

Furman

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OF THE UNIVERSITY



FALL

2021

THANKFUL FOR COMMUNITY

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Q&A

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COVER

On April 16, the Furman community unveiled the statue of **Joseph Vaughn '68**, honoring his profound legacy and sending a message of belonging to all.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As you read this, it is about two months after the 20th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11. Around that time, we asked members of the Class of 2005*, who started Furman on the very day of the attacks, what they remembered about it.

Joe Waters '05 had just finished watching news coverage of the towers on TV before going to class.

"I'll never forget that Dr. Chris Blackwell (classics) made some remarks about how important it was that we began our humanistic studies on what was clearly a very dark day for humanity. Despite the shock of what was happening, he encouraged us to not lose sight of the importance of what we were doing in college and, in particular, in closely reading ancient texts in Humanities 11. The study of these texts would nurture in us the type of humanity that would be the most effective in combating the cruel destruction that flickered across our TV screens that Tuesday morning."



In this issue of Furman magazine, you will encounter other ways a liberal arts and sciences environment embraces us and prepares us to make sense of the questions and crises of the day.

The double flames of both conservatory-style music instruction and demanding academics at Furman helped to forge the incomparable Sarah Reese '71 H'14. She would prevail at Furman in the face of racial hostility and then rise to become one of the greatest operatic talents in the world – one that had been largely closed to Black artists.

Three professors – representing history, communication studies and philosophy – offer insights into how education may help to prevent future Jan. 6-style attacks on American democracy.

And Trude Heller, who died in May, had fled the Nazis in her native Austria, landing in Greenville into the protective, welcoming embrace of a university community that valued the free exchange of ideas and our shared humanity above all else.

So as we approach the end of our second full year of the pandemic and wonder what's next, draw on the gifts of your Furman liberal arts and sciences education, pick up an old text from Humanities 11, and know that you are uniquely prepared. ✦

*Read more at news.furman.edu/September-11.

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

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Editor's note: Furman magazine signifies master's degrees and honorary doctorates conferred by Furman as M and H, respectively, with the year for each appearing to their right.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

You can imagine my delight as I watched students move onto campus in August. After more than a year of pandemic precautions, we were poised to return to some semblance of normalcy.

I am thankful for the relatively high vaccination rates of our students, faculty and staff, which have allowed Furman to once again enjoy the learning and living benefits of a residential campus. It's exciting and gratifying to see students out and about, going to class in person, meeting with their student groups, filling the Dining Hall, enjoying football games in the stadium and engaging with their professors.

I know our students are thankful that our engaged learning experiences – from study away to internships and research, to connecting with alumni for career advice – have mostly returned to normal.

The pandemic has been difficult at best and devastating for many in the Furman family. As a university, we were thrown into unprecedented change and challenges.

Perhaps the most important lesson we've all learned from the pandemic is the value of community. Being part of something greater than each of us individually is a tremendous asset during times of crisis. It's also one of the greatest advantages to a Furman education.

One way we extend the Furman community is through our institutes. It's rare for liberal arts and sciences universities to have one institute, much less four. Our institutes are



THANKFUL FOR COMMUNITY



We're coming together to reach out to the world.

BY ELIZABETH DAVIS

built on a solid foundation of academics, highlighting Furman's long-held belief that solving our communities' most pressing issues requires a multidisciplinary approach.

The Riley Institute, Furman's first institute, has two main objectives: advance social and economic progress in South Carolina and beyond, and provide unmatched opportunities for Furman students. Through its Diversity Leaders Initiative, the institute has engaged with more than 2,300 people from across South Carolina. Fellows in the program have implemented nearly 300 community action projects across the state, from a food truck that serves free meals to children during the

summer to a luggage drive for foster children.

The Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities designs innovative ways to teach and learn about sustainability to promote communities that are socially just and equitable, environmentally sound and resilient, and economically viable. They are responsible for Furman's being recognized as a top-10 sustainable campus. In July, The Shi Institute's Community Conservation Corps was recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme for "benefiting society." Furman was the only U.S. institution among the six honored in this category.

The Institute for the Advancement of Community Health gives our students experiences with the community in research and other activities with a commitment to health equity, justice and diversity. More than 40% of Furman students pursue careers in the health sciences, and since 2016, more than 800 students have participated in health internships. Among other programs, IACH created the first Medical Legal Partnership in South Carolina and the only one in the country at an undergraduate institution.

The Hill Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, our newest institute, has already made great impacts by creating a state-wide venture pitch competition for our students, launching the Summer Business and Entrepreneurship Boot Camp and teaming with Greenville and South Carolina business and civic organizations to create GVL Starts to connect aspiring entrepreneurs to mentors. It has also gained recognition globally by being named an Outstanding Emerging Entrepreneurship Center by the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers.

Whether we are celebrating our community's return to campus or our outreach to the world, there is plenty to be thankful for this fall. We hope you and yours are well, and that you'll visit us soon, either virtually or, now that it's possible, in person. ✦

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Davis".



Around the Lake



Furman's Bell
Tower in fall.

JEREMY FLEMING

Benjamin Haywood kept a Rubik's Cube in his fridge at home for six weeks during the 2020 winter break. You can imagine it sitting there, between a jar of pickles and the OJ.

Haywood, assistant director of the Faculty Development Center, wasn't on a new plastic diet. He kept the cube chilled to remind him to pick up the darned thing and practice solving it, a multicolored condiment of frustration. Reach for the pickles, grab the cube and give it a twist.

He was practicing what he was preaching. Haywood had worked with his counterpart at Denison University in Ohio to create a six-week training program to teach faculty to solve the cube in five minutes or less. Its underlying purpose was to remind faculty how hard it is to learn something for the first time. After mastering a chosen field and teaching the basics of it over and over again for years, faculty can develop an "expert blind spot" around the needs and perspectives of a new learner.

Haywood and Lew Ludwig, director of Denison's Center for Learning and Teaching, added a wager to fuel competition: Haywood bet South Carolina peanut brittle that a higher percentage of Furman faculty would meet the challenge, and Ludwig put up Ohio buckeyes candy that Denison would win. About 15 faculty members from each school signed up.

Wall Street Journal higher education reporter Melissa Korn learned about the project and wrote a front-page story.



Benjamin Haywood, assistant director of Furman's Faculty Development Center

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE EXPERT 'BLIND SPOT'



Professors revisit what it's like to be students again.

BY CLINTON COLMENARES

"I was thinking about it in relationship to my teaching of acting," says Caroline Davis, a lecturer in theatre arts and education, who signed up for the program. "This would be a good way to remember what it's like to be frustrated by not being good at something right away."

She says a lot of the things she gets frustrated at her students about are things she

tends to do, too. "Your inclination is to avoid it or think it's stupid until you figure it out," says Davis.

The faculty who participated got a set of instructions and study resources each week, and they signed onto a message board to leave questions and respond to prompts about how the experience might inform their own teaching. Some of the faculty got very

competitive, some were data nerds about tracking their progress, others just had fun with it, and more than a few got frustrated with the instructions or with their inability to follow them.

"Due to their expertise, academics are used to appearing as if they know things and have it all together," Haywood says. "We were reminded that we're still human, too, and that it's OK not to have all the answers. That helps us build empathy with new learners in the classroom."

There was a long, live, virtual discussion at the end of the six weeks, and the faculty who met the five-minute time limit posted videos of themselves solving the cube.

Davis, who learned to solve the cube in less than three minutes, took some of the lessons into the classroom. At the start of the spring semester, she asked her Intro to Acting students to present to the class something they once had struggled to learn but ultimately mastered.

"Every student, when given the opportunity to show something that they're expert in, really stepped up and were passionate and animated," she says. "It made them feel safer to mess up later on because they've already shown us what they're good at."

Haywood was one of the two-thirds of faculty participants who ultimately learned to solve the cube in five minutes, and although Denison just edged out Furman in the final tally, each school sent the other their respective spoils out of good sportsmanship. ♦



‘WELCOMING EVERYONE, AS JOE WOULD HAVE DONE’



On April 16, we celebrated the historic unveiling of the Joseph Vaughn '68 statue in honor of his profound legacy.

BY JERRY SALLEY '90

Joseph Allen Vaughn '68 wanted to be just another student. But that was never going to happen.

A popular figure on campus, the Greenville native stood out as a member of the Baptist Student Union, ROTC, the Collegiate Educational Service Corps, the Southern Student Organizing Committee and the cheerleading squad. He excelled academically and graduated cum laude with degrees in English and French.

He was also, when he enrolled in January 1965, Furman's first Black undergraduate student. And now his statue is the first likeness of a person of color represented prominently on campus, as the focal point of the new Joseph Vaughn Plaza in front of the James B. Duke Library. The statue, by sculptor Steven Whyte, depicts Vaughn as he appeared in a photo at that time, as his classmates often saw him: walking the library steps, books tucked under his arm.

“We very purposefully placed it here in the center of campus, the most prominent and heavily trafficked part of Furman,” said

Furman President Elizabeth Davis at the unveiling. “It’s facing outward, welcoming everyone, as Joe would have done.”

After graduating, Vaughn began a long career teaching English in the Greenville County school system in 1969, working tirelessly to help his students and advocate for his fellow teachers as president of the Greenville County Association of Teachers and the South Carolina Education Association.

Meanwhile, the work that began with Furman's integration in 1965 continued into the 21st century with the creation of the university's Task Force on Slavery and Justice, the construction of Joseph Vaughn Plaza and the establishment of Jan. 29 as Joseph Vaughn Day, an annual commemoration of the day Vaughn enrolled.

Hundreds of students, faculty and staff, alumni, and family and community members attended the unveiling in person or watched online. After the speeches, smiling students began taking selfies with the new statue – welcoming Joseph Allen Vaughn to Furman once again. ♦



▲ “The Furman University that stood in the 1960s is not the Furman University that stands here today,” said **Qwameek Bethea '21**, president of Furman's NAACP chapter. “But we must not let his legacy of change go unanswered.”

Marcus Tate, a cousin of Joseph Vaughn who attended Furman, and President Elizabeth Davis unveil the statue. Davis said the statue serves as “a beacon to everyone, but especially to people of color, people who might feel marginalized, people who, like Joe, might at times feel like a majority of one.”



Lillian Brock Flemming '71 M'75 H'14 and Kayla Randolph stand with the statue. Read more about Brock Flemming and Sarah Reese '71 H'14, who with Vaughn formed a close-knit trio of friends, on pgs. 20-25.



The completed Joseph Vaughn Plaza in front of the James B. Duke Library, featuring a statue of Joseph Vaughn, Furman's first Black undergraduate student. The quotation at right is a statement he once made while reflecting on his experience at Furman in his historic role in desegregation.



Family and admirers of Vaughn stand with the statue after the unveiling event. More than 100 people from the community gathered on campus on April 16 to celebrate the unveiling of the Joseph Vaughn statue.



JEWELRY FLEMING



Students eat lunch and listen to the Singh Quintet during Furman Engaged in April.

THE FINAL STEP? TO SHARE, OF COURSE.



At Furman Engaged, students present their immersive learning experiences and show what's possible at Furman.

STAFF REPORT



MOLLY JENNINGS '21

When Molly Jennings '21 isn't working on her art, she might be fishing or looking for frogs.

But when she's painting, she is almost certainly tapping into the inspiration of those same creatures and many others. Jennings' senior thesis project, "Flora + Fauna at Furman," sent her – with iNaturalist app in hand – deep into some of her favorite subject matter. "I absolutely love nature and animals," she told those attending her presentation during the 13th annual Furman Engaged, a daylong celebration of immersive learning experiences, held in April.

Jennings' love for the natural world shines in her work, four 18-by-24-inch pieces depicting places around campus and the area's wildlife, including

a swan, largemouth bass, blue dasher dragonfly, red fox, Eastern gray squirrel and an American black bear.

She was among 650 students who shared their work during Furman Engaged. In all, nearly 2,000 people registered to attend students' presentations by video. This sharing – virtual this year due to the pandemic – is the final step of the students' deep learning experiences, which include internships, research, service learning, study away, creative projects, first-year writing seminars and capstone experiences. These opportunities are at the center of the university's signature educational framework, The Furman Advantage.

Students presented on a seemingly limitless variety of topics, including Dante's two suns, predictive baseball models, quilts as autobiography, dementia research, and the effects of diet on the brain.



NICOLE WEYER '21

NICOLE WEYER '21 worked with and observed genetic counselors during her internship with TriHealth Hospital System. She then used her internship experiences to shape her research on human cancers and genetic testing. And what began as an internship has become a job. Weyer accepted an offer to become a genetic counseling assistant at TriHealth, which will help her as she pursues a graduate degree in genetic counseling.

WILLIE CORNISH '22 hopes to compose music for TV, film and video games. In his notes about his six-minute piece, “The Butterfly Effect,” the music major studying composition cites the “metaphor of a small action, such as a butterfly flapping its wings, completely altering the direction and behavior of a large tornado/storm.” Cornish’s résumé lists 17 works, ranging from a West African percussion ensemble to solo guitar to a woodwind quintet.



WILLIE CORNISH '22

CALEB ROBERSON '21 spent one summer working with the Houston Astros’ front office. Using his experiences at Furman, he built a predictive model to help the Astros make decisions that increase the likelihood of winning. Furman Mathematics Professor John Harris helped Roberson secure interviews with five Major League Baseball clubs. The key to landing the internship, according to Roberson, was having a portfolio. “One thing that’s really helpful to get your foot in the door is to have some work you’ve done on your own,” he said. “Without that, I don’t think I would have been invited to any interviews.” ♦



CALEB ROBERSON '21

THEN



STEVE COTHCHRAN '86

Religion Professor Edgar McKnight’s Charleston drawl might just as well have belonged to a Lowcountry farmer.

Instead, he grew crops of Furman students who left each year more deeply rooted in their understanding of the New Testament.

In my first classroom experience – 8 a.m. Religion 11 – he highlighted our three test dates and instantly became my favorite professor after indicating we could drop our lowest grade.

Fast forward to our third test.

Weighing my solid B against a late night of studying, I exercised the preeminent wisdom only freshmen possess, congratulated myself, and slept in the next morning.

I awoke refreshed, enjoyed a leisurely shower, and strolled back toward my room around 8:15 a.m. I opened the door as the phone rang, lifted the receiver, and heard a frantic shout: “Stephen! We’re having a test! Where are you?”

Panic gripped me tighter than the towel around my waist as I stammered, “Uh ... I thought we could drop our lowest test?”

“Well, you’ve got to have one first! Get over here!”

Had Coach Dick Sheridan clocked me sprinting across campus the great **Stanford Jennings '84**

might’ve ridden the bench in the fall of 1982. In mere moments, I breathlessly skidded into my seat and stared at the test.

Racking my brain for anything remotely relevant, I cobbled together a pathetic amalgam of gibberish that could only be described as a colossal waste of time. Mine and Dr. McKnight’s.

When the bell sounded before I’d even seen the second page, I exhaled in disgust. There was no doubt this would be my lowest score. I sheepishly made my way to his desk mumbling, “Thanks, but I didn’t finish.”

“That’s OK,” he smiled through bushy eyebrows and thick spectacles. “Come back at 2 p.m. and you can do the essays.”

To this day I wonder why I didn’t say, “No, thanks!”

Almost four decades later, I know.

Edgar McKnight loved students and loved teaching because he wanted to share the truths that had been life-changing for him.

And his love was life-changing for us. ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steve Cothran '86 is an associate pastor to students and families at Central Baptist Church in Newnan, Georgia.

EDGAR MCKNIGHT, THE WILLIAM R. KENAN JR. PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF RELIGION AT FURMAN, DIED ON DEC. 29, 2020. READ MORE ON PG. 63.



Q & A

A NATION AT A CROSSROADS



Furman professors Cynthia King, J. Aaron Simmons and Savita Nair address civics education in the context of the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

In an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal*, Richard “Dick” Riley ’54 and five other former U.S. secretaries of education called for a return to civics education after years of polarization and the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, when a pro-Trump mob attempted to prevent Congress from certifying the presidential election victory of Joe Biden. Riley, for whom The Riley Institute at Furman is named, is also a former governor of South Carolina.

“A constitutional democracy requires a citizenry that has a desire to participate, and an understanding of how to do so constructively, as well as the knowledge and skills to act for the common good,” wrote the bipartisan group of former education secretaries. “Yet a history and civics education for the 21st century must also grapple with the difficult and often painful parts of our history – including enslavement, segregation and racism, indigenous removals, Japanese-American internment, denials of religious liberty and free speech, and other injustices.”

Three Furman professors shared their thoughts about this idea.



CYNTHIA KING, PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

The insurrection of Jan. 6 can inform a civics curriculum. (The fact) that political demagoguery disseminated across political media sparked the violence suggests that rhetorical education and media literacy should be taught alongside governing principles. A good first step is making civics education a national priority.

According to a 2018 National Assessment of Educational Progress Study “civics education is in crisis,” especially in low-income school districts. Funding innovative instruction in all schools and designing a curriculum with content that students see as relevant to their life are also important. Teaching students to use the levers of civic power responsibly and strategically is especially important for student members of marginalized groups who see their voting rights suppressed.

History and current events have shown us that student citizens are a force when galvanized. Strikingly, they tend to use their collective voices to reject bigotry and injustice. Viewed in this light, investing in civics education stands to yield reasonable and humane citizens who disagree stridently but have the good sense to know that mob violence will not solve problems.



**J. AARON SIMMONS,
PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

Thinkers from Socrates to Cornel West have stressed the point that far too often truth takes a back seat to narratives of convenience. Although the Capitol insurrection was a vicious

attack on democracy, it was also quite unsurprisingly internal to a political structure that has fostered conspiracy theories, trafficked in what the philosopher Harry Frankfurt terms “bulls---,” and viewed fear-based division as a tool for reinforcing power. In response to such a situation, placing greater emphasis on the importance of critical questioning in light of the realities attending to human social life is much needed indeed.

Socrates warned the Athenian political leaders that they would slide into error if they were not more committed to truth than to their own status. He was right. Accordingly, civics education may not help those already perversely devoted to the vice of racist and self-protective nationalism, but it very likely could show coming generations that wrestling with the big ideas concerning truth, beauty and goodness helps to guard against such vice getting a foothold in our thinking and social practice.



**SAVITA NAIR, PROFESSOR OF
HISTORY AND ASIAN STUDIES**

Civics education is rooted in 19th-century European aims of loyal and disciplined subjects – subjects of empire for colonies around the world and subjects of a nascent nation in the post-Civil War U.S. British authorities

imposed civics education in their colonies’ schools to counteract “disloyal” colonial subjects; the U.S. did so to “Americanize” a growing immigrant population.

Driven by a desire to “turn *pluribus* into *unum*,” civics education seems compelling; however, we first must reckon with the myth of a nation’s “shared history” as we resist the idealization of the “*unum*.” A nation is not a natural given, but a modern idea that aimed to align people after the demise of religious and absolutist loyalties in 18th- and 19th-century Europe. History education reveals a nation’s “constructedness,” with its fractures and failings, and thereby approaches its truth.

History education enables us to weigh evidence and present arguments about a nation’s actual past and present. Historians are truth-seekers, knowing that the “truth” – however elusive – must include the welcoming of many voices. With a brave approach of continuous questioning, a willingness to embrace struggle and messiness, we can create an ever more genuine, just and complete *unum*. ♦

NOW



ARIEL CRANK '22

Come Fall Orientation of 2018, I could not stop crying.

It was terrifying. I was embarrassed for having driven down 8½ hours from my suburban town in Burtonsville, Maryland, to simply break down underneath the hot South Carolina sun. Up north while filling out college applications, I wasn’t really aware of what I was going to do as a freshman in college. It was just to do the things that most 18-year-olds were planning to do.

The faces surrounding me were unfamiliar. People were laughing and chatting among themselves as I hung back within my orientation group. Back at home, in my high school, there were multiple races and ethnicities, but I didn’t see anyone who looked like me. And then the questions settled in. *What if they don’t want anything to do with me? What if they ignore me? How am I supposed to fit in? Did I make the wrong choice?* But over time, I made some new friends, and I realized that people were quite friendly here, even more than what I was used to up north.

I have benefited from therapy, and I am a lot more active with my friends and the people who are in my life.

Now, as a rising senior, I am still learning how to make more time for myself and understand how to identify possible triggers for my anxiety. A student success coordinator at the Trone Center and staff members with Furman’s counseling services and the Center for Academic Success helped to coach me on managing my tests and assignments and my stress levels. The whole experience of adjusting means that while I may struggle with anxiety, there are people who are able to help and provide the support that I need. To me, Furman is a support system, a web of connections that faculty and staff share with each other to work on building relationships with students.

I have also grown by acknowledging the fact that while life will not always be perfect, it will have its sweet moments, too, including hobbies, hanging out with my friends, or spending time with my family. Knowing this, the difficult times truly help me become stronger. ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ariel Crank '22 is double majoring in English, writing track, and philosophy.



James A. Lanier Jr. '79 and Mary Anne Anderson Lanier '79 have been impressed with how The Furman Advantage, Furman's signature educational framework, is advancing, and they want to continue to support the university's work.

The couple previously committed \$1.05 million to invest in Furman University's Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities and are now adding to the effort with a \$1 million planned gift to Furman, bringing their total commitment to nearly \$2.2 million.

Their latest investment is designated as unrestricted, which means it can be used in areas of greatest need. Their giving touches a wide array of programs at Furman, including The Shi Institute, annual and endowed scholarships, The Hill Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, operations and the Paladin Scholarship Fund.

"Specifically, to us, The Shi Institute, we believe, is going to be a key piece to positively influencing where The Furman Advantage is heading," says Jaime Lanier.

It was Mary Anne Lanier's late father, Ray C. Anderson, who started the momentum that is carrying his daughter and son-in-law forward as they support and encourage students.

"My dad started a carpet tile manufacturing company back in the '70s," says Mary Anne Lanier. "It's now known as Interface. He built his company from the ground up

'GLOBAL, SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE' STARTS HERE



James A. Lanier Jr. '79 and Mary Anne Anderson Lanier '79 make a new \$1 million commitment to Furman.

BY CHRIS WORTHY



James A. Lanier Jr. '79 and Mary Anne Anderson Lanier '79

within 20 years to become a billion-dollar-in-sales, publicly traded company."

But that impressive feat was what she calls "the warmup to his most important mission." In 1994, he shifted his methods, inspired change and began a legacy that permeates the

work of his family today as they encourage future environmental leaders.

It started with a book, "The Ecology of Commerce" by Paul Hawken, that someone had recommended to him.

"He said when he got to the second chapter of

that book, he just started to weep because he was so convicted about the way the manufacturing industry was destroying the earth," Mary Anne recalls. "He vowed then and there that he would figure out how to make his company sustainable."

Anderson set a goal of having a zero-carbon footprint for the business by 2020. It was achieved by those who carried on his vision following his death in 2011.

"When you have a shared purpose like that, it's just a wellspring of innovation, thinking outside the box and looking for new ways to do things," says Mary Anne. "For us, sustainability is very much a part of our DNA now. My dad's attitude was that business and industry got us into this mess, and it's the only institution big enough, persuasive enough and innovative enough to get us out of this mess - and who's going to lead them? Why not us?"

That attitude melds well with all of Furman's institutes, which also include The Riley Institute and the Institute for the Advancement of Community Health. Though they span disciplines, the institutes can and do collaborate to foster creativity and innovative problem-solving. And that, according to the Laniers, can create global, substantive change. ♦

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FUmerical

THE IDEA PEOPLE

The Hill Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship develops students' startup mindset by helping them imagine, test and launch a social or entrepreneurial venture through one of its signature programs – the Paladin Pitch Competition, the Summer Business and Innovation Boot Camp, Class E Podcast and the Furman Student Entrepreneurship Association. The institute's 2019-2020 Impact Report offers a look at its reach.



125

IDEAS PITCHED
*across eight
pitch competitions*

103

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
GRADUATES

*of the Summer Business and
Innovation Boot Camp
(college students) and the
High School Academy*

#1

The largest pitch
competition in South
Carolina history in
February 2020*

**more than
500 attendees*



16

PAID STUDENT
INTERNSHIPS

48

MENTORS
*from the business
community*



11

COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES

represented among the
students who attended
the Summer Business and
Innovation Boot Camp



40+

GUEST SPEAKERS



THE HILL INSTITUTE
HAS BIG NEWS!

*Read about it at
news.furman.edu/innovation.*



from the VAULT

AN INDISPENSABLE BRILLIANCE



The contributions of **Brad Cox '65** affect the daily lives of billions of people who rely on Apple products.

BY CLINTON COLMENARES



Many of us have to look no further than the palms of our hands to realize the impact Brad Cox '65 made on the world.

In the early 1980s, Cox, who grew up on a dairy farm in Lake City, South Carolina, shut himself in his home office with a passel of computer equipment and emerged two weeks later with the programming language Objective-C. Cox's company sold the language to Steve Jobs, who was running a company called NeXT during a moment of banishment from Apple. When Jobs went back to Apple, he took Objective-C with him. It became the basis for the Mac operating system and the root stock for Swift, the language used today in all Apple devices.

Cox died from complications of Parkinson's on Jan. 2 at his home in Manassas, Virginia. He was 76.

At Furman, he encountered his first computer, "a hand-cranked calculator in the chemistry department," he says in a Computer History Museum video. Cox majored in chemistry and math, then, intrigued by how the brain works, earned a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in mathematical biology and finally a postdoctoral fellowship at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

"Brad got all the brains in the family," says Dan Cox, Brad's brother. He thinks of his brother when he

pulls up a spreadsheet on his phone.

Etta Glenn met Cox when he was playing in a bluegrass band at a festival. "I had a little Yorkie, and Brad walked up and said, in his Southern accent, 'Sure is a cute little puppy you have there.' That was all it took." The couple married in 1976.

What made Cox special, Glenn says, was his 175 IQ. He also played guitar and piano, traveled extensively with her, and loved being outdoors.

Objective-C was one of the first widely accepted object-oriented languages, says Bryan Catron, an instructor in computer science at Furman who taught the language in an app development MayX class. Swift, the language used to program iPhones, and Java, another popular programming language, are both rooted in Objective-C.

It offered a "much more conceptual view of the world," Catron says. Pre-object-oriented languages were more fundamental. "If we were building a structure, with C you'd be talking about bricks. With an object-oriented language, we're talking about rooms and hallways and stairs."

With Objective-C, "you see the world as it is," Catron says. That was a new ability that led to desktop interfaces that allow users to manipulate computer files as they would real files.

Glenn says the advancement "set the world on its ear." Cox was invited to give talks about his development



Clockwise from top: **Brad Cox '65** during a television interview. Cox, seated third from the left, with Furman's American Chemical Society in the 1964 Bonhomie. Stock imagery of a coding language.



all over the world, and Glenn accompanied him.

Cox's business partner and mentor, Tom Love, presented Objective-C to Steve Jobs. Jobs had been ousted from Apple and had created a new computer, NeXT. Jobs used Objective-C in NeXT and took the technology with him when he went back to Apple.

The ubiquity of iPhones and Macs throughout the world might suggest a proportionate share of riches to Cox for his early development. In fact, Glenn says Jobs offered to license Objective-C to NeXT for \$5

per future unit sold. But the members of the board of Cox's company demanded a cash price that would prove relatively small.

Glenn says Cox "never recovered" from that deal. Still, Cox realized his work was something special. In a 2011 interview with MacTech magazine, Cox was asked: "So Apple's sold something like 30 million iPods and iPhones? How does it feel to have Objective-C running in the palm of so many people's hands?"

Cox laughed. "Yeah, it's pretty nice," he says. ♦

NEXT



ERIK CHING

The COVID-19 pandemic tested Furman's nationally recognized undergraduate research program.

Before campus shut down in March 2020, more than 280 students were preparing to serve as collaborative summer research fellows to nearly 110 Furman faculty members. That's more than 10% of our student body, over one-third of our faculty and roughly \$1 million in expenditures covered by diverse sources across campus. Few liberal arts and sciences schools can compare to that scale, and all of it was hanging in the balance as pandemic-induced uncertainties mounted.

In the end, Furman's campus remained closed in summer 2020, but the administration made the funding available, and we converted to virtual experiences, causing us to lose nearly 50 of them, mostly in the laboratory sciences. But, in a remarkable demonstration of agility and commitment to the student experience, more than 100 faculty members converted their research programs to virtual experiences and worked with 232 research fellows over the summer. They studied everything from soil quality in the Upstate – using a drone equipped with multispectral sensors – to portrayals of God in Americana music.

Perhaps most impressively, survey data reveal that the 2020 Summer Fellows rated their

experience just as highly as their predecessors, and in some key areas even more highly. If the pandemic has taught us nothing else, it is that silver linings exist.

During the research season of summer 2021, research fellows lived on campus and in-person mentoring returned. Two-hundred seventy-two students worked with more than 100 faculty members, who employed diverse formats – some virtual, some in-person and some a combination of both. One student wrote original jazz scores, another studied tectonic development of North America during the Mesoproterozoic era, and yet another examined the causes of death for American police officers who die in the line of duty.

Going forward, who knows? Perhaps virtual experiences will become a permanent option. Regardless, what we know for sure is that Furman students and faculty will continue to make good on The Furman Advantage by creating new knowledge and pursuing unique forms of creative expression. ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erik Ching was appointed the director of undergraduate research in 2017. He is also a professor in the history department who began his career at Furman in 1998.

Athletics Rolls with the Uncertainty

PLAYING SPORTS DURING THE ‘WRONG’ SEASON WAS JUST THE BEGINNING OF AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR.

BY VINCE MOORE

FURMAN HEAD FOOTBALL COACH CLAY HENDRIX EXPECTS A

certain amount of stress and anxiety in even the best of seasons, but he encountered a whole new world of uncertainty when the Paladins played football this past spring during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the season being moved from fall to spring, which was disorienting enough, Hendrix never knew what might be coming next. Southern Conference member Chattanooga canceled its season on March 29, just one week after beating the Paladins 17-14 with a team at full strength.

Wofford followed suit a little later, opting out of its season and forcing the Paladins to cancel their final home game of the season. Both Chattanooga and Wofford cited being unable to field enough players due to injuries and “COVID-19 opt-outs.”

“It was unlike anything I’ve ever been part of,” Hendrix says. “Because we have so many players, we had to do things like rearrange the locker room, hold groups out of practice and stagger times when players could be in the weight room. And I’ve never had another team on our schedule cancel a game.”

Nothing, of course, was normal during the height of the COVID-19 period, whether one was working from home,

going to the grocery store or playing a Division I sports schedule. Like all universities that chose to play sports in 2020-21, Furman faced the challenges of keeping its 350 student-athletes safe when the nature of their sports required varying levels of contact with others.

The bulk of that responsibility fell to Elaine Baker, Furman’s associate athletics director and director of sports medicine. She developed and implemented the department’s pandemic safety precautions and testing strategies, which had to fall in line with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the guidelines of the NCAA and Southern Conference.

Competition decisions were made by conferences and not the NCAA, so it was determined that cross-country and basketball would be played in the fall. The rest of Furman’s sports would be played in the spring, with basketball spanning both the fall and spring.

The NCAA categorized sports as high, moderate and low risk based on their virus-transmission risk. That risk dictated how frequently student-athletes had to be tested. The players of all sports during the season were tested weekly, with those in high-risk sports being tested multiple times within the week.



JEREMY FLEWING

Kam Brinson '23 and Ken Lamendola, inside linebackers coach and recruiting coordinator hug in 2021.



NOTES

FROM THE FIELD

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

When Furman's athletes weren't in competition, the university's safety protocols were particularly strict. Student-athletes were required to wear masks during all practices and weight room activities held inside. Masks could be removed during outdoor conditioning when individuals were distanced 15 feet apart.

Teams were tested weekly when in-season, and athletes were screened daily with temperature checks and screening questions. Each team was assigned a Sports Medicine staff member to closely monitor the health of the team on an ongoing basis.

"Our protocols were much more stringent than that of the student body," Baker says. "Our goal was to provide athletic activities without increasing the transmission risk on campus."

ANY SEASON WAS BETTER THAN NONE

Doug Allison, the men's head soccer coach, says there were many adjustments his team had to make. Playing in the spring instead of the fall led to different class schedules, which meant some players might be in afternoon labs instead of at practice. And then there was the human side of the equation, where his players could only have limited contact with friends outside the team.

"They're college kids who just want a normal life, so this wasn't easy for them," Allison says. "It was probably even harder for the freshmen since this was their first college experience."

But having any kind of soccer season was better than having none. Allison credits Baker, her staff and the team's trainer, James Finnen, for taking good care of the men's soccer program throughout the school year, which resulted in the Paladins winning the conference's regular-season championship.

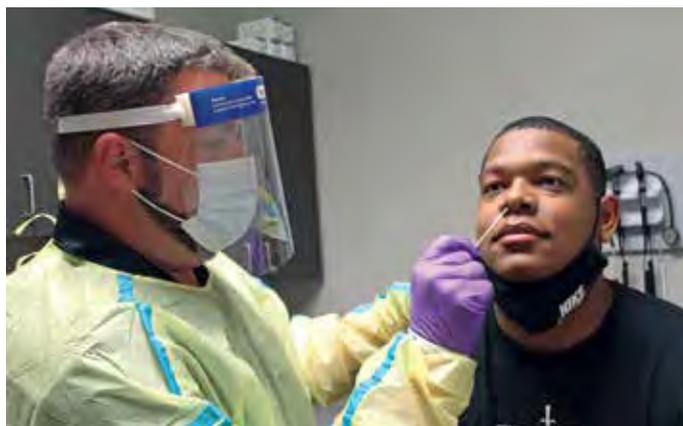
"We were very lucky that we could train and play games," Allison says. "[Athletics Director] Jason Donnelly and Elaine Baker were very clear about what we needed to do to stay safe and be able to practice and compete."

Baker says she was impressed with how the coaches and players held up their end of the bargain, and she recognized the "herculean" effort of her staff, who administered nearly 7,000 tests over the year and often came in at 5 a.m. to test student-athletes who had 8 a.m. classes.

"It took a tremendous team approach for us to be successful," Baker says. "We were able to keep the teams intact without having to pause and shut down activities for any length of time due to infection. Our common goal was to offer our student-athletes a safe environment for their athletic experience, and we were all rowing in the same direction."

SILVER LININGS

All in all, things worked out pretty well. All 18 sports completed their seasons and six teams won either regular-season or conference tournament championships (men's and women's cross-



Clockwise from left: **Jalen Slawson '22**, **Colin Kenney '23** and **Mike Bothwell '22**; **Sophie Shaw '24**; Craig Clark, associate director of sports medicine, administers a COVID-19 test to **Cole Neeley '21**, a member of Furman's football team.

country, women's tennis, women's and men's soccer and women's lacrosse). In fact, women's tennis won both their regular-season and tournament championships. All but men's soccer and women's lacrosse also earned spots in their respective NCAA tournaments.

A handful of Furman games were either postponed or cancelled because of COVID-19 issues, but none were due to the university's health situation, according to Todd Duke, associate athletics director for facilities and game operations.

Furman football probably had the worst luck of any team, with games being canceled and two league teams quitting

in mid-season. But Hendrix says he was glad his team was able to play, and it will help the Paladins when they get back on the field in the fall.

"We didn't have the season we wanted, but I'm proud of our kids, and I don't think they could have handled it any better than they did," he says. "We didn't have a single player who opted out of the season. Everybody wanted to play, and they were willing to make the sacrifices to do so."

Besides, Hendrix says, there was a silver lining to the COVID-19 season.

"We don't have a long time before we'll play again in the fall, which means I don't have to stew over the season for nine months." ♦



SPORTS BRIEFS



Katarina Kozarov '21 and Julia Adams '22

HAIL TO THE HISTORY-MAKERS

BY JULIE PARÉ '96

Furman's Julia Adams '22 and Katarina Kozarov '21 defeated 11th-ranked Ally Bojczuk and Julia Lilien of Notre Dame, 7-6(6), 6-3, in the opening round of the 2021 NCAA Division I Women's Tennis Doubles Championship at the USTA National Campus, claiming the Paladins' first victory in the NCAA doubles championship.

The duo ranked as high as 16th during the 2021 season and tallied a 20-3 dual match record at flight one, including a 5-1 SoCon mark.

A three-time SoCon Player of the Year, Kozarov has ranked as high as 7th nationally in singles

during the 2021 season. A first-team all-conference selection for both singles and doubles, Kozarov notched a 23-1 record at flight one singles with eight victories over ranked opponents and was a perfect 7-0 in league play. The Novi Sad, Serbia, native was seeded among the top 16 and was the only seeded player not from a Power 5 school. In June, she was honored as a 2021 Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Division I All-American for singles. It's only the third All-American citation in the history of the Furman women's tennis program, and Kozarov became the first

Paladin to earn the distinction twice. **Laura (Gioia) Goodwin '09** was honored as an All-American in 2009.

"We are thrilled for Katarina to become the first two-time All-American in school history," said Furman head coach Adam Herendeen. "When she committed to coming back for her fifth year, this is exactly the kind of season that we had planned. Her impact on our program is immeasurable, and we could not be more proud of everything that she has helped our program achieve."

In the spring, the Paladins rewrote the record books, rising as high as 23rd in the ITA national rankings, marking the highest ranking in program history. ♦

THEY WEAR RUNNING SHOES TO WORK

STAFF REPORT

Gabbi Jennings '20 and **Ryan Adams '20** are starting their careers in professional running. Jennings, who was voted the 2020-21 Southern Conference Female Athlete of the Year, signed a contract with Team Boss and inked a sponsorship deal with Adidas, while Adams signed with Atlanta Track Club Elite.

"Gabbi and Ryan are perfect examples of what our program wants to achieve," says Furman cross-country and track and field head coach

Robert Gary. "Both were excellent students who developed athletically season by season, year after year, to national class runners. Both have been well-equipped with a Furman degree coupled with The Furman Advantage – internships and study abroad opportunities – that set them up to focus their immediate energies on being professional runners."

Jennings, from Slidell, Louisiana, is the 10th Paladin to earn the SoCon Female Athlete of the Year award and the second Furman women's cross-country and track athlete to be honored, joining **Heather VandeBrake '96**. Adams, of Hudson, Ohio, was named a SoCon Runner of the Year in 2020 and was an All-American for cross-country, indoor track (the mile and 3,000m), and outdoor track (1,500m). ♦



Gabbi Jennings '20

A portrait of Reese as a world-renowned opera star in the 1980s.

THE SOLOIST

The courage of *Sarah Reese '71 H'14* would lift generations. Her brilliance would span continents.

By Sarita Chourey



*Sarah Reese '71 H'14
in the 1968 Bonhomie*

SOMEONE HAD CALLED SECURITY.

The reason for the concern? A teenage girl had shown up with her mother, her voice teacher, her high school principal, and a member of the Black fraternity Omega Psi Phi. The group had come to support the girl in her crucial moment – her voice audition before Furman’s music faculty. The teen’s name was Sarah Reese, and she had an appointment. But no one was expecting a Black student.

“Furman had no idea who was coming to dinner,” says Reese, who grew up in rural Pelzer, South Carolina, and graduated from Furman in 1971. “Here was this little brown girl who had no idea of the magnitude of this. It means even more to me now than it did then that people had fought for me to have an audition.”

Reese would become a world-famous opera singer, making her New York debut in 1981 and

performing with some of the world’s most famous orchestras and conductors, becoming the principal artist with the New York Metropolitan Opera and artist-in-residence at the Opera Company of Boston.

But first, while earning her music degree, she would do the solitary, heavy work of forging racial progress in Greenville, South Carolina.

'SOME KIND OF LONELY'

Reese was one of Furman's first Black students, her time overlapping with that of **Joseph Vaughn '68**. Vaughn was Furman's first Black undergraduate after desegregation in 1965.

Reese, Vaughn and **Lillian Brock Flemming '71 M'75 H'14**, another Black student, were "the three musketeers."

But their bond could not protect Reese from the stares of white students, the insults from a professor ("nincompoo"), and the refusal of students to room with her after her first roommates – progressive white women – had graduated after her first year. Reese and her roommates had attended the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral together in Georgia, and even slept on the ground during the trip. After those roommates graduated, however, Reese was left to live in a room alone next to the house mother's quarters.

"It was some kind of lonely when Lillian wasn't on campus or Joe was busy," says Reese. "Most of the time, 95% of the time, you're sitting there alone, and nobody wanted to sit with you. Or they'd kind of sit with you and leer."

And there was the "brick in the hat."

"Cowards," says Reese, would run by and hurl bricks at Reese's and the other Black students' heads in the dark when the friends gathered in the Rose Garden after dinner.

"Those were the times of our society, not just Furman," she says. "At the same time, the education I got from Furman, musically, I could compete with anybody anywhere, and academically."

A SPECIAL BOND

In the moments when Reese was bent by the weight of the time, it was Vaughn who stood her back up.

"Joe was always there, always," she says. "If I said, 'I am going to quit, I can't stand it any longer,' he'd say, 'You have to (stay). You're not going anywhere.'"

Vaughn was their big brother, their rock, protector and "papa." In 1968, after the Orangeburg Massacre, Vaughn, Reese and Flemming demonstrated in downtown Greenville, part of a march he had organized. That day, a man tried to run them over with his car, leaving the friends stunned.

On ordinary days, Flemming and Reese would go to Furman football games to cheer on Vaughn, a cheerleader, who made up his own infectious cheer but never hoisted the white female cheerleaders. Vaughn, today a Furman icon, died in 1991.

'A LUSCIOUS VOICE WITH DRAMATIC BITE'

Reese was, quite simply, a star.

She was "a young soprano who has it all – a luscious voice with dramatic bite and astonishing coloratura agility, disarmingly natural musical instincts and a compelling stage presence," concluded *The New York Times* in September 1981.

Nearly two years later, the *Times* described her as "a wonderfully pure, sure soprano that seemed to grow in beauty and confidence as the afternoon progressed," as Fevronia in Rimsky-Korsakov's "Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh and the Maiden Fevroniya."

In 1983, Reese might have stepped out of the composer's own imagination, her voice soaring.



A portrait of Reese in the 1970s.

The Times declared that her role in “Turandot” was “as Puccini envisioned her.”

“Her melodic lines were fluid and supplicatory, but no less assured or compelling in her fine accusatory aria of the final act; earlier, ‘Signora, ascolta’ was touchingly compassionate,” said the Times. And later: “Miss Reese’s performance seemed much larger than its deliberately small-scaled sensitivity.”

She was the featured soloist on the 1993 Grammy Award-winning recording “Prayers of Kierkegaard” with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and made her Carnegie Hall debut with The



Clockwise from top: Reese performing in “La Boheme,” “Turandot,” and “The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh and the Maiden Fevroniya” in the early 1980s. Center: Reese in the 1980s.



**“MISS REESE’S PERFORMANCE
SEEMED MUCH LARGER THAN
ITS DELIBERATELY SMALL-
SCALED SENSITIVITY.”
– THE NEW YORK TIMES**

*Reese in “The Legend
of the Invisible City of
Kitez and the Maiden
Fevroniya” in 1983.*

OPERA COMPANY OF BOSTON PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF ELLIOT J. COHEN. CREDIT: MILTON FEINBERG.

American Composers Orchestra in 1995. Reese performed in Switzerland, England, France, Monte Carlo, Italy and Russia, and traveled to Toulouse, Strasbourg, Dusseldorf and Cologne with the Festival Orchestra of Sofia Bulgaria, as the soprano soloist in Verdi's "Requiem" and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. She also performed with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

HOMECOMING

In her later years, Reese returned to the swaying loblolly pines of rural South Carolina. She taught music at Pendleton High School and chaired the school's fine arts department. Reese was named a Yale Distinguished Music Educator

in 2013, and the following year, Furman conferred upon her a Doctor of Humanities.

In early 2020, Reese and Flemming attended the homecoming basketball game at the invitation of Furman President Elizabeth Davis. The national anthem played as Reese, in tears, looked out across the stands.

"We just wept to see so many African Americans joyfully frolicking with other human beings without duress," she remembers. Such a sight would have been unimaginable when she was a student.

Reese fills with emotion when she recalls her experiences at Furman.

"I love Furman. Furman is the reason," she says, nearly whispering, as her thoughts travel back.

"We grew up at Furman." ♦



Clockwise from left: Reese during a homecoming parade in 1992 when she received a Distinguished Alumni Award; Reese with President Bill Clinton and a friend; with Furman President Elizabeth Davis in 2014, the year the university conferred upon her a Doctor of Humanities; Reese when she was named to the Yale University Distinguished Music Educators list in 2013.





THE ATHLETE ARCHITECT

BY
VINCE
MOORE

**CAN YOU DESIGN A GREAT FOOTBALL PLAYER?
FOR HEALTH SCIENCES PROFESSOR TONY CATERISANO,
29 YEARS OF PLAYER DATA OFFER A BLUEPRINT.**

When **Tony Caterisano** joined the health sciences department at Furman in 1984, he was convinced that strength training needed to be an important part of any physical regimen that fosters good health and peak performance. But he was an outlier in that area. Cardiovascular exercise was considered to be the true way to better health, and a fellow professor in the department, the late and delightfully acerbic Sandor Molnar, never missed a chance to remind him of that.

When Molnar would go for one of his runs, often from the Physical Activities Center to the top of Paris Mountain and back, he would see Caterisano working out in the tiny, underequipped weight room and implore the young professor to join him. It would be good for your heart, Molnar would say, unlike your preoccupation with weightlifting.

“I would say, ‘No, I’m going to lift,’” Caterisano says. “Then he would smile and tell me I would leave a good-looking corpse after I was gone.”

Health sciences professor Tony Caterisano amid the weights at Furman’s Herman W. Lay Physical Activities Center.



As it turns out, Caterisano was right about strength training. It has long since proven to be every bit as important as cardiovascular exercise for maintaining overall health. It's no coincidence that over the last few decades, Furman's PAC has gone from having a couple of little-used weight machines in the basement to a phalanx of new, high-tech equipment at its center.

Caterisano never doubted he was right about the benefits of strength training, but he was determined to prove why through his research. And thanks to a friendship he formed when he was doing graduate work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he would have a unique way to test what he was learning.

That friend was Mike Gentry, a fellow graduate assistant and powerlifting partner who would go on to become one of college football's first



IT'S KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STRENGTH AND POWER, AND HOW WE DEVELOP POWER DIFFERENTLY THAN WE DO STRENGTH.

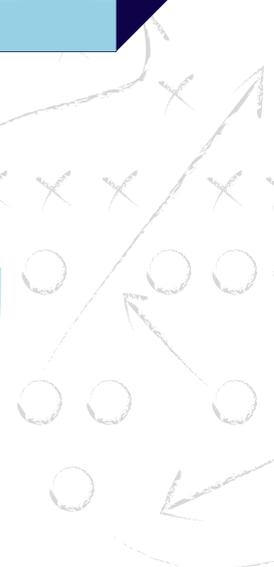


strength and conditioning coaches at Virginia Tech. The two stayed in close touch, sharing their strength training theories and the research Caterisano was doing at Furman.

They would ultimately co-author two books – “A Chance to Win” (2005) and “The Ultimate Guide to Physical Training for Football” (2013) – and watch the sport be transformed by the burgeoning size and speed of the players. Virginia Tech, meanwhile, became a college football powerhouse during Gentry's 29 years at the school, producing

ACC championships, All-American players and NFL stars.

“We were developing our own theories, which were sometimes flying in the face of what the books were saying,” says Caterisano, whose theories weren't purely academic. He has won dozens of weightlifting championships over the years and can bench press 285 pounds at age 69.



JEREMY FLEMING | DAVE KNACHEL



Left to right: **Elijah McKoy '21** tackles a Wofford player in 2021. **Chase Shaner '20**, **Mike Caterisano '21** and professor Tony Caterisano transfer the Virginia Tech football physical test written data to a spreadsheet to run a statistical analysis.



Mike Gentry

STRENGTH VERSUS POWER

So why have football players become so much bigger, stronger and faster over the past four decades? They've always lifted weights and run sprints, but as Caterisano and others have learned, there is a science behind successfully blending speed, size and power.

"When I was growing up, a 300-pound lineman who could run a 40-yard dash in under five seconds was unheard of," he says. "How does that happen? Don't tell me it's steroids. It's not."

The answer? Better training, he says.

"It's knowing the difference between strength and power, and how we develop power differently than we

do strength. In the old days, if had a lineman who could squat 600 pounds, I would have wanted to get him to 700 pounds," says Caterisano.

"But if that lineman can't play low to the ground and block guys and move his feet fast enough to lead a running back on a sweep, it doesn't matter how much he can squat."

It became clear that linemen also need to be faster and more agile.

THE DATA – UNIQUELY CONSISTENT AND COPIOUS

Gentry kept meticulous records during his 29 years at Virginia Tech, compiling reams of data on every football player who came through the program. He routinely tested for size, strength, power, speed and agility, and he updated that information throughout the players' careers.

When Gentry retired from Virginia Tech in 2016, he made Caterisano an intriguing offer. How would he like to have all the player information Gentry had collected over the years?



Clockwise from top: Advice posted inside Caterisano's office; the professor, Chase Shaner and Mike Caterisano review performance data; a weightlifting trophy displayed in Tony Caterisano's office.



“The uniqueness of Mike’s data sets is that they’re so consistent,” Caterisano says. “He was with the same football program for 29 years, testing the players exactly the same way over that time. The more data you have, the more robust the statistical analysis is going to be.”

So Caterisano gladly accepted what may well be the country’s largest and most comprehensive data set measuring the physical improvement of college football players. He enlisted the help of **Chase Shaner ’20** and his son, **Mike Caterisano ’21**, to help organize the information in spreadsheets. It was a labor-intensive, three-year project, especially since some of the early data was handwritten.

Then there was the matter of what to do with all that information.

A PATTERN TO THEIR SUCCESS

Over 29 years, some Virginia Tech players started, some became All-Americans, some played in the NFL, and some never cracked the starting lineup. Caterisano wondered if it was possible to do a statistical analysis of the successful players and see if there was a pattern to their success.

Since quarterbacks and wide receivers need different skills and training methods than linebackers and linemen, he and the students divided the players into categories and studied them individually. What they discovered would lead to presentations at the American College of Sports Medicine national conventions in 2018 and 2019. Caterisano is preparing the findings for publication.

“You could predict success for skill players (quarterbacks, wide receivers, running backs, defensive backs) when they increased their body mass, bench

press max, back squat max and vertical jump,” Caterisano says. “Big speed players (tight ends, fullbacks, linebackers, defensive ends) who improved their bench max and 20-yard shuttle time had the most success. For linemen, improvement in the bench press max was the only measure that predicted success.”

Likewise, the players who spent at least two years in the program and never made the starting lineup showed little or no improvement in those critical areas. (“They didn’t get better at the right things.”)

Caterisano says he is excited to share his findings with any football coaches who might be interested. He points to the Michael Lewis book “Moneyball,” which chronicled how Major League Baseball’s Oakland Athletics used data and statistical analysis to build a highly competitive team.

“I’d like to think a coach could look at our final product and figure out ways to use the data to be more successful, both with their recruiting and their training and conditioning programs,” says Caterisano. “There is some predictive data there.”

Gentry says he is impressed with the work Caterisano and the students did with his data, which he believes verifies that their training theories were correct. And he is particularly thankful he met Caterisano those many years ago at UNC.

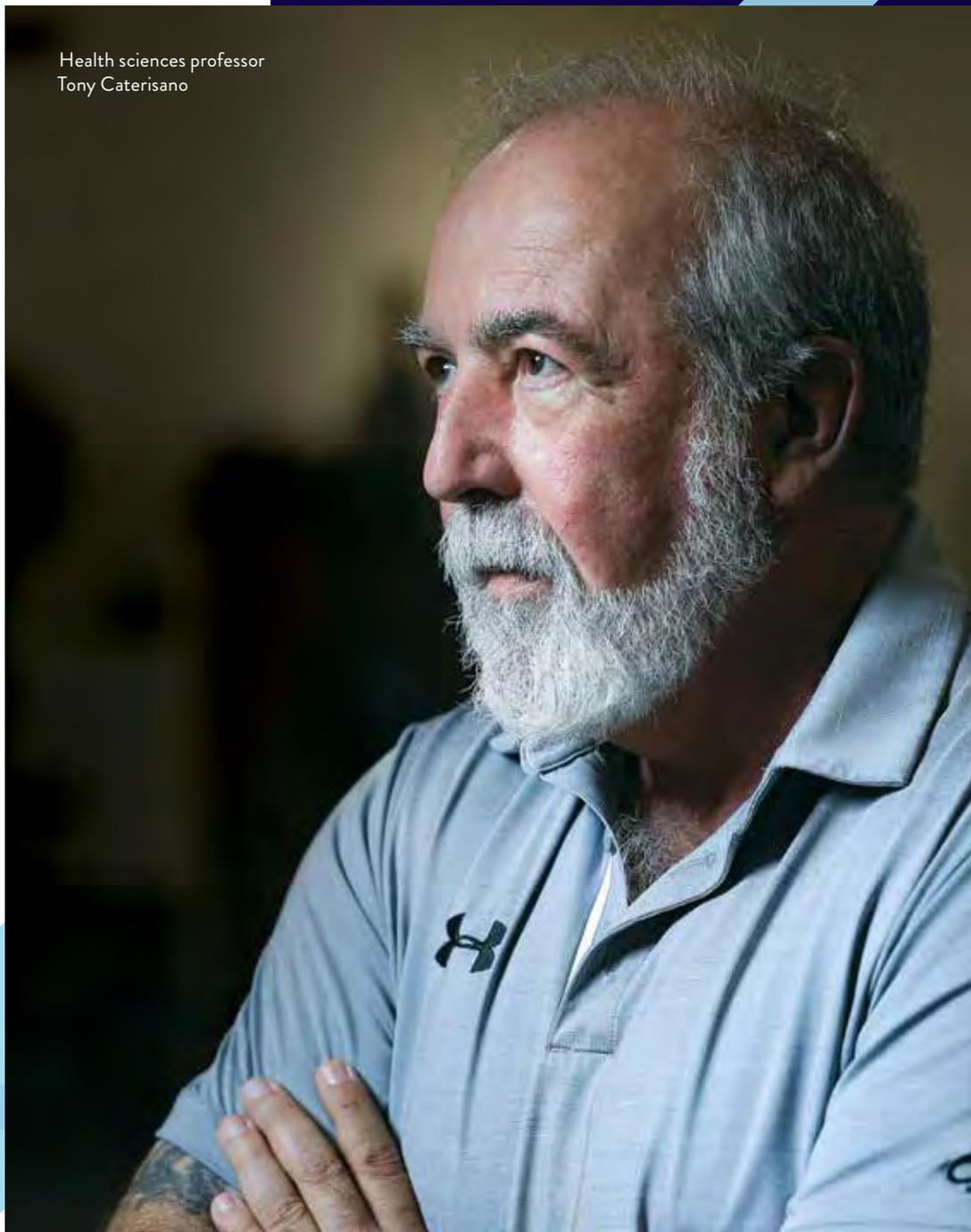
“Tony and I had a great partnership, which was a merger of the practical and the scientific,” says Gentry. “We both had our theories, and I could rely on Tony’s academic background in exercise science to make sense of it all. We made a good team.” ♦

“

I’D LIKE TO THINK A COACH COULD LOOK AT OUR FINAL PRODUCT AND FIGURE OUT WAYS TO USE THE DATA TO BE MORE SUCCESSFUL.

”

Health sciences professor
Tony Caterisano



The new Joseph Vaughn Plaza in front of the James B. Duke Library on Furman's campus. The statue of **Joseph Vaughn '68**, the university's first Black undergraduate student, was unveiled on April 16. *Read more on pg. 6.*





BUCHANAN DUKE LIBRARY



"Put the library of one."

"Make sure you're a part of someone's education."



*Associate Professor of Biology
John Quinn at Greenbrier Farms
in Easley, South Carolina.*

Birdsong: Hearing New Opportunities

Walk outside and listen. What do you hear?

— By Clinton Colmenares —

If you're with John Quinn, you'll become aware of the calls of songbirds that make up a soundscape of a field, the *teakettle teakettle teakettle* of the Carolina wren, the Eastern meadowlark's flutelike call, the rowdy jeer of blue jays and the whistle of the field sparrow that has been likened to the sound of a dropped ping-pong ball.

Quinn can't help but notice the distinct sounds. Birds are part of his being, literally and figuratively, from birding with his father in his boyhood Minnesota to the winged meadowlarks and wrens tattooed on his arm and torso. But as a conservation biologist, Quinn hears more than birdcalls in the tweets and whistles and songs of his feathered friends – he hears opportunity: the potential to rethink farming and ranching practices in ways that transform ecology and recast agricultural goods.

“So often, farms are seen as only producing food,” says Quinn, associate professor of biology at Furman. He and other ecologists are trying to change that concept.

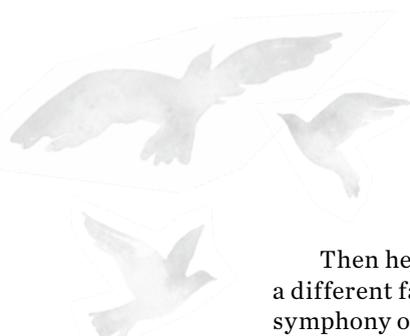
Globally, farms make up 39% of all land use, Quinn says. But farms can produce more than food and fodder. Through regenerative agriculture, a conservation approach to land use,

farms can help produce clean water, capture carbon and support biodiversity, all contributing to healthier flora and fauna.

But how do you know when a farm is healthy? One way is to track the number of different bird species on a farm. That's where Quinn comes in. When it comes to counting crows and wrens and larks, his research is more about bird-listening than bird-watching.

In 2020, Quinn teamed up with General Mills, which has a goal of increasing the footprint of sustainable or regenerative farms, to use automatic recording devices on 39 farms in Kansas, where farms make up close to 90% of all land use. From May 1, 2020, until Jan. 1, 2021, the devices, which he shipped from Furman, recorded 7 terabytes of data. Quinn is processing all of this data with the help of machine learning and careful listening, as well as with undergraduate students in his research methods class and with summer research students **Emilia Hyland '21, Annie Schulz '22, Sydney McManus '23 and Ian McPherson '23.**

Back in his lab at Furman, Quinn pulls up a sound file from one farm that doesn't practice regenerative agriculture. It's eerily quiet.



Then he pulls up a file from a different farm that erupts in a symphony of sounds from dozens of birds, from bobwhite quail to ring-necked pheasants to crows and lots of little bird sounds chirping away. Simply by listening to the file, Quinn can tell that the second farm provides more biodiversity by growing cover crops, leaving grass strips where birds can nest and forage, maintaining windbreaks and generally attracting a large and diverse population of birds.

“We couldn’t and shouldn’t expect farmers to only be rewarded for producing food,” Quinn says. Farms can market their biodiversity efforts and claim a premium for their efforts.

“The farm can say, ‘Look, this is great beef, this is great corn, but also by supporting my farm, you’re also supporting these other externalities,’” like carbon sequestration or wildlife diversity.

On the other hand, when farmers are only remunerated for the biomass they produce, costs to the environment, like degrading streams and watersheds and contributing to global warming, get lost.

“When you buy a hamburger, you’re not currently paying the (environmental) cost of corn,” he says. So why not incentivize farmers for making better use of their lands?

Birds would appreciate it. They need all the help they can get. Meadowlarks and grasshopper sparrows are grassland birds whose populations have declined by about 50% in the last 40 years, Quinn says.

Land conservation areas, like protected conservation easements and national and state parks and forests, make up only about 15% of the planet.

Quinn calls birds a gateway species, providing an entry into other conservation topics.

“If we do a summer’s worth of research and give farmers a list of birds we heard on their farms, they’re like, ‘Wow, I had no idea that was on my land.’ Then in future years, they’re much more inclined to adopt practices like rotational grazing or cover crops, or to mow later to protect ground-nesting birds,” he says.

His work has also benefited Upstate farms. About five years ago, Quinn and colleagues worked with Greenbrier Farms in Pickens County to restore their forest understory with sustainable, regenerative grazing practices. Quinn used automated recording devices he’s now using in the Midwest to determine if the bird communities changed.

This spring, in an extension of the work with General Mills, Quinn sent dozens more recorders back to farms in Kansas and Michigan and expanded to farms in Saskatchewan and Manitoba in Canada.

The work not only informs General Mills’ farming practices, but Quinn and his students will publish peer-reviewed research papers, adding to the scientific understanding of using recording devices to perform assessments and of the benefits of regenerative farming practices to birds.

“There is growing recognition in the U.S. and globally that conservation beyond protected areas is fundamental,” Quinn says. “We can’t tell farmers how to manage their land, but if we can give them something to think about, it goes a long way.” ♦





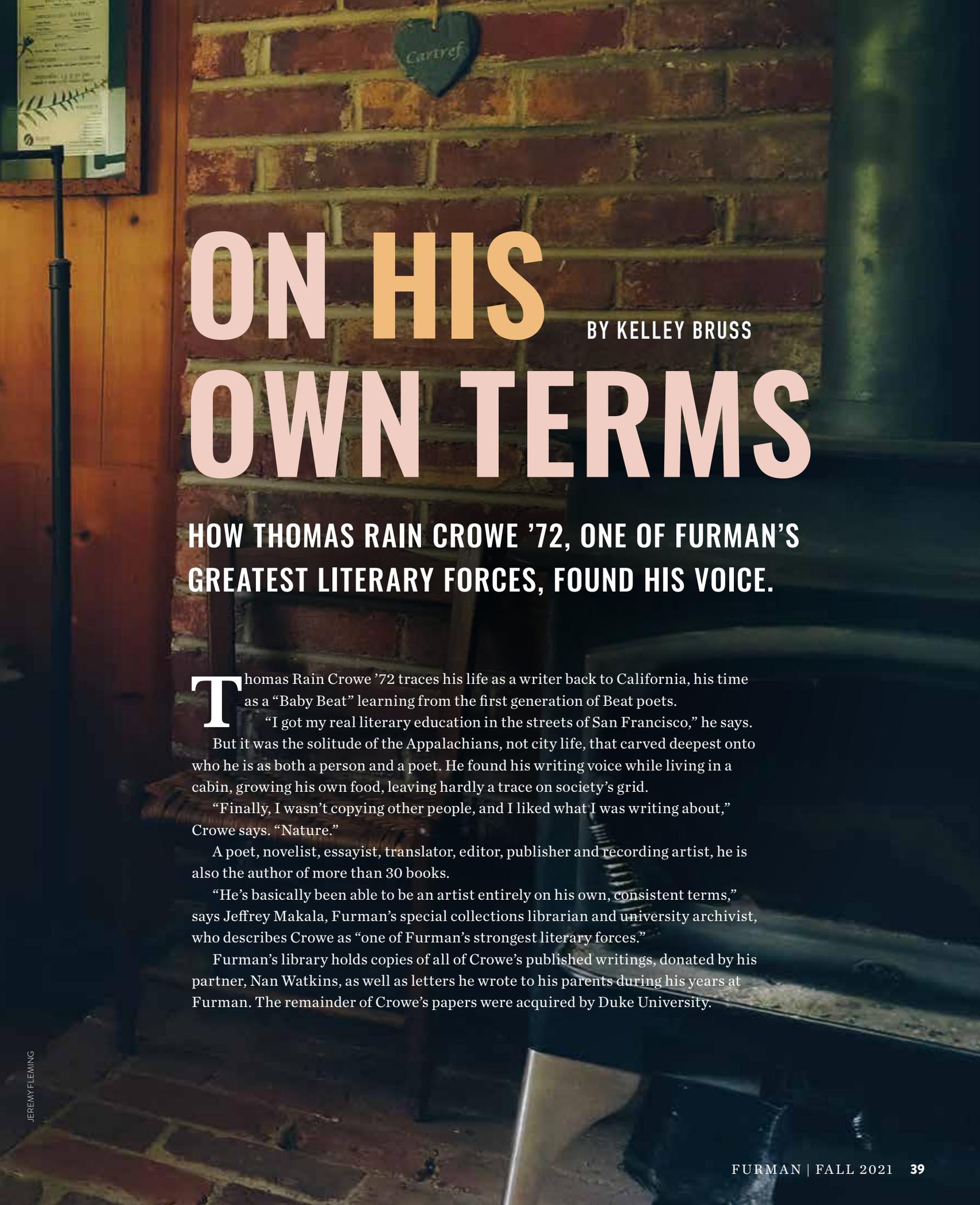
Clockwise from left: Quinn looks for birds at the farm and directs his companions to a bird sighting. Quinn deploys his recording units at Greenbrier Farms in Easley, South Carolina, to collect acoustic and soundscape data to measure how regenerative agriculture affects bird diversity.

... Quinn hears more than birdcalls in the tweets and whistles and songs of his feathered friends – he hears opportunity ...

*bind by bind
I have come to
know the earth*



Thomas Rain Crowe '72
at his home in Tuckasee,
North Carolina



ON HIS OWN TERMS

BY KELLEY BRUSS

HOW THOMAS RAIN CROWE '72, ONE OF FURMAN'S GREATEST LITERARY FORCES, FOUND HIS VOICE.

Thomas Rain Crowe '72 traces his life as a writer back to California, his time as a "Baby Beat" learning from the first generation of Beat poets.

"I got my real literary education in the streets of San Francisco," he says.

But it was the solitude of the Appalachians, not city life, that carved deepest onto who he is as both a person and a poet. He found his writing voice while living in a cabin, growing his own food, leaving hardly a trace on society's grid.

"Finally, I wasn't copying other people, and I liked what I was writing about," Crowe says. "Nature."

A poet, novelist, essayist, translator, editor, publisher and recording artist, he is also the author of more than 30 books.

"He's basically been able to be an artist entirely on his own, consistent terms," says Jeffrey Makala, Furman's special collections librarian and university archivist, who describes Crowe as "one of Furman's strongest literary forces."

Furman's library holds copies of all of Crowe's published writings, donated by his partner, Nan Watkins, as well as letters he wrote to his parents during his years at Furman. The remainder of Crowe's papers were acquired by Duke University.



Crowe as a Furman student, and (bottom) walking up the stairs of the James B. Duke Library



'Answers in the ponds'*

Crowe's family moved frequently, but enough of his childhood was spent in the southern Appalachians that he considered the mountains home.

Just before his senior year of high school, the family moved to Pennsylvania, within reach of New York City. Crowe explored Greenwich Village, buying loud pants and collecting new ideas about music, words and life. But even with the pulse of New York in his ears, he wanted to go back to his mountains for college, and Furman was closest to those mountains.

"I went to Furman sight unseen, and I didn't do any research," he says.

In fact, Furman of the late 1960s was deeply connected to the Southern Baptist Convention. Crowe's newfound ideas – about music, drugs, war and sex – were out of sync, to put it mildly.

But the reason he'd picked Furman ended up being sound.

"There were things that kept me there and I could focus on," he says.



The main thing? Trips into the mountains near Saluda, North Carolina. He and a friend wandered the forests and found themselves in the front yard of Walter Johnson, who lived alone in a cabin by a pond.

The chance meeting would lead to one of Crowe's most acclaimed books. But at the time, all he knew was that he wanted to live like Johnson.

"I fell in love with that place and with the lifestyle," he says.

'The drunken binge of boulevards and city streets'*

Crowe had been writing poetry since he was young. By the time he finished at Furman, he'd decided to become a poet. What's more, he says with a laugh, "I decided that to be a great poet, you had to be French."

“I DECIDED THAT TO BE A GREAT POET, YOU HAD TO BE FRENCH.”

He moved to France, taking jobs where he found them: Paris, Grenoble, Bordeaux, Brittany. But after a year, he realized he belonged back across the ocean. It wasn't the American culture he missed, it was the land.

Crowe made his way to San Francisco and the mecca of the Beat culture, City Lights Bookstore. Poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti was the first person he saw when he walked in the door.

“He was my hero,” Crowe says. “Here was a guy writing in a contemporary language about modern subjects – taboos, even.”

Crowe had landed at the epicenter of the “San Francisco Renaissance,” an explosive period for literature, art and music. He was part of the team that resurrected Beatitude Magazine, which had originally published the Beat poets. And he organized what would become an institution, the first San Francisco International Poetry Festival at Ferlinghetti's request, helping to fill a 2,000-seat auditorium to overflowing on both nights.

“I was just happy being around my heroes,” he says.

Crowe eventually left the buzz of city life for a year in the



From left: **Stephen Zerbst '72**, **David Tunstall '72** and Crowe, photographed in 1970

Bottom: Crowe in Paris, France, in 2005

Sierra Nevada mountains. He lived in a tipi on ceremonial land with a community that had included the Maidu people and began to develop a deeper awareness of ecological and bioregional issues – ideas that meshed with what he already felt about the mountains on the other side of the continent.

'I set down my bags'*

Death brought him back to those mountains. Johnson, the old man from his Furman days, was gone, and the owner of the property invited Crowe to stay in his cabin.



He came back to spend a winter there, read Henry David Thoreau's "Walden" and asked himself whether he could live outside the boundaries of civilization.

Crowe spent four years, from 1979 to 1982, off the grid. He grew or scavenged his food. He slept and woke with the sun. He made wooden stools and sold them in town to get cash for the items he couldn't make or grow: salt, for instance, or oil for his lamps.

He filled journals with poetry and reflections on the world around him, which he felt he was finally beginning to understand. He also chose a new name.

Crowe was born Thomas Dawson.

"I didn't think I had a poet's name," he says. "Tom Dawson. It's like falling off a cliff."

He liked the lyrical feel of three names: Ralph Waldo Emerson, for example, or John Crowe Ransom. A childhood friend, David Crowe, had introduced him to the Cherokee expression "rain crow."

"I didn't want to be an Indian. I didn't want to be a bird. But it worked for me," says Crowe.

Crowe moved to Jackson County, North Carolina, and took a job in a newspaper print shop to pay his bills. But he was ready to write in earnest.

"I started seeing that I had a lot of material and it was time," he says.

He began New Native Press, publishing some of his own work and that of his San Francisco Baby Beat friends. He turned his journals from the cabin years into the award-winning book "Zoro's Field," a work that touches on deep ecology, the changing seasons, stillness and observation of the natural world.

"Furman prides itself on sustainability now," says Makala. "But Thomas was thinking about it and practicing it in deep, meaningful ways before it was even coined as a term."

“ I DIDN'T WANT TO BE AN INDIAN. I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A BIRD. BUT IT WORKED FOR ME. ”



Crowe outside his home in Tuckasegee, located in southwestern North Carolina.



Crowe, a poet, novelist, essayist, translator, editor, publisher, recording artist and author of more than 30 books, at home in his study.

'I have grown old sitting here'*

Crowe hasn't stopped writing. He finished a science fiction novel during quarantine in 2020. But he's also spent much of his time in recent years translating works from around the world and across the centuries.

One of his favorites is Yvan Goll, who wrote poetry in French, German and English in the first half of the 20th century.

More recently, Crowe has been bringing Hafiz, a Persian Sufi poet of the 1300s, to modern readers.

They're not translations in the strictest sense. Crowe uses English translations to create versions that incorporate more of the meter and

rhythm and sometimes even rhyme that would have been in the original Farsi.

"The way that the ancient Sufis write is so beautiful, and I've tried to unearth that beauty in my versions," he says.

It seems perfectly natural to him that his literary career has landed here, now.

The expression "follow your bliss" took hold when he was a young man. "That resonated with me because I was good at it. I'd get an idea and I'd do it." ✦

**All subheadings are taken from "Crack Light," a 2011 collection of Crowe's poetry. The poems quoted include "A Pond in the Woods," "The Country," "In Permanence" and "Love."*

SCENE AND BE SEEN



There were lots of reasons to cheer at the season-opening, 29-18 home victory over North Carolina A&T in September, **1** including a special honor for **Tommy Stevenson '65** (right), the long-time proprietor of Greenville's famed Country Ham House. President Elizabeth Davis and Director of Athletics Jason Donnelly presented Stevenson, who retired this year, with a Furman apron signed by current football players and coaching staff. **2** Members of the Black Alumni Council after the in-game recognition of the newly formed council. From left: **Lillian Brock Flemming '71 M'75 H'14**, **Osa Benson '95**, **Justin Brown '09**, **Larry Kerns '00**, **Idella Glenn '84** and **Anna Copeland '96**. **3** **Larry Kerns '00** and **Anna Copeland '96**, members of the Furman Black Alumni Council during the council's first tailgating event



4 Robin Jones Kerr '97, Chloe Kerr '25, Robby Kerr '96 during move-in weekend.

5 Reggie Garrett '98 and Idella Glenn '84 at the Serenity Sunday event, which the Black Alumni Council hosted for students in August.



6 Will Patterson '18, Kathleen Reinhart Patterson '17 and Jackson DuMont '18 during pre-game tailgating at the Furman vs. NC State football game in September.

7 FAN Club launch event for the Triad, North Carolina, Club in September, from left: **Jeremy Ingraham '96, Gina Stalnaker Ingraham '97, Pam Creasman Wheeler '80, Hailey Pierce '20, Kathi Porter Saunders '90, Carolyn Smith Sutton '15, Molly Gunson Hallman '14, Emily Newton Murphy '99,** Triad FAN Club president.



SHELF LIFE

Time travel, a mother's haunting words, food and inequality, and a new life in a new land



COMPILED FROM PROMOTIONAL NOTES



TELL THEM YOU MET ME

BY TRUDE HELLER

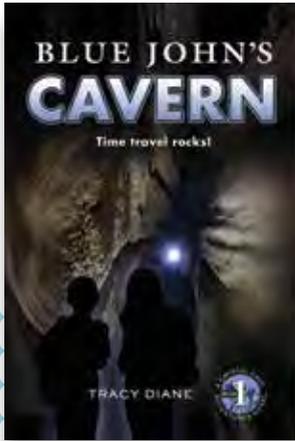
(Lulu Press)

Trude Heller tells her story of fleeing the oppression of Nazi-occupied Vienna, Austria, as a teenage girl. After escaping to Antwerp, Belgium, she came in 1940 to the United States, where she was reunited with Max Heller and two years later married him in Greenville, South Carolina. From her childhood in Vienna as a dancer to her devotion to the city of Greenville with her husband who served as its mayor, and the hardships and miracles in between, her story is told from the heart. She writes: “My heart is full of

all the miracles that have happened. ... I never get tired of telling my story. The world forgets. That's why I speak.”

Heller, who died on May 11, 2021, and Max, who died in 2011 and had served on the Furman Board of Trustees, are the standard-bearers of Furman's Heller Service Corps, known for the community spirit they nurtured in Furman students. The corps cultivates a culture of giving by providing students with diverse service opportunities on and off campus that build relationships between Furman and the city of Greenville.

Read more about Trude Heller on pg. 61.



BLUE JOHN'S CAVERN

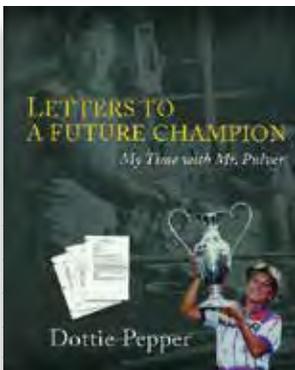
BY TRACY DIANE JONES '93

(Giverny Press)

Nothing interesting ever happens in Diamond Falls, West Virginia, and that's doubly true for local teenagers Emma and Brody. Little do they know that their neighbor, a famous geologist, is about to show them the wildest time of their lives. When Mr. M's prized rock and mineral collection is destroyed before it can be displayed at the state museum, Emma and Brody jump at the chance to find new samples. The geologist accepts the offer, and promptly sends them back to the year 1775 to help.

Back in time and across the pond in Derbyshire, England, Emma and Brody team with a mysterious young girl to recover one of the rarest minerals in the world: Blue John Fluorite. Tapping into courage they never knew they had, the formerly ordinary West Virginians must protect a cave, avoid gun-toting soldiers and return to the present before they're trapped in the past forever.

"Blue John's Cavern" is the first book in the middle-grade adventure/sci-fi series "Crystal Cave Adventures." Tracy Diane Jones was a geology major at Furman. She writes science-themed fiction for kids and owns Mini Me Geology, which designs and sells rock-and-mineral kits, books and activities.



LETTERS TO A FUTURE CHAMPION: MY TIME WITH MR. PULVER

BY DOTTIE PEPPER '87

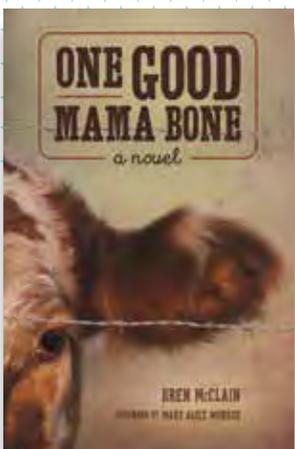
(Self-published)

Dottie Pepper's "Letters to a Future Champion: My Time with Mr. Pulver," is a loving tribute to the power a mentor can have in an athlete's career.

George J. Pulver Sr. was a golf great in his own right – as a golfer, course designer and advocate for golfing throughout the Northeast. But he took on the mantle of mentor when he and Pepper, then 15, began a teacher-student relationship that would stretch into her college years.

In this beautifully crafted book, Pepper traces the influence "Mr. Pulver" had on her skills as well as her character both on the practice range – where Mr. Pulver dutifully watched every detail of her swing – and in the letters the two exchanged after. Mr. Pulver would sit down at his typewriter and carefully tap out a critique of a technique, or advise on the life lessons Pepper would need to rise to the top.

She compiled those letters into a binder and referred to them often ... her Bible, of sorts, on her path to a future as a multiple winner and two-time major champion on the LPGA Tour.



ONE GOOD MAMA BONE

BY BREN MCCLAIN '79

(Pat Conroy's Story River Books |
University of South Carolina Press)

Set in early 1950s rural South Carolina, "One Good Mama Bone" chronicles Sarah Creamer's quest to find her "mama bone" after she is left to care for a boy who is the product of an affair between her husband and her best friend and neighbor. When her husband drinks himself to death, Sarah, a dirt-poor homemaker with no family to rely on and the note on the farm long past due, must find a way for her and young Emerson Bridge to survive. But the more

daunting obstacle is Sarah's fear that her mother's words, seared in her memory since she first heard them at age 6, were a prophesy – "You ain't got you one good mama bone in you, girl."

Bren McClain's debut novel won the 2017 Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction, the 2018 Patricia Winn Award for Southern Literature, was named Pulpwood Queen 2017 Book of the Year, a 2017 Great Group Reads by the Women's National Book Association, and a Southeastern Independent Booksellers Association Okra pick, and was longlisted for SIBA's Southern Book Prize and selected as a finalist for the 2018 Crook's Corner Prize. McClain was an English major at Furman.



FURMAN
ON MAIN

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MJUDSONBOOKS.COM

FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT

The Black Alumni Council's inaugural president, Erica S. Johnson '07, is from Norwalk, Connecticut, but has lived in Columbia, South Carolina, for most of her life. She majored in health and exercise science and served as an assistant manager to the women's basketball team, an executive member of the Student League for Black Culture, and president of the Furman University Gospel Ensemble. She was also involved with the university's NAACP chapter and Furman University International Student Association. Today, she owns her own company, Leap Branding and PR, LLC, and lives in Greenville.

What was your Furman experience like?

My experience was highlighted by the support of Dr. Idella Glenn '84, Laura Baker, Dr. Harry Shucker '66, Dr. Susan Shi '71 and President David Shi '73. I was met with challenges in my Furman experience that I felt empowered to overcome because I knew their support was backing me. We also had a strong culture among our Black students, faculty and staff. From SLBC cookouts to Greek life, holiday dinners, and notable moments at our community table in the Dining Hall. We went on Civil Rights tours



'A BRIDGE TO CONNECT BLACK ALUMNI'



and brought many cultural events to campus through our chapter of NAACP and SLBC's attendance at the National Association for Campus Activities. Having a vibrant Black community entwined with the campus culture is what I cherish most about my experience.

What are you most excited about as the council begins its work?

I think most importantly, the fact that it is now established. This has been a part of over 10 years of advocacy and, most recently, four years of active work on campus with the Center for Inclusive Communities, the chief diversity officer and the Office of Alumni and Parent

Engagement. We have long desired to establish a bridge to connect Black alumni to each other, the university and current Black students. We sought to reestablish the culture that connected so many Black alumni for decades under the leadership of Dr. Idella Glenn '84. This effort is not solely in response to the petition. However, the petition solidified the need for its swift instatement. *(Editor's note: In 2020, a group of Black alumni petitioned Furman to address campus culture and racism.)*

Who will be among the council's membership?

Our members span the nation and are representative of a variety of careers and

interests, from the WNBA to the financial and legal fields and higher education, to those who lead commissions in the community and are leaders in the field of diversity, equity and inclusion, such as Lillian Brock Flemming '71, M '75 H'14, Idella Glenn '84, Nalisha Henry '06, George Singleton '84, Osa Benson '95 and Rushia Brown '94. We will be actively engaging the Black alumni and students with on-campus events while we work to advocate for changes that create the inclusive community Furman is working to establish.

How will the council connect with students?

We are working with students on a peer-to-peer mentoring program and on internship opportunities and job placements with Steve Hairston, Furman's assistant director of employer engagement. We will continue our work with the Center for Inclusive Communities and the Office of Admissions. We look forward to connecting more students with alumni from their first moments on campus to the time they become members of our Black Alumni Association. ♦

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
[FURMAN.EDU/ALUMNI/SERVE/
LEADERSHIP-OPPORTUNITIES/BAC/](https://FURMAN.EDU/ALUMNI/SERVE/LEADERSHIP-OPPORTUNITIES/BAC/).

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Downtown Greenville,
South Carolina





VAN ZEPPELIN AERIAL

THE COMEBACK

13 Things

(AT LEAST!)

To Do This Fall Around Greenville

Whether you've been away for just a few months or countless years, Greenville offers a lot of fun to catch up on as you return to the places you love. From visiting your favorite haunts to discovering what's new, here are some ways to embrace the vibrant character of Furman's home.

STAFF REPORT

Downtown Greenville

Just 6 miles from Furman, downtown Greenville is the obvious choice to enjoy arts, shopping and dining for all palates. One stop should be **M. JUDSON BOOKSELLERS**, named after Mary Camilla Judson, a teacher and principal at the Greenville Woman’s College, which later merged with Furman.

“She was a force to be reckoned with for women in Greenville,” says Ashley Warlick, one of the store’s owners. “Her connection to books and teaching made her a perfect patron saint for the store.”

If that weren’t reason enough to visit, the booksellers’ Furman on Main section carries unique Furman-themed clothing, memorabilia, gifts and books by Furman alumni, professors and staff.

“Furman is a pillar of the Greenville community and has been forever,” says Warlick. “We love having this common thread.”

While wandering along Main Street – after all, downtown Greenville is famously walkable – watch out for the mice – **MICE ON MAIN**, that is. The Mice on Main are nine tiny statues that make up what may be the most iconic of Greenville’s 90-plus public art pieces.

Keep walking to arrive at one of the city’s most beloved places: You may remember crossing the **LIBERTY BRIDGE** when you were a student at Furman. Retrace those steps – and memories – with a stroll through **FALLS PARK**.

If performing arts is your scene, check out the **PEACE CENTER** for the Performing Arts, where



“Furman is a pillar of the Greenville community and has been forever.”

— ASHLEY WARLICK



THE COMEBACK

Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit will perform on Nov. 28, and Old Crow Medicine Show will play on Dec. 27. If they're still needed, the Peace Center will have a variety of measures in place to keep those in attendance safe. For a smaller venue, the New South Comedy Festival, presented by the Alchemy Comedy Theater, will be the first two weekends of November at **COFFEE UNDERGROUND**.

Be sure to enjoy signature spots on the perimeter of the central

business district, such as the **VILLAGE OF WEST GREENVILLE** and **THE COMMONS**, which **Drew Parker '00** and two business partners brought to life. **HAMPTON STATION** also offers plenty of ways to enjoy an afternoon, including classes at **HOLLOWED EARTH POTTERY**, where you can "throw" your own creations on a pottery wheel.

Meanwhile, the Greenville area has plenty of places to spread out a little.

-
- 1 M. Judson Booksellers
 - 2 One of the nine Mice on Main statues
 - 3 The Peace Center for the Performing Arts
 - 4 Community Tap at The Commons
 - 5 The Bake Room at The Commons
 - 6 Pieces created at Hollowed Earth Pottery
 - 7 Hollowed Earth Pottery at Hampton Station
-





Nataley Williams '21

Take a hike (or bike, swim or paddle)

One of Greenville’s most popular attractions is the **PRISMA HEALTH SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL**. The 22-mile walking and biking trail is accessible from the Furman campus.

LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PRESERVE, encompassing 400 acres, is situated 6 miles south of downtown – an unexpected proximity, considering the preserve is both a designated wildlife sanctuary and Audubon Society Important Bird Area of Global Significance. The preserve features 14 miles of trails that wind through hardwood and evergreen forest and extensive wetlands. Forty interpretive signs guide visitors throughout the park.

PARIS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK – close to both downtown Greenville and Furman – has 15 miles of hiking and biking trails. At this time of year, enjoy the red, gold and orange splashed across elevations of 2,000 feet and below.

For more ideas – categorized for paddlers, hikers, bikers and swimmers – consult the digital field guide that **Nataley Williams '21** created as a Communications and Outdoor Fellow with The Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities.

- 8 Cyclists on the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail in Travelers Rest, South Carolina
- 9 A heron at Lake Conestee Nature Preserve
- 10 A hiker at Paris Mountain State Park
- 11 Visitors at Denver Downs Farm in Anderson, South Carolina



8

COURTESY OF GREENVILLE COUNTY REC



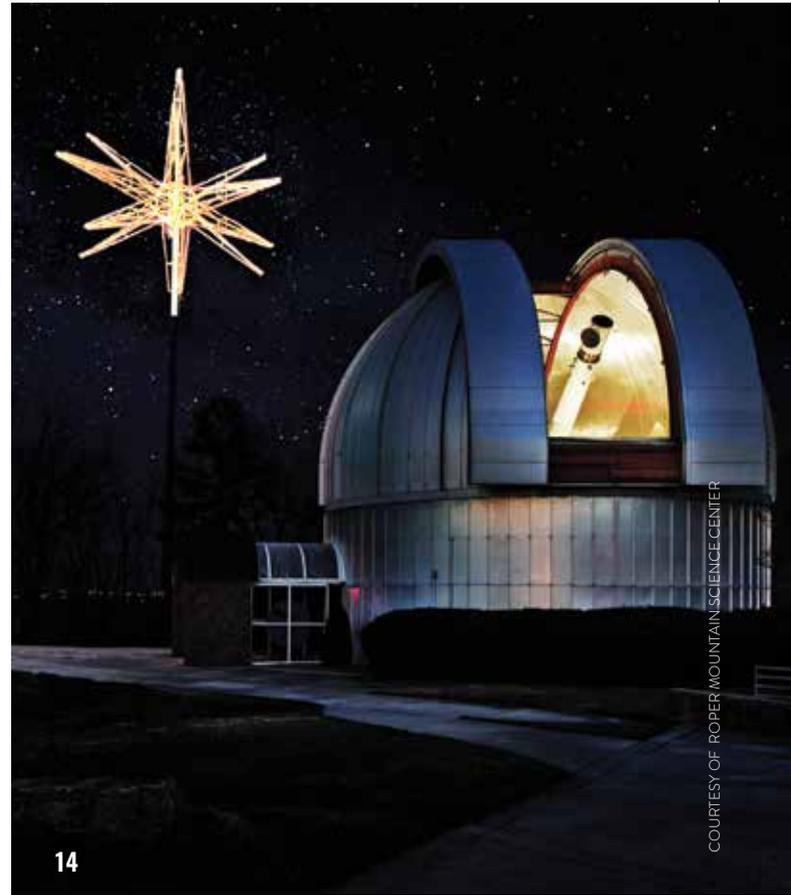
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COURTESY OF LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PRESERVE



THE COMEBACK

- 12 A tractor at Denver Downs Farm 13 A lion at the Greenville Zoo
14 The refractor telescope at Daniel Observatory



A feast of every kind

Leaf gazing is the area's obvious outdoor pleasure. But there are also treats to eat, corn mazes to wander and, well, goats to pet.

DENVER DOWNS FARM in Anderson, South Carolina, has one of the best fall festivals and corn mazes in the country, according to USA Today Travel, which has included the farm on its list of 10 Best Corn Mazes in the Country for the past six years. Past mazes have honored Denver Downs Farm's 150th anniversary, the 50th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing and national championships won by South Carolina college teams. There are more than 35 activities for families, including the Barnyard Express Zipline, pig races and friendly barnyard animals to pet. After families figure their way out of the maze, Denver Downs offers live

music, bonfires and s'mores on Friday and Saturday nights.

Where else but here?

For more family-friendly activities, a trip to the **GREENVILLE ZOO** never disappoints. And on Friday evenings, you can spend a night under the stars at the **ROPER MOUNTAIN SCIENCE CENTER**. Starry Nights, held in the T.C. Hooper Planetarium, features two programs geared toward different age groups. After the planetarium, go to the Daniel Observatory for a view through the science center's 23-inch refractor telescope. Built in 1882 for Princeton University, the telescope is the eighth largest in North America and was used for astronomical research until 1964. ♦

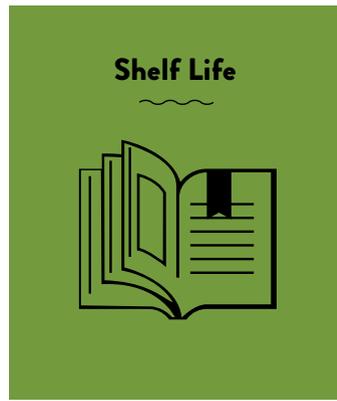
CLASS NOTES



TOMMY STEVENSON '65
pg. 57



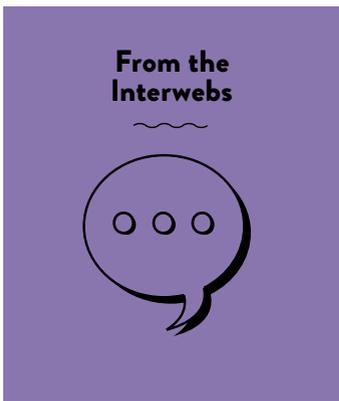
DANIEL WASHINGTON '76
pg. 57



SHELF LIFE
pg. 46



**MARGARET '83 AND
ROBERT HILL '83**
pg. 57



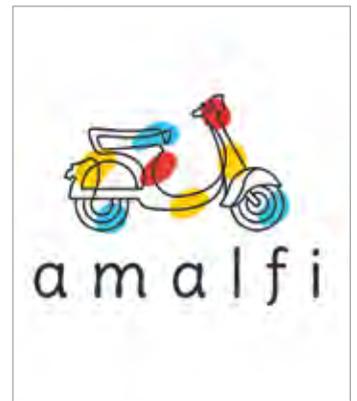
**A MAJOR GRANT, PRIDE MONTH AND
THE LATEST BUZZ**
pg. 64



LEA NOBLIN MARSHALL '89
pg. 57



**LILLIAN BROCK FLEMING
'71 M'75 H'14**
pg. 57



NATHANIEL DESANTIS '19
pg. 59



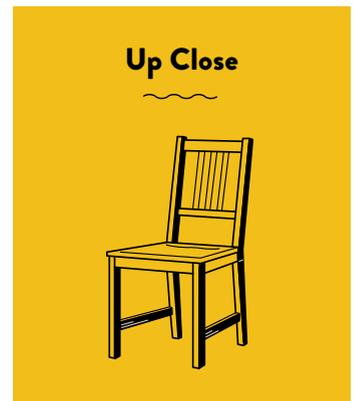
SAUL RIVERA '13
pg. 59



TOM FLOWERS '50
pg. 65



JENNY ADAMSON '99
pg. 57



PAULA DECESARIS '96
pg. 62

1950

* * *

TOM FLOWERS '50, who was an art professor at Furman from 1959 to 1989 and died in 2020, received a South Carolina Governor's Award for the Arts (Lifetime Achievement) from the South Carolina Arts Commission. During his career, he was selected for the 100 Artists/100 Years exhibit at the State Museum in Columbia, South Carolina, and he was one of 12 artists from the state whose works were presented in the South Carolina National Bank exhibit "The Bicentennial, An Interpretive Approach." Flowers' work was also included in the "Portrait of the South" exhibition in Rome, Italy. He was president of the Greenville Artists Guild, a board member of the Guild of South Carolina Artists, a member of the board of trustees of the Greenville County Museum of Art, a state representative of the American Craft Council, a member of the advisory board of the Guild of South Carolina Artists, and a Pickens County arts commissioner.

1965

* * *

The Furman Board of Trustees proclaimed April 17, 2021, "Tommy Stevenson Day," in honor of **TOMMY STEVENSON '65**, the proprietor of Greenville's storied Country Ham House. Stevenson announced his plan to retire in the spring, following 36 years in the restaurant business — during which he provided Friday evening meals to Furman football teams, numerous other Paladin squads, groups, fans and even opponents.

1971

* * *

LILLIAN BROCK FLEMMING '71 M'75, H'14, the first Black woman to serve on the Greenville City Council, celebrated 40 years as an elected official to the body.

1976

* * *

DANIEL WASHINGTON '76 was awarded the annual Shirley Verrett Award by the University of Michigan Women of Color in the Academy Project. Washington, a bass-baritone, is a professor of music (voice) at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance and an honorary professor (humanities) at the University of Cape Town, South African College of Music.

1982

* * *

MAGGIE LONG MCGILL '82 became a corporate, finance and investment paralegal with King and Spalding LLP in Charlotte, North Carolina.

1983

* * *

MARGARET '83 and **ROBERT HILL '83** received the OneJax Institute's humanitarian award. OneJax, in Jacksonville, Florida, is a nonprofit interfaith organization dedicated to achieving civility, understanding and respect for all people and promoting diversity as the foundation for a strong community.

1984

* * *

BENJAMIN MOORE '84 retired in May from Fontbonne University in St. Louis, Missouri, where he founded the Center for Bosnian Studies. His book, "The Names of John Gergen," was released in March by the University of Missouri Press.

1989

* * *

LEA NOBLIN MARSHALL '89 received the Florida Education Innovator of the Year Award from the James Madison Institute.

1999

* * *

JENNY ADAMSON '99 joined Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP's Greenville, South Carolina, office as special counsel.

2001

* * *

ED WALLER '01 graduated from the Basic Strategic Art Program at the U.S. Army War College and is serving as an Army strategist at the National Guard Bureau in the Strategic Plans and Policy Division.

2004

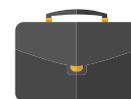
* * *

SEAN ATKINSON '04 published a new course with The Great Courses. "Music Theory: The Foundation of Great Music" is about the inner workings of Western tonal music.

2008

* * *

MASON FREEMAN '08 was elected partner at Womble Bond Dickinson (U.S.) LLP. He practices out of the firm's Raleigh and Winston-Salem, North Carolina offices.



PROFESSORS EMERITUS

The Board of Trustees granted emeritus status to eight professors who retired in 2020. They are **John S. Armstrong** (communication studies), **Michael Brodeur** (art), **Charles A. DeLancey** (communication studies), **Daniel M. Koppelman** (music), **William A. Ranson** (earth, environmental and sustainability sciences), **David T. Spear** (history), **Aristide (Ty) Tessitore** (politics and international affairs) and **Carolyn J. Watson** (art).

The Board of Trustees granted emeritus status to six professors who retired in 2021. They are **T. Lloyd Benson** (history), **Robert E. Chance** (art), **Susan S. D'Amato** (physics), **Thomas W. Joiner** (music), **Cherie Maiden** (French) and **A. Joseph Pollard** (biology). **Stephen T. Richardson** was granted the status of associate librarian emeritus. ✦

At any given time, the books Andrew Kurtz '87 has stacked on his bedside table could cover history, politics or spirituality. He might have his head in a general business selection or a biography. What you probably won't find is a book about technology.

Perhaps that seems odd when you consider Kurtz is CEO of one of the region's leading tech companies. But it's not so odd when you learn a little about Kurtz's approach to leadership and learning, an approach created at the intersection of a problem solver's mind and Kurtz's liberal arts and sciences education at Furman.

"This goes back to Furman, but first of all, I haven't stopped learning," says Kurtz, who was an accounting major, from his office in the NEXT Innovation Center in Greenville, South Carolina. "I still to this day on a daily basis focus my reading not on technical topics. ... It goes back to discovering early on that learning is not about this linear path. It's holistic."

That mindset has allowed Kurtz to build his companies, Kopsis and Vigilix, into bona fide giants in Greenville's burgeoning tech sector. Combined, the two companies employ about 50 people and count some of the region's most dynamic and prominent companies as clients. Kopsis builds custom software solutions, mobile applications, Microsoft Dynamics ERP solutions and



THE CEO WHO KEEPS IT SIMPLE



Andrew Kurtz '87 takes on the "how" and "why" of business as he helps shape the tech sector.

BY WILL ROTHSCHILD

cloud services, while Vigilix is a remote monitoring and management platform used in point-of-sale.

Greenville has come a long way as an incubator for tech startups. But when Kurtz founded Kopsis in the late '90s, the local support system was a far cry from what is available today. The NEXT Innovation Center had yet to be conceptualized, and venture capital for South Carolina tech companies was virtually nonexistent.

So, Kurtz built a team that solves problems and sees possibilities in the face of challenges. He looks for

people to join his company who first seek to understand the business rationale for a new piece of software or application, and who then pursue the simplest, most elegant solution to a problem.

One of Kurtz's favorite quotes is believed to be from Albert Einstein: "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler." Simplification, in fact, is one of Kopsis' core values.

"I'm always trying to understand on the technology side what's emerging. Not at a low level how it works, but at a high level, 'Why will this make things easier and better?'" he

says. "And then my brain just naturally goes to, 'What is this trying to solve, and what could it solve?'"

To that end – and in keeping with the value he places on lifelong learning – Kurtz is working on an internal concept called Kopsis University. He describes it as onboarding on steroids, a three-month immersive training for new employees that will help them learn the company's approach, process and values. Once it is finalized and ready to roll out, Kopsis University will allow Kurtz to hire more people straight out of college. For now, the level of sophistication required by its clients has meant hiring developers with at least a few years of professional experience.

Meanwhile, Kurtz is helping to foster Furman student talent through the Leadership Council of The Hill Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

"You have some developers who will always just love writing the code, and they have a technical path to become very impactful, senior architects and senior developers. But the absolute best developers to me are the ones who get the business purpose, and they can wrap their head around, 'Why am I building this?'" says Kurtz. "Those people can have a major impact. So, I would tell college students that learning the code is important, but wrap your head around the business side. Why and how do businesses function?" ♦

2009



MELODY MCGOWIN '09 started a new position in April 2020 as corporate counsel at Amazon in Seattle, Washington, supporting Amazon Web Services' Sales & Marketing division. She was previously an associate attorney at the New York City office of the law firms of Pierce Bainbridge Beck Price & Hecht and McKool Smith.

2013



SAUL RIVERA '13 published "Are You Our PawPaw?" in November 2020.

2015



ERIN VAN METER '15 earned a master's degree in speech pathology from the University of South Carolina in August 2020 and accepted a position with Prisma Health Children's Hospital – Upstate, Kidnetics.

2019



NATHANIEL DESANTIS '19 launched a media company called Amalfi Media in December 2020 that produces podcasts and videos on a range of pop-culture topics. Among the hosts are Nathaniel's siblings **SARA DESANTIS '17** and **MATTHEW DESANTIS '02**, their father, **BLAINE DESANTIS '75**, **JOE DEPINTO '19** and **CHASE PITTMAN '21**.



2021 STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR



ROBYN ANDREWS, who was named Staff Member of the Year in May by university staff, has served Furman for 13 years as the libraries circulation supervisor, diversity coordinator and Pathways advisor. She also received the Meritorious Award for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. What memories has she gathered over the years? "From Styrofoam cakes to graduation hugs, dunk tanks to 'Mamma Mia,' being honored in a printed senior thesis to surprise visits from alums, and watching my student assistants and Pathways advisees grow, they are all so special and so memorable."



BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS



CHRISTEN '01 and Steve Hairston, Olivia, June 28, 2019

COURTNEY TOLLISON '99 and **SEAN HARTNESS** (trustee emeritus), Margareta, Feb. 24, 2021, and Catherine, Feb. 5, 2021

ED WALLER '01 and Ginny Waller, Isabelle Mary, Oct. 9, 2020

LAURA STAIR '04 and Jonathan Stair, Caroline, Feb. 28, 2021

ELIZABETH LINEBACK GOODIN '10 and Anthony Goodin, Wren, Jan. 13, 2021

KAYLEE WALDREP '08 and Brant Waldrep, Caroline Mae, July 21, 2020



MARRIAGES



LISA SCHAEEL VARANDAS '82 and Kevin Shelly, July 20, 2020

VICTORIA DEICHERT LAWSON '93 and Hugh A. Stoddard, May 23, 2020

KAYLEE NUCKOLLS '08 and Brant Waldrep, July 13, 2019

CAROLINE MCMEEKIN '12 and John Montgomery, April 11, 2021

JAQUELINE FISCHER '15 and Matthew Kish, Oct. 10, 2020

CATHERINE BADALAMENTI '16 and **MAC FELMLY '11**, March 13, 2021

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.

It was a simple but clever engagement ruse. Robert Stearns '11 would propose to Suzanne Clark '11 on Labor Day weekend 2012 by telling her they'd be meeting friends in the North Carolina mountains. But on the way there, Robert suggested they stop at Furman to walk around campus a bit and do a little reminiscing.

That's when Suzanne's antennae went on alert. As they walked around Furman Lake, Suzanne noticed Robert was a tad on the nervous side.

"Yeah, I was jumpy – to the point where I was worried she'd notice the ring box in my pocket," Robert says.

Suzanne was definitely wise to the ploy when Robert insisted she walk on his other flank so he could better disguise the ring, but she gave a knowing smile and just went with it.

"So, in completely original fashion," Robert says facetiously, "we went over to the Bell Tower to look for our bricks with our names on them. And I got down on one knee."

Robert says he pretty much blanked out on what he said after that, but apparently it went well. The two were married in 2013 and have two young sons. At press time, another son was on the way.

Furman is inextricably part of their bond with one another. Their alma mater is also the root of friendships they forged through Greek life. "Some of our best friends



A PURPLE AND WHITE PROPOSAL



Robert '11 and Suzanne Clark Stearns '11

BY TINA UNDERWOOD

in the world are our fellow Furman alumni," says Robert, who participated in ROTC and majored in political science.

Members of Young Benefactors at Furman, the two look for opportunities to return to campus.

"We enjoy going back when we can, going to games and

staying connected through the network," says Robert.

With fond memories of his professors and late nights at the library, Robert, a Birmingham, Alabama, native, considers his liberal arts and sciences experience foundational to his vocation as a sales executive at Atlanta-

based Angel Oak Capital. Now, with some offices opening back up as COVID-19 restrictions have eased, Robert is on the road a fair amount with the financial services firm, where he's in charge of Mid-Atlantic sales.

Suzanne, who is from Atlanta, found herself changing majors at Furman up until her junior year, when she settled into health sciences.

"I'm immensely grateful for the direction Furman gave me in my career choice," says Suzanne, who went on to earn her master's degree as a nurse practitioner at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and served several years in surgical intensive care and orthopedic surgery roles.

The shift to health sciences in her third year at Furman was an ambitious one, she says, but the support and encouragement she received from the faculty made it all possible. "I had great relationships with those professors – Dr. Bill Pierce, Dr. Julian Reed and so many others. They prepared me well for the master's program."

At their Atlanta home, Suzanne and Robert are busy with their growing family. Bennett, 4, is gearing up for the pro tour, developing his golf game since age 3. And, well, it remains to be seen what Rhodes, 2, and boy number three will bring to the world. At any rate, Suzanne says she's happy Robert has a built-in foursome for the golf course. ♦



OBITUARIES



MAY HUTCHINSON '43,

Aug. 7, 2020, Abbeville, S.C.

WINIFRED "WINK" JONAS '46,

April 13, 2021,
Brethren Village, Pa.

JEANNE EVELYN BURDINE

GRIFFIN '49, April 14, 2021,
North Augusta, Ga.

THOMAS DIXON '57,

March 28, 2021, Lavonia, Ga.

WALKER BRELAND '58,

March 28, 2021, Charleston, S.C.

BENNETTA CLARY HARVEY '59,

Aug. 25, 2020, Summerville, S.C.

DAVID WATSON '63,

June 18, 2020, Travelers Rest, S.C.

DAVID B. ZIPPERER '63,

April 10, 2020, New York, N.Y.

JOHN MULLEN '64, Dec. 25, 2019,

Greer, S.C.

FRANCES MCMILLAN PINSON '64,

June 19, 2020, Honea Path, S.C.

FRANCES TURNER WILSON '64,

July 22, 2019, Seneca, S.C.

JANE LOOPER WILSON '64,

Dec. 26, 2020, Greenville, S.C.

CAROL JOY METCALF '65,

Jan. 14, 2020, Lena, Miss.

JAMES EDWARDS '65,

Feb. 13, 2020, Greenville, S.C.

CHRISTINE NIX JULIAN '65,

Oct. 21, 2019, Easley, S.C.

BRAD COX '65, Jan. 2, 2021,

Manassas, Va.

TERENCE WILLIAMS '65,

Oct. 29, 2019, Keswick, Va.

CAM GREGORY WILLIAMS '65,

July 31, 2020, Keswick, Va.

WILLIAM SHERRY '66,

Aug. 2, 2020, Maysville, Ga.

LARRY BYARS '66, Sept. 12, 2020,

Greenville, S.C.

ENGRUM JOHNSON '66,

Dec. 8, 2019, Taylors, S.C.

GAIL GILREATH MITCHELL '66,

Jan. 29, 2020, Clemson, S.C.

DOUGLAS SIRINEK '67,

Oct. 19, 2020, The Villages, Fla.

SUSAN SENN-DAVIS '67,

Feb. 27, 2021, Augusta, Ga.

JOSEPH KEITH '67, Aug. 30, 2020,

Greenville, S.C.

DONNA GRAHAM RONE '67,

Jan. 18, 2020, West Columbia, S.C.

MARION BARRS '68,

Oct. 29, 2019, Wellington, Ala.

JACKSON CULBRETH '68,

Sept. 25, 2020, Dunwoody, Ga.

WILLIAM FRAZIER '68,

Oct. 1, 2019, Dalton, Ga.

LEWIS TATE '68, Nov. 7, 2020,

Savannah, Ga.

DIVVER HENDRIX '68,

March 2, 2021, Charlotte, N.C.

KENNETH BRIDWELL '68,

Aug. 4, 2020, Travelers Rest, S.C.

CHARLES HUFF '68, Dec. 7, 2019,

Greer, S.C.

GEORGE RICHARDSON '68,

Oct. 31, 2019, Greenville, S.C.



TRUDE HELLER

1922 – 2021

TRUDE HELLER died May 11, 2021, in Greenville, S.C. As a teenager in Austria, she fled the Nazis and came to Greenville where she soon married Max Heller, who had escaped to Greenville earlier. The couple, who had known each other in Austria before the war, became pillars in Greenville civic life, helping bring a renaissance to the city's downtown and building a shirt company, Maxon Shirt Co. They became deeply involved with Furman, a relationship that started when Furman's president at the time, John Plyler, contacted Max to offer help after reading about him in the newspaper. In 2002, the Collegiate Educational Service Corps was renamed the Heller Service Corps in honor of the Hellers' history of community service and philanthropy. Max Heller, who served as mayor of Greenville, died in 2011. *Read more on pg. 46.*

DILLARD THOMPSON '68,

Aug. 6, 2020, Columbia, S.C.

JOHN DAVIS '68, Jan. 1, 2020,

Burnet, Texas

SHARON FEASTER-LEWIS '69,

March 3, 2020, Columbia, S.C.

DAVID STEWART '69,

June 30, 2020, Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

WILLIAM TANKERSLEY '70,

Feb. 15, 2020, Greensboro, N.C.

ROBERT LANSBERRY '70,

Jan. 19, 2021, Doylestown, Pa.

THOMAS HALL '70, Jan. 18, 2020,

Greenville, S.C.

JEAN MCGEE '70,

March 23, 2021, Mauldin, S.C.

JERRY STYLES '70, Oct. 24, 2019,

Leesville, S.C.

BARRIE BARTON '71,

Aug. 27, 2020, Youngsville, N.C.

ELIZABETH HUGHES HARRY '71,

Nov. 19, 2020, Salisbury, N.C.

BETTY GIBSON COFFEY '71,

Sept. 13, 2020, Simpsonville, S.C.

MELINDA QUINN FURMAN '71,

Dec. 27, 2020, Greenville, S.C.

FRANCEE LEVIN '71,

March 24, 2020, Columbia, S.C.

DORIS JARRARD STEPP '71,

Jan. 22, 2021, Cleveland, S.C.

DAVID GIBSON '73, Nov. 22, 2019,

Spartanburg, S.C.

EVELYN PAXTON WALDROP '73,

Oct. 20, 2019, Florence, S.C.

ALICE GODWIN WICKS '73,

Sept. 15, 2020, Virginia Beach, Va.



AN ENGINEER ON THE FRONTIER

Paula DeCesaris '96 is part of the effort that will land the first woman on the moon and send us to Mars.

BY KELLEY BRUSS

She was the little girl who used a blanket, a broomstick and an upside-down stool to take off for space before lunch.

If it looked like she was swinging, she was probably pretending to be on a rocket. When she watched TV, she picked “Buck Rogers.” Her favorite branch of the Smithsonian? The National Air and Space Museum, naturally.

In February, **Paula DeCesaris '96** was named deputy director of NASA’s

Spacecraft and Vehicle Systems Department in the Engineering Directorate at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

It’s the textbook definition of “dream job.”

DeCesaris spent her first days with NASA learning all the projects her department touches.

“They’re talking about things I’ve always dreamed about,” she says.

The engineering team is involved on the Mars Ascent

Vehicle, which will pick up samples being collected by the Perseverance rover and bring them back to Earth. And a month into the job, DeCesaris observed the successful test of a rocket for the next mission to the moon – “the most powerful rocket ever made,” she says. “It’s indescribable. ... It’s surreal.”

DeCesaris grew up in Greenville County, the daughter of two teachers. Her father, Richard Khoe, was born in Indonesia and taught business at North Greenville University. Her mother, **Doris Khoe '77**, a Furman graduate, taught elementary school.

“Both were tremendous motivators and the reason for my successes,” DeCesaris says.

As a student at Blue Ridge High School, she planned to be either a neurosurgeon or an astronaut. But the summer before she started at Furman, she shadowed a surgeon and discovered it wasn’t the life she wanted. And her inability to swim well disqualified her for the astronaut corps.

On the advice of a Furman professor, she settled on a bachelor’s degree in physics. DeCesaris went from Furman to Auburn University, where she completed a master’s degree in aerospace engineering. She was more than prepared for the advanced work.

“Furman provided an unbelievable background, and my mother told me this would happen,” she says.

When she finished at Auburn, DeCesaris took a job with the Department of

Defense at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, where she helped develop guidance navigation for missiles, as well as jammers and anti-jammers. After about 10 years, she transferred to the Missile Defense Agency, which moved from Washington, D.C., to Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, the same Army post that houses Marshall. Critics at the time said it was impossible to hit one rocket with another rocket in outer space.

“We proved them wrong,” DeCesaris says.

After two decades, she was ready for a new challenge.

It’s not only that NASA had always been part of her dreams – she also was excited about the atmosphere there, the academic focus and the emphasis on diversity, equity and free thought.

Her new job is part of the Senior Executive Service, the highest-level federal positions that don’t require presidential appointment. It’s a tiny group, and only about one-third of its members are women. Fewer than 5% are Asian. DeCesaris is honored to be among them.

The Artemis mission is scheduled for 2024. It’s named for Apollo’s twin sister and will land the first woman on the moon. Its objective, in addition to the moon landing, is to create an orbiting gateway with a laboratory and restocking facilities. Artemis “is the steppingstone that’s going to get us to Mars,” DeCesaris says, and she’ll be part of both, which is “unbelievable.” ♦



EDGAR V. MCKNIGHT
1931 – 2020

EDGAR V. MCKNIGHT, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Religion Emeritus, died Dec. 29, 2020, in Greenville, S.C. He joined Furman in 1962 and taught for 35 years, during which he served terms as chair of the classical languages department and religion department, and was an associate dean for academic affairs. An internationally known scholar and shaper of New Testament interpretation in the latter part of the 20th century, he was one of the first biblical scholars to explore the aesthetic dimensions of biblical literature and the role of the reader in the interpretive process. *Read more on pg. 9.*



TOM FLOWERS '50
1928 – 2020

TOM FLOWERS, professor emeritus of art, died Dec. 13, 2020, in Greenville, S.C. He joined the art department at Furman in 1959 and served as department chair for many of his 30 years on the faculty. He was an active and influential member until his retirement in 1989, influencing generations of students and colleagues, and maintained his connection to the Furman community for the rest of his life. In 2018, he participated in a multigenerational family exhibit, "Lineage: Tom Flowers and Family." In his earlier life, he served in the U.S. Air Force and was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. *Read more on pgs. 57 and 65.*

EDITH COX '74, July 18, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

PETER MURRAY '74, Nov. 26, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

CLARENCE JONES '75, Dec. 31, 2019, Spartanburg, S.C.

HENRY MEYER '76, Jan. 22, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

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.

SARAH BELL '77, Dec. 28, 2020, Watkinsville, Ga.

DAVID BALDWIN '77, May 1, 2020, Annandale, Va.

DORIS CARPENTER KHOE '77, Oct. 29, 2020, Greer, S.C.

LISA BURNETT LYONS '78, Oct. 30, 2019, Piedmont, S.C.

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

PETER SCHNEIDER '79, April 5, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

ERIC ROBERTS '81, Oct. 16, 2019, Silver Spring, Md.

BENJAMIN BARNETT '81, Jan. 21, 2021, Richmond, Va.

ALLISON STINE CHATHAM '82, Feb. 26, 2021, West End, N.C.

EDDIE SEPTON '82, Feb. 8, 2021, Greer, S.C.

MARK BOWLING '83, Oct. 20, 2020, Lamar, S.C.

DAVID HUNT '84, March 27, 2021, Franklin, Tenn.

WALTER RICE '86, July 11, 2019, Columbus, Ga.

JAMIE KUNTZ HALL '87, Jan. 19, 2021, Greer, S.C.

KRISTIN LOFYE GHEESLING '88, Nov. 20, 2020, Alpharetta, Ga.

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

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

CORNELIA LEE MARR '90, Feb. 22, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

CHARLES STANDEFER '91, Oct. 9, 2019, Chattanooga, Tenn.

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

MILTON GLOVER '93, March 4, 2021, Anderson, S.C.

ELAINE BELANGIA '95, Oct. 4, 2020, Orangeburg, S.C.

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

TRAVIS JOHNSON '98, Feb. 13, 2020, Bundibugyo, Uganda

NATALIE BYARS FISHER '00, Jan. 10, 2020, Mount Pleasant, S.C.

KRISTIN BLACKWELL FOSTER '00, July 18, 2019, Clarksville, Tenn.

JOHN PHILLIP BURROUGHS '06, April 17, 2021, Gainesville, Ga.

GRADY ANTHONY '10, April 8, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

ELLEN ELIZABETH GILLIS '11, June 23, 2021, Augusta, Ga.

SUSAN SIMMONS '18, Feb. 10, 2021, Simpsonville, S.C.

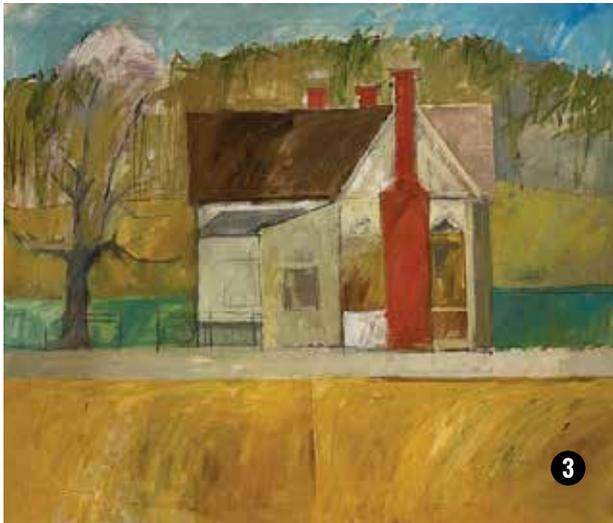
from the Interwebs



furmanuniversity This morning, President Davis announced that the Duke Endowment has awarded a \$25 million grant to Furman University to expand and enhance the Furman Advantage. Thanks to this generous support, Furman will continue to give every student access to an unparalleled education and real-world experiences.



furmaniach STUDENT SPOTLIGHT on WUNC 91.5, Jasmine Shabazz is being interviewed by Embodied, a weekly talk show broadcasted through the North Carolina Public Radio! Jasmine will be discussing menstrual equity activism and organizing in the South as a part of her role with PERIOD, a youth-driven menstrual equity organization based in Portland, Oregon.



STILL

Tom Flowers '50, an art professor at Furman for 30 years, died in 2020, leaving hundreds of pieces, including ❶ acrylic wash/graphite drawing, 23" x 18" (1980s); ❷ acrylic paint on canvas, 38" x 58" (late 1970s or early 1980s); ❸ acrylic painting, "Farmhouse," 34" x 40" (1980s); and ❹ gouache, 8.5" by 11" (early 2000s). Flowers also designed and executed Furman's mace. *Read more on pg. 63.*



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Karen Mendes '21 and **Samuel Lien Hsieh '21** share a hug after the Class of 2021 Commencement on May 8, 2021. The following weekend, the Class of 2020 returned to campus for their ceremony one year after graduating, as pandemic conditions eased. **Emily Zeytoonjian '20**, who was the student Commencement speaker, celebrates with **Jordan Willis '20** after the Class of 2020 Commencement ceremony.

