

Furman

FOR ALUMNI
AND FRIENDS
OF THE UNIVERSITY



SPRING

2021

WE ARE FURMAN

President Elizabeth Davis on Furman's new vision, mission and values statements. **pg. 3**

Q&A

Courtney Tollison '99 explains the power of our campus landscape. **pgs. 10-11**

THE ENIGMA MAKER

Patrick Musau '17 makes hackers' lives more frustrating. But he isn't fixing our vulnerabilities – he's simply hiding them. **pgs. 24-29**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

The indoor Davis and Faxon Training Facility will allow Paladin golfers to train year-round. **pgs. 16-18**

THE COMEBACK

Greenville recognizes its history under the gaze of **Pearlie Harris M '83**. **pgs. 44-49**

JOIN YOUR FURMAN FAN CLUB!



THE FURMAN ADVANTAGE NETWORK (FAN) CLUBS

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF FURMAN TO STAY INFORMED, GIVE BACK, REKINDLE FRIENDSHIPS, DEVELOP NEW RELATIONSHIPS, OR ADVANCE YOUR CAREER.

WITH 31 FAN CLUBS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND ONE INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB IN SPAIN, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN YOUR GROUP'S FACEBOOK PAGE, CHECK THE FURMAN ALUMNI WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS, AND UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TO RECEIVE THE LATEST FURMAN NEWS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

FURMAN.EDU/ALUMNI/CLUBS

ALUMNI@FURMAN.EDU

ATLANTA, GA
BIRMINGHAM, AL
BOSTON, MA
CHARLESTON, SC
CHARLOTTE, NC
CHATTANOOGA, TN
CHICAGO, IL
COLUMBIA, SC
DALLAS, TX
DENVER, CO
HOUSTON, TX
JACKSONVILLE, FL
LOS ANGELES, CA
NASHVILLE, TN
NEW YORK CITY
ORLANDO, FL
RICHMOND, VA
TAMPA, FL
TRIANGLE, NC
UPSTATE, SC
WASHINGTON, DC

NEWLY ESTABLISHED

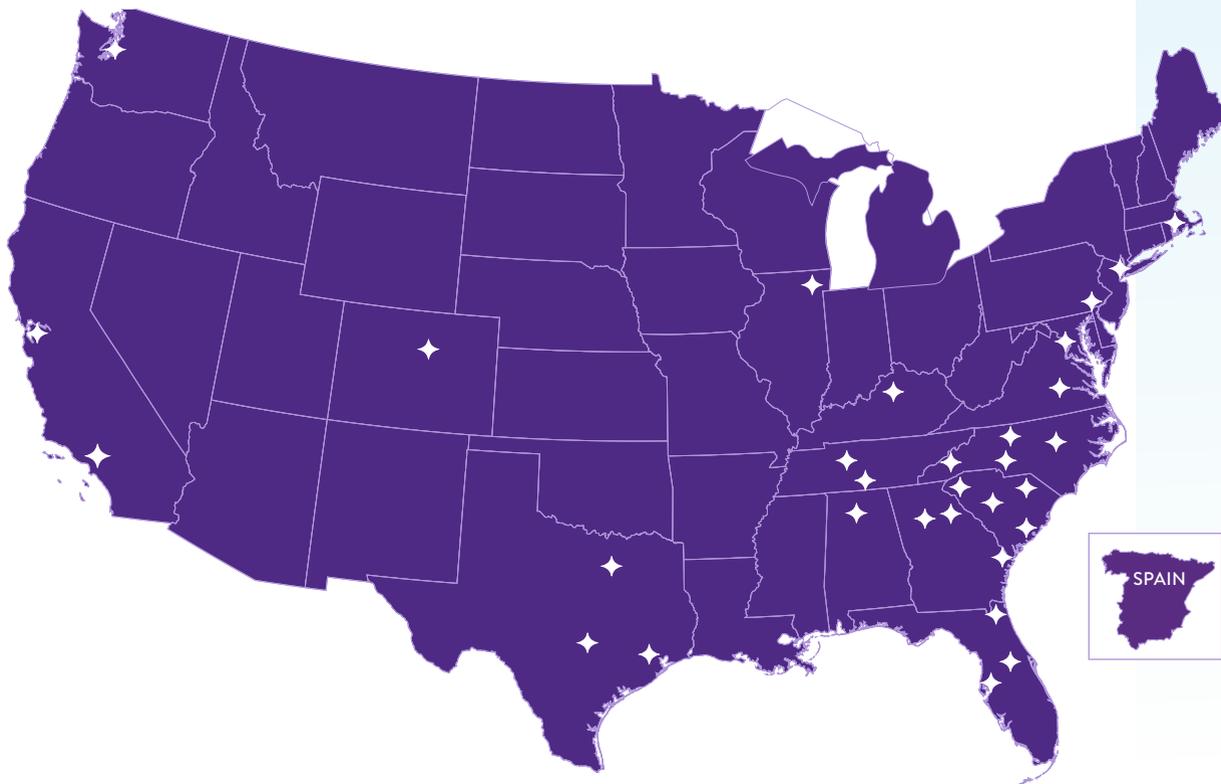
CLUBS:

ATHENS, GA
AUSTIN, TX
BAY AREA, CA
BLUEGRASS, KY
FLORENCE, SC
PHILADELPHIA, PA
SAVANNAH, GA
SEATTLE, WA
TRIAD, NC
WESTERN NC

INTERNATIONAL

CLUBS:

SPAIN





In the November election, **Kim Jackson '06** became one of three openly LGBTQ Black female state senators in the country. The Georgian credits retired University Chaplain and Professor of Religion **Jim Pitts '60**, who died in January, with showing her what was possible in her desire to help people.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Davis on Furman's vision, mission and values. *pg. 3*

AROUND THE LAKE

A planned gift of \$4 million from **Dr. Matt Wilson '86** to Furman's Institute for the Advancement of Community Health aims to bring health care and health professions within reach. *pg. 5*

Research by **Henry Dambach '22** during his Furman University Libraries internship resulted in a warning label and special handling instructions for one special book. *pgs. 12-13*

Q&A

Furman Distinguished University Public Historian and Scholar **Courtney Tollison '99** explains the power of our campus landscape. *pgs. 10-11*

THEN, NOW, NEXT

Reflections on what was, is and will be important at Furman. *pgs. 9, 11 and 13*

Features

FOR THE LOVE OF LIONS

BY RON WAGNER '93

Furman Professor of Biology **Travis Perry '92** and his students gather data to support policies for mountain lion conservation. Capturing 200-pound cats is part of the job. *pgs. 20-23*

THE ENIGMA MAKER

BY SARITA CHOUREY

Patrick Musau '17 makes hackers' lives more frustrating. But he isn't fixing our vulnerabilities – he's simply hiding them. *pgs. 24-29*

CRAFTING HER FUTURE

BY RON WAGNER '93

Alaskan Brewing Company, founded by **Marcy Larson '79** and her husband in the 1980s, is revered as a craft beer trailblazer alongside Sierra Nevada and New Belgium. *pgs. 32-37*

'NO PRISONER IN THIS LONELY ROOM'

BY KELLEY BRUSS

Elizabeth Collins '21 brings together the wisdom of Dorothy Wordsworth and the power of connection amid isolation. At the center: the pleasure of poetry. *pgs. 38-43*

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

The Davis and Faxon Training Facility will allow Paladin golfers to train year-round. *pgs. 16-18*

THE COMEBACK

Greenville recognizes its history under the gaze of **Pearlie Harris M '83**. *pgs. 44-49*

CLASS NOTES

Where you have been, where you are going. Get *Up Close* with **Jessie Cochran '05** and **Kim Bohuny '84**. What life is like *After the Aisle* for **Nicole '92** and **Robert Tideman Penland Jr. '90**. *pgs. 52-61*

SHELF LIFE

Works by **Hayden R. Smith '95**, **Terri McCord '86** and **Nancy Blackwell Bourne '62**. *pgs. 62-63*



COVER

Patrick Musau '17 uses remote-controlled cars in his research at Vanderbilt's School of Engineering.

FURMAN'S VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

A working group of students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees, chaired by former Trustee Baxter Wynn, drafted the university's new statements, which focus on who we are, where we want to go, and what defines us as a university and a community. The Board of Trustees approved the revised statements this past October.

VISION

Inspiring purposeful living and fostering thriving communities through learning, creativity, and innovation.

MISSION

Furman University challenges and supports lifelong learners through rigorous inquiry, transformative experiences, and deep reflection to lead lives of meaning and consequence.

VALUES

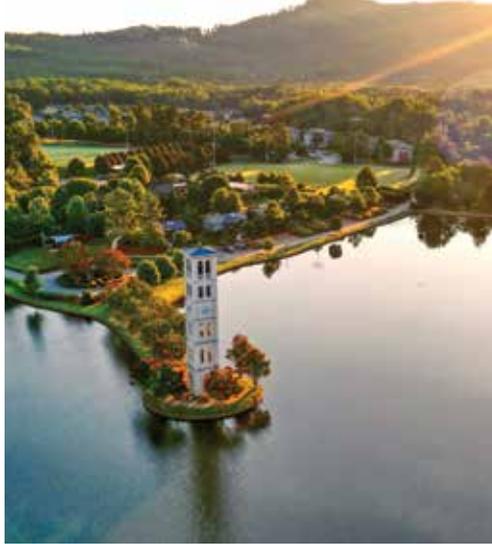
In championing the liberal arts and sciences, Furman University cultivates a community of learners engaged in an effort to understand themselves, the world, and their place in it.

To support this quest for knowledge and meaning, we steadfastly protect freedom of inquiry and hold ourselves to high standards of excellence and integrity. We foster a passion for lifelong learning by nurturing the growth of each individual as a whole person: intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

As we draw lessons from thoughtful consideration of our university's past, we advocate respect for all people and actively welcome perspectives from a wide variety of backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs.

We aspire to advance thriving communities that honor inquiry, promote diversity, strive for equity, appreciate beauty, and act as responsible stewards of our planet.

These aspirations inspire our vision and shape our mission, calling us to meet the challenges and responsibilities of a complex, diverse, and rapidly changing world with courage, moderation, justice, wisdom, and humility.



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

We welcome letters about the magazine or any subject covered in the magazine. Letters should refer to a subject from a recent issue and include the writer's name, graduation year and city/state. Please send them to magazine@furman.edu or to University Communications, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, SC 29613. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity.

FURMAN MAGAZINE

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

EDITOR

Sarita Chourey

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Katherine Irvin

ART DIRECTORS

Chris Turner
Kaylee Welgraven

DESIGNER

Cara Sanders Robb

CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Ballard '84
Kelley Bruss
Clinton Colmenares
Elizabeth Davis
Jeremy Fleming '08
Joe Howell
Joe Hurley '78
Kim Keefer
Cindy Landrum
Ben Meyer '22
Vince Moore
Liv Osby
Morgan Sykes
Tina Underwood
Ron Wagner '93
Chris Worthy

CLASS NOTES EDITOR

Jen Bobo

PRINTING

Geographics

© Furman University 2021. Furman University is committed to providing equal access to its educational programs, activities and facilities to all otherwise qualified students without discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other category protected by applicable state or federal law. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, Furman also affirms its commitment to non-discrimination in its employment policies and practices. For information about the university's compliance with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the IRS Anti-Bias Regulation, please contact the director of human resources by telephoning 864.294.3015, or by writing to Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, SC 29613. For information about Furman's compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact the disability services coordinator at 864.294.2320, or by writing to the address noted above.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reflection exists at the core of The Furman Advantage – and, really, all that we do at Furman University. It is how we take what we’ve learned and understand and grow from it. Reflection helps us to better understand our purpose and what constitutes a meaningful life.

It is with this in mind, and following the recommendation of the “Seeking Abraham” report and direction of the Board of Trustees, that Furman reviewed and revised its Vision, Mission and Values Statements (see previous page and furman.edu/about/mission-vision-values) and updated our online history of the university, including an extended timeline that is more comprehensive and inclusive (furman.edu/about/history).

A working group chaired by former Trustee Baxter Wynn and including students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees drafted the new statements, which focus on who we are, where we want to go, and what defines us as a university and a community. The Board of Trustees approved the revised statements this past fall, and we introduced them this spring, as we begin a new year recommitting ourselves to our values as an institution.

This spring we also celebrated **Joseph Vaughn ’68**, Furman’s first Black undergraduate student, first on what is now the annual Joseph Vaughn Day, on Jan. 29, and then on April 16, when we dedicated a statue in his honor



WE ARE FURMAN



*Our vision, mission and values
reflect who we are.*

BY ELIZABETH DAVIS

– placed on a plaza bearing his name in front of the Duke Library. (See furman.edu/joseph-vaughn and our next issue for more coverage.)

We see Joe Vaughn and all he stood for in our new vision, mission and values. He inspires us to commit ourselves to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Ed Good ’67, chair of the Board of Trustees, said, “While the Board of Trustees is tasked with ‘acting upon matters of strategic

importance ... and successful achievement of its mission and goals,’ it is the faculty, staff and students who make our vision, mission and values come alive. The elements of The Furman Advantage are deeply rooted within these statements and, while the language has been updated, our commitment to leading lives of meaning and consequence remains the same.”

We look to the horizon through our vision:

“Inspiring purposeful living and fostering thriving communities through learning, creativity, and innovation.” We do this by continuing our commitment to outstanding undergraduate education and by broadening our academic footprint to benefit our students and the community, through our institutes, select advanced degree programs, and new learning and service opportunities. (For one example, see “The Next Idea Hub,” about a Furman Innovation and Entrepreneurship partnership in downtown Greenville, on page 6.)

Finally, I want to draw your attention to our new Values Statement, and how it inspires and shapes our vision and mission, “calling on us to meet the challenges and responsibilities of a complex, diverse, and rapidly changing world with courage, moderation, justice, wisdom, and humility.”

Now more than ever, we need to ensure that how we treat each other and care for our communities is informed by our values.

As Furman prepares for its third century, I am grateful to all of the members of our community who helped us to refocus our vision, mission and values and to all who help us live and realize them. Please join me in recommitting ourselves to this noble endeavor. ✦

Elizabeth Davis



Around the Lake



The Bell Tower shown reflected through a sphere made of optically clear crystal. The sphere, a device for creative photography, was set on a stone foundation in the middle of the Bell Tower circle.

Nothing in recent memory has illustrated the health care disparities between people of different demographic groups more clearly than the global pandemic.

How do you get to the doctor when you don't have a car? How do you pay the doctor or buy medicine when your low-wage job doesn't offer health coverage? How do you communicate with the nurse if there's a language barrier?

The questions disproportionately affect African American and Latino communities. To help address this, **Dr. Matt W. Wilson '86**, a physician who cares for children with eye cancer, is making a planned gift of \$4 million to the university's Institute for the Advancement of Community Health to take on these health care issues.

"It's clear that health care disparities are real and they need to be addressed, and I'm incredibly proud of the fact that Furman has an avenue to study and provide solutions for these challenges," he says. "The goal is to ensure a legacy for the opportunities that IACH is providing for the students at Furman, giving them the experiential education they need to pursue health care careers and be a part of the solution."

Wilson is a professor of ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, where he is also the vice chair for Academic Affairs. He is also the chief of ophthalmology at St. Jude Children's Research

A SYSTEM THAT LOOKS LIKE US



Dr. Matt W. Wilson '86 has made a planned gift of \$4 million to Furman's Institute for the Advancement of Community Health.

BY LIV OSBY



Dr. Matt W. Wilson '86 visits Furman's campus.

Hospital in Memphis, where he holds the chair of excellence in pediatric ophthalmology.

"Dr. Wilson has proven to be a champion of health care for those who need it most and of educating future health care providers who will serve their communities," says Furman President Elizabeth Davis. "We are so grateful to Matt

for his generosity and for his commitment to his alma mater and our students."

IACH helps the one-third of Furman students who want to pursue careers in health by offering internships that make them more competitive for graduate school and enable them to better understand their chosen field, says IACH

Executive Director **Susan Ybarra '92**.

The institute works with a variety of community health care partners on research and internships. Students might spend time at a hospital observing general surgery, for example, or at a cardiac rehab center shadowing a physical therapist. Or they may pursue nonclinical careers focused on education, poverty, food insecurity and other social determinants that affect people's health, says Ybarra.

Furman's Master of Science in Community Engaged Medicine program also will benefit from the gift, says Victoria Turgeon, the program's director and a biology professor. Now in its fourth year, the program blends the biomedical sciences with population health to advance students academically while involving them in underserved areas of the community. It also seeks to increase diversity and cultural competence among health care providers.

A longtime advocate of real-world experiences in addition to classroom education, Wilson has invited Furman students to spend summer internships in Memphis.

"The biggest thing this money will help us do is to increase the access of students to these experiences," says Ybarra. "No doubt the impact will be felt for many, many years to come and will impact hundreds, if not more, lives – both students and communities." ♦



THE NEXT IDEA HUB



With its expansion into downtown Greenville, Furman’s Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is claiming its seat at the table.

BY CLINTON COLMENARES



Above: Furman University President Elizabeth Davis speaks on December 17, 2020, at a press conference announcing the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship’s new shared working space with NEXT and the city of Greenville.

Left: Anthony Herrera, executive director of Furman I&E, speaks during the announcement event.

Who better to help build a knowledge-based economy in Greenville, South Carolina, than Furman students, faculty and staff?

Furman’s Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) has joined the city of Greenville’s economic development team in locating offices in downtown Greenville with NEXT, an entrepreneurial-support organization that operates under the Greenville Chamber Foundation.

“Furman is excited to be part of this shared working space with NEXT and the city of Greenville,” says Furman President Elizabeth Davis. “This is an excellent opportunity for our students,

faculty and staff to engage in meaningful work with the city, and to help make Greenville a leading innovation hub in the country.”

The Furman I&E launched in August 2018 with Anthony Herrera as executive director. The institute fosters innovation and an entrepreneurial mindset at Furman by offering programming for students, faculty and staff. It also plays a crucial role in the local innovation and entrepreneurship community as a convener and facilitator. Sharing space in the Next on Main facility, on the third floor of the Bank of America building overlooking ONE City Plaza, enhances that role.

“It’s much easier to have a seat at the table and to help bring organizations together around a table, when that table is literally steps away in a shared space,” says Herrera. “With a location downtown, together with NEXT and the city of Greenville and close to other organizations, Furman is in a prime position to help build the knowledge-based economy and make Greenville a national hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.”

Furman’s participation might surprise some people. The university doesn’t have an engineering or a business school. “But innovation is about curiosity, creativity and ideas,” says Davis. “That’s what Furman has been cultivating all along.”

Whether a student majors in business, English or philosophy, they can still be innovative and entrepreneurial, says Herrera, noting that 40 percent of high school students want to be entrepreneurs. “I&E’s close relationships with organizations, including NEXT and the city, will give Furman students an advantage, regardless of their choice of majors,” he says. ♦

One of three openly LGBTQ Black female state senators in the country, **Kim Jackson '06** is also the first openly lesbian priest of color to be ordained in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. The “firsts” give her a platform she wouldn’t otherwise have, but she hopes to see a day where firsts aren’t such a big deal.

That’s a day when there are more women, more women of color and more women of color who are also from the LGBTQ community in both politics and the clergy.

“I’m trying to make the world better for people who have often been left behind or who have been marginalized,” says Jackson, a Democrat who lives on a farm in Stone Mountain, Georgia, with her wife, Trina.

Jackson serves as the vicar at the Episcopal Church of the Common Ground Atlanta, which has a congregation made up of people who are homeless. During the election season, she ran on a platform that included education and criminal justice reform, affordable housing and comprehensive anti-discrimination policies.

Entering politics has been Jackson’s goal since she was 13 and saw James Talley, Spartanburg’s first Black mayor, presiding over a city council meeting.



Georgia Senator **Kim Jackson '06**.

Georgia Supreme Court Justice Charles Bethel conducts Jackson’s swearing in ceremony alongside Jackson’s wife, Trina.

A BETTER WORLD FOR THOSE OFTEN LEFT BEHIND



*Newly elected Georgia Senator **Kim Jackson '06** sees her opportunity to bring positive change.*

BY RON WAGNER '93

“It was a moment where I realized that if I wanted to make positive change in the world, elected office was going to be the way to do that,” she says, “because I heard them making decisions that would positively impact the lives of people in Spartanburg.”

It’s also why Jackson became a pastor. After

graduating with a degree in history from Furman, she moved to Atlanta and earned a Master of Divinity from Emory University’s Candler School of Theology.

Jackson attended Furman on a James B. Duke Scholarship and says the lessons she learned about communicating with people

of diverse backgrounds have been invaluable to her political career already and will be critical to bipartisan work.

“It taught me how to build relationships with people who are different from me,” she says, “and I will employ those same skills to build relationships with Republicans and to help us find common ground.”

Jackson also credits university chaplain and Professor of Religion **James Pitts '60** for expanding the possibilities she could envision for herself. The Rev. Pitts passed away on Jan. 18.

“I do not think I would be where I am today if I had not had the chaplain take me by the hand and show me what’s possible.” ✦

READ MORE ABOUT THE REV. PITTS '60 ON PG. 59



A PLAN TO DEVELOP STEM TALENT



For first-generation students and others, a \$1 million NSF grant expands access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

BY CHRIS WORTHY



The Frances Townes Reading Room of the Sanders Science Library.

Daniela Mesa '17 is working toward her Ph.D. at Purdue University. But that might not have come to pass without the support – financial, relational and academic – that she received at Furman.

Mesa is a first-generation college student who received a scholarship as part of a \$600,000 National Science Foundation S-STEM (scholarships in science, technology, engineering and mathematics) award granted to Furman from 2012-18. The program makes a STEM degree accessible for academically strong students who are eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant.

“From a financial perspective, it made Furman accessible to me,” says Mesa.

Furman has been awarded a new \$1 million S-STEM grant for 2020-25. Among other components, the award will provide renewable scholarships for 24 high-merit, high-need students seeking bachelor’s degrees in chemistry, biology, neuroscience or the geosciences.

These SOAR (Science Opportunities, Activities and Research) Scholars will receive up to \$10,000 per year in

scholarship support, renewable for four years. The first iteration of the program at Furman resulted in a 100% four-year graduation rate (90% at Furman), with 96% completing a degree in a STEM or an allied field.

The project is led by principal investigator John Wheeler, associate provost for integrative science and professor of chemistry, along with co-principal investigators Benjamin Haywood, assistant director of the Faculty Development Center, John Kaup, director of science education, and Michelle Horhota, associate dean of mentoring and advising and associate professor of psychology.

While much of the funding is for scholarships, Haywood says the other piece of the puzzle comes in helping Furman find better ways to help those students once they are on campus.

“So much of the research shows that access is certainly very important,” he says, “but you also have to provide those students with the toolkit they need and the resources they need to be successful in higher education environments.”

That begins with SAFE (Start an Amazing Furman Experience) Passage, an immersive experience during the summer prior to the start of the students’ first year.

“They participate in mock classes, in some AI-based review and training in precalculus to prepare them for their calculus courses,” says Wheeler. “They have enhanced advising experiences.”

Michael Turlington '16, who received a scholarship as part of the S-STEM program, is now a graduate student in chemistry at the University of North Carolina.



“The research opportunities that I received at Furman . . . have been instrumental in preparing me for graduate school and my future career as a chemistry professor.”

MICHAEL TURLINGTON '16

“The research opportunities that I received at Furman, thanks to the NSF S-STEM program, have been instrumental in preparing me for graduate school and my future career as a chemistry professor,” says Turlington, a Partners Scholarship recipient.

While the national focus of the program is on increasing socioeconomic diversity, at Furman the goal is that half of these scholars will self-identify as first generation or as members of an underrepresented minority group. The Faculty Development Center will help assess what works, which benefits Furman and its students but can also translate to classrooms across the country.

“These are groups of people whose perspectives and ideas haven’t always been included in the way we think about teaching STEM,” says Haywood. ♦

READ MORE ABOUT THE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT CENTER ON PG. 15.

COURTESYPHOTOS

THEN



JOE HURLEY '78

In August 1974, I drove from Minnesota to South Carolina and reported for Furman football. What a culture shock, grits and chewing tobacco! I wanted to come south and get a good education and play college football and run track. I wanted to graduate from a unique, church-affiliated university that had a really good academic reputation. Furman fit the bill.

I was a chemistry major for three long years, then bailed out to become a history major. My two favorite professors were Don Kubler and A.V. Huff. Dr. Huff made history come alive, and it was fun. Dr. Kubler was tough but taught me so much more than biochemistry; he taught me about dedication and perseverance. I was thankful to have graduated on time with my classmates.

What a unique time of life to be away from your family and to develop new relationships and experiences. Many friendships from my freshman dorm, Tau Kappa Epsilon and varsity sports have endured for the last 46 years. Surely, I can’t be that old!

In addition to the friendships, Furman introduced me to my future wife, **Sally Taylor '78**. After three wonderful children, we were unfortunately divorced. Later, I was commuting to Texas as a hedge fund trader and met Diana Crabb the widow of the late **Philip Crabb '79**.

Diana and I got married, I adopted her two daughters and we had one more daughter together. Total children were now six, four girls and two boys. My daughter **Rebecca Aaron '11**, a psychology graduate, honored “Daddy Philip” and me by naming her first son Joseph-Philip (JP). God is the great creator; He is also a great repairman!

Furman academics taught me how to learn. From my graduation day forward, I have never stopped learning. Today’s world is one of specialization and knowing your exact goal. What I would say to students today is that if you don’t know exactly where you are academically or what you want to be, relax. Just keep studying hard and learning, and pay attention to what turns you on. In an odd way, Furman chemistry and history prepared me for my 40 years of investing and the founding of Chi-Rho Financial. “Chi-Rho” are the first two Greek letters of Christ. Our mission statement is to honor Jesus Christ and our clients and to deliver the best risk-adjusted rate of return possible.

To all my Furman friends, I wish each of you a peaceful, healthy and prosperous 2021. God bless! ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joe Hurley '78 is the president and CIO of Chi-Rho Financial based in Atlanta, Georgia.



Q & A WITH COURTNEY TOLLISON '99



Furman Distinguished University Public Historian and Scholar Courtney Tollison '99 served on the university's Task Force on Slavery and Justice.



The Furman University Board of Trustees approved a host of recommendations from the “Seeking Abraham” report that makes changes to Furman’s campus, including the completion of the Joseph Vaughn Plaza. What is the power of these campus changes?

CT: By perusing any landscape, whether it be a city’s downtown, a neighborhood or a campus, we can gauge a community’s identity and values; landscapes are a community’s self-image. Who and what are honored by its statues, plazas, street names, gardens and buildings not only reveals but punctuates that community’s ideals. We communicate so much through these landmarks, which result from thoughtful and deliberate processes that reveal who we are and what we value.

I believe fervently that the changes we have made at Furman, tangibly and otherwise, really matter.

As a Furman professor and alumna, what does it mean to you personally to be involved in this work through the Task Force on Slavery and Justice?

CT: I began researching the desegregation of Furman and the life of Joe Vaughn when I was a senior at Furman, over 20 years ago. History professors **Steve O’Neill ’82**, Marian Strobel and Diane Vecchio sparked a passion I didn’t even know I had. Ever since, I’ve spent significant time preserving, interpreting and presenting the university’s nearly 200-year history.

I’m so honored to have served on the task force and the subcommittees that followed and to remain involved in the implementation of these efforts. It has been highly rewarding to write new plaques for Furman Hall, Clark Murphy Housing Complex, Joseph Vaughn Plaza and Cherrydale. Alongside University Communications, I also recently finished updating and enhancing the university’s interactive, web-based timeline. It and the additions to the campus landscape present a more inclusive history that more accurately reflects Furman’s values today.

Some of us involved with the task force developed relationships with those who are attempting to

undertake similar efforts at other institutions, and many of them have encountered strong resistance. I'm grateful for the overwhelming support that Furman administrators, trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni have shown for our efforts.

I believe that, aside from teaching and the relationships I have with my current and former students, the task force and the implementation of its recommendations are likely the most important and meaningful contributions I'll make to the university during my career.

A question about the COVID-19 pandemic: What's one lesson that you hope we will learn when we look back on it?

"I believe that, aside from teaching and the relationships I have with my current and former students, the task force and the implementation of its recommendations are likely the most important and meaningful contributions I'll make to the university during my career."

COURTNEY TOLLISON '99

CT: So often, we look to the events of the past as a story with a foregone conclusion, and we think of ourselves as being so much more advanced and evolved. Yet, the past was not a foregone conclusion to those who lived through it any more than our present is for us. We think that somehow, unlike those who preceded us, we have evolved to a point where pandemics, threats to our government's principles, and other harrowing events won't happen to us. But as we have seen very recently, that isn't the case.

I hope we have a deeper understanding of and an increased empathy for those who endured and resisted these threats. I hope it humanizes the past. ♦

NOW



BEN MEYER '22

When asked to write this article, to talk about what it's like to be a Furman student now, the first thing that came to my mind was our sense of community.

It was one of the primary factors that brought me to Furman, and one of the things that makes me excited to drive through the front gates at the start of each semester. It seems to fit in effortlessly with the stately brick buildings, and many, many fountains. But I think with the pandemic, we have all had to come to terms with the fact that our sense of community isn't effortless – it's something created by each and every one of us. And at the start of the fall semester, every one of us arrived on campus to find something new: online classes, missing friends and the constant reminder that a spike in cases could send us all home. It felt like we had to choose between being either on the campus or with the people we love.

Serving on the COVID Education and Training Subcommittee, I saw firsthand how hard it can be to bring about that sense of community trust. It's an unavoidable fact that

there are a lot of rules needed to keep us safe – but by their nature, rules are negative. How can students be expected to thrive while being constantly bombarded with reminders of what they're not allowed to do? How can we remind students that we're fighting against COVID-19, not each other?

Positive messaging ended up being one of the most important tools we have at our disposal. Whether through signs, social media or videos, demonstrating how students can socialize and thrive within the rules was something that needed to be done. Having fun and being safe aren't mutually exclusive – they just look different now. It hasn't been an easy adjustment for anyone, but through the hard work of a lot of people, our community will get through this. Watching our community grow and evolve, while still maintaining its Furman spirit, makes me proud to call myself a Paladin. ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ben Meyer '22 is a biology and French double major.

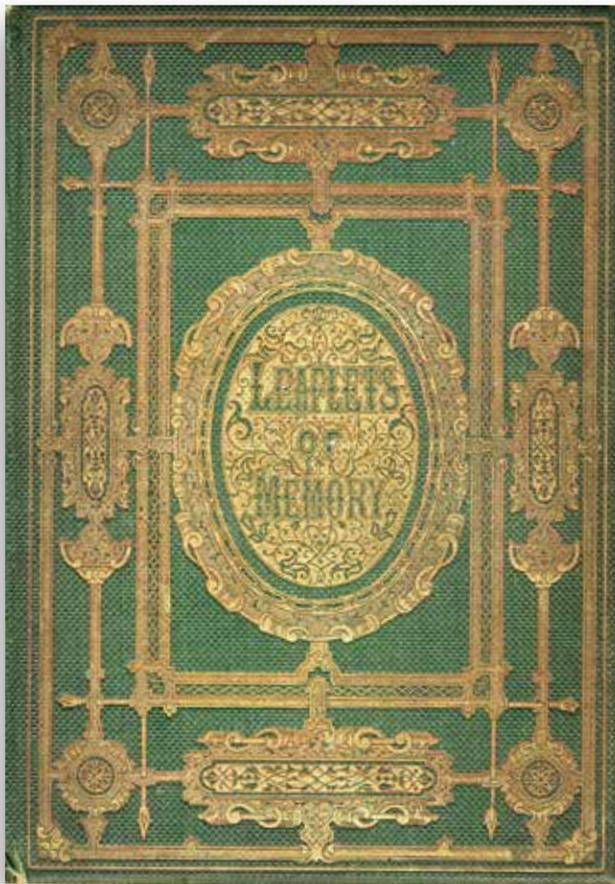


from the VAULT

Beware the green binding.
And mind the skull and crossbones.



BY CINDY LANDRUM



The green cloth cover of the volume, "Leaflets of Memory."

A book bound with arsenic-laced cloth belongs in a murder mystery. But as one student revealed, it can also be found in Furman's collections.

While doing online research for his Furman University Libraries internship last summer, **Henry Dambach '22** discovered that five books were on the list of "poison books," compiled by the Winterthur Library in Winterthur, Delaware. The Winterthur list contains Victorian-era titles with emerald green book cloth colored by copper acetoarsenite, a toxic arsenical pigment.

Jeff Makala, Furman's special collections librarian and university archivist, had sent the list to Dambach and suggested he check it against the library catalog to see if there were any matches.

"It surprised me," Dambach says. "I knew they had used (arsenic) at that time, but I thought all those books had been destroyed and it wasn't a problem anymore. I didn't think we'd have any in our collection."

In the Victorian era, pigment laced with arsenic was used in wallpaper, clothing and paint. Later, farmers used it as a pesticide, according to Jakob Povl Holck, a research librarian, and Kaare Lund Rasmussen, an associate professor in physics, chemistry and pharmacy, both at the University of Southern Denmark.

Four of Furman's books were rebound or had a different-colored cloth, says Makala, who physically examined each of the potential "poison books."

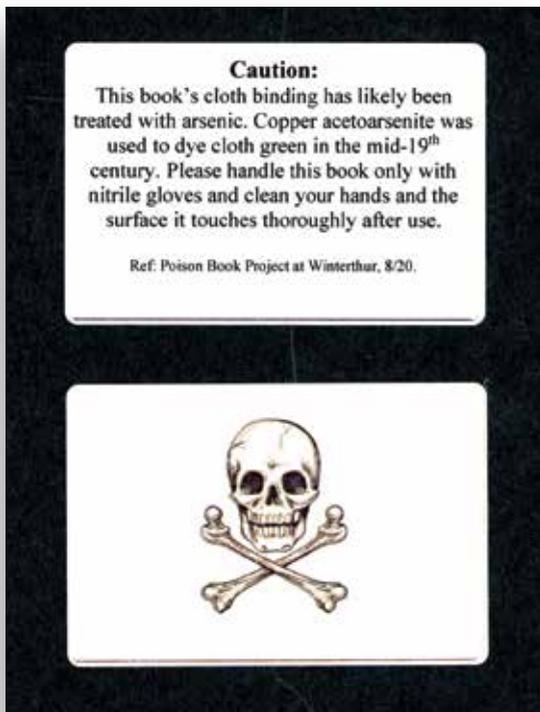
But the fifth book, "Leaflets of Memory," was emerald green. "There's a strong likelihood it has a poisonous binding," he says. "Leaflets of Memory" is a literary annual that was published in 1855. It contains short stories, verses and sonnets.

Ironically, buyers usually purchased the book as a gift for someone special, such as their betrothed or a niece, Makala says. "It was a respectable, middle-class Christmas gift book."

"Leaflets of Memory" is part of Furman Libraries' Special Collection and was not in general circulation. After the discovery, "Leaflets of Memory" was given a warning label with a skull and crossbones. The label outlines



Henry Dambach '22.



The labels on the box that now houses the book.

special handling instructions that include wearing nitrile gloves and cleaning hands and surfaces thoroughly after use.

The Winterthur Poison Book Project started in April 2019 after Melissa Tedone, lab head for book and library materials conservation at the Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library, began working on a book requested for an exhibition. According to an article in *News and Conservation* magazine, Tedone was surprised when the bright green colorant from the book flaked with the gentlest touch of her porcupine quill. She wondered if publishers used the same pigment found in Victorian wallpaper in book cloth.

After Winterthur's lab confirmed Tedone's fears, the investigation into potentially toxic book cloth began. Working with The Library Company of Philadelphia, they identified 28 volumes with bindings that tested positive for arsenic.

Winterthur's investigation is continuing and will include chromium-based pigments, which are less toxic, according to the article. Makala says the odds are that Furman's collection probably includes additional poison books.

"The big takeaway from this," he says, "is that you can always learn new things from old books." ♦

NEXT



KIM KEEFER

We have the opportunity to work every day with extraordinary students. We expect them all to leave our community confident and equipped to pursue their personal missions and inspired to create a positive impact in their worlds.

We believe each student is uniquely gifted, and we invest in each of them in ways that matter to them.

Our best opportunity to guide, empower and advise our students is to care enough about them to see them through the talents they naturally possess and to help them create expectations and opportunities for themselves. Our efforts are attracting notice. Last spring, Furman won one of five 2020 Don Clifton Strengths for Students Awards for helping students develop their talents into strengths and fostering greater academic achievement, engagement and well-being.

Across campus you can find Strengths development training and conversations occurring in classrooms through team-based learning, between a professor and a student advisee, between a career counselor and a student, within a team of student leaders as they discover the talents of their peers, and in a small

group with a Gallup Certified Strengths coach.

In January 2019, 20 campus staff and faculty members were introduced to Gallup's coaching, advising and mentoring approaches through a Gallup-facilitated training program. The purpose was to empower those who work with students to integrate Strengths into programming, mentoring and advising.

The Strengths Champion team at Furman helps students sharpen their focus and their aim in life, because we know that with a great first launch from Furman, students will be able to look back and see how their Furman experience got them there.

The Strengths Development Strategies Initiative at Furman helps students identify, develop, leverage and aim their natural talents at purposeful lives and careers that are authentic to each one individually. Strengths drives engagement. Engagement leads to thriving. Thriving leads to clarification of purpose. And we expect Furman students to soar in life. ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kim Keefer is the director of *Furman's Shucker Center for Leadership Development*.

FUmerical

Meeting students' needs during a pandemic isn't easy – especially when some students went into quarantine after possible exposure. In the fall, Furman dining and residence life staff stepped up to keep these students fed and to ensure they cast their votes in the presidential election. This is what the fall 2020 semester (the in-person period ran from August to mid-November) looked like.



66,368

stairs climbed by housing and residence life staff to deliver meals to students in quarantine or isolation

(This is greater than climbing Mt. Everest – 29,029 feet – twice.)

3,067

carry-out bags delivered to students in quarantine or isolation

3 MAIL-IN BALLOTS

delivered by housing and residence life staff to students in quarantine on the eve of the presidential election

Staff members then waited outside for the students to complete their ballots, and then rushed the ballots back to P2X to be postmarked just minutes before closing.

STUDENTS CARRIED OUT

925

cereal servings



STUDENTS TOOK OUT

13,499

drinks

STUDENTS PICKED UP

10,416

condiment packets



Mary Seawell Metz '58 has served as a professor, president and trustee at colleges from one coast to the other, affording her an appreciation of university life that few enjoy.

Among the most critical operations, she says, is faculty development. Nothing has made that more apparent than the pandemic, as faculties everywhere adapted to remote learning.

Metz has committed \$1 million to endow the director position of Furman's Faculty Development Center.

"I always thought that being outstanding in the classroom was at the heart of the university," she says, "and that developing an excellent teaching faculty is really important."

The center's executive director, Diane E. Boyd is "excited and humbled" by the gift.

"As an accomplished educator and leader herself, Mary's recognition of the direct link between faculty vitality and student success through her investment in the Faculty Development Center makes the gift that much more significant," says Boyd, now the Mary Seawell Metz '58 Director of the Faculty Development Center. Metz's father, **Columbus Jackson Seawell '56**, dropped out of The Citadel during the Great Depression so his younger sister could finish school, resolving to someday finish his degree. Years later, after launching an accounting firm in

AN EDUCATOR CHAMPIONS 'THE LINK'



Mary Seawell Metz '58 has committed \$1 million to endow the Faculty Development Center's directorship.

BY LIV OSBY



Mary Seawell Metz '58.

Anderson, South Carolina, he attended Furman.

Around the same time, Metz had graduated from T.L. Hanna High School and received a full scholarship to Furman. So father and daughter were students together for about one year.

"I loved all of the humanities," she says, "and I was taking every course I was interested in from world religions to English literature

to French language classes." Metz majored in both English and French, graduating summa cum laude.

She and her husband, Gene, a Clemson alumnus and architect, married her senior year and settled in Anderson. She soon began teaching French and English at Hanna. Eventually, the couple decided to attend graduate school, though they didn't have much money.

"We made a plan that I would go first because I could not earn enough as a woman with a baccalaureate degree to put him through grad school," she says. "But with an advanced degree, I could earn more."

They left for Louisiana State University, where Metz completed her Ph.D. in French, graduating magna cum laude, while her husband joined the architecture faculty.

She was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to France and then took a teaching position at LSU, becoming one of very few women on the faculty at that time.

Metz served as provost and dean of the faculty at Hood College, president of Mills College, dean of the University of California Extension, and president of the S.H. Cowell Foundation in San Francisco.

The author of several French textbooks, Furman presented her with The Distinguished Alumni Award in 1977 and with an honorary Doctor of Humanities in 1984.

"My long life has sort of begun and ended with Furman at the center," says Metz, who serves on the Furman Board of Trustees.

Along the way, she and her husband adopted a daughter, and when they moved back to South Carolina, they parlayed the proceeds from the sale of their California home into gifts for their alma maters.

"The faculty was so supportive of me, and I wanted to honor them as well," she says. "I did this because of my great admiration for and love of Furman." ♦



NOTES

FROM THE
FIELD

BY CINDY LANDRUM



A rendering of the new Davis and Faxon Training Facility.

A TRAINING CENTER TO ATTRACT THE BEST

THE NEW FACILITY “IS EXACTLY WHAT A PROGRAM OF FURMAN’S CALIBER DESERVES,” SAYS CINDY DAVIS ’84 OF THE DAVIS AND FAXON TRAINING FACILITY.

IN THE COMPETITIVE WORLD OF COLLEGIATE

golf, a stroke here or there can make the difference between being in the middle of the pack or on the leaderboard.

Furman’s golf alumni know this as well as anyone. And they’ve stepped forward – as they have for generations – to position current and future Paladin golfers for victory.

The latest example is a new two-phase expansion and renovation of the REK Center for Intercollegiate Golf, which includes the construction of the Davis and Faxon Training Facility. The state-of-the-art indoor golf training facility will have six hitting stations in three covered bays, an indoor putting studio, a club repair shop and a workout area. It gives Furman’s men’s and women’s golf programs facilities that rival the best in collegiate golf, and will help head coaches Jeff Hull and **Matt Davidson ’04** attract elite golfers from across the country.

“We have a great golf course, and our outdoor facility is amazing,” says Hull, who has been head coach of the women’s program since 2016. The one thing Furman was missing was an indoor facility. “Once we get it done,” says Hull, “with our existing facilities, we will be in a great position. It will definitely help the program from a recruiting standpoint.”

IT TAKES MORE THAN GREAT COACHING

Donors have committed more than \$800,000 for the two-phase project. Construction of the training center will be completed this summer.

The indoor facility is named for former Paladin golfers and Furman Athletics Hall of Fame members **Cindy Davis ’84** and **Brad Faxon ’83**, lead gift-givers to the campaign.

“It is exactly what a program of Furman’s caliber deserves,” says Davis, the former president of Nike Golf and vice president of the Ladies Professional Golf Association.

She says **Beth Daniel ’78** and **Betsy King ’77**, members of the 1976 national championship team who became World Golf Hall of Fame members, inspired her to go to Furman.

“If you look at the student-athletes who have gone through the program since and what the program has accomplished – being ranked one of the best in the country and continuing the success 40 years later, it’s remarkable,” says Davis, runner-up in the National Championships in 1983.

Davis says the new indoor facility would give future Paladins access to the latest technology used to analyze all aspects of a golf swing and putting stroke.

“I think it will enable both Jeff (Hull) and Matt (Davidson) to be better coaches because they’ll be able to use that data and translate it into practice plans for these golfers that focus on the areas where they can improve,” she says.

That’s especially important as college golf increasingly pits the impossibly good against one another.

“After last year, with one shot per round per player, we’re in the top five in the country,” Hull says. “Furman women’s program has been a

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

top program since it started, decade after decade. There aren't a lot of programs that can say they've had that kind of prolonged success."

Once on the verge of extinction, the men's program is working to return to the highest level of competition, says Faxon, who won the 1983 Haskins Award as the nation's most outstanding male collegiate golfer. He went on to win eight PGA tournaments.

"On the men's side, we haven't had the same kind of consistency over a long time," Faxon says. "That starts with coaching and recruiting, and I think that's where Matt's strength is going to be. But I don't care how good a coach or recruiter you are. You will not get great players there without having a great facility."

Furman's golf course ranks in Golfweek's Top 30 best campus courses. The REK Center for Intercollegiate Golf, which opened in 1997, serves as the clubhouse and practice facility for both programs, featuring putting and chipping greens and fairway and greenside bunkers that give Paladin players multiple short-game practice possibilities.

It's a far cry from what was here when Faxon played for the Paladins.

"There was a pro shop open to the membership and the public, and we had one side of the driving range to hit balls – and poor balls at that," he says.

Davidson says the new indoor training center will facilitate player development.

"Our students will use the facility year-round," he says, "and that will help them reach their potential."

Phase Two of the project

includes a renovation of office suites and locker rooms for both programs and a new Frank Keener Team Meeting Room, which will include study space and a kitchen for student-athletes.

Graphics and branding in the new state-of-the-art facility will appeal to today's student-athletes, while honoring Furman's golf legacy, including the achievements of Davis and Faxon, **Dottie Pepper '87**, Daniel and King, Jack Porter, a Greenville-based design firm specializing in experiential branding for college athletics owned by former Paladin golfer Christina Harrell '98, is working on the branding.

They aren't the only alumni devoted to Furman golf.

Last fall, **Mike Hogan '72** and his wife, Sondra, pledged an estate gift of \$500,000 to the Furman men's golf scholarship endowment, bringing the program closer to being fully funded. Hogan, who played from the 1969 to 1972 seasons, was part of a group of former Paladins who rallied together to endow scholarships for the team in 2014. Since then, they have raised more than \$2.7 million in commitments for the endowment, which at current market value funds about 1.7 scholarships.

'HOW YOU APPROACH THINGS IN LIFE'

Judy Keener says her gift was a way to celebrate how important the game of golf was to her late husband, **Frank O. Keener '64**, and the opportunity it has given her both personally and professionally. Frank



Above: **Cindy Davis '84** at Nike World Headquarters and pictured (right) at Furman in the 1980s.

Below: **Brad Faxon '83** at Old Palm Golf Club in recent years and (right) holding the Fred Haskins Award, which he won in 1983.

Keener captained the Furman golf team in his junior and senior seasons.

"The game itself is not just about golf," says Keener, who calls herself "worse than your average golfer."

"It's about personality and how you approach things in life. You learn a lot about people on the golf course, and you learn a lot about yourself."

That was true for Davis and Faxon. And both say Furman contributed to far more than their development as golfers.

"I can reflect on my four years at Furman and point to how it shaped me," says Davis. "The demands of Furman as

an educational institution and the demands of playing in one of the best women's college golf programs in the country taught me things I've taken with me beyond my career at Furman."

The lessons extend across her entire life.

"I learned how to work hard, how to have discipline, how to be accountable and committed, how to play on a team, how to win humbly, how to lose gracefully," she says.

"Furman had such a significant impact on me – It shaped my life, and it's so important we create opportunities for others." ♦



SPORTS BRIEFS



'THE RIGHT LEADER FOR OUR PROGRAM'

STAFF REPORT

The most successful three-year stretch in Furman men's basketball history has led to a contract extension for Coach Bob Richey.

"Bob Richey has done an outstanding job as our head coach, and we are thrilled that this extension will keep him in Greenville for the foreseeable future," says Furman Athletics Director Jason Donnelly. "Bob is the right leader for our program, on and off the court, as well as in the community, and his impact has been felt across all areas of our university."

Entering the 2019-20 campaign, the Paladins were 73-26 since Richey took over, matching or setting school records for victories all three seasons. Furman has won 23 or more games four straight years after accomplishing the feat just once in history prior to 2016-17.

"I am grateful and humbled by the commitment Furman and the Paladin basketball family have shown me, our staff, our players and our program through this extension," says Richey. "We are fortunate that our philosophy of enriching the lives of our players and winning on the court aligns with Furman's institutional values. Our staff will continue to work every day to grow our players, to prepare them for success in life after basketball, and to compete for championships."

2020-21 marks Richey's 10th year with Furman. He ranks 9th among all active NCAA Division I coaches with a .737 winning percentage and, at 38, is the youngest coach among the top 25 winningest coaches, with more than 50 games of experience at the D-I level. ♦

THE NEW CROWD

Jalen Slawson '22 dunks during a game against the University of South Carolina Upstate on Nov. 28, when Furman notched its 14th consecutive win at Timmons Arena after defeating the Spartans 91-63. Cutouts of fans look on from the stands, part of Furman Athletics' efforts to limit attendance at sporting events in order to control the spread of COVID-19. Fans were invited to purchase cutouts through the basketball season to place in the stands during men's and women's home games by submitting a picture of themselves, family members, friends or even pets. Proceeds benefitted Furman student-athletes, and fans could pick up their cutouts at the end of the season. Similar cutouts have been offered for springs sports. ♦





FOR THE LOVE OF LIONS

BY RON WAGNER '93

THE FURMAN COUGAR PROJECT
GIVES UNDERGRADUATES
A RARE OPPORTUNITY



A mother puma captured via remote camera in Malibu Creek State Park 25 miles from Los Angeles.

FURMAN PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY TRAVIS PERRY '92 AND HIS STUDENTS HAVE STUDIED MOUNTAIN LIONS AS PART OF PERRY'S FURMAN COUGAR PROJECT FOR MORE THAN A DECADE. THEY'VE ALSO STUDIED PUMAS, PANTHERS AND CATAMOUNTS.

Furman Professor of Biology **Travis Perry '92** and his students have studied mountain lions as part of Perry's Furman Cougar Project for more than a decade. They've also studied pumas, panthers and catamounts.

If you're confused as to how one wildlife biologist and a handful of undergraduate researchers could juggle studying this many animals at once, it helps to understand that the mountain lion, puma, panther catamount and cougar are actually the same animal: *Puma concolor*. "And in the Rocky Mountain West," Perry adds with a chuckle, "it is simply referred to as 'lion.'"

Mountain lions have so many identities because their range is the largest of any mammal in the western hemisphere, and that has brought them into contact with an array of human civilizations over the centuries. At one time, mountain lions could be found from the Atlantic to the Pacific in both North and South America as well as all the way to the southernmost tip of Chile and north to British Columbia and Quebec.

“It was everywhere. As a result, we have lots of common names for the same cat,” Perry says. “(Scientists) use those names interchangeably, maybe three different ones in the same sentence.”

The vast distribution is the result of the animals’ incredible ability to hunt and adapt. In addition to being legendarily elusive, mountain lions, which are the second-largest cat in the Americas after the jaguar, can weigh up to 200 pounds and possess physical abilities that defy belief. No other cat can leap 40 feet from a running start or spring 15 feet straight up. Mountain lions also can sprint up to 50 mph, carry prey four times their weight, and travel astonishing distances. One young male was confirmed to have moved from the Black Hills of South Dakota to Connecticut – about 1,800 miles – before being killed by a car.

But over the past 100 years, not even mountain lions have been able to withstand the pressure of human extermination efforts and habitat destruction. Outside of Florida, which has a genetically distinct and federally protected small population, there hasn’t been a confirmed sighting of the eastern mountain lion since 1938. In 2018, it was officially declared extinct in that half of the United States.



Travis Perry '22 with the third male puma his team captured and collared on their large private ranch study site. Eight Furman students participated in these capture-and-data-collection events. More than a dozen Furman students have used the data from this collared cat for independent research projects and presentations at professional conferences.

“WHAT IS AN EXCITING ANIMAL THAT I REALLY WANTED TO WORK WITH SINCE I WAS A KID BUT I ALWAYS KIND OF THOUGHT THAT I NEVER COULD? BIG CATS.” – Furman Professor of Biology Travis Perry '92

Such a fate doesn’t seem imminent in the West, where state game agencies estimate there are 20,000 to 40,000 animals. But the numbers are a broad estimate, and that’s where Perry and his team come in. Their work tracking mountain lions in western New Mexico’s Sierra County is contributing to the overall understanding of the species, which hopefully will help us more precisely calculate their numbers.

“The central question that my research program is trying to answer is, ‘How do we get accurate, cost-effective estimates of mountain lion population size?’” Perry says. “In terms of mountain lion conservation, that is the single most important thing, because if we don’t know how many there are on the landscape, then we can’t make sensible decisions and policies.”

Humans are directly responsible for 3,000 mountain lion deaths annually, and the lack of empirical data is reflected in a patchwork of state regulations ranging from “specially protected mammal,” which can’t be hunted for sport (California), to “varmint” that can be killed without limitation (Texas). Those inconsistencies leave open the potential for a dangerous decline in their numbers.

The Furman Cougar Project has been chipping away at the information shortage since 2007, with Perry taking a small group of students to one of the more rugged and remote areas in the United States every summer (with the exception of 2020 because of COVID-19 travel restric-

tions) to immerse themselves as much as possible into the cats' world. They spend their days in a variety of ways, from hiking miles in the punishing southwestern summer heat to download images from a network of 25 remote cameras, to examining what remains of kills, to sitting at computers following mountain lion movements. The latter is possible because of the rarest but most-anticipated thing the researchers do: capture, which happens once or twice a summer.

"Awe-inspiring," **Jesse Woodsmith '13** says. "There is nothing like it to see one in front of you. The first mountain lion we captured was a relatively large male, and when you're opening a mountain lion's mouth to measure its teeth, it's pretty hard to not think about the amazing opportunity you have that very few people get to do."

Perry has captured 33, and it's serious business. In addition to being a dangerous moment for the humans involved, it is essential the animals not be harmed while they're trapped and sedated to be weighed, measured and fitted with GPS collars.

"If you're going to be injured by a mountain lion, it's 1,000 times more

likely when you are forcing a direct interaction with the animal," Perry says. "There's a tremendous amount of safety training and instruction and a very tightly controlled scene when we do have a capture."

The information they gain is invaluable, as is the help Perry gets from students in obtaining it. The limited scale of the Furman Cougar Project takes it out of consideration for large grants, but having a nearly unparalleled opportunity is motivation enough to make it work with smaller grants and donations.

"Big-cat research is a rare thing in general, and it's exceptionally rare for undergraduates to be able to participate directly in big-cat research, which is one of the reasons I developed the program – to give Furman students something unique," Perry says. "They can answer small, undergraduate-sized questions year after year after year, and I can continue to build the amount of data I have for these longer-term studies and these larger questions."

Woodsmith got an early and intense dose of research with Perry, spending summers after both her first and second years at Furman participating in the Cougar Project, sandwiched around the "Wild Semester" of study Perry also

leads in New Mexico. She calls them the "most impactful experiences" she had at Furman.

"I just don't know of any equivalent program or transformative experience that really anybody gets to go through that early in college," says Woodsmith, who is now the director of conservation and stewardship at the Southern Conservation Trust.

After graduating from Furman with a biology degree and earning a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico, Perry spent 15 years studying bats before deciding, at what he then considered to be the midpoint of his career, that it was now or never to do something different.

"What is an exciting animal that I really wanted to work with since I was a kid but I always kind of thought that I never could? Big cats," Perry remembers thinking. "There are multiple objectives. Research is just one. Educating students and educating the public are equally important. I think I've certainly gained a much greater appreciation for (mountain lions). Apart from the strict science, I feel like I know them." ♦

TO SUPPORT STUDENT RESEARCH WITH THE FURMAN COUGAR PROJECT, GO TO FURMAN.EDU/GIVE.



Left: Furman students, **Richard Pickens '12** and **Scarlet Sellers '14**, collect data on the Bosque del Apache national wildlife refuge in southern New Mexico.

Middle: A cub produced by a collared female puma on the refuge. Measuring population parameters such as birth rates and death rates is one of the research objectives of Perry and his students.

Right: A very healthy 4- or 5-year-old cat's teeth and gums. The shape and condition of the teeth allow researchers to determine the animal's age, while gum color and capillary refill offer information about the animal's health.

THE ENTIC



PATRICK MUSAU '17
ISN'T LEAVING US
TO OUR OWN
DEVICES.

GIMLA MAKER

BY SARITA CHOUREY

It's safer to be unique. And **Patrick Musau '17** can help.

His mission is to frustrate hackers, as more of our lives – our health care, our elections, even our doorbells – invites invasion.

Musau, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in electrical engineering at Vanderbilt, co-founded the company ARMS Cyber with twins and fellow engineers Brad and Tim Potteiger. By making our critical software systems enigmas now instead of patching things up after a breach, the researchers are turning a hacker's hunt for weakness into a maddening Where's Waldo.

Along the way, the trio is making cyber rules to live by: If you can hack a router, you can hack an airplane. If you can control something simple, you can bewitch something complex. We have common vulnerabilities because of the similarities in the underlying software that rules our lives.

"If you want to exploit my vulnerability, you have to guess where it is," says Musau, who graduated from Furman with a double major in physics and computing and applied mathematics. "We aren't fixing every vulnerability," he says, "we're just making each one very hard to find."

Opposite: Patrick Musau '17 at Vanderbilt's School of Engineering with a 1/10-scaled remote-controlled car for use in research and in the F1/10 autonomous racing competition.



The risks are all around us, hazards so enveloping as to numb us. A hacker can invade a pacemaker, shutting it down inside a patient's chest or directing it to release a lethal dose of voltage. A CT scan, when infiltrated, can result in manipulated images and a deadly misdiagnosis. Hospital data, if breached, create blackmail concerns, from the malicious disclosure of someone's HIV status to their antidepressant prescription or some other stigmatized treatment.

In other cases, the threat comes wrapped in steel instead of flesh.

In 2015, cybersecurity researchers Charlie Miller and Chris Valasek remotely hacked a Jeep Cherokee. The feat sent a Wired journalist on a heart-leaping ride, and Chrysler recalled 1.4 million vehicles as a result of the pair's work. It was an especially remarkable event, Musau says, because the researchers had to carefully pinpoint the specific vehicle they wanted to take over, after their work granted them access to a multitude of Jeeps.

Where does that leave us?

"Instead of us just saying we're going to fix every vulnerability there is, (co-founder) Brad's idea is, 'What if you could randomize every system in the world?'" says Musau. "So, just because a vulnerability will work on your computer, it may not work on mine."

Meanwhile, ARMS Cyber is gathering strength.

In August, the company won first place and \$20,000 in the 36|86: Student Edition Pitch Competition hosted by Launch Tennessee, a public-private partnership to boost the startup environment in the state. ARMS Cyber (Autonomous Resilient Management Solutions) won for its proactive approach to building defenses to protect against nation states, terrorist organizations and hackers.

"INSTEAD OF US JUST SAYING WE'RE GOING TO FIX EVERY VULNERABILITY THERE IS, (CO-FOUNDER) BRAD'S IDEA IS, 'WHAT IF YOU COULD RANDOMIZE EVERY SYSTEM IN THE WORLD?'"

– PATRICK MUSAU '17



Left to right: Musau during Vanderbilt's 2020 entrepreneurship conference. Patrick's uncle, Simon Musau, pictured in the foreground during Patrick's sister's wedding. Patrick at about age 6 (center) with his mother, Lucy, sister, Mary, and brother, Kevin Musau, before they moved to Rwanda in 2002. Patrick, with his sister and mother.

FIERCELY INQUISITIVE FROM THE START

As a child, Musau destroyed things.

The 5-year-old, living in Ethiopia at the time, followed his curiosity, while his beloved Uncle Simon, a pilot and tech enthusiast, encouraged him to investigate what makes things tick (or whir or flash or beep).

"I would break my toys to see what was inside, like, 'What is the motor in here?'" says Musau from inside the cowl of a bright blue hoodie. A crystal chandelier floats like a jellyfish over his shoulder, part of the opulent, champagne-washed living room of his Zoom background.

"My uncle has always been a huge influence," says Musau, remembering how his mother's brother would show him how to create new toys from the fresh wreckage of old ones, extracting motors, adding wires, batteries, straws and propellers. The child was as likely to be wielding a screwdriver as a crayon.

Born in Rwanda to Lucy Musau, an administrative assistant for the African Union and eventually the United Nations, Musau moved around frequently during his early years. His mother's job demanded regular moves across East Africa, which led her to enroll him, his younger brother and older sister in boarding school for stability.

"I'm very thankful for the childhood I had, probably one of the most loving ways to be brought up," says Musau. "One of my biggest inspirations was my mom, to work at such a prestigious institution while maintaining a loving home."

He attended boarding school from the age of 9 through high school, developing a strong independence but also a deep tenderness for family and their precious time together.

"It taught me how to take care of myself," he says. "Of course, there's always struggles."

'THE PATH THROUGH THE WORLD'

Musau visited the United States for the first time in 2004. He and his family landed in Kansas where they visited extended family. From there, they road-tripped to Manhattan.

Back home several years later, a high school guidance counselor at Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya, told Musau: "If you get into Furman, you're going to thank me every day because it's one of the most beautiful campuses you'll ever lay your eyes on."

And so, in 2013, Musau moved from Kenya to Greenville, South Carolina, as a first-year Furman student. In the course of settling

in to his new continent, Musau made his first trip to Walmart, dissolving momentarily into the fluorescent-lighted galaxy of endless stuff. The culture shock was real but brief.

But he also brought some of his early life to South Carolina. Musau was captain of the Furman rugby team for four years, and he now plays with the Nashville Rugby Football Club.

"It's one of the most enriching things I've found," he says of the game, "with automatic access to community."

"PATRICK IS NOT A STUDENT YOU FORGET. ... HE'S SOMEONE WHO CAN THINK OUT WHAT THE NEXT STEP IS, AND CAN HELP DIRECT THE PROJECT IN A GOOD DIRECTION."

— ANDREA TARTARO, PROFESSOR

But it is Musau himself who creates community, remembers Furman Professor of Physics William Baker. He describes his former student as "a universal mixer."

Andrea Tartaro, associate professor of computer science at Furman, taught Musau for three classes and summer research.

"Patrick is not a student you forget. He's one of the ones you remember long after he graduates," she says. "He's someone who can think out what the next step is and can help direct the project in a good direction."

Baker, in the physics department, recalls Musau's curiosity, insightfulness, storytelling talents and generous laugh.

"We would compare words (in Swahili and French) that I thought I knew, and he would correct me," says the physics professor. "We had a lot of fun. He was serious about his work, but he wasn't so serious that he was beaten down and he couldn't enjoy life, which is ideal."

And when it was time to discuss the future?

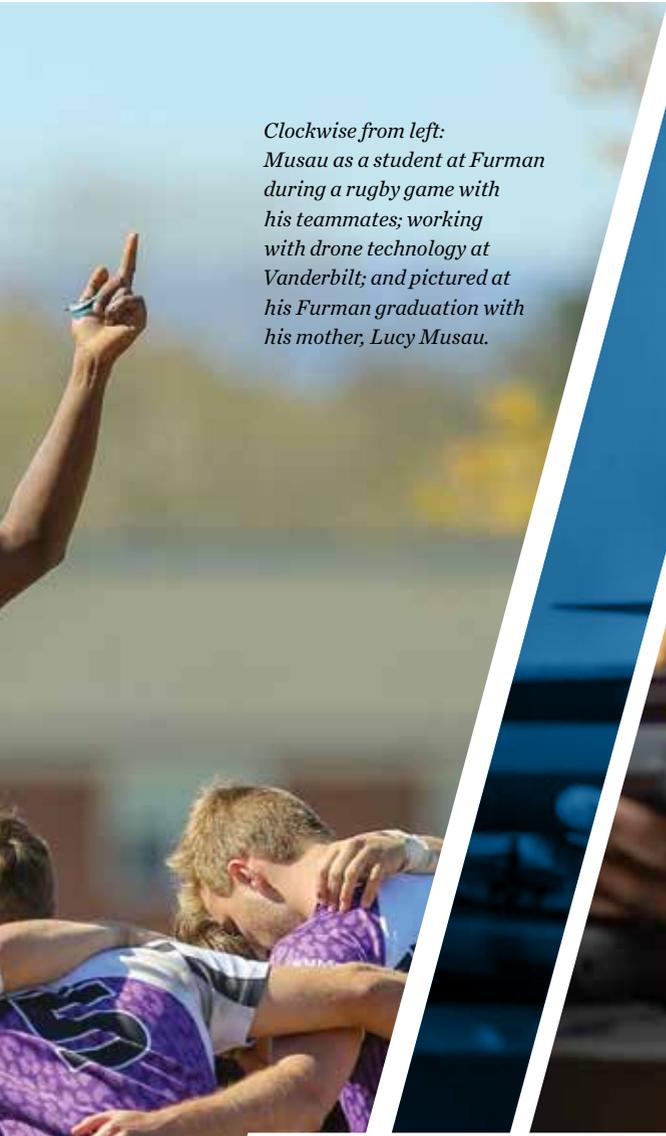
"When he would get serious, we would talk about what kind of careers would pay off. I reminded him it was a technological society," says Baker, "and the path through the world was technology." ♦

Morgan Sykes contributed.



JEREMY FLEWING

*Clockwise from left:
Musau as a student at Furman
during a rugby game with
his teammates; working
with drone technology at
Vanderbilt; and pictured at
his Furman graduation with
his mother, Lucy Musau.*



JOE HOWELL | COURTESY PHOTOS







CRAFTING HER FUTURE

By Ron Wagner '93

When **Marcy Larson '79** and her husband, Geoff, moved to Juneau in the early 1980s, they didn't know Alaska hadn't been home to a successful brewery since prohibition began in 1920. They did know, however, that the beer Geoff was making and sharing with their new friends was a hit, and they needed to figure out a way to support themselves.

FOR A YOUNG COUPLE BONDED BY A LOVE OF ADVENTURE AND A DECIDED LACK OF FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN, THAT WAS ENOUGH.

The Larsons on top of an 800-barrel finishing tank with Douglas Island peaks behind them.





Geoff and Marcy Larson inside their brewery.

 **“NOW,
SUDDENLY,
WE’RE PART
OF A
BIGGER
MOVEMENT.”**

“One of our friends said, ‘You know, you ought to start a brewery up here,’” Marcy remembers. “It wasn’t really anything we had planned to do, but then we thought, ‘Hey, that’s not a bad idea.’”

Not everyone would have thought so, to say the least. But 35 years later, Alaskan Brewing Company has proven to be a very good idea, indeed. Its products can be found in 25 states, the Larsons employ 110 people, and the company is revered, alongside the likes of Sierra Nevada and New Belgium, as a pioneering trailblazer that fundamentally changed the industry by helping to clear a path for the more than 7,400 craft breweries in the country today.

“The whole attention on craft brewing brings attention to everybody,” Marcy says. “Now, suddenly, we’re part of a bigger movement.”

She is the first to admit she would have defined success on a much smaller scale when she took the money she’d saved to finalize her commercial pilot’s license and put it into starting a brewery. In fact, just convincing locals in Juneau to try craft beer was a hurdle when the Larsons and 12 volunteers packaged their first 253 cases of Alaskan Amber for sale in December of 1986.

Alaskan Amber is based on a Gold Rush recipe Marcy discovered while reading historical records from the early 1900s. Geoff, a chemical engineering major, had become adept at brewing beer with his college buddies at the University of Maryland and was able to bring the flavor back to life. But as much as residents wanted to support their novel local brewery, taste buds accustomed to mass-produced, watery lagers were suspicious.

Top: A state-of-the-art tasting room is one of the newest additions to Alaskan Brewing.

Bottom: Geoff and Marcy Larson in 1986, taking a break from painting the original 10-barrel brewing facility, which is still in use today. The company was originally known as Chinook Alaskan but became Alaskan Brewing in 1989.



“People weren’t really interested in spending a whole lot of money on a fancy beer, as it was called,” Marcy says. “It took a while for people to get used to the flavorful craft beer taste, but we got people appreciating it. Patrons thought amber beers were dark beers, and we were like, ‘Well, just try it.’”

And once they did, word got around. Brewpubs weren’t legal in Alaska at the time, so Alaskan Brewing began as a packaging operation, and bottles of Alaskan Amber soon found their way to Seattle by way of fishing boats. That was the good news. The bad news was the brewery couldn’t handle the surge in demand.

“People were super-psyched about (Alaskan Amber), but then we were stuck because we didn’t have the production capacity to keep both the north and the south supplied in the summertime,” Marcy says. “We ran out a number of times in the lower 48, and, boy, it took another five years for those retailers to forgive us. We’ve been gun shy ever since about overstretching our capacity.”

EARLY YEARS

Marcy grew up more than 4,000 miles from Juneau in Brandon, Florida, where she was such an accomplished backstroker that she was offered an athletics scholarship to swim at Furman. Initially planning to major in math, Marcy showed an early sign of the independence that would eventually lead her to The Last Frontier by deciding to major in photojournalism instead, even though Furman didn’t actually offer a photojournalism major.

Undeterred, she used Furman’s Individualized Curriculum Program (ICP) and the help of her advisor, the



Packaging Supervisor Brian Haney oversees a run of Alaskan Amber bottles. This bottling line has been in use since 2001, a major step in the ability for Alaskan to expand distribution to 25 states.



Alaskan Maintenance Manager Mike Brown checks on the spent-grain boiler, which supplies steam for the brewing process by burning the grain waste left over after brewing. Alaskan Brewing calls this sustainable practice “beer-powered beer.”

“WE LOVE HAVING OTHER BREWERIES HERE BECAUSE THERE’S JUST A LOT MORE EMPATHY.”

late Professor of Philosophy Thomas Buford, to create a path that worked.

“The most impactful thing was Dr. Buford. He was the one who came up with the ICP idea and how to put some things together that would keep me engaged,” Marcy remembers. “I did a lot of photo-taking during those years. I provided pictures to (The Paladin) and covered all the sports I could because I was a swimmer.”

Marcy also loved the outdoors and started hiking and working in Montana’s Glacier National Park during

the summers before moving there after graduation, hoping “to take wonderful pictures and publish them and make a living that way.” That proved to be more of a challenge than she had anticipated, however, so Marcy used her aptitude for numbers to become a night auditor – and met Geoff.

“I fell head over heels in love with this young man who had been hitchhiking his way up to Alaska but ran out of money in Montana,” Marcy says. “The summer romance blossomed, and that’s what planted the seed for Alaska.”



The Alaskan Brew Crew in 2019.

A FAMILY OF BREWERS

Marcy's goal to see all of Alaska was easy to set before she realized just how much there was to see. But while the vast, open landscape actually exceeded her expectations, it's not why she never left.

"We have the ocean right here, but yet I have a glacier right in my backyard with a freshwater lake in between. I've got rainforests and the greenery of a mountainside that goes all the way up into the snowy peaks. The breathtaking beauty of Alaska is what got me here. What kept me here was the people of this state," she says. "Because there are so a few of us,

we're not burned out. People have time to talk to you, to look you in the eyes and say hi. The people are just amazing."

For the first 10 years of its existence, Alaskan Brewing remained alone in the state. Now there are more than 40 breweries, which Marcy finds especially satisfying.

"I have to say, it's so much nicer to have company now," she says. "We love having other breweries here because there's just a lot more empathy. They share the passion and understand the struggles. It just gives us so much more family."

And family is how Marcy and Geoff continue to see Alaskan

Brewing. They spent weeks traversing the state to land the 88 initial investors who allowed the company to launch. Now plans are in the works to eventually shift ownership to employees through an employee stock ownership plan.

"We are turning over a lot of the dreams and the ideas to the younger group because those are the ones who are going to carry it to the next reiteration," Marcy says. "You can't just stand still. We need to be creative and nimble and thinking ahead. We still have half the United States – including South Carolina – at their fingertips if they want to do that." ♦

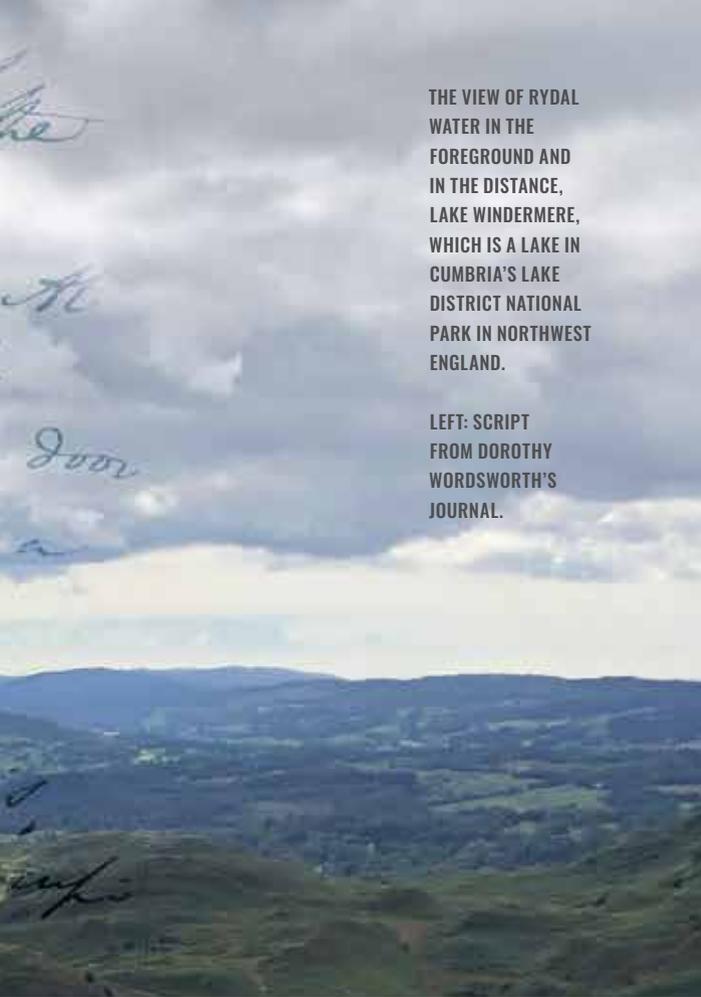


'No Prisoner IN THIS LONELY ROOM'

**A POETRY PROJECT CONNECTS CANCER PATIENTS
TO WORDS OF HOPE AND STRENGTH.**

By Kelley Bruss





THE VIEW OF RYDAL WATER IN THE FOREGROUND AND IN THE DISTANCE, LAKE WINDERMERE, WHICH IS A LAKE IN CUMBRIA'S LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK IN NORTHWEST ENGLAND.

LEFT: SCRIPT FROM DOROTHY WORDSWORTH'S JOURNAL.

Cancer doesn't just steal physical health. It can steal energy, concentration, sometimes your very words.

“Imagine every three months they’re changing heavy-duty medications on you,” says Ginny Cartee of Laurens, South Carolina, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015. She grieves the loss of memory and focus and processing skills she once took for granted.

“My goal is to get my words back,” says Cartee, one of the first participants in What a Word’s Worth, offered through Furman and the Cancer Support Community at the Prisma Health Cancer Institute. “This program meets a real need.”

What a Word’s Worth connects cancer survivors, caregivers and others with poetry that affirms the ideal of siblings Dorothy and William Wordsworth: Poems should be more about doing good in the world than about the sublime.

Elizabeth Collins '21, an English major from Buffalo, New York, designed the program with the help of Michele Speitz, associate professor of English literature and director of The Furman Humanities Center. Collins says she wanted to offer people “the joy and love of talking about poetry.”

Jeff Cowton, curator and head of learning at the Wordsworth Trust in Grasmere, says bringing poetry to people in isolating situations is in perfect keeping with the Wordsworths’ vision. Dorothy’s journal is full of entries about the village’s poor and ill and mourning. Her brother’s poetry immortalizes unknowns in works such as “The Female Vagrant” and “The Discharged Soldier.”



ELIZABETH COLLINS '21.



JEREMY FLEMING | COURTESY PHOTO

ELIZABETH COLLINS '21
AND MICHELE SPEITZ.



“They’re both very interested in the people (who are) at risk of being forgotten and overlooked,” Cowton says.

Cartee left her first poetry session full of confidence. Battling cancer can lead to feelings similar to post-traumatic stress disorder, she says. Pushing back against those feelings is a rush.

“Any little thing that’s an accomplishment is a huge step forward,” she says.

‘What about the sister?’

Collins came to Furman planning to study science. But when she took a literary theory course her sophomore year, everything changed. “This is where I’m supposed to be,” she says. The class led Collins to choose the British Isles study abroad program for fall 2019.

After a whirlwind beginning in Stratford – classes with the Royal Shakespeare Company during the day, plays every night – the group traveled to England’s Lake District and shifted gears to the Romantic Age. Speitz’s first assignment for them was a theoretical grant proposal: What would the students want to do using the vast collection of historic items at the Wordsworth Trust and the Wordsworths’ home, Dove Cottage?

Cowton called Speitz aside as she was explaining the assignment: “Michele, what if we make it real?”

He asked the 12 Furman students to write proposals for more than simply a grade. One winning project would receive funding from the Wordsworth Trust. Cowton had never done anything like that before. But “it fits in with our whole purpose,” he says.

Collins was intrigued by Dorothy Wordsworth and the role she played in her brother’s enduring works.

“I was like, ‘Well, what about the sister?’” Collins says. “She wrote down a lot of the details that ended up in William’s poems.”

Dorothy Wordsworth’s journal was not published in full for almost 100 years. But eventually “people started to recognize it as a great work in its own right,” Cowton says. Collins’s winning proposal was timely: The Trust is celebrating Dorothy Wordsworth’s 250th birthday this year.

‘Not sitting on your own little shelf’

One story in particular captured Collins. When children who lived nearby were orphaned, Dorothy Wordsworth wrote a narrative of their story and circulated it through the community, asking for help.

Collins originally planned to take her poetry project into shelters for women and children. She envisioned readings that would resonate and empower – and the opportunity for the women to tell their stories and let Collins circulate them via the Web, along with donation appeals for the shelters.

COVID-19 put an end to that plan. Collins spent the summer of 2020 researching and brainstorming ways to change course as a fellow for the newly created Furman Humanities Center.

Furman’s connections with Prisma Health through the Institute for the Advancement of Community Health led to a conversation about the isolation brought on by the pandemic. “Everyone right now needs some sort of connection and, at the end of the day, that’s what Dorothy was trying to write about,” Collins says.

Oncology patients know the pain of physical and emotional isolation, which has been intensified by the coronavirus, says Kerri Susko, director of the Cancer Support Community (CSC) at the Prisma Health Cancer Institute.

The Cancer Support Community is an international organization that addresses the social and emotional needs of anyone impacted by a cancer diagnosis, from patients to caregivers. Programs at CSC in Greenville, South Carolina, already included writing and reading opportunities. Cartee says the poetry program added depth with a practical method for savoring words again.

She thinks her new skills will help her fight back against the cumulative effects of stress, medication, sleep interruption and pain.

“Being able to overcome all of that is not easy and takes a kind of instruction,” she says.



“These skills help us turn the page and move forward. I see this as an opportunity to take more steps.”

– GINNY CARTEE

GINNY CARTEE AT CAMP FELLOWSHIP ON LAKE GREENWOOD IN THE SPRING OF 2020. THE CAMP IS THE HOST SITE FOR RED LETTER DAY RETREATS DESIGNED FOR CANCER SURVIVORS.

Cartee had worked as a math teacher and a grant writer before cancer pushed her into semiretirement.

“I could turn around a 30-page narrative in a week,” she says.

Now, both writing and reading are laborious as she struggles to remember words from the beginning of a page when she reaches the end.

“This class will give us back the pleasure of reading,” she says.

The program also offers the pleasure of exploration. A cancer diagnosis can have significant impact on a person’s perspective, Susko says.

“There’s an interest in exploring new things and changing, not sitting on your own little shelf anymore,” she says.



JAMES EMMANUEL '21, CAROLINE SCUDDER '20, EMILIA HYLAND '21, CAROLINE ATWATER '21, MAKENNA CHRISTENSEN '21, SOPHIE KLINE SCHAFFER '21, CARLY ANDERSON '21 AND (CENTERED BELOW) ELIZABETH COLLINS '21 ATOP NAB SCAR, ABOVE RYDAL WATER BEFORE THE PANDEMIC.

*salvage sheep - he
room lately built
- dation at the year
the year*

COURTESY PHOTO

Dorothy's pain

What a Word's Worth is a relaxed conversation about words. Collins uses old and new poems that she hasn't studied herself, so she's experiencing them fresh, along with the participants.

Sessions begin with a brief introduction to Dorothy Wordsworth and her vision of what words could offer. There's a special connection, too, to people enduring pain and sickness. Dorothy suffered from both physical and mental illness at the end of her life and was often bedridden.

Memories of life outside the walls of her room were part of what sustained her. "No prisoner in this lonely room," she writes in one of her poems.

"In a weird way, COVID allowed us to honor what happened to Dorothy later in her life even more," Speitz says.

Most of each session is spent reading poetry aloud and then, as a group, conducting simple analysis, using questions and prompts Collins and Speitz developed.

Collins practiced with multiple groups before hosting the first official session via Zoom in fall 2020.

"It was actually easier to talk to them than to our original test subjects," Collins says. "Once we started reading poetry, things just meshed."

The poems are chosen for themes of hope and empowerment, connecting people and places, and love of nature. For Cartee, the time is about both the words and a renewed ability to enjoy them.

"These skills help us turn the page and move forward," she says. "I see this as an opportunity to take more steps." ♦

*"In a weird way,
COVID allowed
us to honor what
happened to
Dorothy later in
her life even more."*

– MICHELE SPEITZ, DIRECTOR OF THE FURMAN
HUMANITIES CENTER AND ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE



LEFT: MICHELE SPEITZ.

ABOVE: DOROTHY WORDSWORTH.

The mural on Canvas Tower in downtown Greenville, South Carolina, recognizes the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Greenville County Schools.





THE COMEBACK

EIGHT STORIES HIGH

*Long before
Pearlie Harris M '83
appeared on a mural
high above downtown
Greenville, she was a
giant in education.*

BY VINCE MOORE

THE COMEBACK



Above: Australian visual artist Guido van Helten and **Pearlie Harris M '83** on the site of the mural.

Below: Artist van Helten at work on the mural.

WHEN PEARLIE HARRIS M '83 was told she would be part of a mural in downtown Greenville, South Carolina, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Greenville County Schools, she didn't know what to expect. Lots of important people had helped with integration, and she assumed she would be one face among many.

But what Harris would ultimately see was quite different. She was placed at the center of the mural, her 5-foot-3 figure covering the entire height of the eight-story building, her arms around a group of children representing the thousands of students she mentored during her teaching career. Harris had checked on the progress of the mural as Guido van Helten, the celebrated artist from Australia, was working, and she had a good idea by the first visit that her appearance might be a bit more prominent. The artist was painting from the bottom to the top of the building, and Harris was able to recognize her blouse and the ring on her finger. What were the odds it could be anybody else?

"I was in my car and the first thing I noticed was my blouse," Harris said. "I was shocked. All I could do was pull over to the side and cry. I called my son and told him, 'I can't believe it. They've put me on this mural—eight stories high.'"

Harris emphasized those last three words because, like anyone who has stood in front of the mural, it's easy to be overwhelmed by the sheer scale of what the artist did. And when people ask her what in the world she did to deserve such an honor, she laughs and says she has no idea. She can only say van Helten had read a series of articles in *The Greenville News* about the 50th anniversary of desegregation, which included a lengthy piece on Harris, and he was impressed by what he learned.

"Guido came to my house and interviewed me, and he said he had read everything he could about me," Harris said. "He said he thought I represented what he wanted to express. He also took a lot of photos of me, but I still didn't know what to expect."

If the artist was looking for a strong figure to put at the center of his work, he chose wisely. Even now, 25 years after her teaching career ended, the 85-year-old Harris exudes the same confidence that allowed her to overcome the many barriers she faced over the years.

Harris grew up in the segregated South in Saluda, North Carolina, where she experienced racism in its purest form. As she and her three brothers walked to their all-Black school, they had to dodge rocks thrown by the children from the white

THE COMEBACK

school they had to pass. When she attended Barber-Scotia College, a historically black school in Concord, North Carolina, she watched the Ku Klux Klan burn a cross on the lawn outside her dormitory.

“When I was young, I would think, ‘I hope it’s not like this tomorrow,’” Harris says. “It was like a dream you were living in and it shouldn’t be happening. I used to wonder, ‘How did this happen? How did we get to be the worst people in the world because our skin was black?’ And, to this day, I still don’t understand it.”

But Harris felt safe and sure of who she was, largely because of her brothers and her father, a Baptist minister, who made sure his children knew the difference between right and wrong. When her father discovered that she and her brothers were secretly planning to retaliate by throwing their own rocks at the white students, he put a stop to it.

“He said, ‘No, you need to take a different route to school and avoid trouble,’” Harris says. “‘You won’t be like them. You’ll do the right thing.’”

ISOLATED, ABANDONED, UNDERESTIMATED

Harris began her teaching career in 1957 in the segregated elementary schools of coastal Beaufort, South Carolina, where she had as many as 40-50 students in her classroom



Harris (back row, second from left) in 1993 preparing to leave for a 24-day educational trip to Russia with a group of other educators and students from the Upstate region.

**“I USED TO WONDER,
‘HOW DID THIS
HAPPEN? HOW DID WE
GET TO BE THE WORST
PEOPLE IN THE WORLD
BECAUSE OUR SKIN
WAS BLACK?’ AND, TO
THIS DAY, I STILL DON’T
UNDERSTAND IT.”**



A newspaper article captures Harris assisting at a field day at Taylors Elementary School.



Harris (seated) with other class officers in her high school yearbook, "The Tiger," in 1952.



Harris teaches students in the Greenville County School District Challenge program in the 1980s.

THE COMEBACK



Above: Work in progress on the portion depicting Sage Criss, 8-year-old daughter of Furman Assistant Professor of Health Sciences Shaniece Criss.

Below: Sage Criss with van Helten.

and did her own research so she could update the textbooks that were often four-to-five years out of date.

She came to Greenville in 1962 and taught at two segregated schools, Washington Middle School and Burgess Elementary School. Then, in 1968, she was assigned to Crestone Elementary School, where she taught third grade and was the only Black teacher. All but one of Harris' students were white.

She figures it was no accident she was the only teacher assigned to a portable classroom at Crestone, where she was isolated from the other teachers and forced to figure out things on her own. She went to a PTA meeting early in the year and heard the parents of her students express their concerns about the new Black teacher who couldn't possibly know as much as the white teachers.

"I sat there and thought to myself, 'This will be the best year your children have ever had,'" Harris says. "I made it my business to work 10 times harder and make my students accountable for what they were learning."

And indeed, she did. By the end of the year, her students had fallen in line.

They stopped saying, "Hey, teacher," or calling her by her first name, and they started referring to her as Mrs. Harris, as she demanded. The next year, the fourth-grade teacher who inherited

her students knocked on the portable door with a question.

"Can you tell me what you didn't teach them?" the teacher asked. "No matter what I talk about, they say they learned that last year."

'BECAUSE OF HER'

After Greenville County Schools fully integrated in 1970, Harris taught at Sara Collins Elementary and was one of the first teachers involved in the school district's program for gifted students. She earned her master's from Furman in 1983.

Greenville resident Barbara Reeves was in fifth grade when Harris was her teacher.

"The thing I remember most is that her classroom was such a positive and happy place," says the 57-year-old Reeves, who has stayed in touch with Harris. "She was always smiling, always making it fun to be at school. I ended up being a teacher myself because of her."

Harris retired from teaching in 1994, but she didn't stop giving to the community. She has volunteered at numerous organizations over the years, including the Greenville Symphony, Centre Stage, Carolina Youth Symphony and Bon Secours St. Francis Health System. In 2009, she became the first Black person and first woman to serve as

chair of the St. Francis Board of Directors. In 2011, The Pearlie Harris Center for Breast Health at St. Francis was named in her honor.

“She is an extraordinary person with a big heart,” says Greenville resident Camilla Hertwig, who has maintained a friendship with Harris since the days her son was a student in her classroom. “She is deserving of every honor that has come her way.”

Harris does plan to slow down at least a little bit now that she’s in her 80s, which means she’ll begin to limit her board activity and spend more time at home. She never remarried after her husband, Marine Master Sgt. James Harris, died in 1987, and she stays in close contact with her two sons, one of whom lives in Greenville.

Perhaps it’s fitting that the mural on the former BB&T building on College Street has Harris towering over an area of Greenville that was once the site of the Furman-run Greenville Woman’s College, which Harris couldn’t have attended because of her race. The fact that she has a place there now, eight stories high, surely says something about the progress the community has made.

“I hope people are inspired when they look at the mural, that they see love and compassion for other people,” Harris says. “I hope they see I was dedicated to my job as a teacher.” ♦

“I HOPE PEOPLE ARE INSPIRED WHEN THEY LOOK AT THE MURAL,
THAT THEY SEE LOVE AND COMPASSION FOR OTHER PEOPLE.”

—PEARLIE HARRIS M ’83



The mural on Canvas Tower in downtown Greenville.

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Virtually every segment of civil society – business, government, medicine, academia, sports and national defense – advances under the recognizable leadership of women and men of character, courage and competence. They help define our collective purpose and give us direction. They seem to rise to the top during crucible events, inspiring us to achieve the seemingly impossible. We depend on them to articulate a vision for our future and to be decisive when it counts. We hold them as examples of what we strive to be.

This year, we celebrate 70 years of leader development at Furman University through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. In conjunction with May 2021 Commencement, Furman will once again commission officers into the active United States Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard. Since 1950, Furman has invested in developing citizen-soldiers who balance scholarship, physical fitness and leadership training to prepare for and serve the nation's defense. Today, the Paladin Battalion includes cadets from Furman University, as well as Bob Jones and North Greenville universities. These new officers will be expected to think critically and communicate clearly, to be adaptive and innovative, to make sound moral judgments in crisis situations, and to lead by example.

Until the draft was eliminated in 1973, ROTC training was required for all



LEADERSHIP MATTERS



able-bodied male Furman students. Countless Furman graduates have applied those lessons to successful civilian and military careers:

- **John E. Johns '47** – Served in the Army Air Corps during WWII, flying 35 combat missions over Europe as part of a B-17 crew. Furman University president, 1976-1994.
- **Col. Bud Alley '64** – Infantry officer who survived the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam in November 1965.
- **Gordon Herring '65** – Army signal officer who went on to become a leader in the cable television industry and a founder of The Weather Channel.
- **Vice Adm. Mike McConnell '67** – Naval intelligence officer who served as director of the National Security Agency

and Director of National Intelligence under Presidents Bush and Obama.

- **Lt. Gen. John Mulholland '78** – Special Forces officer who commanded units in Afghanistan and Iraq, ultimately commanding the Army's Special Operations Command.
- **Lt. Gen. James Pasqualette '83** – Infantry officer currently serving in the Pentagon as the Army's director of programs and budget.

Furman's newest affinity group

On this 70th Anniversary of ROTC at Furman, we proudly announce the establishment of the Furman Military Alumni Association (FMAA). Open to all students, alumni and families with shared military experiences, FMAA seeks to

connect the roughly 1,200 Furman military alumni and support the efforts of Furman's Department of Military Science to provide the best possible leader development and officership preparation for the growing Paladin Battalion.

Through mentoring and guest speaker programs, historical battlefield visits and other unique leadership opportunities, FMAA hopes to provide Paladin Battalion cadets with the same rich training experience enjoyed by cadets at the nation's military academies. Thanks to early interest and generous financial contributions, Furman and the FMAA have established the FMAA Fund, which will provide enduring support to leadership development at Furman.

To learn more, reach us at fmaa@furman.edu or visit furman.edu/academics/military-science/furman-military-alumni-association/. ♦

Major General Christopher Ballard '84 majored in political science and German. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2019 as deputy director of operations at the National Security Agency. Thirteen years of his 35-year career were spent overseas, including combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He lives in Greenville, South Carolina, with his wife of 35 years, **Michelle '83**.

TO SUPPORT FURMAN ROTC AND THE FMAA FUND, GO TO FURMAN.EDU/GIVE.

BECOME A

Young BENEFACTOR

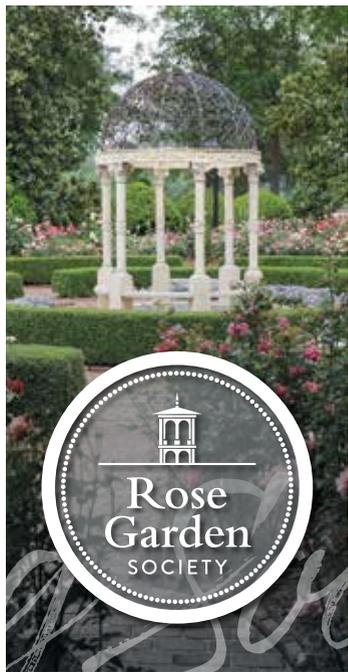
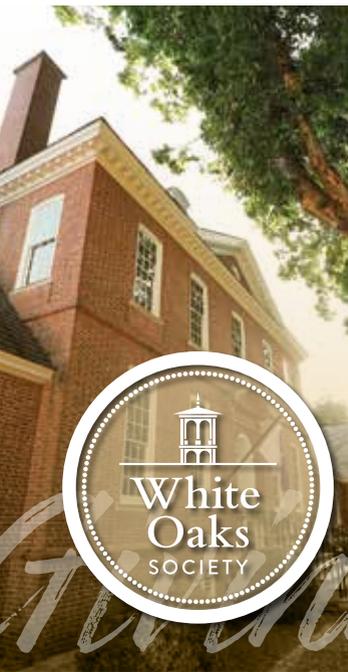
Young alumni are key to the future success of Furman. Young Benefactors celebrates young alumni leadership annual donors who go above and beyond among their peers to contribute to the places, programs, and people that had the greatest impact on them while they were Furman students.

Become a member of a key Furman donor community as you grow in life and in your career. Find your minimum donation amount to receive an invitation to Young Benefactors:

- CLASSES OF 2020-2018:
\$250/annually or \$21/month
- CLASSES OF 2017-2014:
\$500/annually or \$42/month
- CLASSES OF 2013-2011:
\$750/annually or \$63/month
- CLASSES OF 2010-2006:
\$1,500/annually or \$125/month
- CLASS OF 2005:
\$2,500/annually or \$209/month



VISIT [FURMAN.EDU/YB](https://www.furman.edu/yb)
TO LEARN MORE OR SCAN HERE
TO DONATE TODAY.



INTRODUCING
FURMAN'S NEW

Giving SOCIETIES

Furman launched new giving societies in January 2021 to better recognize and celebrate donors of all levels. Make your gift today to ensure your place in this year's inaugural class of society members!

LEARN MORE AT [FURMAN.EDU/GIVING/GIVING-SOCIETIES](https://www.furman.edu/giving/giving-societies).

CLASS NOTES



ALUMNI AWARDS
pg. 53, 55, 57



**THE WORK OF MASTER'S OF ART
IN STRATEGIC DESIGN STUDENTS**
pg. 65



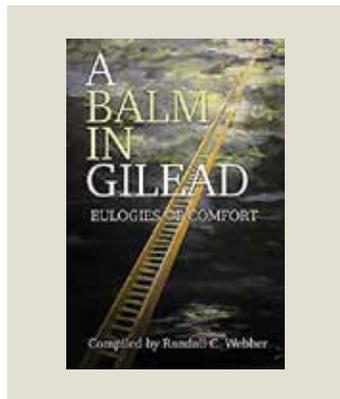
KELLY JACKSON DAVIS '94
pg. 53



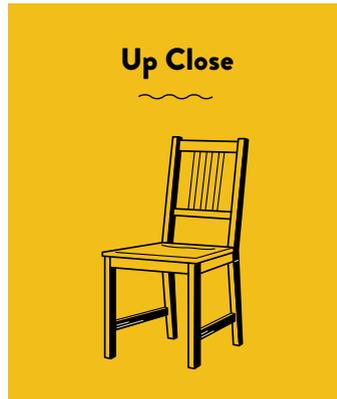
BEN HARTMAN '93
pg. 53



**BIG HEARTS, A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH
& THE NEW SHI INSTITUTE**
pg. 64



R.C. WEBBER '82
pg. 53



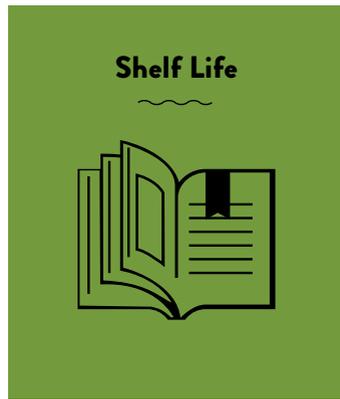
JESSIE COCHRAN '05
pg. 54



MAYA PACK '96
pg. 53



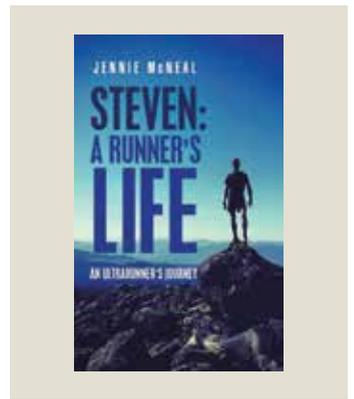
DEBORAH HARNISH LAROCHE '95
pg. 53



SHELF LIFE
pg. 62



ROGER N. CASEY '83
pg. 53



JENNIFRIED SNIDER MCNEAL '71
pg. 53

1971

◆ ◆ ◆

JENNIFRIED SNIDER MCNEAL published “Steven: A Runner’s Life: An Ultrarunner’s Journey” about her son’s experiences as an ultramarathon runner.

1979

◆ ◆ ◆

JOHN S. GREEN published “Whimsy Park: Poems for the Whole Family” under the pen name Papa Green Bean.

1982

◆ ◆ ◆

R.C. WEBBER’S anthology, “A Balm in Gilead: Eulogies of Comfort,” won the 2020 International Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Book Award in the Non-Fiction Religion/Philosophy section.

1983

◆ ◆ ◆

ROGER N. CASEY, president of McDaniel College, plans to retire in June 2021. One of the longest-serving college presidents in the state of Maryland, Casey took office as McDaniel College’s ninth president in July 2010, and oversees McDaniel’s campus in Westminster, Maryland, and the college’s European campus in Budapest, Hungary. Casey, a first-generation college graduate who majored in English at Furman, holds a Ph.D. in English from Florida State University. He previously served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Rollins College in Florida and as associate dean and professor at Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama. Casey co-founded the Associated Colleges of the South’s Teaching and Learning Workshop, earned

distinguished teaching awards from Birmingham-Southern and Florida State, and was nominated for the Carnegie National Professor of the Year.

1984

◆ ◆ ◆

TOM BOUND, a lawyer, published his first novel, “SHARKANO,” intended for young adults. It is a horror/adventure story about a teenage girl, Lexi, who spends the summer with her father, a volcanologist studying a long-dormant volcano in Hawaii.

1987

◆ ◆ ◆

CHRIS HILEY DONOHUE opened an immigration law firm in West Palm Beach, Florida, in July 2020.

1993

◆ ◆ ◆

BEN HARTMAN was recognized as a 2020 Legal Elite by Georgia Trend, a statewide business publication.

1994

◆ ◆ ◆

KELLY JACKSON DAVIS, a public relations instructor at the University of South Carolina, was inducted into the Public Relations Society of America’s College of Fellows. Davis was one of 15 public relations professionals in the nation selected for the College of Fellows this year.

1995

◆ ◆ ◆

DEBORAH HARNISH LAROCHE was named program manager for the Lowcountry Region

1996

◆ ◆ ◆

MAYA PACK was named the executive director of the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health.



KOVRT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES “JAY” BURKS ’89

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES “JAY” BURKS ’89 retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2018 and is believed to be the first Furman graduate promoted to general officer rank in the Air Force. His military career culminated as director, manpower, personnel, and resources, and Medical Service Corps chief, where he advised the Air Force surgeon general on healthcare and readiness strategy, a \$6.2 billion annual budget supporting 75 Air Force medical facilities, and career field management for 1,800 officers. Over 26 ½ years, Burks served in command and staff assignments, was an Air Force intern and RAND Corporation fellow, and deployed to Afghanistan. He earned a B.A. in business administration from Furman (1989), an M.B.A. from the University of South Carolina (1991), and an M.A. in organizational management from George Washington University (1999). He is board certified as a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and served on its local boards, national committees, Council of Regents and Board of Governors. He has also served on local and national boards of civic and healthcare organizations. Burks married his Furman sweetheart, **Valarie ’89 (Scheetz)**. As an Air Force spouse, Valarie led and served on base and community committees and boards at every assignment. The Burks are proud “pet parents” to two beagles, Mr. Cody and Miss Jersey. They enthusiastically support charitable work for animals, education, health, veterans and military families. For Furman, the Burks proudly established the Brigadier General (USAF-ret) James J. and Mrs. Valarie S. Burks endowed scholarship fund. ◆

At first glance, you may not see the connection between organizing a barge shipment on

the White Nile River in South Sudan and planning a glitzy fundraiser in Washington, D.C. But the same heart and the same talents fueled both jobs.

“If I look back, it all falls into place and makes sense,” says **Jessie Cochran ’05**. She might be “doing it at a warehouse or an airport, instead of a ballroom, but it’s the same sort of skills.”

Cochran recently completed four years in South Sudan with the United Nations World Food Programme, the world’s largest humanitarian organization, and winner of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

“It’s pretty incredible,” she says. “I can hardly believe it most times.”

Service is a way of life she learned from her parents. In 1994, Tropical Storm Alberto flooded vast stretches of southern Georgia, including Cochran’s hometown, Leesburg. Cochran remembers being in a church gym with her family, sorting toilet paper and snacks to distribute to people who had lost their homes.

She studied history at Furman, which she chose for the quality of its academics, the beauty of its campus and the depth of its commitment to the local community. Cochran was philanthropy chair of her sorority, Delta Delta Delta, and volunteered at the local Habitat for Humanity. “That eventually morphed into my career,” she says.

After graduating, Cochran moved to Washington, D.C., to work in nonprofit event-



FROM BALLROOM TO RIVER BARGE



Jessie Cochran ’05 applies skills and passion in nonprofit work across continents.

BY KELLEY BRUSS

planning and fund-raising. She thought she’d landed on her way to making a difference, and it was a life she enjoyed for eight years. But she found herself longing for more. “I didn’t feel like I was really living my purpose,” says Cochran.

Working abroad might put her talents to better use, she thought, but she wasn’t sure how to go about that.

“Travel the world and help people, which sounds so simple,” she says, laughing.

She enrolled in a master’s program in international development at the University of Denver, where she focused on operations and logistics and also earned a certification in humanitarian assistance.

“Then I had the education, the passion and the skills that I could put all together,” she says.

Logistics is a key component of humanitarian aid. During a conflict or natural disaster, the world responds with food, medicine, water, shelter – and somehow those supplies need to reach people in crisis.

Cochran finished her master’s program in Geneva, Switzerland, working on global prepositioning of relief supplies with the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

In 2016, she took an internship in Rome with the World Food Programme (WFP). Then she was offered a placement in South Sudan

with the Logistics Cluster, led by the WFP.

“I jumped at the chance,” she says. “I had heard from colleagues that if you can make it in South Sudan as a humanitarian, you can make it anywhere.”

Cochran was in South Sudan for four years, first managing the Logistics Cluster’s hub in the town of Wau, then moving to a position in Juba, the capital.

Her work involved sharing information between agencies, coordinating efforts and supplies, and logistics services such as warehousing and transports by road, river and air.

“We were the entity helping all the other organizations reach the beneficiaries with the items they needed,” she says.

One day she would organize helicopter flights, another she might be planning the cargo for a river barge. One day a road might be closed or a bridge could be washed out by flooding.

“It’s an extremely complex place to respond, while the needs are astronomical,” Cochran says.

The World Food Programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its role in preventing conflicts by preventing food insecurity. In fall 2020, Cochran was taking the break WFP requires between contracts. She spent the time quietly, gardening with her parents at their home in Georgia, resting on the porch. She was there when she heard about the Nobel Peace Prize.

“There’s still so much work to be done worldwide,” Cochran says. “It’s a good encouragement and motivation.” ♦



**BLACKWELL ALUMNI
SERVICE AWARD**

W. RANDY EADDY '76

W. RANDY EADDY '76, a retired corporate attorney and arts organization executive, legal scholar and civic leader, practiced law for 38 years – including over 20 years as a partner of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP and three years as general counsel and secretary of Unifi, Inc. He retired in 2018 and served two years as president and CEO of The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Eaddy, a 1979 graduate of Harvard Law School, was an editor of the Harvard Law Review.

At Furman, he graduated summa cum laude, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Blue Key and the Quaternion Society, and participated in the study away program to England (with studies at Birkbeck College and the Royal Shakespeare Institute). A member of Furman’s Board of Trustees for 22 years, Eaddy was also the university’s first Black trustee, elected in 1992. He has served on the boards of numerous institutions, including: the Winston-Salem State University Foundation, Reynolda House Museum of American Art, the Crosby Scholars Community Partnership, the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, the South Carolina Historical Society, the Georgia Legal Services Foundation and the Metropolitan Atlanta United Way.

Eaddy has published numerous articles in legal journals and participated extensively in legal education and academic symposia. His honors and awards include a 2010 induction into the Hall of Fame of Furman’s Department of Politics and International Affairs and the Presidential Award from the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists in 1999 for his service to the African American community as an attorney, legal scholar and civic leader. ♦

ABOUT CLASS NOTES

We welcome your submissions to Class Notes. Due to the amount of material Furman receives for this section – and the time needed to edit that material – items are often not published until six months after they are submitted. However, please be advised that we rarely publish items more than 18 months old and no announcements of things that have not yet occurred. When sending news of births, please include the parent 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.

2009



MELODY MCGOWIN became corporate counsel in April 2020 at Amazon in Seattle, supporting Amazon Web Services’ Sales and Marketing division. She was previously an associate attorney at the law firms of Pierce Bainbridge Beck Price & Hecht and McKool Smith in New York City.

HOW I GIVE BACK



ROBIN SULLENS '83

“Many, many people – some known and others unknown to me – gave so that I could be blessed with an education from Furman. Now, it’s my time to contribute to the family of Furman students. I am blessed to participate through my giving in their and Furman’s future. It’s a joy to share. I am twice blessed.”



Lauren Few '06 (right) and Taylor Hollenkamp.

A PROPOSAL UNLIKE ANY OTHER

Lauren Few '06, a psychology major who interned with The Riley Institute and played on the Furman women’s basketball team, hatched her plan to propose to Taylor Hollenkamp with a little help from The New York Times’ call to readers for “gratitude in six words.” Few’s six words? “Will you marry me, Taylor Hollenkamp?” They plan to marry in June.

In their 27 years of marriage, Nicole '92 and Robert Tideman Penland Jr. '90 have moved 14 times, traveled to six continents and lived in four countries.

"Our daughter Eliana, in just her short 10 years, has many stamps on her passport already," says Nicole. But before they were exploring the globe and became pros at living abroad, Nicole and Tideman were two Furman undergraduates who fell in love.

Nicole noticed Tideman in the spring of 1990, when they both brought other dates on a weekend getaway with her sorority. When his date – her sorority sister – had to get back to campus early, he stayed behind and hitched a ride back with Nicole and her date. Tideman asked her out the following weekend, inviting her to dinner at Bennigans, followed by a Widespread Panic show at Al's Pumphouse.

"I tried to impress Nicole with the fact that I worked at a bar," says Tideman, who majored in political science.

They both had a family connection to Furman: Tideman's maternal grandfather, **Donald Kesler '39** (business), and Nicole's sister, **Andrea Miller VonAldenbruck '90** (English), came before them.

The couple endured three years of long-distance dating when Tideman went to law school at the University of Notre Dame and Nicole continued her studies at Furman. To be closer to her, Tideman finished law school



WHEN HOME IS NOT A PLACE



Nicole '92 and Robert Tideman Penland Jr. '90

BY MORGAN SYKES

at the University of Georgia.

In the spring of 1992, the pair were hiking in the mountains north of Furman when Tideman proposed to Nicole at the top of a waterfall. They've tried to revisit the spot since then.

"But we can't remember where the unmarked pull-off is located," says Tideman. "I

just remember it was where a farmer used to sell boiled peanuts on the shoulder."

Because he was an ROTC scholar, they both understood that their married life would look different than their civilian friends' and families'.

"Picking up your household and moving every two to three years is a lot of

work," says Tideman, who is a colonel in the U.S. Army and serves as the staff judge advocate for the Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, United Nations Command, and U.S. Forces Korea, an assignment he began in 2018, part of his 27 years on active duty.

"We've had amazing experiences," says Nicole. They spent five years in Italy and Germany, traveling extensively in Europe and North Africa.

"Now," she says, "we're lucky to be stationed in South Korea because we've been able to experience Asia, which is different from anything we've done before."

Their nomadic lifestyle has led to rewarding professional achievements for both: Nicole, who has her master's in education from Vanderbilt University and an Education Specialist degree from the University of Virginia, has been teaching special education for 25 years and is licensed to teach in seven states.

When they reflect on their marriage, what sustains them is clear.

"I admire my husband's integrity as a husband, as a father, as a lawyer, as a leader," says Nicole. And Tideman is moved by his wife's "selflessness and kindness to the hundreds of students she's taught over the years." But at home – wherever it may be – "she's always loving, always kind, always supportive," he says. "She's my angel." ♦

TRIPLITT OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD



JASON TERRELL '12 is co-founder and executive director of Profound Gentlemen, which supports the recruitment and retention of male educators of color. Profound Gentlemen partners with schools, districts and universities that are committed to providing all students access to teachers who reflect their background, stories and identities. Terrell

is a recipient of a 2015 Echoing Green fellowship, which is given to transformational leaders. In 2017, Profound Gentlemen won the \$20,000 grand prize at Charlotte, North Carolina-based Social Venture Partner's SEED20 event. In 2017, Terrell and his co-founder, Mario Jovan Shaw, were recognized by Forbes in the magazine's "30 Under 30" list as social innovators working to bring about change and equal opportunity for boys and male educators of color. He holds a B.A. in politics and international affairs and philosophy from Furman, an M.S. from Johns Hopkins University School of Education, and a certificate in nonprofit management from Duke University.



On August 1, 2020 **SUSAN YBARRA '92** was appointed executive director of Furman's Institute for the Advancement of Community Health (IACH). In this role, she leads the institute in connecting the Furman campus and the greater community to optimize health and quality of life. Ybarra also works with Prisma and expands and grows other partnerships

to address social determinants of health. IACH's creation and management of high impact learning experiences for students remains a key priority under Ybarra, who is committed to creating a more diverse and inclusive healthcare system. Ybarra spent 16 years in healthcare administration and practice management in the Rio Grande Valley region of Texas and the Upstate of South Carolina. She returned to Furman in 2008 as the health careers internship coordinator, playing a pivotal role in creating the Clinical Observation Program and expanding Furman students' engaged learning opportunities in the local health community. Since then, Ybarra has served as associate director and director of operations for IACH. ♦



MARRIAGES



JENNA JORDAN '01 and Stephen Squires, May 23, 2020

CAROLINE MCMEEKIN '12 and John Montgomery, May 23, 2020

MADLIN WARD '15 and **HART ZWING '15**, June 6, 2020

CARSON PRIEST '15 and **CHRISTINA REINEMUND '15**, June 20, 2020

MEREDITH YINGLING '11, and Joshua Parmelee, July 18, 2020

ANNE-CLAIRE PITTMAN '18 and **CRAWFORD LEWIS '17**, July 25, 2020

KAROLLE RABARISON '10 and David Rose, Aug. 16, 2020

NATHAN DALE '19 and **SARAH MOYD '19**, Aug. 9, 2020



BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS



DIXON '04 AND NANCY ALLEN '04, Frances, Dec. 20, 2019

JADE LAWSON FOUNTAIN '09 and Jacob Fountain, Nora Jeanne, April 22, 2020

JOHN '11 AND SARAH CATMUR '11, Amelia, Aug. 20, 2020

CHARLOTTE '11 and Zachary Garner, Hadley, July 6, 2019

ADAIR MARTIN SMITH '13 and Marshall Smith, Lee Alice, June 23, 2020

OBITUARIES



JOSE VARGAS '44, Oct. 12, 2020, Garrett Park, Md.

EOLINE KEETER HORD '44, Sept. 11, 2019, Kings Mountain, N.C.

CAROLYN HENDRICKS FURMAN '45, Aug. 31, 2020, Greenville, S.C.

ELIZABETH GILLESPIE JULIAN '45, Aug. 8, 2020, Cocoa, Fla.

TIERCE MACHEN '47, Aug. 11, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

BETTIE TRUSSELL CREEL '47, Sept. 19, 2020, Greer, S.C.

HENRY BARTON '49, May 3, 2020, Greenville, S.C.

MAMIE HARRIS RUSSELL '51, May 13, 2020, Greenwood, S.C.

FRANK THOMAS '52, June 16, 2019, Sumter, S.C.

JAMES STEWART '52, Aug. 1, 2020, Greenville, S.C.

ALFRED PRICE '53, June 10, 2020, Lexington, S.C.

BOBBIE BOWIE SMITH '53, Sept. 23, 2019, Lexington, S.C.



THE WORLD IS HER COURT

Kim Bohuny '84 spreads opportunity through basketball.

BY RON WAGNER '93

Though the Iron Curtain was starting to crack, “right place at the right time”

isn't how many people would describe being in the Soviet Union in the 1980s. For **Kim Bohuny '84**, however, it's hard to imagine how it could have turned out any better.

“Hey, kid, how come you know all the Atlanta Hawks players and all the Soviet players?” Bohuny remembers being asked by David Stern, shortly after they met in the

summer of 1988 in Moscow. “I explained what I did, and he said, ‘Give me a tour of Red Square.’”

They, along with the Hawks, were in the country for Atlanta's exhibition tour through the Soviet Union, which saw the Hawks become the first NBA team to play in the USSR when they took on the Soviet national team three times. Stern, then the NBA commissioner, was realizing his vision of turning the league into an interna-

tional brand, while Bohuny was manager of research for Turner Broadcasting Network, which, like the Hawks, was owned by Ted Turner.

Creating athlete profiles for Turner's Goodwill Games in Moscow two years prior had made Bohuny an expert on the Soviet athletes and a relative expert on the country itself, thanks to frequent trips there. And her insight caught Stern's ear.

“He told me he wanted to talk with me as soon as my contract was up with Turner,” Bohuny says. “And I did call him right after the 1990 Goodwill Games, not expecting he would ever call me back. But he did, and I went up for an interview and they offered me a position to come work for the NBA.”

In the 30 years since, the league has gone from putting the “national” in National Basketball Association with rosters consisting of almost exclusively American-born players to boasting 108 international athletes at the start the 2019-20 season. Helping build every section of the bridge was Bohuny, who now oversees the NBA's international basketball development strategies as senior vice president for International Basketball Operations.

Bohuny grew up just outside New York City in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey. Her father, Bruce, was a professional baseball player in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization. Bohuny knew she wanted athletics to remain a big part of her life when she arrived

at Furman, which is why she joined the women's golf team.

“I would say I was the equivalent of the 11th or 12th man on the bench,” Bohuny, who majored in health and exercise science, remembers with a laugh. “It was a great experience for me because I played with the best. But it also made me realize I wasn't going to be a professional athlete, so I'd better get serious and figure out what I would do after school if I wanted to stay in sports.”

Today, Bohuny spends more than half of her life outside of the United States, leading more than 90 employees across 16 global offices. They have many objectives, but supporting international players and “getting basketballs in the hands of young boys and girls” through clinics and camps are among the most important and most fulfilling to Bohuny, whose efforts have assisted with countless college scholarships, educations and jobs.

“One of the best things about my job is we can change peoples' lives, and we can change their lives by giving them an opportunity,” Bohuny says.

Before Stern died on Jan. 1, 2020, he had transformed the NBA, and Bohuny recognizes that in some way, she's completing a circle.

“He was an incredible leader ... just a global visionary, and I owe my job at the NBA to him,” Bohuny says. “I really, really miss him, both personally and professionally.” ♦

NORMAN GILLESPIE '54,
May 29, 2019, Charleston, S.C.

FRANCES SHELL DRURY '54,
June 5, 2020, Collierville, Tenn.

ELIZABETH SWOFFORD BOLT '54,
April 18, 2020, Greenville, S.C.

MARY HINES DOWNS '54,
Aug. 23, 2020, Suwanee, Ga.

ANN PHILLIPS SPRUELL '55,
Sept. 1, 2020, Alpharetta, Ga.

SARA HIGGINS DORN '55,
Sept. 12, 2020, Millburn, N.J.

ROLAND RABON '56,
May 18, 2020, Camden, S.C.

BARBARA FOX LEACH '56,
July 13, 2020, Greenville, S.C.

WILLIAM WALLACE '56,
Aug. 3, 2019, Slidell, La.

MARY JO COLLINS MILLER '56,
Aug. 7, 2020, Morganton, N.C.

EMILY PEIRANO LYNN '57,
July 1, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

LEAH HUNTER BERNI '57,
July 27, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

ANDREW HARPER '57,
May 4, 2020, Mobile, Ala.

JOHN MCMANAWAY '57,
May 20, 2020, La Grange, Ga.

GWENDOLYN DEBERRY HENDRIX '58,
July 17, 2019, Dallastown, Pa.

DAVID DANIEL '58, July 23, 2020,
Midland, Texas

DANIEL VERNON '58,
April 1, 2020, Alpharetta, Ga.

RICHARD AUSLANDER '58,
Aug. 19, 2020, Leawood, Kansas

HARRY LEE ESKEW '58,
Nov. 29, 2020, Macon, Ga.

BENNETTA CLARY HARVEY '59,
Aug. 25, 2020, Summerville, S.C.

BUDDY MOORE '61, Aug. 25, 2020,
Easley, S.C.

MICHAEL COOK '61,
Sept. 11, 2020, Greenville, S.C.

NENA RICHARDSON THOMPSON '62,
June 14, 2019, Pendleton, S.C.

JOHN MCELHANEY '62,
June 5, 2020, Charlotte, N.C.

ELISE TRAPP FOSTER '62,
Jan. 27, 2020, Eastover, S.C.

JACQUELINE REEVES TIMMS '62,
Sept. 19, 2020, Spartanburg, SC

JOHN CHEROS '62, Sept. 8, 2020,
Greenville, S.C.

DAVID WATSON '63, June 18, 2020,
Travelers Rest, S.C.

FRANCES MCMILLAN PINSON '64,
June 19, 2020, Honea Path, S.C.

CAM GREGORY WILLIAMS '65,
July 31, 2020, Keswick, Va.

ENGRUM JOHNSON '66,
Dec. 8, 2019, Taylors, S.C.

WILLIAM SHERRY '66,
Aug. 2, 2020, Maysville, Ga.

LARRY BYARS '66, Sept. 12, 2020,
Greenville, S.C.

JOSEPH KEITH '67, Aug. 30, 2020,
Greenville, S.C.

KENNETH BRIDWELL '68,
Aug. 4, 2020, Travelers Rest, S.C.

DILLARD THOMPSON '68,
Aug. 6, 2020, Columbia, S.C.

JOHN DAVIS '68, Jan. 1, 2020,
Burnet, Texas

JACKSON CULBRETH '68,
Sept. 1, 2020, Dunwoody, Ga.

DAVID STEWART '69,
June 30, 2020, Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

BARRIE BARTON '71,
Aug. 27, 2020, Youngsville, N.C.

FRANCEE LEVIN '71,
Mar. 24, 2020, Columbia, S.C.

BETTY GIBSON COFFEY '71,
Sept. 13, 2020, Simpsonville, S.C.

SALLIE J. GRANT
1971-2020

SALLIE J. GRANT, professor of education emerita, died Dec. 11, 2020, in Greenville. She joined Furman's faculty in 1971 and retired in 1993. A former student noted that "she loved both teaching at Furman and the students she taught." Grant mentored new faculty with the same care she took in mentoring her students and enjoyed getting to know those new to academia, asking probing questions out of interest in someone else's perspective or cultural background.



JAMES PITTS '60
1937-2021

Former university chaplain and Professor of Religion **JAMES PITTS '60** died Jan. 18, 2021, in Greenville, S.C., after complications from COVID-19. He became assistant chaplain in 1967, university chaplain in 1981, and a professor of religion, retiring in 2003. His tenure spanned the first social dance on campus, integration and the Furman chapter of the Southern Student Organizing Committee, the student protest era, the Vietnam War and the draft lottery. Pitts also helped navigate the university through the separation from the Baptist Convention of South Carolina.

RUFUS BETHEA '72, Sept. 1, 2019,
Mobile, Ala.

DAVID GIBSON '73, Nov. 22, 2019,
Spartanburg, S.C.

ALICE GODWIN WICKS '73,
Sept. 15, 2020, Virginia Beach, Va.

SAMUEL CATOE '76,
Aug. 19, 2020, Columbia, S.C.

BARBARA BROWN CIRAVOLO '76,
Aug. 24, 2020, Aiken, S.C.

ANGELENE WILLARD '76,
Aug. 25, 2020, Cross Anchor, S.C.

BARRY WILLIAMS '76,
Sept. 3, 2020, Rock Hill, S.C.

JASPER HUFF '77, Aug. 30, 2020,
Greenville, S.C.

GOLDIE GRIER REEVES '78,
Sept. 14, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

WILLIAM ALONSO '89,
July 29, 2020, Alpharetta, Ga.

REGINA FLETCHER '90,
July 31, 2020, Mount Pleasant, S.C.

TERRY BRIDWELL '92,
July 30, 2020, Travelers Rest, S.C.

MARTINE MICHELLE BOUDREAUX '95,
Dec. 7, 2020, Summerville, S.C.

SUSANNA IACOVELLI '06,
July 1, 2020, New York, N.Y.

SPRING

SCENE AND BE SEEN



Furman's annual community breakfast honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was held virtually this year. **1 Jonathan Kubakundimana '16**, keynote speaker of the "MLK Community Breakfast: Where Do We Go From Here?" and project manager for Equal Justice Initiative, **2 Nagiah Ferrell '23**, who introduced Kubakundimana, and **3 The Rev. Rimes McElveen '96**, executive director of Mere Christianity Forum.





Members of the Young Alumni Council met virtually this past February.

Row 1 from left: **Lyndey Bryant '09, Leo Fackler '03, Dixon Dabbs '09, Madelin Zwingelberg '15, Nick Richardi '16**

Row 2: **Patce Crowley '15, Michael Keane '12, Clayton Moyer '19, Allison Foy '05, Jason Spencer '08**

Row 3: **Hannah Carlson '16, Claire Richards '10, Alex Dickson '15, Cherington Shucker, Crystal Brockington '18**

Row 4: **Sam McCoy '17, Justin Rourk '14, Preston Hull '12, Julia Black '12**

Row 5: **Kevin Jenko '06, Jodi Walker '10, Brann Fowler '11, Mary Kate McTague '18, Wilson Roberts '14**

To learn more, contact Associate Alumni Director **Leo Fackler '03** at leo.fackler@furman.edu.



④ Crystal Brockington '18
⑤ Julia Black '12
⑥ Justin Rourk '14



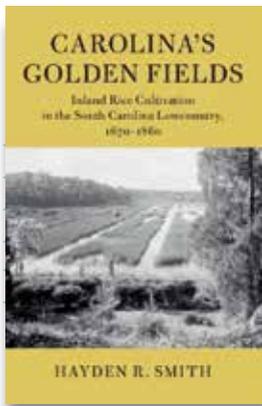
Hayden R. Smith '95.

SHELF LIFE

South Carolina's rice history, a lost baby with magical friends, and words that glimmer



BASED ON AUTHOR SUBMISSIONS AND PROMOTIONAL NOTES

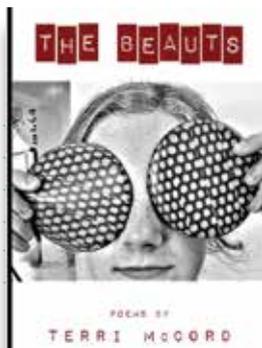


CAROLINA'S GOLDEN FIELDS: INLAND RICE CULTIVATION IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA LOWCOUNTRY, 1670-1860
BY HAYDEN R. SMITH '95

(Cambridge University Press)

Smith uncovers the often elusive and mysterious history of the early rice industry in the South Carolina Lowcountry. Inland rice agriculture provided a foundation for South Carolina colonial plantations and enabled planters' participation in the Atlantic economy, dependence on enslaved labor, and dramatic alteration of the natural landscape. Moreover, the growing population of enslaved Africans led to a diversely-aculturated landscape unique to the Southeastern Coastal

Plain. Despite this significance, previous historians categorized inland rice cultivation in a universal and simplistic manner. Smith challenges these interpretations by examining the environmental and technological complexity of South Carolina inland rice plantations, focusing on planters' and slaves' creative alteration of the inland landscape. Through detailed environmental understanding and mastery of primary sources, Smith's book is for audiences interested in South Carolina history, agricultural history, the history of technology and African American history. Smith teaches in the Department of History at the College of Charleston. He majored in history at Furman and took classes with history professors Lloyd Benson, A.V. Huff (professor emeritus) and Stephen O'Neill.

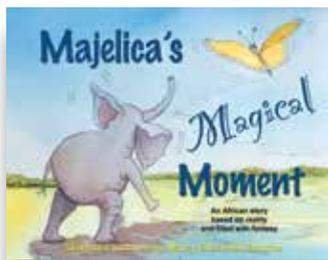


THE BEAUTS
BY TERRI MCCORD '86

(Finishing Line Press)

Terri McCord's latest poetry collection, "The Beauts," focuses on her unique, sometimes quirky perceptions about the world. Many of the poetic stories are nature-centered (or even science-centered) and describe the relationships we have with others, our furry friends and with the universe. McCord also loves to play with the sounds of language (as in "sky in silt as we drift"). The book's title refers to beauts in several ways, not

just as a fine example of something, but also as a kind or trustworthy person, and as an exclamation of pleasure. A visual artist as well as a poet and photographer, McCord loves images and color. "I continue to be surprised and delighted by her visual imagination. She sees both clearly and deeply – as her words sometimes glimmer, sometimes flare, always illuminate. This is a lovely book," says Gilbert Allen, professor emeritus, with whom McCord took courses at Furman where she majored in English and art education. McCord's works are included in the S.C. Poetry Archives, and she works with children and adults in visual art and writing.



MAJELICA'S MAGICAL MOMENT
BY NANCY BLACKWELL BOURNE '62

(Self-published)

At the age of 80, Nancy Blackwell Bourne wrote and illustrated her first book, "Majelica's Magical Moment," a children's book based loosely on a true story of a baby elephant left behind by her family at a watering hole at Kruger National Park in South Africa. Majelica wanders all day, becoming increasingly scared. Another herd of elephants comes to the watering hole to drink but refuses to let her join them. Fantasy takes over as

the baby makes friends with the other animals – a butterfly, crocodile, zebra, rhino, giraffe and hippo. Finally, the baby elephant's family returns and rejoices to see Majelica after fearing they had lost her along their journey. Bourne was a chemistry major at Furman, taught math at Winyah High School in Georgetown, South Carolina, and later became an insurance agent. She wrote the rhyming story with her right hand and painted the 32 watercolor illustrations with her left hand. Bourne divides her time between Asheville, North Carolina, and Pawleys Island, South Carolina. ♦

FURMAN
ON MAIN



Visit the Furman on Main section at *M. Judson Booksellers*, our partners in downtown Greenville, for Furman tees, gifts and books by Furman authors. **MJUDSONBOOKS.COM.**

from the Interwebs



furmanuniversity "It doesn't take a lot of time to do something that will have a lasting impact on a child," says Barrett Taylor '21 of volunteering with the Heller Service Corps. Head to the link in our bio to see the ways that they are impacting the community.



furmanuniversity We are proud to present the 2020 Year in Review. Despite the challenges this year brought us, Furman persevered and showed us just what they were capable of. Link in bio to see the Year in Review.



furmanuniversity Campus feels extra special this time of year. 🍁🍂



furmanuniversity Today the David E. Shi Center proudly announces that it is now the Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities at Furman University. This is a reflection of 11 years of hard work and progress for the Shi Center and we couldn't be more excited to watch them continue their work for our environment. Link in bio for more on this exciting news.



furmanuniversity 🎉🎉🎉 A big congratulations are in order for Trent Stubbs '20 and Greg Springsteen for the publication of their paper in Nature Chemistry, an extremely prestigious scientific journal. Link in bio for more on their groundbreaking work.



1



2



3



4

STILL

The work of the first graduating cohort of Furman's Master's of Art in Strategic Design includes ❶ "Chair" by Jennifer Thackham, ❷ "Tombstone" by Izzy Michell, ❸ "One Minute Saves" by Olu Ogunbi and ❹ "Chair" by Melanie Rankin. A virtual graduation ceremony for the nine MASD students was held in December 2020. ✦



University Communications
3300 Poinsett Highway
Greenville, South Carolina 29613

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



In September, theater arts students performed Caryl Churchill’s “Love and Information,” a play directed by Maegan McNerney Azar, associate professor of acting and directing and the chair of Furman’s Department of Theatre Arts. Each show was performed outdoors, promenade-style on seven “stages” before a 10-member, masked and distanced audience, and also filmed to provide online viewing. From left: **Isaac Gibbs ’23**, **Andra Enache ’24** and **Makala Fuller ’21**.