

# Furman

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FOR ALUMNI  
AND FRIENDS  
OF THE UNIVERSITY

## THE FURMAN ADVANTAGE

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IN HIGHER EDUCATION



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 Alyssa Richardson '12 speaks at the Oct. 5 event to unveil The Furman Advantage

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by Ron Wagner '93

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Our tree. Our roots. Known simply as "Root Tree" or "Medusa Tree," this American beech began its life in the Furman Arboretum on the original Furman campus in downtown Greenville. It is estimated to be over 70 years old and now faithfully anchors Furman University Way at Falls Park. The Furman Arboretum was established in 1932 with a \$500 prize won by the Greenville Garden Club. It became the first arboretum in South Carolina and is thought to be one of the most photographed trees in the state.

**THE COMEBACK**

On teas, spices, herbs, olives, and funnel cakes. Some Greenville gems offer a delightful blend to satisfy sophisticated palates. **pg. 38**

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Poetry by **Connie Ralston '70**; artwork by Janke Klompmaker, Furman's first True Inspiration Artist in Residence. **back cover**



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ON WALKING AND WRITING

I am moved to write and say how very much I enjoyed your essay on walking. It is chiseled in stone, beautifully written, as fine as anything I've read in a long time. The whole magazine is well edited. But I am particularly struck by the high quality of this piece of writing. I shall return to it, you may be sure. With my best regards,

*Richard E. Brantley,  
Professor Emeritus of  
English, University  
of Florida*

### KIMBERLY JACKSON '06

I was intrigued by the article about Rev. Kimberly Jackson and her work about racial understanding and equality. I grew up going to school in a segregated system in Atlanta and had only met a couple of people who were black. Like many others, I was confused by the civil rights movement because I believed their schools were as

good as mine, and I struggled with trying to understand why they were doing this. After Furman, I went to Southern Seminary in Louisville and took a job as organist in a Presbyterian church in Louisville's West End, which, in those days, was in the midst of a racial transformation. The church where I was employed had taken the bold move of hiring a black student from the Presbyterian Seminary as their associate pastor with the purpose of making the new people moving into the community feel welcome. His name was Rev. James Strickland, and I wish I knew where

Kimberly Jackson '06



he is today. In conversations with him, often over a meal, I learned that the doctrine of Separate But Equal in schools, which most of us believed, was bunk. And I learned what it was like for blacks to travel in the South where they would often have to resort to the woods to use the bathroom and would have to find where there were black-owned restaurants that would welcome them when in a strange town. And I have to mention that Jim was taking Biblical Hebrew and Greek at the same time and making A's in both. No one at my seminary was that bold, even the best ones, which taught still another lesson about the intellectual capabilities of black people. I cherish those conversations because they so shaped my views. Later in life I would be soundly criticized for performing an interracial marriage, something I might not have done without the new understanding I gained from Jim. While many African Americans have better lives and have climbed the ladder of success, the percentage of blacks in prisons and in poverty indicates we still have a long way to go to really have the equality that everyone deserves. *Where are you Jim Strickland?* We need to sit down over a meal again and talk!

*Paul Bowen '63*

### SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We welcome letters on any subject covered in the magazine. Letters should be limited to 150 words, refer to a subject from the most recent issue, and include the writer's name and city/state. They may be sent to [magazine@furman.edu](mailto:magazine@furman.edu). Although we make every effort to include as many submissions as we can, letters may be edited for length or clarity. Letters that address a topic before the most recent issue of Furman will be published at the editor's discretion.

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

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## QUOTABLE

*Embedded in the Furman DNA is a strong value and practice of mentorship: Do you have a story of mentorship, or being mentored, at Furman that made a critical difference in your life?*

I spent the summer as a Furman Advantage Research Fellow with Dr. Liz Smith . . . because of that experience I pursued a Ph.D. in political science and am now a professor at Elon University. I love my job and I'm thankful every day that she saw something in me and encouraged me to pursue this career path. I'm also grateful for Dr. Danielle Vinson for her support and encouragement as well.

—**Carrie Parker Eaves '04**

The first professor I met at Furman was Dr. William E. Rogers in Humanities 101. I sat spellbound at his first lecture and basically made his classes the center of my entire education. He became my advisor, and I took or audited every class he

offered over the next four years. His office was always open for me . . . he was kind, generous, tough-minded, and (regardless of his aloof manner) ridiculously lovable. He let me take him out for Thai food the week I graduated. I teach high school English now, and every class I teach has Dr. Rogers' influence upon it.

—**Davis Thompson '96**

Dr. Erin Hahn is an amazing psychology professor, someone committed to asking students, "So what? Why does what you are studying matter?" Her pedagogy is extraordinary, and so is her compassion for students. I appreciated her willingness to engage my questions regarding ethics and human development . . . I would not

have the vocational clarity I have today without her mentorship.

—**Hillary Taylor '12**

Dr. Jason Rawlings has been a mentor and a friend to me throughout my four years at Furman and beyond into graduate life. He pushed me in the classroom as my teacher and in the lab as my research mentor. He has been there when I just needed to talk and when I needed a push. I fully credit him as one of the strong reasons that I am in medical school today.

—**Jenna Meredith '15**

Dr. Marty Cook, and the entire math department, were wonderful to me during my years at Furman. Dr. Cook

sat down with me freshman year and helped me work out how I could double major and also go on foreign study and still graduate in four years. He even taught me one class as an independent study that I wasn't able to fit into my schedule.

—**Meredith Bridwell Smith '99**

I went to drop a class and ended up with a job, mentor, and best friend (Margaret Caterisano)! After three years as the costume assistant, and several more theater classes, I learned more than just costume construction. She taught me that patience, grace, and faith can be the best tools of the trade.

—**Laura Spahn '89**

# The Furman Advantage

*Furman's vision reimagines the student experience.*

BY ELIZABETH DAVIS

**S**haking 600 hands in a single hour is one of my job requirements, and every year I do it gladly. Standing on the Commencement platform last May inside Paladin Stadium under cloud-streaked twilight skies, I was struck by the thought that this moment marked at least the 50th time I've been a part of a graduation ceremony as a student, faculty member, and now president. I've become accustomed to this annual ritual. In fact, I look forward to it: There are few rewards more satisfying than witnessing hundreds of students walking across the stage, each of whom is a unique story of hard work, perseverance, and success.

What awaits these graduates we cannot fully know, but we can look to those who already have made this passage for some instruction. The success of Furman alumni in all walks of life is a source of pride and confidence and, we hope, a sign to a new generation that a degree from Furman University carries immense and enduring value. This is especially important at a time when people are questioning the value of a college degree, and wondering if the existing model is up to the challenges of the new realities in our society.

I take these concerns in our national conversation seriously. It is tempting

to dismiss them and hope the issues go away. They're not likely to, nor should we wish for it. Rather, we need to be attentive to making a college education relevant in an era when the economic dislocations are real, when new careers and fields of study are born moment by moment, and when the world is shrinking rapidly and at the same time creating new barriers. Now, more than ever, we have an obligation to produce educated and thoughtful leaders who have both broad-based knowledge and the practical expertise to address real issues.

This is why Furman—with input from our trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members—has spent the better part of two years developing an ambitious vision for the university's future. We have, as I suggested in my last essay in *Furman* magazine, imagined “on a grand scale and scope.”

We are calling it “The Furman Advantage,” and we are bold enough to believe that it is a new model for what a university can and should be. The Furman Advantage guarantees every student an unparalleled education that combines classroom learning with immersive out-of-classroom experiences. These experiences, which build on our pioneering model of engaged learning, will include deep and lasting

partnerships between faculty members, students, and community organizations, allowing students the chance to tackle pressing community issues and expanding the network of mentors who guide our students through college and into the rest of their lives. Through The Furman Advantage, we are demonstrating the value of a Furman education, both for students and for communities in South Carolina and beyond.

Our story about The Furman Advantage begins on p. 20, and includes details of the vision and profiles of students and alumni who have benefited from the kinds of experiences we have long provided. We intend to expand, unify, and provide these opportunities to each and every student so that they are prepared by Furman, like no other university, for life beyond their time on campus.

As we have shared our preliminary thoughts about The Furman Advantage, we have been pleased to find important partners who share our vision, most notably The Duke Endowment. In this past year the endowment has provided the largest set of grants in Furman's history—\$47 million—to make possible our guarantee to every student. The Oct. 5 announcement that the endowment has committed \$25 million to significantly increase both the number and quality of global experiences, research opportunities, internships, and community-centered projects at Furman followed last fall's announcement of \$22 million to fully fund the James B. Duke Scholarships, our premier merit-based scholarship. I am enormously grateful to the endowment's board for this vote of confidence in our vision.

I also am gratified by the enthusiasm with which The

Furman Advantage is being met by civic and community leaders in Greenville and the surrounding community. It is no secret that the place Furman has called home for over 160 years is a confident and progressive region, anchored by a city that is unified in its desire to be one of America's best small urban centers. The kind of growth the area has seen in the past two decades inevitably leads to the kinds of challenges that other American cities are seeing, and the need for scholars and planners, politicians and business leaders alike to work together has never been more important. We think Furman has a vital role to play, and one that will provide benefits to the area but also to our students and faculty. And we believe The Furman Advantage is going to take us there.

In the coming months we will be working full steam ahead to implement this vision. Work is underway on several fronts, including exciting new community engagement, career networking, and mentoring initiatives for students. I plan to visit alumni around the country in the next few months to meet with you and talk about the vision. I hope that you will follow our progress closely and ask the tough questions. And, if you are inclined, I ask that you step forward as a partner in this ambitious vision for Furman University.

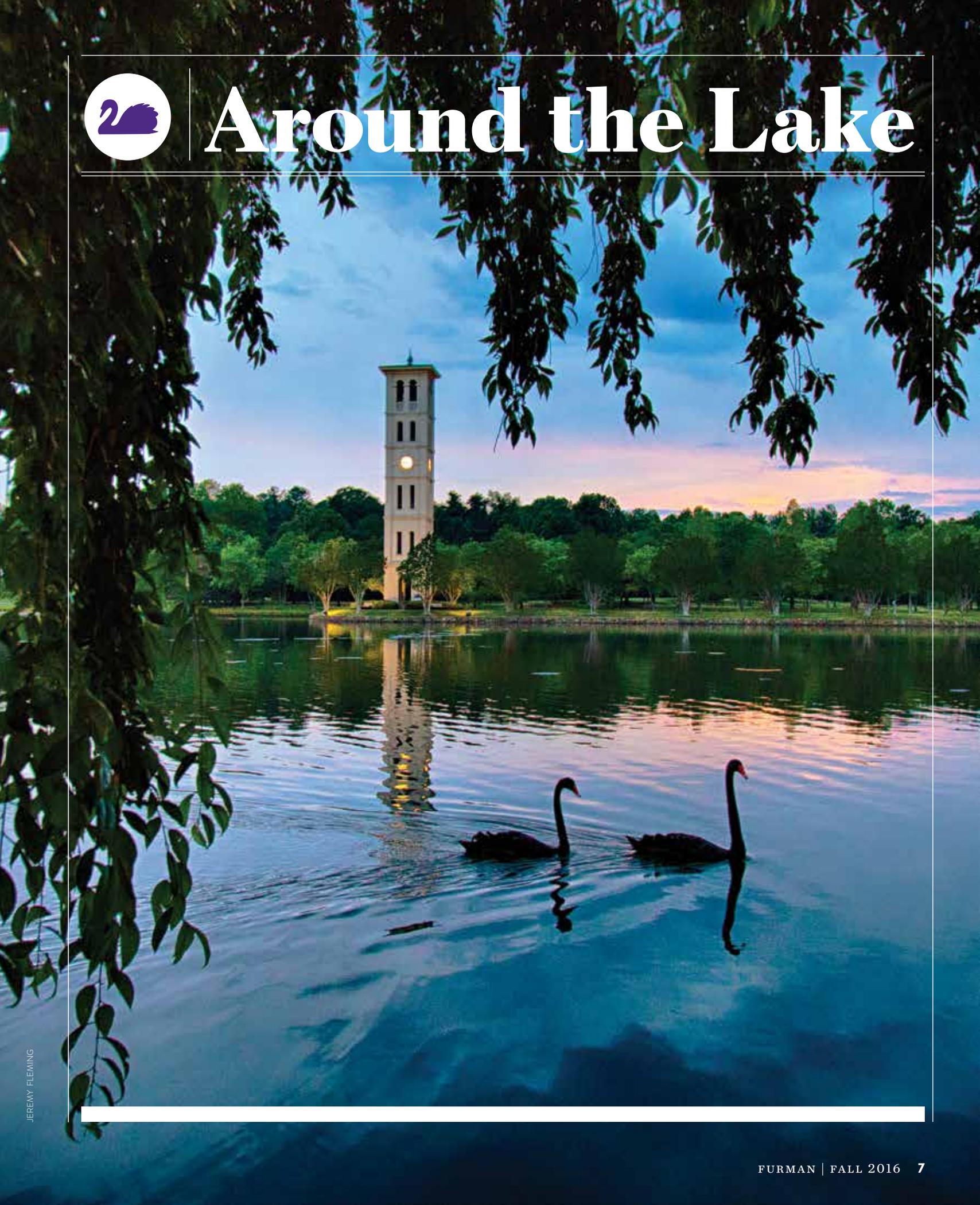
The moment has arrived to emerge among the top ranks of America's best universities. There has never been a better time for the courage, conviction, and persistence that characterize Furman.

Warmly,





# Around the Lake



JEREMY FLEWING



**UP TO SPEED**

It's Anna Sugg's job to be immersed in the 2016 Presidential campaign.

**I**t's 7:30 p.m. when **Anna Sugg '12** answers the phone for an interview. She's still at work—a fact underscored by the background murmur of co-workers' conversations and TVs tuned into various news networks—and she's been there for about 12 hours. "Work-life balance doesn't really exist," Sugg says with a chuckle, "but I knew that going in."

Sugg is the director of television for the Republican National Committee (RNC), and on this June evening, she's in the middle of the maelstrom that is the 2016 presidential election cycle. From an initial field of 17 candidates, Donald Trump has just wrapped up his nomination as the Republican presidential candidate; Democratic presidential

## Air Time

*Anna Sugg shapes election discourse.*

**BY ANDREW HUANG '11**

candidate Hillary Clinton has just delivered her national security address; the Republican National Convention is six weeks away. It's a busy time to be involved in US politics.

Sugg is no stranger to the frenetic pace of politics. Three weeks after graduating from Furman with a double major in political science and communication studies, Sugg signed on to work as a media

specialist at Gov. Mitt Romney's presidential campaign headquarters in Boston. Before that, Sugg interned with Sen. Jim DeMint, the Media Research Center, and The Heritage Foundation. In between the Romney campaign and her current job with the RNC, she was a booker at Fox News Channel. In short, Sugg has amassed a breadth of experience uncommon for

her 26 years—but that's been by design.

"I grew up watching 'The Today Show' and the 'Nightly News' all the time, and a lot of Fox and CNN, and I always knew I wanted to work (at the juncture of media and politics)," she says. "I knew I needed to start internships early. A US senator told me once that if you want to work in DC, you need to get there as early as you can, go back as often as you can, and work as hard as you can."

For the 2016 election cycle, Sugg isn't as directly involved with individual candidates, but that's because her work with the RNC is focused on party-level strategy and coordination. "When we had 17 candidates, the unifying voice of the party was my

**“A US SENATOR TOLD ME ONCE THAT IF YOU WANT TO WORK IN DC, YOU NEED TO GET THERE AS EARLY AS YOU CAN, GO BACK AS OFTEN AS YOU CAN, AND WORK AS HARD AS YOU CAN.”**

boss (chairman Reince Priebus)—“What does the chairman of the Republican Party think?” He’s my responsibility when it comes to TV,” she says. Sugg’s day-to-day duties may also include editorial pitches to news networks, helping book guests, media briefings, interview preparation, media training, and following up with on-air corrections. “I’m essentially the point of contact for TV producers to the RNC,” she says. “We’re focused on how to promote our values while contrasting them with the Dems.”

That requires Sugg to stay on top of all the news coverage around the election. “I have four TVs that are mine at work. I am always watching something,” she says. “It’s situational awareness. It’s why I’m here for 14 hours.”

There is, of course, a significant payoff for all the hours in the office and sleepless nights. “When I take a step back, I realize I’m getting to be in the middle of the cycle . . . I realize the things I do matter on a national scale. That’s pretty cool.” ●

**C**ulture, creativity, and coffee shops: my three favorite aspects of my semester in Edinburgh, Scotland. The country’s culture of independence enhanced my participation in classes, my internship at a theater, and my ability to explore. Performances, personal interactions, and photography fed my creative spirit.

**1 Sunrise at Seat:** 4 a.m. was my wake up call, and 5:20 a.m. was the sunrise. On the last day of our trip, two of my friends and I traversed to Arthur’s Seat, the extinct volcano located in the middle of Edinburgh. The sunrise was a sight to behold. We could see the entire city from the mountains to the water, and it took my breath away that I had been living in Edinburgh for an entire semester.

**2 Bagpipe Dreams:** Scotland taught me how to live on my own, and I recognized strengths within myself that I might not have capitalized on before. I felt more autonomous and like a more developed person. This bagpiper was on the Royal Mile, the main street in Old Town, Edinburgh. I admired his dedication to his craft and his willingness to step into the limelight. We all need to be our own bagpipers; we need to stand tall, face our fears, and live our dreams.

**3 Highland Magic:** The Scottish Highlands are the most beautiful place that I’ve ever experienced, and I marvelled in the wonderful nature that was within my grasp. We visited many locations including Glen Coe (with a picturesque scene from Skyfall) and Glenfinnan (with the viaduct from the Harry Potter series). My favorite image from the trip is this one I took from the window of one of our bus rides.



## TRIPtych

*A glimpse of my semester in Edinburgh*

BY SARAH COOKE '17





**PAUL WALLACE**

The author, a physics and astronomy professor, explores the science-religion debate.

**A**li vs. Frazier. USA vs. USSR. Dinosaurs vs. Asteroid. Human history is fraught with conflicts, great and small. But one that overshadows them all is that of religion and science.

Unlike those other conflicts, however, there isn't likely to be a natural conclusion, a tidy showdown that delivers closure. After all, neither science nor religion are likely to go anywhere anytime soon. In the face of this, it's perhaps only natural to desire resolution and reconciliation—a way for these two diametrically opposed positions to exist in harmony.

To do so, one might start with **Paul Wallace '90** and his new book, *Stars Beneath Us: Finding God in the Evolving Cosmos*. Wallace is unique-

## Cosmic Perceptions

*Paul Wallace is a champion for both science and religion.*

BY ANDREW HUANG '11

ly qualified for this daunting task. He holds a Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics from Duke University and an M.Div. from Candler School of Theology. He teaches physics and astronomy at Agnes Scott College, as well as theology at Candler and at Columbia Theological Seminary.

But it's not solely the degrees, credentials, and crossover expertise behind Wallace that make *Stars Beneath Us* compelling. It's the fact that Wallace eschews the academic approach, one that can truly reconcile all the nitty-gritty details of science and religious thought.

Instead, *Stars Beneath Us* is a work that's grounded in personal experience.

"I begin with stories and images that have as broad and immediate an appeal as possible so I can connect with people, as many and as varied as possible, which brings me joy," Wallace says. "Building a universal conceptual framework is tempting—in fact, as one who is scientifically trained, it is my first reflex—but it does not make me happy."

Central to *Stars Beneath Us* is a call to have a personal encounter with the cosmos. It is a vast and complex space that outstrips orthodox theology's ability to account, and therefore can destabilize the fundamentals of Christian faith. "Many Christians

**“YOU CAN’T JUST LET EVOLUTION BE A CONCEPT YOU THINK ABOUT OCCASIONALLY. YOU HAVE TO LOCATE YOURSELF IN ITS GREAT STREAM.”**



hesitate to fully embrace science, not because they’re stupid but because they see the conflict and call it what it is,” he says. Yet, within that wobbly, frightening challenge to orthodoxy, Wallace sees a way to get closer to God.

The cosmos—in all its soul-shaking infinity—confronts us with our triviality and ignorance, and in doing so, forces us to evaluate the scope of our knowledge. In stripping away orthodoxy that presents constricting limitations, Wallace believes there can be space for new ideas, new ways for approaching the science-religion debate.

“You have to let the cosmos do its work on you,” says Wallace. “You can’t just let evolution be a concept you

think about occasionally. You have to locate yourself in its great stream. You belong to it, a work in progress, at every moment a new creation, a small but real part of God’s evolving cosmos.”

In truth, Wallace doesn’t present a full-blown thesis that, once-and-for-all, reconciles the antagonistic positions of science and religion. He doesn’t claim to have all the answers. “I live with inconsistencies. I know they’re there. But I’m more interested in painting a picture of the world than I am in building a watertight thought system.” And perhaps that allows for something more important: an avenue for more fruitful, productive thinking about how to situate religion and science within our own lives. ●



## THEN

### *Reflection on Furman as It Was*

I met Edward Earl in 1986 when he was a senior double-majoring in chemistry and mathematics. He had invited us to observe Halley’s comet through a telescope on the Furman golf course. I was astounded by Edward’s vast celestial knowledge, which he eagerly shared in a way that was understandable to astronomy neophytes. Before meeting him in person, I had spotted him creating precise 90-degree angles while waltzing at the Viennese Ball and had heard stories about how he would snowplow straight down a mountain without turning when skiing with the chemistry department.

Prior to enrolling at Furman, Edward was the consummate intellectual, excelling beyond his years in math, physics, chemistry, computer science, and astronomy. He was also an accomplished violinist. With his focus on academia and music, Edward did not take part in social activities. However, being admitted to Furman changed all of that as he mentioned in his autobiography: “It was in college that I escaped from the interpersonal shell in which I had immersed myself previously. These years were noted for the friendships I developed, which were high in both number and quality. The scope of these acquaintances transcended all levels of university life, involving faculty, staff, and administrative personnel, as well as fellow students.”

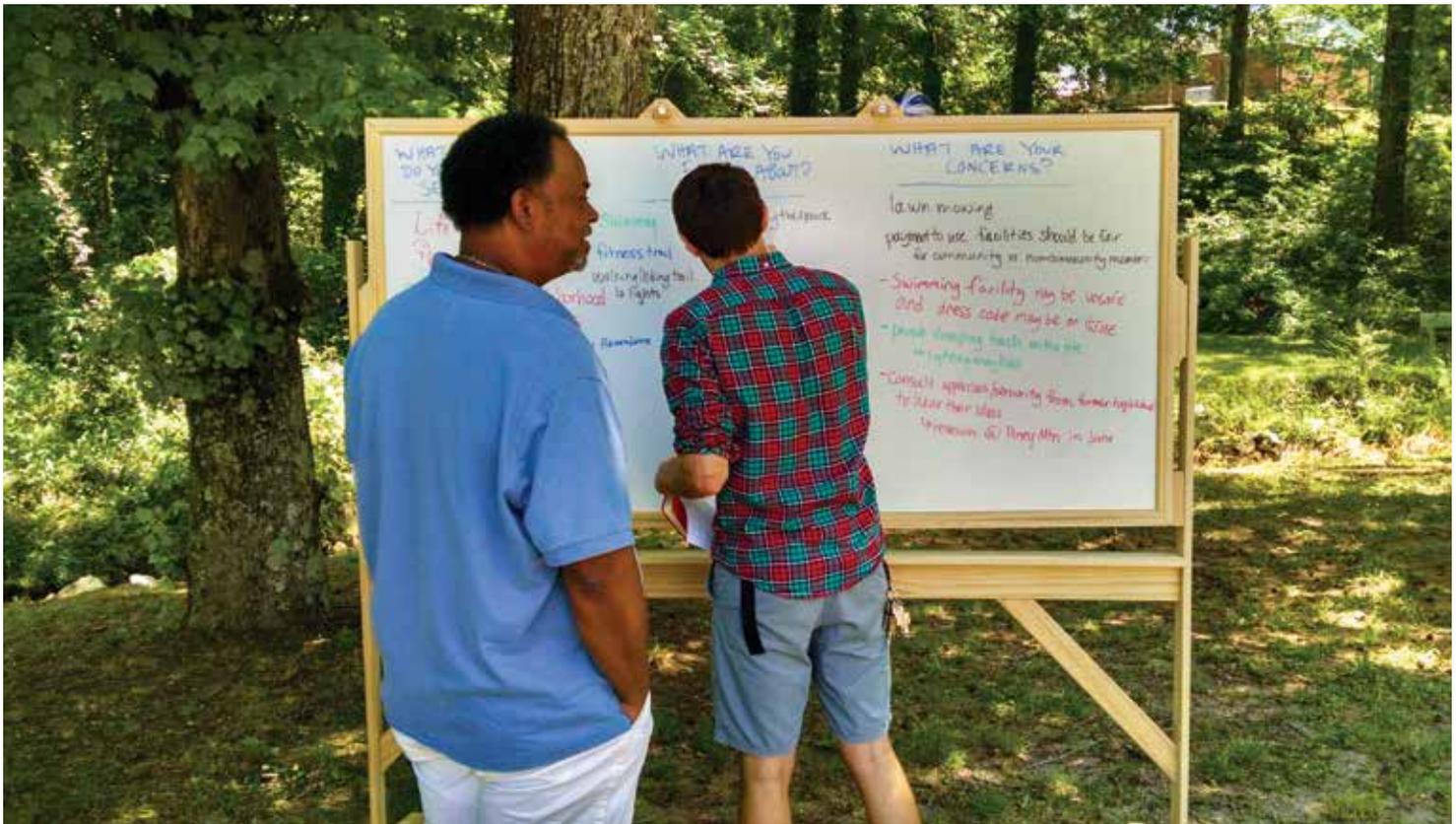
After graduation, Edward developed an expertise in mountaineering. He and his fellow climbers thrived on the challenge of navigating difficult peaks as well as the kinship that came from it. On August 18, 2013, he achieved his goal of being the first person in the world to climb all of the peaks with at least 4,000 feet of prominence in the contiguous 48 United States, which totaled 142 different peaks. A website that he helped develop ([peakbagger.com](http://peakbagger.com)) credits him with 1,607 ascents, including Mount Rainier, Denali, Aconcagua (Argentina) and Volcan Chimborazo (Ecuador).

Edward never forgot his Furman friends and made a strong effort to keep in touch. When planning climbing trips, he would meticulously map out the route that would allow him to visit as many acquaintances as possible. I was fortunate to be one of those friends and always learned so much while hiking with him.

Although Furman is known for its academics and cultural arts, our alma mater gives us many other priceless gifts. For Edward, Furman was a nurturing place to learn valuable social lessons. From there, he climbed to great heights in the company of good friends.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Lori Siemens '88** is a veterinary cardiologist living in the Sierra Nevada foothills of northern California.



A member of the New Washington Heights community voices his concerns and ideas.

**I**t's no secret that the New Washington Heights neighborhood is facing challenges. From the late 1940s through the early 1970s this neighborhood, located just a couple of miles north of downtown Greenville, was a thriving community of predominantly African-American families. Back then the Upstate's textile industry was booming, and mill jobs were aplenty. There was a collective sense of neighborhood pride, and the Washington High School and Happy Hearts Community Center served as lively gathering spaces.

But things change. When Greenville's textile mills began shutting down, so did many of the neighborhoods that depended on them. And com-

## Building a Plan Together

*A 27-acre lot that once housed a high school was the soul of New Washington Heights. Now it is barren. Furman students, faculty, and community members are working to answer the question: What's next?*

**BY STEVEN TINGLE**

munities like New Washington Heights are still working to regain their footing.

For students of Furman's May Experience class titled Community Partnership:

Envisioning Space and Place, the New Washington Heights community is more than a nearby neighborhood, it's the focus of a class.

The purpose of the class

was to partner with the community and develop a vision for the long-abandoned Washington High School, a 27-acre property now owned by Greenville County. The old high school building was torn down last fall and the site is now raw, flat land. The county's draft concept for the land included a sports park with several athletic fields.

"That would be good for renting out field space to rec leagues," says Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES) Professor Matt Cohen, who co-taught the class with Mike Winiski (Center for Teaching and Learning/EES). "But it's not necessarily the most useful for the community. So we were invited to facilitate a process to hear from the community about what their preferences



**Top:** Meredith Schosky '17 discusses options for the project site with a resident during a visioning workshop.

**Bottom:** Furman students tour the project site with members of the Washington High School Alumni Association to learn the historical context of the land and explore options for commemorating the school.

would be for this open space and then articulate that vision to the county.”

Launched in 2009, the May Experience program offers students the opportunity to enroll in an intense three-week course. From sports psychology to the geology of Iceland, the subject matter of the two-credit-hour courses varies. Approximately 600 students participated in a May Experience class this year.

The expanded Furman Advantage, launched this fall, greatly increases the opportunities for students to work on issues of importance to communities in Greenville, SC, and beyond. The university’s strategic vision includes a commitment that every Furman student will be able to participate in projects that

apply their classroom knowledge in a real-world setting.

“This is much more than community service,” said Angela Halfacre, professor of political science and earth and environmental sciences and special advisor to the president for community engagement. “We are creating a new model of community-centered learning, where students, faculty, and community members can work side-by-side to tackle problems of real social importance and social impact. Everyone will be learning together, and as we discover what works, we can put that into practice in communities across the region and around the world.”

Throughout the month of May, students in Cohen and Winiski’s class gathered information, talked to community



## NOW

### *Reflection on Furman as It Is Now*

**I have willingly, blissfully,** terrifyingly, and exhilaratingly lost control of my life.

I know this statement might be jarring to hear. Perhaps you may want to encourage me to embrace my own self-agency, which, like a muscle, has strengthened with three years of liberal arts education. Perhaps you see my confession as an act of surrender or even a declaration of apathy, complacent and defiant in the face of an increasingly competitive job market. For a moment, I encourage you to put these reactions aside.

Like many Furman freshmen, I first arrived on campus with a carefully crafted “life plan.” My plan would revolve around political science, with the aspiration of a career in law or public policy. I structured my first few months at Furman with perfect efficiency, saturating my schedule with as many policy courses as possible. I found comfort in the security and sense of belonging that came with my chosen “path”; however, I could not reconcile this comfort with the fear that my actions were deeply manufactured. I longed for joy and for purpose; I longed to be excited by the unknown; I longed to better understand my community and myself.

Little could I have predicted that I would come alive in the practice room of Furman’s music building. What first began as part of a requirement for a small, non-major music scholarship (I was asked to take voice lessons and participate in a campus

choral ensemble) soon became my outlet for self-expression on campus. I found joy in creating and lifting up beauty, and for the first time in my life, it was my own inexplicable exhilaration—and not the prospect of a career—that drove my actions. On a whim, I decided to add music as a second major, and began to chase fulfillment in all of its spontaneity.

If my first year at Furman taught me how to plan less and feel more, my next two years at Furman taught me how to see life through the lens of loving others. As a sophomore, I became involved in the leadership of EROS (Furman’s LGBTQ+ organization), and became connected with a local Baptist church. Through these experiences, I became passionate about the potential for faith communities to act as a tool for love and social justice. Now a rising senior, I have begun to explore the possibility of attending seminary and pursuing a career in chaplaincy after graduation.

I share my Furman journey not to criticize those with plans, but to defend the pursuit of happiness and knowledge as good in itself. It is true that I have lost control over the path my life will take. In this loss, however, I have found freedom and purpose.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Emma Zyriek '17** is a music and political science major from Bel Air, MD.



**“WHILE WE’RE THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE, WE FOUND THAT A LOT OF FOLKS ARE DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE HISTORY AND TRADITION OF THE COMMUNITY.”**



Top: Sarah Barton '12 facilitates a mapping activity with a community member.

Bottom: Course instructors Mike Winiski and Matt Cohen prepare lunch during a kickoff event to celebrate the project and introduce the first community engagement exercise of the course.



members and presented their findings in a well-attended public forum.

“This was a very quick class,” said Cohen. “It was a very intensive community engagement exercise.”

Cohen said a sizable number of the 140 homes in the neighborhood sit vacant, and many are rentals, leaving a small group of homeowners who are invested in the long-term future of the neighborhood. Some of these residents are alumni of the shuttered Washington High School and have lived in the community for more than 50 years.

Under normal circumstances, the longtime residents might have been suspicious of academic outsiders. But Winiski helped establish a partnership with neighborhood members two years ago when he and students used Geographic Information System technology to map the streetlights in the area and identify places where new lighting needed to be installed.

“As we worked alongside one another, we ended up developing strong relationships with community members,” said Winiski. “We are learners in this situation and always aware that residents know more about this community than we ever will. But there are ways that Furman can support residents’ efforts to build on existing strengths within the neighborhood.”

With such a short time to collect data, the students had to hit the ground running. “We only had three days to plan for our first engagement,” said Cohen. “And then for the next week we were out doing things in the community every day.” The students went door to door throughout the neighborhood to hand out flyers and drum up interest for the events, the first of which was a barbecue kickoff party that

included a mapping activity to collect ideas.

The other engagement events included a public visioning workshop and a lunch with the alumni of Washington High School. “We engaged with the alumni to reflect on the history of the site,” said Cohen. “While we’re thinking about the future, we found that a lot of folks are deeply rooted in the history and tradition of the community.”

Another engagement opportunity stretched out beyond the neighborhood and over to Brutontown, a small community that borders the south end of New Washington Heights. Two students worked a table at the Brutontown Community Center in the late afternoons to chat with parents coming to pick up their children from the after-school program. In the evenings they spoke with teenagers who gathered at the center to play basketball.

Over the course of six days the students hosted seven events and connected with 112 people.

“For some of the engagements we had very strict research methods in place, and other engagements were more informal,” Cohen says. “So sometimes you are a very formal researcher, and sometimes you’re a human being having a conversation. We’re not just researchers from Furman, we’re people, and we’re talking to people.”

The students spent the final week of class analyzing the data and developing a vision report that was presented to about 40 individuals representing New Washington Heights, Greenville County, and the Washington High School Alumni Association at the Happy Hearts Community Center on May 31. Their PowerPoint presentation illustrated the collective voice of



Tim Sharp '17 listens as a community member shares his ideas.

the New Washington Heights community through graphs, maps, and word clouds. The most popular ideas for the site were playgrounds, a swimming pool, and hiking trails, with safety being a top priority.

When the presentation was over the students, along with professors Cohen and Winiski, answered questions and discussed the next step of the process, which included turning the vision report into an actual site plan. "Before moving forward on this we need to determine the county's expectations for the final deliverable," Cohen says. "I have two sustainability science majors this summer conducting thesis research on the project, and they will help push this through. One is evaluating our process to determine if it was a fair, just, open process that yielded fair outcomes. The other student is comparing the outcome to alternative scenarios to determine if we are planning a sustainable open space."

Once the research is complete the plan will be brought back to the community for additional review and comments. But Cohen is quick to point out that the final approval lies in the hands of the County Council and that the ultimate implementation of the plan is far from certain. "The county

doesn't have the resources to develop 27 acres right now," Cohen says. "Instead, we will propose phased implementations and highlight some low-hanging fruit for which we can attempt to attain funds."

According to Cohen, having only three weeks to complete the course forced a quite effective learn-by-doing approach. "It was a chance to learn how to facilitate these engagements by jumping in and facilitating them," he says. "This is how I was trained to do this type of work, and it's terrifying. You resent your instructor while it's happening, but afterward you really know how to do it."

Tim Sharp, a sustainability science major and class participant, agrees. "Dr. Cohen threw us into the deep end to teach us how to swim," he says. "Putting yourself in an uncomfortable situation is hard, and you feel really vulnerable, but it's the best way to learn." He and his classmates, too, received a crash course in social dynamics where county politics, funding, and community input are in play.

"Being a sustainability science major, it is a constant cycle of being really romantic about a concept that you think is going to change the world and then realizing your idea needs a lot of work," says Sharp. "This project made me more realistic." ●



## NEXT

### Reflection on Furman Going Forward

**Each time** I enter Furman's beautiful campus, I am reminded of how privileged I am to teach at an institution that inspires intellectual pursuits. Our students and faculty are dedicated, hard-working and they genuinely want to make a difference in the world. Like most liberal arts colleges, the majority of students who enroll at Furman tend to be middle-to-upperclass Anglo students.

In order to remain relevant, we need to attract and admit more students who reflect the changing makeup of our country. The demographics of the US are shifting. While Hispanics are estimated to become the largest minority group in the US, the percentage of Hispanic students at Furman is 3 percent. In South Carolina, the growing segment of Hispanics in the population is a recent part of the state's history. Currently, 7 percent of all K-12 students in South Carolina are Hispanic, and as the fastest growing minority group, their number will continue to rise.

Hispanics are a diverse group with differing political views and varied stories of immigration. While some Hispanics are recent immigrants, some of us have families who have been in the US for several generations. My students are often surprised when I share that I have a Mexican-American ancestor from Texas who served as a sergeant in the Confederate Army during the US Civil War.

Furman's recruitment and enrollment goals should reflect these changing demographics. The value that a diverse student body will add to our academic goals is

immeasurable. Access to a Furman University education should not be limited to a particular segment of our society, especially when we consider that recent census data reveals there are more nonwhite children under the age of 5 than there are Anglo children. We need to be ready to educate all of those children when they are college-aged.

We should continue to seek international students to enroll in our institution; however, we should define diversity by the ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds that historically have been underrepresented at the college level. Many of these students may be first-generation college students—as a liberal arts institution that prides itself on mentoring each individual student, we are perfectly positioned to help these students to succeed at Furman University and beyond. Doing so will enrich all of our academic pursuits, will help to shape and define Furman as a leader in diversity, and will better prepare our students for the increasingly diverse country they will live in when they graduate.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*Angélica Lozano-Alonso is an associate professor of modern languages and literatures, who began her career at Furman in 2001 after receiving her Ph.D. from Cornell University. She was born in Boulder, CO, and is thankful to her visionary parents for her bicultural and bilingual upbringing. Her field of study is Latin American and Latino literature.*



**A**n award-winning scientist, professor and administrator, Shields joined Furman July 1 as Furman's chief academic officer. He has worked at Lake Forest College, Hamilton College, Armstrong State University, and Bucknell University.

**You were raised in Upstate New York and were the oldest of five. Were you a typical oldest child?**

**GS:** Absolutely, in that I am a high achiever. I think I was lucky in the sense that it was ingrained in me early to not settle for anything other than trying to do my best to make a difference with my life.

**How did you come to select Georgia Tech for your undergraduate education?**

**GS:** I thought I was going to college at Case Western to become an engineer, the same professions as my father and grandfather. I grew up in Marcellus, NY, just outside of Syracuse. Although it is a beautiful part of the country, it gets 180 to 200 inches of snow a year. I was tired of that by the time I finished high school. One of my friends was going to Georgia Tech. I thought, well it's 1,000 miles away, no snow. I applied late and got in, and I went down. I hadn't even visited the campus, much to the horror of my mother.

**What was your experience like there?**

**GS:** I struggled at first because I had not taken calculus and some other courses in high school. When I was a sophomore I took my first chemical engineering course and hated

## George Shields

*Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost*

BY JOHN ROBERTS



it. But I liked chemistry so I changed my major to chemistry. I felt like I was largely self-taught, and that the professors were just providing us with information. Then you had to go and figure it out. I was in study groups with some of my friends, and we taught each other.

**Obviously your undergraduate experiences were starkly different than the hands-on, personal education that Furman provides. How did you come to appreciate liberal learning?**

**GS:** When I was doing my postdoctoral work at Yale, my research partner was Steve Schultz. He had gone to Carleton College, and he worked with a professor there and published a couple of papers because he had a great undergraduate research experience. He would tell me about his education, and I couldn't believe that he talked to his professors outside of class and, moreover, that they'd have them over to their houses for dinner sometimes. I thought this was unbelievable, and I wanted to be part of that. Then I started looking around at liberal arts colleges for a job. Everything took off from there.

**How did you decide to enter education?**

**GS:** It started during my senior year at Georgia Tech when the department needed a TA (teaching assistant) for a chemistry lab, and they hired me. I was the only undergraduate who was a TA in the freshman chemistry lab. Years later in my first teaching job, I became chair at Lake Forest, where I started to learn how to work with people. But, one of my most influential pieces of insight came from my work at Ham-

ilton. During my eight years as chair there, I really figured out how transformative an excellent strategic planning process could be.

**Sometime later, though, you began to take on more administrative duties. Why?**

**GS:** At Hamilton (where he served as chair of the chemistry department for eight years), I really learned how to work with faculty by helping to come up with a shared vision. It really paved the way for me thinking about being a dean. I enjoyed the process of strategic thinking and strategic planning. Working together we wrote a white paper about how we wanted to be better; and then we instituted it. We accomplished all of our goals from our first five-year plan in

two years, and then we wrote another. We went through three five-year plans in eight years. We just kept getting better and better.

Armstrong (in Savannah, GA) really stood out to me because they never had a full undergraduate research program in the summer, and that was a big goal for everybody down there. I went down there in 2008, and of course the economy fell apart, and we had to cut our budget by 30 percent, it was horrible. But we did it, we figured out how to get the money for it, and we created an undergraduate research program that's still growing strong today.

I learned a lot about public higher education. It was good for me in the long run, and I also learned a really important lesson about diversity, which

allowed me, when I went to Bucknell, to help them to diversify the faculty.

I've always gone to a place with the intent of trying to make it better just like my grandparents and my parents taught me: Make the world a better place. It is motivating.

**When you were benchmarking for Hamilton, I understand Furman came up.**

**GS:** The university wanted me to choose four schools to benchmark and I said the first place I wanted to see was the chemistry department at Furman. Years before I had read about Lon Knight (who served 33 years as chemistry department chair), and I knew that he had helped develop one of the best undergraduate chemistry departments in the

US. So, back in 2003 or so, I brought some of my faculty down to see how you guys do what you do.

**What opportunities do you see at Furman?**

**GS:** Furman's got so many good things going for it—the faculty provide an education that is as good or better as any I've ever seen. I think it's going to be a lot of fun working with so many talented people. There are so many excellent things going on here and there are a lot of outstanding people here.

We need to make Furman better known. More prospective students and parents need to recognize the value of this place. ●

## FUmerical

*Facts and figures about Furman's Study Away & International Education*

**500**

Furman students study away each year



**Round-Trip Airfare Included**

In the cost of semester faculty-led programs

**Scholarships**

Available if financial need is demonstrated

**50**

Faculty-led programs to 30 countries on five continents in the last two years



**Cost of Semester = Furman Tuition**

Faculty-led programs

Room & board



Credit-bearing May Experience Study Away programs

**Quadrupled**

In # of May Experience Study Away programs since 2009

**Number 1 Regret**

Of college grads: not studying away



## Postings from the Inter-webs

*What do you  
love most about  
Greenville?*

### **ECSBEN**

*I love the tree with the  
exposed roots by the falls*

### **CAMMI STILWELL**

*(icedfrapp)*

*Going to the Peace Center  
with my mom to catch  
a show.*

### **KATHERYNMARIANNE**

*I love that no matter where  
you are in Greenville, you  
can always find something  
fun to do from hiking,  
walking in Falls Park, or  
simply just reading a book  
with a beautiful view.*

### **CHRISTINA ALSIP**

*(lovelyeverafters)*

*Greenville feels like home,  
even for travelers passing  
through. It's open and  
welcoming to all, and there  
is something for everyone.*

### **MAMABEAR020305**

*Greenville is big enough  
that there are tons of  
choices in activities and  
dining but small enough  
that you usually run into  
a familiar face when you  
are out and about . . . the  
perfect place for people of  
all ages and backgrounds  
too. I came to Furman in  
'94 and still haven't left!  
#yeahthatgreenville*

### **MINITWIZZLER**

*It's a terrific example of  
great urban planning—  
blending the old with the  
new and making the most  
of natural elements to  
create some really magical  
public spaces.*



## A face from the past

*Who was William Rosamond—Furman student,  
carpenter, soldier of the Civil War?*

**O**ne of the more unique artifacts in Furman's Special Collections and Archives is a plaster life mask of William Nathaniel Rosamond, a ministerial student who attended Furman in 1855. According to a 1941 newspaper article, the casting was made that same year at Gower, Cox and Markley's coach factory in Greenville, by a fellow student. The coach works was apparently a place where Furman students had opportunities for vocational training, learning clay-molding, cabinet work, and carpentry. The cast was presented to the Furman Museum on the downtown campus in 1940 by Rosamond's daughter, Ida Anne Rosamond.

William Rosamond was born in Greenville about 1836. Before attending Furman, he worked in his father's Greenville carpentry shop alongside four apprentices. Rosamond married Nancy Caroline Westmoreland (1835–1904) about 1857, and they had three children while they lived in Greenville: Fannie, Ida, and Sidney.

A tintype showing Rosamond in uniform was given to the Furman library in 1967. According to military records, Rosamond served in the Civil War in the 16th SC Infantry Regiment, Greenville, entering at the rank of sergeant and leaving service with the rank of private.

Newspaper accounts and business advertisements give clues about Rosamond's life after the Civil War. He moved his family to Mexico, MO, between 1872 and 1876, and



**A tintype of Rosamond  
in uniform.**

## ROSAMOND MOVED HIS FAMILY TO MISSOURI AROUND 1874.

his wife ran a millinery shop while Rosamond was an agent for the Walton Tub Washing Machine and Centennial Wringer Company, though his profession is listed as "carpenter" on the 1880 US Census. Rosamond died on February 20, 1897, and is buried in Mexico, MO, alongside his wife and his daughter, Fannie. His son Sidney and daughter Ida are buried in Greenville County.

The life mask and tintype of Rosamond are currently on display in the James B. Duke Library as part of our fall exhibition, "We Are Furman: Alumni Collections in Special Collections and Archives," and can be viewed whenever the library is open, through the end of December. ●

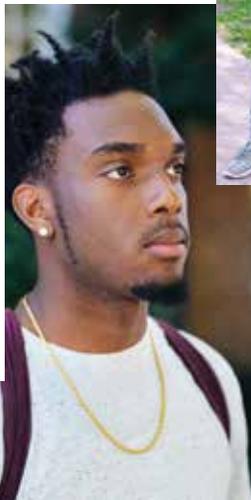


# ON THE QUAD

*A glimpse at Furman fashion*

BY WILLIAM CROOKS '14

**This issue,** we veer away from the types of looks you might see in a college brochure. No Chacos, Patagonia fleeces, boat shoes, or Barbour jackets. Instead, we shift focus to the style rebels of Furman, individuals who use clothes to weave a very different visual narrative. These students are not related by their style of dress but rather by their rejection of visual conformity. Their majors are as varied as their stylistic influences. They are a visual representation of the diverse perspectives that exist within the Furman student body. Rebels of various persuasions expand social boundaries. Without these differing perspectives, academia becomes uniform and stagnant, and practiced concepts are not brought to question and re-examination. The status quo remains without challenge—which is not quite what any higher education has in mind. ●



# PURPOSEFUL, PERSONAL PATHWAYS

*Engaged learning, the core of the Furman experience, is powerful and immersive. It shapes and transforms lives.*

BY COLLEEN NEWQUIST

**F**or two decades, Furman University has pioneered an immersive form of learning, weaving engaged learning together with the classroom experience to help students identify their passions and create successful and meaningful lives. Alyssa Richardson '12, who went from a small town in South Carolina's so-called "Corridor of Shame" to Harvard Law School, is one such student. So is Mark Pittman '07, who just returned to Greenville as an emergency room physician, and Brandon Tensley '12, who is a journalist in Washington, DC. The tradition continues with current students Kjersti Kleine '17, who has found her vocation in public health, and Nathan Mathai '17, who is exploring how to merge his passions for accounting, political science, and education.





**NATHAN MATHAI '17** with **BRENT NELSEN**,  
*Professor of Political Science*



**A**bout 80 percent of Furman students participate in internships, research with a faculty member, and/or study away by the time they graduate. For some, the experience has been extraordinary and life-changing. But some is not all. And all, says President Elizabeth Davis, should be Furman’s goal.

“These stories are exceptional, in both meanings of the word,” Davis says. “Without a doubt, these are exceptional people, whose intelligence, commitment, and innate drive were nurtured on this campus. But these stories are exceptional in another way. If we were to ask ourselves if these experiences are part of every student’s

experience at Furman, then I think we’d have to say: ‘not yet.’”

Guaranteeing “The Furman Advantage”—a personalized educational experience that integrates classroom learning with real-world experiences and self-discovery—for every single student is the university’s collective vision. The Furman Advantage, Davis says, will set the university apart and create a new standard in higher education.

“We have already seen the impact of students who discover a passion channeled by the passion of faculty and staff mentors. We know the effect of strong student life programming, the connections of external partnerships, and alumni and employers

who are confident about the skills we develop in our students,” Davis says. “Imagine what will happen when we ensure this experience for every student at Furman. Imagine the impact if we can greatly increase the number, breadth, and scale of opportunities, as well as our external engagement.”

With \$47 million in support from The Duke Endowment, the university is making a commitment that every Furman student will have an experience similar to the journeys of Richardson, Pittman, Kleine, Mathai, and Tensley.

## THE VALUE OF MENTORS

**A**lyssa Richardson was not feeling it. With the recommendation of Riley Institute Executive Director Don Gordon, whom she met through the 2007 Governor's School Summer Program between her junior and senior years of high school, she was selected for the weeklong Emerging Public Leaders (EPL) program at Furman later the same summer. Led by the Riley Institute's Cathy Stevens, she and 21 other would-be leaders were sitting in a circle, and they were supposed to be singing. Richardson, who had never been to any kind of summer camp and who had torn a knee ligament before arriving, was on crutches, in unfamiliar surroundings, and could feel her scowl deepening.

Richardson, who for the last year has worked as a clerk to the Honorable Margaret Seymour, Senior US District Judge in South Carolina, grew up in Dillon, SC, and attended school for most of her life in the so-called "Corridor of Shame," the swath of rural, impoverished school districts along Interstate 95 that in 2014 were deemed unlawfully underfunded by the state supreme court. Her family wasn't poor—her father was a school principal and her mother a secretary—but after moving to Columbia, SC, in her sophomore year of high school, she became acutely aware of the perceptions that come with growing up in a disadvantaged community.

"I wouldn't say I had a chip on my shoulder, but I would say I felt like I had a lot to prove because at that point, I realized I wasn't from a great place. I had teachers saying, 'Oh my God, you know how to read,'" Richardson says.

Richardson's educational background made her all the more determined to succeed. "This is going to sound crazy, but honestly, I worked the hardest I've ever worked in my life in high school and in my first year at Furman, harder than I worked at Harvard Law, just because I felt like I had so much to prove."

It was this determination Gordon saw in the high school valedictorian, but during the EPL ice-breaker activity, Richardson

was doing a good job of hiding it from facilitator Stevens.

"Cat (Cathy Stevens) really worked hard to pull me out of my shell and get me talking and get me into these lighthearted fun and games I wasn't really used to. I think she worried about me, she worried that maybe this girl is too angry to fit in here," Richardson says.

And yet, Stevens remained dogged in her support of Richardson. "Cat definitely was someone who went out of her way to reach out and make sure that this sort of closed-off person she saw during the summer was not the same person who entered Furman her freshman year," Richardson says.

Her educational upbringing sparked an interest in how laws affect education, and once on campus, Richardson became involved with the mock trial team, where Director and Dana Professor of Political Science Glen Halva-Neubauer nurtured her talent as well as helped her navigate a new world.

"I had never flown in a plane until I did mock trial. I had never been out for a nice dinner. I just never had that kind of experience. Dr. Halva-Neubauer was someone who helped me become a little more polished and a little bit more comfortable in this world of privilege and resources that I wasn't quite accustomed to. He did it in such a graceful way that I didn't feel awkward or singled out," she says.

Halva-Neubauer was a mentor throughout her Furman years, identifying internships and summer programs he thought would be a good fit for her. Richardson continued working with Stevens at the Riley Institute, too, as an intern for the Diversity Leaders Initiative from her sophomore through senior years. And Idella Glenn '84, then assistant vice president for student development and director of diversity and inclusion, provided personal guidance.

"She was someone I could have very real conversations with when I felt awkward about the amount of privilege that surrounded me, or times that there were certain social cues I didn't know a lot about," Richardson says.

*"I had never flown in a plane until I did mock trial. I had never been out for a nice dinner. I just never had that kind of experience. Dr. Halva-Neubauer was someone who helped me become a little more polished and a little more comfortable in this world of privilege and resources that I wasn't quite accustomed to."*

ALYSSA RICHARDSON '12

Her educational experience at Furman felt “very personal, and very personalized,” she says, including an internship with Furman trustee Randy Eaddy ’76, a senior partner and corporate lawyer at Kilpatrick, Townsend & Stockton LLP.

“I actually met Randy months before the internship began,” Richardson says. “He was being inducted into the Political Science Hall of Fame, and I happened to be sitting in the audience beside his family.” They chatted about the similarities of their paths—African Americans coming from small, rural towns in South Carolina to Furman—a place, as Richardson describes it, of “privilege and wonder.”

“I didn’t know it at the time, but the parallels would continue because he, too, went on to Harvard Law,” Richardson says.

The internship at his firm “marked the very point at which my views on ‘making a difference’ began to expand,” Richardson says. “Prior to that summer, I thought the only way I could use the law to effectuate change was by being on the ground, as a civil rights lawyer. But at Kilpatrick, I saw great lawyers using their prestigious platform to reach into the community. Randy Eaddy used his sway at the firm to start an internship program with his alma mater. Another Furman attorney, Yendelela Neely Anderson ’03 (now a Furman trustee) was using her platform as an employment associate, and later partner, to serve on the board of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. This wasn’t the iconic story of my hero Charles Hamilton Houston taking on Jim Crow one case at a time, but it was a more nuanced story of gaining resources, access, respect, and privilege, and then using those acquisitions to lift others along.”

Richardson just began her “dream job”: working for the South Carolina United States Attorney’s Office as assistant US attorney for civil rights. South Carolina is the first of a handful of states rolling out this new position in response to the current climate, Richardson says. “I’ll be focusing exclusively on prosecuting civil rights violations. The major focus of my docket will be prosecuting excessive use of force. I’m incredibly excited about staying here in South Carolina and helping disadvantaged communities right out of the gate.”

**ALYSSA RICHARDSON ’12**  
with **JUDGE MARGARET SEYMOUR**





*“Because you’re in small classes, you inevitably end up talking with your professors, talking about what interests you, or how that class or material can be applied to the broader world.”*

MARK PITTMAN '07



## THE CLASSROOM CONNECTION

**A** genetic counselor, a teacher, a lawyer, a priest. What sounds like the start of a joke is actually **Mark Pittman's** circle of close friends from his days at Furman—friends who, like him, are people who have chosen careers with social impact. Pittman, a native of Aiken, SC, returned to Greenville in July as an emergency medicine physician at Greenville Health System.

For Pittman, the academic experience was key to helping him identify his direction. He entered Furman with a vague idea of doing something in the sciences—maybe psychology, maybe chemistry. He knew both programs were well regarded.

“When I got to Furman, I took a chemistry class, and I fell in love with it. Everything made sense, and the teachers were passionate about it,” he says.

His love of science led to research experiences. The first was with Judy Grisel, chair of the neuroscience department, after he'd attended a talk by her and asked a lot of questions. Seizing on his interest, Dr. Grisel offered him the opportunity to do research in her department that summer. “It was the first time I had really contemplated research,” Pittman says.

He enjoyed the work, but spending hours in a lab made him realize he wanted to do something where he could connect more with people. His second summer, he spent several weeks shadowing physicians in different areas of the Greenville hospital to get exposure to what medicine is, what different types of medicine there are, and what a career in medicine might be like. “That's when I decided, hey, this is something I could pursue,” Pittman says.

Just to be sure, he spent the summer before his senior year back in a lab, conducting chemistry research. “It was a lot of fun, but I still felt like I needed to do something more hands on with patients,” he says.

The hands-on exposure, combined with the classroom experience, was invaluable both in helping him determine his path and in being prepared for his ultimate choice, Pittman says. Opting to take classes like psychology and German instead of more traditional pre-med classes like biochemis-

try while at Furman, Pittman nonetheless felt like he had a leg up on some of his classmates at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, where huge auditorium classes are the norm. “Even though I may have been behind the curve, I felt comfortable jumping into those classes because I felt like I had a good grasp on how to learn,” he says.

Furman's small class sizes, and the opportunity they present for flexibility in teaching methods, helped him identify his learning style. “At Furman, I had classes where we read books and took notes, and some where we would watch a movie and discuss it or write a paper. Or we did a research project, or we went outside. It helped me discover how many different ways there are to learn information and how I best process,” Pittman says.

Those small classes also helped him uncover his passion. “Because you're in small classes, you inevitably end up talking with your professors, talking about what interests you, or how that class or material can be applied to the broader world,” Pittman says. “There's a lot of talk, not just about history or chemistry, but how does this apply in the broader context of Greenville, or the world, particularly in the broader context of where others are struggling. There's a lot of talk about how we serve our community.”

“What I found through Furman was that I love meeting people where they're struggling, and for me, it's emergency medicine. I love being able to provide some sort of comfort when someone is stressed, when they're vulnerable. I have a hard time saying medicine is the only thing I could ever do, but I love where I am now.”



PETER HOWARD

*“I was pretty sure that I was going to double major in political science and economics and go to law school. I was 99 percent certain that was what was going to happen. And then that is not what happened.”*

BRANDON TENSLEY '12

## A LIBERAL ARTS LAUNCH

**W**hen **Brandon Tensley** decided his first semester to fulfill his foreign language requirement with a class in German—the only language course that fit his schedule—little did he know that he was altering the course of his life.

“I was pretty sure that I was going to double major in political science and economics and go to law school. I was 99 percent certain that was what was going to happen. And then that is not what happened,” he says.

He took a class with Ann Culberson, lecturer in German and French, the first semester and with Jane Chew, now retired professor of modern languages and literatures, the second semester.

“It sounds very cliché, but I never saw those German classes as chores. It was very engaging. It was always exciting. It was like a linguistic puzzle, and that’s very much the way they taught the language. It was made very accessible through their particular teaching styles,” he says.

Through those German classes, his initial plan “was blown to bits,” Tensley says. Enamored of the language, he consulted Chew on whether she thought he had the mettle to be a German major. Not only did she say yes, she encouraged him to study abroad the fall of his sophomore year. “I said, ‘Don’t you think I’d be a little too green, only having two semesters of German language under my belt?’ She says, ‘Dive in.’”

“She unexpectedly turned around my life in terms of what I did at Furman. I became interested in languages, in studying abroad. I was a black kid from Columbia, SC. It never featured in my college plans to major in languages, to think I could do well in languages,” he says.

Combining his new love for German with his longtime interest in political science, Tensley ultimately majored in both and literally abandoned his pursuit of law school. He was in the middle of the LSAT exam, for which he’d spent countless hours studying and \$1,000 on a prep class, when he realized he didn’t want to go to law school, turned in the test early and

**“I THINK MORE THAN ANYTHING, FURMAN MADE ME CONFIDENT, BOLD WITH EXPLORING OPTIONS UNTIL I FELT LIKE I WAS DOING SOMETHING I GENUINELY LOVED.”**

walked out. While his friends and family questioned whether he’d lost his mind, Tensley felt confident in his decision.

“I think more than anything, Furman made me confident, bold with exploring options until I felt like I was doing something I genuinely loved,” he says.

Free to explore other options, his senior year he conducted an independent study with Professor of Political Science Brent Nelsen, an expert on Europe and the European Union. The culmination of the independent study was a paper on how the German education system disproportionately affects the outcomes for ethnic minorities, particularly Turkish students, which Tensley ended up presenting at three conferences, including one in London. “The political science department is very encouraging of students applying to these conferences, just to get the experience of presenting on something that you’ve invested a lot of time in,” he says.

Instead of law school, he pursued and received a Fulbright scholarship. He followed graduation from Furman with 10 months in Essen, Germany, teaching English and researching racism and social inequality in Europe. “The place that I was in was this urban, industrial environment in the western part of Germany, and my students were from all over the world. It was a way for me to see firsthand all of the issues I had been reading and writing about,” Tensley says.

Following his Fulbright with an MPhil in politics from the University of Oxford,

which he received in 2015, Tensley has continued to write on issues of human rights, social inequality, and political violence and governance in conflict-affected and post-conflict states. He has been widely published, including in *The Atlantic*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Pacific Standard*, *Slate*, *TIME*, and *The Washington Post*. One of 18 Americans selected as a 2015-16 Luce Scholar, he has spent the past year in Thailand as editor of *The Irrawaddy*, an independent publication covering Myanmar and Southeast Asia. After four years abroad, Tensley is now a freelance journalist based in Washington, DC.

Tensley sees being a writer as being an interpreter of sorts, a translator of complex ideas. “In academics, there are so many brilliant people and they have these brilliant ideas, but nobody’s going to sift through their 30-page article to figure out what they’re saying about generally important things,” he says.

Tensley’s goal with writing is to find a way to make issues that are important to him, important to others as well. “I see the journalist role as being that middle man, presenting information in a way that’s easy to digest for people who aren’t experts, who don’t spend all their professional time devoted to these issues.”

Underlying his pursuits remains Tensley’s love of languages, and he advocates the study of modern languages. “I think there’s so much value in languages,” he says. “They give you a window into different cultures, as well as your own culture.”

## REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE

*“Driving into Helena-West Helena, AR, was like nothing I have ever experienced. As we drove farther and farther away from Memphis, TN, the last town we passed before entering the Delta, I could feel my heart beating faster and faster. My little blue car was packed full of my belongings for the summer as I embarked on an adventure that would change my perspective about poverty and healthcare in America.”*

Kjersti Kleine wrote these words in an essay\* for the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty on the heels of a summer internship. A poverty studies minor, she fulfilled her required internship at the University of Arkansas School for Medical Sciences (UAMS) East, a health education center for the Delta area of Arkansas. For Kleine, it was far more than an opportunity to check the box on a requirement. It was an experience that helped her discover her calling.

Entering Furman with the idea that she might major in chemistry, Kleine was considering a future in medicine. “I was really interested in health care and I liked the idea of helping people overcome their problems, so medicine seemed like a good fit for me at the time,” she says.

Taking Health Sciences 101, a course required for all students, piqued her interest in the broader health field, an interest furthered by attending related Cultural Life Program (CLP) events, which screened documentaries on topics like obesity and other health care issues facing Americans.

“That’s when I started to become really interested in this idea of public health and a little less interested in the hard science classes that I was taking,” she says. At the same time, she was taking introductory classes in philosophy, sociology, and psychology as part of her liberal arts core requirements. Finding that she really enjoyed the humanities and social sciences, she sought a way to connect her interests. She discovered that connection in a health sciences major with a poverty studies minor.

“Once I got more involved with the poverty studies classes and the health science classes, I realized how closely connected they are. Now I want to pursue a career in public health and analyze social determinants that can affect the health of a population,” she says.

Her career choice has been solidified by her out-of-classroom experiences, beginning with a three-week May Experience program her sophomore year with Assistant Professor of Health Sciences Meghan Slining, studying maternal and childhood health in Nicaragua. “My eyes were opened to the complexity of health care and public health access across the world,” she later wrote in the Shepherd Consortium essay.

The summer between her sophomore and junior years, she interned with UAMS East in Arkansas, where she worked at the weekly farmers market, promoting healthy alternatives to such favorite Delta recipes as pickles soaked in Kool-Aid, fried okra, Coca-Cola cake, and fried pie. She also planned and implemented Mission: Nutrition, a camp that educated children on good nutrition by introducing them to new fruits and vegetables, exploring the five food groups and how to read nutrition labels.

In Greenville, Kleine continues to work with Slining as a research assistant on a pilot study of an obesity prevention pro-





KJERSTI KLEINE '17

gram through Greenville County's Early Childhood Childcare centers, and she is a research fellow with Livewell Greenville, conducting research to test the effectiveness of public health intervention programs.

Slining also connected her with the bipartisan nonprofit Save the Children Action Network, and Kleine has twice attended advocacy summits on maternal and child health in Washington, DC. A student ambassador for the program, Kleine has met with senators and representatives of South Carolina and her native North Carolina to discuss strategies to improve the quality of life for children around the world. She started the Save the Children Action Network on Furman's campus, educating fellow students on health issues related to children and encouraging advocacy, and in April was named the inaugural Student Advocate of the Year by the organization.

"My experiences outside of the classroom, in conjunction with my experiences inside of the classroom, have been really transformative for me. When I think about the things that I've done that have made the biggest impact on my vocation and the things that I'm interested in, they all involve an experience outside of the classroom that's related to what I was learning about," Kleine says.

For Kleine, vocation is "finding where the things that you're passionate about can meet the needs of the world."

"I really like thinking about it in that way," she says. "I do think there's a lot of uncertainty going into fields like public health, and there's not necessarily a straight path that I'm going to take. I don't know what kind of organization I'll be working for one day or what types of graduate degrees that I'm going to end up getting. But I do know that this is something I really care about, I'm really passionate about, and there's also a lot of need for it in the world."

**\* Read the full essay, "Immersion is Vital to Understanding Health Challenges"** by Kleine at <http://shepherdconsortium.org/immersion-into-communities-is-vital-to-understanding-poverty>.





NATHAN MATHAI '17

## A JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY

**T**ry everything.” It’s the advice **Nathan Mathai** received when he first explored Furman, and it’s the advice he gives to prospective students when he’s conducting campus tours.

As a prospective student from Plano, TX, Mathai visited the business department, thinking he might want to be a business major. “They were awesome,” he says. “They say, ‘Try everything out, and if you still really want to do something in business, you can always come back to us.’ I came into Furman looking at history, political science, business, I think psychology at one point. I was all over the place.”

Mathai ultimately discovered a passion

for accounting, which he is majoring in, political science, and education, along with ways to merge his interests.

A pivotal point was taking a world politics class with Professor of Political Science Brent Nelsen. “He encouraged me to apply for the study away in Brussels. When I chose accounting as my major, I didn’t think I was going to get an opportunity to study abroad,” Mathai says.

At Nelsen’s urging, Mathai spent the fall semester of his junior year in the Brussels program, which includes an internship in addition to classes. Mathai was placed in the office of Ingeborg Grassle, a German member of the European Parliament.

“It was a really cool experience because

Dr. Grassle is a chairwoman for a fraud committee, so I actually got to see accountants coming in and giving their opinions on a variety of things affecting the EU. That was really encouraging for me to see, that I can go places with the degree I have. I’m not locked in. I don’t have to just become a CPA or do taxes,” Mathai says.

The experience also broadened his comfort zone. “The Brussels program very much challenged me to become a citizen of the environment I’m in. It’s not a very cushioned study away program. We were living in apartments, so you had to do simple things like take out your trash, and they color-code their recycling, and you had to grocery shop. That forced me to grow,” he says.



## “THE IDEA OF REFLECTION HAS MADE ME MORE INTENTIONAL WHEN I LOOK BACK ON SUMMERS WHERE I’VE BEEN WORKING, OR JUST REFLECTING ON THE PAST SCHOOL YEAR.”

For the past two summers, Mathai has interned with the Dallas-based National Math + Science Initiative, an education nonprofit that works to improve student performance in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) subjects, where he has worked on their growth and strategy and finance teams. In keeping with his “try everything” philosophy, he also has acted in a Furman theater production, had leadership roles on the Student Activity Board, TEDxFurmanU, and the Admissions Ambassador program, and he’s involved with the Riley Institute’s Advance Team, which plans seminars, discussions, and CLPs related to politics.

Running through this journey of self-discovery is the thread of self-reflection, both in and out of the classroom.

Mathai gives the example of a class he took called Religion and Art that explored the three Abrahamic faiths and their art and architecture. Students were expected to visit a related religious site and write about the experience. He attended a Greek Orthodox service with a friend.

“It was like, OK, we’re going to study this stuff in the classroom, now go out and experience it, then write and reflect on what you’ve learned,” Mathai says. “I’ve found that every professor takes the reflection paper the most seriously. They want to know, what did you

grasp from that? What did you take away? What did you not expect and what surprised you?”

Mathai has found that sharing these reflections with peers also has value. “In every study away program that I know of, you have to keep a reflective journal of some sort. All of us who were in a political office in Brussels met at restaurants and cafes every other week and discussed, this is what’s happening in my office, this is how this entity is reacting to this crisis in Europe right now. I explored a lot about people’s attitudes toward race in the office place in the EU, or normal workplace behaviors. Our professor challenged us to become political scientists that observe and take notes. It really opened my eyes to making the most out of experiences.”

On a spring-break trip to Northern Ireland sponsored by the Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection his sophomore year, Mathai learned a reflection technique from Professor of Mathematics John Harris, who accompanied the group on the trip. “He says, ‘I’m not really good at journaling, but I love to write down words that trigger memories or experiences on trips.’” At the end of the trip, Harris asked everyone to submit words that described each day. He then compiled the words and shared them with all the participants.

“It was really cool to see what different people had picked up on, re-

membered, what was significant to them. From that moment, I’ve taken that approach. When I was in Brussels, for the whole semester I did that with every city I went to on weekends. I would write words for Budapest, Milan, wherever I was,” Mathai says. “The idea of reflection has made me more intentional when I look back on summers where I’ve been working, or just reflecting on the past school year. It’s definitely made me tune in more to my experiences.”

The habit of reflection also has instilled in Mathai a sense of gratitude for his Furman experience. “When I was this wide-eyed freshman going to college, thinking this will be fun, this is an adventure, I never could have imagined all the opportunities that Furman has thrown my way and the people it’s put me in contact with. Being able to reflect is definitely a big way for me to just say thank you and be humble,” he says.

“I remember when I got to go to the TED 2014 conference my freshman year, I felt like, who would have known I’d be this 19-year-old at a TED conference in Whistler, British Columbia. My parents immigrated across the ocean with \$300 to their name, and here I was, all because of a Furman education. It definitely makes me grateful. It also challenges me to think, all right, this is what I’ve learned. Now what can I do?” ●



# HOW DO YOU MEASURE SUCCESS?

BY RON WAGNER '93

Quantifying the value of a liberal arts education has long been vexing for higher education. It used to be enough for outstanding private liberal arts institutions to point to their well-rounded and multi-talented graduates. Along with the usual questions about cost and debt, concerns about the job market have caused a growing number of people to question the very worth of college.

“The value proposition in higher education has never been tougher, and it’s tough in a liberal arts college,” says Ken Peterson, the John D. Hollingsworth Professor of Economics and Interim Dean of the Faculty. “The irony, of course, is that a liberal arts education has never been more valuable in terms of the kinds of things that you can do when you leave college and enter a rapidly changing world.”

Furman leaders believe they will be better able to answer these questions through The Furman Advantage.

Beginning this fall, the university will take the first step in an ambitious attempt to collect student data—with the goal of delivering an unprecedented understanding of both student experiences and outcomes. The data systems to support this work are being funded by \$5 million of The Duke Endowment’s total grants of \$47 million to transform the student experience through The Furman Advantage.

When fully implemented, the program will allow Furman to use a scientific approach to track students’ academic progress, along with their out-of-classroom experiences such as study away, internships, and community-centered projects. More than that, it will ultimately

be able to make connections between these experiences and outcomes.

Peterson is excited by the potential to achieve something that many universities are grappling with, but none has fully figured out. “We would be able to make statements about what percentage of the student body, for example, has participated in a high-impact engaged learning experience,” he says. “We would be able to connect post-Furman outcomes like employment rates, graduate-school placement rates, or job satisfaction back to a student’s experiences here on the Furman campus.”

One rich vein of insight will be the self-reflections that students produce as part of their classroom and co-curricular experiences. Faculty and students alike find reflection to be a valuable learning tool, but mining it more rigorously to identify broader patterns and benefits will not be easy. Figuring out how to do this is at the heart of the Quality Enhancement Project (QEP) that is required as part of Furman’s re-accreditation.

“What we’re producing is a relatively holistic outcome, and the only way that you can really assess those holistic outcomes is through the narratives of the students who have experienced them,” Peterson says. “If we can show the world what it was like to be a Furman student and what the outcomes are after students graduate, it’s going to be very compelling to a prospective student and a parent.”



*“If your education doesn’t prepare you for a life trajectory, careers beyond a first job, then you don’t have an advantage.”*



*The*  
**FURMAN**  
**ADVANTAGE**

Gathering a rich, new set of data on the student experience also opens up the possibility for faculty research that will be useful for higher education broadly. Psychology Department Chair Beth Pontari can see the possibilities already in work she and her colleagues are doing in collaboration with Davidson College, Duke University, and Johnson C. Smith University through a separate grant from The Duke Endowment. The Resiliency Study is following 800 students, 200 of whom are Furman undergraduates, to track their ability to thrive in the face of adversity. The results should prove valuable, both standing alone and as part of the goals of The Furman Advantage.

“When we’re finished, the Resiliency Study will give us four years of data on at least one class of students. We have baseline data on everything from personality to self-esteem to coping mechanisms,” Pontari says. “That could easily be connected with the elements of The Furman Advantage. We’ll be able to mine those data to inform the four-year student experience program.”

Data from the Resiliency Study has already allowed for potentially important insights. There won’t just be more mentors for Furman students with The Furman Advantage, there will be a team of different kinds of mentors—including alumni and peers. Conventional campus wisdom views peer mentoring through a wary lens, but Pontari has numbers to support embracing the practice.

“A lot of people are very hesitant about peer advising because of the way it’s been done before, but I will tell you in students’ freshman year the people they are going to the most when they have a question or an issue is their FRAD (first year advisor), and their RA (resident advisor),” Pontari says. “As we’re thinking about advising broadly, we can use this knowledge to design a more effective system.”

Dave Eubanks, Furman’s assistant vice president for assessment and institutional effectiveness, is responsible for the work needed for reaccreditation, including the QEP. One aspect of the QEP is to use the narrative and data about student experiences to help design a personalized educational pathway for each student.

It will also enable students to create an electronic portfolio, which will help them demonstrate to future employers and graduate schools the skills they have gained as a result of their experiences. Eubanks and Peterson envision that student narratives will glide seamlessly into professional platforms like LinkedIn to create an organic resume, which will give Furman graduates a head start.

This continued tracking of students after graduation will be critical, asserts Political Science Professor Brent Nelsen, for meaningful research.

“I’ve been very much involved in study-away programs, so I’d just like to know if they have a big impact on your students or whether there’s no discernable impact in comparison with other control groups,” he says. “We think that our students will benefit from them tremendously, but we don’t know. We don’t have any hard data. Someday in the future, you can quantify that portfolio and you can say these students took advantage of these programs—study away, Heller Service Corps, etc.—and then by statistical analysis you can figure out what things successful people do when they’re in college.”

Liz Smith, chair of the political science department, is excited about the opportunity to document the effects of international trips on the level of responsibility students feel toward the political system after they engage in internships and interact with other political systems.

“I’m especially interested in reaffirming what I have seen to be true throughout my interactions with students, that those experiences really make them feel more politically ethical,” she says.

The Furman Advantage approach, Eubanks asserts, will be groundbreaking.

“I think our approach will be an exemplar for other institutions. The traditional way to look at education is more like a factory with standard inputs and standard outputs. A program consists of students taking specified courses and earning a particular degree—but the students are individuals, and they come in with all kinds of different goals and aspirations,” Eubanks says.

“We have the opportunity to show value across the whole liberal arts experience.

**“We have the opportunity to show value across the whole liberal arts experience. These skills students are learning are things that employers want, but we’ve got to be able to create more of a road map and show more deliberately that that’s the case.”**

These skills students are learning are things that employers want, but we’ve got to be able to create more of a road map and show more deliberately that that’s the case.”

“In school after school, students get to the end of their college career and they cannot translate the skills that they possess into skills that the real world demands,” Peterson says. “With this habit of reflection and articulation that The Furman Advantage is going to produce, I think we can argue that a Furman student could do that more effectively than almost anybody else.”

Furman’s Vice President for Student Life Connie Carson is thinking about what she told a group of incoming freshmen and their parents during orientation:

“You’re going to hear this a lot in the media: What’s the first job and who gets hired and how much money do they make in their first job? Those are important questions, but that’s not what your education is



fully about,” she says. “If your education doesn’t prepare you for a life trajectory, careers beyond a first job, then you don’t have an advantage.”

The reality, she adds, is that 96 percent of Furman students are employed within six months of graduation, but those metrics don’t get at the heart of what a Furman education truly provides.

“What is going to be so apparent through The Furman Advantage is our students will have access to contacts and mentors, and we’re going to show it in the numbers about where our graduates ended up going as a result of their experiences,” Carson says. “We’re going to be able to paint a picture of an education that prepares students to be nimble and adjust their vocation and career trajectories over time, not just in their first job.”

The Duke Endowment’s funding is a key factor in being able to deliver on the

promise for every Furman student. “All students at Furman are smart and good, but not all students come in at the same level of maturity to know how to access these resources. We want to figure out what that level of maturity is and how do we move that dial for them individually,” Carson says.

“Our goal is every single student will have that advantage—the ones who seek it and the ones who don’t. That’s our vision, and if we can do it we know we’ll be in a different class. Because we know this is so hard for schools to do.”

High-achievers have always taken advantage of everything Furman has to offer, of course, and a cynic might wonder if their aspirations will suffer as the university directs so many resources to pulling everyone along. Not so, Pontari says.

In fact, improved guidance will likely help them focus their considerable ener-

gies and talents even more effectively.

“Don’t just over-achieve. Think about why you’re doing this,” she says. “Don’t just grab at something because it’s a resume builder. Does this resonate with you because you like it? Because it’s interesting? Because it is what you want to do? Most institutions are able to provide these experiences for a subset. Our goal is to do it for every student.”

Peterson said the program will set Furman apart from other like-minded institutions, helping it to stand apart among a crowded field.

“This sounds like this big, messy, difficult, life-changing experience that would be very hard to build from the ground up, but the beautiful thing about this particular project at this particular time at Furman is that we have all of the pieces of the puzzle in place,” Peterson says. ●



**Furman University** announced on Oct. 5 an ambitious effort to transform

the student experience and address critical community issues. The new strategic plan called *The Furman Advantage* will guarantee every incoming student the opportunity for an engaged learning experience that is tracked and integrated with their academic and professional goals.

Launched with \$47 million from The Duke Endowment, *The Furman Advantage* combines a liberal arts education with an immersive experience outside the classroom, preparing students for lives of purpose, successful careers, and community benefit.

“Furman pioneered the concept of engaged learning in the late 1990s, an idea which has since been emulated by many other universities,” says President Elizabeth Davis. “Today we’re taking another step to reimagine a Furman education—one that adds value and addresses community needs.”

Today’s global uncertainties and disruptions reveal more

## Reimagining A Furman Education

*Engaged learning, the core of the  
Furman Experience*

than ever the need to produce educated and thoughtful leaders who have broad-based knowledge and practical expertise to address real issues.

“We will guarantee every student the opportunity to engage in real-world experiences that connect back to classroom learning,” says Davis. The Duke Endowment’s October commitment of \$25 million will be used to significantly increase global experiences, research opportunities, internships, and community-centered projects at Furman. The Endowment’s earlier gift of \$22 million, announced in November 2015, fully funded the James B.

Duke Scholarships, providing additional support for students to benefit from Furman’s dynamic education model.

“The Duke Endowment fully supports Furman’s strategy for providing life-changing experiences for its students,” said Minor Shaw, chair of the Endowment’s Board. “The grants announced today illustrate our continued commitment to the university and its ambitious vision for the future.”

In addition to guaranteeing and increasing the breadth of experiences available to students, Furman will partner with students to construct a four-year pathway that

integrates co-curricular experiences with classroom work, helping them chart a course from their interests and skills to life after college.

For many years universities have offered engaged learning opportunities—internships, mentored research, and study abroad, for example—but few, if any, have guaranteed them for all students and integrated them fully with the learning experience.

A 2014 Gallup-Purdue University study found that students whose college experience included faculty mentorship and relevant professional practice connected to classroom and project-based learning were the most likely to be positively engaged at work and thrive in all aspects of their lives. Yet only 3 percent of those surveyed strongly agreed that they had experienced all of these elements during college.

“Furman has the ability to actually do this,” says George C. Shields, vice president for academic affairs and provost. “Working in our favor is Furman’s size and a faculty that is devoted to the success of our students. It’s going to be hard work, but we are absolutely committed to this.”

Many of these opportunities will be coordinated through a community-centered infrastructure and a growing set of public-facing institutes, including the Richard W. Riley Institute, the David E. Shi Center, and the newly formed Institute for the Advancement of Community Health (a partnership with the Greenville Health System). These structures will launch project teams focused on areas of community need identified by communities and aligned with Furman's expertise that will allow students to explore and address real-world problems.

Ken Peterson, the John D. Hollingsworth Professor of Economics and interim dean of the faculty, and Connie Carson, vice president for student life, co-chair a campus-wide group of faculty and staff who are charged with implementing the vision.

Peterson says The Furman Advantage enables students to be immersed in diverse communities beyond campus, better preparing them to live and lead in a complex, global world. He also notes that Furman faculty members have long been dedicated mentors to their students. The Furman Advantage will expand this notion to build a community of mentors—giving students access to a team of advisors and an expanded network of faculty, staff, alumni, and community members who will provide a broader array of professional and academic opportunities.

Carson says one very distinctive aspect of the Furman experience has been the use of self-reflection, helping students to discover their strengths, aspirations, and sense of purpose. The Furman Advantage will expand on this notion, creating for every student a guided journey of self-discovery. This will

## **“WE WILL GUARANTEE EVERY STUDENT THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES THAT CONNECT BACK TO CLASSROOM LEARNING.”**

allow students to design a pathway that achieves their goals and will document the skills they are gaining from their experiences.

Peterson praises The Duke Endowment for supporting another key component of the plan: best-in-class tools that allow the university to track the student experience in real time, giving each student—as well as parents, graduate programs, and prospective employers—proof of progress and outcomes.

“We are so grateful for the tremendous support and confidence from The Duke Endowment, a partner that has been by Furman's side for all of its most strategic moves over the last century,” President Davis says. “For The Furman Advantage to achieve sustained success, though, there is so much more that needs to be done. We need our alumni, parents, and friends to engage the university like never before,

through their philanthropy, hosting internships or research projects, mentoring students, hiring young graduates, networking with fellow alumni, and helping us raise Furman's profile all over the world.” ●

**For more information, see [thefurmanadvantage.com](http://thefurmanadvantage.com). The website includes student and alumni profiles, a vision document and more.**





The Comeback

# A Tasty To-Do List

BY OWEN IRVIN

## The Comeback

**IF YOU'RE HEADED BACK TO THE UPSTATE THIS YEAR AND ARE INTERESTED IN CHECKING OUT A FEW NEW THINGS THAT ARE DELICIOUS, KEEP READING. WE'VE IDENTIFIED FIVE SPECIALTY SHOPS IN GREENVILLE THAT ARE FULL OF TASTE, CULTURE, AND CALORIES!**

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Icing options include chocolate, caramel, maple, vanilla, and glaze. The topping selections include graham crackers, coconut, fruity pebbles, cinnamon sugar, and more. (Pictured left) **A**

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\*Easter Egg. Ask for the Maple and Bacon Bit special.



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## The Comeback



## The Comeback



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spiceandtea.com

#### PALMETTO OLIVE OIL COMPANY

You've probably been to a wine tasting or craft beer tasting. But have you been to an olive oil tasting? Pull into Palmetto Olive Oil Company and prepare your palate for a mild or robust experience.

Specializing in Certified Ultra Premium Olive Oil, P.O.O.C. is the only shop of its kind in the Upstate and was the first in South Carolina. Capitalizing on the popular health benefits of olive oil, the shop offers a range of olive oils and balsamic vinegars.

Popular blended selections include Tuscan Herb and Rosemary Dill. For salads, try the Eureka Lemon and the Persian Lime.

Olive oils are harvested two times a year, once in the Northern Hemisphere and again in the Southern Hemisphere. But you can stop in anytime and enjoy whatever is on tap! ☺

2247 Augusta Street  
Greenville, SC 29605  
palmettooliveoilco.com

#### FUNNELDELICIOUS

Just when you thought the only place to get a delicious funnel cake was at the County Fair or an "upscale" Flea Market, little ole Greenville comes up with FunnelDelicious.

Now some of the places mentioned in this article we would consider on the fancy. This little gem holds its own as a purveyor of deep fried dough. And its amenities deliver on that premise.

You want a straight up funnel cake? This is the place. You want to step out on the funnel cake limb? Go for it! Their signature menu items make it easy. There's the Elvis Cake with peanut butter and banana, the S'mores Cake, and Apple Pie à la Mode, to name a few.

Being across from the baseball field, it only makes sense that FunnelDelicious also offers hot dogs, corn dogs, fries, and, of course, coconut water smoothies!

155 Augusta Street  
Greenville, SC 29601  
funnel delicious.com

## Shelf Life



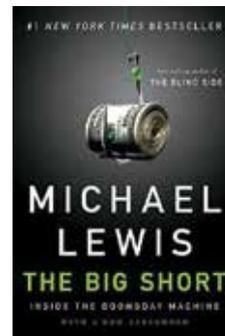
### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

*Tom Coker '87 is owner of Reid's Fine Foods, a specialty food store and wine bar with two locations in Charlotte, NC. Barrie Benson '92 is the owner of Charlotte-based Barrie Benson Interior Design. Her work has been published in Garden & Gun, House Beautiful, The Wall Street Journal, and Coastal Living. She also holds a degree from the University of Georgia. Benson and Coker recently completed their second business collaboration with the opening of Reid's Fine Foods SouthPark in south Charlotte.*

## WALL STREET, A MISSING GIRL, AND OUTSOURCED FURNITURE

*We asked Tom Coker '87 and Barrie Benson '92 what works are currently inspiring them.*

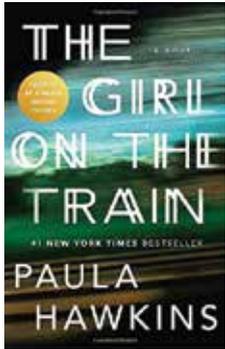
### Tom's works:



### THE BIG SHORT by Michael Lewis

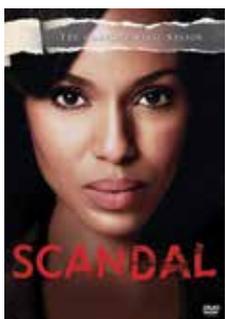
Charlotte was hit hard—really hard—with the financial crisis in 2008. It took years for us to recover, mostly because our biggest industry is banking. In some ways, that made it even harder to read Michael Lewis's book about the reality that led us to that nightmare. Lewis provides not only a riveting read, but also an interesting one in that he introduces a cast of characters we had never heard of but who played a major part in the crisis. This one opened my eyes from the standpoint of a homeowner, but even more so as a business owner. It's more important than ever to protect your assets and make smart, careful decisions. If

you're craving more Wall Street literature, go back further in Lewis's collection to read *Liar's Poker*, which argues that the meltdown of 2008 was rooted in Wall Street practices that started back in the 1980s.



**THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN**  
by Paula Hawkins

Cover to cover, this is one of the most captivating books I've read in a really long time. Think *Gone Girl*, but with more narrators, more players, more points of view, more threats, more back-stabbing, and more lies. For instance, *The Girl on the Train* is Megan, who is also known as Jess. She disappears. It becomes a tabloid story. Rachel, another narrator, tries to help police, but she's a drunk and her memories are hazy, at best. No one, including you, will know who to trust or believe, and the suspense builds the further you get into it.

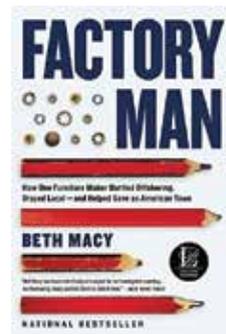


**SCANDAL**  
created by Shonda Rhimes

After five seasons and hundreds of episodes, I'm still

hooked. The quick-witted dialogue, the political conundrums and crises, and the never-ending Fitz-Liv saga keep my wife and me glued to the television, sometimes for hours at a time. Everyone knows it's a show that is difficult to walk away from. But it's also smart, and the way characters' personal and professional lives weave together leaves us wide-eyed and shaking our heads at the same time.

**Barrie's works:**



**FACTORY MAN**  
by Beth Macy

Recently, I have been designing a furniture line with Century Furniture located in Hickory, NC, and have become more knowledgeable of the production end of the interior design business.

Macy's book explains the movement of manufacturing offshore and the effect on the American middle class through the history of Vaughan Bassett, a furniture company that had its start in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia at the turn of the 20th Century. Vaughan Bassett, similar to Century, is a privately owned family business that managed to survive the late '80s and '90s when much of the production of furniture was farmed out to China and Taiwan.

In the book, the key figure of Mr. John Bassett III, the grandson and the namesake of the original Bassett Furniture owner, has found a way to instigate a lawsuit against the Chinese

manufacturers in violation of the World Trade Organization regulations. He also works to expose the unethical methods the Chinese use to provide manufacturing at a quarter of the price.

Today, the southern furniture market is beginning to receive requests from customers to buy American-made furniture. This is due to people like Mr. Bassett and the relentless effort and methods he used to bring to light the many violations in Chinese manufacturing.

For anyone who wants to understand why and how we lost our jobs to overseas markets, this is the perfect page-turner of a story to add to your list.



**THE FIRST MONDAY IN MAY**  
directed by Andrew Rossi

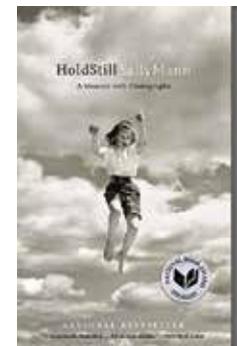
On a recent long plane ride from Los Angeles, I watched this documentary, which allows us to experience the preparation for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibit "China: Through the Looking Glass," by curator Andrew Bolton. The film culminates with the annual Met Gala and opening of the costume show held on the first Monday of May 2016.

My mind was blown with the creative vision, the politics, and the work that goes into the curated show and the gala.

It is also fascinating to watch the painstaking progress of the costume curator's vision come to life while simultane-

ously balancing the wishes of Anna Wintour, editor in chief of *Vogue* magazine, the head curator of the Asian wing of the Met, the politics and people of China, and the celebrities and their entourages who attend the gala.

As an interior designer, much of my job is based on executing our creative vision on a deadline and a budget, while weighing the wishes of clients and my creative drive. The personal parallels between my career and the curator's made this a fun and fascinating watch.



**HOLD STILL**  
*A Memoir with Photographs*  
by Sally Mann

As I am a fan of Sally Mann and her photographs, when my mother told me it was one of her favorite books of the year, I knew I would enjoy it. Mann has quite a cult following, and her photographs are prohibitively expensive.

If you are not familiar with her work, you may recall seeing a few of her most provocative and controversial photographs of her prepubescent children, half dressed. Her critics accused her of exposing her children for the sake of her art. But Mann gives a very personal account of why she photographs and documents her family life and why it is important to her. She also writes of her friendship with Cy Twombly, a great friend who lived and worked in Lexington, VA. ●



**O**n June 23, 2016, the day Britain voted on its membership in the European Union (EU), I was in Ljubljana, Slovenia, for an academic conference. As social scientists we couldn't help but talk about the British referendum campaign—mostly with bemused disapproval. How could the British even think about abandoning a beneficial, if flawed, organization believed to be the cornerstone of postwar European peace and prosperity? Surely the Brits would get it right when they went to the polls.

Like everyone else at the conference, I went to bed expecting to wake up to news of a close but clear British vote to remain in the EU. After all, the bookies said it was a done deal! But when I checked my phone

## BREXIT AND EVERYTHING AFTER

*Britain's place in the world and the future of the European Project*

BY BRENT NELSEN,  
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

for headlines in the morning, my mood changed. The first texts I saw were from students I had taken to Brussels last fall on Furman's internship program. They had watched the results from the comfort of a six-hour time difference and were sending cryptic texts. I wasn't sure exactly what had happened, but clearly "Leave"

had won. I sat stunned on the edge of the bed for more than 20 minutes scrolling Twitter, trying to take it in. It was the most startling European political development since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

### What on earth happened?

The referendum itself was a political blunder. Prime

Minister David Cameron did not really have to call the vote. No great issue in European integration confronted the country. The UK was not a member of the Eurozone (EU members using the euro currency) or Schengen (the EU's free travel area), so Greek debt and Syrian migration did not directly concern the British. And the country's economy was growing much faster than the rest of the EU's. So why call a vote on EU membership?

Cameron pushed it for domestic, mainly internal party, reasons. A steady barrage of criticism from the Euroskeptical right wing of his Conservative party and an electoral threat from the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), a nationalist party led by an EU-hating, Trump-like

politician named Nigel Farage, forced his hand. Cameron believed that EU membership had grown so politically contentious that it was time to settle the question once and for all by negotiating a new relationship with the EU, then consulting the people in a referendum on membership. This had been done once before in 1975 when the British voted overwhelmingly for continued membership, confirming the Parliament's 1973 vote to join. Parliament went along with Cameron's plan, but the negotiations with the EU flopped and the electorate voted 52-48 percent to leave. The gamble failed, costing the prime minister his job.

Why did the electorate vote to leave? The campaign was deceptive and often silly, but in the end the British voted to protect their national sovereignty. Leavers argued that too many important decisions—and far too many regulations—were now imposed by EU institutions and Brussels bureaucrats rather than the British Parliament. Many also argued that Britain could not control its borders without leaving the European single market, which guarantees freedom of movement for European citizens. As the campaign slogan went, British Leavers simply wanted to take “control of their country back.”

Whatever the motives behind the vote, Brexit has and will continue to disrupt a Europe already struggling with terrorism, migration, Russian belligerence, and poor economic performance. Untangling the UK from its deep ties to an integrated EU will take a lot of time and energy.

To begin, Britain and the EU must establish good working relations—hardly an easy task. New Prime Minister Theresa May delayed invoking Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty (on withdrawal) until she felt comfortable that her new government had worked out a set of goals for the negotiations.

Many EU leaders, however, like a jilted spouse in a fraught marriage, just wanted the Brits to go away, arguing for a “clean break” and a quick one. This could get ugly!

Britain remains a European country, so it will have to decide just what kind of relationship it wants with the EU. It will probably push to remain in the single market, but limit immigration (a major issue in the campaign) and insist on its right to reject EU regulations it deems unnecessary. EU leaders are unlikely to accept such a sweet deal and may insist that the UK fend for itself, at least for a while. In the end, Britain and the EU may agree to some kind of free trade area, but that is not guaranteed. Consequently, some wags have suggested that Britain should forget Europe and apply for membership in NAFTA—the North American (er, Atlantic?) Free Trade Agreement!

Finally, the technical details of leaving the EU are mind-numbing. Most of the burden will land on the British who have outsourced many government functions to the EU for over 40 years. The British will, for example, have to recreate a farm subsidy system and re-learn how to negotiate trade deals. They will also have to decide which of the astronomical number of EU regulations they will want to keep. Parliament will be amazingly busy in the next few years as members completely overhaul the nation's regulatory regime.

#### **What does the future hold?**

No one knows for sure, but in my opinion Brexit weakens Britain, Europe, and, in fact, the West. The referendum revealed Britain's deep divisions: educated vs. uneducated; elites vs. masses; young vs. old; urban vs. rural; globalists vs. nationalists; libertarians vs. authoritarians; and immigrants vs. natives (with the second group in each pairing favoring exit). In addition, the vote has wid-

## **“A NEW EUROPEAN IDENTITY WILL NEVER FIT COMFORTABLY IN A REGION WHERE DEEP NATIONAL IDENTITIES PERSISTED.”**

ened the gap between the UK's constituent nations: England and Wales voted to leave (the latter narrowly), but Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain. The UK may well break up in the next five years if Scotland votes for independence and joins the EU, and Northern Ireland votes to join Ireland, already a member. Such a development would leave England a smaller, weaker, and less influential country than the old United Kingdom.

An EU without the UK will not be as friendly toward the United States, either, and will certainly not be as tough on Vladimir Putin. It will be less market-oriented and more focused on the problems of an aging population and an unbalanced economy. Perhaps more worryingly, other EU members may follow the UK out. The Protestant countries of the north are the most awkward partners in the EU. They always resist proposals from their continental partners for more sacrifices of sovereignty to solve Europe-wide problems. Already we see prominent politicians, mostly from the right, calling for membership referendums in France, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Sweden. Additional departures would certainly weaken the EU and perhaps cause it to unravel.

The Brexiters' victory also strengthens the populist forces sweeping the West. New right-wing parties in Europe and Donald Trump in the US are tapping into a deep political vein: people with grave doubts about or outright disdain for open societies. They distrust globalization,

with its open trade and open borders. They want to preserve their unique ways of life and would prefer not to see too many immigrants in their neighborhoods. These forces are driving a wedge between educated, well-traveled, cosmopolitan citizens and less educated, poorer citizens who simply haven't had the resources to take advantage of a more open world—or who do not want to participate in it. These tensions show no signs of abating. The British vote is just the start of a conflict that will challenge Western liberalism, particularly its historic commitment to democracy and capitalism.

The founders of the EU had a marvelous vision of creating a new political entity that went beyond nationalism and the nation state to something different and better. Their efforts made war in Europe unthinkable and connected its regions in a large, dynamic economic area that brought unprecedented prosperity. But a new “European” identity never fit comfortably in a region where deep national identities persisted. Without a “European people” it is impossible to establish institutions that are truly responsible to “the people.” Thus, to survive, the EU must be much more willing to accommodate national identities and to preserve national sovereignty. The EU must become an international organization of sovereign states that cooperate in deep ways but abandon hope of forming a federation—an EU that Britain would feel comfortable joining again. ●

# CLASSES NOTES

Where You've Been, Where You're Going

SCENE AND BE SEEN | UP CLOSE | AFTER THE AISLE

## 1937

**Mary "Skip" Langston Boyles** of Winston-Salem, NC, turned 100 years old on April 2, 2016, and celebrated with the WMU and prayer group at First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, where she has been a very active member for 58 years. The group and her family honored her with 100 roses on the occasion.

## 1939

A celebration was held February 14, 2016, in honor of the 98th birthday of University of Georgia Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Religion **Robert H. Ayers**. Dr. Ayers was former chaplain and head of the university's philosophy and religion department. He has a number of books available on Amazon.com and has published in the areas of philosophy of religion, Christian thought, and biblical criticism.

## 1963

**Doug Nye** was inducted into The State Newspaper Hall of Fame in June 2016. Doug was previously sports editor of *The Record*, the Columbia, SC, afternoon newspaper, and later was editor of the Entertainment Section of *The State*, the Columbia morning newspaper. After he retired from the newspaper work, he had a show on ETV of South Carolina.

## 1965

**W. Douglas Ludlum** retired January 18, 2016, after 35 years as organist/director of music at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Charleston, SC.

## 1969

**Harold F. Gallivan III** has been appointed to the Hollingsworth Funds Board of Directors in Greenville, SC. Gally, the senior vice president of investments at UBS Financial Services in Greenville, will help steward the Funds' assets

in order to invest thoughtfully in highly effective nonprofit organizations and initiatives. Hollingsworth Funds is a charitable support organization focused exclusively on Greenville. It was endowed by the estate of textile executive John D. Hollingsworth, Jr. '39.

## 1970

**Edward "Butch" Barnhill, Jr.**, a longtime attorney in Columbia, SC, has joined Callison Tighe & Robinson, LLC, firm as counsel where his practice will focus on real estate, probate, and business. He has practiced more than 40 years in Columbia, is a certified South Carolina Circuit Court Mediator, and is also a licensed real estate broker.

## 1973

**David Head**, a professor of history at John Tyler Community College, Midlothian (VA) Campus, has self-published on Amazon a mystery/thriller

novel set in South Carolina. The title of the book is *The Millennium Child* and is a Kindle book on Amazon.

## 1974

**Deborah Carlton Loftis** was named a Fellow of the Hymn Society in July 2016 at the organization's conference in Redlands, CA. This award, the highest honor given by the organization, was conferred because of Deborah's work as an educator and scholar in the field of congregational song and for her significant contributions as executive director of HSUSC and the first woman to hold this position. She has been a professor of church music at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA, has taught at Samford University in Birmingham, AL, and McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta, and has worked as a music cataloger and reference librarian. She is an ordained Baptist minister who has led congregations in Kentucky and Alabama.

## 1976

**Art Brownlow** has been selected as a recipient of the University of Texas System Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award for 2016. He has taught for over 30 years in higher education, currently as a professor of music at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Previously he won the 2014-15 College Music Society Instructional Technology Initiative Award, and he was selected as an Apple Distinguished Educator, Class of 2015. His most recent book, *Teaching Music History with iPad*, is available for free in the Apple iBooks Store.

*Continued on page 48*

# SCENE AND BE SEEN

## Furman Across the Country

Furman University held its inaugural Bell Tower Ball at the TD Convention Center in Greenville on April 2, 2016. Attended by more than 500 guests, the event celebrated the extraordinary accomplishments of the Furman family. Dubbed an “evening of excellence,” the Bell Tower Ball recognized alumni, parents, students, and friends for their philanthropic contributions and volunteer service. Four alumni received special honors for distinguished professional achievement and generosity of spirit.

**Fran Smith '73 Ligler** was named the Carl F. Kohrt Distinguished Alumni, and Kohrt accepted the award on her behalf. **Dave Ellison '72** was presented the Gordon L. Blackwell Alumni Service Award, **Logan Hambrick '02** the Tom A. Triplitt Outstanding Young Alumni Award, and **Peter Griffin '11** the Wayne and Rubye Reid Award. *(The honorees are pictured, left to right, with President Elizabeth Davis.)* ●



1 President Davis with award winners. 2 Tom '58 and Sherry Atkinson, Bill '44 and Catherine Merritt. 3 Tom '76 (2015 recipient of the Blackwell Service Award) and Diane Wedgworth '78 Triplitt, Miriam Mitchell '78 Mulholland and Lt. Gen. John Mulholland '78 (2009 recipient of the Kohrt Distinguished Alumni Award). 4 The Root Doctors band provides live entertainment for dancing. 5 Zach Rosen '11, Peter Griffin '11, Sarah Saba '17, Martin Eguiguren '17, Max Dutcher '12, and Roe Morris '11. Founding members of the Furman Metropolitan Fellowship with student fellows. 6 Lindsay Timmerman '07 Niedringhaus and Steven Niedringhaus, Casey and Cal Hurst '04

## 1978

**Jan Hunt Hollar** has been working with Horry County (SC) State Bank in a consulting role in the rescue of the bank from the brink of bankruptcy. She has now been named CEO of this bank.

## 1982

**Anita Burroughs-Price**, a harpist with the North Carolina Symphony in Raleigh and a music professor at Furman, dedicates much of her time to her unusual form of charity – playing music for the sick and dying, the incarcerated, and others who might find solace in the strains of the instrument often thought to make heavenly music. She also played for refugees of Hurricane Katrina, and most recently she has been playing for patients with memory problems who often respond in surprising ways to hearing familiar strains of both orchestral and popular music rendered by her harp. A CD she recorded a decade ago has raised more than \$20,000 for charity, and her story was featured in its own television special on the Hallmark Channel. She recently presented at a national conference for cancer survivors on the power of music in comforting and supporting cancer patients. A special memory for her from her musical performances is the experience of playing for the Queen of England.

## 1983

**David Allsopp**, a member of the University of South Florida faculty since 2001, is assistant dean for education and partnerships in addition to the David C. Anchin Center Endowed Chair and director

of the Anchin Center. He is also a professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning – Special Educations Programs, teaching at both the undergraduate and doctoral levels. David also engages in teacher education research related to how teacher educators can most effectively prepare teachers to address the needs of student with disabilities and other struggling learners. He began his career in education as a middle school teacher for students with learning disabilities and emotional/behavioral difficulties in Ocala, FL.

## 1984

**Nicholas Thomas** of Vero Beach, FL, recently published *The Heart of Atlanta*, a novel set at Furman in the 1980s. He wrote the book one lunch hour at a time during the '90s. Untouched for over 20 years, he determined that the time had come to share his literary fiction with audiences. To learn more, visit [www.facebook.com/theheartofatlanta/](http://www.facebook.com/theheartofatlanta/)

## 1985

**Todd Davidson**, a corporate and commercial real estate attorney in Nexsen Pruet's Greenville, SC, location, has been named to the board of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce for 2016. In this role, he will also serve as general counsel to the board. He will also lend his time as a coach for the Chamber's Minority Business Accelerator Program.

**Linda Lee Petrakis** of Boca Raton, FL, has again achieved Top 1 Percent International Sales Status with Caldwell Banker. She has been selling

and renting real estate in South Florida for the past 16 years.

## 1986

**Donald Polaski** has been appointed assistant professor of religious studies at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA.

At the end of May 2016, **Lisa Wright** transferred to the US Department of Veterans Affairs at McGuire Medical Center in Richmond, VA, where she serves as secretary for the Chaplain Service.

## 1987

**Charles Batson**, a professor of French and francophone studies at Union College in Schenectady, NY, is conducting research which has taken him to Montreal and a study of its performance scenes, in particular its circus, of which Cirque du Soleil is a huge presence. He and a colleague have published *Cirque Global*, just now out from McGill Queens University. It is the first book on this new art form and its international impact. The book launch was timed with the circus festival held in Montreal in July 2016. Charles led at least one of the artist's lobby talks. Read more at [www.mqup.ca/cirque-global-products-9780773546738.php](http://www.mqup.ca/cirque-global-products-9780773546738.php)

Former LPGA player **Dottie Pepper**, who won 17 times in her professional career and joined CBS last fall to be an on-course reporter and analyst, has spent the early part of this year adapting to her new colleagues and learning their system, including spending time in the production trucks. In April 2016 the Golf Writers Association of America honored her with the William D. Richardson Award, given to

someone who has consistently made an outstanding contribution to golf.

Former banker **Karen Bocook Roughton** has joined Greer, SC, Community Ministries as coordinator of Meals on Wheels. After previously working at the nonprofit agency on a grant project that required assessment of senior citizens for the local program, she will supervise the 21 routes that local volunteers use to deliver meals to the homebound on Mondays through Fridays. Karen began her banking career at Southern Bank in Greenville and worked in the banking industry until early 2015. She recently served on the board of Greer Relief and Resource Agency.

## 1990

**Ronny Fisher**, head women's basketball coach at Presbyterian College since 2008, has been named head coach at Campbell University. He was assistant coach for the men's team at PC for 11 seasons. In leading PC to three winning seasons in the last four years, he was named Big South Conference Coach of the Year in 2012-13. He takes over a Campbell program that has reached its conference championship game 10 times since the Big South first crowned a women's basketball champion in 1987.

Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP has announced that **Tod Hyché**, a partner in the firm's Greenville, SC, office, has been named as South Carolina State Chair for the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC®). Tod has been an ACTEC Fellow since

*Continued on page 51*



## UP CLOSE

### A life-saving light

**Deal's invention, which uses ultraviolet light to disinfect hospitals, has saved thousands.**

**D**r. Jeffrey Deal '77 has had his share of watershed moments.

"The first time I saw Dinka patients in South Sudan sleeping on clean sheets and getting IV therapy was one of those moments," said Deal, a retired ENT who is involved in humanitarian medical work around the world. "The first time my cochlear implant patients talked to me was a great moment."

But one particular moment in an Ebola hospital is hard to top.

The year was 2014, and the epidemic in Western Africa that would claim more than 10,000 lives had gripped the world. The Liberian government had made a very specific request: They wanted a doctor with a unique skill set that included experience with tropical diseases and knowledge of Tru-D SmartUVC, disinfecting units that had been donated to the country to help in its fight against Ebola.

Deal had spent months in

other African countries. He had training in tropical medicine. And he knew how to use Tru-D. He was, after all, its inventor.

Years earlier, in his Charleston, SC, garage, Deal had begun work on the machine, which uses ultraviolet light to disinfect spaces in a way chemical cleaning can't.

Tru-D (the "D" refers to disinfection) met every need in that Liberian hospital that day: its waves were contained by the makeshift sheeting walls; its remote control could be immersed to be sanitized; its power supply was universal; it killed the Ebola virus.

"It was like it was designed for that moment," Deal said. He felt like Jeff Deal of 2014 had consulted with Jeff Deal a decade earlier, telling him every feature that would be needed in the future.

"I had this one moment of insight . . . a flash from God," he said. "And that flash, it felt like it was for that very moment."

Deal first came to Furman on a basketball scholarship,

transferring in as a junior. At the end of that academic year, he decided he wanted to be a pre-med student. The program advisor wasn't sure he could handle the sciences. But Deal looked up some of the classes and talked to the professors. They told him he could do it—if he was willing to work.

"That career path took off because some Furman professors took an interest in encouraging me," he said. "I have a tremendous debt to them."

He met his wife, Hart Hamrick '75, at school, and they married in 1976. After medical school and service in the US Navy, Deal launched a private practice, Charleston ENT, in 1989.

In the '90s, he began using his medical skills on mission trips around the world, eventually spending much of each summer in South Sudan. One of his Charleston patients gave money to build a hospital there.

Then Deal was diagnosed with retinal disease in 2006 and a specialist told him he needed surgery immediately. But Deal put it off a few weeks—he needed to be in Sudan where hospital construction was underway.

He delayed too long. In a year of "bone-jarring changes," Deal lost his vision to the extent that he could no longer perform surgery and had to retire from his practice.

"The wonderful thing is, that freed me up," he said.

He studied tropical medicine at the University of London and earned a master's degree in anthropology. And he kept working on a problem that had been bothering him for years: the tens of thousands of people in the United States who become ill or die each year from hospital-acquired infections.

"That's got to be a solvable problem," he said.

Deal envisioned a machine that would use non-ionizing

radiation to disinfect rooms. His brother David helped him identify UVC as the most germicidal wavelength. The first remote for his device was a modified garage door opener. Early experiments were conducted using spore samples acquired from microbiologist friends at local labs.

"Pretty quickly we realized, 'Holy cow, this really works,'" Deal said.

He hired an engineering team to build a prototype, then spent years showing hospitals first that the device worked and, second, that they needed it. Ultimately, a Tennessee company agreed to market the machine. It was so successful so quickly that it soon spun off into an independent company.

Tru-D Smart UVC now encompasses both the device and the company that markets it. Deal isn't involved there.

"I like being the mad scientist, but the business and sales part just doesn't interest me," he said.

Still, he's emotionally attached, specifically forbidding any R2-D2 references in the machine's presence. (The machine's cylinder like shape does bear a remarkable resemblance to the Star Wars robot though.)

Tru-D can speak multiple languages and warns users when it is about to activate so they can leave the room. The machine doesn't shut off until sensors measure the light reflected back from the darkest corners at a germicidal level.

"Antibacterial resistance has nothing to do with it because we're physically damaging the DNA," Deal said.

Duke University recently received a grant to study Tru-D. It found that adding the device to the disinfecting process reduced hospital infection rates by 30 percent.

"The machine's saved thousands of lives already," Deal said. ●

— by Kelley Bruss



## UP CLOSE

### Quietly authoritative, endearingly direct

Marguerite Hays guided university communications and edited *Furman Magazine* for 35 years

**M**arguerite Hays would likely not have been terribly pleased that a service was held in her memory at Furman's Daniel Chapel July 3.

Oh, she would have been delighted to see the many family members, friends, and colleagues who were there. It's just that she was never comfortable being the center of attention. Which meant, as her son Tommy said, she was

probably looking on, shaking her head, rolling her eyes, and muttering, in her characteristic fashion, "Good grief."

For those in attendance, however, the gathering provided an opportunity to celebrate a woman whose compassionate nature, gentle charm, and good humor touched them all—and whose influence, both direct and behind the scenes, was a major factor in Furman's rise in regional and national prominence.

It was fitting that the service for Marguerite, who died June 21 at the age of 84, was held on the campus. A 1954 graduate, she edited *Furman Magazine* for 35 years, from 1963 until her retirement in 1998. For most of that time she also served as director of university relations, with responsibility for all communications and public relations efforts. She was one of the first women, if not the first, to head a high-level administrative department at the university.

Her work in all areas was top notch, but the magazine was her passion, and it earned awards and recognition for its depth, integrity, and professionalism. Her early background in journalism (newspapers and television) no doubt helped develop the objectivity and perspective that she brought to her job.

Under her direction, the magazine struck a balance.

While it published the feel-good stories, it also frequently delved into more sensitive areas, offering insightful analyses of Furman's strengths and struggles, and exploring how the university was affected by and responded to world events—as any liberal arts school worth its mission teaches its students to do.

Marguerite believed the best way to promote the institution she loved was to tell its stories—all its stories—openly and truthfully, then trust the readers to draw their own conclusions. So her magazines examined the on-campus impact of such issues as the war in Vietnam, student activism, the women's movement, the concerns of African-American students, and the separation from the South Carolina Baptist Convention. When detractors who preferred a more sanitized publication occasionally questioned this approach, she responded respectfully and diplomatically, even if she was not always afforded the

same courtesy.

I am fortunate to be one of five people—with Vince Moore, Nell Smith, Terry Walters, and Gayle Warth—who have worked in the same office with Marguerite, and with each other, for a combined total of more than 100 years. She led by example, championing collaboration and insisting on the highest standards.

Totally lacking in pretense or self-importance, she was one of us. She encouraged a free exchange of ideas, and her trusting nature fostered an atmosphere of camaraderie and loyalty. Make no mistake; we knew who had the final word, and Marguerite always called it as she saw it. But her leadership style united us, both as a team and as friends.

When she retired in 1998, Furman lost an irreplaceable blend of civility, wisdom, talent, graciousness, and class. She remained a valued advisor and confidante for many years, but after dementia began to take its toll, she moved to Asheville, NC, to be near Tommy (Class of '77) and his family. For Tommy and his brother Chris, this was an especially cruel blow, as the same disease had claimed their father in 2000.

Still, in their remarks at the service, the brothers spoke of how their mother's personality—her intelligence, her sly wit, her love for and pride in her family—never completely disappeared. Tommy closed his talk with a story about her time at Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville, where she would often interrupt conversations to ask staffers if they knew how to spell the word they'd just used. When they responded yes, she would say, in her matter-of-fact way, "All right then, let's hear it." ●

— by **Jim Stewart '76**  
(the writer served as editor of *Furman Magazine* from 1998 to 2013)

2009. As the South Carolina chair of the organization, he is responsible for attending national and Southeast regional meetings, planning and coordinating the Southeast regional meeting, managing the state membership committee, engaging and mentoring prospective members, and more. He has practiced at Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP since 1995 in the wealth transfer planning area.

**Osiar Roberts** accepted an honorary degree from the University of South Wales earlier this year in reward for all the work he has done with students at the Football Association of Wales Trust's higher education partner.

## 1991

**Trevor Knott** has joined BSG Financial Group of Louisville, KY, as senior vice president for business development as of March 1, 2016. A strategic marketing veteran, in his new position Trevor will focus on generating new business for BSG in the northeast, forming strategic partnerships across the country, and advising corporate marketing activities. He most recently was head of marketing services with Salyent Technologies in Franklin, TN, prior to which he held several management positions in a 12-year career at Citizens Financial Group in Boston.

**Matthew Lee**, a partner in Blank Rome LLP in Philadelphia, PA, has received the 2016 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award. Serving as a Philadelphia VIP volunteer attorney for the past 16 years, he previously was a member of Philadelphia VIP's board and served as the board

president in 2013 and 2014. He concentrates his practice on all aspects of white collar criminal defense and federal tax controversies. He has developed a unique practice that focuses on advising clients with bank accounts and financial assets outside the United States.

**Matthew Morris** has joined the Atlanta-based William Mills Agency, a financial public relations and content marketing services company, as an account coordinator. He previously served as a communications assistant in the Scottish Parliament and held various marketing and communications positions at Furman.

## 1993

The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority appointed **Derek Waugh** as its president and CEO effective July 1, 2016. Derek earned his law degree at Wake Forest (NC) University and went on to practice with the Atlanta firm of Schreeder, Wheeler and Flint. A year later he traded law books for playbooks when he became assistant coach for men's basketball at Stetson University in Florida in 1997. He was named the program's head coach in 2000 at age 29, becoming the youngest NCAA Division I head coach in the country. He later became an assistant athletics director and finished his career as the second winningest coach in the university's history. He became the first full-time athletics director at Dalton State University in northwest Georgia in 2012. Under his leadership, the Dalton program Roadrunners won the 2015 NAIA national basketball championship. The athletics program also won eight

conference championships and had seven different teams ranked in NAIA national Top 10.

## 1998

In June, when major league baseball and the MLB Players Association decided the Atlanta Braves and Miami Marlins would play a game in a 12,500-seat stadium on the Fort Bragg (NC) Army Base, they did so to honor service members like Lt. Col. **Kenneth Dwyer**. With his wife (**Jennie Randall '97**) and his children looking on, Ken was interviewed by a columnist for MLB.com during the activities. Ken was with Special Forces in 2006 when he was injured in a grenade attack in Afghanistan. He is a Special Forces officer today, has deployed back to Afghanistan, has maintained Airborne status in jumping out of airplanes while wearing a prosthetic arm – and plays catch with his son.

**Michael Oubre** was recently elected into the American School Band Directors Association at the National Convention in Lexington, KY. He has been teaching for 16 years and is currently band director and fine arts chair at Pickens (GA) High School. He is also state chair for the National Band Association.

## 1999

**Kate Holly Conkey** was scheduled to become a professor of military science at the University of Hawaii this summer.

**David Ibsen** has become director of development and annual giving at Cannon School, an independent school near Charlotte, NC.

## 2001

When **Darren E. Grem** was a history student searching for a topic for his doctoral dissertation, the ideas behind how Christian evangelicalism and big business entered into a tentative marriage in the early 20th century caught his attention—so much so that it became the topic for his doctoral paper. As a further result, the professor of history and Southern studies at the University of Mississippi in Oxford wrote *The Blessing of Business: How Corporations Shaped Conservative Christianity*, published by Oxford University Press and now on bookshelves. The book traces the stories of business moguls like Truett Cathy (Chick-fil-A); heavy equipment manufacturer R.G. LeTourneau; Cecil B. Day (Days Inn); and many others, along with the formidable influence of evangelist Billy Graham, to explain how alliances were formed that, in various degrees, remain even today to encourage Christian practices in the workplace. It is a historical look at the role American businesses played in shaping the nation's religious, cultural, and political marketplace in the 20th century.

Award-winning documentary filmmaker **Laura Waters Hinson's** latest film "Many Beautiful Things" was released this spring and was shown at the Cherrydale Point theater in Greenville. The film is an acclaimed documentary on the life of Victorian artist and missionary Lilia Trotter. It explores the artist's life, art, and why her legacy was nearly lost to history. For more information, go to [www.tugg.com/titles/many-beautiful-things-1](http://www.tugg.com/titles/many-beautiful-things-1)

*Continued on page 53*



**Jessica Carter '05 & Russell Sanford '05**

*A courtship of near-misses that happily didn't miss out.*

By Kate Dabbs '09

**J**essie and Russell Sanford's relationship is like a fine wine—a bottle that had to age 10-plus years before even considering a taste. What seemingly started as the idyllic Furman romance—brother/sister hall, meeting at an ice cream social, My Tie dates—just wasn't ready to be something more. "I didn't know what I wanted," Jessie says with a giggle, the first of many in our hour spent together on a rain-swept night in October.

The winding tale of their overlapping paths has the makings of a rom-com blockbuster. They went to two Furman homecomings together. They both moved to different parts of Florida but met up a few times to hang out as friends. It was a Ben Folds concert during the romantic heyday of "The Luckiest" that made Jessie finally see Russell in a slightly different light.

"But of course, he started dating someone else," she explains. Thankfully, the

relationship didn't last, and while with a group of friends at the Islands of Adventure in Florida, Russell announced plans to take a trip to Europe. Jessie dropped everything and decided to tag along at the last minute. Still, the magic didn't happen.

After completing law school, Russell moved back to Greenville while Jessie's freshman-year roommate convinced her to move back as well. "He had a new girlfriend as soon as I moved," Jessie

says. "But they only lasted a month before we finally started to date." The year was 2012. They met in 2001.

Their two-and-a-half year courtship before getting engaged was filled with travel (Italy, Amsterdam, Belgium, and Paris); date nights at Monterrey's; and fine cuisine at home—Russell can casually rattle off his inventory of perfected reductions, gastriques, and all things gourmet.

Fittingly, he proposed at the Bell Tower. "I told Jessie my mom wanted a picture of me in front of the Bell Tower. I let her take some awkward solo pictures of me before I proposed," Russell says. And the wedding that was more than a decade in the making, finally happened June 27, 2015.

"If we had dated back then, I wouldn't have been mature enough. I still had to grow up," Russell confirms. But the beauty of a long friendship laying the foundation for their marriage was evident when it took them a full two minutes to think of any challenges faced in the first few months of being married.

"Having known each other for so long—we were teenagers when we met, and we are now in our thirties—we knew a lot about each other already," Jessie says. "But the surprises now are little things that make us laugh. He makes up random songs about anything and everything all day long," she elaborates.

"And she talks in her sleep," Russell chuckles. "We will have a conversation back and forth and she will remember nothing. We do laugh a lot. I don't have to search for a friend who might get it, and that might be the very definition of why we love being together."

"Well, I think you are funny, and I always laugh," Jessie swoons. "And I know that you always will," Russell replies. ●

## 2002

**Jeff Gibson** has become an associate in the Nashville, TN, office of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC. He represents clients in litigation and government investigations, conducts internal investigations, and defends individuals and companies facing white collar criminal charges, quasi-criminal civil claims, and compliance violations. He previously practiced at the law firm of Neal & Harwell, PLC, and clerked for Judge Susan H. Black on the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

**Eugene “Jay” ’03** and **Anne Marie Tominack Sibal** live in the Upstate where Jay practices dentistry at Family Dental Care in Powdersville and Anne Marie is an estate planning attorney. Anne Marie is also an officer in the US Air Force JAG Corps. Prior to attending dental school, Jay was an officer in the US Army.

## 2003

**Christine Donhardt**, ASLA, of Memphis, TN, has been selected to serve as director of communications with Agricenter International, the world’s largest urban agricultural research and education facility. Tasked with sharing the mission of the Agricenter with the public through outreach, event planning, grant writing, and fundraising, her duties began January 25, 2016. Christine served for nearly five years in the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability and led the effort for Memphis-Shelby County to receive a 4-STAR Award for national excellence in sustainability. She was appointed to the Collierville Design Review Commission, is an elected officer for the

Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (TNASLA), and serves on the national ASLA Historic American Landscapes Survey committee.

## 2004

Upstate musician and composer **Robby Davis** was the featured artist on SoloPiano.com’s national podcast “Going Solo” released January 1, 2016. Robby’s newest instrumental album, “Blue Skies Ahead,” was released worldwide in September 2015. Listeners can find his music on Pandora Radio, Apple Music, Spotify, Whisperings Solo Piano Radio, and SoloPiano.com. Go to [www.goingsolo.me/2015/12/30/podcasts](http://www.goingsolo.me/2015/12/30/podcasts)

**Andrew Carson** has been named a Rising Star for the first time. The Rising Stars lists are published nationwide in *Super Lawyers* magazine and in leading city and regional magazines across the country. Andrew has been an associate with Clawson and Staubes in Charlotte, NC, for five years. His practice focuses on business litigation and personal injury.

**Ashley Carroll Leyba** of Fremont, CA, has been promoted to head of the School for BASIS Independent – Fremont.

## 2006

**Heather Prince Doss** is serving as pastor of Eliot Presbyterian Church, a multicultural, urban congregation in Lowell, MA. She is also owner of Progressive Pilgrimage, a company providing group travel that is intellectually stimulating, spiritually enriching, and builds cross-cultural relationships.

**Victoria Ridgeway** completed an anesthesiology residency at Largo Medical Center in 2015 and a pediatric anesthesiology fellowship at Akron Children’s Hospital June 30, 2016. She currently works as a pediatric anesthesiologist with Carolina Anesthesiology Associates in Columbia, SC.

## 2007

**Todd Arant** of Apex, NC, is serving on the board of directors for Choristers Guild, a nonprofit organization committed to nurturing the spiritual and musical growth of children and youth.

**Erica Giovanni Baez** was recently sworn in for her second term as secretary of the Chesterfield Bar Association. She is an attorney with the Midlothian, VA, law firm of Owens & Owens.

## 2008

**Katie Prevost** of Nashville, TN, had a good day when she ran the Boston Marathon in April 2016. She was the top finisher in her age group at a time of 3:07.09, good for 185th among females and 158th in the female 18-39 division.

**Tracy Michelle Wright** of Dickson, TN, has accepted a position as branch director of auxiliary programs in the School Nutrition Division of the Tennessee Department of Education.

## 2009

**Jade Lawson Fountain** was recently awarded CFRE (Certified Fundraising Executive) certification by CFRE International. Earning this certification is accomplished by meeting a set of standards which include tenure in the profession,

education, demonstrated fundraising achievement, and a commitment to service to not-for-profit organizations.

**Marian White** moved from Boston to Palm Beach County, FL, last fall after being hired by a local publisher to write a relocation guide titled *Moving to Palm Beach County: The Un-Tourist Guide*. She researched and wrote the 150-page guide in four months. Read about it at [www.wpbmagazine.com](http://www.wpbmagazine.com)

## 2010

**Cary Fontana** joined the Peace Corps after he graduated from Furman and served nearly two years in Mali, until he was evacuated at the end of his stint because of a military coup. He then was accepted for a full scholarship to get his doctorate at the University of Oregon. He is a year away from graduating and is the first University of Oregon political science graduate to receive a prestigious Fulbright EU Fellowship. He will spend 10 months studying and working on his doctorate in Edinburgh and Barcelona.

**Charles Reese** graduated *cum laude* in May 2016 from Harvard Law School where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He has accepted a position as an associate attorney with Fish and Richardson in Atlanta, scheduled to begin this fall. After receiving her doctorate in dental medicine from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, his wife, **Megan Butler**, is currently in private practice.

## 2011

Furman alumni **Peter Griffin, Roe Morris, Philip Mabry, and Zack Rosen** from 2011 and **Jeff Broad** and **Max Dutcher** from 2012 founded Furman Metropolitan Fellowship (FMF). FMF is a grant program established to “create a bridge between Furman students and large city (especially New York City) internship connections and community.” Furman students who apply and are accepted from a rigorous, two-month application and interview process for FMF come to know how important the mentorship aspect and community aspect of the program is, how important networking is in job search. **Martin Eguiguren** and **Sarah Saba** from Furman’s class of 2017 have been named the inaugural recipients of the Fellowship.

In 2009, Grace Church in Greenville, SC, started **Nasha Lending**, a nonprofit that collects funds from investors and issues those funds as microloans up to \$5,000 to under-resourced entrepreneurs. According to **Taylor Beard**, who became director of the organization in 2011, the no-interest loans are paid off in one to three years. The loan is written off if the business fails; if repaid, it is re-loaned to another entrepreneur. In addition to overseeing the program, Taylor established a 10-week project-based learning class to teach entrepreneurial skills and business basics to local students. She also reached out to Mill Village Farms in West Greenville and assembled a group of nine students to start a business using produce from the farm. The class was restructured in 2014 and joined Mill Community Ministries, an outreach

program also affiliated with Grace Church. This spring Taylor took the program a step farther and started Business Entrepreneur Academy to help aspiring adult entrepreneurs learn the ins and outs of the business world.

**Martin Leathers** has been named director of student ministries at The Gathering United Methodist Church in St. Louis, MO.

**Adam Mims** has joined the Presbyterian College football coaching staff as wide receivers coach. He spent last season as an offensive analyst coach at Samford University after spending time in professional football. Prior to his time at Samford, he was involved with a number of different football camps as an instructor, including the Dabo Swinney Football Camp and Butch Davis Volunteer Football Camp. He was involved with the Carolina Panthers’ Joe Webb Football Camp, the Chris Hatcher QB School, and the Bobby Lamb Football Camp at Furman. After graduating from Furman, Adam signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers as a free agent and attended training camp, before later signing a two-year contract with the Montreal Alouettes of the CFL.

**Angela Zeigler** has received a “Double HOO” research grant at the University of Virginia. These grants fund pairs of researchers, a graduate student and an undergraduate, to pursue a common research project. They receive funding to examine local mentoring programs, women’s health, and ion channels immune cells, among other projects. Each project is awarded up to \$6,000 toward research expenses, plus \$500 to compensate a faculty mentor. Angela is a fifth-year scientist

training program student and a third-year graduate student in the biomedical engineering program looking to identify drugs that could have a therapeutic effect on heart failure after a heart attack.

## 2012

**John Richard Moesch** of Savannah, GA, was awarded the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Georgia Campus–Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in May 2016. He is continuing his medical training in a traditional rotating internship with a track in dermatology at the Largo (FL) Medical Center.

**Keene Nettles** graduated the B-52 Weapon Systems Officer Training Course with the 11th Bomb Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, LA, in April 2016. He graduated at the top of his class in both the academics and flying portions of the training.

## 2013

**Wilkerson Given**’s dream to run in the Olympics began to kindle when he first ran track and cross country in high school and then became a goal when he earned a scholarship to Furman. His path to the Olympic trials continued as he earned All-Southern Conference honors in cross country and indoor and outdoor track, and set a Paladin record for the 3,000-meter run. After graduation, he joined a professional post-graduate running program—Furman Elite Olympic Development Group—to train with top runners from across the country. He ran in the Houston Half-Marathon in January 2015 and, despite having never run a half-marathon for time, he completed the course in 1:03.33 and qualified for the

Olympic marathon trials in Los Angeles in February 2016. He and others from the Furman Elite group did run those trials but failed to earn a qualifying time for the Games in Rio.

## 2014

**Melissa Caitlin Stewart** was recently awarded a master’s degree by the School of Social Work at Florida State University. She is employed by the Leon County (FA) District Attorney’s Office where she was honored with a nomination as victim witness advocate of the year for the multi-agency/county judicial district.

**Collins Warren** completed a master’s degree in history and museum studies from Tufts University in May 2016.

## 2015

**Natalia Arenas** of Simpsonville, SC, has been selected as a Fellow in the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program. She was one of only 30 Fellows to be selected for the program in a highly competitive nationwide process. The Rangel Program is a collaborative effort between the US State Department and Howard University to prepare outstanding young people for careers as diplomats in the Foreign Service of the US Department of State. Natalia will learn of her first post assignment following graduate school in 2018 and after she completes the Foreign Service Officer exam. She can be placed anywhere in the world.

## BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS



Nathaniel and **Kate Holly '99 Conkey**, a son, Grayson James, April 3, 2015

**Richard and Louise Stokes Duval '99**, a daughter, Savannah Louise, April 3, 2015

Christopher and **Heather Coffey '99 Farmer**, a daughter, Everley Faith, January 12, 2016

Samuel and **Jennifer Coats '00 Solorzano**, a daughter, Maren Mina, January 31, 2016

Chris and **Jeny Bishop '01 Kerscher**, a son, Blake Christopher, March 29, 2016

**Sterling '02 and Johnna McKeeta '05 Frierson**, a son, Aaron Jamahl, February 4, 2016

**John E. and Anne Sinko '03**, a son, Elihu, January 2016

**Brian '04 and Kelly Shedd '05 Geppi**, a son, William Jackson, May 6, 2016

**Luke and Alice Martin Barbour '05**, a son, Dean Henry, February 4, 2016

Matt and **Melissa Jimenez '06 Nocks**, a son, Charles Coleman, April 18, 2016

**Ryan and Leigh Brock Friend '07**, a son, Luke David, March 2, 2016

Barney and **Sarah Van Gent '09 Green**, a daughter, Blakely Faith, May 12, 2016

**Todd '08 and Sally Heckethorn '09 McClure**, a son, Grady Thomas, August 27, 2015

David and **Megan Mullinax Soloman '09**, a daughter, Ansley Catherine, April 8, 2016

## MARRIAGES



**Stuart "Bo" Kersey '82** and J.D. Gladney, December 5, 2015

**Greg Campbell '95** and Richard Smith, February 12, 2016

**Helene Herbert '07** and Tyler Roe, April 9, 2016

**Mason Freeman '08** and Richard Lowe Cox, Jr., June 4, 2016

**Stephen Gary '12** and **Erin McChristian '12**, April 23, 2016

**Elizabeth Anne Wood '12** and James Michael Covington, May 14, 2016

**Sarah Jordan Holcombe '14** and **Andrew Ryan Schwartz '16**, June 11, 2016

**Molly T. McClure '14** and **David J. Stanley '14**, March 19, 2016

## OBITUARIES



**James Martin Edwards, Jr. '39**, February 8, 2016, Johnston, SC

**Grigg Thompson Fountain '39**, February 14, 2016, Albuquerque, NM

**Janet Phillips Harrison '41**, March 12, 2016, Virginia Beach, VA

**Angelina Bradwell West '42**, January 17, 2016, Cross, SC

**Lina B. Berrier '44**, February 7, 2016, Columbia, MO

**Lula Gray Harris Cline '44**, April 6, 2016, Greenville, SC

**Jennie Horton Chalker '45**, February 27, 2016, Anderson, SC

**Elizabeth "Libba" Flemming Watson '45**, February 12, 2016, Pinehurst, NC

**Elizabeth Lorene Mullikin Power '46**, January 30, 2016, Greenville, SC

**Mary Gullick Wardlaw '46**, July 19, 2016, Greenville, SC

**McAdams Christopher, Jr. '47**, July 26, 2016, Greenville, SC. Mac served his undergraduate school well, as a trustee, president of the Paladin Club, a member of Quaternions Club, and president of the Alumni Association. In his senior year at Furman, he was a naval

officer during World War II, participating in the invasion of the Philippine Islands at Lingayen Gulf and the invasion of Okinawa. Upon discharge he remained in the Naval Reserves, retiring as a lieutenant commander, and returned to Furman to graduate. He also served on the North Greenville (SC) University Board of Advisors and was a member of the Downtown Greenville Rotary Club.

**K. Lee "Chuck" Atkinson '48**, February 5, 2016, Elberton, GA. For 30 years, "Coach Atkinson" was an on-going inspiration to the youth of Elbert County, through his leadership as head football coach and as school superintendent. The Elbert County Board of Education named the playing field of the Granite Bowl football stadium Atkinson Field and erected a five-foot black marble marker in his honor. He served in the US Navy Air Force during World War II and played football under coach Bear Bryant. After the war, his career continued with service as superintendent of Elbert County Schools, as which he facilitated construction of Elbert County Comprehensive High School—the first school ever to be built without support from increased taxes. Known as "the motivator" for Elbert County football squads for 18 years, he provided the connection between football and life that prepared young men for adulthood. Following his distinguished career in education, he went on to a successful second career of more than 10 years in the granite industry.

**Charles Benjamin Barnett '48**, April 22, 2016, Greenville, SC

## BEHIND THE SCENES

*For 32 years RaeNae Nay tended to your milestones*

BY SHON HERRICK,  
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR DEVELOPMENT

**C**hances are you never knew RaeNae Nay, but she knew you.

She knew when you married and had children. When you moved or were promoted, RaeNae received a notice.

Alumni are the lifeblood of any university. And for 32 years—working under five presidents—RaeNae worked anonymously to take care of our alumni updates. These files were her work child. She nurtured and protected them and kept them fed with updates. In so doing, she ensured you received *Furman*, the university magazine, post cards, and, of course, an occasional call to give. In every way she was meticulous, overly competent, and caring.

After a courageous fight, RaeNae succumbed to cancer in May. She is most remembered for her work outside the office. Volunteering at Sunday school and teaching English as a second language,

RaeNae was a servant to others. In a gentle but persistent way, she championed the Holiday Giving Tree at Furman. Sponsored by the Heller Service Corps, the tree is festooned with ornaments that are inscribed with requests from local non-profits. RaeNae encouraged her colleagues to select the ornaments or contribute to a fund that would be used to meet their need. After her passing, friends and family created an endowment to support the Giving Tree to continue her legacy for years to come.

RaeNae insisted on anonymity and never being photographed. (We could not find one to accompany this story.) She reveled in working behind the scenes. But just this once, we wanted to give her a slight spotlight. Looking ahead, we encourage you to keep RaeNae's baby well nourished. Continue to send us your updates. ●

**Martha Anne Miller Epperson '48**, March 17, 2016, Atlanta, GA

**Nannie Elizabeth Haywood Rogers '48**, January 29, 2016, Greenville, SC

**Jeanette Anderson Botts '49**, July 16, 2016, Mount Pleasant, SC

**Jimmye Ruth Partee Thompson '49**, February 7, 2016, Greenville, SC

**Ernest "Woody" Bell, Jr. '50**, February 18, 2016, Langley, WA

**Alvin Earl Clark '50**, April 4, 2016, Greenville, SC

**Jean Hancock Curtis '50**, July 17, 2016, Charlotte, NC

**William Harvey Hale, Jr. '50**, April 5, 2016, Athens, GA

**Billy G. Rivers '50**, February 7, 2016, Chesterfield, SC. Ordained into the ministry at the age of 17, he served as a Baptist minister and pastor for 50 years throughout North Carolina. He was a member of the board of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, Gardner Webb University, and Campbell University. He served as a trustee of Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC, for many years, and had the distinct honor of attending nine Presidential Prayer Breakfasts in Washington, at the invitation of the President of the United States.

**Frank Zedick '50**, April 3, 2016, Durham, NC

**Linwood E. Butler, Sr. '51**, July 3, 2016, Rock Hill, SC

**Anne Christine "Pug" Holbrook Wynne '51**, April 13, 2016, Greenville, SC

**Wilma Hewin Dingley '52**, February 28, 2016, Greenville, SC

**Margaret Kendrick Cannon '53**, May 6, 2016, Clemson, SC

**Chauncey W. Jones '53**, April 25, 2016, Greenville, SC

**Roy Paul Mullinax '53**, January 23, 2016, Newton, KS

**Frankie Way Bennett '54**, July 20, 2016, Holly Hill, SC

**JoAnn Anderson Lovelace '54**, June 30, 2016, Bradenton, FL

**Louise Bailey Carter Mondy '54**, March 14, 2016, Savannah, GA

**Mary Eva Bruce Mullins '54**, February 2, 2016, Columbia, SC

**William Boyd Reeves '54**, January 18, 2016, Mobile, AL. Sworn into the US Army upon graduating from Furman and discharged as a captain in 1956, Boyd earned his law degree from Tulane University and became a law clerk for a US District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama. He entered private practice in Mobile, AL, in 1961 and during his legal career tried over 300 jury and non-jury cases in state and federal courts. He successfully argued the maritime jurisdiction case of *Victory Carriers, Inc. v. Law* before the US Supreme Court; he served as president of both the Mobile Bar Association and the Alabama Defense Lawyer's Association; and his fellow lawyers ranked him as one of the best defense attorneys around. Along the way in his stellar career, he endured a tough medical procedure—a heart transplant—but practiced his profession the remainder of his 83 years.

**JoAnn Rankin Wigington '54**,  
February 6, 2016, Easley, SC

**Carlos B. Watson '55**,  
February 22, 2016,  
Greenville, SC

**Virginia Coleman Dixon '56**,  
January 29, 2016,  
Gainesville, GA

**Almon Leroy Way, Jr., MA '56**,  
May 28, 2016, Mount  
Pleasant, SC

**Charles L. Floyd '57**, January  
26, 2016, Havre, MT

**Harold Patrick Perry '57**,  
March 10, 2016,  
Simpsonville, SC

**Charles Grady Cannon, Jr. '58**,  
February 17, 2016,  
Nashville, TN

**Barbara Jean Holbrook Parham '58**,  
February 2,  
2016, Greenwood, SC

**Carolyn Louise Cooper '59**,  
July 11, 2016, Sanford, NC

**Proctor Bonham Hawkins, Jr. '59**,  
February 7, 2016,  
Lexington, SC

**Charles Earl Heyward '59**,  
February 8, 2016, Piedmont,  
SC

**Kenneth Dwight Case '60**,  
January 24, 2016, Flat  
Rock, NC

**Jimmy Creighton Gaines '60**,  
July 8, 2016, Anderson, SC

**William Thurman Anthony '61**,  
March 5, 2016, Easley, SC

**Evan Arnold Powell '61**,  
January 27, 2016,  
Greenville, SC

**Virgil Ronald Trotman '61**,  
February 1, 2016,  
Montgomery, AL

**Paula Blanton Cribb '62**,  
February 24, 2016, Hemingway,  
SC

**Joseph Willard Davis, MA '62**,  
February 16, 2016, Laurens, SC

**Jerry Fay Jolley '63**, July 25,  
2016, Rocky Mount, NC

**Elmer Udean Burke '64**, February  
21, 2016, Maiden, NC

**Hugh Aldrich Burlington, Jr. '67**,  
February 25, 2016, Cary, NC

**Sara McCall Wallace Payne, MA '67**,  
July 23, 2016, Greenville,  
SC. Sara's career was steeped  
in education, having taught  
at Greenville High School for  
27 years, during which time  
she was selected Greenville  
County Teacher of the Year and  
then South Carolina Teacher  
of the Year. One student said  
of her, "She taught people –  
not classes." She served as  
president of the Greenville  
County Education Association,  
as secretary of South Carolina  
Education Association,  
and as parliamentarian of  
South Carolina Education  
Association. She served on the  
boards of several organizations  
in the community and  
volunteered her time especially  
to programs focused on  
education and mental health.  
She was a representative to the  
South Carolina Mental Health  
Association Board, along  
with being a member of the  
steering committee for Mental  
Health Needs Assessment  
of Greenville. She organized  
and was chair of Greenville  
County's first Mother's March  
of Dimes in 1955. As a supporter  
of the aging community, she  
participated on the Community  
Resource Awareness Task Force  
on Aging in Greenville County,  
served on the Greenville  
County Conference on Aging  
to make recommendations for  
the White House Conference  
in 1995, and served on the

Planning Committee for the  
Board of Senior Action. Her  
love of teaching extended to  
an adult Sunday school class  
at her church, Westminster  
Presbyterian, for 46 years,  
followed by writing the History  
of Westminster Presbyterian  
Church, 1947-1987.

**Roy F. Griffith '79**, January 15,  
2016, Anderson, SC

**Clifton Harris McCormick '79**,  
June 23, 2016, Cary, NC

**Michael J. Onufer '79**, July 16,  
2016, Fort Atkinson, WI

**Donna Daniel Teague '81**, July  
30, 2016, Greenville, SC

**Loren Matthews Collins '85**,  
March 22, 2016, Clemson, SC

**Michael Shane Arms '91**,  
February 11, 2016, Greenville, SC

**Kristina Lynn Waters, MA '13**,  
February 20, 2016, Gray  
Court, SC

#### CLASS NOTES POLICY

We welcome your submissions to Class Notes. Due to the amount of material Furman receives for this section—and the time needed to edit that material—items are often not published until six months after they are submitted. However, please be advised that we rarely publish items more than 18 months old and no announcements of things that have not yet occurred. When sending news of births, please include the parent name(s), child's name, birthdate, and city of birth; for marriages, include the city and date of the event, the new spouse's name, and his/her year of graduation if from Furman. News about couples who graduated from Furman in different years is listed under the earliest graduation date. It is not listed with both classes. Incomplete information for any of the above may result in the submission remaining unpublished. The magazine reserves the right to edit submissions.



## Getting in The Loop

**H**ave you ever wanted a catalog of resources developed around alumni professional development? Well, the wait is over! I am excited to share that in the spring, the Alumni and Parent Engagement Office will launch our newest personal and professional development resource suite, The Loop. The Loop will house an archive of information that highlights fellow alumni experiences and best practices in the pursuit of success. It will serve as a networking space that allows you to connect with those individuals one-on-one while accessing tools to help you emulate their path. Everyone has been at a crossroad in their career—wondering what is next, what steps to take, and who to turn to—this is our response to that need.

The creative concept underlying The Loop speaks to the camaraderie, community, and collective knowledge that exists within the Furman Alumni Network. Implied in the name is a calling to stay “in the loop” or “get in the loop.” It is a unique privilege to be “in the loop” and have exclusive access

to this alumni community, as such we felt called to elevate that experience for all those connected to that gift. The programmatic framework that supports The Loop includes an alumni video series, alumni career spotlights, and online networking receptions. In the future, we look forward to adding webinars, coaching, and mentoring programs.

The alumni video series, hosted on the Furman YouTube channel, will bring a panel of experts together on a myriad of topics. Panelists will provide guidance and insights while discussing what they have learned on their journey. Through moderated conversation they will be invited to share their experiences and “aha” moments, in addition to industry best practices. Topics will include, but are not limited to, preparation for graduate school, how to network for success, definition of work-life balance, entrepreneurship, and career transitions. If there are certain topics you would like to see, please let us know. These resources are being built to serve you and we welcome your feedback.

Our career spotlight series will highlight everyday alumni successes. The spotlights will leverage two approaches. One approach will include an archive of articles written about our alumni. The articles will have a career focus and will articulate how our alumni got to where they are—what they studied, what books they recommend, experience with mentors, and other advice about pursuing a similar path. The second approach will have a more question/answer format wherein our alumni tell their own stories. Both will allow us to celebrate and learn from the incredible successes that exist within our community, while allowing the reader to develop their skill set from the comfort of their “home office.”

The final component of The Loop is Furman Connect, an online networking program that will join alumni around the globe without boundary of topic or geography. Our goal is to host a power-hour session on the third Thursday of every month. We hosted our first Furman Connect event in July on the “Broad

Brushstrokes of Business”. Registered participants were able to engage with one another over text-based conversations across five industries, as well as within an open forum. Strategically leveraging this new technology, we look forward to elevating the networking experience for the ultimate success of the Furman community. Future programs will create space for connection by region, major, class year, or topic amongst alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and students.

With the introduction of The Loop, the Furman community will have access to special resources, information, networking opportunities, and professional development like never before. The sky is the limit with the addition of these resources. Please visit our website to learn more about what events and opportunities we have on the horizon. As always, we welcome any feedback or recommendations as we continue to develop our incredible suite of offerings. ●

*Mike Wilson '88*

**Mike Wilson '88**  
Executive Director,  
Alumni and Parent Engagement

# Get in touch. Get ahead. Get the Furman App Now!



**Connect** with fellow alumni, parents, and friends

**Network** with Paladins in your career field and area with the Class Ring feature

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## Still

# WHAT IF EMILY DICKINSON WAS WRONG...

“Hope is the thing with feathers”  
– Emily Dickinson

“It is difficult/to get the news from poems/  
yet men die miserably every day/  
for lack/ of what is found there.”  
– William Carlos Williams

What if Emily Dickinson was wrong...

and there were no feathers—  
only accidental hollows holding hope interrupted,  
hidden debris of bare wings, a bruised insufficiency?

Emily would have a lot to answer for in that case,  
except poetry’s sufficiency elides that whole  
answer (dare I say hoped-for?) imperative

preferring, instead, to plume itself sometimes  
in the hard raptures of reasonless flight, the  
airy real estate of both poet and metaphor

that gives ground to the unsayable.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** **Connie Ralston ’70** enjoys pursuing the nuanced art of the table tennis smash and European traveling. She is a retired editor and writer. **ARTWORK** *I’m a bird now*, 2015 by Furman True Inspiration Artist in Residence **Janke Klompmaker**

