

Furman

FOR ALUMNI
AND FRIENDS
OF THE UNIVERSITY



THE DUAL LIFE OF THE SCHOLAR- SOLDIER

FALL

2015

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Heller Service Corps Celebrates 50 years with 50,000 Acts of Kindness

The Heller Service Corps, formerly known as CESC, has made an immeasurable impact on the Greenville community and beyond. For five decades, our students have given their time, and their heart to make a difference. And, you were probably one of those students.

In celebration, we have asked you to give your time and treasure again. Only this time, in your own backyard.

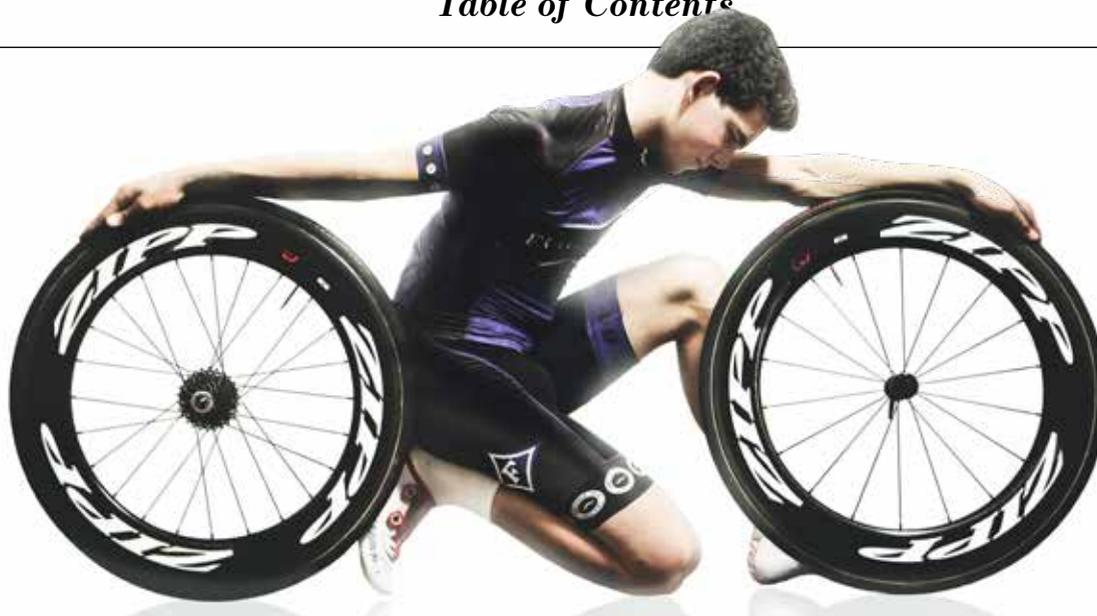
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MUSEUM HOURS

By A. Scott Henderson

Are we losing our ability to linger, to reflect, to focus, to absorb—and the rewards of those? Our writer spends a week at a museum looking at masterworks in order to truly see what lays beyond them. **pg. 36**



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Poetry by English professor William Aarnes. **pg. 66**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ON SOUTHERN WOMANHOOD

I thoroughly enjoyed the spring issue of *Furman*, with one glaring exception, the Perspective article entitled “Unringing the Belle.” The article in question purports to be about dispelling stereotypes of Southern women, but the author resorts to examples from 65-plus years ago to make the case that these stereotypes exist today. It sounds more like the author is the one holding on to the stereotypes. What’s most disappointing is that the examples provided are some of the worst possible, in my view, and make one wonder if the author read beyond the opening paragraphs of the works from which she quotes. Scarlett O’Hara is one of the strongest and most memorable characters, male or female, in all of American literature and on screen. Mammy is also unforgettable. She is dignified, smart, humble, determined, and classy. Even the author’s attempt at explanation for the continuing stereotypes sounds like a stereotype. She says that it is carried on by “white Southern patriarchy.” This is

offensive on more than one level, exposing what appears to be the author’s own prejudice. She concludes with a statement of belief in how a Southern woman should be perceived, which includes attributes such as strength and courage that center primarily around “indomitability.” There has seldom, if ever, been a woman portrayed or written as indomitable as Scarlett O’Hara.

Bob Clyburn '85
Grayson, GA



Just read Lynne Shackelford’s “Unringing the Belle” and am wondering why it was published as written, as it confuses its own thesis and provides no authority, save a hazy wish-fulfillment on the part of its author, for its assertions. The article seems to conflate civil rights for black women with “women’s rights.” As only one of two separate examples of this, Rosa Parks didn’t sit in the front of the bus because “women” were not allowed in those seats, but rather because “blacks” weren’t allowed to sit in those seats. It is also counter-instructive to drub *Gone with the Wind* as a hallmark of the “false” portrait of the Southern woman. Apparently, Scarlett’s physical, hands-on confrontation [with] the armed and dangerous Yankee soldier at Tara isn’t enough to qualify her as a “strong” ideal Southern woman. Southern women

have always known how to deal with the menfolk, and they’re evolutionary masters at survival, although this knowledge came to them from their grandmothers. Furman grads, and the South in general, don’t need lecturing on the steel magnolia in the blood of our girls and women. Thank you all the same.

K.E. Culbertson '83
Brown Summit, NC

“CONSENT” CONSENSUS

I cannot tell you how thrilled I was to see Title IX on the cover of your issue—never before have I been more proud of my *alma mater*, and I assure you Furman has given me many things to be proud of. I am currently serving as Lynn University’s Title IX Coordinator/University Compliance Officer, and I wanted to congratulate you on your continued efforts to be proactive in approaching an issue that has so many higher education administrators stumped and frustrated. The Furman culture defined who I am, and I have seen great success in bringing the Furman “way” to my university. My youngest sister, Lydia Fink, will be joining the class of 2019 this fall at Furman, and I am thrilled to know that she is in good hands!

Lorna Fink '11
Boca Raton, FL

The spring issue’s article, “The Know of ‘No’, The Guess of ‘Yes’” fosters today’s practice of parsing words to lay blame and shirk responsibility. Do you recall a U.S. president parsing the word “is”? Date rape isn’t a matter of failure to communicate—it’s an issue of failure to assume personal responsibility on the part of both the men and the women involved. So long as we endorse sexual activity outside marriage, date rape will thrive. And it seems we’re doing that. To wit, quoting the author, “At Furman, Cassidy [Furman’s associate vice president for student life] speaks to groups of young men about making good, low-risk choices and tells them what they need to do to be protected when they are engaging in sexual activity.” Sadly, we’re becoming a nation more concerned with preserving our rights than doing what’s right. And personal responsibility is missing in action.

Ty Dodge '68
Birmingham, AL

PHILANTHROPY AND FURMAN

I liked the article entitled “The Ask” in the last issue. Great idea, and good to let the larger university community into Furman’s world. And I love the last two issues of the magazine: visually stunning, intellectually challenging, and culturally



Q WHAT QUALITY DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES?

Read more Quotables in Class Notes, starting on page 50.



"SOMEONE WHO IS MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES RATHER THAN THEIR PERSONAL LEGACY."

— TAYLORSWIFTFAN62735224

relevant. Just the kind of excellence I love to see coming out of our *alma mater!*

*Lee C. Dilworth '83
Brentwood, TN*

IN GENERAL

I usually have a stack of magazines sitting on the coffee table, just waiting to be read months after they arrive in the

mail. I'm sure you've already heard it a hundred times over, but I just wanted to send a quick note about how great the spring issue looked. The design was clean and really surprised me. It didn't feel like a for-alumni publication at all. Great job again. Looking forward to the next one.

*Winifred Leung '09
Broomfield, CO*

Just wanted to tell you what a beautiful and well-written issue this is. I always enjoy receiving it and certainly felt this was one of the best produced. Great stories, exciting to see where alumni have gone, as well as all the reasons Furman is an exceptional educational choice. I am extremely grateful for the amazing generosity of the school to support my daughter's four years there.

*Martha Gilmartin
Greenville, SC*

The *Furman magazine* is something to be proud of. I especially like how it gives a sense of Furman as an urban and today kind of place, but not in a flashy or silly way. It's smart and sharp—a magazine, not a visual aid.

*Woody Register
Sewanee, TN*

CORRECTIONS

We regret the following errors in our prior issue: The location and date in E. Donald Crapps's obituary should have been listed as Troy, Alabama and October 22.

Also, in the article "Past is Prologue," it was stated that Jen Hanna was let go as Furman's golf coach in 2012. Hanna resigned her position.

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

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A Restlessness for Renewal

A year of examination has made me eager to begin an era of exploration.

BY ELIZABETH DAVIS

There's a quote often attributed to a 19th-century French politician who sees a crowd running by him and says to a bystander: "There go my people. Tell me where they are going so I might lead them."

The sentiment is, of course, humorous—a tongue-in-cheek satire of leaders who prefer safe choices and predetermined paths before taking initiative. Still, it has a cautionary point that guides me: Leaders who wish to be shown the way rather than to forge trails are not likely to alight anywhere meaningful. It has always been my view that those fortunate enough to be asked to lead should have a passion, and bravery, for uncharted territory.

As this edition of *Furman* emerges, we are just beyond the one-year mark of my presidency. It seems timely to tell you something I've learned about Furman in that time: There is here, at this moment, an unusual frontier spirit. I say "unusual" because higher education is often perceived as a field that has more in common with 19th-century French politicians than starry-eyed explorers. However, in traversing the country to hear from you—at social gatherings, athletic events, strategy meetings, serendipitous intersections—I'm sensing among Furman-ites what I have begun to call "a restlessness for renewal."

What do I mean by that?

It seems to me that Furman

possesses that double-edged quality common to the best types of greatness: humility. There is to our DNA a deep reverence for ambition that is only equaled by a broad mandate to be of service. The profound commitment Furman graduates make toward achieving a successful life is only made profound if that successful life is also a conscientious one.

As they say, these are "good problems." Because what we need is not an overhaul of our core values or our culture—something not every institution can say. Rather, what we seek is an "antidote" to our humility that does not cure us of it. In other words, we need to reimagine what distinguishes Furman and then engage others in that proposition. Through that engagement, we enrich the values and enlarge the culture beyond Furman.

The good news is that there is so much that distinguishes Furman. Not just those dualities of ambition and service, or of success and conscience, but also those of kindness enfolding rigorous intellectual inquiry, and an emphasis on individual striving inside a familial and lifelong connectivity.

In his featured essay this issue, Professor of Education Scott Henderson quotes art historian Esther Pasztor who argues that "we make things visible so we can understand them." Based on what I've heard from you these last 15 months, you are advocating the same thing: We must make Furman—and its many distinctions—visible, so the university can be understood and appreciated outside its walls.

As part of this past year's self-examination, we commissioned the largest-scale research study in Furman's history to identify those distinctions. In the coming months, you'll hear more

about this as we sift through the results, but what I already believe the study will show is that these qualities of Furman's are more necessary than ever to the society we all share. Not only that, but we do a disservice to that society and ourselves if we hide those qualities with modesty.

Along these lines, I—with the board, faculty, and staff—are advancing several strategic priorities for the year that will soon have Furman departing from those harbors that have kept us tethered and toward exploration. These include strengthening our institutional positioning and our narrative; embarking on a bold reinvention of engaged learning; reasserting our public engagement mission (a topic I wrote about in the spring issue); initiating new efforts to energize you, our alumni and friends; and paying greater attention to cohering the Furman family internally.

Truth be told, I believe it is your restlessness for renewal that is the very thing that will ensure Furman's future. Which is why I feel invigorated by Furman's eagerness to make itself visible, so the virtues it brings to our world can captivate those who will inherit it.

Really, I am heartened that this university wants to lead—and not in the way of 19th-century politicians—because Furman is one of those rare institutions that actually models the solid and sound characteristics for leadership.

While it's true that breaking from the pack can be lonely for a time, it is also true that such breaks are what make that pack run toward you in order to catch up.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Davis".



Around the Lake



pg. **8**

HARMONIZED
A trio of Furman musicians is making music that is both grounded and searching.



KEYING IN

Shelby Price (left), Calvin Armerding (center), and Jeff Hennessy (right) span class years and backgrounds, but the music they make together offers up moods of “awe and wonderment” that underscore and transcend the lines of traditional folk.

“I’ve been thinking about my old selves, wondering if they’re the men I’m supposed to be,” murmurs **Calvin Armerding ’10**, lead singer of the indie-folk band The Muchmores. In “Eulogy for the Owl,” the crystal clear tenor (who also writes the lyrics to all of the group’s songs) croons the story of a man who returns to a beloved place from the past in hopes of reclaiming that youthful feeling, only to be greeted by a “minor key—not sad, but silent fear and hate of who I used to be.”

The percussion work of **Jeff Hennessy ’10** complements Armerding’s introspective phrases with a fairly upbeat, simple melody on the xylophone while driving the song

More Is More—Much More, in Fact

From the simple rhythms of this Furman threesome emerge life’s soulful complexity.

BY LINDSAY NIEDRINGHAUS ’07

forward with the drum’s regular rhythm. One would guess that the cheerful melody would clash with the sobering sentiments. Yet the song doesn’t feel disconcerting to the ear,

instead artfully illustrating an experience with which we are all familiar—the internal struggle of looking back to the past while simultaneously attempting to push forward into the future.

Armerding’s vocals are paired with those of **Shelby Price ’15**. According to Armerding, the two met in Furman Hall one afternoon to see if their voices synced. “She has such a sweet, simple voice that perfectly fit my music,” he says. The clarity of their harmony is most evident in “Pickens County Line,” an easy-listening song reminiscent of duos like the Civil Wars.

Prior to meeting up with Price, Armerding was in Denver for graduate school where he was an instrumentalist and backup vocalist for The Stormcellars. He wrote his own songs on the side, and when he moved back to Greenville in 2013, he reunited with Hennessy, a Furman friend. They then began looking for

a female vocalist, and Price answered that call.

The group began recording an album in January 2015; it was just released this past April and is now featured on Noisetrade and Bandcamp.com.

Many of The Muchmores's songs touch on the theme of awe and wonderment about a past life, as if the speaker is struggling to resolve his younger attitudes with his current self. Yet the voices themselves remain clear and innocent, not tainted by the experiences that still seem to haunt the songs:

And I don't need your horse to stand as tall as God made me

I don't need your pulpit to preach

And I don't need to wonder whether I deserve

This place on the ground where I sleep

So please stay on the high maintenance high-horse you love

And please, please don't ever come down.

Just as the lyrics in "Cain, For Abel" proclaim, The Muchmores don't need the confirmation from popular culture to stake their claim in today's folk music genre. "With music, I find that I'm motivated enough by my bandmates and my internal need to write and play that I get plenty done without the crack of a

"A RECORD COMPANY HAS TO PUSH TO BUMP UP PROFITS ... THAT OFTEN CONFLICTS WITH THE ARTISTIC PACING OF A SONGWRITER."

whip," says Armerding. "Plus, that also gives us a lot of control over how far we want to take the band. A record company has to push to bump up their profits, which I respect. But often that can conflict with the artistic pacing of a songwriter. I'm not trying to be pretentious and over-serious about my songwriting, but...I'd at least like to do it 'my' way.

Thankfully, I think I've found two friends who are willing to get on board with that, and have been so affirming of my artistic vision and pacing."

Whether the group heads to Nashville or elsewhere, it sounds like more retrospective revelations, more refreshing melodies, more haunting vocals—more of all these—are the real destinations. **F**

From the Vault



True Grit

What you may not have known, remembered, or thought possible at Furman

BY BRENDAN TAPLEY

Fifty years ago, an event took place that some have called "Furman's greatest athletic moment." As a result of having won the Southern Conference, Furman baseball headed to the 1965 NCAA District III championships, a prelude to the College World Series. Many sportswriters at the time wondered how "rag-tail" Furman had even managed the feat, but those critics were soon silenced.

First to go down, in 12 innings, was Maryland in a tight 5-4 Furman victory. Next up was Mississippi State. During the game, shortstop **Mike Pate '65** had to wear a corset to help stabilize his back, which had given him trouble all season long. The corset was cinched so tightly Pate couldn't even sit down. **Fred Cotney '65**, the second baseman, was sent to the hospital for a quart of glucose in order to combat dehydration—and remained in the lineup. But it was pitcher **Andy Coe '67** who would earn the superlative of stoic. Teammate **Charlie Coates '68** recalls: "Mississippi State's starting pitcher was Frank Chambers, who could throw pure heat. Andy batted ninth and first time up, with two strikes, he squared to bunt. The ball struck the trademark and caromed up into Andy's throat, striking him squarely in the Adam's apple, collapsing him at home plate where he promptly swallowed his tongue. Gary 'Doc' Meredith, who later was Furman's notable golf coach, sprang from the dugout, inserted two fingers into Andy's mouth, freed his tongue, and literally saved Andy's life. After a pause in the action, Doc wiped Andy off with a wet towel and Andy took the mound and pitched a complete game."

A complete game that resulted in a come-from-behind 5-2 victory over Mississippi and an automatic trip to the finals. Alas, against Florida State, it was not to be. The Paladins came within two outs of playing the World Series in Omaha, but a heartbreaking double elimination loss of 2-1 and 7-5 ended Furman's hopes. Still, in the words of one writer at the time, the "intestinal fortitude" shown by Furman's boys of summer made it a season to remember long past it.



“POLL” VAULTER

Jessica Taylor, NPR’s lead digital political reporter, is going above and beyond the horse race of the upcoming election season to provide necessary news.

The winter of 2004 was a turning point for **Jessica Taylor ’07**. That was the year she was assigned to cover the Democratic debate, which Furman was co-hosting, for *The Paladin*. “It was such a cool experience, seeing the candidates up close,” she says. “There I was, just 18 years old, and John Edwards, John Kerry, and Howard Dean were answering my questions!”

Fast forward 11 years and the would-be music major who ended up with a degree in political science is again covering candidate debates in her position as lead digital political reporter for National Public Radio (NPR) News in Washington, D.C.

“With the rise of social media, everyone wants to be a journalist these days,” says the woman who, in second grade, started a school newspaper called the *Pirate Press*. “But it’s not just about writing 140 characters or writing what you see.” Reporters, Taylor

believes, shoulder a greater responsibility. “We play a vital role in informing the public. NPR audiences want to go behind the story and we try to take them there.” This means going places others don’t have access to and asking tough questions to get to the bottom of the issues.

How does she identify the important stories in an arena that contains 14 Republican and 5 Democratic candidates? “You have to triage them, in a way,” she explains. And being non-biased is key. “I try to

The Insider

As the 2016 election heats up, the campaign trail has a new guide.

BY M. LINDA LEE

“WE PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN INFORMING THE PUBLIC. AUDIENCES WANT TO GO BEHIND THE STORY AND WE TRY TO TAKE THEM THERE.”

put aside what I think, so my opinions don’t bleed into my reporting. Above all, it’s important to tell both sides of the story.” To do this, Taylor has built good relationships with both Democrats and Republicans over her years in D.C., and she credits her liberal arts education for enabling her to look at politics in the broader context of history.

Going into the 2016 election, Taylor says voters are most concerned with the economy and foreign affairs. They are distrustful of politicians and want to know where the candidates stand on the issues—what’s true and what’s not. It’s her job to plumb the candidates’ backgrounds to find out why each believes what they do. Taylor says what she thrives on most is the unpredictability. “From one day to the next, I never know what I’m going to be covering,” she admits, “but I know it’s going to be exciting.” **F**



TRIPtych

Three glimpses of where Furman folk have gone, and why

Every fall, Furman leads about 20 of its students to Brussels, Belgium, for an interdisciplinary study-away experience. **Julia Roberts '16**, who participated in the program during the fall of 2014, presents her three most meaningful moments here.

Cinque Terre: For fall break, eight of us traveled across Italy before concluding the trip along the breathtaking coastline of the Cinque Terre in Italy. Pictured here is one of the five villages terraced snugly against the cliff side with nighttime lights beginning to twinkle.

Freiburg Market: Markets bring life and energy to many of Europe's old and cobbled streets. In Freiburg, Germany, my senses were overwhelmed by the fragrances of fresh flowers and wreaths, the sounds of street performers, the vibrant colors of fall leaves and vendor wares, and the fantastic flavors of German sweets and apfelwein.

Auschwitz: For our course on World War II, our class traveled to Auschwitz-Birkenau for a day more grave and emotional than words can express. A child imprisoned within Auschwitz once drew this carefree picture of a songbird. The sketch is movingly juxtaposed here with a shadow cage, the old Nazi watchtower, and the viewer's knowledge that the bird is in fact trapped behind the windowpane.



Postings from the Inter-webs

If you could do it again, what would you do differently about your four years at Furman?

SJH0754:

I would have listened more intentionally to everyone around me.

JEFF WADLEY:

I would have spent more time building relationships with faculty and understanding the value of mentoring.

PEGGY HAYMES:

Looking back, I wish I had accepted my trumpet teacher's invitation to play in the orchestra. I didn't have the confidence to think I could do it.

RYAN McAULEY:

I wish I had taken full advantage of the liberal arts by majoring in a spoken language while still pursuing pre-med work.

**MULRAE DEMERSE
KENNEY:**

I would have finished my degree. My family went through hard financial issues near the end of my junior year, and I chose to work instead of coming back for senior year, despite the amazing package of financial aid Furman cobbled together for me.

BILL SHELLEY:

Those four years were among the best of my 66, so I wouldn't change much, but maybe try to be more understanding of folks who were different.

ZACH_DUSKIN:

I would have joined a fraternity freshman year instead of sophomore. That group of men made my Furman experience worth every day in the classroom.



The G-Rated Bible

What happens when studying scriptures means unlearning their modern, sanitized versions?

BY LINDSAY NIEDRINGHAUS '07

In the May Experience class, “Bible in Modern Culture,” the whiteboard is blank except for one word written in large letters in the center: midrash.

“Midrash is a Hebrew term derived from the root *drsh*, which literally means to seek,” explains Bryan Bibb, PhD. The term, Bibb adds, traces

back to rabbis in the first five centuries of the Common Era who chose to interpret Bible stories through the lens of their own time in order to better understand their contemporary relevance. Those midrashes have provided scholars with valuable insights into not only religion, but also into the time period and the projected

values or concerns of each midrash writer.

On a warm May morning in Furman Hall, Bibb’s class is wrangling with several midrash interpretations—these derived from the story of the great flood (Genesis 6-9). The discussion among the eight students, however, moves quickly beyond the midrashes to the Biblical literature itself. That’s because for many of them, this is the first time they have actually read the text. Several students are struck by how their previous knowledge of Genesis 6-9 is midrashic: “Noah’s Ark” and its amalgamation of storybooks, movies, and childhood toys.

“Was there anything troubling about what you read?” asks Bibb wryly.

In the Genesis version,

rather than God smiling down on a happy boat full of animals, God is full of despair and anger:

The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” (Genesis 6:5-7)

“Quite ironic that one of the most violent passages in the Bible is the inspiration for curtains and bedding in nurseries,” remarks Bibb.

Bibb then directs the class to a passage from Frederick Beuchner's *Secrets in the Dark: A Life in Sermons*. According to Beuchner, the explanation for those curtains and that bedding—not to mention the lighter versions of the Noah's Ark story—stem from the fact that human beings cannot psychologically come to terms with the actual implications of such a text. Instead, “we make it into a fairy tale, which no one has to take seriously.”

For the same reason that the story of Pearl Harbor was made into an action movie starring Ben Affleck, and the events of 9/11 have been interpreted into American-pride country songs, we have reduced the story of the Biblical flood into a more manageable layer that can be compartmentalized into our minds. In the process, we make it small enough to avoid fully engaging with its provocative issues.

Additionally, the flood's reinvention as a fable for children is another way in which we can dilute its psychic weight and, in some respects, dismiss having to wrestle with it. Beuchner says the story of the flood is so violent, so incredibly bleak, that adults pass it along to those who can only grasp a happy ending. In doing so, we give ourselves one.

“What's interesting are the ways these midrashes reveal something about us,” says Bibb.

The 1960s Mel-O-Toons movie about the flood, for example, depicts a “wicked world” with men throwing swords and spears. Nowhere in Genesis does the text convey that people in the world were at war. We can deduce from this midrash, then, that the culture of the 1960s was one in which war, for some, was considered evil—a reaction to the Vietnam War—and that it needed to be cleansed.

Or take the Hanna Barbera interpretation, produced in 1976, that focuses instead on a countercultural Noah as an outcast, being taunted and shunned by the townspeople for doing what is right, even if it is the unpopular choice.

Or the 2014 film *Noah*, in which Russell Crowe plays the ark builder as a zealous environmental warrior raging against the rapacious habits of men.

But as enlightening as midrashes can be about their times, there is something unsettling about them, too. Their reductions of the story to a consumable medium and the targeting of it to children may be evidence of a culture that cannot manage the harsh realities of its existence.

“*Gulliver's Travels* is too bitter about humankind, so we make it into an animated cartoon,” writes Buechner, “*Moby Dick* is too bitter about God, so we make it into an adventure story for boys. Noah's Ark is too something-or-other, so it becomes a toy with a roof that comes off so you can take the little animals out. This is one way of dealing with the harsher realities of our existence [rather than] facing them head on.”

Yet is this wise in the long run?

Bibb's May X class is a lesson in story interpretation, but the class discussion goes beyond that. Students begin to question the stories we as human beings choose to tell ourselves and whether those choices are toward truth or its obfuscation. If we are in fact only telling ourselves midrashes that will reduce complexity, enhance our comfort, or confirm our beliefs, then perhaps the braver, more authentic choice would be to return to, and confront, the “originals” once more. **F**



THEN

Reflection on the Importance of Furman as It Was

The first time I donned a

Furman track uniform, the ensuing question from my dormmate was, “Furman has a swim team?” It's true that the tiny one-pieces are commonly referred to as “bun huggers,” but that year, after our team went on to win a Southern Conference Championship in cross-country, no one confused us with swimmers anymore.

The team honor that year still means more to me than the two individual SoCon titles I won in the 800 meters. And I think that says a lot about Furman: The university has always been less about ‘you’ and more about ‘us.’

On a daily basis, I use principles I was taught during my undergrad and graduate years at Furman's health and exercise science department. Equally important are the lessons I was taught by former longtime track and field coach, and friend, Gene Mullin. “On time is late,” he used to say, and also that to believe in yourself allows you to believe you're capable of overcoming any hurdles set before you.

Engaged learning goes far beyond the classroom, extending into the sports arena and life outside the Furman bubble, and it was during these critical years that my passion for becoming a coach and mentor to student-athletes was born. In fact, my first job as an assistant coach at Furman helped launch my career.

After college, I won my first attempted marathon, went on to run the Boston Marathon twice, and recently won my first full-distance Ironman. The grueling 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, and 26.2-mile run—even the preparation for it—is not for the faint of heart, but the relentless pursuit of a dream that was instilled in me at a young age and cultivated during my life at Furman is the driving force I try to pass on to the young athletes I work with daily.

Prior to attending Furman, I was unaware of what a “paladin” was. One common definition is “any knightly or heroic champion.” Back then and now, Furman athletics and the friendships formed hold a special place in my heart. Paladin pride for life!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For more than a decade, Julie Stackhouse '01 has coached track and field at several Division I universities, including Furman, the United States Air Force Academy, the University of North Florida, and the University of Virginia. She now teaches at Providence School in Jacksonville, Florida, and is the owner of Stackhouse Fitness. She is sponsored by Jacksonville Running Co. and the Stellar Triathlon Racing Team.



BRASH MENTALITY

A philosophy and history double major, Lane Erwin isn't comfortable unless he's uncomfortable—as in, painfully so.

A lifetime of extreme fitness is literally about to pay off for **Lane Erwin '15.**

When a family friend helped him land a gig doing stunts for a television show pilot earlier this year, he discovered he had a marketable skill: no fear of physical injury. In the stunt world they call it “on-the-job training,” and his went so well he was hired to be assistant to the stunt coordinator for the NBC drama *Game of Silence*, which began filming this August in Atlanta.

“You name it, I’ve probably done it,” Erwin says. Jumped

Stunting His Growth

Four years of pushing his body and mind at Furman has led a recent grad to embark on an unusual career.

BY RON WAGNER '93

out of airplanes? Check. Ridden horses? Yes. Dabbled in parkour? (Look it up, but yeah.) “That’s how I’m programmed,” Erwin adds.

Erwin’s father was an Army Ranger and member of Delta Force who had his son navigating obstacle courses in the backyard before he had learned his multiplication tables. One summer, they covered 43 miles in three days in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area in Montana. “I ended up going back out to Montana and that was where I finally formed my idea of fitness and how one becomes fit,” he says. “I would

Reminded that his father spent the better part of the past year recovering from a broken neck suffered doing a back flip in a hotel room, Erwin laughs. “To me, man, shoot, at least you went out doing what you want to do.”

wake up in the mornings and work on a ranch, then I would do some kind of circuit workout, then go on a long hike or mountain bike ride that was at least five to six miles. After lunch and a solid cup of coffee, I would go for long runs that were anywhere from nine to 14 miles, or rock climb or mountain surf.”

At Furman, Erwin gained a reputation for tearing around the PAC doing timed muscle-ups and power cleans while most everyone else has the good sense to stick to well-rested bench reps. “Over the past 15 years, I do not believe that I have ever met a student who was as committed to fitness as Lane,” says Kelly Frazier, Erwin’s instructor for Health Science 101 Wellness Concepts. “He derives immense satisfaction from overcoming fitness challenges.”

Taking a backward baseball cap off and running his hand through thick, sandy-blond hair, Erwin gives explanations for his path that sound straightforward but don’t come without some thoughtful meandering. “I’m a philosophy and history double major, and my dad always harasses me about thinking too much. ‘You need to just do stuff sometimes,’

and he’s right,” Erwin says. “For a long time, I wanted to be my dad.”

Reminded that his father spent the better part of the past year recovering from a broken neck suffered doing a back flip in a hotel room, Erwin laughs. “To me, man, shoot, at least you went out doing what you want to do.”

Erwin came to Furman from North Carolina to play rugby but left the program because the beating his body and grades took prevented him from doing other things. He doesn’t much care for competition anyway, and none of the other usual exercise motivators apply either: He doesn’t work out for appearance, generally practices alone, and has no obsession with mastering a particular skill. All that seems to matter is the activity be difficult and, preferably, fast.

“I grew up doing a lot of plays. I was in musical theatre, and all I ever really wanted to do was act, especially film. I loved film,” Erwin says. “[But] I figured out I didn’t want to do the whole acting thing. I wanted to do stunts more. I like doing dangerous things. When you jump off of something, it’s like, that’s it. It’s that moment.” **F**



NOW

Reflection on the Importance of Furman as It Is Now

At particular moments in life, certain questions seem to be at the center of nearly every conversation you have with those around you. You may have noticed this. When the college acceptance letters begin rolling in, everybody asks, “Where are you going to school next year?” When you start wearing that goofy grin everywhere you go, people grin back and say, “Who’s the lucky someone?”

For young college alumni, one inescapable question has many forms. “What’s next? Where will you go from here? What will you do now that you’ve earned your degree?” My favorite iteration—because it captures the question’s true gravity and brings to the fore the difficult reality the question ultimately signifies—goes something like this: “What does your life after Furman look like?”

Life after Furman. Because that’s what we mean when we talk about “next,” when we talk about grad school and careers and starting families. We mean people and places and vocations pursued after Furman.

I detest the “life after Furman” question, and lately I’ve been trying to discern why. I’ve decided it’s because the question implies something that just isn’t true.

There is no life after Furman. Once you first enter its gates as a student, Furman becomes a formative force in your life and

it never stops shaping you. The great thinkers we encountered in Furman’s classrooms? Their ideas serve as foundations for our own. The ultimate questions about morality, spirituality, and humanity with which we wrestled? We will face these questions time and time again, at work and at home, in the world at large and in our respective corners of it. And the relationships we forged? These certainly do not end when classes do. They continue to blossom and operate as networks of personal and social support as we settle into new communities and endeavor to do good work for the benefit of those around us.

A Furman diploma does not represent an ending. It signals a beginning, but not the beginning of life after Furman. A Furman degree signifies the start of lives filled with meaningful work and relationships informed by our time at Furman—of life *with* Furman. The questions we asked here, the answers we sought, and the friends we made—these stay with us wherever we go.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Luke D. Christie graduated from Furman in 2015 with a major in communication studies and a minor in humanities. He is a freelance writer and creative consultant in Greenville with long-term plans to earn a PhD in communication studies and pursue a career in academia.



S

So many causes cry out for help. Why poverty?

ST: Alec and I have been involved with multiple nonprofits, and the underlying thing with most of them would be poverty. Whether it's housing, childcare, families—it influences so many other charities.

AT: I'm not sure there is any bigger issue in America today. When I see this massive wage gap, the haves-have nots, 25 percent or more of people in America living in poverty, people who are underemployed—the need gets bigger and bigger.

What do you think people most misunderstand about poverty?

AT: The sheer number of people who live right on or beneath the poverty line. Many of us are lucky to live in a world with a safety net: some money in the bank, someone who will catch you when you fall. These people are one missed paycheck from being in real trouble, not having a meal, [not being able] to take care of their kids.

There are a lot of statistics about poverty, but here's one that caught my attention. According to the Economic Policy Institute, annual wage growth for the bottom 70 percent has grown less than 11 percent between 1979 and 2013, even though worker productivity has skyrocketed. Incidentally, that wage-productivity ratio kept pace in the 30 years before 1968. But had minimum

Alec '75 and Susan Taylor

Advocates and philanthropists, the Taylors help support Furman's Poverty Studies program, the most popular minor at the university

BY BRENDAN TAPLEY



wage risen along with productivity, it would now be \$18 per hour. It's currently \$7.25.

AT: Look, I'm a raging capitalist, but we've got something we've got to fix and it's pretty bad, and the net result of that is this poverty gap. It's frightening. It's not a political issue in my mind. People ask me why there is not more GDP growth, and I tell them it's because people are making less money than they were 25 years ago. They're being asked to pay more for gasoline; employers are pushing more of the burden of insurance back on employees. It's incumbent on people who have some means to step up and try to do what they can in their own little way to help.

So, then, how much of poverty is merely a matter of selfish economics?

AT: The people at the very top—either they don't need to be making quite as much money as they are or they need to share the heck out of it. I'm going to get this statistic wrong, but it used to be a CEO of a company would make 25 times more than the lowest paid hourly guy—

It was 20 times the amount in 1965. In 2013, it was just under 300 times.

AT: That's just out of whack. You sit there and say, how much is enough? The steak doesn't taste any better whether you make \$2 million or \$20 million. We gotta watch it as a country or we're going to end up with the French Revolution if we're not careful.

David Gandolfo, who chairs the Poverty Studies program, wrote in a recent editorial that the true purpose of a university is to develop the intellect of the student,

“Look, I’m a raging capitalist, but we’ve got something we’ve got to fix and it’s pretty bad, and the net result of that is this poverty gap.”

which, he said, “exists to analyze and solve the problems with which we are confronted.” What kind of analysis and solutions do you hope to have come out of the Poverty Studies program?

ST: The young people in this minor are going out and touching a lot of other people. They have also [developed] an awareness of poverty, and they will make choices that will look different because of that awareness. Whether they become teachers or bankers—if they have an understanding of [poverty]—that’s going to color how they approach other people and make decisions.

Do you think the foundational problems of poverty can be altered by this type of awareness?

ST: Alec and I have children, and I think they live what they have learned. This is an amazing generation coming out of school right now. They’re much more creative, much more open to an entrepreneurial way of approaching things, so I think it’s a perfect time to embed in their learning the issue of poverty and their responsibility. I feel hopeful.

The Poverty Studies minor at Furman has become larger than all other minors at the university

put together. Were the program a major, it would be larger than all but a handful of majors. Why do you think Furman is an ideal home for this work?

AT: It’s one of the most modest places there is. I graduated 40 years ago. Furman was a regional Baptist college then and I look at where it is now. It has this wonderful confluence of natural beauty, motivated kids, good faculty and administrators. It’s not perfect, we don’t get everything right, but I think it’s a special place. Sometimes I wish we were a little less modest [laughter].

ST: I didn’t go to Furman, but I think it’s a place that has encouraged young people to be proactive. There’s also a joyfulness there about doing work like this. It’s hard work—depressing work when you look at the numbers—but when you talk to these young people, you’re not depressed as you’re talking to them. I love that Furman has been this breeding ground for young people who are modest and bright and thoughtful and want to take this next step.

You mentioned your own kids. Is it important to pass down a sense of service?

ST: In our family, it was assumed that you would participate and help others. Alec and I, what’s been as impactful as anything we did was fostering children. It’s involvement, and it means you’re interacting with a world you wouldn’t unless you made that choice to step in. It was living it every day.

Interaction is key to the Poverty Studies program. In addition to coursework, students complete a summer internship. What was important to you about the internship requirement?



NEXT

Reflection on the Importance of Furman Going Forward

Had I been an international student at Furman a decade ago, my name would have been placed on a roster that a few now-retired folks affectionately called the “Funny Names List.” When I first heard that phrase, I was horrified but did not have the courage to say anything. Perhaps I’m being overly sensitive and critical, I assured myself. I’ll get over it.

A decade later—even though the list no longer exists in that form—I regret not opening the door to that struggle and countless others about how we see (or don’t), treat, listen, imagine, and understand each other at Furman. To struggle over difference matters if we still aspire to “meaningful diversity and equality,” as articulated in Furman’s Vision 2020.

Debates about difference are debates about equity, power, and justice; these now divide us in new and not-so-new ways with this past year’s petitions, reports, and protests dealing with difference and equity at Furman. Demographic shifts on campus parallel changes in the county and the state: Furman, Greenville, and South Carolina aren’t what they were 15 years ago. For Furman, these shifts were part of active recruiting efforts to create a more diverse community. This has been successful from an impersonal numerical standpoint, but now we must humanize who we are and what we care about.

And that might involve some struggle. It will take not only the vocal ones at Furman, but also those who daily and silently endure oppression, invisibility, and “death” by a thousand cuts. It will take the people who think issues of gender aren’t relevant to the work they do, those who believe that Furman’s racial environment is better now than it used to be, those who ridicule talk of micro-aggression, and those who enjoy such a degree of privilege that they don’t see what’s wrong with the “Funny Names List.”

Only a few people on campus correctly pronounce my first name. It’s been like that since I started kindergarten, so I’m used to it. I have my favorite mispronunciations and even introduce myself with one to make it easier for others. Mispronounce my name; just don’t put it on lists that devalue and divide.

Furman’s struggle for the future is about far more than the acceptance, accounting, and acknowledgement of difference; it is about a new Furman that is willing to struggle as we speak truthfully, listen openly, get uncomfortable, empathize, disagree, and eventually understand and learn.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Savita Nair, James B. Duke associate professor of Asian studies and history, joined Furman in 2003. She received her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.



ST: Well, you're hands-on and things become personal. You bring it more into your heart and head, and the lasting effects on you are huge. Without it being personal, it's just another story you've read or course you've studied.

A cynical person might feel that kids from privilege dipping into poverty for course credit is disingenuous. What do you say to those people?

AT: I'd say go meet the kids. I was a lawyer for 20 years and can be the biggest cynic, but if you go meet the kids you'll get over that really fast. You know, where you come from doesn't matter as much as where you go.

ST: I'd also say, isn't that who you most want to learn? I mean, if poverty hasn't touched you personally, if it hasn't been a factor in your

life, then you need the opportunity to learn [about it].

Do you believe, though, that the most critical element of the American dream—that it's possible for everyone—has created a permanent blind spot in us when it comes to poverty?

ST: Part of the issue with the American dream is that we still believe if people work hard enough, they'll be able to

realize it. I think that's less so now. There are a lot of people who are working really, really hard who have less ability to assume their kids are going to do better.

AT: I still think America is unbelievable, though, and it's salvageable. It's getting harder to grab the next rung, but I go back to saying I have a lot of optimism about this generation. They don't take no for an answer. **F**

FUmerical

FUmerical

Facts and figures about Furman



Much has been in the news

lately about how effective a college education is at finding students jobs once college is over. While the debate continues as to whether that is the sole purpose of four years of higher education, we asked Furman's Career Center to give us some numbers on the university's role in helping students make that transition. **F**



96

Percentage of students who report that they are employed or in graduate school six months after graduation



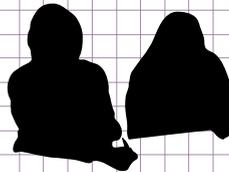
80

The national average percentage of students employed or in graduate school six months after graduation



180

Total number of online career resources available on the Career Center website



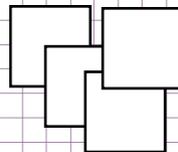
99.1

Percentage of students that report career counseling sessions as either "effective" or "very effective"



2,000

Average number of student contacts with the Career Center staff per year



300

Number of jobs posted each week to the Paladin Job Board



1,100

Average Career Center Facebook page views per week



5,404

Current number of members belonging to Furman's LinkedIn alumni networking group



ON THE QUAD

A glimpse at Furman fashion

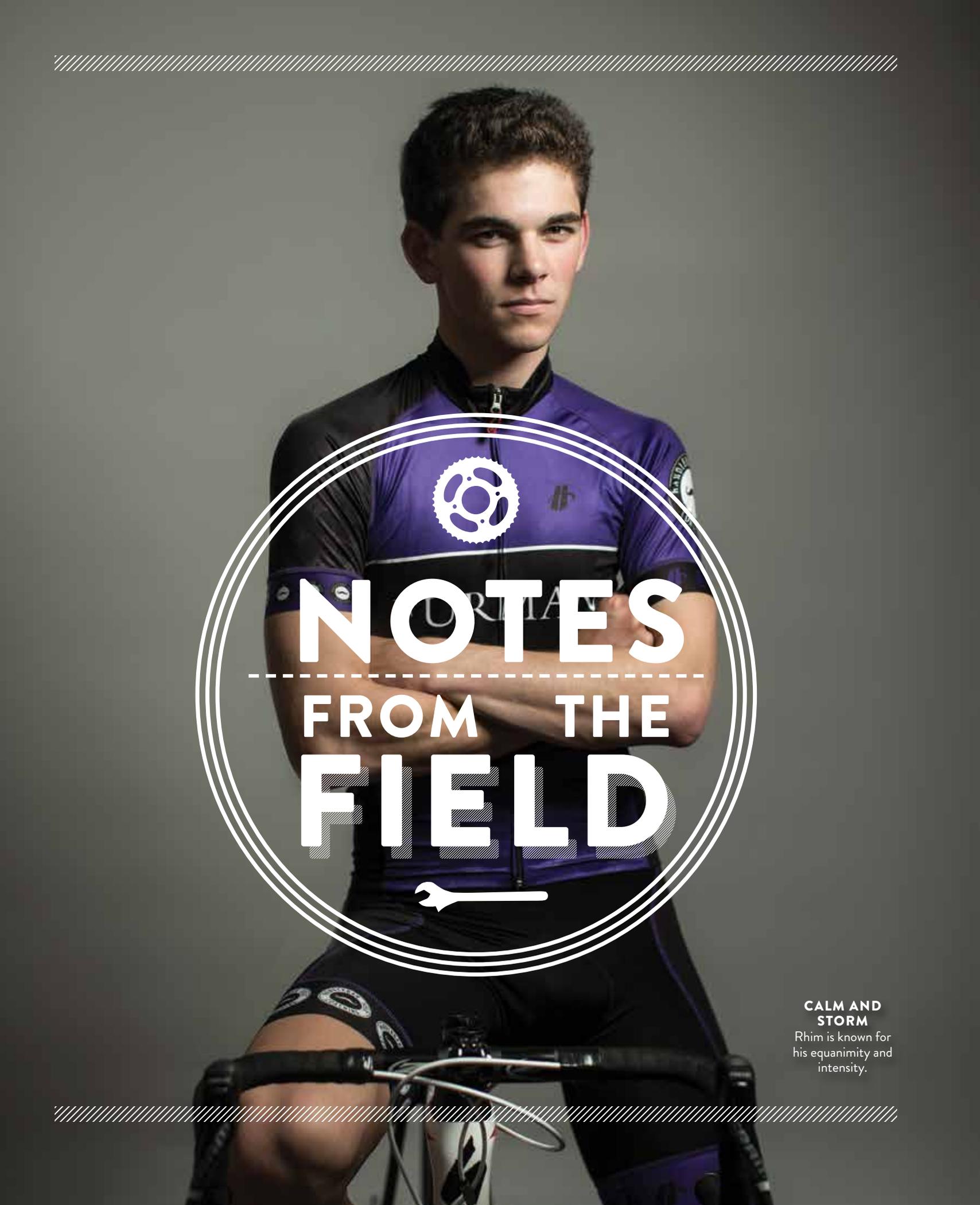
BY WILLIAM CROOKS '14



OBJECT LESSONS

Forget about your usual back-to-school lists. Forget about laptops, backpacks, pens, binders, and notebooks. This list is more personal, more off the wall. This is what student life is really about. These are the items that get students through the ups and downs that college life brings with it. We chatted with 14 random students across campus and asked them to show us what they can't leave home without when returning to Furman. From sriracha and fanny packs to bicycles and pocket watches, the objects are as diversified as a liberal arts course load. Some items are practical or personal while others are more than a bit quirky. Hopefully some of these items conjure a bit of nostalgia from your own college adventures. **F**





NOTES
FROM THE
FIELD

**CALM AND
STORM**

Rhim is known for
his equanimity and
intensity.

One Rhim to Rule Them All

How far this sophomore cyclist could go is starting to become everybody's guess.

BY RON WAGNER '93

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JEREMY FLEMING '09

B

Brendan Rhim '18 doesn't snarl about victory, detail an unquenchable thirst for competition, or earnestly articulate his lifelong dream to make the big leagues when asked about the sport in which he has already made a considerable name for himself.

"It's very peaceful, and there's something about being all alone in the middle of nowhere on your bike I really enjoy," he says instead. "It's just not something you can really do with any other sport. I think the closest that's relatable is running, but the one thing I hate about running is you don't go very far for how much effort you put in."

In Rhim's even tone, you can

almost feel the breeze on your face as you gently pedal toward mountains lounging in the distance. The voice doesn't sound like a person former Furman cycling coach **Rusty Miller '98** contends will "rip off your head and stomp on your skull" during a race, but it perhaps does explain why Rhim spends so much time ahead of the pack.

"Off the bike, he is gentle and calm and kind. When he is in a bike race, he will beat you no matter what," Miller says. "A lot of type-A winners in sports are also jerks because a lot of people conflate winning with selfishness. Brendan, by contrast, makes winning an art in his expression of himself."

Maybe the most touted junior cyclist in the United States while in high school in Norwich, VT, Rhim has become the centerpiece of a burgeoning dynasty at Furman since he enrolled as a Paladin. Although Miller and others knew they were looking at something special when they watched Rhim win the U.S.

junior nationals criterium in Augusta, GA, three years ago, no one could have predicted the transcendence of Rhim's talent and how quickly it would push Furman cycling to places it had never been.

ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS

When Rhim won the road race and criterium at May's USA Cycling Collegiate Road Nationals in Asheville, NC—before leading the Paladins to a victory in the team time trial—it marked the first time any school had ever won those three races in the same year. Only a second-place finish in the individual time trial prevented Rhim from the mind-boggling feat of sweeping all four national championship events, and he did it carrying the weight of being the pre-race favorite, with every team from every school working to take him down. That Rhim felt the heat, however, would probably come

as news to his competitors.

"It's pressure put on you to perform and validate the ranking, so I was not expecting to win by any means. But I was definitely expecting myself to do well and finish in the top five," he says. "Winning both was a surprise and obviously huge."

The 75-mile road race-course is brutally mountainous, but at the halfway point Rhim, who was being aided by his teammates, left the lead group and didn't look back, crossing the line in 3:03.37—25 seconds ahead of the nearest competitor. "[He] rode the last 40 miles of the race alone with varsity teams attempting to chase him," Miller says. "In the cycling world, this is almost unheard of."

The criterium the next day featured another difficult hilly course of about a mile, which the riders circled for 75 minutes. Again, all wilted in the face of Rhim's relentless assault.

"When Brendan came to

Notes from the Field



A STAND-UP GUY

Former coach Rusty Miller describes Rhim as gentle, calm, and kind. "A lot of type-A winners in sports are also jerks because a lot of people conflate winning with selfishness. Brendan, by contrast, makes winning an art in his expression of himself."

Furman, I described him as the number one cycling recruit in the country," Miller says. "And after he arrived at Furman it became apparent he was not just the number one freshman recruit but that he was also the number one collegiate cyclist in the United States of America."

Rhim's first season also saw him capture Southeastern Collegiate Cycling Conference road races at Georgia and Chattanooga, and a criterium at Clemson. In the fall and winter, when competition shifts to the emerging event of cyclo-cross (short races where riders must frequently dismount and carry their bikes while navigating obstacles), he won two more events before finishing third at the USA Nationals in January despite competing "just for fun."

Even more fun—after riding alone for thousands of miles—was having teammates. In the time trial, four riders stay as tightly bunched as possible while rotating who cuts the wind in the lead. Often regarded as collegiate cycling's "marquee event," Furman was undefeated in the 2015 season.

"It's probably one of my favorite events because you go out and suffer with three of your friends, and you just go as fast as you can," says Rhim, who held the trophy in Asheville with **Charlie Hough '17**, **Brian Suto '18**, and **Richard Rainville '18**. "It takes a lot of practice to get everybody to work in sync and understand what everybody is capable of, how much we can push each other. The closer you ride together, the more beneficial the draft, so it comes down to being comfortable riding really, really close to one another, almost to the point you're rubbing elbows."

Miller notes that "you can

Notes from the Field

"AFTER HE ARRIVED AT FURMAN, IT BECAME APPARENT HE WAS NOT JUST THE NUMBER ONE FRESHMAN RECRUIT...HE WAS ALSO THE NUMBER ONE COLLEGIATE CYCLIST IN AMERICA."



HANDS-ON

Rhim's success stems not only from his natural abilities and physical attributes, but also from his approach to preparation and competition.

win the criterium or the road race like Furman did with one star athlete who is supported by his teammates. But if you have one rock star and three foot soldiers, you can't win the team time trial."

In other words, a team was exactly what the university was hoping for when it welcomed players like Rhim into its fold.

Club cycling has been at Furman since at least the 1980s, but the squad was wholly dependent on whether or not any students were serious enough about it to create one. Miller, who went on to ride professionally, was one of the sport's early champions, as were **Chris Butler '10** and **Andy Baker '13**, also future pros who managed to win DII road-race national championships in 2008 and 2011, respectively. The club also captured time trial national titles in 2008 and 2009, which was an unlikely achievement

to say the least.

"That team was by pure luck," says Owen McFadden, who oversees club sports as Furman's director of campus recreation. "We happened to get riders here that were good enough to win, but as soon as they graduated we went down to nothing where we didn't even have a team for a year or two. I didn't think it was ever going to come back."

Nate Morse '17 of Cohasset, MA, and Hough of Travelers Rest, SC, made up Miller's first recruiting class, and the results were instantaneous as Hough won the DII criterium national championship as a freshman in 2014.

Joining Rhim as freshmen a year later were Suto of Oxford, CT; **Nolan McQueen '18** of Louisville, KY; Rainville of Livonia, MI; and **Bruce Hall '18** of Nassau, The Bahamas—all of whom provided the depth necessary to propel Furman to a dominant time trial national

title. It also gave Hough, a recruiting coup in his own right, someone with whom to share the spotlight, if not first-place trophies. Such a rivalry could have been a problem, but thanks at least in part to Rhim's easygoing nature, it wasn't.

"In a way it makes it easier because it takes a little pressure off me to have another fast guy on the team," Hough says. "In general, it's always good to have fast guys on your team instead of racing against you. I was happy to see him take the title this year and keep it inside the Furman family."

Unlike the tempered expectations that can come with competing in NCAA Division I, there may be no reason to limit possibilities for Furman cycling. The sport is run by USA Cycling and usually exists outside of athletic departments, with schools broken into two simple categories: Division I, for those with enrollments of

more than 15,000; and Division II for those under.

"Furman has a chance to be the greatest collegiate cycling team in the country," Miller says matter-of-factly.

Furman's combination of scholastic rigor and fortunate geography puts it in a unique position to excel. Combine that with the rapid growth of collegiate cycling and Greenville's thriving cycling community, and you start to see the source of people's enthusiasm.

"I moved here just because of the weather, the road networks, the amount of climbs you can do," says George Hincapie, a native of New York City who won three national road-race championships and competed in the Tour de France 17 times. "In terms of trying to do proper training, there really isn't much better terrain in the world than what we have here in Greenville. A lot of people don't know that."

Rhim didn't. When he

Notes from the Field

THE FACE OF CYCLING'S FUTURE

Tour de France
veteran and
Greenville citizen
George Hincapie
has his eye
on Rhim.

found out, Furman had itself a new student.

GO SOUTH, YOUNG MAN

Rhim grew up in the picturesque Connecticut River Valley near the New Hampshire border, the sun rising over that state's White Mountains and setting behind the Green Mountains of Vermont. His family watched the Tour de France on television, and when Rhim was in his early teens his grandfather, once a competitive cyclist, convinced him to enter a race. "I fell in love with it, and the rest is history," Rhim says.

The brutal northeast winters undoubtedly made Rhim tough, but despite piling up victories in regional races, all that bad weather also hampered his opportunity to get better. He was already looking south for college to solve the problem when Miller introduced himself, and the more Rhim learned about Furman the more impressed he was. "There was a lot of improvement physically this year from previous years," Rhim says. "I'd say Furman's location geographically, the weather, and the college schedule have allowed me to choose my time a little more wisely."

In Hincapie's day, talented riders had to choose as teenagers between higher education and the pros. No more. Lack of NCAA involvement means kids are able to train with and compete against professional teams as amateurs while also racing in college, and Rhim can't envision a scenario where he would leave Furman before earning a degree.

"Brendan prizes his academics and his education as highly as he does his development as a cyclist," Miller says.

Another cycling tradition that has changed for the better is performance-enhancing drug use. The sport and doping have become synonymous in the minds of casual observers, but Rhim and Miller both say that stereotype no longer reflects reality.

"I have never been aware of a positive doping test in collegiate road cycling," Miller says. "I think that [the sport] operates in a completely different way than professional cycling did in the late 90s and early 2000s. It's simply not an issue."

"Cycling now has one of the best doping controls and is the most tested sport in the world," adds Rhim. "Biological passport, which I'm pretty sure only one or two other sports use, tracks individual athletes, and you can be tested any time of the day, any day of the year, wherever you are. And you constantly have to report where you are. The sport has definitely cleaned up."

And make no mistake: All signs point to Rhim competing at the sport's pro level. Before college, Rhim won the Tour de l'Abitibi in Canada, which Miller calls "the largest and most important bicycle race for all of North America for under-19 competitors." When not racing for Furman, Rhim rides for the California Giant Berry Farms under-23 development team, and in the cycling world his collegiate championships are not as impressive as his having won three long-route criteriums in the spring season.

The highlight was a victory Rhim calls "the biggest" of his young career at April's Redlands Bicycle Classic in Redlands, CA, when he held off a world-class field of 140. To many professional observers, the level of that race was higher than the national

RHIM AND HIS TEAMMATES ROUTINELY LEAVE CAMPUS AND HEAD NORTH, CLIMBING MORE THAN 2,000 FEET...A PERFECT 100-MILE LOOP FOR FEELING THE PAIN OF IMPROVEMENT.

collegiate championships. "It was a full-on professional race, the highest tier of professional racing in the United States," says Miller.

In June, Rhim took part in the USA Cycling Amateur Road Nationals in Lake Tahoe and finished 21st in the road race, 28th in the time trial, and 20th in the criterium.

"He's extremely talented... a very dynamic cyclist," says Hincapie, who is heavily involved in the development of young cyclists. "I'm looking forward to seeing him grow. I hope that once he comes out of the university, we can get him in our program and help him get there."

Like all elite athletes, cyclists practice. A lot.

Rhim and his teammates routinely leave campus and head north, climbing more than 2,000 feet to Caesar's Head. The southern North Carolina mountains don't quite reach the 4,000 feet of elevation required for altitude training, but that's about the only thing missing from what is otherwise a perfect 100-mile loop for feeling the pain of improvement.

"Once you get that far you're pretty toasted," Rhim says. "There's so much suffering that goes on, and it's not just racing. I actually think

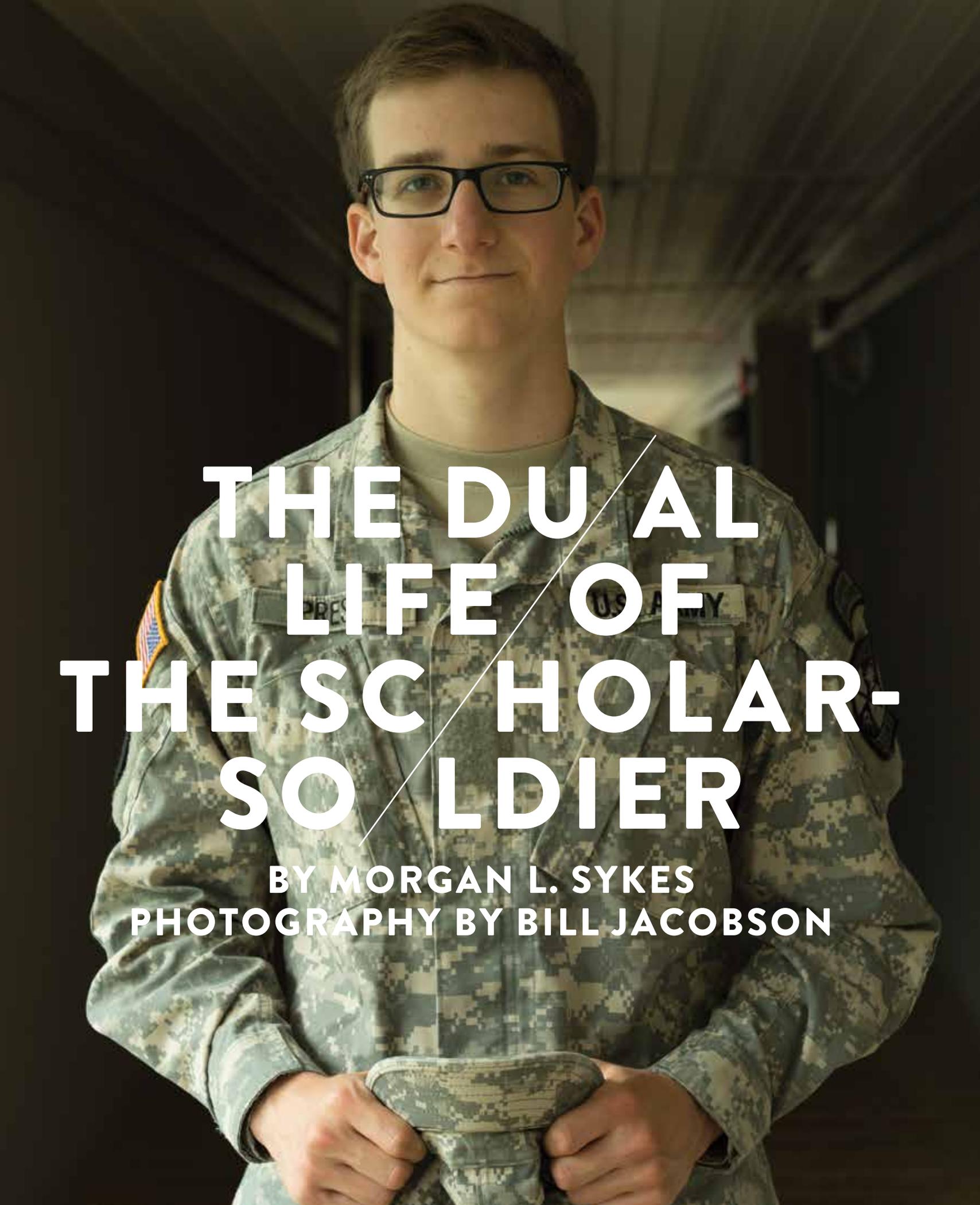
racing is fun...but when you go for a training ride, you say, oh, I have to kill myself for three hours.... It just kind of sucks."

There's no romantic idealism when Rhim describes the torment he endures for the reward of the life he wants to live, just acceptance.

"I love being outdoors. I love traveling. If cycling didn't have those two things I do not think I would be able to do it because it is such a brutally tough sport. Cycling has allowed me to travel the world and see a lot of things that I never would have seen."

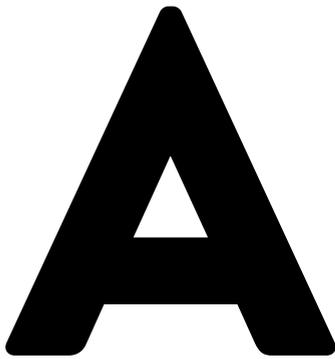
To Miller, this sort of refreshing honesty reflects the other side of Rhim's personality—the half that doesn't involve removing and stepping on craniums.

"The boy has a Buddha nature in the kind of warrior that he is in that you can almost tell he cares about his competitors as people.... He has a broader view perhaps of life on this planet than your average athlete," Miller says. "It's really not about me winning and you losing; it's more about me expressing myself, showing the world who I am, and it happens to be on a bicycle. And in the process of all this it happens that you're going to lose, because when Brendan expresses himself through his bicycle, he wins." 

A young man with short brown hair and black-rimmed glasses is the central figure. He is wearing a US Army camouflage uniform, including a jacket with a name tag that reads 'PRES' and a 'U.S. ARMY' patch. He is holding the hem of his jacket with both hands. The background is a dimly lit hallway with a grid ceiling. The title text is overlaid on the image, split by a diagonal line.

THE DUAL LIFE OF THE SCHOLAR- SOLDIER

BY MORGAN L. SYKES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL JACOBSON



Andrew Schwartz '16 is ruck marching. The mid-May temperature in Greenville is close to cracking triple digits, and hazy wiggles of heat rise from the asphalt of his neighborhood's deserted streets. It would appear that the scorch of early summer has driven everybody inside. Not Schwartz. In the wet blanket of South Carolina's high noon heat, the Furman senior, lean and athletic from years of high school wrestling, is shouldering a 40-pound rucksack—attired in long sleeve fatigues, a helmet, and lace-up boots—for a brisk march along the trails behind his home.

It's actually Schwartz's second training exercise of the day. Before the ruck march, he donned a long undershirt to make himself sweat even more and went for a run. "I'm getting ready," he says. "I'm acclimatizing myself to the weather. We'll be carrying a lot of gear, and Fort Knox is very hot. By training myself now, it will be easier then."

Schwartz is preparing to head to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for the Cadet Leadership Course (CLC), also known as Camp, to have his physical fitness, leadership skills, critical thinking, and applied ethical decision-making tested in what is billed by the Army's Public Affairs department as the "capstone summer training event." He will be one among thousands of other Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadets nationwide—young people who are inhabiting the twin roles of college student and future military officer with the goal of graduating not just with a degree, but also as a

second lieutenant in the United States Army.

Nationally this year, 35,000 young people have chosen this dual existence through enrollment in ROTC. About 55 of these cadets are from Furman's ROTC program. And while their constant negotiation between two worlds and two identities may most obviously manifest in their schedules—filled as they are with academic and ROTC commitments—what becomes clear after speaking with cadets like Schwartz is how much more complex the daily duality of the scholar-soldier really is.

Of course, one of the first questions when approaching ROTC, especially to the uninitiated, is a basic one: Why?

For certain young people, the primary draw is the staggering financial assistance the Army offers that may make the difference in having access to a quality college education. (At Furman, when a student is awarded an Army tuition scholarship, the university provides his or her room and board.) For some, it is the continuation of a family heritage, either out of a direct desire to perpetuate what may be perceived as a lineage, or derivative from an admiration for a parent or relative who served. And for others, the prospect of a job immediately out of college is an alluring security in an economic climate that can promise little to even the college educated.

But while a job for ROTC cadets is definite, what and where it will exactly be is not. These are young people who are submitting to the needs of an institution that is subject to unpredictable forces on a global scale. This, in itself, creates an interesting caveat to those who may be drawn to ROTC strictly for financial reasons: It is not a scholarship program that simply supplies tuition money. There is reciprocity.

Once commissioned as second lieutenants, graduates must go wherever and do whatever the Army deems necessary. These cadets know that by signing up, they face a mandatory service obligation of eight years, whether their significant other would prefer a more rooted existence or if they suddenly experience a desire to spend six months backpacking through Europe. Which is why many of the most successful and motivated cadets perceive their involvement in ROTC as something far greater than a pathway through college. These are young people compelled by the virtue of service.

Colonel **Michael Pasquarett, MA '78** has a unique perspective on the sense of civic duty embodied in Paladin Detachment cadets. Pasquarett has had a distinguished career in the Army, and as the former head of ROTC at Furman he was crucial to revitalizing and increasing enrollment in the program in the 1970s. Though he has moved on from being part of the cadre at Furman, he has remained involved by developing a program known as "How Washington Works: The Furman Model," which is a hands-on way for cadets to interact with significant political and military figures in Washington, D.C. Pasquarett feels the kids that land at Furman are "really service-oriented. They feel [it's] kind of an obligation that they have to do something for the country, for the nation, for their fellow man."

ROTC, Pasquarett believes, provides a channel for young people at Furman to apply their abilities and gifts toward protecting and promoting their country and other citizens. Pasquarett raises a fascinating point about the four cadets with whom I spoke: "Those kids you've talked about are going to be successful, no matter what they do in life. The thing that is interesting to me is why do these people who are going to be successful in life seek the military as their first choice."



SPIRITUAL SEEKING

Andrew Schwartz (in a purple shirt near the fireplace) meets with a religious group each week to discuss questions of faith.

At 21 years old, Andrew Schwartz, a health science major, is introspective, self-aware, articulate, and exudes a contagious calm. He is a self-proclaimed “pretty individualistic person” who is passionate about cooking—preferring, he says, to always work with local ingredients that are in season. Deciding to pursue a military career, however, didn’t require much deliberation for Schwartz. Such a path, he says, “seemed very natural” and was even “in his blood.”

Schwartz grew up with a father who was a colonel in the Army, but what impressed him from a young age did not stem from son-for-father awe, but rather from observing his father’s selflessness in caring for the soldiers under him.

“That’s what attracted me, the responsibility you have to take care of people. If you’re in the military, you have to have a sense of taking care of people because from day one, as a lieutenant, as an officer, you’re in charge of people, but what that means is you’re taking care of them.”

Schwartz remembers how his father “would always talk about taking care of his ‘boys,’ or taking care of their spouses or families.” His father “wanted to make sure they had everything they needed, that they weren’t going without,” whether that was something material or otherwise.

Inspired though not pressured by his father, Schwartz saw an

opportunity to apply his altruistic nature and achieve his “ultimate goal of helping people improve themselves” by undertaking a health-care path in the military. Initially, he was under the impression that a military academy, such as West Point or The Citadel, was the place for him. But after visiting these campuses, Schwartz had doubts about the high level of assimilation at these institutions, which did not fit his vision for the diverse education he craved. Nor was it encouraging of Schwartz’s own treasured individuality. “I can fit into a mold, but I really do have a lot of unique things about me. After doing some digging, I found out that it was more ROTC I wanted.”

Encouraged by his father’s memories of speaking at a commissioning ceremony at Furman before he was born, Schwartz came to check out the university and was hooked. The program “seemed like the kind of place that would allow for the unique things about me, but to still pursue, academically, health sciences.”

Family, it turns out, is a common theme among ROTC cadets. All four of the young men I spoke with identify relationships with their family as being one of the most important parts of their lives. They are linked by a sense of respect and admiration for their parents, and they spoke of close ties among their siblings. Also, all four cadets come from a military background, with at least one parent who served, though sometimes the lineage stretches back a generation or two. Colonel Pasquarett pointed out that these cadets



THESE CADETS "COME FROM FAMILIES THAT CARE ABOUT THEM," WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO THEIR "CARING ABOUT OTHERS," SAYS COLONEL MICHAEL PASQUARETT.

SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

Schwartz, at home with his girlfriend Sarah Jordan Holcombe '14, during one of the many nights when he indulges his culinary pursuits.

"come from families that care about them," which contributes to their "caring about others," helping to lead them into service.

William Ballard '15, who commissioned as a second lieutenant a day before his graduation in May, is careful to assert, however, that despite his family's illustrious military background, he chose ROTC and the Army "for himself." In fact, his parents made "it very clear that they do not expect us to go into the Army. If anything, they sort of pushed back a little against it because of how eager I was."

The 23-year-old history major is tall, broad-shouldered, and muscular, with a rumbling laugh and easy smile. Naturally assertive without being overbearing, Ballard has a profound nerdy streak for all things pertaining to Viking history, the subject on which he wrote his senior thesis. There is, for example, etymology he is eager to share about his name: "William comes from the Germanic 'Wilhelm,' meaning the will to protect, or one who resolutely protects. It is kind of a hint. I like the sense of purpose of being able to keep people safe."

And yet there are details in Ballard's story that echo Schwartz's. "I joined," he says, "because growing up, my dad was my hero."

His father, **Christopher Ballard '84**, is a brigadier general and has had a remarkable decades-long career in the military, including a deployment to Iraq and two to Afghanistan. Currently, the elder Ballard is serving as the deputy assistant chief of staff for the United

States Forces Korea in the Republic of Korea. It was General Ballard who swore in his son at his commissioning ceremony this past May.

"Seeing him, seeing the kind of dedication he has for his job, the level of selflessness he exudes when he does his job," says Will, "I always kind of understood that my dad was doing something special. I fell in love with the life, fell in love with what it means to be a soldier."

That awareness of what exactly it means to be a soldier was especially reinforced after 9/11, which happened when Ballard was in elementary school and the family was stationed in Kansas. He remembers his mother being glued to the television in disbelief, which is a memory shared by many people around the world. However, Ballard recalls that for his family the events of 9/11 made him realize an important distinction: When atrocities are committed or natural disasters strike, "a civilian sees it and is horrified, wants to help people, like 'What do we do?' Military families see it and say, 'Where are we going now?'"

For Ballard, it was a direct opportunity to be of service and to provide protection to the population that satisfies what he identifies as "a sense of purpose and direction."

He is quick to acknowledge that while the pragmatic benefits of "steady pay, housing, a pretty solid career" are perks, the priority for him as a young man of faith is what God wants him to do, and "what I can do that is actually important, that actually brings



EQUIPOISE

Joey White balances his course load and a love of lacrosse with 10 to 15 hours of ROTC commitments each week.

something to the world that isn't just making money."

Conversations with peers—especially classmates who were also contemplating graduating from Furman last spring—have shown Ballard a contrast between his emphasis on purpose and what motivates them. "I have friends who are great guys, who say they want to be a lawyer. And when I ask why, they say, so I can get a good paycheck quick. And I'm like, that's it? For me, that definitely would not be enough. For me, I want more. I want something that feels like I am contributing something."

For some cadets, a sense of purpose emerges more gradually, and ROTC often brings out something that they did not know about themselves or only vaguely suspected. **Joey White '16** was attracted to ROTC for the scholarship initially. White is a 21-year-old economics major who, as an "outdoors person," prefers to spend his scarce free time mountain biking, hiking, or playing lacrosse. A strawberry blond with freckles and alert dark eyes, White projects affability, charm, empathy, and a self-deprecating sense of humor, which makes sense when he reveals that he is the third of nine children and the oldest son of the bunch.

White's parents and two older sisters were in ROTC when they were in college, and like Schwartz and Ballard, he prioritizes his relationships with his family. White identifies his "biggest motivation" as being a son and brother that they can be proud of, someone his younger brothers can "look up to."

When it came to White's personal decision to pursue ROTC, he says that the scholarship money was "a huge factor, and that's probably the main reason I did it to begin with. But to stay with it, I think the reason I'm still here, is I do want to serve my country, as cliché as that may sound."

White identifies a turning point where service went from abstract concept to something he realized he could do and wanted to do. During his sophomore year, he was one of a handful of cadets chosen for a Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) program. The Army bills CULP as an experience that includes "humanitarian service, host nation military-to-military contact, and education on the social, cultural, and historical aspects of [a] country." White was sent to Latvia. There, he immersed in joint operation training between American, Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian, British, and German forces.

"A big issue when different countries are deployed together is adjusting to the way each runs a mission or communicates," White says. "When I was in Latvia, I really got to see the big picture of the military and how important every part can be. For example, while the infantryman fights, the quartermaster supplies, and whether you're in the fight or outside [it], every job is equally important." White says the experience helped solidify what at first wasn't clear

to him about ROTC. "I knew what I was getting into, but I didn't really know. CULP helped me understand the vastness of our forces, and I really felt the value of serving."

White estimates that his involvement in ROTC requires 10 to 15 hours of commitment, depending on the week. He and the other cadets show up for physical training (PT) sessions at the hour of 6 a.m. three times a week, working out for approximately two hours with kettle bells, runs, and high-intensity exercises designed to overhaul their fitness to the Army's demanding standards. Additionally, they meet three other times a week for classes in leadership, as well as labs—all of which emphasize critical thinking and ethics.

Besides that, White says that "every once in a while, we will do weekend trips." An overnight to Clark's Hill, a nature preserve near the Georgia border, is a recent example, where the cadets conducted room clearing and force-on-force exercises within a simulated village. Also, White says, "[ROTC] offers us a lot of volunteer opportunities. We just did the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes," he notes, an event where men wear heels and walk to raise awareness about sexual violence against women. Overall, White says, ROTC is "close to being

on a sports team," though year-round. "It's a commitment."

Since ROTC is a mentored yet cadet-led program, students like White are given greater leadership roles and increasing responsibility as they progress. Which means they have to become expert time managers. "Being so busy, right now affects two days from now," he observes. The balance, however, is part of the reward, as this past year White also has noticed how being "in charge of other cadets" pushed him to "be able to be assertive and composed."

Inhabiting such leadership roles at tender ages—all with high levels of accountability while mentoring younger cadets—has, according to White, changed his expectations not just of the program but also of himself. He says that "this year is the first year I've really noticed a difference between myself and other college students."



DOWN TIME

When Matthew Press isn't studying Chinese, or planning his next airplane jump, he practices guitar. "You feel the power of it as it makes music," he says. "You feel connected to the songs."

While every successful college student has to manage his or her time and make choices about priorities, White and the other cadets have to balance both the stress and responsibility of being a student along with what the Army is already demanding of them to mold them into top-tier leaders. They go to their regular classes after the workouts that begin while it is still dark outside. They have to check in regularly with the younger cadets they mentor while managing schedules packed with their own academic commitments.

Speaking to these men, it becomes clear that, while at first glance it seems they are shifting constantly between two selves—Joey White, cadet, and Joey White, student—the duality is more of a balance than a binary. These young men embody the scholar-soldier whether they are in civilian clothes as regular college students or the uniform of aspiring officers. One informs the other, and one balances the other. Of course, when they wake up and move through their daily existence as both, sustaining that overall equipoise requires a strong sense of self and character. This is, in other words, far removed from a Joe College experience.

Matthew Press '16, a 20-year-old business major, acknowledges that. Though he never planned or expected to be a part of ROTC, he discovered it as a way to attend Furman and was able to “see all of the positives the Army can provide.” He feels that the program “builds you, tests you, and prepares you to be put in some difficult situations, whether that’s a battlefield or business.”

Press is reserved, humble, whip smart, curious, and adventure seeking. Besides his love of the outdoors and guitar playing—“You feel the power of the guitar as it makes music, you can feel connected to the songs,” he says—Press has a passion for Chinese culture and language. Like all of the other cadets, he is close to his family, in particular his father, who is retired from the Air Force. Press credits his father with helping him discover his love of “high adrenaline situations.” Over the years, they have gone scuba diving with sharks, backpacked in Alaska’s backcountry, and climbed a water tower when he was in high school to hang a sign asking a girl to prom.

This propensity is something that is suited to ROTC, where he had the opportunity to spend three weeks in Airborne School and “do a few jumps out of planes.” Press, who has light brown hair and wears rectangular glasses—a somehow fitting complement to his reserved, intellectual demeanor—says he is grateful that ROTC wasn’t a “strange idea” for him, which he feels is “something that stops a lot of people, the misconceptions.”



Joey White



Matthew Press

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What might these misconceptions be?

“Maybe that people in ROTC aren’t the smartest or that maybe you have to put in a lot more work” than it’s worth. Press is dismissive of these notions, especially since the scholarship has been so crucial to his being able to attend Furman. “If you have to wake up every other morning and do PT and a couple more laps, that’s not a big deal.”

Also, he has noticed that a lot of people seem to “think it’s all about following orders, that you’re always going to be told you’re wrong, which is sometimes true. [But] that’s a really small part compared to what you get out of it.” Press feels that many of the at-a-glance ideas of what ROTC is about would be shattered if more people “gave it a try” and went beyond the surface of ROTC.

All of the cadets acknowledge that they are sort of an X-factor on campus, a collective for which other students have only a shadowy awareness. Schwartz explains that, “a lot of people don’t understand what we do. We’re a big mystery...like you do strange things early in the morning and out in the woods.”

It can be easy, therefore, for college students who are not juggling such roles to apply inaccurate generalizations to ROTC. White says that unless he directly tells them, a lot of students don’t realize he is in ROTC. The news is commonly received with the remark that he “doesn’t seem like the type.”

What then is “the type?”

Schwartz, Ballard, White, and Press all have traits in common—coming from close-knit families, for instance—but attempts at generalizing them beyond some shared biographical details do a disservice to their profound individuality. In fact, it is their strong sense of self, and pride in being different, that is one of the marked, but often overlooked commonalities that equips these cadets to navigate a dual existence that challenges their convictions every day.

Each young man I spoke to expressed in his own words an awareness, and acceptance, of somehow being different. For Schwartz, it’s the realization that “I like to do things a lot of people don’t necessarily take the time to do. I think, in general, I’m not in line with the status quo. It’s accepting that I am different, not just saying I need to fit a mold.”

Ballard looks at it this way: “I think choosing who you are and being fine with who you are is probably one of the hardest things. One of the cool things about college is that you can finally be free.”

ROTC then, in an almost paradoxical way, seems to provide a path—through structure and discipline—for these young people with a calling

for service to feel “free” to embody that calling. It allows them to prioritize what is important to them personally.

For Furman cadets, many of these priorities are values—service, duty, patriotism—that may be anathema to the hedonistic impression some have of contemporary college culture. And what such priorities can ultimately mean is that certain aspects of the college student life that are not strictly academic must be sacrificed. As Press says, being in ROTC has “taught me that I’ve got to pick out what’s going to be worth my time.”

Ballard acknowledges that “it can get hard by the time you hit 21, and your buddies are like, hey, let’s have some drinks, and you have to say no, I can’t. I have to wake up at 5:30 and run a 5K.” Among his peers, Ballard says he realizes that he is “simply different than them.”

For Press, part of managing the dueling demands of his dual life is by not compromising his sense of professional purpose in either. As he says, “You have to act like an officer when you are doing the training, and act like an officer when you are representing the program in the civilian world.”

Although cadets find the necessary means to navigate between both the Army and civilian world, this exchange is obviously not required of non-ROTC students. Even with the program’s external work in the community, the perceived esotericism of ROTC persists. Press reduces part of the mystery to very simple terms: “It’s a mystery because people are scared. They just know they could be shot at, so nobody tries to learn about it.”

In perusing the Furman ROTC web page, there is a phrase that sticks out. The End-state of the Vision document reads that, “the Paladin Detachment commissions leaders with the character, intestinal fortitude, and educational foundation to lead the U.S. Army in an era of persistent conflict.”

War, and active combat, are not things these young men are ignorant about. Like the rest of the Millennial generation, Press, Schwartz, White, and Ballard have come of age in a post-9/11 world, one that has seen America involved in conflicts where soldiers are losing lives. Ballard, the history buff, remembers how 9/11 cast war’s reality into a jarring present tense. “As a child, I thought war was a past thing. It made you realize that war is not something that goes away.”

Almost as an antidote, he perceives his calling to be an officer as an opportunity to provide hope and protection to those who are vulnerable. It’s not surprising to him that those who aren’t



*Will Ballard*



*Andrew Schwartz*

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called to service don’t understand it.

Of the current population, those serving in the military, Ballard says, “make up less than one percent of the United States. That’s a pretty small number, responsible for the entirety of the U.S. against any threat. It’s not always going to be easy. There are challenges, there are trials, there are tribulations, both for the soldier and his family. The majority of people will never understand. That’s not a bad thing. That’s the way it is supposed to be. It wouldn’t be a service if everyone had to undergo these trials and challenges. That’s why we volunteer, and that’s why we serve.”

Surrender may be an incongruous word to apply to such driven young men, but their inability to predict the world that awaits them post-graduation, and the military’s needs within that context, require an acquiescence of ego and a surrender of control. Joey White admits that the uncertainty of where he will land after graduation is his biggest stress. “I don’t know what’s going to happen. I don’t know if I’m going to be active duty, or Reserve, or National Guard. It’s all a lottery.”

The lottery White is alluding to is the important OML, or Order of Merit List. The OML is essentially a compilation of differently weighted performance statistics—including GPA, involvement in extracurriculars within the program, and so on—that, when crunched together, determine each cadet’s post-graduate military placement via a fateful algorithm. It is at Fort Knox where that algorithm is calculated. As a result, it behooves cadets to work intensely to beef up their on-paper bona fides and physical assets before the lottery commences in their senior year.

Even this process comes with a caveat, though. Schwartz explains that although the first three years of ROTC are about building these credentials, “even if you’re really good, you don’t always get your top choice, because if that happened, you’d have all the really good guys in certain branches. In the end, it’s the Army’s choice.”

Ballard’s outlook characterizes how cadets must approach the future and also where their sense of service really counts. “In many ways, we are at the whim of the Army. Our goal is whatever the Army needs to get done. My goal is to serve well, as long as I can. It is not necessarily to reach a rank or hit a pay grade. I don’t particularly care. More important to me is: Do I enjoy my time in the service and am I of benefit to the soldiers that will be placed under me?”

Schwartz, who aspires to be a physical therapist in some capacity in the military, has done everything he possibly can to maximize his paper appeal. However, “it’s really the Army’s path



THRESHOLD

Will Ballard, who has a profound nerdy streak for Viking history, graduated in May. He is now at Fort Benning in Georgia.

THIS IS ANOTHER PARADOX NOT OFTEN UNDERSTOOD ABOUT THE MILITARY...THERE MUST BE A DISMANTLING OF PERSONAL EGO IN PURSUIT OF SERVICE.

for me. I don't really know what the path looks like." For a young man who is intent on excelling, this exercise in letting go is "humbling"—an expected and understood part of the package, yet contrary to the extreme order he, and other cadets, must otherwise cultivate in their lives.

This is another paradox not often understood about the military: For Schwartz, Ballard, White, and Press, there must be a dismantling of personal ego in pursuit of service. ROTC has groomed them for that paradox, however, with the mentorship, the opportunities for training abroad, and the emphasis on teamwork to consider themselves in a context much larger than their own preferences, perceptions, and needs.

"The Army and civilian world are very different," observes Press. "Doing ROTC has let me know that in the future there are a lot of uncertainties, but I can handle them. Whatever they are, I can make the most of them."

And what about that future?

In one world, Matthew Press pursues travel abroad, having found his niche in exploring China and learning Mandarin. He relishes the "time to reflect" and how travel "gets your brain working differently." He and his dad are planning their next big adventure.

Joey White interns as a data analyst for a pet food company,

earnestly endorsing the brand, and referees his little brothers' lacrosse games. He exulted with his whole extended family this past May as his older sister Kimmy, a former ROTC cadet herself, finally awoke from the coma she had been in for a year—a private struggle for a young man who defines himself as "lighthearted" and "very family oriented."

Andrew Schwartz attends his church group and goes to local farms to source the freshest ingredients for the elaborate dinners he cooks as a creative outlet and stress reliever. He tinkers with the stand-up desk he built for himself or goes on a walk by Furman's beautiful lake, watching the ducks and relishing fleeting stillness.

In the other world, the Army world, Will Ballard, who was just commissioned as a second lieutenant, is further toward experiencing what he describes as "the privilege" of "being able to lead some of the brightest and most amazing American sons and daughters." He is now totally immersed in training, attending the Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course (IBOLC) at Fort Benning, Georgia. "I'm busy. Every day here is a new challenge. It's exciting."

For Press, White, and Schwartz, where Ballard is remains to come. But they also still have to get there.

After his training ruck march, Schwartz cools off in his family's kitchen, where he has spent so much time chopping ingredients and creating sauces. His time between two worlds, occupying student and soldier, will be ending in the fall, when the OML numbers are parsed and his, and his classmates', futures are decided.

What gives him peace is how right the walk along this path has felt up to now, despite not knowing exactly where it will lead. "So far, ROTC has let me be myself," he says, "and then put on the uniform and be a leader." **F**

Morgan Sykes is a freelance writer based in Asheville, North Carolina. Her work has appeared on OxfordAmerican.org and in Arkansas Times.

THE FURMAN FACTOR

The Paladin ROTC

program has a legacy of producing distinguished officers in its modest 60-year history. It has produced 10 active National Guard and Reserve General officers (including General Ballard).

"It's amazing that a small school like Furman has produced so many [people] like this," says **Bill Mayville '76**. Mayville, who is now a successful businessman,

spent his time as a cadet under Colonel **Michael Pasquarett, MA '78**. Pasquarett has continued to influence Furman's ROTC today through the development of his program, "How Washington Works: The Furman Model." It is an immersive experience that aims to provide cadets with real-world knowledge of how the nation's capital functions, giving Furman cadets a valuable advantage.

Pasquarett says he moved to do this when he saw that "the opportunities for West Point cadets

were so much greater than people in ROTC. I just wanted to give the people of ROTC, especially the Furman kids, kind of a leg up."

Pasquarett's efforts have been proven, and supported, by the conspicuous presence of Furman graduates in high places, including the Pentagon, the State Department, and Capitol Hill. "A lot of general officers in Washington that the students meet when they are here are Furman graduates. [Afterward] several of them would say

to me, 'Jeez, I wasn't that good when I was in college, was I?'"

What has distinguished Furman cadets of the past and today is the quality of the education, says Pasquarett. "A lot of people have always questioned, why do so many general officers come out of little old Furman? I think it's because you have a good selection of students coming there."

It is "the liberal arts education that is well rounded that they are getting at Furman" that makes the difference, Mayville agrees.

That's a sentiment echoed by current department chair of the military science program, Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Scrivens, who gives credit to the "fantastic resources and support" cadets can count on from both the Army and Furman.

Pasquarett says he is excited to continue his program for Furman cadets. "It makes me feel good that they are producing young people that can go off and do great things for the nation. I am very proud of these young people."

MUSEUM HOURS

Are we losing our ability to linger, to reflect, to focus, to absorb—and in turn, the rewards of those? Our writer spends five days in a museum looking at masterworks in order to truly see what lies beyond them.

**BY A. SCOTT HENDERSON
ARTWORK BY BRIAN FAULKENBERRY**

I love museums. Nevertheless, I have raced through some of the country's most impressive art collections out of circumstantial necessity or unthinking habit. Impatience seems to be wired into our modern DNAs. Worse still, it seems we have become so accustomed to constant interruptions that, according to psychologists, we'll interrupt ourselves—by doing something like surfing the Internet—if there aren't enough external distractions.

As the academic year wound down last May, I started becoming bothered by this impulse. I wondered: What would happen if I focused on whatever experience I was actually having rather than thinking about all the other things I could, or should, be doing?

This question felt critical to me on more than just a personal level, but in a professional sense, too. Deep engagement with ideas is, after all, at the heart of teaching and scholarship at a liberal arts university. It's those skills we believe are also critical to our society's well-being. And so, because the visual arts have always encouraged this type of deep engagement for me, I concocted an experiment: How might five days of unfettered time at a museum reinvigorate me professionally and personally?

WEDNESDAY, NOON

It's a warm May day when I arrive at the pleasantly cool Greenville County Museum of Art (GCMA) for the first time. Two elderly volunteers greet me with smiles as I enter. They stand near the small gift shop where a patron slowly leafs through a book on French Impressionism.

After consulting the museum map, I decide to start on the first floor, in the Holly Magill Gallery. The gallery—a commodious but welcoming space—features eight paintings known as “Sidney Dickinson and the Alabama Suite,” which concentrates on Dickinson's interest in Southern urbanization and race relations.

Dickinson was a Connecticut-born portraitist who spent much of his career in New York City painting such luminaries as John D.

Rockefeller and Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. It seems fitting, however, for me to begin with *Holiday*, Dickinson's self-portrait, completed in 1926 when the artist was 36 years old.

On this large canvas, Dickinson stands in front of an easel on the New York waterfront with his future wife (Mary Watson) seated behind him. Scant rays of light pierce the scene, a Manhattan sunset slowly descending to the horizon. We cannot see what he is painting, which provides an interesting postmodern twist: Is the painter the object or the subject of the painting?

After no more than 30 seconds, however, I feel the tug of the next painting. I realize it's going to be harder than I thought to break old habits. It's as if these works of art are unopened email messages that have accumulated in my inbox. (The reference to emails is germane; a 2012 study concluded that almost three-quarters of work-related emails are attended to within six seconds. I don't like to wait even that long.)

Reminding myself that I have more than six seconds, I shift my focus back to *Holiday*. Forcing myself to look carefully at its canvas, I start to notice things I had missed during my initial half-minute: Dickinson is left-handed and there are four boats in the river—the Hudson, I assume. I also notice how much of the canvas is covered with black paint. This, in turn, recalls something I learned as a college freshman in an art history course. Leonardo da Vinci advised painters to begin all canvases with a wash of black because, according to Leonardo, everything in nature is dark except when it is exposed by light. This painting makes me realize that it's not just nature, but also the artist who shines that light.

I'm lost in these thoughts when a family of four, who arrived seemingly moments ago, exits. They have, by my calculation, looked at 31 paintings in 12 minutes. I am still in front of the same one. In that time, however, something interesting has happened: My fidgetiness is gone. I actually spend 10 more minutes looking at *Holiday*. I'm aware of thinking about certain painting techniques,





DOMESTIC DISTURBANCES

Jamie Wyeth's *Birding* summons a Hitchcock frame of mind in which the sinister is often the familiar.

but I'm also conscious that I'm thinking in a measured, calming manner. To put it another way, I'm actually giving myself time to think, which is often the first casualty of our multitasking lifestyles.

Just as I'm about to move on, something else dawns on me: Because both Dickinson and Mary Watson are looking straight at the viewer, it occurs to me that it must be the viewer that Dickinson is painting on his hidden canvas. The subject we cannot see is, in fact, ourselves. I would have missed this marvelous conceit if I had limited myself to a drive-by view of the painting.

After *Holiday*, I sidle over to Dickinson's next work, *Boy on Horse*, which was painted by the artist in 1918 when he visited the Calhoun School for Colored Children. This school, established under the supervision of Booker T. Washington, was located near Montgomery, Alabama. In the painting, a young adolescent boy sits astride a dappled horse against a dark background. The boy appears to be looking at something behind him, though his body faces forward. I try to get a sense of this painting but without success.

After several more minutes, I realize the boy's coat seems too big for him. Before I know it, I've created a story for the painting. The boy, bundled in his mother's or father's coat, is beginning his journey to the Calhoun School, perhaps as a boarding student. He is moving forward, yet glancing backward, which is how most people confront an uncertain future. By viewing the painting and creating this backstory, I have experienced what the Hungarian psychologist Mihály Csíkszentmihályi has called "flow." Flow is the experience of effortless concentration that occurs when we are immersed in something. Those who achieve this state notice a diminishment of anxiety, which is likely why my earlier immersion in *Holiday* tended to calm my thoughts.

The last two paintings I view on Wednesday have been paired together by the museum. One is a study that Dickinson did prior to painting the same scene on a second, larger canvas. Both works—titled *Outside Montgomery, Alabama* (1926)—depict a cotton field on the

outskirts of Montgomery. On the horizon, tall buildings rise from downtown Montgomery, a symbol of the city's increasing power as a commercial and financial center.

I spend more than 20 minutes comparing the two works. The most obvious difference is a significant one: A black girl who figures prominently in the first version is absent from the second, despite being the focal point of the former. In the second version, the focal point is the newly built Kilby Prison, which notoriously featured an electric chair.

Given the subject matter of Dickinson's other Alabama paintings, it's hard not to see the racial implications of this modification. Blacks who violated race codes in the Jim Crow South were either killed or imprisoned; by casting a literal light on the prison (recall Leonardo's words), Dickinson was alerting viewers to these realities. As it turns out, he was prescient: Kilby Prison was where the Scottsboro Boys (a group of nine black teenagers wrongly accused of raping two white women) would be held only a few years later.

THURSDAY, 3 P.M.

I'm not surprised at being the only person in the main gallery today. There are few reasons to be inside on a beautiful Southern afternoon unless one wants to take advantage of an exceptional cultural resource. Today, I pass through the entryway, curious about the museum's origins.

The GCMA traces its beginnings to the formation of the Greenville Fine Arts League by 17 local artists in 1935. Funding from the Works Progress Administration supported the League's exhibits through World War II, and in 1963 the South Carolina General Assembly approved creation of the Greenville County Museum Commission. The present building opened in 1974, encompasses almost 70,000 square feet, and welcomes approximately 125,000 visitors each year. Located on the site of the former Greenville Woman's College—absorbed by Furman University in the late 1950s—the



NATIVE SON

A painting from South Carolina artist William McCullough's series exploring the town of Mayesville.

GCMA is part of Heritage Green, a collection of museums, including Furman's own Upcountry History Museum, that surrounds the Greenville Little Theater and the downtown library. Although many area residents favor limited government, the GCMA is a good example of how public dollars can lead to public uplift, which consequently increases our appreciation for why tax revenues are necessary in the first place.

Among other highlights, the GCMA houses the largest public collection of watercolors by the celebrated artist Andrew Wyeth, the best known member of an American family that has produced three generations of noted artists (N.C., Andrew, and Jamie). I decide that is where I'll head today—to view one of the current exhibits on the grandson, "Jamie Wyeth: Our Own Rabelais."

Jamie has been lauded for his portraits and his paintings of Brandywine River locales in Pennsylvania and Delaware. But what I'm interested in is the exhibit's reference to François Rabelais, the 16th-century French satirist whose name is synonymous with robust humor and a bawdy disregard for propriety ("I drink no more than a sponge," he supposedly remarked).

The first painting I view confirms why the reference to Rabelais is appropriate. *Sister Parish and Mr. Universe* (2011) depicts a parlor overlooking a winter landscape. In front of a large window, Mr. Universe flexes his nude body. The only parts of Sister Parish that we can see (she is sitting) are her long-skirted legs. The interior is full of color, notably vernal shades of green that contrast with the snow outside and reinforce the painting's eroticism. Is Mr. Universe a lusty daydream being dreamt by Sister Parish? Whatever the case, the painting seems to be winking at the viewer. It has turned our world of gender assumptions upside down by making a man the object of desire.

The colors in the next canvas, *Easter in Maine* (2008), oppose that of *Sister Parish* and are uncharacteristically dark for a Wyeth painting. This, however, doesn't prevent me from laughing aloud in

the tomb-quiet museum.

In short, a middle-aged mother holds the hands of her two young children at Eastertide. The threesome looks directly at the viewer, as if they have just shown up on our doorstep uninvited. Both children are in bunny suits; the youngest (a boy) is screaming. The mother is smiling, but her expression conveys more hysteria than happiness. Snow flurries dot the painting. The combination of a serious religious observance with an over-commercialized cultural ritual gives the painting its humorous quality. After ruminating on this scene, I conclude that neither spring nor the holiday's end can come soon enough for this besieged mother.

Still bound by my habits of time, I notice that I have also just checked my watch. I have spent more than an hour in front of these three paintings. To put that in perspective, I saw almost every gallery in the Cleveland Museum of Art in the same amount of time. But here's the thing: I can't remember a single painting from that collection.

FRIDAY, 1 P.M.

When I head back to the museum, I decide to keep my strategy of taking in just a handful of works. I return to Jamie Wyeth and his series entitled "A Suite of Untoward Occurrences on Monhegan Island."

Monhegan is a desolate island 12 miles off the coast of Maine. Barely a square mile in area, the island (population 75) has been a favorite destination for artists since the 1800s—Edward Hopper, Rockwell Kent, and Frances Kornbluth, among others. Typically, painters use the island's natural light and beauty as their subject matter. But the title of Wyeth's series rightly suggests that he is more interested in events (real or imagined) than with landscapes.

In *The Coop* (2014), a group of four children surrounds several chickens. One of the girls, whose expression is downright evil, appears to have been designated as the poultry executioner. (This reminds me of a couple of faculty meetings I've attended.) *The*

Lobster Bib (2013) is also creepy: A screaming man clad in a lobster bib runs from the Monhegan House Hotel, which is in flames (the incident is based on a 1963 fire). It's a scene that's hard to look at, given the horror inscribed on the man's face and the possibility that other hotel occupants weren't lucky enough to escape.

Still wondering about these unsettling images, I begin my drive home.

The Nobel Prize-winning psychologist Daniel Kahneman speaks of two kinds of thinking: "fast" (immediate and intuitive) versus "slow" (attentive and purposeful). Each type of mental processing is necessary, but our harried schedules are eating away at the time needed for slow thinking. And this is a problem, because it's fast thinking that frequently gets us into trouble. It fuels our natural tendency to accept ideas and opinions uncritically, particularly ones with which we already agree. I'm as guilty of this as anybody, not least when I'm responding to student comments during discussions or on written assignments. The slow thinking I'm utilizing to view art has certainly reminded me how important it is to keep fast thinking from overtaking my life, both in and out of the classroom.

SATURDAY, 10 A.M.

Today's goal? To finish viewing the last two paintings in the Monhegan series.

Birding (2014) depicts a field with seven cats in various hunting poses; because there are no birds in the painting, we assume that the cats have either been unsuccessful or extremely successful. (I decide on the second option.) The second canvas, *Sisters* (2015), is the most disturbing one in the series. A girl on a rocky ledge high above the ocean holds an infant in her outstretched arms. Even though the infant sucks her thumb nonchalantly, the older girl has an angry countenance, making the viewer wonder if she's going to throw her sister off the cliff.

The Monhegan series certainly seems to owe more to Alfred Hitchcock than to Rabelais. These paintings convey motion, as if they are single frames from a movie that's been brought to a standstill for our scrutiny. Socrates famously said that an unexamined life is not worth living. Do we ever take enough time in our own motion-filled lives to examine a frame or two? These paintings suggest that we don't, but should.

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

When I began this experiment five days ago, I dreaded Sunday. What would possibly be left for me to see? But given my new, less peripatetic approach to viewing art, it turns out that I've only scratched the surface of GCMA's collections. On this final day, I want to look at the work of a homegrown artist. I select William McCullough, a South Carolina native known for his realistic portraits and landscapes.

When I first view his three large paintings of Mayesville, South

Carolina (a town of barely 700 people in Sumter County), they appear to be photographs. And this, of course, is the point. From almost the moment the daguerreotype process was created in the 1830s, photographs were heralded as accurate depictions of reality, putatively more objective than the subjective renderings of artists. Through their attention to details and verisimilitude, however, McCullough and other realist painters seem to rebut this claim. In the case of McCullough, his use of lighting and perspective is so natural that I feel as though I've actually walked down streets and visited several Mayesville shops.

I suppose one could argue that these Mayesville streetscapes are a lot like Google Earth, a popular computer application that provides photos of virtually all the inhabited places on Earth (or at least that's the goal). On the other hand, today's college students, including those at Furman, would likely think that a realistic painting is a woefully inadequate substitute for Google Earth. They might be right, but I can't help from feeling that it shouldn't be an either/or choice.

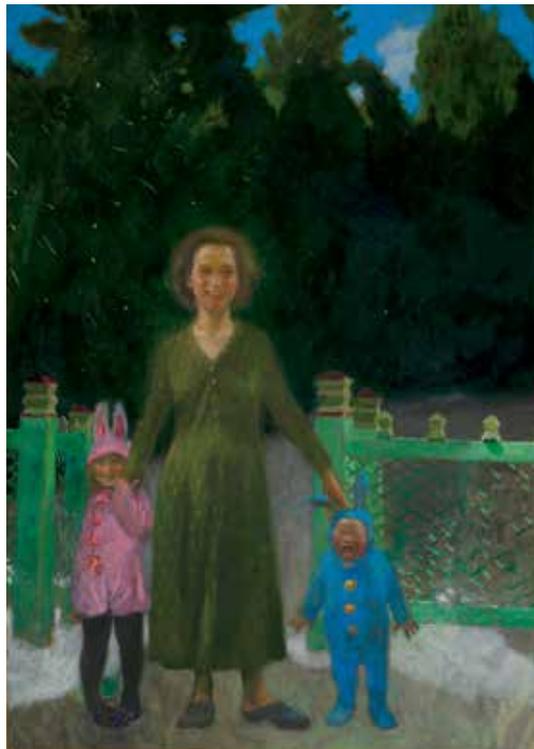
As I leave the museum, it occurs to me that art can provide insights into the new challenges that technology presents. More than 50 years ago, the Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan worried that whatever the medium might be, it would have significant effects on the message it conveys, an existential anxiety that McLuhan expressed with the phrase, "The medium is the message." I see a related development among my students on an almost daily basis. They increasingly mistake communicative convenience for communicative competence.

Others share these fears. The cognitive scientist Maryanne Wolf and the technology writer Nicholas Carr have both raised concerns about the impact that electronic texts might be having on our deep-reading skills—our ability to fully absorb and mentally interact with the written word. Could the same be true, I wonder, for our deep-seeing skills? Have digital media eroded our ability to focus on—and thereby truly see—the images we encounter? One thing seems certain: Media such as Twitter and Instagram rarely, if ever, promote deep thinking about anything. That,

of course, runs counter to the whole purpose of a liberal arts education, which emphasizes the need for slow thinking (analytical and engaged), rather than fast thinking (casual and intuitive).

Rather than feeling pessimistic, however, I find myself buoyed as my immersion at GCMA comes to a close. In her influential book *Thinking with Things* (2005), the art historian Esther Pasztor posits that "we make things visible so we can understand them." True enough, but visible things don't provide us with any understanding unless we spend more than a few seconds looking at them. ■

A. Scott Henderson is the William J. Kenan, Jr. professor of education at Furman. He has recently published a poetry collection, Gin and Gardenias, that is available at www.fiction-addiction.com.



EASTER MOURNING

Wyeth's *Easter in Maine* offers a humorous satire on the sacred versus the earthbound.

The Comeback



BY DAMIEN PIERCE

The Comeback



DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Thick patty versus thin, gourmet bread versus supermarket bun, high-end fixings or no frills, there is a burger for every taste in the Greenville area. Clockwise from left: The Pastrami, Southern Comfort, and The Roadhouse—from The Strip Club 104.

and having American cheese melted over the burger itself. Burgers resurface different feelings and memories. When I think of a cheeseburger, I still think of a McDonald's burger on a sesame seed bun. I wanted to keep within that theme, but I also wanted to make a burger that is unique to Bacon Bros."

For the most part, Gray's masterpiece is as traditional as it gets. Stripping Bacon Bros.'s "The Burger" down to its bare essentials, this sandwich utilizes fresh bread, pickles, melted American cheese, and a special sauce that combines equal parts of ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, and hot sauce. Classic enough, right? The twist is in the seven-ounce beef patty. Gray uses a blend of chuck, brisket and—this being Bacon Bros.—ground bits of bacon. The result is a rich, moist patty with a 70-30 meat-to-fat ratio.

Halfway into the burger, I realized that becoming a permanent resident of South Carolina might not be a bad thing. This sandwich embodies everything that a burger purist craves, but it almost doesn't taste like a burger because of the inclusion of brisket. Brisket—with its intense, beefy flavor—has a way of doing that. But as a beef enthusiast, I'm not griping. This actually felt like home. "I want our customers to have that (childhood) experience," Gray says. "But I also want that first bite to take them to a different place."

The Purist

Lest anyone forget that ground chuck is the most pure cow ingredient in a burger patty, there's The Chuck Truck. Leave it to a food truck to be conventional.

For nearly two years, this restaurant on wheels has been serving 1/3-pound certified Angus beef burgers in parking lots across Greenville. The menu has four different burgers—including the N'Awlins Burger with andouille sausage—but on the afternoon that I visited the truck parked outside The Community Tap, I opted for the standard choice: the Chuck Cheeseburger.

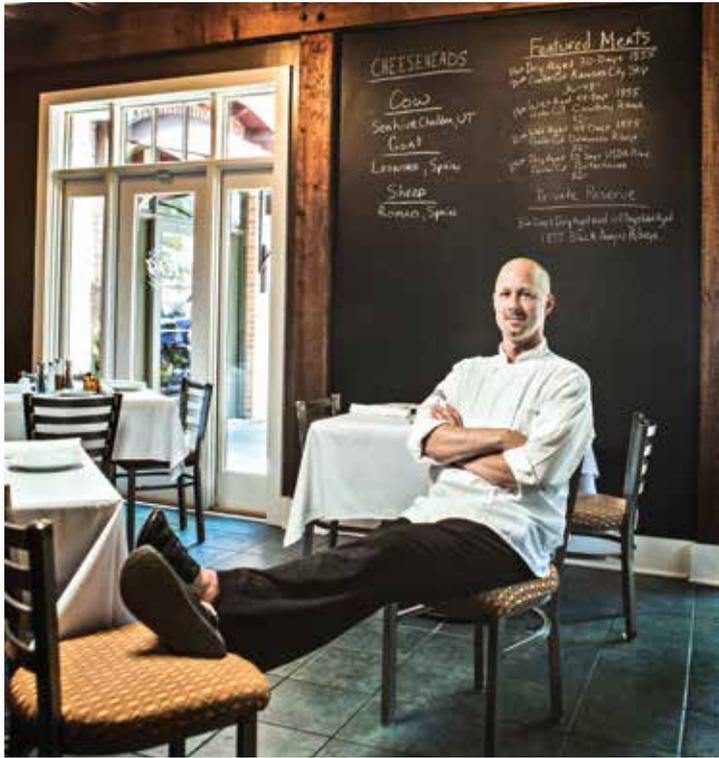
There's a reason for my simplicity (besides being from Texas). As appealing as the other sandwiches are on the menu, the star here is the meat. The hand-pressed, nicely seasoned chuck patty is charred perfectly. That means adding additional ingredients is a gamble. Go too far, and the sum of the parts will overshadow the greatness of the patty.

"I definitely didn't want the ingredients to distract from the beef," says David Allen, the truck's owner and chef. "I wanted a perfectly good charred burger with fresh ingredients."

Perched on a toasted French roll, the Chuck Cheeseburger is topped with lettuce, tomato, pickles, crispy red onions, and a signature aioli sauce. The Swiss cheese excels where cheddar and others might fail as a compliment to the patty. It doesn't complicate or overpower the meat's juicy flavor. That said, I did splurge on one addition: the smoked apple-wood bacon. Even for a Texan who is more faithful to beef than all other meats, there's room for a sliver or two of pig.

The Hole-in-the-Wall Burger

If I learned nothing else in my quest, it's this: The best burgers



"IF WE WERE GOING TO OPEN ONE DAY A WEEK FOR LUNCH...I WANTED TO CREATE SOMETHING AWESOME."

—JASON CLARK, CHEF AND OWNER OF THE STRIP CLUB 104

are rarely found in a food court or strip mall. More often, they're located in joints where you'd least expect them—underneath an overpass, or in a shack on the side of the road.

For me, that happy accident is Northwest Grill. On the outskirts of Travelers Rest sits a redbrick building that is barely noticeable along Highway 276. Here, I found "The Burgerologist" manning the grill. "I put a lot of love into the burger," says John Allmond, who claims two doctoral degrees in burger flipping to justify his nickname. "It's a classic. I try not to mess with it."

The Northwest Cheeseburger is an epiphany of a no-nonsense

burger. Half a pound of freshly ground beef is sourced from a local butcher, seasoned, and grilled medium well. The burger is then sandwiched on a white bun, and stacked with American cheese, lettuce, tomato, mayonnaise, onions, and pickles. There's nothing complicated about it. And yet, I've found myself coming back again and again, even when I was supposed to be sampling other burgers.

"I tried to make myself a burger one day," says Lisa Bayne, who co-owns the diner with Allmond. "It didn't turn out right. John was born with a talent."

The Temptress

For a steakhouse that features images of 1950s pinup girls hanging on the wall and a stripper pole in the bar area, it shouldn't come as a surprise that I felt like I was cheating on my wife when I visited The Strip Club 104. However, I want to be clear about this: I wasn't sinning because of the decor. The burger alone was sultry enough.

Every Friday at lunch hour, this steakhouse opens its doors with about 40 carnivores already waiting in line. What brings the masses is a mouth-watering, almost outlandish menu of 20 burgers. Ever crave a hot dog and homemade chips, or macaroni and cheese on your burger? You can get your fix here.

"If we were going to open one day a week for lunch, I wanted to be great at one thing: burgers," says Jason Clark, chef and owner. "Every burger is a different idea. You can't have a muffuletta burger without great olives, or a pastrami burger without onion straws and Swiss. You have to have the right ingredients. You have to make the pastrami. For every burger, I wanted to create something awesome."

Here's another fun fact about the burgers: They're all fresh-ground filet mignon. You read that correctly.

There's little doubt that each burger on the menu will make the person ordering it happy.

If you're feeling gluttonous, I'd recommend the "The Cuban." This colossal burger contains, among other ingredients, kasseri cheese, sliced prosciutto ham, and a healthy helping of pulled pork. Looking for some lighter fare? The "California" is basically a salad if you forget the giant slab of meat in the middle of

it, topped with ripe avocado, roasted plum tomatoes, smoked Gouda, and a balsamic glaze. During my visit, I opted for "The Roadhouse." The bun is soft and sweet, but durable enough to keep this beast in check. The other ingredients are just as seductive. Smoked Gouda cheese. Caramelized onions. Pecan-wood smoked bacon. A tower of onion rings. And just for good measure, horseradish sauce. With each bite into this moist burger, my eyes were rolling into the back in my head.

Once upon a time, I believed that burgers (the truly great ones anyway) shouldn't be ruined by an overabundance of toppings and condiments. Such a crime usually meant the chef was trying to cover up the fact that the meat was flavorless, or overcooked. However, with all its extras, this burger is flawless. And for a Texan, admitting that is like agreeing that Texas isn't its own country. It kind of makes me want to stick around the Upstate for a while. **F**

The Checklist

Bacon Bros. Public House

3620 Pelham Road
Greenville
864.297.6000
baconbrospublichouse.com

The Chuck Truck

Various locations
daveschucktruck.com

Northwest Grill

13045 Old White Horse Road
Travelers Rest, SC
864.610.0610

The Strip Club 104

104 East Poinsett Street
Greer, SC
864.877.9104
thestriclub104.com

Shelf Life



BRIDESHEAD REVISITED by Evelyn Waugh

I long avoided the novels of Evelyn Waugh, thanks to a grudge dating back to my sophomore year at Furman. I had just met my first serious girlfriend's father, who happened to be a Brit lit aficionado. Knowing I was planning to major in English, he wanted to talk books. I was doing a fair job of hiding my ignorance until he asked me if I'd read any Evelyn Waugh. "No, sir," I said, "but she's on my list." The father smiled. "Evelyn Waugh is a he, son," he said. For years, I couldn't even think of Evelyn Waugh without wincing. Mercifully, I got over the memory of that humiliation and am now a great admirer of Waugh's masterpiece *Brideshead Revisited*, the bitterly elegiac chronicle of a young man drawn into the fold of a doomed family of devoutly Catholic English aristocrats

British aristocrats, Southern boys, Scottish girls, and Norwegian existentialists

We asked soon-to-be debut novelist Ed Tarkington '95 what works are currently inspiring him.

BY ED TARKINGTON '95

ABOUT THE AUTHOR *Ed Tarkington '95 studied English and philosophy at Furman before earning an MA in literature and theory at the University of Virginia and a PhD in English from the creative writing program at Florida State University. He teaches English and coaches wrestling at Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville, and is a frequent contributor to Chapter16.org, a website devoted to the literary culture of Tennessee. His debut novel, Only Love Can Break Your Heart (Algonquin), will be published in January 2016.*

in the years between World Wars. Waugh's tortured ambivalence toward both religiousness and the English class system makes this novel both sublimely moving and deeply unsettling.

ALIENS IN THE PRIME OF THEIR LIVES

by Brad Watson

The stories of Brad Watson are small miracles, drenched with beauty and sorrow, damp heat and bright color, hilarity and tragedy. This most recent collection of his spans a surreal spectrum of settings, from the haunted air of the rural South to the cheap hotels and chain restaurants of modern Southern California. The understated yearning in Watson's voice and vision reminds me of Hawthorne's famous words about Melville: "He can neither believe, nor be comfortable in his

unbelief; and he is too honest and courageous not to try to do one or the other. If he were a religious man, he would be one of the most truly religious and reverential; he has a very high and noble nature, and better worth immortality than most of us."

PILGRIM IN THE RUINS: A LIFE OF WALKER PERCY

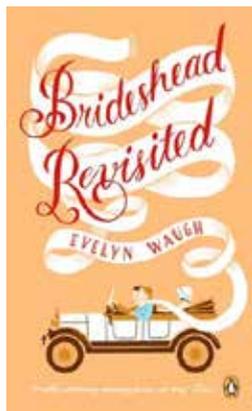
by Jay Tolson

Walker Percy's *The Moviegoer* is the master text for Southern white boys who want to be writers: a slim, contemplative novel about an aimless son of privilege and his search for meaning, in post-war New Orleans. Percy perfectly captures the peculiar angst that comes along with being given everything and having no idea what to do with it. Percy's life, however, was equally compelling. Born into a prominent family, he lost both parents to suicide. Raised a skeptic and a devotee of science, he contracted tuberculosis while working as a pathologist. While convalescing, he decided to abandon his medical career, convert to Catholicism, and embark on a life as a novelist. Jay Tolson's perceptive book is rich with insight into Percy's evolution as a thinker, his progress from fledgling writer to literary master, and his devotion both to the church and to ideas seemingly incompatible with religiousness.

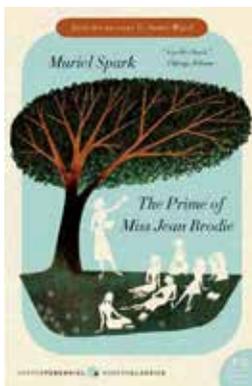
THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE

by Muriel Spark

Set in a girls' school in 1930s Edinburgh, Scotland, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* is a cross between *Mean Girls* and a parody of *Dead Poets Society* in which the charismatic maverick teacher is a woman "in her prime" who



The bitterly elegiac tale of a young man and doomed family



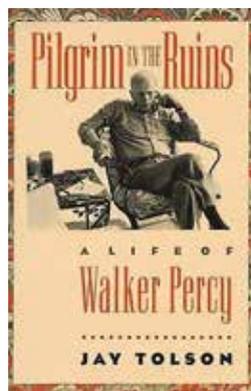
A ruinous torrent of jealousy and betrayal



A six-volume exploration of grace in the banal



Drenched with damp heat and bright color



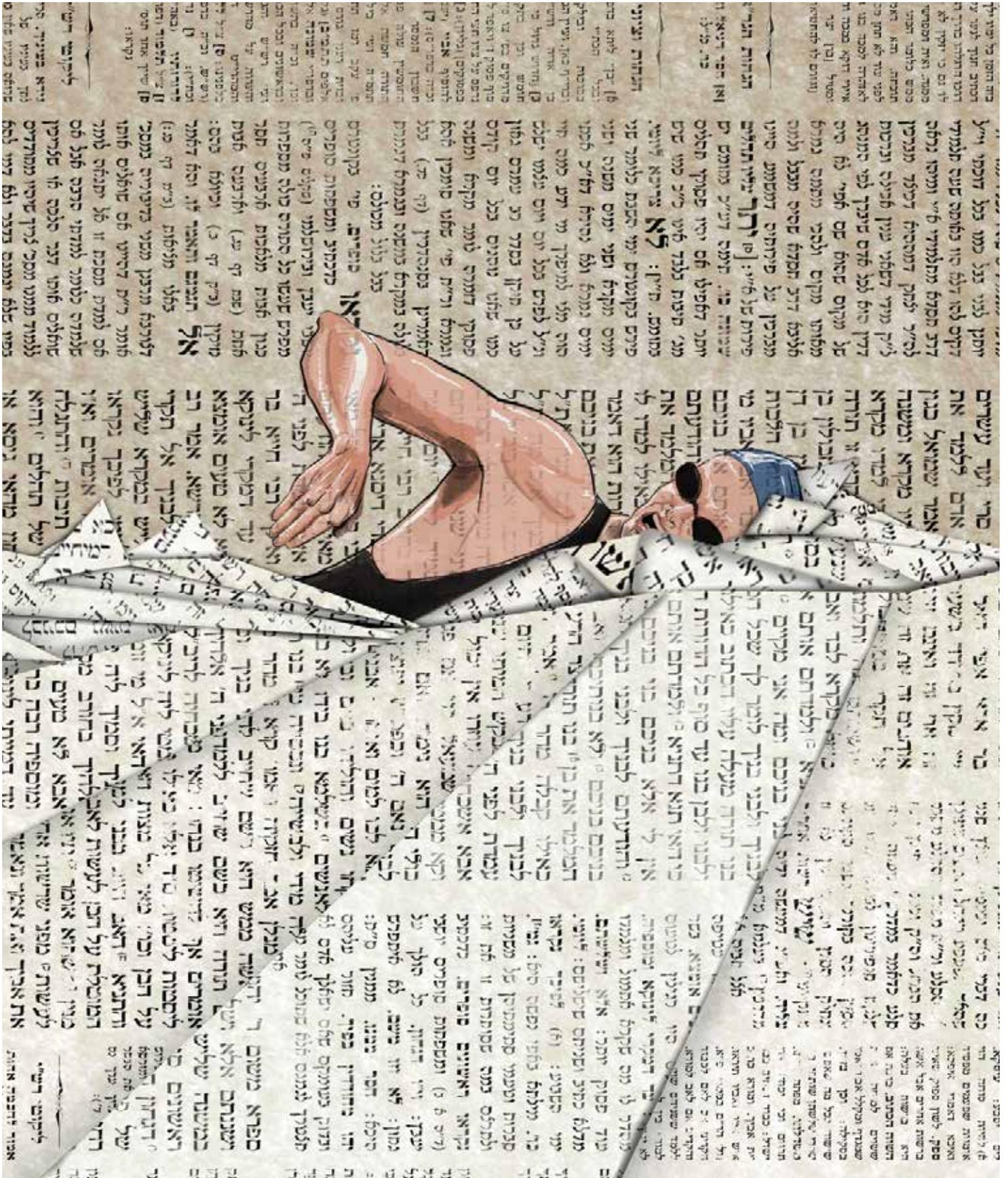
Religion, and ideas incompatible with religiousness

cultivates a set of pupils whom she "educates" by discoursing on her summer travels, her admiration for Mussolini, and her love life. Eventually, Miss Brodie manipulates one of her "set" into an illicit affair with a male teacher, provoking a ruinous torrent of jealousy and betrayal. Spark's mastery of language and narrative technique is awe-inspiring, but I admire this book most as a treatise on the secret lives of girls (something I'm curious about both as a novelist and a father) and the dangerous power of a captivating mentor.

MY STRUGGLE

By Karl Ove Knausgaard

In the few years since *My Struggle* began to be translated from the original Norwegian, Karl Ove Knausgaard has become an international literary rock star. Not coincidentally, he looks the part. With his stylishly long and unkempt hair and beard, blue eyes, prominent cheekbones, and ever-present cigarette, Knausgaard seems way too cool to be the author of a 3,600-page, six-volume dissertation of Proustian anecdotes from a mostly typical middle-class childhood and cranky ruminations on the emasculating indignities of 21st-century fatherhood. I started reading *My Struggle* largely to prove to myself that it wasn't worth the hype. By the time I reached the end of the first section—a meditation on the human compulsion to shield ourselves from the reality of death—I was a zealous convert to the Church of Karl Ove. As I read on, my jaw continually dropped open with admiration for the grace with which Knausgaard gives meaning to even the most banal aspects of daily life. *My Struggle's* hypnotic power is undeniable, and irresistible. **F**



BRIAN FAULKENBERRY

The Talmud tells us that parents are responsible for teaching our children three things: we must teach them Torah, we must teach them a trade, and we must teach them how to swim.

Why are these the things we must ensure our children know? We teach them Torah so that they may live good lives. We teach them a trade so that they may make a living. And we teach them to swim so that they may live.

People frequently use swimming as a metaphor for life. Consider Dory's words in *Finding Nemo*: "Just keep swimming, just keep swimming." That quotation appears everywhere, from T-shirts to tattoos; it's become a way of saying "Keep going" in any situation. Lynn Sherr, in *Swim: Why We Love the Water*, notes that we often use the language of swimming to talk about life: "Getting nowhere? You're treading water . . . How many times have you talked about 'sticking a toe in' or 'diving off the deep end' or finding yourself 'in over your head'?"

But as Sherr herself notes, swimming is not just a metaphor for life—it is life, life made quiet, life made clear. In a 2014 piece in *The New York Times*, Bonnie Tsui describes how swimming helps us find ourselves in a loud, overly insistent world:

"The medium makes it necessary to unplug; the blunting of the senses by water encourages internal retreat. Though we don't all reach nirvana when we swim, swimming may well be that last refuge from connectivity—and, for some, the only way to find the solitary self."

I, like others, need that regular, internal retreat. I have arranged my life around the open hours of the Furman pool. Those pool hours are sacred; they are my Shabbat.

The Water Is Wide

A successful swim means staying atop the surface, but the ritual of swimming goes much deeper.

BY MELINDA J. MENZER

On bad days, when everything has gone wrong and I am vibrating at a frequency that can be heard by dogs, I go to the pool and swim 36 repeats of 100 yards on 1:40. It's two miles, it takes exactly 60 minutes, and it clears the mind of everything. A swim like that is the hard reset, it's the mikveh—it washes you clean, so you can start again.

In "Birches," Robert Frost writes, "I'd like to get away from earth awhile/And then come back to it and begin over." The time I swim is the most productive hour of my day; I find the solution to the complicated problem, the words for the difficult situation. When I get out of the water, I can begin over.

I love swimming at the Furman pool. It's my Cheers, the place where everybody knows my name. They expect me at noon; if I show up at six a.m. instead, Glenn at the fitness center desk will say, "You must have a lunch meeting."

I love swimming in open water, too. I've swum the

Alcatraz swim, which bills itself as "the ultimate escape," but every swim is an escape, either from or to. Open water swimming is also a lesson in humility. For those of us who believe ourselves indispensable—women (and men) who do too much—a swim in open water is a reminder that the world can get by without us for a while. In the middle of Lake Hartwell or Lake Jocasee, the sky is huge, the water is wide, and I am small. Swimming puts you in your place.

And yet, when you are swimming a long way in a large body of water, something paradoxical happens. Diana Nyad, having swum from Cuba to Florida on her fifth attempt, expressed that paradox in her first exhausted words on the beach: "I have three messages. One is we should never, ever give up. Two is you never are too old to chase your dreams. Three is it looks like a solitary sport, but it's a team."

Nyad's first two messages are standard inspirational fare: don't give up, just keep

swimming. It is her third that resonates with me because I have found it surprisingly true. At the same time that swimming is a way to find the solitary self, it is also a way to remember our essential connectedness. Far from land, small and surrounded by water and sky, a swimmer must rely on her team.

In July 2014, I swam a 10-mile race in Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota—five miles across the lake and five miles back. It's fulfilling to swim across a lake and back. I highly recommend it. It feels complete. And yet there's no way around it: A 10-mile swim is hard. It takes a long time.

A swim like that takes a team. I had a kayaker with me and friends and family waiting on shore. One of those friends swam with me when we were children, through years of swim team practices and summers in the lake at Girl Scout camp. She was undergoing chemotherapy that summer, treatments every two weeks. She flew to Minnesota on an off-week to support me. There's nothing you can do to earn that kind of love. She just gave it to me. She was standing on shore waiting for me.

There is a point in every long swim when it feels as if you'll never make it to the finish. I hit that point about four hours in. It would have been hard to keep going alone. But I was not alone. I had a team. They were waiting on shore for me. And when I was out of strength, I thought of my friend, the strongest and bravest person I have ever known, and I swam it in. I swam it in on the strength of her love.

The power of swimming is that while it allows us to unplug from the everyday, it also connects us to the transcendent. There is no solitary sport; it always takes a team.

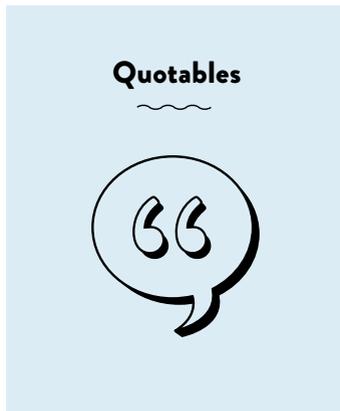
We swim out so that we may swim back in. **F**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR *Melinda J. Menzer is a professor in the department of English. She came to Furman in 1996 after receiving her B.A. from Williams College and her master's and PhD degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. Menzer teaches linguistics and medieval literature, as well as a May Experience course called Why We Swim. This essay is dedicated to Carey Elizabeth Fitzmaurice, 1968–2015*

CLASS NOTES



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ON ELECTIONS & FURMAN REDOS



A NOTE FROM CHERRYDALE
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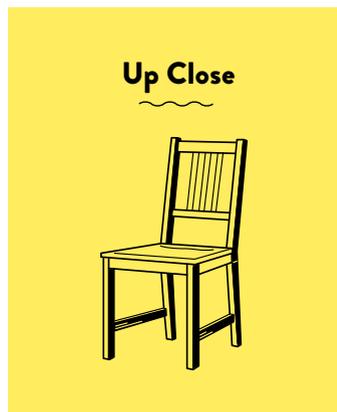
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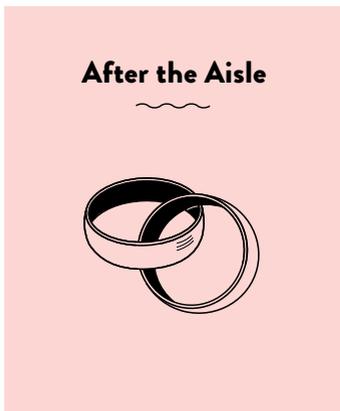
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THOUGHTS AFTER THE WEDDING



THE ESQUIVELS
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STEVE GRANT '80
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1956

Aubrey Bessenger of North Vernon, IN, has been inducted into the Hayden Hall of Fame. Bessenger pastored Hayden Baptist Church for 29 years.

Claude “Mitch” Carnell, Jr., of Charleston, SC, has written *Our Father: Discovering Family* published by WipfandStock Publishers. Described as a spiritual autobiography, he writes about his early days at Furman and traces his struggles with racial discrimination, great sorrow, church splits, and finding joy. The book is available from the publisher, Amazon, and most bookstores.

1957

Kindle Digital Press has published **William G. Justice’s** 51st book, *An Old Man Remembers Rural East Tennessee in the Mid-1930s*; his e-book *The Women to Whom Jesus Showed Love*; and an e-book trilogy: *The Pastor as Marriage Counselor*, *The Pastor as Grief Counselor*, and *The Pastor as Counselor to the Guilt-Ridden*. More can be found at williamjusticebooks.com.

1958

Harry Eskew has received the Georgia Baptist Church Music Conference Lifetime Achievement Award. Eskew is a retired faculty member of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

1959

Sidney Bland has been named to the honorary board of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, committed to building a national memorial to commemorate the brave women demanding the right to vote who were jailed and treated inhumanely during

World War I. Completion of the memorial is targeted for the centennial anniversary of the 19th amendment in 2020.

1960

Floyd Edwin “Eddie” Ellison, Jr. of Greenville was the 2014 March of Dimes Excellence in Medicine honoree. In April he was given a certificate in appreciation of 49 years as a member of the Greenville Health System Medical Society. He was a former member of the Furman board and was a member of Greenville Ob/Gyn Associates for 45 years. Since retirement, he teaches at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville and he and his wife, Betty, have endowed a scholarship for a Furman student to attend the school.

1966

David Harrill Roberts, a part-time instructor of rhetoric and linguistics at the University of Georgia in Athens, has been selected to receive the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award from the Alumni Association at Lander University.

1967

Murray Brockman, president of the South Carolina Governor’s School for Science & Mathematics in Hartsville, SC, has been awarded the Order of the Palmetto. This is the highest civilian honor a South Carolinian can receive and it was bestowed upon him by Gov. Nikki Haley in May 2015.

Alexia Jones Helsley’s latest book, *Columbia, South Carolina: A History*, was released on March 9, 2015. A teacher at USC-Aiken, Helsley lives in Columbia and has written three books on the state’s capital city. She has also written

three books about Beaufort, SC; co-wrote with her father *A History of North Carolina Wine: From Scuppernon to Syrah*; and published the *Hidden History of Greenville County*. She worked at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History for 37 years.

1968

Richard Burton of Harrisburg, PA, has founded and is president of the Central Pennsylvania Vietnam Round Table, the only known Vietnam-only oral history group in the country. The organization invites Vietnam veterans monthly to discuss their experiences before, during, and after Vietnam.

Thomas S. Davis, MA ’70, retired president and CEO of the New Jersey-based flooring company, Mannington Mills, Inc., has joined the board of ENCORE International. ENCORE has revolutionized the recycled rubber flooring category, and today creates the smartest, highest-performing and most ecologically responsible recycled rubber products made in North America.

1969

Paul Constantine of Greenville, SC, has been appointed to the board of directors for AIM North America. Constantine is president of ScanSource POS and Barcode US/Canada, the leading international value-added distributor of automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) and point-of-sale (POS) solutions, services, and sales.

1971

Donald Brewer’s second book, *Thunder Canyon*, has been released by Total Recall Press. The book, which is in the

Mousegate Series, details the investigative actions of U.S. Secret Service operatives in 1900. Brewer spent 26 years with the U.S. Secret Service and is well known for his work in the Counterfeit Division in Washington, DC.

1973

The art of **Denise Fulmer** of Conway, SC, can be found on FineArtAmerica.com. She has also self-published 10 books that can be found at Amazon and in e-book format in the Apple iBookstore. Her most recent book is a poetry and art book titled *Pondering in the Dark: Poetry for the Mystified*.

1975

Theodore “Tom” Faber was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha National Honor Medical Society in 2014, and in 2015 was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology. Also in 2014, he joined Specialists On Call, Inc., in Reston, VA, the world’s largest provider of emergency teleneurology services.

In June, former five-term congressman **Baron Hill** filed paperwork to begin his campaign to replace Republican Dan Coats in Indiana’s U.S. Senate race, becoming the first Democrat to enter the race.

Richard Wedemeyer has received the 2015 Great Ideas for Teaching Award from the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges, and the 2015 Advocate of the Year Award from the Oklahoma Drug and Alcohol Professional Counselors Association. Wedemeyer is a professor of psychology at Ross State College.

1976

Judith Anne Blackwell Goodwin recently earned the credential of certified fundraising executive. She was also named the Central Savannah River Area's Outstanding Fundraising Professional of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Goodwin works with university advancement at the University of South Carolina-Aiken.

1977

Tommy Marshall has been inducted into the Georgia Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame, an honor given to coaches who have displayed great leadership and prominence during their career. Marshall, athletics director at the Marist School, has been in athletics administration for 30 years and at Marist for 19 years. In 2004, *Sports Illustrated* named Marist the 15th ranked high school program in America, and Marist has been awarded the GADA Directors Cup for best overall athletics program for 16 consecutive years under Marshall.

1979

Brenda McClain has written *One Good Mama Bone*, which will be published by Pat Conroy's imprint, Story River Books, under the University of South Carolina Press. Publication is slated for spring 2017.

1980

Monte Dutton has written his third novel, *Crazy of Natural Causes*, based in the hills of Kentucky.

Timothy Fitzgerald was awarded an MA in professional counseling from Liberty University in December 2014. He was also ordained to the ministry in No-

vember 2014 by Cedar Creek Church in Aiken, SC, where he serves as a counselor on the pastoral staff.

Robert Flint became pastor of music and worship at Franklin Heights Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, VA, on January 12, 2015. For the past 18 years he was the associate pastor of praise and worship at McGregor Baptist Church in Fort Myers, FL.

Deborah DuRant Locklair of Florence, SC, has been promoted to senior vice president of McLeod Health and to Regional Administrator for McLeod Health Dillon and McLeod Health Cheraw. Locklair was also recently elected to the board of trustees of the South Carolina Hospital Association and the board of directors for the South Carolina Office of Rural Health Board.

1981

Angela L. Walker Franklin, president and CEO of Des Moines University in Iowa, has written an inspirational book, *An Unconventional Journey... An Unlikely Choice*, in which she shares her journey and leadership lessons. The book is available in softcover and e-book and at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and WestBow Press.

On July 1, **Zach Kelehear** became dean at Georgia Regents University's college of education.

1983

The Board of Trustees of the Maryland Independent College and University Association elected **Roger Casey** as chair of the board effective July 1. Casey, the ninth president of McDaniel College in Westminster, MD, and Budapest, Hungary, was named

to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and commended by The New America Foundation for his support of low-income students.

Brad Faxon, winner of eight PGA Tour events and considered one of the most charitable players in golf, was the guest speaker and honored with the 18th Francis Ouimet Award for Lifelong Contributions to Golf at the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund's 65th annual banquet in April 2015. Faxon recently signed a contract with FOX Sports to be one of the lead announcers on their new USGA TV package.

Debra Egger LeVorse has become a partner at Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young LLP in Dallas, TX.

1985

David Ouzts co-created and hosted a sacred arts festival, Alleluia Be Our Measure, in May 2015 at Church of the Holy Communion (Episcopal) in Memphis, TN.

1986

Ed Kirby, club professional at Alpine Country Club in Cranston, RI, played in the four-day Senior PGA Championship in May at French Lick (IN) Resort's Pete Dye Course. Kirby turned pro after graduating from Furman and then grinded through the professional ranks until 1996, when he decided to take a position at the Alpine Country Club.

1987

Lisa Lee Rust of Lumberton, NC, is currently serving as moderator for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina.

1988

Susan Campbell Schugart is a regent serving on the board of ACHE, the American College of Healthcare Executives.

1989

James J. Burks has started a three-year term on the Board of Governors of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), his professional organization. He has also been promoted to brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force; assigned to the National Capital Region to serve as director of manpower, personnel, and resources; and appointed as chief, Medical Service Corps, Office of the Air Force Surgeon General in Falls Church, VA.

Dollars for Scholars of Lancaster County, SC, has hired **Ann Scarborough Womble** as its first executive director. The organization offers interest-free loans to Lancaster County students enrolled full time in accredited higher education institutions. Womble is past chair of the Republican Committee of Lancaster County and a member of the Council of Trustees at Millersville University.

1990

Lisa Bitting, an international baccalaureate teacher at Palm Harbor, FL, University High School, was selected by the National Federation of State High School Coaches Associations to receive the 2014 South Sectional Coach of the Year Award. She coaches the boys swimming and diving teams at Palm Harbor.

Tod Hyche, partner in charge of the Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP firm in Greenville, has been elected as South Carolina State Chair-Elect for



UP CLOSE

The Rainmaker

The political sphere has a secret weapon with this former sociology major.

Brice Barnes '04 was having a good week. As the recently named finance director for the Florida Democratic Party, she was celebrating the Supreme Court ruling that affirmed the legality of the Affordable Care Act and same-sex marriage in all 50 states. She was also on day 68 of her new gig, which in April had moved her from North Carolina, where she spent the last decade blazing her way through the state and national political scene.

In fact lately, Barnes has been on a roll.

In spring, the 33-year-old was named by the American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) as one of the 40 best and brightest campaign professionals under 40 years old currently working in the United States. Not a bad feather in the cap for a

sociology major who originally thought she was headed for law school.

Barnes got her fundraising start at Duke University, where she worked in the development office after graduating from Furman. It was while studying for the LSAT that she decided to get involved with local politics "because I always heard that helps with being an attorney," she says. But when she got a job working for then-Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue, the law school idea became a thing of the past. "I just never left," she laughs.

Barnes went on to serve as the national deputy director for Perdue's campaign for governor, which Perdue won—a source of pride for Barnes since Perdue became the first female governor to take office in her home state. "I believe that taking those leaps of faith

is sometimes what makes you most successful," she observes.

Cracking the glass ceiling has become somewhat of a hallmark for Barnes, who, as a senior adviser to North Carolina's Kay Hagan, helped her leap a gender barrier as the first female Democrat elected to the United States Senate.

In sports, Barnes would be known as "clutch." Her clients have won more than 86 percent of their elections and raised 172 percent more campaign contributions than their respective opponents. Barnes reports helping to raise more than \$30 million throughout her career. With talent like that, one might wonder why Barnes does not take her acumen to the political nerve center of Capitol Hill.

"I went to high school in D.C. and just didn't have the bug to go back. To me, so much

more is done in the state and local districts and you can help more people with the work you are doing," she explains. But being far from the heart of government has not kept her from meeting key leaders. "I've been fortunate to interact with Vice President Biden, former President Bill Clinton, and other key leaders for fundraising events. It is always special to meet the leaders of our country shaping our laws and policy," she says.

Before moving to Florida, Barnes created her own political firm, Greenprint Strategies, to help brand herself and build teams for North Carolina candidates. "The firm is shifting now that I am in Florida, but I will still keep it active," she says.

Greenprint enabled Barnes to build a niche opening up the field, for women in particular. "I never came out and said I wanted to focus on helping other women run, but it happened naturally and I am glad because we need to figure out how to recruit and engage other women more effectively. Women have such good perspectives to contribute."

Now, Barnes is responsible for leading the party's fundraising efforts for all of Florida—from presidential races to city council elections. As a key electoral state, and one poised for another presidential election, Florida will keep Barnes busy. "We do the bulk of our fundraising for the party during presidential election years," she explains.

Which begs the question: For someone who has been so successful putting others in office, what's the likelihood of Barnes putting herself there? "You never know, but at this point I don't foresee it," she says. A politician couldn't have said it better. **F**

—Kate Dabbs '09



UP CLOSE

Instrument of Change

At a time of racial disharmony, one of Furman's first African-American students found a way through music.

Raymond McGee '71 is a serious man—and never more so than when it comes to music. So much so that each passing year, McGee celebrates his devotion to the art as one would a wedding anniversary. In August, he marked 50 years with his beloved bass by performing a concert at Anderson University that included several of his students and fellow musicians.

He told them it would be a revival of a Furman senior recital he had more than 40 years ago.

McGee was first recognized for his talent in high school in Asheville, NC. At that time, he was introduced to Peter Rickett, the longtime Greenville Symphony Director who died in 2014. Rickett took an interest in the young protégé and began to privately tutor him on

the double bass while McGee commuted back and forth. “It was five dollars for the lessons and five dollars for gas,” McGee explains.

By his senior year of high school, the Furman band came to Asheville for a recruitment tour. “They asked me if I would come to Furman. I had a full scholarship to attend Duke and only a partial one for Furman.” But the influence of Peter Rickett and **John Duggan '69**, an older member of the band, convinced him Furman would be worth the extra cost.

At Furman, McGee majored in double bass performance and filled his hours playing with the Greenville, Asheville, and Hendersonville symphonies. But the year was 1967, and Furman—only two years into official integration since **Joe Vaughn '68** matriculated in January of 1965—was experiencing both racial division and Vietnam War tension.

“During my freshman year, my roommate and I had gone to bed and were awakened by a disturbance outside,” McGee recounts. “It sounded like a bomb went off, and we realized someone threw a Mason jar through the window.” He recalls this incident with obvious discomfort but also explains that it was the only act of violence he faced.

Still, there were other racially charged events for McGee. One was intricately linked with his love for music. “I was in the marching band, and in that time the fight song for Furman was *Dixie*. I spoke with our director about not playing it anymore and the next summer, at band camp, it was not in our folder. I thought we'd gotten rid of it. But during the first home game that fall, the band struck it up without the music. I left the game in protest. I was later called into the student band council and dismissed.”

Shortly thereafter, President Gordon Blackwell summoned McGee and seven other students over for lunch. “I still remember we had these big hamburgers with bacon, lettuce, and tomato—it was maybe the best lunch I have had. President Blackwell asked how we were doing and brought up *Dixie*. He looked at me and said, ‘Ray, you can go back because the students don't have the authority to dismiss you.’ I decided I'd rather play in the orchestra and didn't return. But they didn't play *Dixie* after that,” McGee says.

McGee was the first African American in Phi Mu Alpha, the music fraternity, and stayed involved while also playing for the ROTC band. It was during his freshman year that he faced another challenge: He learned his mother had passed away. “I was able to come back shortly after the funeral, just in time to play DuPre Rhame's *24 Messiah*,” he remembers. Music was once again a refuge.

After Furman, McGee attended graduate school at Florida State University and completed course work for a doctorate in music education. From 1979 to 2011 he was a strings teacher with the Greenville County School District. For 20 years, he was also the director of Honors Orchestra, an after-school orchestra in the school district.

McGee still plays in a string quartet—on the cello, adding another instrument to his repertoire—as part of the Upstate Senior Citizens band, and works part time at Anderson University. Although the term “pioneer” would likely make McGee uncomfortable, his love for his art has propelled McGee through history, and in the process allowed him to make it, too. **F**

—Kate Dabbs '09

the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Following his one-year term as chair-elect, he will assume the role of South Carolina State Chair for five years. Hyche has practiced with Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP in the wealth transfer planning area since 1995.

It had been 15 years since a non-junior or college golfer had won the Azalea Invitational at the Country Club of Charleston, SC. **Todd White**, a 47-year-old history and government teacher at Spartanburg, SC, High School ended that drought in March 2015 when he finished the 72-hole tournament at 15-under-par 269.

Christine Caputo Winn is one of three Furman graduates currently serving on the board of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

1992

State Bank and Trust Co. has named **Bruce Leicht** as market president in Macon-Bibb County, GA. He will lead the team responsible for growing the State Bank commercial and personal banking lines of business.

Rob Kight's newest book, *Cannabis Business Law: What You Need to Know* (Quick Prep), has been published by Aspatore Books. This authoritative text addresses progressive legal subject matter and considerations for businesses in the growing cannabis industry. A strong believer in cannabis for personal and medical use, Kight is an attorney advocate for NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, and a member of Women Grow, a national organization promoting female leadership in the cannabis industry.



QUOTABLE

Rachelle (Harley) Thompson '92

“Our nation (and all Furman graduates) need to focus on the value of human potential. What is happening to the people with potential who are not on anyone’s radar? We must find that potential and innovation, and develop it.”

Rachelle Thompson grew up working in a tobacco field in Dillon, SC, before attending Furman and graduating first in her class. After Furman, Thompson attended Stanford University, where she became the first African-American woman in the school’s history to receive a PhD in chemistry. She did post-doctoral work in a law firm in San Diego and, 23 years after she began life after Furman, has combined a deep knowledge of science with a passion for law by serving as a law clerk to two federal judges and becoming a registered patent attorney at McGuireWoods in Raleigh, NC. She applies her experience in litigation involving biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, smartphones, and more.

1995

Jody Davidson was named principal at Hand Middle School in Columbia, SC.

Will Williams has been appointed as the national managing partner of KPMG LLP’s tax practice. Before assuming the new role, Williams was a principal and the U.S. National Leader in Economic and Valuation Services practice at KPMG.

1996

After 17 years in education, **Amanda Stone Norton** says she re-invented herself and joined the literary world as a writer and editor. She published her first children’s book, *Muddy Madeleine Meets An Arach-A-Doo*, in December 2014. The book creatively weaves together science and language arts into a bilingual setting, forming a unique and comical adventure that promotes a

love of science and nature for students from diverse cultures and experiences.

1997

Madelyn Cooper Cave has been named principal at Brewton (AL) Middle School for the 2015–2016 school year. She received her EdS in Instructional Leadership and Administration from Troy University.



QUOTABLE

Blaine Hart '08

“I wish I had applied myself [at Furman] like I do today in the real world. I think I actually would have had more fun with the subject matter. I was a ‘late bloomer,’ but I am cool with that. Furman was the best place for me. I also would have taken more language classes and studied abroad. Our world is becoming increasingly international, and I have had numerous incidences where a stronger understanding of international culture would have helped.”

Hart is vice president of CBRE, Inc.’s Greenville office, the largest commercial real estate firm in the world. What started as an internship through Furman after his junior year became “great exposure to change and movement in the Upstate.” Hart is also involved in the United Way as chair of the YP20’s program (Young Philanthropists in Their 20s), and in 2012 was recognized for his volunteerism and leadership in Greenville Business Magazine’s Best and Brightest Under Age 35. “Greenville is growing and I want to make sure it grows the right way,” he says. At Furman, Hart was a member of the baseball team and a business major. “One thing I took from my Furman experience was from my coach, Ron Smith. I won’t ever settle and I just try to get a little better each day.”

1998

Christopher Lassiter, an associate professor of biology at Roanoke College, was recently appointed as director of undergraduate research for the college.

1999

Melissa Branchetti Atkin is working in the manuscript editorial department at W.W. Norton & Co. in New York City. She anticipates having the opportunity to work on former Furman President **David E. Shi’s** (’73) 10th edition of *America, A Narrative* to be published early in 2016.

Stephen B. Long has been granted tenure and promoted to associate professor of political science and international studies at the University of Richmond (VA).

2000

Laura Wahoske Benz has opened her law firm, Laura W. Benz, LLC, which specializes in environmental law.

2001

On May 1, 2015, **Kelly Ownby** was welcomed to the full-time, on-site psychiatric team of Brookhaven Retreat®, LLC, a unique residential treatment facility in Knoxville, TN, exclusively for women with emotional and mental health challenges and/or substance abuse issues. She brings nearly a decade of psychiatric experience to Brookhaven Retreat’s team.

Allison Sullivan, a partner with Bluestein, Nichols, Thompson & Delgado in Columbia, SC, has been named chair of the 2015–2016 Leadership Columbia Alumni Association Advisory Board. Leadership

Hot off the success of Olivia Esquivel's latest business venture, Southern Pressed Juicery—a cold-pressed juice bar and raw restaurant from Table 301 in Greenville—the Esquivels are busy. And that may be the understatement of the year when the very interview for this story was defined as a “date” by the couple.

But when you take the dreams of a first-generation American (Olivia's parents are Cuban immigrants) and a fourth-generation Mexican-American on Anthony's side, add in the rigor of a shared Furman experience, and spike it with a wicked dose of entrepreneurial energy, you have quite the dynamic duo.

“I accidentally became a serial entrepreneur,” explains Olivia. “I just can't sit still.” In addition to Southern Pressed Juicery, Olivia has two other businesses that keep her bouncing between Miami and Greenville: A Public Affair PR, a public relations firm; and Petite Parade, a children's store. Not to be outdone, Anthony, as the associate head coach for Furman men's soccer, is also always on the move—from game to game, as well as from coast-to-coast to recruit promising talent.

The couple, going on year three of marriage, added Luca, their son, to the mix almost two years ago. But what now is a joyous, entropic existence was not always a done deal. “You could not find two more opposite people. Anthony is type A, and I am type B,” says Olivia. “Even for the simple act of going to the grocery store, you would see us going in two completely different directions to accomplish the same task.”

The two met when Olivia's older sister, **Karen Lopez Jordan '01**, attended Furman and was a classmate and friend of Anthony's. “I met her when



Anthony '03 & Olivia '06 Esquivel

Three businesses, a high-level coaching job, an almost two-year-old—and the marriage that balances it all.

By Kate Dabbs '09

she was this 16-year-old high school girl. After Karen graduated, she asked me to keep an eye on Olivia,” Anthony says.

“Too close of an eye, I guess,” laughs Olivia.

A close friendship formed but romance did not enter the equation until 2011, when Olivia was living in Miami and Anthony was in Austin, Texas, running the largest youth soccer club in the country. “We had been talking and decided to meet up in Denver while Olivia was there for work,” Anthony says.

“And when I saw him,

I immediately knew,” says Olivia.

“I always tell my guy friends ‘when you know, you know’ because in that moment, my whole future with her was clear,” adds Anthony.

“By the end of the day, we were figuring out where we were going to live [in order] to be in the same city,” says Olivia.

There was a six-month engagement, a wedding at the Biltmore Coral Gables in Miami, and 11 months later, a Luca.

With only 24 hours in a day and four jobs between the two of them, one quickly wonders how they do it all. “The one

thing we have certainly learned in being married is how to really help each other. Luca is always with me, too, so we have to balance taking care of him with family in different parts of the country,” says Olivia.

“On our days off, we support each other in the environments we work,” Anthony says. “I come to Southern Pressed when I am off and she will come to the soccer field when she is free.”

“The secret really is about communication, time management, and being smart—Anthony is really good at that,” Olivia reports. Anthony acknowledges that it may come naturally. “As a coach, I have to be organized and on time so I set up that structure as a father.”

After knowing each other as friends for so many years, there were not too many surprises once the two merged their lives in Greenville. Becoming parents was perhaps a bigger defining moment. “The birth of our son and seeing my wife as a mother—it was this amazing experience to see her connection with Luca. She had a natural birth and I was so proud and had so much respect [that] I immediately called my mother to tell her I love her,” Anthony says. “And I tell all moms I see how much respect I have for them.”

“He really does,” Olivia laughs.

“But all in all, it is always about just growing together. We were two single people living in big cities. I mean, I was living on the 42nd floor in Miami, and now we are this little family of three living in Greenville balancing it all,” Olivia says before bouncing to a meeting about bringing Southern Pressed Juicery to the Pala Den this fall.

From one observer's perspective, they seem to be balancing quite well. **F**



UP CLOSE

The Farmer and the Sell

Is it possible to help the green movement through capitalism?

“I want GrowJourney to be the big name—what people immediately think of when they’re thinking of organic gardening,” says **Aaron von Frank ’00** of the company he began with his wife, Susan, a little more than a year ago.

Most people don’t associate big companies and capitalist dreams with sustainable practices, but most people aren’t Aaron von Frank. With his well-coiffed hair and sparkling smile, von Frank walks out of his suburban home with his pet duck toddling behind him. This is not your stereotypical “tree hugger,” and that might be exactly what von Frank wants.

Von Frank does not disparage the word “sustainability,” but he has begun to feel it is not an adequate term. “It implies stasis,” he argues, “and stasis is insufficient given

the level of global ecosystem disruption we’re causing via an extractive economic modus operandi.” If you’re not entirely sure what von Frank means, he puts it more simply: “We’re eroding one pound of soil for every pound of food we create with our ‘biotechnology.’ We’ve lost 75 to 95 percent of our seed agrobiodiversity over the past century.”

That loss is a big problem, according to von Frank, because a genetic diversity of crops is necessary in order for survival. Von Frank gives the Irish potato famine as an example: one potato contracted a disease, and the result was blight across the region, as all of the potatoes were the same breed.

What’s more, the nutritional quality of modern food crops has diminished over the years, as quantity has been valued

over quality. This is where GrowJourney steps in, and where the von Franks’s own journey began.

A few years ago, Aaron and Susan were at a friend’s home for dinner. The friend walked the couple through her backyard garden, where they spotted ground cherries, small fruits similar in appearance to a cherry tomato. After tasting them, they were blown away by the interesting flavor—something they never knew existed.

Shortly thereafter, the couple began researching the “secret world of wacky and unusual heirloom foods,” and broke ground on their own plot at their home. Before they knew it, they had transformed their backyard into a horticulture oasis full of heirloom tomatoes, strawberries, and grapes, but also other non-traditional crops such as chufa

(“earth almonds”), horseradish, three different varieties of elderberries, and Tromboncino squash.

It’s all a part of the permaculture philosophy to which the von Franks have become avid followers. Permaculture—derived from “permanent” and “agriculture”—is a method for designing systems that are sustainable, and in turn, low-maintenance.

“Everyone thinks that gardening is time-consuming,” he explains, “but those who think that are also the ones who believe you have to plow the soil and spray for pesticides and put down fertilizer. You don’t have to do any of that. In fact, you’re making it harder for yourself if you do.”

Rejuvenated by their experiences with their own heirloom garden and aware of the dangers of a world with decreasing biodiversity, the von Franks decided to begin their own organic “seed of the month” business.

GrowJourney now distributes USDA-certified organic seeds to subscribers in 45 U.S. states, as well as Puerto Rico and Canada. Members receive five packs of seeds each month as well as access to online guides, tips, and plans for organic gardening—all promoting the permaculture method of growing.

Von Frank envisions building a global company with GrowJourney, but he is careful to note that the business will remain collaborative and supportive of smaller businesses. In fact, GrowJourney would help cultivate and “feed” other companies, bolstering them in an otherwise “dog eat dog” economy.

“Big companies don’t have to be bad,” he says. “It’s all in how they use their size.” **F**

—**Lindsay Niedringhaus ’07**

Columbia is a program of the Columbia Chamber that helps emerging leaders connect more deeply with their community.

2002

Lori Guinn (MA), who has been principal at Liberty (SC) High School since 2011, has been named the new director of secondary education in the Pickens (SC) school district. She is working toward a doctorate in the field of education, specifically curriculum and instruction, from the University of South Carolina.

2003

Emily Hull McGee of Louisville, KY, became the 12th pastor of First Baptist Church in downtown Winston-Salem, NC. She is the first woman pastor in the church's history.

Susquehanna Financial Group, LLLP (SFG), the institutional broker-dealer member of the Susquehanna International Group of Companies (SIG), recently appointed **Shyam Patil** senior analyst covering the Internet sector. He will be based out of SFG's New York office.

2004

Cal Hurst has joined TD Bank in Greenville, SC, as a regional vice president for the Upstate market. He will be responsible for TD Bank's day-to-day commercial banking activity in a 10-county area that includes Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, and Clinton.

Latoya M. Mitchell began a new position in July 2015 as senior medical writer for Pharma Write, LLC, of Princeton, NJ.

2005

Carolyn Wahl Edwards has become a senior account executive with strategic public relations and crisis communications firm Lovell Communications, Inc.

Anne Wagener's novel *Borrow-A-Bridesmaid* is scheduled to be published by Pocket Star/Simon & Schuster. It is the story of a recent college graduate who decides to rent herself out as a bridesmaid.

2006

John Dickson enrolled in the MD-PhD program at Harvard Medical School in 2006. While working on his PhD, he conducted research into Alzheimer's disease and other dementias with his research being published in the *Journal of Neurochemistry* in 2013. He completed his PhD from Harvard in 2013, and this May, Dickson received his MD.

On June 5, 2015, **Rod Kelley** was promoted to assistant dean of

students and director of student rights and responsibilities at Florida State University.

Emily Hutchinson Morgan recently accepted a position as assistant band director at Frost Middle School in Fairfax, VA. She has taught elementary band in Fairfax County Public Schools for seven years, while maintaining a thriving private clarinet studio. She performs with the Virginia Grand Military Band, the Fairfax Wind Symphony, and Wind Works of Washington.



A NOTE FROM CHERRYDALE

Over the last year, our team in the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement has planned more than 20 receptions for folks to meet President Davis in cities across the country. These events have been a hit with Furman alumni and parents as they have had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Davis and engage with other Paladins in their region.

Alumni often express their desire to have more gatherings or functions in their respective cities. Some have even offered to help plan or lead an effort to establish more regional alumni functions. Our office has heard you, and as a result we will be launching a new regional engagement plan this year. **Leo Fackler '03**, associate director of alumni and parent engagement, will be leading this effort.

We are excited to bring more events and programming to our alumni. In fact, excitement is the key word here. When we meet as a Furman community and reconnect, network, and help each other with career issues and business connections we all begin to realize the power and potential of the Furman network.

Please watch for communications from our office in the coming months concerning our regional engagement plan rollout. This fall, we will pilot the effort in several key cities and expand to a broader audience in 2016. For this effort to be truly powerful and enduring, we will need the support of dedicated local volunteers.

If you have an interest in crafting what the movement will look like in your city, feel free to contact Leo at leo.fackler@furman.edu. When Paladins come together in alumni gatherings, the spirit and energy in the room are amazing. We want to offer this spirit and energy in more cities across the country!

Mike Wilson '88

Mike Wilson '88

Executive Director, Alumni and Parent Engagement

Janice Ward is the new director of program evaluation and accountability in the Pickens County (SC) school district.

2007

C. Taylor Geraldson has received his MD degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and will begin his general surgery residency at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham.

Lindsay May graduated from the University of Florida in April 2015 with a doctor of audiology degree.

Khanjan Baxi Shah completed a chief residency in internal medicine at Case Western Reserve University and began a fellowship in cardiovascular medicine at Harvard Medical School/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in July.



Within a space of five years, **Steve Grant '80** lost his two sons, Kelly and Christopher, to drug overdoses. Devastated but undaunted about helping families to overcome addiction, Grant established Chris and Kelly's HOPE Foundation. Grant, named one of seven "outstanding philanthropists" in 2013 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and his foundation support programs and initiatives that treat teen and young adults who struggle with substance abuse. The foundation recently launched Chris and Kelly's HOPE Fitness Park on the Greenville Health System Swamp Rabbit Trail, which will become a key part of the treatment program at White Horse Academy, a residential facility for adolescent males and families impacted by substance abuse. To learn more about the foundation's other activities and how you can help, visit www.chriskellyhope.org.

2008

Justin and Hailey Carmichael Domeck moved to Zurich, Switzerland, in July 2015. Justin accepted a position with PwC Switzerland.

2009

Mary Lindley Carswell graduated from Vanderbilt Owen School of Management in May with an MBA degree.

Brita Long recently became a regular contributor for *The Huffington Post* after her feminist satire on women changing their last names went viral.

Cody Morelock received his PhD in chemistry from the Georgia Institute of Technology in December 2014. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Georgia Tech.

2010

Jennifer Barnhardt is working in the manuscript editorial department at W.W. Norton & Co. in New York City. She anticipates having the opportunity to work on former Furman President **David E. Shi's (73)** 10th edition of *America, A Narrative* to be published early in 2016.

Jonathan Britt has been ordained as a minister of word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Britt now serves as the associate pastor of St. Thomas Presbyterian Church in Houston, TX.

William Gyauch is currently working as the Baldus Scholar at the University of Iowa College of Law, helping to launch the Darrow Baldus Death Penalty Defense and Juvenile Advocacy Training College in Iowa City.

2011

Amanda Hassen earned her doctorate in occupational therapy from Belmont University in May 2015. She returned to Greenville, SC, and joined the pediatric therapy team at Advanced Therapy Solutions. While in Nashville, she created and implemented the Pin's program for Dolphin Aquatics, a nonprofit swim organization for individuals with special needs. The Pin's program is a sensory learn-to-swim program for children with autism.

Meredith Yingling graduated from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN, with a doctor of optometry and *cum laude* honors. She has joined Seaside Ophthalmology on St. Simons Island, GA.

2012

Warren Creavalle has been acquired by the Philadelphia Union in exchange for a second-round draft pick in the 2016 MLS SuperDraft. He was the 37th pick in the 2012 MLS SuperDraft by the Houston Dynamo and made 54 appearances for Houston in three years before getting traded to Toronto FC for the No. 1 spot in the MLS allocation rankings in July 2014.

Teddy Dozier of St. Louis, MO, is a founding member of Selequity, an online commercial real estate crowdfunding platform that connects accredited investors to commercial real estate projects across the country.

Christopher McCants is the new principal of Beech Springs Intermediate School in Duncan, SC.

Chris Pagliaro graduated in May 2015 from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

George Short '54 and **Cathy Hunter Hightower '55** have been married for 107-and-a-half years. That was the first thing they had to say on a balmy Thursday afternoon as we walked into their elegantly appointed foyer in Greenville. This statement is clearly a one-liner that always gets a laugh or at least a look of bewilderment, but George quickly explains it is the combination of their years of marriage to their first spouses plus the year and a half of their own. At age 80 and 83, the Shorts are newlyweds of a different sort.

Cathy and George were both married to their Furman sweethearts, **L.G. Hightower '55** for Cathy and **Jackie E. Horne '54** for George. The foursome were dear friends and tailgated for years with the same group of loyal Paladin football fans. Both lost their spouses to illness.

While they are quick to tout those 107.5 years mastering marital bliss, the Shorts are also two people trying to figure out life together as a new couple. Except in this stage of life, George is busy trying to keep track of Cathy's eight great-grandchildren. And Cathy, a transport from Ridgeland, SC, is "still getting used to finding things around here"—"here" meaning George's home and Greenville.

When George talks about his B.C. life ("Before Cathy"), he says the two were never really unconnected. In this way, theirs is not a love story about two people who found each other after a long absence. They were always in each other's lives.

Cathy had been a widow for 10 years after she lost L.G. to cancer. Although she still made sure she attended annual Furman games and reunions, she says she was at peace with



George O. Short, Jr. '54 & Catherine Hunter '55 Hightower

*A couple finds new love after
longtime marriages to others.*

By Kate Dabbs '09

remaining single. "But then, along came George," she says in a wistful way that only a Southerner from the Low-country can.

George's wife Jackie died in 2012 after a long battle with sickness and shortly thereafter, "dinner invitations [from women] began to increase significantly," he jokes. The two reconnected during George's class of 1954 Furman reunion.

"We were asked to sit with someone of the opposite gender and learn something about them that few would know. I learned Cathy had

eight great-grandchildren and I didn't have one. She got a standing ovation for her impressive procreation," he says.

The first date for George and Cathy took place in Ridgeland, where he showed up with a bouquet of roses and, ever the gentleman, motel reservations. While they joke about it now, a year and a half into marriage the two are clear about their proper courtship. "My 10-year-old granddaughter Ella was our designated chaperone," George says.

They quickly knew they wanted to be married, and

HE SHOWED UP WITH ROSES, AND EVER THE GENTLEMAN, MOTEL RESERVATIONS.

• • •

George asked Cathy's cousin for her hand. "He told me that I more than had it, but no tradebacks." The two report that they sealed it with a kiss under the Bell Tower and, after a family ceremony in Ridgeland and a Caribbean honeymoon, they began their new life together in Greenville.

"Even though we both had long marriages, there are still things you just have to learn when you are a newlywed," says George.

"But we are more mature and less anxious than we were the first time. There is no nervous tension," Cathy adds.

"Well, we knew each other for years, too," George says, confirming the validity of the adage "friends first."

Together, they exercise daily, garden, play bridge, read, and travel with friends. "We are actually planning a trip to China," Cathy reports. "I just got my new passport."

While religion might be a lightning rod for some couples, the Shorts have a comfortable agreement, or perhaps decided they were both too seasoned to ponder conversions. "We go to Catholic church on Saturday night [for Cathy] and Presbyterian Sunday morning [for George]," he explains.

And if this sweetest depiction of marriage and love for one another is not enough, both Cathy and George continue to speak of their first loves with respect and adoration.

"I was lucky enough to marry up twice," George smiles. **F**

Caitlin Elizabeth Whalan graduated from William and Mary Law School in Williamsburg, VA, in May 2015 with her *juris doctorate* degree. Known for the beauty of her voice, Whalan continued to share her musical gift while pursuing her law degree. She sang with The William and Mary Botetourt Chamber Singers and Law Capella, serving as president of the former the past year. She has relocated to Charlotte, NC, where she is studying for the North Carolina Bar examination.

2013

Nate Smith spent three weeks in July representing the United States at the Pan Am Games in Toronto. He described it as a once-in-a-lifetime experience, one he “will cherish forever. I was pretty humbled to wear USA across my chest and represent our country.”

2014

Whitney Becker and **Sarah Jordan Holcomb** are working as interns at the Children’s Museum of the Upstate in Greenville, SC. Whitney oversees the middle school youth program and Sarah is a development intern.

Corey Dalton Hart performed premieres of works by composers twice in April 2015, the first at the Morgan Library in New York City and the second at the Longy School of Music in Boston. The concerts featured works by Bard College undergraduate and faculty composers, as well as other composers in the New York area.

2015

In May 2015, **Danielle Car** joined Community Journals as the digital content manager.

She will maintain content in *UBJ*, *TOWN Carolina*, and *Greenville Journal*, as well as manage social media accounts.

International kicker **Ray Early** signed a contract in summer 2015 to join the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

The Gary (IN) SouthShore RailCats re-signed rookie RHP **Matt Solter** in July 2015. Matt appeared in two games during his five-game stint with the team earlier in July.

Grace Tuttle is working in the manuscript editorial department at W.W. Norton & Co. in New York City. She anticipates having the opportunity to work on former Furman President **David E. Shi’s** (73) 10th edition of *America, A Narrative* to be published early in 2016.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The university would like to welcome the following individuals to the Board of Directors:

Donald Corbin ’64
Dennis Smith ’79
Amy Bobb Breaux ’84
Charles Meisel ’84
Sarah Armacost Holliman ’86
Todd Callaway ’89
Caroline Dillard Brownlee ’97
Rodney “Doug” Webb ’02

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS



Mark and **Christa Bailey ’97 Allen**, a daughter, Sara Grace, January 28, 2015

Jim and **Amy Pattillo ’97**, a son, Andrew Forrest, April 2, 2015

Kris and **Elizabeth Ellis Keilhack ’00**, a daughter, Louisa Elliott, March 2, 2015

Matthew Boyleston ’01 and **Abby Heller**, a daughter, Carys Aideen Boyleston, June 18, 2015

Joe and **Gretchen Middour ’01**, a daughter, Ada Mae Olesen Middour, June 23, 2015

Jeffrey G. ’03 and **Kelly Moffitt ’02 Adkisson**, a son, Luke Thomas, February 9, 2015

Mike ’02 and **Ashley Callahan ’03 Baisley**, a son, Graham Callahan Baisley, July 14, 2015

Adam and **Danielle Logan ’02 Conrad**, a daughter, Darcy Lyn, November 30, 2014

Trevor and **Megan Theiling ’02 Draper**, a daughter, Shelby Jane, January 24, 2015

Andy and **Michele Muro ’02 Heck**, a son, Michael Muro Heck, March 28, 2015

Brian and Peyton Greenfield **Ticknor ’02**, a son, Bridges Wesley, March 11, 2015

Andy and Christina **Valkanoff ’02**, a daughter, Anna Claire, March 29, 2015

Andy and Emily **Hall ’03**, a daughter, Caroline Grace, March 19, 2015

Brian and **Stephanie Morris ’03 Kelly**, a son, Daniel Edward, May 18, 2015

Rad and **Adrienne Neale ’03 Lowery**, a son, Kane Radcliff, August 25, 2014

Jeremy ’05 and **Jane Haddow ’03 McLaughen**, a son, James Henry, March 4, 2015

Daniel and **Meridyth Lybrand ’03 Robinson**, a son, Luke MacMillan, August 28, 2014

Allen and Katherine Winstead **Suttle ’03**, a son, Will, January 25, 2015

Matt Davidson ’04 and **Natalie The ’03**, a son, Wesley The Davidson, February 3, 2015

Russell and **Mary Beth Lemmons ’03 Young**, a daughter, Reese Elizabeth, April 19, 2014

Erin Caldwell ’03 and **Jeff Zellmer ’04**, a son, Grayson Allen, June 7, 2014

Glen “Buddy” and **Sarah Ann Turpen Davis ’04**, a daughter, Anna-Bea Sandlin Davis, February 14, 2015

Trey and **Yancey Greene ’04 Fouche**, a son, Oliver Sterling, July 9, 2015

Ryan and Lisa **McCarthy ’05**, a daughter, Claire, February 22, 2015

David and **Andrea Setters Wright ’05**, a son, Caleb Monroe, February 12, 2015

David and **Elizabeth Marler ’06 Armstrong**, a son, Samuel

Jennings, May 17, 2015

Craig and Jessalyn Davis '06 Garvey, a son, Pierce Davis Garvey, December 19, 2014

Allen '07 and Whitney Bost '09 Curtis, a daughter, Lucy Eleanor, June 6, 2015

Champ and Megan Jaudon '07 Mann, a son, Jon Austin, August 23, 2014

Will and Susan Braik '07 Taunton, a daughter, Olivia Rose, March 13, 2015

Daniel '09 and Courtney Stewardson '08 Leagans, a son, Colton James, July 1, 2015

Ryan and Lauren Tomory '09 Evans, a daughter, Alta Christine, January 7, 2015

Taylor and Sally McKinney Hall '09, a son, Houston McKinney Hall, July 9, 2015

Carter and Molly Parker Wallace '09, a daughter, Anna Wells Wallace, June 20, 2015

MARRIAGES



Lee Knight '76 and Kay Wilson, March 15, 2014

Lisa Parsons Herndon '81 and James Reed Wilson, Jr., April 18, 2015

John Avery "Skip" Kirst, Jr. '83 and Eric Deem Hogan, May 16, 2015

Lisa Wheeler '86 and Alan

Wright, January 31, 2015

Peter Wesley Lord '02 and Leah Marie Zimmerman, August 7, 2015

Kelly Rebecca Rook '02 and Michael Elliott Wolfensperger, May 30, 2015

Jessica Carter '05 and Russell Sanford '05, June 27, 2015

Stephen Highsmith Adams '07 and Lindsey Courter Evans, June 27, 2015

Ashley Beltz '07 and Mark Rose, March 14, 2015

Matt Alexander '09 and Virginia Adkins, August 8, 2015

Mary Catherine Burgess '09 and Kevin Hearn, October 4, 2014

Cody Morelock '09 and Juliana Hendley, June 13, 2015

Jessica Stewart '09 and Roohan Jabbar, June 7, 2014

Sara Anne Cone '10 and Brian Blake Fitzpatrick, October 4, 2014

Margaret Lewis Rosebro '10 and Charles Wesley Sprewell '10, June 6, 2015

Jenn Betts '11 and Austin Reeves '11, August 1, 2015

Sara Elizabeth-Anne Reynolds '11 and Matthew Ross Crider, June 27, 2015

Raleigh Kent Francis '12 and Ann Tipton Lesslie '12, June 5, 2015

Erin Catherine Frazer '12 and Joshua Adam Schardt, June 13, 2015

Chandler Barton '13 and Elizabeth Koppang '13, December 27, 2014

Wesley Gillette '14 and Sarah

Killebrew '14, June 6, 2015

Sarah McKenzie Williams '15 and Conner Rusk Dalton, June 13, 2015

OBITUARIES



Wade Thomas Batson, Jr. '34, February 14, 2015, Greenville, SC

Judson Carey Segars '35, April 1, 2015, Hartsville, SC

William Smith Hawkins '37, February 26, 2015, Greenville, SC

Mary Catherine Rhame Horger '38, March 29, 2015, Orangeburg, SC

Mary Lou Mims Reid '38, June 25, 2015, Greenville, SC

Frances Ligon Watson '39, February 6, 2015, Greenville, SC

Alice Cunningham Abercrombie '40, January 15, 2015, Columbia, SC

Elizabeth Smith Alford '40, March 28, 2015, Charlottesville, VA

Phillips Lancaster Bates '40, February 13, 2015, Greenwood, SC

Sue Garvin Howard '40, January 13, 2015, Charleston, SC

Mable Wannamaker Leadley '40, April 20, 2015, Orangeburg, SC

William Mann Broadwell, Jr. '41,

June 16, 2015, Calhoun Falls, SC

Lucy Swearingen Good '41, June 9, 2015, Rock Hill, SC

Virginia McKiever McLaurin '41, April 24, 2015, Dillon, SC

William G. McLees '41, July 4, 2015, Dublin, GA

Aiken Brooks Holtzclaw, Jr. '42, January 21, 2015, Charlotte, NC

Obera McGee Reed '42, April 6, 2015, Easley, SC

Mary Ellen Griffin Gould '43, January 9, 2015, Winston-Salem, NC

Ruth Hood Knisley '43, July 9, 2015, York, PA

Jerome Petrizzi '43, January 29, 2015, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Cynthia Knight Cooke '44, February 22, 2015, Greenville, SC

Charles Hubert DeLoach '44, May 21, 2015, Wauchula, FL

Albert Alba Young '44, February 17, 2015, Hickory, NC

Emily Elizabeth Feaster Champion '45, January 17, 2015, Cartersville, GA

Betty Ross Pope Jolly '45, May 9, 2015, Union, SC

Virginia Eleanor Greer Smith '45, April 3, 2015, Charlotte, NC

Benjamin Lewis Barnett, Jr. '46, April 16, 2015, Kennesaw, GA

Sue Ellen Cobb Crews '46, July 21, 2015, Greenville, SC

Sally Sullivan Clinkscales Hubbard '46, July 9, 2015, Greensboro, NC

Rachel Palmer Waggoner '46,
January 29, 2015, Gastonia, NC

Frances Harmon Whitley '46,
July 29, 2015, Raleigh, NC

Anne Moore Wilson '46, June
13, 2015, Lake Lure, NC

Joyce Fowler Bridges '47, Febru-
ary 24, 2015, Colorado Springs,
CO

Ruth Easterby Hilton Little '47,
January 27, 2015, Greenville,
SC

Constance Gloria Morgan '47,
March 12, 2015, Westminster,
SC

James W. Bailey, Sr. '48, July 1,
2015, Hendersonville, NC

**Eugene F. "Breezy" Breazeale
'48**, March 4, 2015, Green-
wood, SC

Margaret Earle Ellison '48, Febru-
ary 19, 2015, Greenville, SC

Mary Wilburn Norris '48, March
13, 2015, Bluffton, SC

Jean Robbins Poole '48, January
9, 2015, Greenville, SC

Elizabeth Winn Thompson '48,
March 12, 2015, Milledgeville,
GA

Ruth Trowell Watson '48, June 7,
2015, Greenville, SC

Mary Ann Rawlings Williams '48,
March 9, 2015, Hendersonville,
NC

William Herbert Barton '49,
February 25, Lilburn, GA

Harry M. Goewey '49, June 15,
2015, Fountain Inn, SC

Robert Lionel Morgan '49, April
29, 2015, Huntersville, NC

Robert Eddie Johns '50, April
24, 2015, Emporia, VA

Roy T. Loyd '50, February 25,
2015, Columbia, SC

Jeff Roland Richardson, Jr. '50,
August 1, 2015, Simpsonville,
SC

Carolyn Hunter Shirley '50,
April 25, 2015, Charleston, SC

Betsy Lucille Sowell Sims '50,
January 14, 2015, Lancaster,
SC

**Emily Jean "E.J." Garrett Smith
'50**, January 20, 2015, Green-
ville, SC

Walter F. Chapman, Sr. '51,
January 11, 2015, Riverview, FL

James Rudolph "Rudy" Cox '51,
April 17, 2015, Travelers Rest,
SC

Carl Grayson Ellison '51, May 10,
2015, Anderson County, SC

James Wilburn Gentry '51,
March 15, 2015, Travelers Rest,
SC

**Joseph Leonard "PJ" Thorpe
Stone '51**, February 25, 2015,
Greenville, SC

Hewlett Kelly Sullivan, Jr. '51,
August 5, 2015, Greenville, SC

John H. Davis '52, January 7,
2015, Culpepper, VA

Margie Cain Humphries '52, July
4, 2015, Pawleys Island, SC

Ann Grayson Bozeman '53, June
29, 2015, Greenville, SC

Ruben Paul Clark, Jr. '53, June
5, 2015, Greenville, SC

Fred Samuel Miller, Jr. '53, Feb-
ruary 5, 2015, West Columbia,
SC

Nannie Gulledege Price '53, Feb-
ruary 28, 2015, Greenville, SC

Fred Hammett Brown '54, May
16, 2015, Greer, SC

Henry Alex Cummings '54, May
2015, Ruffin, SC

Paul Justice '54, March 25,
2015, Centralia, WA

James Douglas McClain '54, Oc-
tober 22, 2014, Donalds, SC

Edward Evelio McCollum '54,
March 12, Walterboro, SC

James Augustus Moody '54,
April 11, 2015, Summerville, SC

William Penn Morrow, Jr. '54,
February 3, Greenville County,
SC

Jane Donald Prichard '54,
March 22, 2015, Greenville, SC

**McDuffie "M.D." Putnam, Jr.,
MA '54**, February 15, Roebuck,
SC

Jane Ruth McColey Gross '55,
January 10, 2015, Madison, ME

Margaret Marie Jones Howell '55,
May 8, 2015, Taylors, SC

James Byrnes Senn '55, MA '71,
February 19, 2015, Greenville,
SC

**Patty Wiggins Brock '56, MA
'80**, July 6, 2015, Greenville,
SC

Alan Herbert Kyber '56, July 10,
2015, Rock Hill, SC

Charles Ray Ruth '56, July 2015,
Pawleys Island, SC

Margaret Jameson Waldrop '56,
January 23, 2015, Lynchburg,
VA

Walter Marion Adams '57, April
5, 2015, Shelby, NC

Wayne Jerry "Shag" Barnett '57,
February 9, 2015, Greenville,
SC

Benjamin Ronald Cook, Sr. '57,
March 27, 2015, Dillon, SC

Edgar Eugene Dobbins '57, May
13, 2015, Greenville, SC

J. Edwin Hendricks '57, March
27, 2015, Winston-Salem, NC

**Mary Louise Cothran Southern
'57**, June 15, 2015, Pelzer, SC

James Bailey Watts '57, April 6,
2015, Camden, SC

Carolyn Littlejohn Ballew '58,
March 1, 2015, Spartanburg,
SC

Shirley Tucker Campbell '58,
January 27, 2015, Greenville,
SC

Jackie Travis Foster '58, March
2, 2015, Greenville, SC

**Kenneth Woodrow "Woody"
Moore, Sr. '58**, April 30, 2015,
Taylors, SC

Mary Evelyn Green Oltman '58,
July 15, 2015, Columbia, SC

Bob G. Sherman '58, April 13,
2015, Paducah, KY

**Robert Montgomery Trammell,
Sr. '58**, January 10, 2015, Fair-
hope, AL

Elbert D. Hutto '59, February
11, 2015, Columbia, SC

Dan Warren Wilson '59, Febru-
ary 24, 2015, Greenville, SC

**Margaret Annetta "Peggy" Fant
'60**, March 15, 2015, Camden,
SC

Kenneth Ridings '60, March 5,
2015, Hendersonville, NC

James Keith "Chief" Johnson '61,
September 5, 2014, West Palm
Beach, FL

Emmett Edwin Deitz '62, June
23, 2015, Taylors, SC

Irene Smith Hartjen '62, January 10, 2015, Atchison, KS

Mary Pat Arnold Reddick '62, November 26, 2014, Columbia, SC

Ellen Jean Ainslie '63, May 2, 2015, West Palm Beach, FL

Frank Howard Altman '63, January 9, 2015, Columbia, SC

Jenny Porter Farrar '63, June 9, 2015, Greenville, SC

Gladys Cannada Vernon '63, April 21, 2015, Travelers Rest, SC

Joseph Warren Clapp '64, February 10, 2015, Grand Island, FL

Shelba Powell Couch '64, April 10, 2015, Pickens, SC

Delle Wilder Gasque '64, January 19, 2015, Greenville, SC

Frank Orr Keener '64, March 9, 2015, Nashville, TN

Joseph Anthony McAlister '64, March 27, 2015, Newton, NC

Wilbur Jesse Rush '64, June 22, 2015, Woodruff, SC

Evelyn "Eve" Waldrop Shelnett '64, April 7, 2015, Athens, GA

John F. Robinson '65, May 14, 2015, Blowing Rock, NC

William James Barnes '67, March 13, 2015, Anderson, SC

George Wilburn Johnson III '67, June 8, 2015, Irmo, SC

Owen Franklin Cardell, Jr. '68, July 8, 2015, Greenville, SC

Greeta Yvonne Granger Peden '68, April 9, 2015, Pendleton, SC

Paul Corbett Tomlinson '68, June 28, 2015, Columbia, SC

Beverly Brabham Oki '69, July 2015, Greenville County, SC

Ned Lewis Watson '69, June 3, 2015, Mount Pleasant, SC

Clovie Julia Etta Heaton '70, January 20, 2015, Easley, SC

Brenda Mullis LaCount, MA '70, April 28, 2015, Greenville County, SC

James Rainier Anderson '72, June 27, 2015, Hutto, TX

J.E. Earle, MA '73, July 26, 2015, Hilton Head Island, SC

Laura Anne Henry '73, April 11, 2015, Latta, SC

Melanie O'Neal Cavanaugh '74, April 22, 2015, Kingwood, TX

Elizabeth Kirby Connolly '75, March 20, 2015, Eutawville, SC

Patty Dellinger '75, April 14, 2015, Anderson, SC

William Henry Dilling III, MA '75, July 28, 2015, Greenville, SC

Kaliope Kiliveros Maurides, MA '75, April 23, 2015, Greenville, SC

Betty Elrod Owens, MA '76, March 16, 2015, Piedmont, SC

Gary Kendrick Bond '77, April 27, 2015, Chattanooga, TN

Andrew N. Gonick '77, February 22, 2015, Greenville, SC

Con Smith "Trey" Massey III '83, March 12, 2015, Atlanta, GA

Ronald E. Alexander '84, May 28, 2015, Lexington, SC

Jan Hendrix '84, May 9, 2015, Rock Hill, SC

Julia Ruth Sarratt Hester '84, June 13, 2015, Greenville County, SC

Seth Lyman Eckard '85, April 9, 2015, Easley, SC

James Michael Godfrey '85, June 27, 2015, Conover, NC

Edward Earl '86, June 19, 2015, Eagle Rock, AR

James Stewart Pitts '86, February 25, 2015, Six Mile, SC

Larry Wayne Grady, Jr. '88, March 5, 2015, Lexington, SC

Rhonda Jean Littlefield Duncan Mauldin '88, April 21, 2014, Anderson, SC

Elaine Stone-Drummond '88, April 9, 2015, Alpharetta, GA

Tracey Lyn Meredith Edwards '90, July 17, 2015, Washington Crossing, PA

Shannon Elliott Graham '90, June 20, 2015, Greenville, SC

Zacchary L. Pace '91, July 18, 2015, Lexington, SC

Jason Hightower '92, January 25, 2015, Meeker, CO

Richard Bradford Burklow '93, January 27, 2015, Marietta, GA

Erik John Wallin '96, May 3, 2015, Roswell, GA

A. Campbell Berkeley III '97, January 18, 2015, Weston, FL

Trenence Michael "Trent" Reece '98, May 2015, Greenville, SC

William Walter Koehler '99, March 10, 2015, Greer, SC

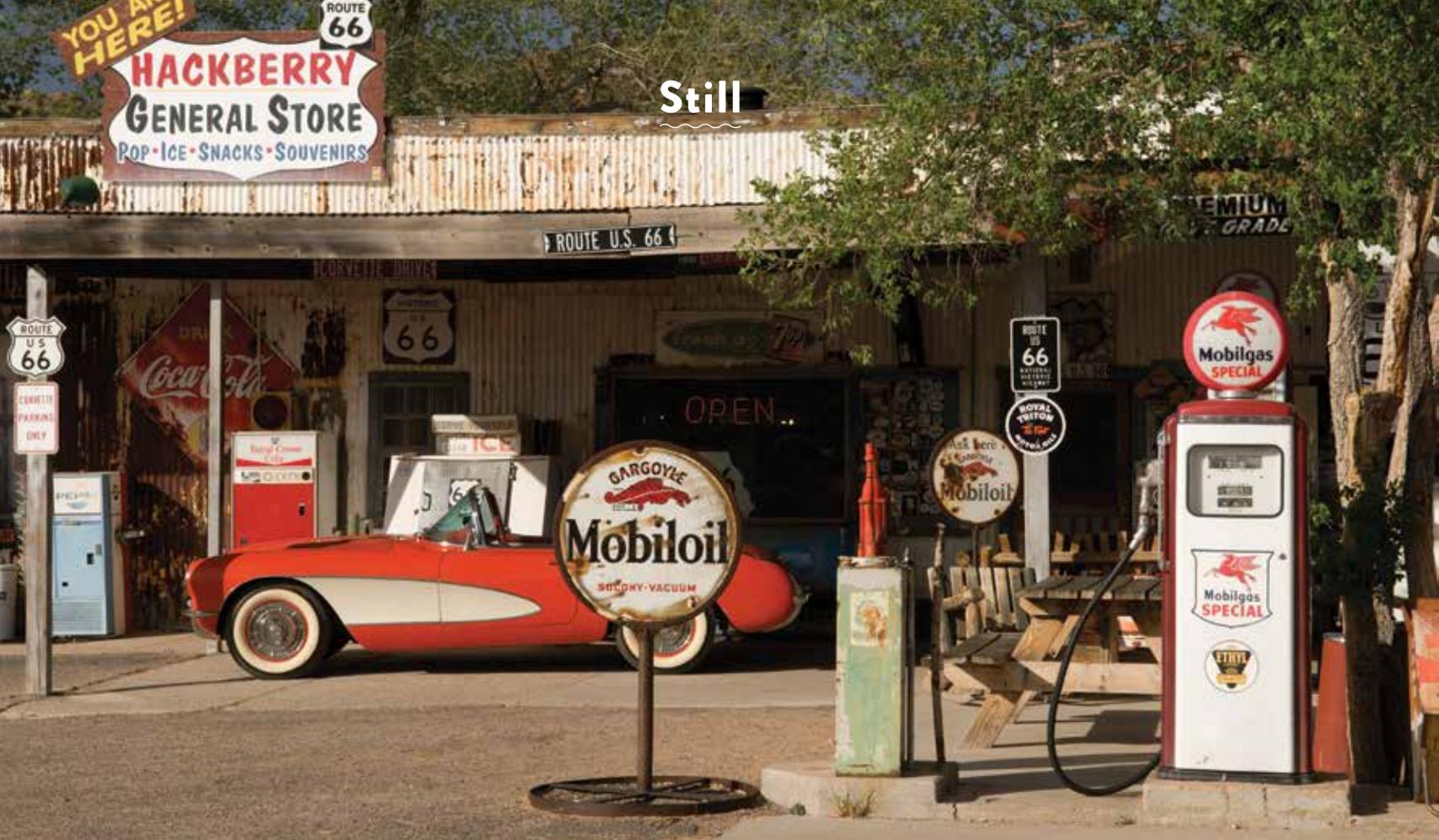
Renee Amie Boutan '08, July 4, 2015, Wadmalaw Island, SC

Katharine Elizabeth Compton '13, July 6, 2015, Houston, TX

Jake Kline '13, February 8, 2015, Raleigh, NC **F**

CLASS NOTES POLICY

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 child's name, birthdate, and city of birth; for marriages, include the city and date of the event, the new spouse's name, and his/her year of graduation if from Furman. News about couples who graduated in different years is included under the earliest graduation date. It is not listed with both classes. The magazine reserves the right to edit submissions.



Still

Intercalary

“Open 8 Days a Week”

—from Gary Grier’s *Cracker Jack* (2008)

To help customers feel welcome,
Cracker Jack has improved on God
by adding another day to the week.

Today is the day after the weekend,
the extra day maybe even shade trees need
to get rested up for Monday.

The shadows say today is half over,
this day of the empty street,
the day when the pay phone,
should it ever ring,
will go unanswered.
This is the day when it’s all right
that a pump’s gone missing.

As on any other day
GAS and CIGS merit bold letters.
As on any other day
COLD BEER is the retort to sunshine.
As on any other day
the dispenser promises ICE.

But today is the eighth day of the week.
Today a lone black cat can mosey by
without crossing anybody’s path.
Today a sign can guarantee winnings
when it insists PLAY HERE.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR *William Aarnes, a professor of English at Furman, has published two collections with Ninety-Six Press: Learning to Dance (1991) and Predicaments (2001). His work has appeared in such magazines as Poetry, The Seneca Review, and Red Savina Review. Recent poems have appeared in Main Street Rag, Shark Reef, and Empty Sink.*

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