive South Carolina’s mean streets. Yes, you can drive a BMW as fast as you want. The center is a playground for motor heads. However, the school’s real draw is that it teaches drivers how to react when the roadway around them is in chaos. That’s how, on a drizzly Saturday morning in December, I found myself enrolled in BMW’s One-Day Car Control School.

On the wet skid pad, drivers are encouraged to lose control—so they can learn how to regain it. The school’s real draw is that it teaches drivers how to react when the roadway around them is in chaos.

The Comeback

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

SLIPPERY WHEN WET

By Damien Pierce

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-karts 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
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.

“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 on the brakes,” he commands. “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 how I’ve been dreading.

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 get away from 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 get away from the vehicle.

“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.

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.

If this had been a real accident, the joke would be on my instructor. It’s not my BMW. Still, that minor detail is how I’ve been dreading.

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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 one less thing to fear. Now, if we could only get Nicholas Sparks to stop writing. ☝️
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.
1964
Nancy Barker DePres continues to work at the University of Alabama Libraries where she is curator of the A. S. Williams III Americana Collection of photographs and other materials accumulated by A. S. Williams III of Eufaula, Ala.

1968
Nelda Christine Leon is completing her third and final year on the vesture 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 area of human rights and voter protection.

1974
Harry Eskew was recently honored by the Georgia Baptist Church Music Conference with a Lifetime Achievement Award. He is retired from the faculty of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

1962
Cartoonist and humorous illustrator John R. “Jack” Ready was recently presented the Jack Davis Award (Cartoonist of the Year) for his lifetime contributions to the funny cartoon art. Presentation of Awards was held Jan. 10, the first night of the South Carolina legislative session in Columbia, S.C.

1968
Ashley Gress ’95, Zach Kelehearn ’81 and Judi (Harris) Wilson ’90 have been named interim directors of Park Place Children’s Center, a faith-based agency committed to rescuing and fostering children in high-risk situations.

1973
Furman’s Riley Institute named Hayna Higg 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.

1975
Baptist minister Paul J. White Jr., has written a new book, The Tatter Family. It is a Christian, family-oriented book, illustrated by members of White’s family and a friend.

1979
Barry Hall, along with his wife, Vanita, and their five children, founded and ran 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. Morlino 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® is the only honored a single legal professional from each community in each high-profile legal specialty as a “Lawyer of the Year.”

1985
Korean Miller Bods recently accepted a call as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Clay, Ala.

1986
Cindy Davis Weather has been named executive director of the Greenville County Childcare Association. Weather is the owner and director of Park Place Children’s Center, a nationally accredited preschool in Simpsonville, S.C.

1987
Peter’s Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Ala. is a regular contributor to the annual meeting of the university’s official academic libraries where she is curator of the A. S. Williams III Americana Collection of photographs and other materials accumulated by A. S. Williams III of Eufaula, Ala.

1991
Mark Bakko has joined Neuseen 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. Bakko 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 named one of the “Liberty Fellows” by the Institute for Invention in academia and creation of the Liberty Fellows, an incubator for exemplary leadership in South Carolina.

1995
Jeffrey Sexton of Missouri City, Texas, is an associate engineering director for the Dow Chemical Company.

1996
Andrea McManan Dannew was recently selected to serve on NERIARANE’S Central Florida Advisory Board for a one-year term. In this role, she will give legal counsel to the bank’s vast client base. Her 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.

2015
Jonathan South of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, was named president of the Cleveland Society for the Performing Arts. South was also recently named the 2017 Artist of the Year by the Arts Alliance of Greater Cleveland.

2016
Sarah Watkins Satterfield has been named one of the “Liberty Fellows” by the Institute for Invention in academia and creation of the Liberty Fellows, an incubator for exemplary leadership in South Carolina.

2017
Mary Werneman Huske was named interim director of the Lake Junaluska Singers, a situational choir group that has been part of Lake Junaluska’s history for more than 60 years. The legacy of this choir group includes national and international performances for conferences, dignitaries and major events. After graduating from Furman, Huske 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
Brittany DeKnight ’07 and 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 and earned his 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 away from the other,” says DeKnight.

A little more than a year later, both 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 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The political science and earth and environmental sciences major, DeKnight manages a program that works to improve the health and wellness of low-income families in the community members. Kline continues to work with women, men and children who 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. Kline describes the city as a “great place to live.”

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.”

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.

2012

After Jason Terrell graduated from Furman, he participated with Teach for America and an organization established to support the careers of male teachers of color. 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

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Lori Hendrick

OTTIBURIES

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**CLASS NOTES**

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 names, child’s birthdate, and city and state of the event. The news of your birth is important to your peers in Furman News. About couples who graduated from Furman in different years, a list is updated 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.

**CLASS NOTES POLICY**

Joe Joseph Shepard Subletto ’55, Nov. 9, 2016, Greenville, S.C.
Barbara Smith White ’55, Sept. 29, 2016, Chapel Hill, N.C.
Charlie Edward Brock ’56, Nov. 8, 2016, Greenville, S.C.
Jae Lee Park ’56, Nov. 10, 2016, Union, S.C.
Betty Ann Baker ’57, April 7, 2015, Old Hickory, Tenn.
Faye Granger Wesley ’57, Nov. 4, 2016, Loris, S.C.
Thomas Stewart McCraney ’58, Nov. 30, 2016, Greenville, S.C.
Frank E. McCoy Jr. ’58, Aug. 20, 2016, Greenville, S.C.
Homer Leroy Stewart ’58, Oct. 27, 2016, Six Mile, S.C.
Riddick Cornelius Truett Jr. ’58, Nov. 12, 2016, Beaufort, S.C.
Robert Burns King ’59, Sept. 25, 2016, Burlington, N.C.
Raymond Talley Stone ’59, Dec. 8, 2016, Simpsonville, S.C.
Frank Gillard Allison Sr. ’60, Sept. 28, 2016, Greenville, S.C.
James William Baroff ’60, Nov. 9, 2016, Greenville, S.C.
Joel P. Jenkins Sr. ’60, Nov. 13, 2016, Piedmont, S.C.
Joseph Shepard Subletto ’60, Nov. 9, 2016, Greenville, S.C.
Burl Hunter Ashley ’64, Aug. 19, 2016, Taylor’s, S.C.
Evelyn Jones Agnew ’64, Nov. 3, 2016, Greenville, S.C.
Charles Raymond Greer ’64, Nov. 3, 2016, Greenville, S.C.
William Young Davis Jr. ’65, Aug. 21, 2016, Greenville, S.C.
William Long Davis Jr. ’65, July 31, 2016, Kings Mountain, N.C.
Marion Wynette Fursor ’65, Dec. 15, 2016, Greenville, S.C.
Ronald William McKinney ’67, Sept. 23, 2016, Union, S.C.
John Randall Hall Sr., M.A. ’75, Nov. 9, 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., Dec. 31, 2016, Greenville, S.C. Myron L. Kuper ’81, Judi Wilson ’90, Ashley Gess ’95 and Zach Kelehear ’81 on the Augusta University campus.

**UP CLOSE**

The Furman Connection

Three alumni are leading the way at Augusta University.

Zach Kelehear ’81, Judi (Harries) 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 (1983), 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 2013 as dean of the college of education.

When he arrived in Augusta, Kelehear saw in a Wilson a “remarkably powerful” educator 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, 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 a 10-week emphasis in integrative science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education from Virginia Polytechnic and State University in 2013.

“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 I both had 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
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

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
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 Hillabidel