

# Furman

FOR ALUMNI  
AND FRIENDS  
OF THE UNIVERSITY

SPRING

2022

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Davis on recognizing leadership.  
**pg. 3**

## Q&A

Three Furman professors look at climate change.  
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## A CAREER THAT WAS MANIFEST

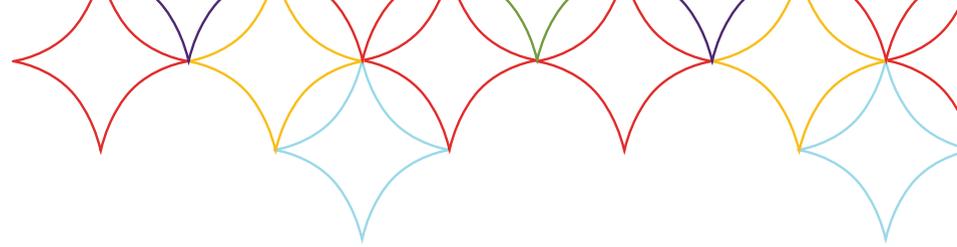
Los Angeles screenwriter Laura Putney '92 has all the paints and brushes. **pgs. 30-35**

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

After 26 years and 300-plus wins as Furman's head soccer coach, Doug Allison has built a program his players never have to leave. **pgs. 14-16**

## THE COMEBACK

This humble plant has a devoted Furman following. It deserves so much more. **pgs. 42-47**



# *Change lives* **BY SUPPORTING MAY EXPERIENCE**

*May Experience at Furman has the power to change students' trajectories at Furman.*

**THIS THREE-WEEK TERM FOLLOWING THE SPRING IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO TRAVEL THE WORLD ON STUDY AWAY PROGRAMS, FORGE LIFELONG FRIENDS, AND DETERMINE THEIR CAREER PATHS AND GOALS.**

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*“This May X has helped give me direction about my plans during and after college. I definitely hope to be able to incorporate the profession of teaching at some point in my career, and this trip showed me that there are many ways to do that outside of a traditional classroom setting.”*

- MAY X STUDENT, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 2019



pg. **54**

Shannice Singletary '14 visits The Village Grind café. As the co-founder of Friyay, a tech startup that aims to bring flexibility to our 9-to-5, she's living by example. "I work remotely full time running Friyay, and it's my favorite place to work from," says Singletary of the Greenville haunt.

**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Elizabeth Davis on what makes a leader. *pg. 3*

**AROUND THE LAKE**

Rev. Jim Pitts '60 helped guide Furman during periods of social change, including the university's break from the Southern Baptist Convention. He died on Jan. 18, 2021. *pgs. 6-7*

A \$5 million gift from Chris '78 and Andrea Borch will endow track and cross-country scholarships. *pg. 8*

**Q&A**

Three Furman professors look at climate change. *pgs. 10-11*

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**NOTES FROM THE FIELD**

After 26 years and 300-plus wins as Furman's head soccer coach, Doug Allison has built a program his players never have to leave. *pgs. 14-16*

**Features**

**MASTER OF THE SKEWER**

BY KELLEY BRUSS

Journalist and author Marshall Frady '63 leveled his piercing critiques at politicians, social norms and Furman of the 1960s. *pgs. 18-23*

**A MILESTONE FOR THE UPSTATE MLP**

BY JERRY SALLEY '90

The partnership between Furman's Institute for the Advancement of Community Health, Prisma Health and South Carolina Legal Services helps low-income families. *pgs. 24-27*

**A CAREER THAT WAS MANIFEST**

BY WILL ROTHSCHILD

Los Angeles screenwriter Laura Putney '92 has all the paints and brushes. *pgs. 30-35*

**'I WOULD HAVE WANTED THEM TO SEE'**

BY KELLEY BRUSS

Saul Antonio Rivera '13 finds renewal through forgiveness. *pgs. 36-41*

**THE COMEBACK**

This humble plant has a devoted Furman following. It deserves so much more. *pgs. 42-47*

**CLASS NOTES**

Where you have been, where you are going. *Get Up Close* with Rev. Susie B. Smith '72 and Shannice Singletary '14. What life is like *After the Aisle* for Matthew '09 and Kathryn Cesari '10. *pgs. 52-61*

**SHELF LIFE**

Works by Fredrick Tucker '81, Kenneth H. Kolb, Andrea Bobotis '98 and Susannah Larry '12. *pgs. 62-63*



**COVER**

Laura Putney '92 has found her home in the writers' room – a place where she can be endlessly creative.

## OVERHEARD

“ I recently linked to the article in the online Furman magazine, ‘A Bridge to Connect Black Alumni,’ and saw this ▶

I think I see what happened, but the optics make it look like Laura Baker, because she is not

alumni, is somehow less than. Why are all the other names bold – presumably because they are alumni? I noticed the same for our outgoing director of the center for inclusive communities, Deborah Allen, mentioned later in the article. Would the impact have been that much less if the alumni names were not bold or if Laura Baker’s and Deborah Allen’s names were bold?

There are so many people on this university campus that impact the lives of students, many who did not have the opportunity or privilege to attend Furman University.

While the university moves toward a climate of inclusive excellence, one way we can do that is by eliminating instances of perceived inequality and status. Of course we want alumni status noted, but not in a way that makes a non-alum look to not be recognized as a full member of the Furman community.

Thank you for your time and attention.

### ROBYN ANDREWS

*Circulation Supervisor, Libraries Diversity Coordinator, Platinum Pathways Academic Advisor, Furman University Libraries*

### Editor’s note:

We appreciate this new perspective on a traditional style found in many alumni magazines. After discussing it with Furman’s Office of Alumni & Parent Engagement, Furman magazine will retain bold type for alumni names in the Class Notes section but use regular type in the rest of the magazine.

**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



## 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](mailto: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

**I**f you look closely, one theme that runs throughout this issue of Furman magazine is leadership – the choosing of a path that is genuine and personal but, almost by definition, far from easy. It’s the choosing of that authentic path by our alumni that brings about their various and meaningful contributions.

Furman alumni are leading in all kinds of ways in diverse careers and callings, past and present. And they have something in common: They all benefitted from a Furman education that prepared them for the twists and turns of life and careers. It’s that combination of community, academic excellence, mentoring from faculty and staff, and the value that we at Furman place on civic engagement and inclusivity that fosters the leadership we see in our graduates today and in decades past.

Some of these alumni are storytellers. Marshall Frady ’63 famously revealed the political truths of his era, Lindsey Beard ’13 documented our precious plant life, and Laura Putney ’92 painted the landscapes that took shape when her creativity intersected with her own life experiences. Consider, too, Saul Antonio Rivera ’13, whose resilience and determination, combined with his capacity to care for others and his service to this country, carried him to a place of healing and creative success. And, of course, look to tech entrepreneur Shannice Singletary ’14 for a preview of what our 9-to-5 will



### WHAT MAKES A LEADER?



*We know the qualities that set them apart  
and what helps them succeed.*

BY ELIZABETH DAVIS

look like in the future. (Hint: There will be coffee shops.)

These are just a few of the alumni, students, faculty and staff you will find in the pages of this magazine who embody leadership.

We know that the elements of a Furman education that allow our students to find their calling do not come together by chance. In a variety of ways, we are putting these elements in place to position our students to explore their interests, to define their strengths and to challenge the limits of what they thought possible. Today, students might gain crucial insights on a trip to the Civil Rights Trail in Alabama (pg. 50). Or they may develop a deep interest in

botany while researching the bunched arrowhead (pg. 42). And for others, an internship with the Magdalene Clinic (pg. 11) may be that precious seed of learning from which decades of healthcare excellence grows.

These experiences are powerful. But they are only part of Furman’s formula.

We also know from various studies that a foundational component of a student’s success is a sense of belonging and community. Students who feel like they belong are more likely to stay in college and to graduate, according to the National Survey of Student Engagement. A strong sense of belonging also correlates with “academic success and

motivation, self-efficacy, a greater sense of self-worth and overall mental wellbeing,” according to EAB, a consulting agency that specializes in higher education strategy.

For this generation of students, belonging matters, but such a connection can feel particularly tenuous when a student first arrives on campus. That’s in part why, as you’ll read on page 51, we are embarking on the university’s largest construction project to date. In February, we broke ground on a comprehensive renovation of South Housing that will include building a new residence hall to replace Blackwell Hall, relocating the Center for Inclusive Communities into that new hall, and updating four others in the complex devoted to first-year students.

The new and renovated halls will offer students greater opportunities to gather and build community, while creating more occasions for faculty and staff to visit South Housing. The new residential village will also connect Academic Affairs and Student Life by combining students’ in-class and out-of-class experiences.

Leadership can take many forms. We see it in the vibrant lives found in this magazine. And at Furman, we’re setting the stage.

We’re creating a place where our students can discover what excites them, what helps them to belong, and in turn, what puts them on a path toward a meaningful life. ✦

*Elizabeth Davis*



# Around the Lake

A Music By the Lake concert, featuring the Lakeside Concert Band, on July 15, 2021, at the Furman amphitheater

JEREMY FLEWING



## WHERE IDEAS AND LEADERS TAKE FLIGHT



*The newly named Robert and Margaret Hill Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship reflects the Hills' enduring dedication to Furman.*

BY JERRY SALLEY '90



Left: Students take a May Experience class in design thinking through The Hill Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Right: Robert '83 and Margaret Platt Hill '83

**R**obert Hill '83 and Margaret Platt Hill '83 have shown their dedication to Furman in many ways through the years.

They served as chairs of the Richard Furman Society executive committee and members of the Because Furman Matters Campaign executive committee. The Hill Atrium and Hill Courtyard of the Trone Student Center are named in their honor, as is a biogeochemistry lab in the Townes Center for Science. They also support the Partners Scholarship Program and the Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection.

And now the Hills are supporting Furman's Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship with an endowment fund. To recognize that commitment, the institute is now known as The Robert and Margaret Hill Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The naming is fitting, says Anthony Herrera, Furman's chief innovation officer and executive director of The Hill Institute, noting that the couple's initial investment led to the institute's founding.

"They were such a catalyst in getting the university to take the first step to launch this institute," Herrera says. "They started the journey that brought me to campus to take this role on. Not only have they been supporters, they've been partners in building it step by step and brick by brick."

The institute was launched in August 2018. With the mission of developing leaders into entrepreneurially minded thinkers and doers, the institute has helped introduce the Furman Business Innovation Accelerator, the GVL Starts program, the Class E podcast and the Paladin Pitch competition.

These accomplishments and the success of The Hill Institute as a whole have

their roots in The Furman Advantage, says Robert Hill, a retired executive and member of the Furman Board of Trustees.

"I think that really enables us to do some neat things as a university and invest in our student body appropriately," he says. "That's an important anchor – and I'm not sure we'd invest if we didn't have a healthy strategy around The Furman Advantage and creating those experiences for students."

The Hills' endowment will allow the institute to continue its ongoing work and create more connections across campus, Herrera says.

"When you think about a domain that can connect chemistry and communication studies, or philosophy and business – that's innovation and entrepreneurship," he says. "That's where the institute is so transformational. This will bring all the departments, all the disciplines, all of our divisions across campus

together in a common ground. We're just barely starting to scratch the surface."

Herrera's leadership, as well as that of Furman President Elizabeth Davis, is inspiring to the Hills, they say.

"When you're making a gift to Furman, you're investing behind people, too," Robert Hill says.

As Furman alumni and parents – their son, Marshall Hill, graduated in 2012 – "Furman has been good to us through the years," Hill says.

"A little bit of this is giving back to people who gave to us when we were students there," he says. "We were impacted by great professors, and we made great friends at Furman, and that's been uplifting, too. It's an important time to give back." ♦

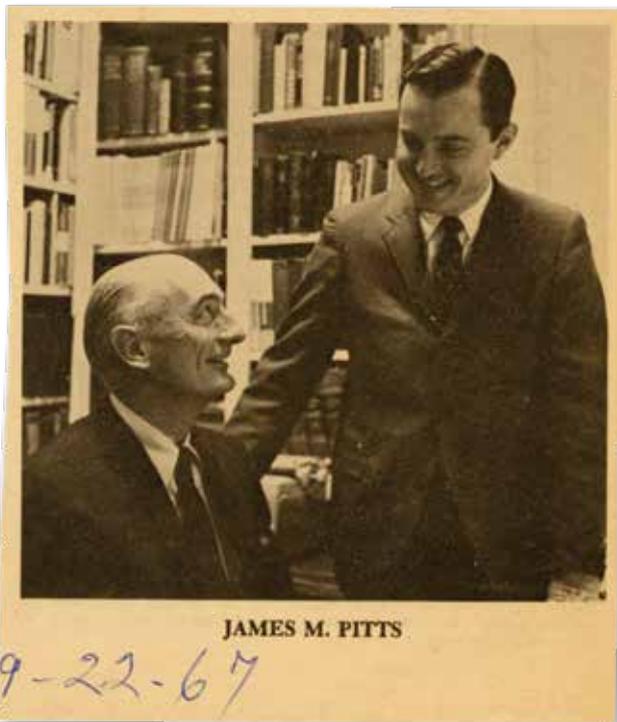


## THE FURMAN FAMILY REMEMBERS REV. PITTS



*Jim Pitts '60 helped guide the university during integration, the Vietnam War and the break from the Southern Baptist Convention.*

BY KELLEY BRUSS



Pitts (right) with Chaplain L. D. Johnson at the time of Pitts's appointment as assistant chaplain at Furman.

**J**im Pitts '60 left his mark at Furman by spending his decades there on everyone but himself.

The university celebrated his life in an October worship service at Daniel Chapel. Pitts, 83, died Jan. 18, 2021. He served Furman from 1967 to 2003, including more than 20 years as university chaplain. In story after story, former students and colleagues recalled the ways that Pitts invested in them and countless others.

Vic Greene '73, associate chaplain under Pitts, said his friend exemplified a life well-lived. "But also well-shared," Greene said.

Pitts helped stabilize Furman through integration, Vietnam and the break from the Southern Baptist Convention.

"He walked with us through countless times of celebration and of heartbreak," Greene said.

The Rev. Peggy Haymes '82, a therapist, minister and writer, recalled meeting Pitts at the start of her first year at Furman, when she brought him a prayer she had written. As part of helping her explore church-related vocations, Pitts introduced Haymes to the first clergywoman she'd ever met.

He had a gift for connecting people, Haymes said. And for students, a gift "for introducing us to parts of ourselves that we did not yet know existed."

Pitts developed an internship program through Church Related Vocations for students planning to work in ministry. For Haymes, that experience was profound.

"I still draw on what I learned in my internship at the old Greenville Memorial Hospital," she said.

Vernon Burton '69, a Clemson University history professor, said Pitts turned him toward graduate school and away from seminary.

"Jim was determined to save Christianity from me," Burton said, laughing. He held up a copy of one of his many books. "Every book I did, I discussed with him."

The Rev. Grady Butler remembered Pitts as his brother in civil rights education.

"He was about making a difference in the lives of people, no matter where you were, who you were," Butler said. He referred to Pitts as his "special soul brother," while acknowledging that's not a phrase most Black men would use for even a dear white friend.

"Jim Pitts transcended race and culture," Butler said. The two men were part of a team that took Furman students on trips through the Southeast to learn on location the stories of Selma and Memphis and Montgomery and Atlanta. "He wanted Furman students to know the real story of what happened," Butler said.

From left: Rev. Grady Butler speaks about Pitts during the memorial in October 2021. Pitts gives a lecture to students at Furman in the mid-1980s.



**“He walked with us through countless times of celebration and of heartbreak.”**

*VIG GREENE '73*

Cecil Staton '80 told how Pitts invested in him when he was a high school radio enthusiast with no family college pattern to follow – and an “academic late-bloomer” besides. Pitts played a central role in his enrollment at Furman and was still cheerleading years later when Staton was accepted for graduate work at Oxford. Pitts saw students not as their place of birth or position but as what they had the potential to be.

“My experience was not unique,” Staton said. “That’s what Jim did. He helped students. ... He helped them find their way to Furman and all that it could offer them.”

Staton and Pitts later partnered on a Christian publishing venture, Smith and Helwys, for which Pitts served as board chair for more than 30 years. Shortly after Pitts died, Smith and Helwys published “Walk with Me: Memories, Reflections, and Essays Celebrating the Life of James Milton Pitts.” The book includes 36 remembrances and essays about Pitts. A copy was presented to his widow, Nancy Pitts, and their son, Jonathan Pitts, during the memorial service.

“Jim is gone, but his memories and his works will follow him,” Butler told those at the memorial service. “Amen and amen.” ♦

**REV. PITTS'S PRINT AND EBOOK ARE AVAILABLE AT [HELWYS.COM/SH-BOOKS/WALK-WITH-ME](https://www.helwys.com/sh-books/walk-with-me).**

**THEN**



**DOUG STINSON '01**

**While traveling to Furman during a high school visit, the connection was immediate**

as I toured the campus, visited classrooms and had a chance encounter with then-President David Shi while walking through the student center. During that trip, I knew Furman was my destination for a litany of reasons, starting with the personal, close interaction with first-class educators, immediate connection with the community in and around Furman, and, of course, its beautiful golf course!

Upon arriving in September of 1997 (Furman still operated then on trimesters), I was overwhelmed with the opportunities the campus provided and learned quickly that the community of people around you would determine the outcome of the next four years. That community included professors, advisors in both academic and student services, and many friendships created through Sigma Chi and Greek life and student organizations like Orientation Staff and the Heller Service Corps.

My desire to serve others and give back stemmed from those undergraduate years thanks to watching campus leaders firsthand who cared more about service than self.

In taking the opening liberal arts classes, professors such as John Shelley in theology and religion and Kailash Khandke in microeconomics made an impact by explaining how and why they taught their subjects. Advisors who took us into their homes for meals showed us the depth of their caring and commitment, as did others in the Furman community, such as Carol Daniels, who led student services with a firm grasp of all happenings and a staff that cared for each student.

Furman friendships led me to my career in manufacturing sales in Knoxville, Tennessee, and through that, I was introduced to my incredible wife, Ashley. Truly hard to fathom it, but our kids, Payne, 15, and Haley, 13, are starting early conversations about college and where to attend. They see the excellent education, close friendships and strong connections enabled through Furman and have put it on top of the list! ♦

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

*Doug Stinson '01 is president of the Furman Alumni Association Board of Directors.*



**C**ameron Ponder '22 dreams of becoming a professional runner.

But in the meantime, the economics and politics and international affairs double major has been able to pursue two other opportunities – to compete nationally and to study at Furman. Both are thanks to a track scholarship established by Chris Borch '78, his wife, Andrea, and the Borch Foundation.

“The scholarship really set me up well to experience some great races ... and I’m working on two degrees at one of the best liberal arts schools in the country,” says Ponder, a First Team All American from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, who runs long distance and steeplechase.

“I’ve got the best of both worlds thanks to Mr. Borch and Furman,” he says.

Now a new \$5 million gift from the couple will help establish an endowment to provide cross-country/track and field scholarships for students like Ponder.

Borch ran cross-country/track and field as a student and received a scholarship he lauds as “probably one of the first big breaks in my life.”

“It opened the door not only to a great education, but being on the track team was the beginning of learning some lessons that have just been invaluable to me in every aspect of my life,” he says. “And one of the first ... is that success is in direct proportion to having a goal and working hard.”

Borch is CEO of Micro-Mechanics Inc., which builds

## GOING THE DISTANCE FOR FURMAN STUDENTS



*\$5 million gift from Chris '78 and Andrea Borch will endow track and cross-country scholarships.*

BY LIV OSBY



Cameron Ponder '22 competes on Jan. 22, 2021, at the Samford Invitational, during which he broke the 4-minute mark in the mile. Upper right: Chris '78 and Andrea Borch

high-precision mechanical tools used in the manufacture of semiconductor chips. The company has five factories and employs about 500 people.

“I think athletics is an incredibly important part of education. It teaches resiliency and persistence and having a passion for things. But it has to

be funded,” he says. “And the only way to do that sustainably is to help the university build an endowment to support scholarships.”

The couple made an initial gift of \$250,000 in 2005, which combined with gifts from others, has grown to approximately \$14 million.

This new gift, along with others and investment growth, will bring the endowment to \$20 million, allowing scholarships to be funded through investment earnings.

Furman head coach Robert Gary, who competed in the 1996 and 2004 Olympic Games, says it is the biggest gift to Furman Athletics.

“The gift will mean we are one of very few nationally competitive programs that are fully endowed ... (which) helps our program’s stability,” says Gary. “It helps students get an education they otherwise might not get because they couldn’t afford it.”

Furman cross-country/track and field is nationally recognized, placing 10th for men and 25th for women out of more than 300 programs in Division I cross country. Furman students have qualified for NCAA championships and Olympic trials.

“We are grateful for Chris and Andrea’s vision and belief in the impact of the student-athlete experience and appreciate head coach Robert Gary’s success and stewardship, which enabled this gift to become a reality,” says Director of Athletics Jason Donnelly. “Furthermore, we are inspired by the Borch family’s commitment to the future as we embark on an effort to grow the endowment for athletics scholarships to \$100 million.”

Meanwhile, Ponder is aiming for the Paris Olympics in 2024 and Los Angeles in 2028.

“I know that with the education I’ve gotten at Furman, I have a lot of options,” he says. “I’m very grateful.” ♦

# from the VAULT

## BOLD MOVES

Is the fresh spring weather turning your thoughts to hoops, courts and spirited outdoor contests? The students of the Greenville Woman’s College knew the feeling.

Credit Mary Camilla Judson for emphasizing physical education among her female pupils. An educated woman from Connecticut, Judson became “lady principal” of the Greenville Baptist Female College in 1878, a position she held until 1912. She taught a variety of subjects and promoted the progressive idea of calisthenics for women. In 1912, the college became the Greenville Woman’s College before merging with Furman in the 1930s.



Mary Camilla Judson



We can see in the pages of the 1913 college annual, *Entre Nous*, that the students of Greenville Woman’s College swung racquets and shot hoops. But the women lobbed much more than tennis balls and basketballs. These are a few of their choice quotations, as chronicled in the yearbook from the time:

*“Now for a madcap galloping chase! I’ll make a commotion in every place!”* – WARNER HARE

*“Up, up, my friend and quit your books. Or you’ll grow double.”* – FELICIA SPEARMAN

*“I will listen to anyone’s convictions, but pray, keep your doubts to yourself.”* – MARIAN ASBURY

*“Oh, that we women had men’s privilege of speaking first.”* – IRENE MILDRED FINKLEA



Pages from the 1913 *Entre Nous*

# Q&A

## OUR ONLY HOME

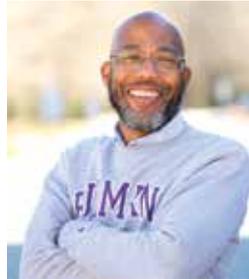


*Furman professors Geoffrey Habron,  
Matthew Cohen and M. Taha Kasim  
on the challenge of our time*



**F**rom deadly heat waves to rising sea levels, to fire seasons that start earlier and food supplies at risk, the effects of human-induced climate change are innumerable. But in the absence of global, systemic change to reverse our dangerous course on carbon emissions, solutions and responses may seem remote to an individual. Three Furman professors offer insights about the changing world around us – from the perspective of our discourse, our cities and even our front porches.

*What are some approaches communities can take to increase their resilience to climate change?*



**GEOFFREY HABRON, PROFESSOR OF SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCES**

“Resilience means the ability to bounce back from a disturbance and return to a normal state or move into a new, better stable state. With climate, we want to anticipate the possible changes because we cannot go back to

prior conditions. We must build resilience for upcoming and shifting possibilities.

“The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration developed an online Climate Resilience Toolkit that identifies five steps for communities to follow: Explore hazards, assess vulnerability and risks, investigate options, prioritize and plan, and take action.

“Providing tree canopy coverage addresses multiple hazards, such as providing shade to reduce urban heat, buffering land from intensive rain to reduce flooding and landslides, and reducing evaporation to mitigate droughts. Urban heat disproportionately impacts vulnerable low-income minority communities with the least capacity to withstand such conditions. Communities need to foster social capital and adaptive capacity by ensuring shared diverse knowledges of the problems and solution options among wide groups of people. We need community trust to prepare for the range of climate changes and solutions.”

*What can we do to more effectively communicate the urgency of addressing climate change?*



**MATTHEW COHEN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCES**

“Communicating the climate crisis can be tricky. We want to strike a balance between conveying the urgency and enormity of the crisis without scaring people into apathy. Some social science research points

toward messaging that is solutions oriented, engaging the public in dialogue regarding how we can and will stop climate change. This line of research shows that people respond more positively to these messages, while ‘doom

and gloom' messages cause people to feel hopeless and lose agency. At the same time, it is possible to paint too rosy of a picture, and people don't take seriously how bad things really are if we don't act yesterday.

"The final challenge is determining the appropriate audience and which call to action is most effective. For instance, so much messaging focuses on personal actions individuals can take while ignoring the real problem: Our global economic system demands endless consumption of land and fossil fuels. So, in summary, we want to share messages about climate action that show effective solutions that address system-level issues and build agency in the public to support radical change."

*We know trees create habitat, combat pollution, halt erosion and help to cool our communities. Is there also a direct economic value from trees?*



**M. TAHA KASIM, THE ROBERT E. HUGHES ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS**

"In Greenville County and elsewhere, yes, there is a correlation. But we also know, generally, that housing prices are higher in neighborhoods with relatively better environmental

quality. In a research project, James Miller '21 and I disentangled the value households attach to urban tree cover by observing housing prices.

"Consider two houses that have the same housing and neighborhood characteristics (that is, house size, age, number of rooms, school quality, etc.) but differ only in proximity to tree cover. The difference in prices between these two houses will provide evidence on the value people attach to tree cover. Similar studies have been done for other cities (for example, Athens, Georgia; Davis, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Washington, D.C.; and Salo, Finland).

"We collected data on home sales in Greenville County for 2009-2015, and based on addresses determined tree cover around the house. Using simultaneous autoregressive (SAR) hedonic models, preliminary results suggest that a 5% increase in tree cover within a 100-meter radius, increases average housing prices by \$2,075 (1%). This effect, however, diminishes as distance to tree cover increases. These results are consistent with point estimates found in previous literature." ♦

**NOW**



**RIYA MISAL '22**

**Being a senior, I have spent a lot of time reflecting on my Furman journey** and what has made the biggest impact on me. The experiences I have gained have been the most influential. The Furman Advantage is real. I do not think I would have gotten this level of attention and this many opportunities had I not come to Furman. This summer, I interned with Furman's Institute for the Advancement of Community Health and the Magdalene Clinic as part of my senior capstone to integrate my public health knowledge with a real-world application.

While my career goal is to become a physician, I want to work with marginalized communities (specifically low-income, immigrant or undocumented populations) to reduce health inequity. Through my career, I am interested in creating access to affordable healthcare for low-income populations, developing inclusive policies, and focusing on preventive care. I specifically chose the Magdalene Clinic because I am interested in the OB-GYN field and creating community health initiatives in the future.

This internship provided many opportunities to understand disparities in women's health,

the need for special services for women experiencing substance use, especially during pregnancy, and the technical details behind creating and evaluating the effectiveness of community health programs.

This was also my first exposure to trauma-informed care. I have never worked with patients with substance abuse disorders, so this internship allowed me to learn about healing with compassion, understanding provider bias and reducing stigma related to mental health and drug use. I feel these are valuable lessons for any future physician to learn in order to understand what patients go through.

My time at Furman has been one of the best parts of my life. I have grown as a leader, grown as a human, and increased my awareness of so much suffering in the world. My experiences at Furman and the Magdalene Clinic have helped shape my larger goal in life: to improve accessibility and give everyone the fair chance to live the life they want. ♦

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

*Riya Misal '22 is a public health major and Pre-Med Magdalene Clinic Evaluation Intern at The Institute for the Advancement of Community Health.*



## FOR STACY CAPERS '18, 'LIFE'S GOOD' AND JUST BEGINNING



*The music major went from a church choir in Charleston to Furman to a recording studio in L.A.*

**BY KELLEY BRUSS**



Capers singing in the music video that she produced with the other contest winners.

**I**t felt like a one-in-a-million chance, but then Stacy Capers '18 was one of just four.

In August 2021, she traveled to Los Angeles to record a music video for LG Electronics. She'd won the opportunity in the Life's Good music contest, in which singer-songwriter and producer Charlie Puth wrote the chorus for a song and asked musicians to contribute verses and instrumentation that would both blend with his work and add their own flair to the piece.

Capers' entry was one of four chosen from among more than 1,500 submissions. The new song created from the collaboration, "Life's Good," was used in an LG ad and was featured on a Times Square billboard.

"The whole experience, from the time they told me that I won to even now, has been surreal," Capers says.

Her sound, a blend of R&B, pop and neo-soul, was born in a church choir. She was still in elementary school when she started to sing in the Charleston, South Carolina, church where her grandfather was pastor.

Capers majored in music at Furman and spent hours outside the classroom involved in musical opportunities on campus: Furman Singers; FUtones, an a cappella group; the Twelve Peers, a student-led ensemble; and Pauper Players, a musical theater group.

Serving as musical director of FUtones during senior year "gave me an outlet to write music, a place to be able to create and compose," Capers says. But her entire musical education at Furman was inspirational.

"I just have the music department to thank in general," she says.

Capers works for a payroll company, using evenings and weekends to hone her art. In 2020, she entered LG's first musical contest and was a finalist to help complete a piece by H.E.R., one of her favorite artists.

In 2021, her dad was encouraging her to push herself as a musician. Days later, she saw an Instagram announcement about the second season of the LG contest. It felt like fate.

Capers enjoyed the challenge of identifying Puth's objectives for the song, lyrically and musically, and building on those while adding her own perspective.

She learned in mid-summer 2021 that she was a "potential winner" and needed to attend a Zoom meeting for final interviews. But it was a ruse – the meeting was to tell her she was one of the four contest winners.

Within weeks she was flying to Los Angeles. Puth already had put the five individual pieces of music together. Capers and the other winners worked



Capers '18 visits Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles during her recording trip.

**“(Furman) gave me an outlet to write music, a place to be able to create and compose.”**

**STACY CAPERS '18**

with him to create a music video of the new song.

She spent hours with a stylist, then moved on to hair and makeup professionals. Recording was managed by a complete production crew.

“I’m used to doing everything for myself,” Capers says, laughing.

The experience inspired her to keep putting in the work on her music.

“I definitely don’t want to stop this momentum,” she says.

Winning the contest has “broken the conception I had (that) it’s a one-in-a-million chance to get something like this,” she says. The dream used to be: Get signed by a label and become a big star.

But today?

“You can make your own path,” Capers says. ♦

**TO SUPPORT MUSIC AT FURMAN, GO TO [FURMAN.EDU/SUPPORT-MUSIC](https://www.furman.edu/support-music).**

COURTESY PHOTO | JEREMY FLEMING

## NEXT



**HOLLY PINHEIRO JR.**

### As I complete my first semester at Furman University,

I am still taking in the excitement of teaching in person, meeting new colleagues and interacting with students. I am thrilled to be at an institution that not only says that they value teaching and student-centered learning but repeatedly proves it by supporting and nurturing an educational dynamic that values developing great students, scholars and staff.

I truly believe that it is both a privilege and an honor to be teaching African American history, especially in South Carolina. There is so much rich history, particularly in my area of expertise in the 19th century, regarding South Carolina’s history. Even though my forthcoming book, “The Families’ Civil War: Black Soldiers and The Fight for Racial Justice,” focuses on Philadelphian-born Black Civil War soldiers and their families, there are numerous connections to South Carolina’s history where numerous northern Black Civil War regiments defeated Confederate

forces, protected formerly enslaved people, and enforced Reconstruction Era policies.

Regardless of a student’s major, I strive to see both the value and relevancy of history in their lives. Using a mixture of primary and secondary sources throughout the semester, we critically analyze and discuss how events ranged from the 15th century to the present. During our discussions, my students have demonstrated a willingness to think deeply, ask questions and establish connections of events across extended periods.

Outside the classroom, I am looking forward to helping foster more inclusive conversations that acknowledge the diversity and rich history of the local area while also working to establish scholarships that continue to diversify the student population in a way that is more representative of the local communities. ♦

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*Holly Pinheiro Jr. is an assistant professor of history. He joined the Furman faculty in 2021.*

**THERE'S**

# **NO PLACE LIKE HOME**

**BY VINCE MOORE**

**WHEN YOU'VE BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL AS FURMAN HEAD SOCCER COACH DOUG ALLISON HAS BEEN OVER THE PAST 26 YEARS, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE OPPORTUNITIES** to take your coaching expertise elsewhere. While Allison was able to ignore those overtures over the years, that wasn't the case when the University of South Carolina came calling in the summer of 2021.

A native of England, Allison was an All-American player at UofSC and is still the university's all-time leading scorer. He is a member of the Gamecock Athletics Hall of Fame. His coach and former teammates, which includes Hootie & the Blowfish drummer Jim Sonefeld, called and told Allison it was time to consider leaving Furman and returning to his alma mater.

While the UofSC job opening did indeed get his attention, it was the players and the alumni of the Paladin program who convinced Allison that Furman was where he needed to remain.



Furman men's soccer head coach Doug Allison speaks to players, including from left: Jake Raine '24 Tommy Redhead '24 and Josh Hosie '24, during pre-game, just before kickoff against Belmont University on Sept. 25, 2021, Furman Family Weekend.



KEN SCAR

  
**NOTES**  
-----  
**FROM THE**  
**FIELD**

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

### 'NEVER ON THEIR OWN'

The university can feel fortunate that Allison indeed stayed, because it would have been difficult to find another head coach who could duplicate what Allison has done at Furman.

His teams have won a total of 20 Southern Conference regular season and tournament championships and qualified for 11 NCAA tournaments. The 1999 and 2002 teams each won two games in the NCAA championships, with the 1999 team finishing with a 21-2-1 record and a final ranking of No. 3 in the nation.

Allison's program has produced 133 All-Southern Conference selections, 30 All-Americans, and nine Major League Soccer (MLS) draft picks. Three of his players (Ricardo Clark '05, Clint Dempsey '05 and Walker Zimmerman '14) reached the pinnacle of American soccer when they joined the U.S. National Team. In all, Allison has won 323 games as the Paladins' head coach, his winning percentage ranking him among the top 25 active coaches in Division I.

But when Allison talks about building a program at Furman, he's talking about more than victories and player recognition. He is just as concerned with what his players learn away from the soccer field and what they take with them after they graduate. He wants the fact that they played soccer at Furman to be something they carry with them the rest of their lives.

"It's not just about the results on the field," Allison

says. "There's so much more going on in the program than what happens in games. Some of our guys will go on to play professionally, but most of them won't. How can we best support our players, both while they're at Furman and after they leave? Do they need help finding a job? Do they need to talk with someone who can give them professional advice? We want them to know they are part of a family, that they are never on their own."

Zimmerman, an All-American at Furman and a current member of the U.S. National Team, plays for Nashville SC in the MLS. He said the work ethic required to compete on the field and in the classroom at Furman has served him well in both professional soccer and in other areas of his life.

"The program has a special place in my heart," says Zimmerman, who was the 2020 MLS Defender of the Year. "There is a bond that is shared with anyone who has donned the Furman soccer badge."

### FOR FUTURE STUDENT-ATHLETES

The strong soccer alumni network combined with Allison's efforts to get the community involved in the program have paid dividends. A former soccer player,



Allison guides his soccer team during Furman Family Weekend on September 25, 2021, against Belmont University. Furman won 2-1.

Graham Seagraves '00, and his wife, Jarrell '00, made the donation that kick-started the fundraising efforts for a new field house at Stone Soccer Stadium. A gift from the Spinks family in Greenville made the 5,300-square-foot Spinks Field House a reality a few years later. In recent years, former players have raised nearly \$1 million to fund the program's scholarship endowment.

Steve Spinks, CEO of the Spinx Co., says his family has supported many initiatives at Furman over the years, both athletic and academic, but the soccer program has a particular significance for them.

"Doug and his coaches really connect the players with the community and the broader world in a special way," he says. "I don't think another program in the country mixes top-level soccer, fun and character building in the way Doug and his program does."

### A FOND LOOK BACK

It's sometimes hard for Allison to believe he's been at Furman for a quarter of a century. He was only 28 years old when he took the Paladin job, not much older than the players he was coaching, and he admits the players taught him as much in those early years as he taught them.

"I had to learn how to become a head coach," Allison says, laughing. "It's daunting to look back and think the 28-year-old me was making decisions that would affect these young guys' lives."

But he believes he's finally got the hang of this coaching thing, and he's looking forward to what comes next for Paladin soccer.

"I've enjoyed developing a lasting culture in the soccer program that the alumni feel they can always come home to," he says. "It's been a fantastic experience." ♦



## SPORTS BRIEFS

### DON'T READ THIS (EXPERIENCE IT!)

#### STAFF REPORT

Here's something you may already know: Paladins show up.

Last fall, Furman football averaged more than 10,000 fans at its five home games, while the biggest game was the home opener against North Carolina A&T with 11,628 fans in September. In fact, Furman led the Southern Conference in fan attendance. The SoCon school with the next-best average was Western Carolina with 9,943. The remainder of the schools ranged from lowest (Samford University with 4,353) to third-highest (The Citadel with 9,878).



Furman cheerleaders rally the crowd on Sept. 25, 2021, during Family Weekend football game at Paladins Stadium against Mercer.

In the 2021 season, Furman Athletics launched the Furman Fan Zone, including the Wicked Weed Endzone Experience, beer and wine concessions, premium seating options and new field turf. There was also the Ingles Concert Stage, food truck options, an inflatable bouncy house, tailgate games such as cornhole, and a face painter and balloon artist.

"After having a year with limited capacity in 2020-21 due to COVID-19, Furman Athletics knew we wanted to have a completely reimaged fan experience for this football season that fans could enjoy," says Ty Osborne, assistant athletics director of marketing and fan experience. "Athletics Director Jason Donnelly challenged our department to create an environment that brought more energy back to Paladins Stadium, to cultivate the best atmosphere possible, because our student-athletes deserve it."

Students, too, appreciated a better view of the game from a special student zone called Champions Grove. The results? More students attended games and stayed longer each time. Meanwhile, an average of 18 student groups requested access to the student tailgate space for each of the first four home games.

"After positive feedback from fans, we're on the right track and will continue to develop new and fun experiences for the Furman community," says Osborne. ♦



Mike Bothwell '22 during the SoCon Championship game against Chattanooga. Furman lost in overtime 64-63.

### ALMOST THERE

BY VINCE MOORE

**If the best outcome for any Furman basketball season is winning the Southern Conference tournament and qualifying for the NCAA tournament, then both the men's and women's teams nearly pulled it off in 2021-22.**

Each advanced to the finals of their league tournaments before coming up just short. The women lost to Mercer, 73-54, in the championship game, while the men fell to UT-Chattanooga in overtime, 64-63.

In the men's game, Furman had taken a two-point lead with four seconds remaining before Chattanooga's David Jean-Baptiste launched a 30-plus-foot shot at the buzzer that denied the Paladins their first NCAA tournament appearance since 1980. The game was televised

nationally on ESPN and The New York Times' Victor Mather wrote that the game was a "candidate for ending of the year."

The women's team did play in the postseason Women's Basketball Invitational, losing to Bowling Green (82-61) and Austin Peay (73-59) in the double elimination format and defeating Northeastern (69-61) in the consolation bracket. The Paladins finished 20-14 overall, their first 20-win season since 1999-2000. Tierra Hodges '22 was named consensus Southern Conference Player of the Year, leading the league in scoring (18.0), rebounding (11.9) and free throw percentage (.832).

The men's team finished 22-12 overall. Jalen Slawson '22 was named the league's Defensive Player of the Year, while Slawson and Mike Bothwell '22 were named first team All-SoCon. ♦

**TO SUPPORT FURMAN ATHLETICS, GO TO [FURMAN.EDU/SUPPORT-ATHLETICS](http://FURMAN.EDU/SUPPORT-ATHLETICS).**

# MASTER OF THE SKEWER



Marshall Frady '63

## THE UNSPARING MARSHALL FRADY '63 TOOK ON POLITICIANS, CRITICS, SOCIAL NORMS AND FURMAN OF THE 1960S.

By Kelley Bruss

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**T**HERE'S NO RECORD OF  
MARSHALL FRADY '63  
MINCING WORDS.

A piece he called a “manifesto” raged against a smoking ban at Anderson High School and gloated over a win in an unnamed sport: “Anderson High has always regarded Greenville as a kind of burly, sneering bully, a loud smart aleck. And nothing delights the soul more than to see the bully paddled. And the Jackets very thoroughly paddled Greenville. No, they flogged them.”

His typewriter went right on flaming when he arrived at Furman.

“A few days past, our local covey of nervous conservatives paid a kind of homage to Martin Luther by thumb-tacking some five or so theses to the classroom bulletin board on the question – and, you must believe them, it is a grave one – of liberalism among the faculty,” a draft on a torn page reads. “Their declaration is in no danger of a prize for preciseness or, what’s more, for rationality.”

Frady went on to a prolific and varied career as a writer, first for newspapers, then for magazines such as Newsweek, The Atlantic and Life. He also spent several years in television journalism with ABC. His books include biographies of civil rights icons Jesse Jackson and Martin Luther King Jr., evangelist Billy Graham, and segregationist Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

Frady’s years at Furman had an early influence on both the writer and thinker he became.

“He needed to be challenged, and I think Furman certainly did challenge him,” says his sister, Nancy Huggins ’66.

Frady died in Greenville, South Carolina, in 2004. His papers are held in 58 boxes at Emory University in Atlanta. They include everything from a letter to his grandmother to school papers to notebooks full of interviews – a record of a writing life.

## NOTHING SACRED

Box 56 holds several pages of what seems to be a story. One character in it is described as “a gluttonous, raging, satanic fiend” – which is interesting, because it’s written on Second Baptist Church letterhead, with “J. Yates Frady, Minister, Augusta, Georgia” printed at the top. That’s Frady’s father, a one-time Furman student and lifelong Baptist pastor.

His typical response to his son’s ideology was to throw up his hands, pray and then get on with life. His mother worried more.

“My job was to fly under a radar screen and not give them any trouble, because he was giving them all he could,” says Huggins, the older of Frady’s two sisters.

After his junior year of high school, Frady told his parents he wanted to go to Cuba and report on the turmoil there. They said no.



Frady's portrait in the 1960 edition of Bonhomie

## HIS TYPEWRITER WENT RIGHT ON FLAMING WHEN HE ARRIVED AT FURMAN.

He borrowed money from a friend and traveled anyway, waiting in Florida for a chance to get to the island. He didn't make it during that trip (although he did years later) but he stayed long enough to miss a large part of what should have been his senior year.

For the rest of that year, "He stayed mainly back in his room, reading and writing," Huggins says.

When Frady finished high school a year late and came to Furman, he arrived at an institution more closely aligned with his parents' ways of thinking than his own. Still, Huggins credits Furman professors with pushing her brother to understand the world and his own thoughts about it.

"They would challenge him and open him up to new ideas and ways of thinking," she says.

### 'FRADY HERE'

Boxes 1 and 2 hold much of the work saved from his Furman days.

Frady argued passionately against a suggestion that the Paladin student newspaper should reflect the values of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"In other words, sir, this paper is not a kind of college-style junior Baptist Courier," Frady said in a column that was later honored as best in the state by the South Carolina Collegiate Press Association.

The university itself was not spared.

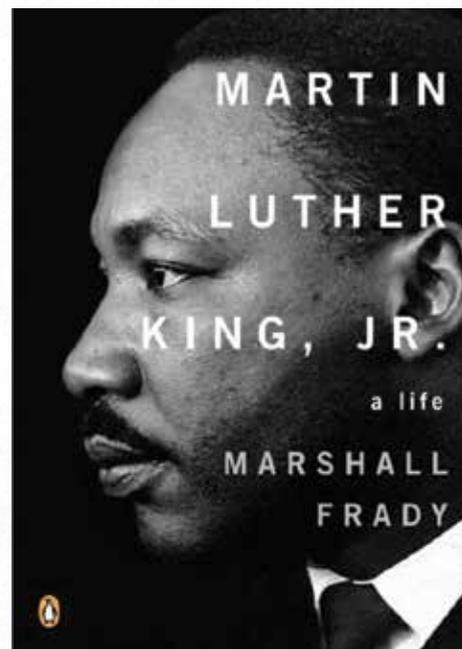
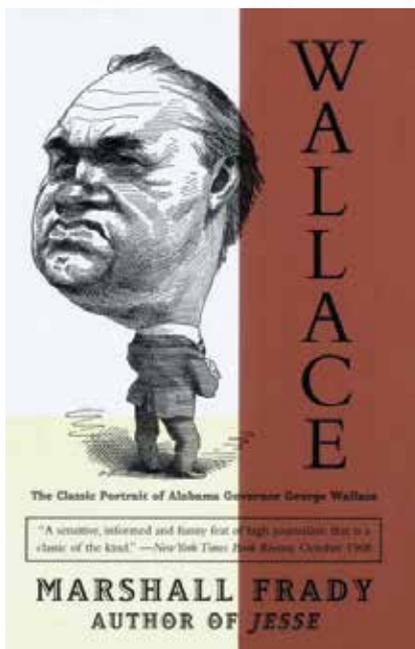
In a Paladin column called "Frady Here," he took on a new rule banning cigarette ads while Furman continued to accept money from The Duke Endowment.

**"HE NEEDED TO BE CHALLENGED, AND I THINK FURMAN CERTAINLY DID CHALLENGE HIM."** NANCY HUGGINS '66



Left: A newspaper article from when Frady's family had first moved to Anderson, South Carolina

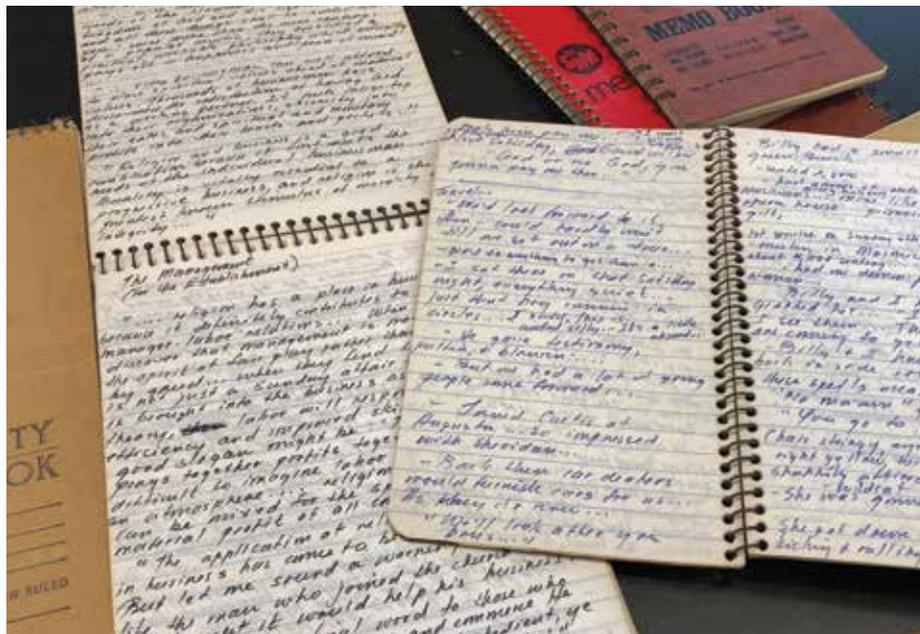
Below: Covers of two of Frady's books, "Wallace," and "Martin Luther King, Jr."



Among Frady's papers at Emory are, from top: an early 1960s photo from *The Greenville News Piedmont* introducing its college interns, including Frady standing second from right, a collection of notebooks from his career, and a page from his work as a Furman student.



Among the GNP's college students are, left to right, Mickey Lucas of North Greenville Junior High, Terrell Watts of North Greenville, Sullivan of Florida Southern College at Lakeland, and Frady. Bureau of Queen College in Charleston employees see members of the Greenville News editorial department. (The Bureau)



“It really does seem a trifle ingrate of our esteemed university to help itself so heartily to funds offered by the cigarette industry and then to place a rather sanctimonious taboo on cigarette advertising in campus publications,” he wrote.

He argued for several paragraphs about the hypocrisy of the rule, then wrote: “Just to demonstrate the cigarette advertising won’t result in a general moral collapse at Furman, we will here break the ice with – brace yourself! – a cigarette ad, unsolicited, unpaid-for (sic), and rather overall:

**BUY CIGARETTES**  
Then, if you want to,  
**SMOKE**  
them.”

Responses from the administration, if there were any, weren’t saved in the boxes with these pieces. But one professor seemed to reference his student’s public voice on a paper graded with a large, red C. “Frady was here, obviously; but Frady was in a hurry, wasn’t Frady?”

A memo from Wayne Freeman, then editor of *The Greenville News*, is more complimentary: “The editorial was well done, especially the reasoning and logical presentation. Forgive me for having taken the liberty of revising and polishing in part. I wish you had time to do the same for some of mine. Many thanks. You have rendered Furman and *The News* a service.”

Freeman doesn’t identify the piece he’s referring to, but the memo was saved with a copy of an editorial taking to task the Broad River Association of the South Carolina Southern Baptist Convention, which had “armed a missile in the form of a resolution demanding a ban on dancing by Furman University students.”

A few days past, our local covey of nervous conservatives paid  
nd of homage to Martin Luther be thumb-tacking some five or so  
es to the classroom bulletin board on the question -- and, believe  
B, it is a grave one -- of liberalism among the faculty. Their  
laration is in no danger of a prize for preciseness or, what's  
e, for rationality. It would, however, qualify for a variety of  
her prizes.  
It is rather lamentable that education, forever beset by beetle-brown  
hallenges to the integrity of free inquiry from the outside, must  
OW suffer the same order of piping from  
he inside. Though the student element it represents may be  
-rrible in both size and sense, the petition must still be taken  
that there still remain

Huggins, four years younger, often found herself in her brother's larger-than-life shadow, "which is not a bad place to be when he's behaving himself," she says, laughing.

After graduation, Frady started his career in newspapers, then went to work for Newsweek. Huggins says it wasn't his style, though. He wanted to "elaborate."

Frady's books gave him that chance.

### **'LOFTY THINGS' AND A LEGACY OF WORDS**

Box 18 of the Emory papers includes a 15-page response to Christianity Today's critical review of his Graham biography.

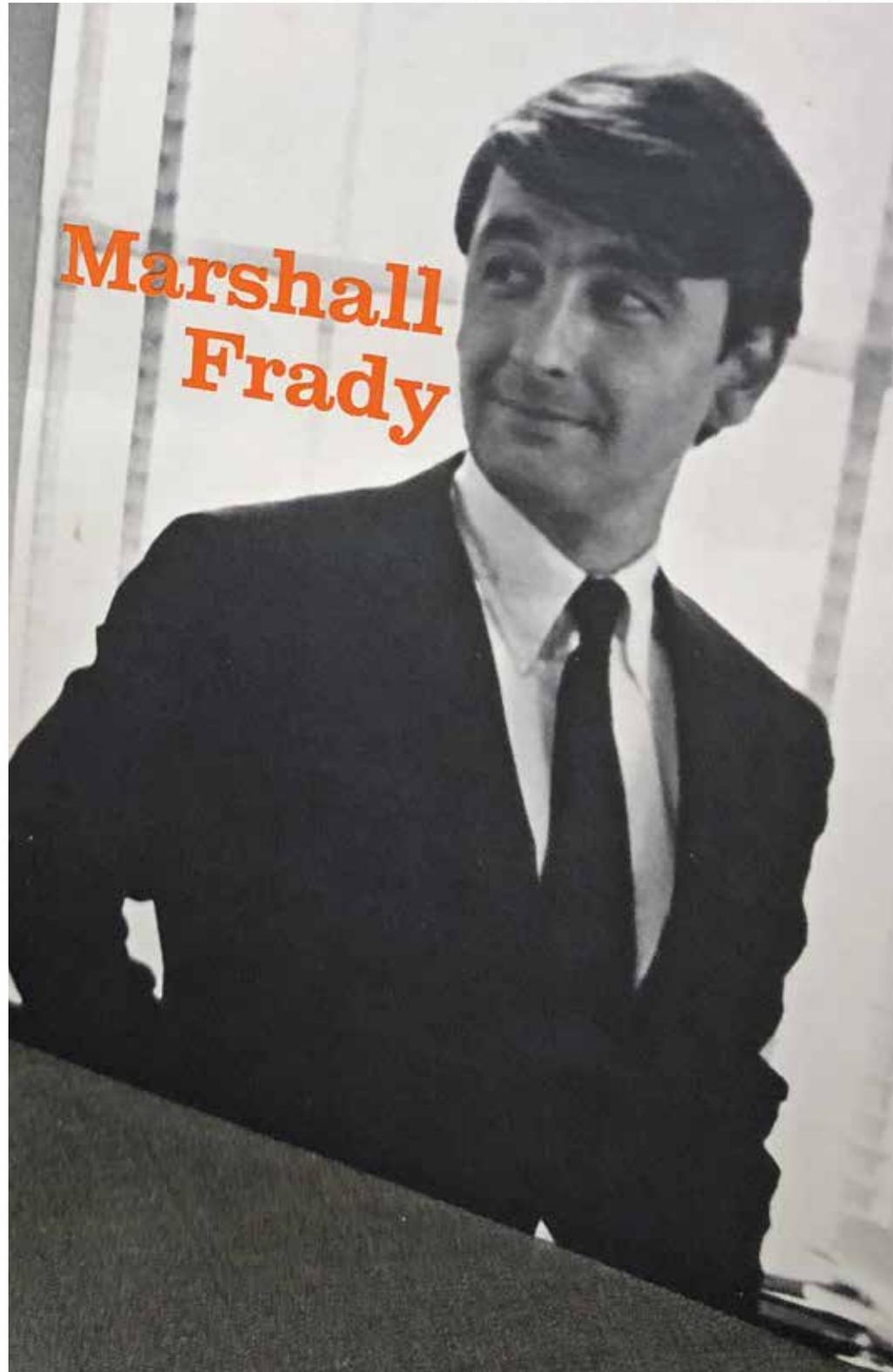
"Usually, there is no more graceless – and bootless – exercise imaginable than quarreling with reviews, no matter how woefully mis-witted, of one's work. But for some while now, I've been hearing that certain denigrations ... were being widely distributed about by parties connected to Graham – suggestions, such as that I took absolutely no notes through the course of all those interviews, that up to this point have seemed really beneath comment."

Incidentally, the same box includes multiple notebooks full of Graham's answers to Frady's questions.

Of all his books, the Wallace biography won the most acclaim. Decades after it was published, Frady adapted it into a screenplay for a television miniseries on the four-term Alabama governor and notorious segregationist. The production was nominated for eight Emmys and won three.

Late in life, Frady moved back to Greenville to join the Furman faculty. But he died before he could begin teaching.

He left behind a staggering number of words, a record of a life devoted to "lofty things, not on the little details that everyone is expected to take care of," Huggins says. "I think he felt like he was excused from doing things in an ordinary way." ♦



*A special insert in Harper's magazine, introducing Frady as the magazine's newest contributing editor, a position he held from 1969 to 1971.*



# A MILESTONE *for the* UPSTATE MLP

By Jerry Salley '90

A photograph of three people walking on a brick path outdoors. On the left is a man in a blue blazer and white shirt. In the center is a woman in a light blue blazer and white top, laughing. On the right is a woman in a red and black plaid shirt. They are walking past a brick building with many windows. The background shows trees with yellow autumn leaves.

**FOR FIVE YEARS, the Upstate Medical Legal Partnership between Furman, Prisma Health and South Carolina Legal Services has been finding solutions through collaborations.**

**S**ometimes, you know exactly where to go to solve a health problem. And sometimes it's not so clear. Imagine, for example, a patient whose asthma is exacerbated by the roaches infesting her apartment. Who can help best: a doctor to treat her asthma symptoms, or a lawyer to help make sure the conditions in her apartment are livable?

Meaningful solutions to many health problems require legal expertise, says Leslie Fisk, the managing attorney of the Greenwood office of South Carolina Legal Services.

"When clients are having problems, they don't think, 'Oh, this is a legal problem' or 'Oh, this must be a health problem,'" she says. "They're just thinking, 'There are roaches in my apartment, and I can't handle this anymore.'"

The Upstate Medical Legal Partnership (Upstate MLP), which celebrated its fifth anniversary this past fall, was established to help families address civil-legal problems that impact their health, such as moldy apartments, issues with benefits, elder care and more.

From left: Kirby Mitchell '90 and Melanie Maloney, both with the Upstate Medical Legal Partnership, walk on the Furman campus with Kathy Johnson, who has received services from the Upstate MLP.



Melanie Stiles, one of the Upstate MLP's first clients

**“THERE ARE NO DOWNSIDES TO THIS MODEL.”**

The partnership between Furman University’s Institute for the Advancement of Community Health, Prisma Health and South Carolina Legal Services became official on Oct. 22, 2016, with the goal of working to improve health outcomes for low-income families throughout the Upstate.

Throughout those five years, the partnership, the first of its kind in South Carolina, has increased access to legal assistance for hundreds of patients whose medical problems have roots in or are made worse by a social or legal challenges.

In 2019, the Upstate MLP received a \$1.025 million three-year grant from The Duke Endowment to engage in statewide collaboration with other medical legal partnerships to determine best practices and achieve maximum impact. And there is great growth potential for such partnerships in the future, Fisk says.

“There are no downsides to this model,” she says. “Medical professionals see a problem that has a legal component – they help get in touch with us. We see issues that may have a medical component – we help get in touch with them.”

#### **‘OUR HANDS WOULD HAVE BEEN TIED’**

Melanie Stiles knows firsthand the impact a partnership like this can have.

Stiles was one of the Upstate MLP’s first clients. Her son, Jacob Stiles, who has autism and behavioral and mood disorders, got into legal

trouble at age 17. But he turned 18 in jail – beyond the age at which his parents could legally advocate for him.

At the time, the family’s Prisma Health pediatrician, Nancy Powers, was already in conversation with Kirby Mitchell ’90, a senior litigation attorney with South Carolina Legal Services, about forming an Upstate MLP. Jacob was just the impetus they needed to move forward. To be part of solving the serious legal problems for her autistic son, Stiles needed the legal authority to act on his behalf by filing a civil guardianship action.

Mitchell, who became the Upstate MLP’s legal director, helped Melanie Stiles obtain guardianship and found a public defender to take the case.

“Jacob got his day in court,” she remembered, “and I had the opportunity to write a letter to the judge, just sharing from my heart that it would not do society well for him to be incarcerated for 45 years – but to put him in a situation to assist him in doing right, that would be much more beneficial. And at the end of the day, thankfully, the judge agreed.”

Jacob Stiles is now living on his own in transitional housing, and Melanie Stiles is still grateful for the help her family received.

“Our hands would have been tied if it wasn’t for the Upstate MLP,” she says.

#### **‘I WOULDN’T HAVE KNOWN WHAT TO DO’**

Kathy Johnson received an unfortunate surprise as her mother’s health declined. She learned that she did indeed

have the legal authorization to make financial decisions on behalf of her 84-year-old mother, Doris – but she did not have the legal authority to make health care decisions.

Her mother’s dementia had gotten worse, and although Johnson was grateful for the help and services she was receiving at the Prisma Health SeniorCare PACE Center in Greenville, South Carolina, she knew her mother was not able to make her own medical decisions.

“Her caretakers would still talk to me, because she couldn’t understand,” Johnson says, “but they wanted to make it legal.”

Doris Johnson was assigned a guardian ad litem, but Kathy Johnson was determined to take the responsibility for her mother’s care herself. That process led her to South Carolina Legal Services and Melanie Maloney, a paralegal with the Medical Legal Partnership.

“Melanie stayed with me and explained the situation and the process, and all that I was going to have to do,” Johnson remembers.

The process eventually led to Kirby Mitchell’s office and a Zoom court session – which Johnson wasn’t particularly looking forward to.

“I was scared to death, because I hate judges,” she laughs. “But Kirby sat there and he talked to me – he was just really nice.”

With the Upstate MLP’s help, Johnson was able to obtain the legal authority privileges she needed to take care of her mother, who is still in care.

“Without them, I wouldn’t have known what to do or where to go,” she says. “Melanie was just amazing from start to finish, and Kirby was really good, too. It just really helped me so much.”

### **‘THERE WERE SO MANY TIMES THAT I WAS SO DEFEATED’**

Nicole Spencer was not expecting to find herself in a legal quagmire.

“I didn’t really understand the struggle for grandparents to get custody in South Carolina,” she says. “I had no idea, because I had been in my granddaughter’s life since birth.”

Spencer was taking care of her infant granddaughter, Camillia, after the girl’s mother, who had been struggling with addiction, left for North Carolina.

“You can’t just uproot a child,” Spencer says. “So I said I’d raise her. At that point, I was the only constant she had.”

Camillia’s father was fighting for custody, but until that was resolved, the baby was Spencer’s responsibility. So when the pediatrician found a possible heart murmur, Spencer had to find a way to get her granddaughter to a specialist.

To get a referral to a cardiologist, Spencer needed to establish custody of Camillia. And to do that, she needed help from the Upstate MLP.

Spencer had worked as a psychologist at the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice but was laid off during the pandemic.

“I didn’t have the resources to have an attorney,” says Spencer. “Nor did I even know where to start.”

The ongoing process has dragged on for longer than a year, through mediation and family court. At one point, Camillia was removed from Spencer’s care, with not even visitation rights. Mitchell’s help has been critical to Spencer’s determination to stay in the fight, she says.

“There were so many times that I was so defeated,” she says. “I was saying, ‘Just forget it.’”

But she persisted, and with time and the Upstate MLP’s assistance, grandmother and granddaughter got to stay together.

“I had no contact with my granddaughter,” says Spencer. “And we went from that this time last year to her legally being placed with me.” ♦



Nicole Spencer with Mitchell





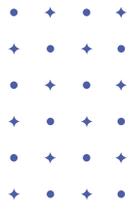
A CAREER THAT WAS

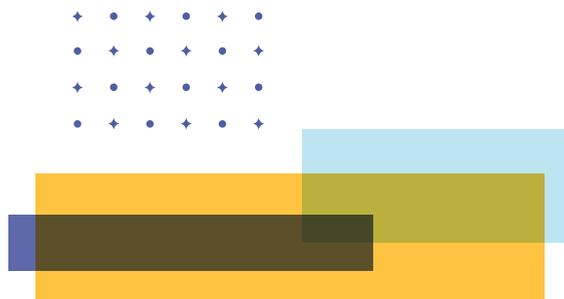
# Immanifest

BY WILL ROTHSCHILD



*LAURA PUTNEY '92  
HAS ALL THE PAINTS  
AND BRUSHES.*





Even for someone who gets paid to create storylines that twist and turn, that leave people hanging in suspense or, every now and then, deliver a happy ending, Laura Putney '92 never would have come up with a birthday present like this.

A screenwriter in Los Angeles, Putney relishes a career that allows her to be endlessly creative, building characters, scenes, plots – entire worlds.

“Every day,” Putney says, “I’m improvising a scene in my head – what would this person say, what would this person do next? It’s just endlessly creative. It’s so fun. It really is the best job.”

With a number of acting and writing credits to her name, Putney is perhaps most known for her producer-writer role on “Manifest,” a series about a commercial plane that takes off, goes missing and then mysteriously lands five years later with all 191 people aboard alive, well and the same age they were when the plane took off.

The series first aired on NBC for three seasons starting in 2018, was canceled, then

found a second life on Netflix, where it was the streaming giant’s No. 1 show for several weeks in 2021. At the same time, a massive, organic Twitter campaign – #SaveManifest – took off. Eventually, the popularity of the show on Netflix was too much for network executives to ignore, and the show was greenlit, this time by Netflix instead of NBC, for a fourth season.

News of that decision broke on Aug. 28 – Putney’s birthday. Calling it a “Manifest miracle,” Putney celebrated by heading back into the “Manifest” writers room to collaborate with her fellow writers on the 20 episodes that will make up the show’s final season. Head writers Putney and her writing partner Margaret Easley are responsible for crafting the storylines of every episode.

Finding her way into that room was anything but a straight line for Putney. After graduating summa cum laude with a degree in history from Furman, Putney attended Harvard Law School. She completed her law degree in 1995 and went to work for a firm in Atlanta before moving to a New York City firm a year later.



Throughout three years of law school and even as she was building a successful career as an attorney, she kept nurturing a passion for acting. At Harvard, she earned roles in several law school drama society productions, including “The Crucible.” She later directed a musical there, which is how she met her husband. And she took acting classes in her spare time as an attorney in New York.

“I just kept doing things in that world,” Putney says.

Though she had been active in theater throughout high school, Furman was the place where that passion really blossomed when she found a group of like-minded students. What they created together became one of the foundational pieces of Putney’s career.

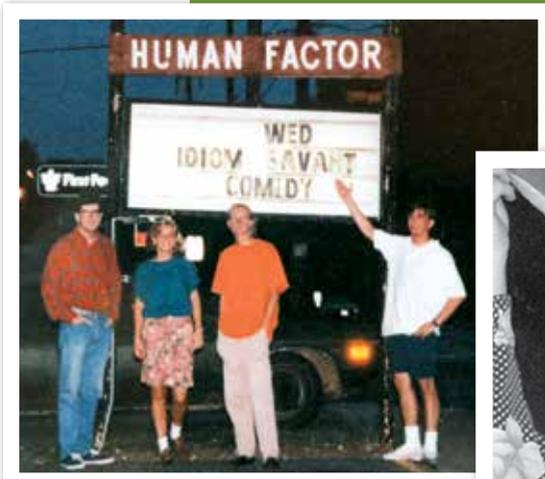
“The most important part of Furman for me was Idiom Savant, which was an improv-comedy troupe a few people had started,” Putney says. “Being a part of that was everything to me.”

Jerry Salley ’90, now senior writer in University Communications at Furman, was one of the founders of Idiom Savant. Mark Allen ’90 and Chris White ’92 were also in the group.

Salley remembers being struck by Putney’s acting and comedic chops.

“I had written mostly some sketch comedy stuff and was looking around for people to help me stage it,” Salley says. “Laura was in The Playhouse doing a one-act play, and I was really impressed by her talent and energy and then when I got to know her as a person, I thought that this is someone I can really work with.”

Years later, Idiom Savant remains a touchstone not only for those who were involved in the productions, but also for many of the students who were on campus during those years. A 25th anniversary show during Furman Homecoming in 2017 packed the room at The Velo Fellow in downtown Greenville.



*From left: Jerry Salley ’90, Laura Putney ’92, Mark Allen ’90 and Chris White ’92 on tour in 1990, Putney as a member of Idiom Savant, performing “Beyond Therapy” at Furman with English Professor Nick Radel, and behind the camera during the filming of “Life Sentence” in Vancouver, 2017.*

*"I JUST KEPT DOING  
THINGS IN THAT  
(ACTING) WORLD."*

*Laura Putney '92*

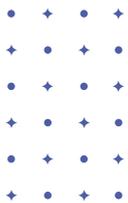


“AS WRITERS, OUR PALETTE IS  
THE BLANK CANVAS, AND WE HAVE  
ALL THE PAINTS AND BRUSHES.”

Laura Putney '92



*Clockwise from left: Putney and Easley discuss a writing project in 2021, Putney (in hat) produces “Manifest” Season 1 in Central Park in 2018, and Putney with Easley on location in New York City, producing “Manifest” Season 3, in 2020.*





## BECOMING A WRITER

Putney cherishes her Idiom Savant days and has a solid list of professional acting credits to her name, including on shows such as “ER” and “JAG.” And Salley describes her as a natural comic – “one of the funniest people I know” – and a gifted improv actor.

She first moved with her husband, Jamie Feldman, to Los Angeles in 2001. He wanted to pursue a career as an entertainment lawyer, while she initially took a sabbatical to pursue her dream of becoming a full-time actor. Eventually, her firm persuaded her to continue to practice law part time, which she did for nearly 15 years.

She still has a love for acting, but she eventually found the writers room to be her real home.

“I found a company here that I started doing sketch comedy with again,” Putney says. “And they required you to write. This place was like, ‘If you want to be in the company, you have to write sketches.’ So I figured it out, and I started to get better at it.”

It was then that Putney met Margaret Easley, another writer and former actress. The two started writing together and eventually decided they wanted to write something longer than comedy sketches. The two got hired to write full time on the NBC show “Mysteries of Laura” and then went on to “Lethal Weapon” and “Life Sentence.”

“I discovered that writing is unbelievably creatively fulfilling, and it’s where I should have been all along, I just didn’t know it,” Putney says. “As an actor, you already know what they say and what they do, and you can

only impact how they say it or how they do it. That can be a very limited palette. As writers, our palette is the blank canvas, and we have all the paints and brushes.”

In late 2021, Putney and Easley sold a pilot to ABC based on the book, “Catching Babies,” about a brother and sister who are both doctors in a maternal/fetal and family medicine ward. The writers also sold a legal dramedy pilot to Warner Bros. about a divorce lawyer who moves from New York back to her hometown in Montana. It’s based on Putney’s experience as a New York lawyer and her writing partner’s experience moving to Red Lodge, Montana, amid the pandemic.

## A WELCOME PUSH

While the Idiom Savant experience fueled her love for drama, Putney credits some of her Furman professors, Judith Bainbridge, Willard Pate and Marian Strobel, the William Montgomery Burnett Professor of History, for pushing her to become a better writer.

Strobel and Putney remain close. When Putney turned 50 last year, Strobel attended her birthday party via Zoom.

“I remember Laura as a student being very innovative and bursting with ideas,” Strobel says. “I could see her love of theater and writing then, and I am so glad she is continuing with her passion. I think a big part of what we should try to do is to help students develop confidence. Let’s find what you’re good at. Laura has certainly done that.” ♦



# *‘I Would Have Wanted Them to See’*

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Saul Antonio Rivera '13 finds  
renewal through forgiveness.

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BY KELLEY BRUSS

Saul Antonio  
Rivera '13  
(far right) on  
Halloween at  
Fort Rucker in  
Alabama, in 1990,  
with his brother  
Darwin (far left)  
and sister, Cindy



Rivera holds his daughter, Penelope, in 2020, in Winter Park, Florida, with the book he wrote and illustrated for her birth, entitled “Are You Our PawPaw?”

**S**aul Antonio Rivera '13 defines himself relationally. He is a brother, a son, a husband, a father.

There was a time, however, when he was none of these – and he almost lost himself. But he is a friend, too, and he leaned hard into those relationships through years of staggering loss.

“He has a lot of best friends,” says his wife, Rebekah Rivera, then corrects herself. “Really, he only has friends that are his best friends.”

Rivera’s mother, Norma, died when he was 11. He and his two younger siblings, Darwin and Cindy, were desperate for people to step into that emptiness.

“I knew what that felt like, literally, my entire life,” he says.

Rivera was born in Honduras. He came to the United States as a 5-year-old, after his mother’s marriage to Mark Kissick, an American soldier. Military life took them to Ohio, Kansas and Alabama before Kissick ended his service and the family made a final move to the Upstate of South Carolina.

Rivera learned English in kindergarten. He remembers his mom urging him to use it carefully so he wouldn’t give people a reason to make fun of him.

He tells his story matter-of-factly, but there are moments that catch you off guard. He references his mother’s death, for example, but not until later does he say that she was murdered – by Kissick, his stepfather, who was found guilty after eight minutes of jury deliberations.

An uncle cared for the children until his own arrest on drug charges. Then a teenaged Antonio took on much of the weight of caring for his two siblings.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Rivera was sitting in a criminal justice class at Berea High School. His teacher was turning on the television for a video, but before he could press play, news flashed on the screen.

“That was the first time I ever felt scared, legitimately, for my life,” Rivera says.

His next thought: “I just can’t wait to finally get out of high school and go straight into the Marine Corps.”

Three weeks after graduating, Rivera arrived at the recruit depot at Parris Island.

But it wasn’t only about his country. The pay allowed him to rent a townhome near Furman for his brother and sister.

Rivera served two tours in Iraq as a gunner and driver. When he left the Marines, he was ready to get back to his education. He started at Greenville Technical College, where he met Brett Barclay, who was then director of Furman’s Undergraduate Evening Studies program. (Barclay, who is married to Furman Associate Professor of Spanish Maria Rippon, now works as an advisor in Greenville Tech’s School of Health Sciences.)

Gunner/driver  
Sgt. Rivera  
serving in the  
U.S. Marine  
Corps in  
2004 at Fort  
Leonard Wood  
in Missouri



COURTESY PHOTO

Rivera, Brett Barclay and Barclay's wife, Maria Rippon, an associate professor of Spanish at Furman, at commencement in 2013

***“You never expect that a student is going to (make more of a lasting impact) for you than you did for him .”***

**BRETT BARCLAY**

### *Overwhelming support*

Rivera moved from Greenville Tech to Furman to study business administration in the evenings while working during the day. Barclay says Rivera makes everyone around him comfortable, mostly by demonstrating genuine interest in them and their stories. He can't count the number of times other students told him Rivera helped them through some problem.

“Whenever something good happened, he was a part of making it good,” Barclay says. “As he went through his education, he balanced work and school and helping people out in his community.”

Then, when Rivera was a sophomore, his brother, Darwin, was in a fatal motorcycle accident.

Mark Johnson, who worked at the time for Donate Life SC, met Rivera and his sister Cindy at the hospital, where they were making arrangements to donate Darwin's organs to six recipients. Johnson quickly picked up on the depth of the ties between the two siblings, the only remaining members of their childhood family.

So when Cindy died in a car accident days before Rivera graduated from Furman, Johnson despaired for his friend.

Barclay sent out a plea to students in the evening program, asking for help with Cindy's funeral expenses. The response overwhelmed him.

“Some of them didn't even have class with him, they just knew him from the program,” Barclay says.

Barclay always hoped that besides mentoring and advising students, he might go so far as making a lasting impact on their lives.

“You never expect that a student is going to do more of that for you than you did for him,” Barclay says.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left:  
Rivera,  
his mother,  
Norma,  
brother,  
Darwin, and  
sister, Cindy,  
in 1991.



Rivera was honored with the Frances Selby “Gig” Meredith Outstanding Student Award, which was given annually to one student who represents the perseverance, dedication and academic excellence needed to complete a bachelor’s degree at Furman as a non-traditional student. (Furman’s Undergraduate Evening Studies program was discontinued in 2020.)

***“By the grace of God, Furman gave me purpose and a goal to achieve during my most arduous life experiences.”***

**SAUL ANTONIO RIVERA '13**

Rivera says it was the academic challenges at Furman that helped him survive those years.

“By the grace of God, Furman gave me purpose and a goal to achieve during my most arduous life experiences,” he says.

### ***Reconnection through forgiveness***

Rivera and Rebekah moved to Florida shortly after graduation. He joined friends in their restaurant business and Rebekah worked as an accountant. Rivera describes himself as shut down at the time, and Rebekah remembers an emotional wall – distance designed to protect him from more loss.

They were planning their wedding when he learned his stepfather was coming up for parole. He wrote a letter in favor of his release.

Barclay remembers conversations about Kissick during Rivera’s college days.

“You can spend your life hating or you can do it a different way,” says Barclay. “He had decided that he wasn’t going to let it eat him up inside.”

Kissick and Rivera reconnected in person two days before the wedding.

“I was nervous,” Kissick says. “He wasn’t. He was so friendly. He was hugging me.”

Kissick is amazed at the man his son has become.

“I wish I could take credit for any of that, but I can’t,” Kissick says. “He’s a very special young man.”

Rebekah says reconnecting was about forgiveness but also about closing a gaping wound – the absence of any remnant of his childhood. Still, she couldn’t have predicted that Kissick – whom Rivera calls his dad, not his stepdad – would become one of those close friends in her husband’s world.

“He’s not only forgiven him, but he wants him in his life,” she says.

They talk or text daily. And the renewed relationship gave Rivera something back that he thought he'd lost forever: his childhood.

"He's the only other connection I have to that," he says.

### *Healing and renewal*

Today, Rivera is a stay-at-home dad to Penelope, 3, and Roman, 1. The pandemic forced his wife to work from home – an arrangement they all liked so much that she has stayed, even when she had the option to go back to the office.

When they were expecting Penelope, Rivera wanted a special way to welcome her into his world. He wrote and illustrated a children's book, "Are You Our PawPaw?" about two lost Christmas puppies looking for their family. His heart is on its pages.

Even with his mother and siblings gone, his identity as a son and brother underpins who he is. Rivera says when he's doing something for someone else, it's not just for that person – it's for Darwin and Cindy.

"It was a huge driving factor to keep going, to keep doing things I would have wanted them to see me doing," he says.

Forgiveness made him a son again. But he wasn't the only one healed.

"To bring my grandchildren, his children, into my life," Kissick says, pausing. "There's nothing more I can ask for than to have the experience of him and his children and his wife." ♦

Rivera in front of McAlister Auditorium at commencement in 2013 and (right) with Barclay



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**THE 'EVERY  
PLANT' IS US**

*It's rare and precious.  
And completely nondescript.*

**BY SARITA CHOUREY**

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## THE COMEBACK

### THE PITCHER PLANT SWALLOWS FROGS.

The kudzu vine shrouds entire landscapes.

The bunched arrowhead, finally getting through to customer service, says, “Oh, hello! I’m calling because – Yes, I’ll hold.” And then does so, humming softly. As if it has nowhere special to be.

But, you see, the bunched arrowhead itself is special.

So special that in 2012, someone stole 60 of the plants from northern Greenville County. So special that some experts weighed whether to be interviewed for this article. Would it attract another thief or the unwanted foot traffic of admirers?

To look closely at the bunched arrowhead is to look closely at ourselves. Do you ever wonder if you are special? Do you realize that, statistically speaking, you probably are not? Take a lesson from the bunched arrowhead, a foot-tall plant with white flowers and a love of bogs: You can be both. Extremely rare and beloved, yet nondescript, an overlooked cog in something larger.

The federally endangered bunched arrowhead is found in two U.S. states – North and South Carolina – and nowhere else in the world. However, most of the North Carolina populations are now extinct, says retired Furman Biology Professor Joe Pollard. And of those in South Carolina, Furman is home to one of the few remaining populations.

### THE PEOPLE IN THE TOWN

Lindsey Beard ’13 spent months among the plants before determining in her research that the bunched arrowhead needs stable water levels to survive. While a student and after graduating, she lived next to the Swamp Rabbit Trail and would bring visiting family members to admire the bunched arrowhead nearby.

“Their first response was always, ‘What does this plant do?’” says Beard, who today gathers and analyzes water samples as a laboratory technician at Mount Pleasant

Waterworks near Charleston, South Carolina. “They loved it because I loved it,” she says. “But they were a little bit like, ‘Why are you studying this plant because it looks like a weed?’”

Beard’s family wasn’t wrong. The bunched arrowhead is “the every plant,” as described by Furman Biology Professor Wade Worthen. To say so is only to refuse to patronize it.



Lindsey Beard '13



## THE COMEBACK

“We’re often caught up by the stories of the charismatic species – lions, tigers and bears, which are absolutely extraordinary organisms and worthy in several ways of our protection,” says Worthen, the Rose J. Forgiione Professor of Biology. “But here we have this small, unobtrusive, very simple little aquatic plant. The flowers aren’t beautiful. There’s nothing really about this plant that is remarkable in any way.”

Just like most of us, of course. And yet, we’re worthy of respect and consideration, and even admiration, depending on the sensibilities of the crowd.

“For most folks who don’t perceive themselves as global leaders or extraordinary in a particular sense, they still understand the value and contributions that individuals make to entire communities,” says Worthen. “And that’s what this plant does, as well.”

Similarly, some may see a forest and perceive only a mass of vegetation. But Worthen urges us to consider the complex interactions between the organisms that live there.

Lauren Eberth '23, Skyler Fox '22 and Calla Pederson '23 in Pisgah National Forest in Summer 2021, taking part in Associate Professor of Biology Ashley Morris's research.



ASHLEY MORRIS



**“OFTENTIMES, PEOPLE LOSE SIGHT OF THE TREES FOR THE FOREST.”**

*Wade Worthen, The Rose J. Forgiore Professor of Biology*



Clockwise from top: Nora Tillmanns '23 and Banks Floyd '22 at Blackwell State Historical Preserve in Summer 2021; Fox near Marion, McDowell County, North Carolina; and a close-up of the bunched arrowhead flower.

## THE COMEBACK

“A forest is the individual species within it. That’s what makes up a forest,” he says. “What makes up a town? It’s the people in it, the people who live there. If nobody lives there, you don’t have a town anymore.”

### ‘NO ONE MOVED AND NO ONE SPOKE’

Beard’s experience is one of many at Furman, a place where saying, “Tell me your bunched arrowhead story” can get a surprising number of people talking.

Travel back to a spring day in the late 1980s. Gillian Newberry, a biology professor at the University of South Carolina Upstate, is coated in “tannish ooze” as she crawls through a muddy seep off of Furman Lake, the smell of sulfur in her nostrils. She is conducting a three-year study of all known populations of the bunched arrowhead, including Furman’s.

“Crawling through the mud on my hands and knees allowed me to sink only about a foot into the quagmire,” Newberry, now retired, recalls in her published reflections. “Using this method, I could propel myself through the mud and liberate the weeds,” which were crowding the bunched arrowhead.

That’s when she feels the eyes.

A formal wedding party is staring down at her from their picnic reception.

“No one moved and no one spoke,” remembers Newberry, who then gave her audience “a small, muddy wave.”

About 15 years later, Furman students raised money to construct a bunched arrowhead observation deck with educational signs. And today Ashley Morris, associate professor of biology at Furman, is researching whether the bunched arrowhead at Furman is even more rare – whether it is the product of sexual reproduction or whether it’s a single plant that cloned itself.

“If every individual you see in the Furman population is genetically identical, that could be really bad for its ability to respond to changes in the environment,” such as a pest or pathogen, says Morris.

### A THREAD TOO MANY

The bunched arrowhead hasn’t always received such scrutiny.

Botanist Jared Gage Smith suggested in 1899 that it was a new, distinct species. But he never made it official. And so for decades, specimens – despite their differences – continued to be classified as a related species from the region. Finally, in 1960, Earnest Beal, a professor at North Carolina State University, declared it the *Sagittaria fasciculata*, a never-before identified species that we now know as bunched arrowhead.



Wade Worthen, The Rose J. Forgione  
Professor of Biology



And so the little plant, which looks and acts nothing like a fistful of weapons, poked up from anonymity only to find itself in a perilous world today. Piedmont Natural Gas is trying to build a pipeline through northern Greenville County, which could put the plant at risk, even as everyday development endangers it and other natural inhabitants.

What does it matter? Don't we always need more drive-thrus and shopping plazas? Who can halt the sprawl of new homes? What's one bird species or one plant or one tree species?

"Oftentimes, people lose sight of the trees for the forest," says Worthen. "If we lose the

plant, it may not have any important function in the ecology of these small, isolated little seepage areas. But what we're finding is that eventually you'll pull out a thread that's tied to so many others, and the community will no longer hold."

We don't know when we may pull that thread. ♦

**TO SUPPORT PLANT CONSERVATION  
RESEARCH AT FURMAN,  
GO TO [FURMAN.EDU/PLANTS](http://FURMAN.EDU/PLANTS).**



ASHLEY MORRIS | COURTESY PHOTO



Eberth and Pederson in Devils Fork State Park in Summer 2021.

## A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT

**I**n the fall of 2019, President Elizabeth Davis and Minor Mickel Shaw, chair of The Duke Endowment, convened 21 women to discuss how women as leaders and philanthropists can uniquely impact Furman's trajectory. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, this group doubled its membership within six months and became known as FurmanWIN in early 2021. What follows is a conversation between FurmanWIN's staff liaison, Tricia Carswell, and Shaw, its volunteer champion.

### **Minor, why did you decide to help start FurmanWIN?**

Given my role within The Duke Endowment, I've had a unique opportunity to understand Furman's strengths and goals. When I learned that Furman would organize differently to engage its female constituency in developing meaningful relationships with one another and the university, I jumped at the chance to be involved. Furman's history is marked by women who engaged in perpetuating Furman's impact. My own mother, Minor Mickel, served as Furman's first female chairperson of its Board of Trustees. However, Furman recognizes that there has not been a consistent approach to involving women in leadership through the years



*Q&A with Minor Mickel Shaw*

and is making the necessary changes. Under the leadership of Elizabeth Davis, Furman now shares the national stage with a select group of universities discovering the unique ways in which women lead.

### **What do you think FurmanWIN's efforts will yield in the years ahead?**

FurmanWIN's crystal ball is predictively quite clear. Faculty, staff and volunteers are methodically building a groundswell of thought leadership and engagement to propel FurmanWIN into perpetuity. Women across the country are participating in

focus group-type gatherings to offer insight into how they might support Furman through meaningful events and activities. They are telling us what they care about and how they want to be involved. We are very close to launching virtual and in-person programming to benefit Furman women no matter where they live and work. Our crystal ball pictures generations of mothers, daughters, sisters and friends who rally for Furman.

**Are other universities engaged in focused engagement of women?**  
FurmanWIN partners

with 30+ other universities focusing on the same results. We all share best practices while developing strategies that align with the uniqueness of our own institutions. Like Furman, they all understand that a connected community of powerful women, representative of the Furman alumnae base, who are invested in advancing the university, opens a world of possibilities for other alumnae and students.

### **As you know, Minor, when women engage and lead, especially in not-for-profit work, they often lead with philanthropy. What have you learned about how Furman women give?**

Furman women are philanthropic decision makers and often give more than men, especially when they connect with one another to tackle an issue. Progression on their leadership and philanthropic path is often different than men's. There are always exceptions, but research shows that if they are asked to lead, women come forward faster! And, Furman women enjoy working with Furman men who share their commitment. Rest assured ... FurmanWIN plans to ask! ♦

JOIN US.  
CONTACT TRICIA CARSWELL AT  
[TRICIA.CARSWELL@FURMAN.EDU](mailto:TRICIA.CARSWELL@FURMAN.EDU).



**FurmanWIN**  
WOMEN'S IMPACT NETWORK

# *A new initiative for Furman women.*

*By strengthening the female network and creating further opportunities for engagement – with fellow alumni, students and community members – women will have a stronger representation and voice in the advancement of the university.*



## ***Mission***

**Furman Women's Impact Network (FurmanWIN)** is focused on providing leadership, engagement and philanthropic initiatives for Furman women with the goal of positively impacting The Furman Advantage.

## ***Vision***

Leveraging women's leadership, engagement and philanthropic opportunities to achieve gender equity across giving and leadership at Furman University.

***Visit [furman.edu/furmanwin](http://furman.edu/furmanwin)***

to learn more about how **YOU** can benefit from FurmanWIN.





# TRIptych

*This past fall, a group of students visited the Civil Rights Trail in Alabama, stopping at historical sites in Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma. The trip was sponsored by Furman's Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection.*



**BY EBONI JOHNSON '22**

**A**s I write this now, I am finding it is difficult to put this experience into words. We knew it would be a difficult day, but we were not prepared for just how heavy this trip would weigh.

That day, I looked up at the hundreds of columns hanging above me at the Legacy Museum, each one etched with the name of a Black father, mother, son, daughter who was lynched. I knew lynching was real, but the history books never accurately depicted the horror these individuals encountered. I know this now because I was on that trip.

I believe I speak for all who attended when I say that we experience feeling hopeful but defeated, eager but nervous, and empowered yet disheartened. I know now what I must do, but I also know the tribulations that await me want to boast in my failure.

As I trudged through the Legacy Museum, my head hung lower than the columns, but Toni Morrison said to love your neck, for “they do not love your neck unnoosed and straight.”

I encourage everyone to visit Montgomery, Selma and Birmingham, themselves. Go to the museums and experience a small percentage of this nation’s history of murdering hope, enslaving dreams and disturbing peace.

At the end of each day, students were encouraged to reflect on our experiences. So I ask you: How will you use your voice? What kind of extremist will you be? And how will you use your vocation to achieve justice? ♦



The group visits the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where on March 7, 1965, police violently attacked voting rights marchers. The day is now known as Bloody Sunday. Bottom row, from left: Rolyn Rollins '97, program coordinator for student initiatives for Furman's Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection, Evelyn Silsby '24, Asha Marie Lawson-Baldwin '22, Eboni Johnson '22, Missy Stevens '22, Claire Cooper '22 and Kelsey Sumter '24. Top row, from left: Lillian Meyer '24, Michael Leiby '25, Price St. Clair '22, Matthew Bush '25, Clinton Washington '23, Miles Baker '24, Jada Rodgers '23, Louisa Brown '24, Shakira Olivera-Bautista '25, Abijah Leamon '24, Jocelyn Boulware Bruce '17, assistant director of the Center for Inclusive Communities, and Liz Smith, chair of the Department of Politics & International Affairs and assistant faculty director of the Cothran Center.



From left: Price St. Clair '22, Shakira Olivera-Bautista '25, Michael Leiby '25 and Asha Marie Larson-Baldwin '22 visit the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama.



Abijah Leamon '24 walks at Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham, Alabama.

## A RESIDENTIAL VILLAGE FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

This spring, Furman University began its largest construction project to date, a comprehensive renovation of South Housing that will include building a new residence hall and updating four others in the complex devoted to first-year students.

The project will relocate the Center for Inclusive Communities into the new hall, and introduce a host of modern amenities in the new and existing halls to support student success, and enhance the first-year experience for Furman students.

Demolition of Blackwell Hall will begin in May 2024 and last through September. The building is named after Furman's Gordon Williams Blackwell '32, who became Furman's eighth president in 1965. The university administration is discussing ways to continue to honor the former president.

“By reimagining the first-year residence hall from the ground up, we are creating a vibrant student hub, one with new personal and social spaces for students to gather and connect for years to come, setting their trajectory for success at Furman and beyond,” says Furman President Elizabeth Davis. “This project enhances the safety, accessibility, security and privacy components of all the residence halls in South Housing, while also advancing the university’s sustainability goals.” ♦



# 2027

The first class to move into the new residence hall



## 3 PHASES

MAY 2022 –  
JULY 2023

Construct the new residence hall.

MAY 2023 –  
DECEMBER 2023

Renovate Poteat and McGlothlin halls.

JANUARY 2024 –  
AUGUST 2024

Renovate Manly and Geer halls.

# \$70

MILLION

The total cost of the project, including approximately \$31.2 million for the new first-year residence hall



# 718

BEDS

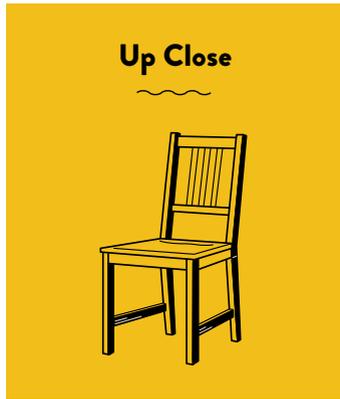
The number of total beds the South Housing will provide when completed.



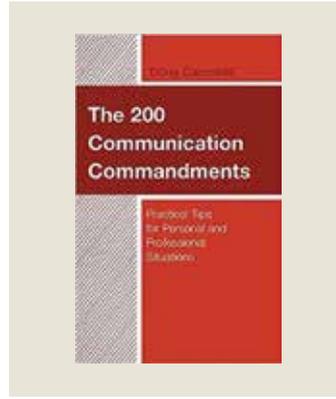
# CLASS NOTES



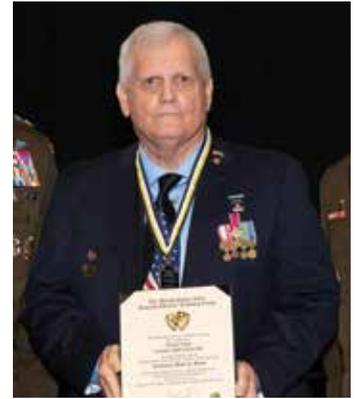
**YENDELELA NEELY HOLSTON '03**  
*pg. 53*



**REV. SUSIE B. SMITH '72**  
*pg. 58*



**DOUG CAMPBELL '94**  
*pg. 53*



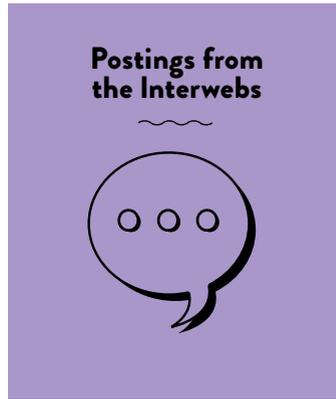
**COL. (RET.) LONNIE DALE VONA '83**  
*pg. 53*



**SEAN ATKINSON '04**  
*pg. 53*



**TRACEY TUBERVILLE '93**  
*pg. 53*



**A FOOTBALL GREAT, SCHOLARSHIPS AND HISTORIC GROUNDBREAKING**  
*pg. 64*



**PEARLIE HARRIS M'83 H'22**  
*pg. 55*



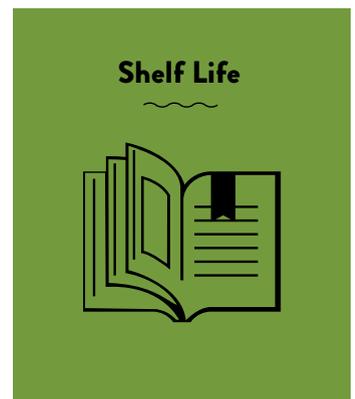
**MASTER OF ARTS IN STRATEGIC DESIGN**  
*pg. 65*



**PAOLO DEMARIA '84**  
*pg. 53*



**SARAH MARTIN ROWE '09**  
*pg. 53*



**EQUALITY, MEMORY AND "LEAVING SILENCE"**  
*pg. 63*

1983



The U.S. Army Cadet Command inducted **COL. (RET.) LONNIE DALE VONA '83** into the Class of 2021 Hall of Fame in October at the Association of the U.S. Army's annual meeting and exposition.

1984



**PAOLO DEMARIA '84** retired as the state superintendent of public instruction after serving five years, concluding 30 years of service to the state of Ohio. He was named president and CEO of the National Association of State Boards of Education effective Jan. 3, 2022.

**BENJAMIN MOORE '84** retired in May 2021 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 2021 by the University of Missouri Press.

1986



**DON POLASKI '86** was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor of religious studies at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia.

1988



**ANNE CHERRY STONE '88** earned the Certified Career Counselor credential through the National Career Development Association. This certification indicates a demonstrated commitment to career counseling through specialization in career development theory and practice. She works as a college and career navigator at Florence (South Carolina) County Adult Education.

1989



**BRAD SWILLINGER '98** was appointed to be a magistrate for Butler County Ohio Probate Court.

1993



**TRACEY TUBERVILLE '93** received the Animal Welfare Institute's Christine Stevens Wildlife Award. Tuberville, a senior research scientist at the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, evaluates the suitability of returning to the wild confiscated and rehabilitated Eastern box turtles that were recovered from the illegal wildlife trade. Established in 2006, the award provides individual grants of up to \$15,000 to develop less intrusive wildlife study techniques and more humane methods of resolving conflicts between wild animals and humans.

1994



**DOUG CAMPBELL '94** published his third book, "The 200 Communication Commandments: Practical Tips for Personal and Professional Situations."

1999



**SARAH BLOSSER BLACKWELL '99** earned a master's of divinity with a concentration in Christian education from the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity in December 2020.

2000



**STEPHANIE GASTON POLEY '00** was featured in the Best Lawyers in America 2022.

2001



**WHITNEY GOODWIN BOUKNIGHT '01** was named general counsel of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry in Charlotte, North Carolina.

2003

**YENDELELA NEELY HOLSTON '03**, a member of Furman's Board of Trustees and chief diversity and inclusion officer and partner at

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, has been named a Top Diversity & Inclusion Officer honoree in Atlanta Business Chronicle's 2021 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Awards.

2004



**SEAN ATKINSON '04** was appointed director of the Texas Christian University School of Music. Atkinson has been a faculty member at TCU since 2014.

2009



**SARAH MARTIN ROWE '09** formed The Leake Co., a jewelry concierge service company, in November 2020. She sources jewelry and diamonds, performs appraisals, and offers jewelry education to clients throughout the U.S.

2016



**ANDREW MACLATCHIE '16** led volunteer initiatives for baseball, soccer and basketball with two different organizations: Valiant Player in conjunction with Greenville Children's Hospital and Miracle League Sports that created recreational sports opportunities for children with physical and mental handicaps.



## PARDON THE DISRUPTION



*Shannice Singletary '14, co-founder of Friyay, has ideas about how we work.*

BY WILL ROTHSCHILD

**W**hen Shannice Singletary '14 first set foot on the Furman campus as a high school senior from tiny Lake City, South Carolina, she knew little about the university and even less about how she would fit in there.

"I didn't know whether I should even consider Furman, but my guidance

counselor was a Furman graduate and convinced me to take a tour," Singletary says. "We missed the time for the guided tour and so I was just wandering around the campus at 9 o'clock at night. And the beauty of the campus just struck me. The moon was full, the Bell Tower was lit up, and it all just hit me like a bolt of lightning – this is where I want to be."

Since then, finding unlikely new directions has been a theme for Singletary. Today, the communication studies major is co-founder of Friyay, a cloud-based software startup. Indeed, building a tech company is a long way from what Singletary – or her parents – imagined for herself.

"I think I shocked my poor parents," Singletary says. "My parents both have a very traditional work background. My mother works in education, my father has a small construction firm. So their expectation was very traditional. You find a job in your career field, you do that for 45 years, and everything will be fine. You buy a house with a white picket fence; you get a dog. They thought, 'Great, our daughter got into the best school in the state, she's going to be fine after that,' and I decided I wanted to do something different."

That something is building Friyay into a major player in the crowded productivity and project management software field. Used now mostly by small businesses and freelancers, Friyay offers a range of productivity tools that help teams "set goals, make plans, take action and track progress," Singletary says. And in a world where more work is being done remotely, Friyay has attracted both early adopters and some investors who are helping to further fuel its growth since it launched in July 2021.

Singletary met Friyay co-founder Joost Wentink when she interned for another tech startup in Greenville, South Carolina. They were frustrated by project management tools that all had shortcomings. So they built their own.

"Set goals, make plans, take action and track progress – those are four basic things that most teams are trying to accomplish, and our team was amazed at how many productivity tools didn't do those," Singletary says. "They would do one part, but not the other parts, so we kept running into a wall. Through the course of that experience and trying to problem solve, we had conversations internally about the future of work."

Wentink eventually asked Singletary if she wanted to solve this problem with him and start Friyay. By that time, Singletary had caught the entrepreneurship bug and she jumped at the opportunity.

"I had a lot to learn about what it means to be an owner in a business and be a co-founder," Singletary says. "There has been a fairly high learning curve and I'm still learning how to be a successful leader. But I love the process of building a business. I love working with a team and figuring out how to solve a problem. Before, I had only ever seen a business after it was open and successful. Seeing it on the other end – that has been life-changing." ♦



### OUR HIGHEST IDEALS

*Pearlie Harris M'83 H'22 receives an honorary Doctor of Humanities.*



During Furman's Joseph Vaughn Day celebration on January 28, Furman conferred an honorary Doctor of Humanities upon **Pearlie Harris M'83 H'22**. Harris, a transformational educator, lifted up generations of students over a decades-long career in public education and embodies the highest ideals of an inclusive, educated society. A graduate of Barber-Scotia College, she earned a master's degree in education from Furman in 1983.

She was instrumental in bringing excellence to South Carolina's public schools, beginning her teaching career in the segregated elementary schools of Beaufort, South Carolina. Despite many painful experiences with racism throughout her early life and career, she became known for her deep commitment to love, compassion and unity across racial divisions.

After retiring in 1994, she continued to contribute to her community, volunteering with the Greenville Symphony, Centre Stage, Carolina Youth Symphony and Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, among others. In 2009, she became the first Black person and first woman to chair the St. Francis Board of Directors. In 2011, The Pearlie Harris Center for Breast Health at St. Francis was named in her honor.

In 2020, her image became the focal point of a mural across Canvas Tower in downtown Greenville, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of Greenville schools' desegregation.

Harris was recognized in 2021 by Pope Francis and awarded The Benemerenti Medal, "awarded by the Pope to those members of the clergy and laity for their service to the Catholic Church." ♦



### MARRIAGES



**BROOKE HUMPHREY '11** and Joseph Stallings, June 27, 2020

**TRENT SILFIES '18** and Samantha Silfies, Dec. 12, 2020

**HANNAH WHEELER '16** and **CHRISTOPHER SEARLES '16**, June 5, 2021

**MARY CRISP '09** and **MARION MARTIN '00**, Aug. 14, 2021

**CATHERINE ADAMS '13** and **CONOR DUGGAN '09**, Aug. 25, 2021

**KAYLA CARTEE '17** and **WILLIAM BISHOP '17**, Sept. 18, 2021

**JOCELYN BOULWARE '17** and **NICHOLAS BRUCE '18**, Sept. 25, 2021

**KATHERINE ROBERTS '11** and **JACOB OGLE '10**, Oct. 5, 2021



### BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS



**SARAH '11** and John Catmur, Amelia Rose, Aug. 20, 2020

**JON '03** and Katie Dumitru, Jane Margaret, Sept. 4, 2020

**REBEKAH '03** and Scott Crenshaw, Taylor Garrett, Sept. 26, 2020

**JEREMY '06** and **JESSICA SPENCER '06**, Beckham Wells, Oct. 6, 2020

**CRAIG '02** and **ABBY CALDWELL '02**, Jack Augustus, Oct. 26, 2020

**JOSEPH '05** and **MOLLY WATERS '07**, Albert Joseph Archibald, Oct. 28, 2020

**BETSY '07** and John Mark Capers, John "Jack" Verdier, Nov. 30, 2020

**WALKER '14** and **SARAH ZIMMERMAN '15**, Tucker, June 22, 2021

**KATY '07** and Bartley Sides, Carlson "Carly" Ruth, Sept. 7, 2021

**KYLIE '09** and Justin Felker, Aiden, Oct. 11, 2021.

### WHY I GIVE

#### HALEY COTTINGHAM '17

*"When I was at Furman, my professors went above and beyond to provide exposure to the world of women in tech. My department-sponsored attendance at conferences for women in computer science resulted in an incredible early career and adventures all over the world. I give to Furman to ensure today's students have the kind of life-changing opportunities I had."*



**A** 15-year romance and 10 years of married life started with meddlesome friends for Matthew Cesari '09 and Kathryn Schroeder '10.

At the time, Matthew was a sophomore and a place-kicker for the Paladins football team. Kathryn was a first-year student, already pursuing her business administration studies. A teammate of Matthew's was good friends with a friend of Kathryn's, and they both resolved to get the couple together.

"They forced us to meet in a dorm room," Matthew remembers.

The couple settled into a mostly campus-centered romance during their entire time at Furman.

"A lot of dining hall dates," laughs Matthew, who was also a business administration major and was pledging the Sigma Nu fraternity during that time. "I used to hide in her dorm as an excuse to get out of some of my pledge duties."

When Kathryn graduated, Matthew persuaded her to join him in Atlanta, his hometown, where he had already started working for Northwestern Mutual. She eventually joined investment banking firm Raymond James.

It was during a visit to Kathryn's family's lake house near Chicago during Thanksgiving 2010 when Matthew "set up a little proposal situation." They were married in 2011 in her hometown of Jacksonville, Florida, then headed back to Atlanta to continue their careers.



## THERE AND BACK AGAIN



*Matthew '09 and Kathryn Cesari '10*

BY JERRY SALLEY '90

The decade has "gone by quick," Matthew says.

"And we've done a lot, too," Kathryn says. "It's crazy to think we've got two kids and we've lived in a foreign country."

The latter happened first, in 2017, when Kathryn stepped up to help open a Raymond James

office in London. One good omen: The week they arrived, Furman President Elizabeth Davis visited the city to host an alumni event.

London is "our favorite place in the world," Kathryn says.

"We would have stayed longer," Matthew says, "but when Kathryn got pregnant, it

made sense to come back home to Atlanta to start the family."

The couple returned to the States in March 2019, and their son, Greyson, was born two months later. After Kathryn's maternity leave, the family moved back to London for a few months, returning to the U.S. in January 2020. They settled in Brookhaven in Atlanta's northern suburbs, where daughter Peyton joined the family in April 2021.

In 2020, Kathryn left Raymond James, where she had risen to the position of vice president, and today works as an investment banker with William Blair in Atlanta.

Matthew has continued with Northwestern Mutual as a financial advisor, but has a side hustle in the coffee business with Zero Mile Roasters – with Kathryn helping out. Matthew also helps lead Purpose on Tap, an Atlanta men's ministry.

Travel remains a passion, including revisiting the city where it all started for them. On a recent trip to Greenville, a friend encouraged them to rent bikes to ride on the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail.

"We didn't really know exactly where the trail was," Matthew remembers. "We literally rode up Poinsett Highway from downtown on the sidewalk. It was not that fun."

When they got to campus, they called their friend, who set them on the right path.

"We rode back on the trail," says Matthew, "and it was a much more pleasant experience." ♦



**OBITUARIES**



**LAURINE VARN CUMMINGS '38**,  
Aug. 23, 2021, Hampton, S.C.

**LYRLENE CAIN CLEVELAND '42**,  
May 21, 2021, Simpsonville, S.C.

**HARRIETT SMOAK KESSLER '43**,  
June 11, 2021, Piney Flats, Tenn.

**BETSY JORDAN TRIPLETT '46**,  
Sept. 28, 2021, Florence, S.C.

**JONES BLAKELY '47**, Oct. 2, 2021,  
Burlington, N.C.

**HELEN LANCASTER ROACH '47**,  
Aug. 27, 2021,  
Winston Salem, N.C.

**GERALDINE DAYTON ROGERS '47**,  
July 26, 2021, Blowing Rock, N.C.

**RAY BELL '48**, Sept. 24, 2021,  
Atlanta, Ga.

**BETTY MIDDLETON JONES '48**,  
April 25, 2021,  
Mount Pleasant, S.C.

**FRANKIE BARNETT WELCH '48**,  
Sept. 2, 2021, Charlottesville, Va.

**WINIFRED COMPTON BROWNE '49**,  
Aug. 24, 2021, Greenwood, S.C.

**CHESLEY CREWS '49**,  
Aug. 20, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**JEANNE BURDINE GRIFFIN '49**,  
April 14, 2021,  
North Augusta, S.C.

**DAVID SMALL '49**, June 26, 2021,  
Culpeper, Va.

**NORMAN SMITH '49**,  
Sept. 24, 2021, Belton, S.C.

**NANCY BALLENTINE BAKER '50**,  
Sept. 28, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**OTHA GRAY '50**, Sept. 4, 2021,  
Augusta, Ga.

**SARAH JOHNSTON ALLEN '51**,  
Aug. 5, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**LOIS DILL '51**, May 3, 2021,  
Saint George, S.C.

**DONALD GREGORY '51**,  
Aug. 19, 2021, LaGrange, Ga.

**JEAN DIXON TEMPLE '51**,  
July 19, 2021, Groton, Mass.

**JOHNNIE SMITH WITT '51**,  
April 11, 2021, Buffalo Grove, Ill.

**MILDRED FREELAND FINCH '51**,  
Nov. 5, 2021, Seguin, Texas

**LILLA DAVIS KUPER '52**,  
Sept. 5, 2021, Virginia Beach, Va.

**MARGARET HOLMES NOEL '53**,  
June 6, 2021, Johnston, S.C.

**BETTY COURSEY WARNER '53**,  
July 27, 2021, Greenwood, S.C.

**ROBERT DENDY '54**,  
July 31, 2021, Laurinburg, N.C.

**EDWARD JONES '54**,  
May 29, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**MARY WILLIS SHERER '54**,  
May 8, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**MARY DE SAUSSURE FLANAGAN '55**,  
July 28, 2021, Greenacres, Fla.

**JEAN ASH KIRKPATRICK '55**,  
Sept. 23, 2021, Greenwood, S.C.



**EDWARD B. JONES**  
*1928 – 2021*

**EDWARD B. JONES**, professor of Chinese studies and history emeritus, died May 29, 2021, in Greenville, South Carolina.

He joined Furman's faculty in 1956 after completing a master's degree at the University of North Carolina. Jones was the founder and inaugural chair of Furman's Department of Asian Studies, an area of study he became interested in while stationed in China with the U.S. Marine Corps. He also helped establish Furman's study away program. As a mentor of Furman's first generation of Asian specialists among Furman's faculty, Jones promoted the careers of younger scholars and countless students before retiring in 1996.

Jones' influence on the growth of Asian studies extended well beyond Furman. In the early 1970s, he was a founding member of the South Atlantic States Association for Asian & African Studies, which played a major role in the promotion of Asian and African studies throughout the Southeast.

**CAROLINE HARTSELL MCCAULEY '55**, June 23, 2021,  
Saint Helena Island, S.C.

**JACK COCHRAN '56**,  
June 18, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**PEGGY SMALL HORTON '56**,  
Sept. 19, 2021, Owasso, Okla.

**DONALD MAULDIN '56**,  
June 20, 2021, Nashville, Tenn.

**JAMES BASS '57**, Sept. 30, 2021,  
Greenville, S.C.

**WILLIAM HUNEYCUTT '57**,  
June 20, 2021, Hartsville, S.C.

**HARLEY DIXON '58**, April 6, 2021,  
Paducah, Ky.

**ALBERT HARTSELL '58**,  
May 5, 2021, Townville, S.C.

**JOHN LYNCH '58**, Sept. 16, 2021,  
Spartanburg, S.C.

**FRED MORRIS '58**, June 7, 2021,  
Asheville, N.C.

**CLAIRE FRANKLIN RASOR '58**,  
May 6, 2021, Midlothian, Va.

**ROBERT BAGWELL '59**,  
June 15, 2021,  
Mount Pleasant, S.C.

*continued on pg. 59*

**A**rest is never the objective. But the Rev. Susie B. Smith '72 can't look away when she sees injustice.

So her story includes pushing for change from within institutions and also marching for change outside of institutions – sometimes to the point of handcuffs.

Smith grew up Baptist and “very sheltered” in Marietta, Georgia. Her high school year was integrated her senior year. Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy were assassinated in the months before she left for college.

“I knew (these events) happened, but I didn't know they were about me,” Smith says.

She had discovered Furman when her youth choir toured the campus. While she felt a call to Christian service, Smith knew of no way for a woman to be ordained at the time. So she made the pragmatic decision to pursue Christian education or youth ministry.

She likes to say, with a big smile, that who she has become is the “fault” of Edgar McKnight, a Furman religion professor who taught a course on the life of Jesus. McKnight died in 2020.

“I had no idea who I was following until I took that class,” Smith says.

As a sophomore, Smith began a youth ministry internship at a church in Travelers Rest, South



## HER STEADY MARCH



*The Rev. Susie B. Smith '72 will always be an activist. Her experiences at Furman helped awaken her beliefs.*

BY KELLEY BRUSS

Carolina. She was troubled by the attitude of church leaders toward their Black neighbors.

“That was what woke it up,” she says of her activism.

She joined Students for Democratic Action and stood in a group of about 10 to protest the Vietnam War while Furman ROTC cadets lined up across the street. She wore a black armband in honor of the student protesters killed at Kent State and was involved in Furman's first Earth Day celebrations.

These moments felt disconnected at the time, but, looking back, Smith sees her own development into a person passionate for justice.

“I was just doing the things I thought Jesus would want us to do,” she says.

After completing a Master of Divinity at Erskine Theological Seminary, Smith was ordained at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina. She was determined to make a difference through

“programmatic influence” and helped develop what is now Gateway House, a Greenville nonprofit devoted to adults with mental illnesses.

Then Smith came out as a lesbian and tested the support of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Her first arrest came in California for disrupting the denomination's general assembly to protest its position on same-sex unions.

Smith eventually joined the United Church of Christ and pastored for years in Pennsylvania. She was then arrested in 2003 during a Washington, D.C., protest against the Iraq War.

The message, not the arrest, is always the point, she says.

A 2021 protest outside the U.S. Senate's Hart Building, for example, was organized by the Poor People's Campaign to deliver “real demands about real legislation that needed to be passed and still needs to be passed.” Smith and others were arrested for refusing to disperse as they lobbied for voting rights, a national minimum wage increase, immigration reforms and ending the filibuster.

Smith retired from pastoring in 2015 but will always be an activist.

Her Furman days transformed her “from being a believer in Jesus to a follower of Jesus,” she says.

And she hasn't looked back. ♦

**EARL BEHR '59**, July 1, 2021,  
Holly Hill, S.C.

**LESLIE FISHER '59**,  
April 24, 2021,  
Hendersonville, N.C.

**JACK KIRBY '59**,  
Aug. 15, 2021, Barnwell, S.C.

**WILLIAM BAKER '60**,  
Sept. 25, 2021, Aiken, S.C.

**FRANCES CORN BARNETTE '60**,  
Aug. 20, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**LOIS TURNER BLACKWELL '60**,  
May 29, 2021, Birmingham, Ala.

**KAY SYMS LEITNER '60**,  
June 26, 2021, Columbia, S.C.

**DONALD WARD '60**, June 4, 2021,  
Irmo, S.C.

**FLETCHER BARKER '61**,  
June 11, 2021, Easley, S.C.

**RICHARD LOWE '61**,  
Sept. 10, 2021, Aiken, S.C.

**FLOYD PARKER '61**,  
July 22, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**WINTON CAMPBELL '62**,  
April 18, 2021, Raleigh, N.C.

**MARTIN HARRIS '62**, June 8, 2021,  
Manhattan Beach, Calif.

**CAROL MUTIMER LANNING '62**,  
June 21, 2021, Augusta, Ga.

**ZELDA GAMBRELL OATES '62**,  
Aug. 28, 2021, Due West, S.C.

**WILLIE PATTERSON '62**,  
Aug. 30, 2021, Laurens, S.C.

**CHARLES AVERY '63**, Sept. 2, 2021,  
Diamond Head, Miss.

**SANFORD PERRY '63**,  
July 16, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**WILLARD MERRITT '65**,  
June 25, 2021, Columbus, Ga.

**ROBERT MILLER '65**,  
Sept. 12, 2021, Greenwood, S.C.

**HOWARD FLOYD '66**, Aug. 24,  
2021, Lexington, S.C.

**JOHN JOHNSON '67**,  
Aug. 20, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**PHYLLIS MILLER MAYES '67**,  
April 27, 2021, Easley, S.C.

**MARTHA ROGERS '68**,  
July 31, 2021, Boiling Springs, S.C.

**CHRISTOPHER TURNER '68**,  
Sept. 23, 2021, Seneca, S.C.

**ALFRED MCGAHA '69**,  
June 21, 2021, Gaffney, S.C.

**JAMES WINDHAM '69**,  
April 19, 2021, Gastonia, N.C.

**MARTHA JUNE AIKEN WISE '69**,  
Aug. 30, 2021, Johnston, S.C.

**JUDITH BURNETT KLINCK '70**,  
June 26, 2021, Fayetteville, N.C.

**SUZAN HOLOBAUGH BERGLAND '72**,  
May 19, 2021, Naples, Fla.

**MARY VAUGHAN MORRIS '72**,  
Sept. 25, 2021, Weddington, N.C.

**STEPHEN DOUGHERTY '73**,  
Sept. 27, 2021, Dunmore, Pa.

**BAYLESS BILES '74**, May 19,  
2021, Loxley, Ala.

**ROSEMARY HILL BYERLY '74**,  
May 8, 2021, Inman, S.C.

**JOE CLARY '74**, Sept. 24, 2021,  
Mauldin, S.C.

**JOHN "JACK" MORRIS '74**,  
Nov. 19, 2020, Kingsport, Tenn.

**EVERETT GODFREY '75**,  
May 14, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**WILLIAM HAMILTON '75**,  
July 26, 2021, Atlanta, Ga.

**JOHN HUMPHRIES '77**,  
June 21, 2021, Marietta, Ga.

**KIRBY PACK '77**, July 25, 2021,  
Simpsonville, S.C.

**MICAL EMBLER '78**,  
May 22, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**JOHNNIE DODENHOFF FULTON '78**,  
June 9, 2021, Tryon, N.C.

**THOMAS JORDAN '78**,  
May 2, 2021, Florence, S.C.

**CHET WILLIAMSON '78**,  
May 31, 2021, Conway, S.C.

**JEFFERY GATTER '79**,  
June 19, 2021, Unionville, Pa.

**DAVID BROWN '81**,  
Sept. 21, 2021, Greer, S.C.

**VICKI TRUETT JOHNSON '82**,  
June 7, 2021, Simpsonville, S.C.

**JOAN MACFARLAN JOST '82**,  
May 7, 2021, Lewisburg, W. Va.

**PATRICIA WEBSTER STEWART '82**,  
July 23, 2021, Taylors, S.C.

**JENNIFER BEAVER '83**,  
Sept. 7, 2021, Taylors, S.C.

**ELIZABETH CUDD DUNLAP '84**,  
Sept. 10, 2021, Charlotte, N.C.

**CYNTHIA WILLIMON FRICKS '84**,  
June 4, 2021, Greenville, S.C.

**KELVIN KERSTETTER '85**,  
July 12, 2021, Manhattan, Kan.

**GARY HEATON '91**,  
Sept. 28, 2021, Charleston, S.C.

**DAVID WEEKS '91**,  
May 8, 2021, Lyman, S.C.

**LORELEI LERMAN GOILA '97**,  
Sept. 15, 2021, Delray Beach, Fla.

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

**CHRISTOPHER TRUSS '10**,  
Sept. 19, 2021, Cumming, Ga.

**ELLEN GILLIS '11**, June 23, 2021,  
Graniteville, S.C.

**ANSLEY HOLDBROOKS '11**,  
July 7, 2021, Cumming, Ga.

**LINDSAY CUNNINGHAM '14**,  
June 4, 2021, Chapel Hill, N.C.

## 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.*

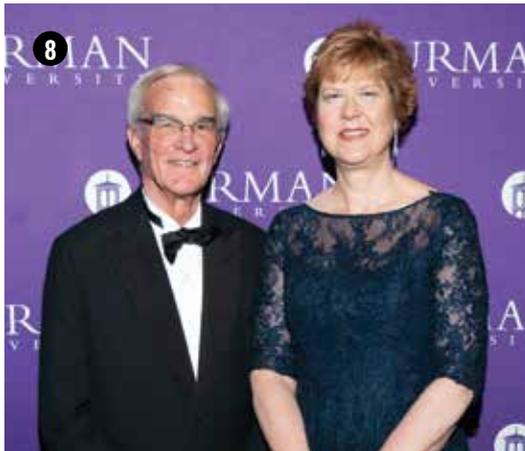


1 A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on February 10 for the fully donor-funded Davis & Faxon Training Facility at the REK Center. 2 From left: Jeff Hull, Cindy Davis '84, Brad Faxon '83 and Matt Davidson '04.

3 Celebrating the generosity of the Newsom family with their recent induction into the Benefactors Circle. From left: Raymond Newsom '65, Christi Byron '91, Carol Newsom '66 and Julie Means.

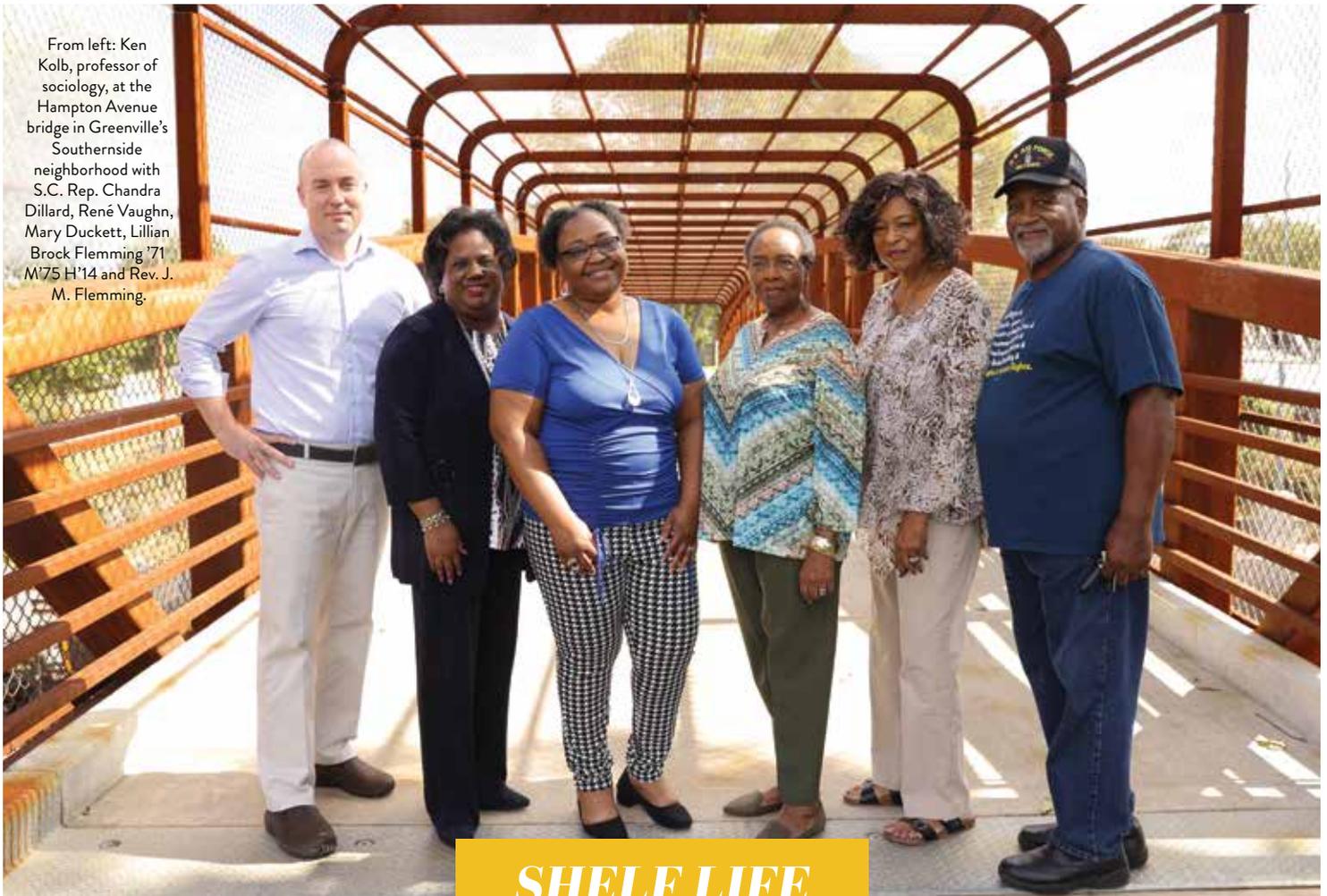


# SCENE AND BE SEEN



In February, the university honored several alumni and friends for their personal achievements, generosity, service and leadership, both to Furman and the community, during the annual Bell Tower Ball. **4** Among the winners were Sali Christeson '07, winner of the Tom A. Triplitt Outstanding Young Alumni Award; **5** Craig Yount '19 and Nancy Cooper, coordinator of volunteer services for Heller Service Corps, who received the Honorary Alumni Award; **6** The city of Greenville was recognized with the University Partnership Award. From left: Greenville City Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem Lillian Brock Flemming '71 M'75 H'14, Mayor Knox White P'09\*, Ken Peterson, Furman's vice president for academic affairs and provost and a professor of economics, Chirinjev Peterson, adjunct professor of business and accounting, Marsha White P'09, John McDonough P'21 and Elizabeth McDonough P'21. \*P denotes parent of a Furman graduate or student. **7** Jamarcus Gaston '07 and Idella Glenn '84, who received the Gordon L. Blackwell Alumni Service Award; **8** Ravenel Curry '63, who received the Carl F. Kohrt Distinguished Alumni Award, and President Davis. ♦

From left: Ken Kolb, professor of sociology, at the Hampton Avenue bridge in Greenville's Southernside neighborhood with S.C. Rep. Chandra Dillard, René Vaughn, Mary Duckett, Lillian Brock Flemming '71 M'75 H'14 and Rev. J. M. Flemming.

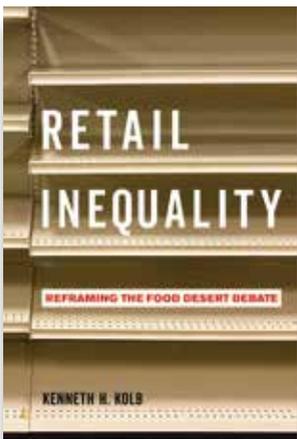


## SHELF LIFE

*The nosy neighbor, access to food, 'leaving silence' and the burden of memory*



COMPILED FROM PROMOTIONAL NOTES



### RETAIL INEQUALITY

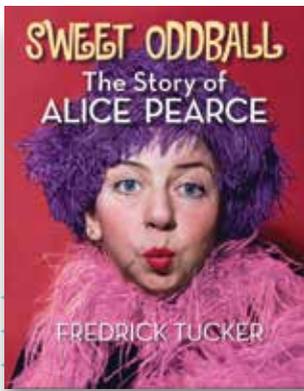
BY KENNETH H. KOLB

(University of California Press)

Furman sociology professor Kenneth H. Kolb examines the failure of recent efforts to improve Americans' diets by increasing access to healthy food. Based on exhaustive research, this book documents the struggles of two Black neighborhoods in Greenville, South Carolina. For decades, outsiders ignored residents' complaints about the unsavory retail options on their side of town – until the well-intentioned but flawed “food desert” concept took hold in popular

discourse. Soon after, new allies arrived to help, believing that grocery stores and healthier options were the key to better health. These efforts, however, did not change neighborhood residents' food consumption practices.

“Retail Inequality” explains why and also outlines the history of deindustrialization, urban public policy, and racism that are the cause of unequal access to food today. Kolb identifies retail inequality as the crucial concept to understanding today's debates over gentrification and community development. As this book makes clear, the battle over food deserts was never about food – it was about equality.



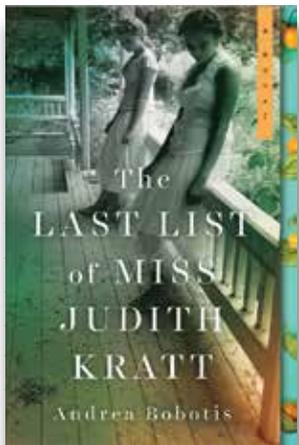
**SWEET ODDBALL:  
THE STORY OF ALICE PEARCE**  
BY FREDRICK TUCKER '81

*(BearManor Media)*

Alice Pearce, once called “the adenoidal lass with the most beautiful homely face on Broadway,” carved a unique career playing wallflowers, nitwits, nags and other oddball characters, all of whom contrasted sharply with the portrayer. As the shy daughter of an international banker, she experienced a privileged upbringing, attending exclusive schools in Europe and the United States. Against her parents’ wishes, she pursued acting, eventually enlivening 13 Broadway

productions and winning acclaim for her smash act at New York’s choicest nightclub, the Blue Angel. The Emmy-winning actress was featured in dozens of top TV series but achieved her greatest fame – ironically, at the very end of her brief life – for playing Gladys Kravitz, the snoopy neighbor on the TV sitcom, “Bewitched.”

Fredrick Tucker’s book, “Sweet Oddball,” is exhaustively researched and illustrated with 225 rare photos. Tucker is a retired educator who enjoys studying character actors of stage and screen. “Sweet Oddball” is the culmination of research that began in 1975, and is his second book. He majored in business administration at Furman.



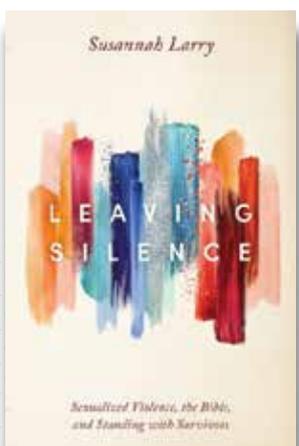
**THE LAST LIST OF  
MISS JUDITH KRATT**  
BY ANDREA BOBOTIS '98

*(Sourcebooks)*

Andrea Bobotis’ atmospheric debut novel, “The Last List of Miss Judith Kratt,” follows a Southern woman named Judith Kratt as she untangles the dark legacy of her family’s possessions in a South Carolina cotton town. Interweaving the present with chilling flashbacks from one fateful evening in 1929, Judith creates an inventory of her family’s heirlooms, an undertaking that reveals the

very inheritance she’d hoped to forget – one of bigotry and survival in the segregated South. “The Last List of Miss Judith Kratt” explores the power of objects, the weight of memory and the ties between who we are and what we own.

Bobotis earned her Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Virginia and was an English major at Furman. She lives with her husband, Jason Heider '98, and daughter in Denver, Colorado, where she teaches creative writing to youth at Lighthouse Writers Workshop, a literary arts nonprofit.



**LEAVING SILENCE: SEXUALIZED  
VIOLENCE, THE BIBLE, AND  
STANDING WITH SURVIVORS**  
BY SUSANNAH LARRY '12

*(Herald Press)*

What if survivors of sexualized violence experience the Bible as a powerful spiritual resource rather than an oppressive tool in the hands of those seeking to dismiss or justify abuse? Bible scholar Susannah Larry leads fellow survivors and those who care for them in a journey toward reclaiming the Bible amid the trauma of sexualized violence.

The book is an unflinching examination of sexualized violence in the Bible and the God who stands steadfastly with survivors. Larry addresses biblical experiences of coercion, familial betrayal, and self-blame, while also illuminating God’s constant care and concern.

By centering the experiences of survivors in Scripture, Larry opens new insights into some of the Bible’s most difficult texts and releases its ancient stories to serve as a powerful healing witness to the God who has shared in the experience of sexualized violence. Larry was a religion and poverty studies major at Furman. She earned a Ph.D. in religion from Vanderbilt University and is a professor at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

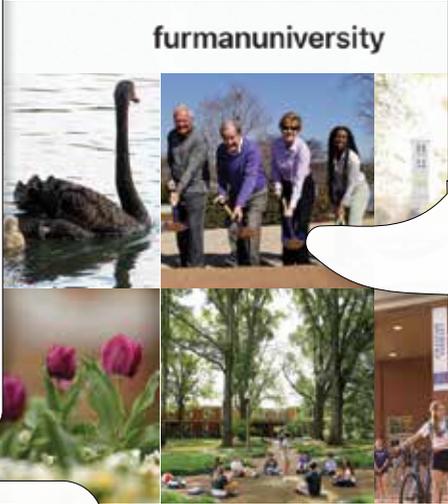


Visit the Furman on Main section at M. Judson Booksellers, our partners in downtown Greenville, for Furman tees, gifts and books by Furman authors.  
**MJUDSONBOOKS.COM.**

# from the Interwebs

**The Riley Institute**  
@rileyinstitute

Monday's a big day at the Riley Institute! Twenty-one afterschool leaders from across the state will begin a 10-month journey as members of our inaugural South Carolina Afterschool Leaders Empowered (SCALE) cohort. Let's #SCALEUpAfterschool! Read more: [bit.ly/3BBfult](http://bit.ly/3BBfult)



**furmanuniversity**

**furmanuniversity** It was a beautiful morning for the groundbreaking of the new South Housing residence hall! As Brianca Beckford '23 said this morning, "it's the beginning of a new chapter and the start of a new community."

**furmanuniversity** Research 🧪  
Internships 📖  
Study Away 🌍

What hands-on experience have you done while at Furman?

**Furman Alumni**  
@Furman\_Alumni

Commemorate Black History Month with a gift to the Joseph A. Vaughn Scholarship at [alumni.furman.edu/joseph-vaughn-...](http://alumni.furman.edu/joseph-vaughn-...) Your donation has a direct impact on students like Jada W. '24.

"I can't express in words how fortunate I am to have this scholarship and attend the best university ever."

**Furman Paladins**  
@FurmanPaladins

Furman coach Dick Sheridan is enshrined into the National Football Foundation/Hall of Fame Tuesday evening in Las Vegas, Nevada. #FUAITheTime (Photo courtesy of NFF/Josh Hawkins)

**furmanuniversity** The Furman Lake is beautiful no matter what time it is, but it sure is special at sunset 🌅



## STILL

Students in Furman's Master of Arts in Strategic Design graduated in December 2021. Among their pieces are: ❶ "Chair," by Amanda Branom; ❷ "Book," by Maura Dupre; ❸ "Epipen," by Abigail Hellman; and ❹ "Chair," by Mira Carroll.



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Greenville, South Carolina 29613

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In October, students performed a musical adaptation of "As You Like It" outside The Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities. From left: Dennis Cheeks '22, Matt Butler '25, William Bickerstaff '25, Seth Jones '25 and Anna Muh '23