

# Furman

FOR ALUMNI  
AND FRIENDS  
OF THE UNIVERSITY

SPRING

2020



## THE WORLD OPENED UP

It started with a promise kept. How **LaDavia Drummond Just '02** found purpose and possibility in Uganda. **pg. 20**

## ENACTING COMMUNITY

The Furman family has shown its resiliency, resourcefulness and capacity for caring during the coronavirus, writes President Elizabeth Davis. **pg. 1**



JEREMY FLEWING

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**A**s you may know, the bulk of this magazine is put together months in advance of its publication. For this issue, most of the stories that follow were written, edited and photographed soon after the New Year. A few pieces like this letter come in later, for various reasons, and the final design work and proofing is done in March and early April.

So, we were far along in the production of this issue when COVID-19 became a pandemic and turned all of our worlds upside-down. We suddenly found ourselves having to make many difficult decisions that changed the way we did almost everything. We moved classes to remote learning and postponed significant milestone events, including Commencement exercises. It was heartbreaking but necessary to protect the safety and health of our students, faculty and staff.

With this in mind, we thought about putting the magazine on hold – or at most, producing a digital-only version. Clearly, we decided otherwise.

Ultimately, we felt it was important to deliver a magazine that celebrates the Furman family and our achievements – reminding us of what makes this community special. In these difficult and disorienting times, our hope is that the magazine will provide some comfort and normalcy.

You'll see that we made a few late changes, including moving this letter to the front of the magazine and swapping out a planned guest column with a special note



## ENACTING COMMUNITY

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*Celebrating the Furman Family  
in Difficult Times*

BY ELIZABETH DAVIS

from Allison Foy, executive director of Alumni and Parent Engagement, on page 50. Otherwise, most of the original content remains. The students, faculty, staff and alumni we feature deserve to have their stories told.

And that brings me to what I really want to say in this moment. Our Furman family have proved – in the most difficult and challenging times – to be among the most resilient, resourceful and caring people I've known.

In the face of unimaginable circumstances, we have carried on with normal operations, if in a somewhat abnormal way. I am grateful for and proud of the ingenuity our students, faculty and staff showed in adapting to new ways of learning and delivering The Furman Advantage. Because it's not just about classes. Our faculty have continued to advise and mentor students, write letters of recommendation and engage in their own scholarly

activity. Our internship and undergraduate research offices and the Malone Center for Career Engagement are finding creative ways to provide students experiences, resources and support. And our coaches are sharing amusing social media posts of their attempts to keep our student-athletes engaged.

While we all try to figure out how to adapt our lives to the challenges of our new reality, I've been heartened by the show of care and concern from the Furman family: students asking what they can do to ensure our faculty and staff are taken care of; alumni offering help to the university and to students who are in their hometowns. And so much more.

And that's what the Furman family does. We don't just espouse community, we enact community. I won't pretend that everything is fine, because everything is not fine. Anxiety about the future can be overwhelming. And I know many of you have loved ones or colleagues who have succumbed to the coronavirus. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you.

We have challenges ahead, but we carry on because we truly believe in the transforming power of a Furman education and the Furman family. So, thank you. I am grateful for all of you and the many ways you support and represent our beloved university. Stay safe and be well. ◆

## OVERHEARD

“I dislike being critical, but I think I speak for many of us ‘boomers.’ As age progresses, eyesight declines – sometimes rapidly. The causes are several, but cataracts and lens-hardening with shape changes are the two most common.

Simultaneously we have been given a gift of WYSIWYG computer facility and a plethora of . . . fonts. With a simple click or two your editors can change a font from 74 to 6. That is really fun, and convenient! Unfortunately for those of us approaching ancient history, most editors and writers are not ‘boomers.’ Rather, they have eyesight sharper than an eagle or a Zeiss Axio microscope. And they understand and apply the design value of empty space. That’s not a good combination for us elderly folks reading the Furman magazine.

I don’t know the mean, median and mode of your readership, but I suspect the median donor is not a recent graduate. I wish that were not true, as I am sure you do, but be it as it may, we read to keep informed, and for a taste of nostalgia.

I stated I dislike being critical. So to temper these comments, here is something I noticed when Furman magazine arrived a few days ago. It’s good. I went to five universities and am the recipient of five university magazines. Lucky me! The Furman magazine wins the title of ‘best of the bunch,’ hands down. I enjoyed reading it, though my tenure at Furman was brief, not entirely pleasant, and a very long time ago by human standards. Whoever is making editorial decisions is doing a great job, font choice excluded.”

**ROBERT R. HALL 1961-62 AND 1962-63**  
Nantucket, Mass.

“I’m reaching out to tell you how much I enjoyed reading Vince Moore’s piece, ‘A Series of Miracles,’ about Sam Wyche’s story. It is so inspiring to see how this man has lived his life.”

**TYLER O’SHEA, FRIEND OF THE UNIVERSITY**  
Philadelphia, Pa.

### 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: You may have noticed in the last issue of Furman magazine that a historic photo of the South Housing Complex was misidentified. We regret the error.

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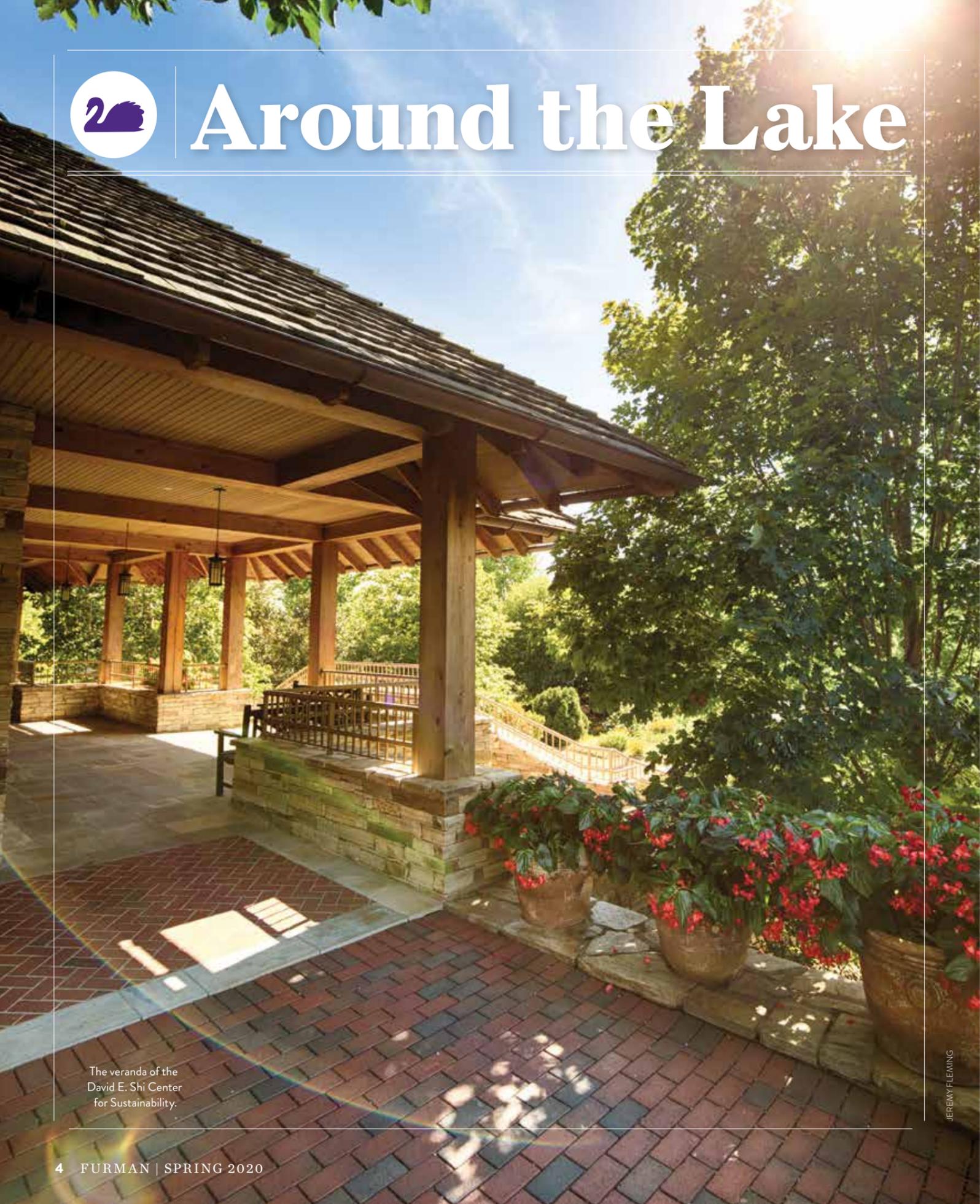
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The veranda of the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability.

JEREMY FLEMING



## JUST ADD INNOVATORS



*'This is only the beginning of great things to come.'*

BY MARY GOODWIN

**W**ith the aim of helping creative thinkers become entrepreneurs, Furman is providing a new space to help students turn the conceptual into the concrete.

The Davies Idea Exchange is named after **Gary '90** and **Kristi Baucom Davies '89**, who invested \$300,000 in the space to advance entrepreneurial education and its potential for community impact. Gary is a founding member of the Furman Innovation and Entrepreneurship Leadership Council, and he and Kristin are supporters of Furman's Department of Business and Accounting.

"We as a family are honored to be a part of this exciting new opportunity that Furman has boldly introduced," said Gary Davies. "We believe as the whole Furman community begins to learn more about the innovation and entrepreneurship program and the tremendous advantages it affords to each student, everyone will want to be involved."

The space in Hipp Hall serves as a hub for collaborative thought, exploration and entrepreneurial education. Members of the Furman



**Gary '90, Kristi '89** and their son, **Elliott R. '22 Davies**, during the ribbon cutting for the Davies Idea Exchange at the Furman University Innovation and Entrepreneurship on Feb. 21.



**Trevor Stuart '20** presents ideas during the Furman Innovation and Entrepreneurship 90-Second Pitch Competition in November.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Leadership Council, the Furman Board of Trustees, as well as students, faculty and staff attended a ribbon cutting on Feb. 21.

"The Davies Idea Exchange is critical to our mission of helping emerging entrepreneurs move from idea to concept," said Anthony Herrera, executive director of Furman Innovation and Entrepreneurship. "This is a designated space for students to transform innovative ideas and ventures

into meaningful contributions and sustainable business."

Lined with white boards and open seating, the office aims to promote a campus culture of innovation that contributes to entrepreneurship. Through mentoring, immersive programming, competitions and workshops, students of all disciplines will have opportunities for entrepreneurship and creativity.

"This is only the beginning of great things to come," said Gary Davies. ♦

JEREMY FLEMING

## 'A PARAMOUNT TIME IN THE UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY'

A more complete telling of Furman's story.

BY SARITA CHOUREY



**I**t was a day of tears and hugs, song and pride. Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, community and family members of **Joseph Vaughn '68**, Furman's first African American student, came together on Jan. 29 to celebrate Joseph Vaughn Day and to reflect on his historic achievement. It was on that day in 1965 that Vaughn had enrolled as a student, setting the university on the course to desegregation.

"Today's event will lay the foundation for ongoing programming and initiatives, celebrating a paramount time in the university's history that started us on a journey toward becoming a more inclusive, equitable and just community," Furman University President Elizabeth Davis said during the day's ceremony.

In 2018, Furman's Task Force on Slavery and Justice released the "Seeking Abraham" report, which documents the school's early ties to slavery and makes recommendations. The report recommended the creation of Joseph Vaughn Day, an increased scholarship in his name, a sculpture of Vaughn to be placed in front of the library, and the placement of markers

and plaques throughout campus to tell a more complete story about the people and actions that shaped Furman.

The university selected artist Steven Whyte to sculpt the statue, which should be completed by next year's Joseph Vaughn Day. Since receiving approval from the Board of Trustees, the university also has removed "James C." from Furman Hall and installed a plaque that honors the entire Furman family, noting "the diverse community of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who study, work and gather" on campus. The plaque acknowledges that while James C. Furman, the university's first president and the son of its namesake, worked to build and save the university after the Civil War, he was also a vocal proponent of slavery and secession.

The board also approved changing the name of Lakeside Housing to the Clark Murphy Housing Complex in honor of Clark Murphy, an African American who worked for decades as a groundskeeper at the Greenville Woman's College, which later merged with Furman University. A plaque placed at the front entrance of Judson Hall tells his story. ♦

### THE IMPACT OF HIS LEGACY

Pictured front left: Emma Tate-Valentine, Joseph Vaughn's first cousin, leads a march from the James B. Duke Library down Milford Mall to Daniel Chapel. She was among more than 30 members of Vaughn's family to attend the historic event.



### A CITY PROCLAIMS 'JOSEPH VAUGHN DAY'

**Adare Smith '20** holds a print of the city of Greenville's Joseph Vaughn Day Proclamation. **Lillian Brock Fleming '71**, who serves on the Greenville City Council, stands with her inside Furman's Daniel Chapel after the historic walk from the library. Fleming was one of the university's first female African American students when she enrolled in 1967, and in 1995, she became Furman's first female African American trustee.



### HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE

Members of Vaughn's family with (from left) Furman Director of the Center for Inclusive Communities Deborah Allen and Chief Diversity Officer Michael E. Jennings place a commemorative wreath at Vaughn's grave in Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Piedmont, South Carolina. His cousins, Gwen Vaughn and Marcus Tate, stand on either side of the wreath.

**JOSEPH VAUGHN '68** stands on the steps outside the James B. Duke Library. Though he died in 1991, his legacy lives on through a scholarship that the university expanded in 2018, and now, through the observance of Joseph Vaughn Day. The community will now recognize the historic day every Jan. 29, coming together in remembrance, celebration and hope.

### LIFTED UP IN SONG

Choir Director Antonio Edwards (center) leads the Furman University Gospel Ensemble from the steps of the Duke Library, as the group opens the Joseph Vaughn Day ceremony with "The Lord Is Blessing Me."





## TRIptych

What It Means to Be Independent



BY GABRIELLE PHILLIPS '21

As a first-time international traveler, I learned how important it is to explore a new culture, a new way of living and independence.

Before leaving for my semester abroad at the Accademia dell'Arte, a performing arts school in Arezzo – a city in Tuscany, Italy – I was incredibly nervous because I had never traveled outside of the United States. But when I stepped off the plane, I was speechless. It was like a beautiful daydream.

I learned from other musicians in the program, as well as the theatre department and several faculty members. We traveled to several cities across Italy: Venice, Florence, Cinque Terre, Siena, Rome, Pisa and Luca. In each city, we explored the old art and music history of the cities, as well as the new, modern communities and cultures.

I found that studying abroad has its challenges, like knowing how to manage money, learning a language or simply just missing the comfort and familiarity of home. But no matter how much I wanted a hug from my momma, I knew I had so many things to be thankful for.

This experience has meant learning to go with the flow, create new and deeper relationships, to broaden what it means to be independent and to be a student, a thinker, a dreamer – and to be myself. Whether going to the coffee shop and studying, taking a day trip to a new city, or taking the time to enjoy the scenery and to journal, this has been life-altering. ◆



The students of Accademia dell'Arte visit with Arezzo Mayor Alessandro Ghinelli (center) and his fiancée at Arezzo Town Hall.



Clockwise from left are Matisyn Darby '20, Mark Britt, who is the chairman of Furman's Department of Music, myself and Karen Mendes '21 during a workshop at Accademia dell'Arte.

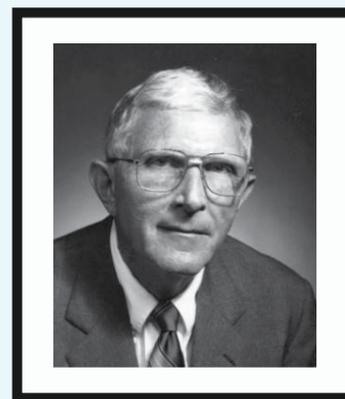


Stopping to rest after touring Teatro La Fenice in Venice, Italy, are (clockwise from left) Darby, Mia Berindea '21, Mendes, Vanna Tsiknias '21, Jake Henjes '21 and me.

TO SUPPORT STUDY AWAY OPPORTUNITIES, GO TO [FURMAN.EDU/GIVE](https://www.furman.edu/give)

COURTESY PHOTOS

COURTESY PHOTOS



## \$5 MILLION GIFT FROM ESTATE OF THOMAS C. TURNER '51 SUPPORTS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



Furman University received nearly \$5 million from the estate of **THOMAS C. TURNER '51** to expand support of academic scholarships.

The gift is designated for the Eleanor B. Turner Scholarship, established by Thomas Turner in 1995 in honor of his sister, and the Thomas C. Turner Scholarship Fund, an endowment he created in 1996. Both scholarships are awarded to Furman students who “demonstrate a financial need, exemplify high moral character and show academic promise.”

To date, 12 Furman students have benefited from the original Eleanor B. Turner Scholarship. After earning a mathematics degree from Furman in 1951, Turner volunteered for military service and attended Army Officer Candidate School, an experience that would shape his decision to become a college accounting professor. He died in 2018. ◆

## THEN



WILLIAM “WILLIE” W. BRADLEY '80

Recently I was asked why I chose to attend Furman. I had a definite answer: the personal touch of Charlie Brock, director of admissions at the time, the passion displayed by students and graduates for Furman, and the verdant beauty of the campus. Today I have deeper reasons.

When I arrived in 1976, Furman was celebrating its sesquicentennial and the inauguration of President John Johns. There was excitement everywhere! There was also a shortage of housing, and I had to settle into a forced triple. I had a conservative Christian roommate on the right and a hip, cool, urban “brother” on the left.

The conversations we had about almost everything were far beyond provocative and really foreshadowed the challenges that were to come.

Furman was challenging academically and intellectually for me; but if degree requirements and costs were not a factor, I would have enrolled in every course professors Jim Guth, Ernest Harrill, Ernest Walters, Don Gordon and Don Aiesi taught. Requirements such as the Cultural Life Program unbarred my mind and allowed me to see beauty, hear thoughts and to take action never before considered.

Similarly, Collegiate Educational Service Corps, now known as the Heller Service Corps, taught me how to help others in greater need than that selfish teenager that I was. It also formed my love for teaching and education, even after I earned my Juris Doctor. When Dr. Johns appointed me as an observer

to the Board of Trustees my junior and senior years, I quickly learned that an observer could recommend and respond to university policies as a trusted voice. That forced me to think, respond and act as part of a positive growing community – skills I have continued to hone throughout my career.

In those days, Furman was still in its infant stage in cultural diversity. Therefore, I used my membership in the Student League for Black Culture to help spread African American culture among all Furman students. And while there were only three black students in the Furman Singers at the time, the universality of music created a fellowship that could be seen and heard around campus.

I was, for sure, a Paladin through and through – win or lose! Besides, I loved our main cheerleader, President Johns. I will never forget his distinctly southern intonation when he would take to the bullhorn or microphone – especially when we were losing – with: “All right. Ah, F U one time . . .” There were no manufactured or electronically controlled noisemakers. It was just us, the diamonds in the rough.

Yes, Furman was the place that provided me with positive energy, whetted my appetite for knowledge, and made me more socially aware; and for that, I remain one of her loyal sons.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**William “Willie” W. Bradley '80** is a teacher, educational consultant and retired school district administrator. ◆

## Q & A WITH JASON DONNELLY

Jason Donnelly joined Furman last August as athletics director.

**You were a highly successful fundraiser for Villanova Athletics. How important is fundraising to athletics success?**

**JD:** If you look at sustained excellence among collegiate athletics programs, there is one common theme – outstanding coaches and student-athletes, exceptional institutional leadership, and consistent philanthropic support. Our sustained success at Villanova was the direct result of these three things, as well as an unwavering commitment to the mission, vision and values of the university. Successful fundraising directly contributes to improved recruiting, culture and institutional commitment, which ultimately impacts winning and sustained success in sports.

**You were an assistant basketball coach before working in athletics administration. How does having been a coach impact your decision-making now?**

**JD:** As an assistant basketball coach, I worked for Hall of Fame-bound Coach Jay Wright, who embodied the essence of a values-driven leader. Every decision he made was in the best interest of our student-athletes, our team and the university.

We were constantly working to be a part of something bigger than ourselves in an environment where everyone's roles were different but status was the same. As a leader, I make decisions in a similar way. I assess situations that our athletics department is responsible for and lean on my experiences as a student-athlete, coach and administrator. I am laser-focused on our values to ensure that we are contributing to Furman's mission and vision. Our responsibility as a department is to graduate complete student-athletes, compete to win championships, operate in a culture of compliance and collaboration, and raise revenues and manage expenses. If we adhere to these objectives and make values-driven decisions, then we will take care of the best interests of Furman University.

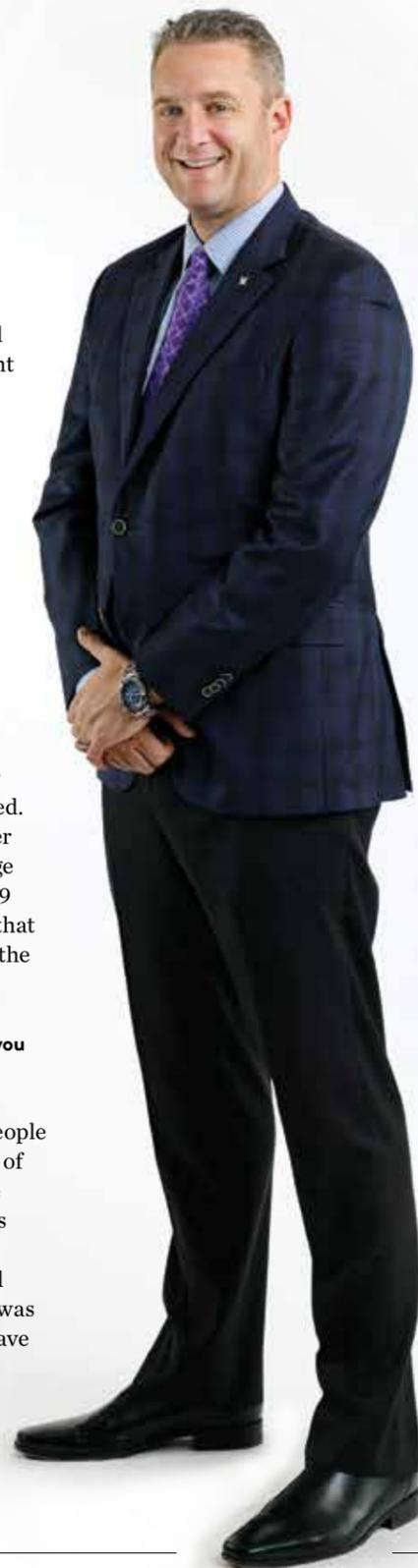
**What is the best and worst advice you've ever gotten?**

**JD:** Fortunately, I have received plenty of great advice throughout the years but cannot remember – or did not follow – too much bad advice. The best advice that I received was from my mother, who had an amazing outlook on life. My mother's focus for my sister and me was simply to be the

best people that we could be, to work hard in school and to treat everyone right – the Golden Rule. As a single parent, my mother encouraged us to be optimistic, to expect the best in everyone we meet and to believe that anything is possible. She had incredible personal relationships and always made acquaintances feel better about themselves. My mother encouraged us to be lifelong learners and to never take a day or an opportunity for granted. Unfortunately, my mother passed away at a young age from cancer when I was 19 years old. But the advice that I took from her made me the person that I am today.

**Who are the three people you admire most and why?**

**JD:** There are so many people I admire. The first group of people that I think of are all the incredible coaches and leaders that I played for, worked for or worked with. From this group, I was particularly blessed to have the opportunity to work for Naismith Hall of Fame Basketball Coach Morgan Wootten from



JEREMY FLEMING

JEREMY FLEMING

DeMatha High School. I spent several years learning values, leadership, strategy, culture and points of instruction from Coach Wootten. His core values – God, family, academics and basketball – competitiveness and care for people are second to none and were instrumental in my growth as a leader. Former Muhlenberg College Dean of Students Rudy Ehrenberg is also a person I admire a great deal. He has a military background and was an educator who could truly connect with his students through his commitment to supporting their interests and their lives. He was everywhere on campus when I was a college student, and you could see that he truly cared. We still stay in touch, and he is one of the primary reasons I chose a career as an administrator in higher education.

Father Rob Hagan, Villanova senior associate athletics director and team chaplain, is another leader who I admire. Father Rob is the strength and inspiration for the entire athletics department at Villanova. His ability to share and communicate his faith has impacted thousands of student-athletes, coaches, alumni and friends throughout the years. He has an incredible perspective on life and has a unique way of connecting the power of Augustinian teachings through the platform of university and

athletics life. He has impacted my faith in so many ways that I cannot fully express.

**When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

**JD:** When I was younger, I wanted to be a sports writer, an architect or a professional athlete. I'm fortunate to have earned a liberal arts and sciences education and pursued a career that allowed me to fulfill so many of these different interests. Although they may differ in title, serving as a teacher, coach and administrator has afforded me the opportunity to influence others through my thoughts, actions and words. Most importantly, I wanted to be a dedicated father and husband. Of all the roles that I serve in life, this is most important to me.

**Editor's note: Just before press time, we asked Donnelly about the spring season being canceled because of COVID-19.**

**JD:** The decision to suspend and ultimately cancel spring sports at Furman was difficult and emotional, particularly for our senior student-athletes. However, I've been inspired by our university's commitment to prioritizing our community's health and safety. As challenging as this time period has been, Furman will grow stronger and more together from these circumstances. ♦

## NOW



JESSE TOMPKINS '20

**As a philosophy major, I often begin my papers with a question.** "What is beauty? What is art? Who is God?" And so on. Naturally, when I was asked to write this column, the first question that came to my mind was, "What is Furman?"

For those outside of Furman, one might answer this question by saying "an institute of higher learning" or "a private liberal arts college in Greenville, South Carolina," but for those of us who attend the university, the answer is so much more. The beautiful thing about being a student at Furman is that everyone's experience looks different, but we are each taught to make meaning from that experience and use it as a guide for a life worth living.

For me, Furman is the place that gave me the space to discover who I am and what I want to contribute to the world. In my time here, I have studied abroad in Europe, conducted research with my favorite professor, held impactful leadership positions and made my closest friends. I have been given resources and opportunities to reflect on my identity, learn from the diverse experiences of others through

dialogue, and feel valued because of my individual contributions to a larger community.

A Furman education is truly transformative. We try to give a name to this kind of experience, perhaps by calling it The Furman Advantage, but the reality is that it cannot be named. Every student thinks of something different when he or she hears the word "Furman," and no matter how many descriptors of a Furman experience one may list, it is impossible to fully capture what it means. Furman is a place of belonging, a place of growth, a place that leaves with us.

After I graduate in May, I plan to pursue a career in higher education. College means something different for everyone, but a good college creates meaning that is cherished for a lifetime. I have felt a strong sense of community at Furman, and I hope to provide that same opportunity for future college students during my career.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Jesse Tompkins '20** is president of the Student Government Association. ♦

**W**orking the phones in a United States senator's office takes a certain resolve.

Kenia Flores '20 knows this well.

"Sometimes it's hard. People will yell at you," Flores says of fielding calls from constituents, an activity that took much of her time during a recent internship. But she believes every person has a right to be heard – those who voted for Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, for whom she interned, and those who didn't.

But Flores didn't mind the sometimes-demanding telephone conversations. Every time she walked into work at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., her spirit was renewed.

"It's a feeling of awe and passion and inspiration," she says.

Flores recently completed her second internship for Tillis. In the summer of 2018, she worked in his district office in Charlotte, her hometown. Last summer



Kenia Flores '20 stands with U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, for whom she interned in both Washington, D.C., and Charlotte, N.C.

## 'FEARLESS' ON CAPITOL HILL

*A Furman Fellow finds meaning in the details.*

BY KELLEY BRUSS

she spent a month in his Washington, D.C., office.

"This is where I belong. This is what I'm meant to do," she says.

Flores had her first taste of Washington as a high school senior when she traveled with the National Federation of the

Blind for the organization's annual advocacy seminar. She's been drawn to Capitol Hill ever since. While she doesn't think her future will focus exclusively on disability policy, "it definitely influences how I view other policy areas," she says. "It's

definitely given me a unique lens to see things."

Flores has been blind since birth and laughs as she reflects on what she just said.

Others notice her blindness first, but it's never their final impression, says her adviser, David Fleming, associate professor of politics and international affairs.

"She's fearless," he says. "I think she's exposed a lot of us, including me, to a lot of the possibilities and issues that people with disabilities face."

Flores, a class of 2020 Furman Fellow, who is majoring in politics and international affairs, plans to work for a few years after graduation before applying to law school.

Flores had her first extended stay in the nation's capital the spring semester of her sophomore year as part of Furman's Washington Experience. She interned then with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which administers and enforces anti-discrimination laws in the workplace.

"This is where I belong. This is what I'm meant to do."

KENIA FLORES '20

Flores returned to North Carolina after that semester to intern in Tillis' district office and fell in love with the work. Flores said state offices focus on casework, assisting constituents with everything from Social Security issues to expedited passports, while the D.C. office focuses on policy.

Elizabeth Edwards, regional director of constituent advocacy in the Charlotte office, calls her "phenomenal."

"I really relied on her last year," Edwards says.

When she learned Flores was applying for a second internship, she told the D.C. office, "We have to have her."

Flores, who focused on education and immigration, attended hearings and briefings and worked with legislative correspondents to develop memos on legislative proposals.

As for advocacy opportunities, she took those as they came.

For instance, Flores introduced a social media specialist in Tillis' office to "alt text," the written descriptions that can be included with online images.

The staffer didn't know about the option but shared it with a GOP social media group. Now other Senate offices are planning to use alt text in their social media.

"I just want it to be accessible for me and for other people," Flores says. "It's small details like that really matter to me." ♦

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COURTESY PHOTO

JEREMY FLEMING

## NEXT



NEIL JAMERSON

**Debates are divisive. Discussions are safe. Dialogues are neither.**

And Furman is at the forefront of a dialogue initiative within liberal arts and sciences education.

In 2017 and 2018, Furman sent faculty and staff to the University of Michigan's Intergroup Dialogue Institute. Michigan pioneered a curriculum in which students with different social identities – race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion ... you get it – learned to dialogue on contentious issues.

The goal of dialogue isn't to argue a "right way" of thinking. Rather, it humanizes the divergent experiences that cause us to view the same subject differently. It teaches critical thinking, which results in either a change in position or better-informed positions.

And as participants explore issues, the interrelation between cognitive and identity diversity comes out. For example, white people don't have a monolithic opinion about gun control, female views on abortion vary, and so on.

Dialogue asks participants to draw upon personal experience. The inherent vulnerability requires bravery. All must participate. Those coming from privileged identities cannot merely observe so as not to place the burden of education solely on the marginalized. Yet, dialogue also respects the agency of all individuals to narrate their own stories.

The importance of dialogue is clear. A college education privileges those who possess it both economically and civically. To be empowered but unable

to dialogue across difference on issues impacting communities unnecessarily excludes important voices. If one has the power to make a decision that impacts others, I'd argue they have a right to a say. (Unless it's my toddler.)

Within our campus community, graduating student data revealed that only 38% of students reported Furman had greatly developed their awareness of social problems, and 32% responded the same to whether Furman had prepared them to relate to people of different races, nations and religions. To fulfill The Furman Advantage's promise to make real the citizenship promise of a liberal arts and sciences education, we needed (and continue to need) to improve. Dialogue is one method.

Post-Michigan, Furman launched its own dialogue initiative. Since 2018, courses have been taught on topics ranging from race to gender to political ideology. Outside the classroom, peer-facilitated workshops use dialogic techniques to cover topics like implicit bias, social identity and community engagement. Institutional Research is assessing the initiative in comparison to high-impact experiences like study away, internships and undergraduate research to add to a growing body of literature. Literature predominately focused on public flagship institutions. Until now. Er. Next.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Neil Jamerson is assistant vice president for student development. ♦

# AN ENDLESS IMPACT

Teachers trained at Furman find they can go anywhere.

BY CINDY LANDRUM

For 100 years, Furman has been sending educators into the world to mentor, challenge and foster a hunger for learning in students. Meet three education alumni who never stopped learning.



Josh Patterson '02 and '06, principal at the Sterling School & Charles Townes Center, poses with a student at an annual open house event.

## JOSH PATTERSON '02 AND '06

For Josh Patterson, public education is a ministry.

"Having people who mentored me made me realize I wanted to be part of that story for somebody else," says Patterson, principal at the Sterling School and the Charles Townes Center in Greenville, South Carolina. "I knew I wanted to care for people, support them and help them realize their fullest potential."

Patterson had already paid his room and board deposit at another institution before one of his mentors, the Rev. Bobby Morrow, a Baptist minister and a Furman trustee, convinced him to visit Furman.

"He told me not to close that door just yet. We went, and those doors began to open," says Patterson, who earned a bachelor's in elementary education and a master's in school leadership from Furman. "I built relationships

with those professors, and I work with many of them today. I love being able to have that ongoing relationship with the education department."

Patterson, who earned a Ph.D. in educational administration, takes a whole-child approach to education – which he credits to Furman's liberal arts and sciences mission – focused on developing students intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

## TANYA DIAZ '16

Tanya Diaz came from a first-generation immigrant family that spoke only Spanish at home, forcing her to learn English as she was learning to add and subtract. When she was 10, her parents moved the family back to Spain. But while Diaz could understand Spanish and speak it a little bit, she could not read or write it. Teachers helped her, and that experience led her to a career in teaching.

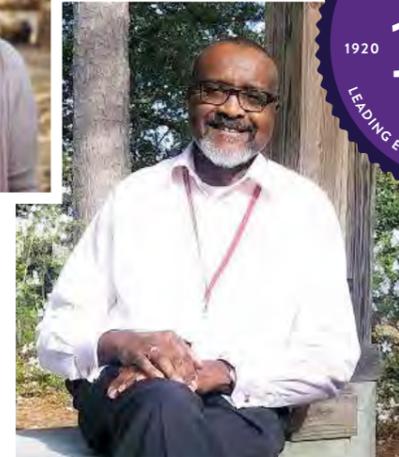
After working as a special education teacher, Diaz pursued a master's in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at Furman. It took her four years instead of the usual two because of family and health issues.

"Furman was so supportive during that time," she says.

Diaz is now a special education coordinator of early childhood at the Berlin Cosmopolitan School in Germany, a position that allows her to combine her training in special education and TESOL.



(Above) Tanya Diaz '16, special education coordinator of early childhood at Berlin Cosmopolitan School.



(Right) Timothy Brown '82, assistant vice president of academic programs at Trident Technical College.

Before that, she worked as a kindergarten teacher at the American International School in Cyprus, a private school.

"I would have never thought of teaching in another country, but Furman broadened what I thought was possible," says Diaz, who is pursuing her international teacher certification for Europe. "Furman provided me an opportunity to get out of my comfort zone."

## TIMOTHY BROWN '82

Timothy Brown has done it all.

During his 37-year career he has been a public school teacher, graduate teaching assistant, college art history instructor and a college dean. In August of 2019, he became the assistant vice president of academic programs at Trident Technical College in Charleston, South Carolina.

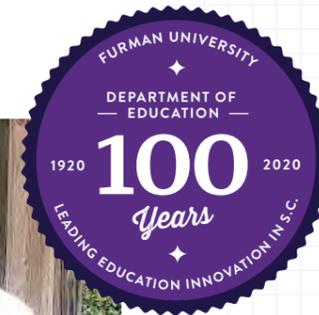
But other than his very first teaching job as an art

teacher in the Greenville County School District, none of his other moves were planned.

"My degree from Furman has given me the flexibility to take advantage of the opportunities that have come my way," says Brown, who earned a bachelor's degree in studio art from Furman and took education courses via the department to get certified to teach art in the South Carolina public school system. He holds a master's in art history from the University of Iowa and a doctorate in education from Capella University.

In Brown's new role, he oversees curriculum development and the university transfer program.

"Now I have to take a global look. I have to think about all of our academic programs. It's been challenging. There's still plenty for me to learn," Brown says. "The nice thing about my new job is I get to do something so different." ♦



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Furman's teacher residency program was established in 1999. Students spend a year in a teacher's classroom during their senior year, then have mentors during their first year of teaching.

COURTESY PHOTO

COURTESY PHOTOS



# ‘SHE LOVES THE BATTLE’

**KATARINA KOZAROV’S STORY BEGAN IN SERBIA AND HAS TAKEN HER TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF COLLEGE TENNIS.**

BY VINCE MOORE

Katarina Kozarov '20 practices at Furman's Minor Herndon Mickel Tennis Center.



**AT THE AGE OF 8, KATARINA KOZAROV '20 WAS SERBIA'S TOP-RANKED TENNIS PLAYER IN THE 10-AND-UNDER DIVISION. THE COUNTRY TAKES ITS TENNIS SERIOUSLY – SERBIANS NOVAK DJOKOVIC, ANA IVANOVIC AND JELENA JANKOVIC HAVE ALL BEEN RANKED NO. 1 IN THE WORLD IN RECENT YEARS – SO BEING THE BEST PLAYER IN THE NATION AT ANY AGE IS NO SMALL ACHIEVEMENT.**

Up until that time, Kozarov had been coached by a neighbor and good friend who simply made tennis fun. But he advised her parents that it was time to provide young Katarina with more focused training so they could discover just how good she could become.

So at age 14, Kozarov and her father, Milos, moved to Bradenton, Florida, to attend the IMG Tennis Academy, where Kozarov spent four years working on her game and attending high school. Milos was able to conduct his business dealings online in the U.S., while her mother, Gordana, remained in Serbia with her medical practice and visited Florida several times a year.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Kozarov, an only child, enjoyed the academy experience, and her tennis improved. She jokes that the most challenging aspect of her move to the U.S. was the amount of time it took for her father to learn how to cook.

But when she suffered a shoulder injury between her junior and senior seasons, she didn't get the same attention from college recruiters as her fellow IMG classmates; they were landing scholarships at the nation's premier tennis programs.

Enter Adam Herendeen, who was named head coach of the Furman women's tennis program in 2015. He had heard from friends about this player at the IMG Academy who had been overlooked because of an injury, but who was a great talent and a superb student.

"I had recruited at IMG before, but I hadn't seen many players that would be a good fit for Furman," says Herendeen, who was head coach of the men's tennis program at Presbyterian College before coming to Furman. "But after learning more about Katarina, I knew she was someone we had to have in our program."

### Why she chose Furman

Kozarov says academics were among her top priorities in a college, so when Herendeen asked her to make an official visit to campus, she agreed to take a look.

"Right away, I said this really feels like home," she says. "I liked the players and the coaches. I could tell they were good people, which is important because you are going to be with them 24/7 for four years. I canceled all my other visits and committed to Furman. It's been a perfect fit ever since."

It has indeed been a good partnership. Kozarov, now in her senior season, played in the No. 4 position her freshman year but moved to No. 1 the following season and has remained there ever since. She was the Southern Conference Player of the Year her sophomore and junior seasons and helped the team win league titles and qualify for the NCAA Championships the last three years.

At the completion of the fall season, Kozarov was the 13th ranked player in

the nation, having posted singles wins over ranked players from Central Florida, Illinois, Oklahoma, Pepperdine, Duke and Tennessee. She even took the University of Miami's Estela Perez-Somarriba, the defending NCAA champion, to the brink before losing in three sets.

Herendeen says he is not surprised that Kozarov has become such a good player. Her ground strokes are "world-class," and she is an aggressive player who attacks her opponents from both sides. It is her mental approach, however, that makes her special. "She loves to compete; she loves the battle," Herendeen says. "That's not something you can teach."

Kozarov agrees with that assessment. She says the mental side is huge in tennis, and a player needs a certain toughness and competitiveness to win matches when everything else on the court is pretty much even. She says she was fortunate to be born with a strong desire to give it her all in every situation.

"Coach Adam has helped me see that in myself and use it for my benefit," she says. "He knows exactly how to push me. Confidence is so important. Because you can lose it very quickly and it can take forever to rebuild."

That mental toughness has also helped Kozarov take full advantage of the student experience at Furman. She is double majoring in business and Spanish and had an internship this past summer at a United Nations-recognized foundation in New York City.

### Embracing the challenge

She lived in the Spanish Language House her sophomore and junior years and joined the Alpha

Delta Pi sorority. She's also a member of the Spanish Honor Society and has been named to the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll, the SoCon Academic All-Conference Team and the Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-Academic Team.

Spring is the primary season for tennis, and the Paladins are hoping to make the most of Kozarov's final year. Furman returns all but one player from last year's team, which posted a 26-2 record, a perfect 7-0 mark in conference play and a 23-match winning streak, the longest in school history.

Because he wanted to give the team a chance to test itself against the best competition, Herendeen toughened the 2020 spring schedule with matches against North Carolina State, Georgia Tech, Notre Dame, Michigan State, Louisville and San Jose State.

Even though Kozarov will be facing the top player at all those schools, she is embracing the challenge. And since her parents make it to campus at least once a semester to watch her play, there's even more to look forward to.

"I have really enjoyed my time at Furman," she says. ♦



JEREMY FLEMING

PHIL PONDER | JEREMY FLEMING



## SPORTS BRIEFS

### CROSS-COUNTRY MILES AHEAD BY VINCE MOORE

**How good were the Furman men's and women's cross-country teams this past fall?** In early December, they alone were responsible for Furman being ranked among the top 10 NCAA Division I schools in the Learfield IMG College Director's Cup competition, which tracks the season-long success of both the men's and women's programs at universities across the nation.

The strong performance by the cross-country teams earned Furman a total of 130.5 points in the standings, which reflected the results of NCAA competition in three sports – men's and women's cross-country and field hockey. The university was tied for 10th with Notre Dame and

was well ahead of schools like North Carolina, Texas, Ohio State and Alabama.

It should be noted that of the eight schools ranked above Furman, five accrued a significant number of their points in field hockey, a sport that Furman doesn't offer. The December standings featured 74 schools that had accumulated points in NCAA tournament competition to that point.

Both Paladin cross-country teams won their seventh straight Southern Conference titles. The women finished ninth at the NCAA Championships, while the men finished 14th. **Savannah Carnahan '20, Gabbi Jennings '20 and Ryan Adams '19** also earned All-America status at the NCAA meet. Robert Gary, the men's and women's cross-country coach, was SoCon Coach of the Year.

Furman men's cross-country athletes **David Ahlmeyer '23** and **Cameron Ponder '22** compete at the NCAA XC Championship this past November.



Furman has led all Southern Conference schools in the Learfield IMG competition the past three years and finished 73rd overall in 2018-19, the best showing in program history. The university has finished among the top 100 schools nationally for three consecutive years.

The cross-country teams weren't the only success story for the Paladins in the fall. Men's and women's soccer also won regular season league titles, and men's soccer head coach Doug Allison was named Coach of the Year.

While the football team didn't accomplish its goal of winning a conference championship,

the Paladins enjoyed another successful season under third-year head coach **Clay Hendrix '86**. The team spent a good part of the season ranked in the top 10 of the FCS poll, finishing with an 8-5 record and qualifying for the playoffs (a 42-6 first-round loss to Austin Peay on the road).

Two players from the Paladin volleyball team – **Courtney Hoffman '20** and sophomore **Neci Harris '22** – were named first-team all-conference, and **Nicole Mack '20** was named to the all-tournament team. Furman reached the semifinals of the tournament for the 22nd time in program history. ♦



Furman men's basketball players **Mike Bothwell '22** and **Jaylon Pugh '22** react during the Feb. 22 game against Wofford, which drew more than 6,000 fans to the Bon Secours Wellness Arena in downtown Greenville, South Carolina. The Paladins beat the Terriers 67-66.

It was 2016, and **LaDavia Drummond Just '02** was deeply moved by the words of the Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi, a preacher from Uganda who was visiting St. Andrew's Church in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. After the service, Just approached him – a mathematician and vice chancellor of Uganda Christian University – with a bold promise.

**“PLEASE REMEMBER MY FACE,” SHE URGED SENYONYI. “BECAUSE YOU WILL SEE ME AGAIN IN UGANDA.”**

**S**even months later, Just would make good on the promise.

After a mission trip to the East African nation in 2016, Just said yes to a request for help from Dr. Edward Kanyesigye, at the time the dean of health sciences, which led to her move in April of 2019 to Kampala as a Fulbright scholar to teach pharmacology to medical and dental students at the Uganda Christian University School of Medicine.

“I’m on my feet for three and four hours in an African classroom with no AC and 60 students packed in, so we’re not talking about conditions that (Americans are) used to. But I love it,” Just says. “(My students) are so curious about me, and they want to know my story. I say, ‘You guys, you don’t understand – it wasn’t my passion to teach that brought me to Uganda. But I will tell you that being here with you has sparked a passion in me to teach,’ and it’s the truth.”

While Just’s life is in Uganda today, her story began in Greenville, South Carolina. But she doesn’t credit herself as the central driver of her success.

“It’s too miraculous to be about my hard work and my grit alone,” she says. “It is about God – for His glory and His kingdom.

What’s amazing is that it didn’t even matter that I didn’t know God yet. He knew me.”

#### EARLY YEARS

Her early years were rooted in premature responsibility and devoid of most childhood freedoms and innocent joys.

“My life was all about my mother’s life. My life wasn’t my own,” Just says. “My upbringing had nothing to do with me.”

Just and her younger sister grew up with a single mother whose struggles with lupus dominated almost every facet of their lives. At one point, caring for her became so difficult that Just was forced to drop out of high school. Planning for the future meant getting through the day.

“I was just hopeless. The only thing that I had to look forward to were my daydreams, my imagination,” Just remembers. “There was nothing in my active life that suggested it would be any better or any more than I was currently dealing with. ... For a long time growing up, college wasn’t a real thing to me. It wasn’t possible, and it wasn’t something I expected to do.”



by Sarita Chourey

# THE WORLD OPENED UP

From Greenville to Kampala, *LaDavia Drummond Just '02* follows her faith.

But then something unexpected happened. Her high school physics teacher, Tommy Edwards, suggested she apply to Furman.

“I didn’t know anything about Furman, so I didn’t even know to take it as a compliment that he thought I was good enough. All I thought was, ‘Since you say I’m good enough, I’ll apply,’” she recalls.

She was accepted and began to flourish, despite arriving on campus homeless and feeling, as she recalls, like “an orphan in spirit.” Just was allowed to live in the residence halls even when the university was closed, and the university accommodated her need to bring her nephew, who was a baby, to class so her sister could continue attending high school.

“That was my first encounter with LaDavia,” Professor of Chemistry John Wheeler says. “She was in my introductory chemistry course, and as we got to know one another I came to realize she was coming from work in the mornings. And there were times when LaDavia came in with a very young infant and would sit in the back row taking notes in what most students would suggest is a very rigorous introductory course. I was concerned for her. I was concerned for her health in that she was taking on a tremendous load.”

That remains Wheeler’s first and only experience teaching with a baby in attendance. He became Just’s adviser and watched as she gained confidence, ultimately earning the Carolyn Darby Vogel Chemistry Scholarship and completing a chemistry degree. Graduation presented her with real opportunities for the first time.



### A LIFE UNFOLDS

Just followed her Doctor of Pharmacy from the Medical University of South Carolina with a pair of master’s degrees earned concurrently – in business administration from The Citadel and health administration from the MUSC – while working full time as a clinical pharmacist. On paper, that suggests tremendous drive, but Just attributes her accomplishments to her faith in God.

“I don’t even consider degrees. I just take things as they come,” she says. “I wasn’t super ambitious, believe it or not.”

Just met her husband, Jason, in 2002, and they have three daughters: Jada, who is in ninth grade, and twins Jamie and Jael. “Work travels have kept me away from home quite a bit for the last couple



DAVID MULINDWA | JEREMY FLEMING

COURTESY PHOTO

of years,” she says. “I’m grateful to Jason for his support and understanding.”

But because Jason couldn’t leave his career in South Carolina, it has just been Just and her girls several time zones away. When Just traveled to Furman in August to deliver the 2019 Convocation speech, Jason flew from South Carolina to Kampala to stay with the children.

Just says the experience of living in Uganda has deepened the family’s bond.

“I needed to reconnect with these girls. ... I believe this bond that’s happening right now could only happen under these exact circumstances,” she says. “I am stronger than I thought I was. I am more capable as a mother than I thought I was. And these kids are happy.”

One of the memories they’ll bring back is of meeting the United States ambassador to Uganda, who is also a Furman alumna: **Deborah Malac ’77**.

“We made that meeting happen, and it was great,” Just says. “She inspired me. Just coming out of my situation that I was in, growing up and making it to Furman – that should have been enough to tell me that anything is possible. But being here has opened the world up to me.”

When Just completes her term in Uganda, she knows one thing for certain – she’ll remain open to whatever opportunities arise.

“I can see that one day I will make a difference, whether locally or globally, I don’t know which,” she says. “But I know God will use me to make a difference.” ♦

Opposite: Just in a classroom at the Uganda Christian University School of Medicine and next to Furman President Elizabeth Davis during opening Convocation in 2019, where Just was a speaker.

Family photo (from left): Jael, Jason, Jada, LaDavia and Jamie Just.

**“IT’S TOO MIRACULOUS TO BE ABOUT MY HARD WORK AND MY GRIT ALONE.”**



# THEY TOOK WHAT WAS POSSIBLE—AND PUSHED IT

A vision, a “what if,” a breakthrough – sometimes life depends on it. Other times, it’s life as we know it but with culture-defining flavor. Meet four of Furman’s greatest – **Herman Lay ’30, H ’67**, **Fran Smith Ligler ’72, H ’18**, **Thomas Goldsmith Jr. ’31, H ’59** and **Charles Townes ’35, H ’60**.

BY KELLEY BRUSS

**F**URMAN STUDENTS leave campus every year ready to make a mark in their careers and cities. And over the years, a handful have left to achieve things so significant the effects have been felt around the world.

Some of their names you may know. Some of their work you may use every day, without even knowing it. Their paths are unique. But they have shared a remarkable commitment to those paths, a confidence that more was possible and that they were the ones to reach for it.



**HE SEIZED AN OPPORTUNITY – AT AGE 10**

His last name is a potato chip icon – thick, white letters on a waving red banner. But the legacy of **Herman Lay '30** extends far beyond the snack aisle, and into philanthropy and cultural ubiquity.

Lay, who attended Furman in the 1920s, was the first CEO of PepsiCo, the company formed in 1965 through a merger of his Frito-Lay with Pepsi-Cola. Today, PepsiCo is a multibillion-dollar blue chip company, selling food and beverages around the world. And it's not just Pepsi, Fritos and Lays. If your pantry holds Quaker, Gatorade, Tropicana, Ruffles, Cheetos or Aquafina products, to name a few, Lay's company is in your life.



Top: Portrait of Herman Lay.

Bottom: A Pepsi-Cola advertisement from an old bottling factory on Long Island, N.Y.

His story has a suggestion of destiny: As a 10-year-old, Lay reportedly sold peanuts and soft drinks at Greenville Spinners baseball games. In 1926, he started at Furman but left in 1928 to earn money to continue his education. After a series of short-term positions, he took a job as a distributor for a potato chip company.

But instead of returning to college, he bought out his employer in 1939 and reorganized as H.W. Lay and Company, selling Lay's Potato Chips for the first time.

Anthony Herrera, executive director of Furman's Office for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, says people who operate like Lay are game changers.

"He seized an opportunity by developing a product customers want," Herrera says.

After becoming one of the largest snack food companies in the Southeast, Lay merged with a Texas businessman selling Fritos corn chips. Just four years later, Frito-Lay and Pepsi-Cola formed PepsiCo.

In its online overview, the company reports operating today in more than 200 countries and territories. Its brands include 22 that each generate more than \$1 billion in annual retail sales. Furman awarded Lay an honorary doctoral degree in 1967. He retired as chairman of PepsiCo in 1971 but maintained an active role in the company until his death in 1982.

"It's not every day that a university can claim that they have an entrepreneur at that scale," Herrera says.

**LIVES DEPEND ON IT**

**Fran Smith Ligler '72** was working at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in the 1980s when she started having trouble sleeping at night. Homeland security was a hot topic and she intimately understood the destructive power of biochemistry.

"I realized that I had the expertise to wipe out the city of Washington; that scared me," Ligler says.

But fear didn't paralyze her. It sent her to the lab, where her team designed portable sensors to detect agents used in biological warfare. Ligler developed the biochemistry for the sensors: "How do you put ultrasensitive recognition molecules in a piece of hardware and keep them alive and functioning?"

Some of her early sensors, constructed for Operation Desert Storm, weighed 150 pounds. Within a few years, they were less than 10 pounds and fully automated, small enough to be carried by a small drone. Today, one version can be stowed in a soldier's backpack.

In 2017, portable optical biosensors for a wide variety of applications earned Ligler a place in the National Inventors Hall of Fame, alongside the likes of Thomas Edison and his electric lamp and Orville and Wilbur Wright and their airplane.



Fran Smith Ligler '72 speaks during her induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2017. (Bottom left) A copy of Ligler's publication "Optical Biosensors."

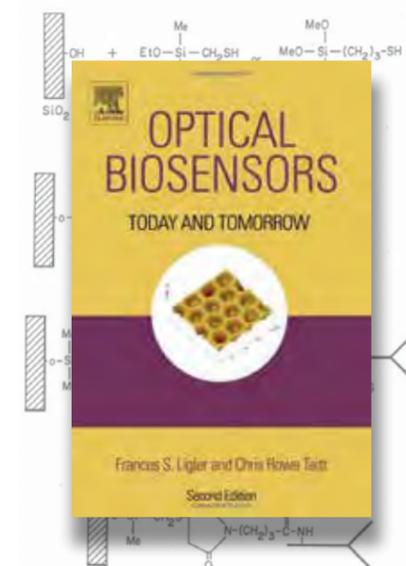


FIG. 1

As of 2019, Ligler was one of 39 women and 581 total inventors in the Hall of Fame, which honors American patent holders who have demonstrated outstanding ingenuity and persistence. (**Charles Townes '35** was inducted in 1976.)

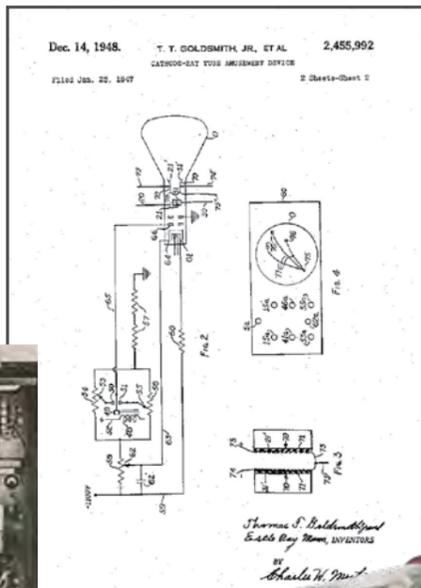
Over her career, Ligler has patented and commercialized 11 biosensor systems. Six remain on the market and are used in tasks as varied as detecting and identifying biological warfare agents, sampling for contaminants in groundwater, scanning for explosives in harbors, and testing new mothers in developing countries for diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis.

Ligler came from Louisville, Kentucky, to study biology and chemistry at Furman. She finished degrees in both sciences in three years and went on to earn a doctoral degree in biochemistry from Oxford University. She is now a professor in the Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering at both the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University.

"I feel very fortunate that I have had a chance to work on very hard problems," she says.



Thomas Goldsmith '51, a cathode ray tube and the schematic for Goldsmith's patent.



**AN 'AMUSEMENT DEVICE' THAT DID SO MUCH MORE**

In 1966, **Thomas Goldsmith Jr. '31** left the television industry and returned to Furman as a physics professor. He moved a truckload of equipment into the science building and later invited his new colleague Bill Brantley to come see the collection.

One of the devices echoed Goldsmith's radar work during World War II. Brantley, a physics professor at Furman, describes it as a mounted cathode ray tube that allowed a user to aim an electron beam at targets pasted outside of a screen.

With simple dials "you could control where the

electron beam landed," Brantley says. "My grandchildren could have mastered it. Not me."

While the scientific world largely remembers Goldsmith for his contributions to television and broadcasting, some say he also deserves credit as father of the video game.

Goldsmith and a partner filed a patent in 1947 for a "cathode-ray tube amusement device." In 1948, it became the first patent granted for an electronic game.

"He liked experimental work," Brantley says. "He was always making things. He could take the proverbial chewing gum and string and make something or fix something."

At 10, Goldsmith built an amplifier for his grandmother, who was hard of hearing.

Decades later, he was part of a DuMont Television team working in a Washington, D.C., hotel. That experiment resulted in WTTG (for Thomas Toliver Goldsmith), the nation's second television station, which still broadcasts today as part of the Fox network.

Goldsmith, a Greenville native, earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Furman and a Ph.D. from Cornell University. He was research director for Alan B. DuMont Laboratories before returning to Furman as a professor. He died in 2009 at 99.

Goldsmith was remembered in his New York Times obituary primarily for his role in the development of television, particularly color TV. But the Times also nodded to patent No. 2,455,992, his "amusement device."

DuMont labs struggled financially, and Goldsmith's prototype was never developed commercially.

That didn't stop Popular Mechanics from writing in 2016 that "few recognize Thomas T. Goldsmith Jr. as inventor of the first video game system. But they should."

**'THE TECHNOLOGY UPHOLDS OUR WHOLE ECONOMY'**

**Charles Townes '35** set out to verify one of Einstein's theories and give laboratory scientists a better way to probe matter, a heady project with a highly specialized application.

But the device he built to create an intense beam of microwaves – the first of what we now call lasers – has had implications far beyond the laboratory. In fact, most people would find it difficult to go through even a single day without using one.

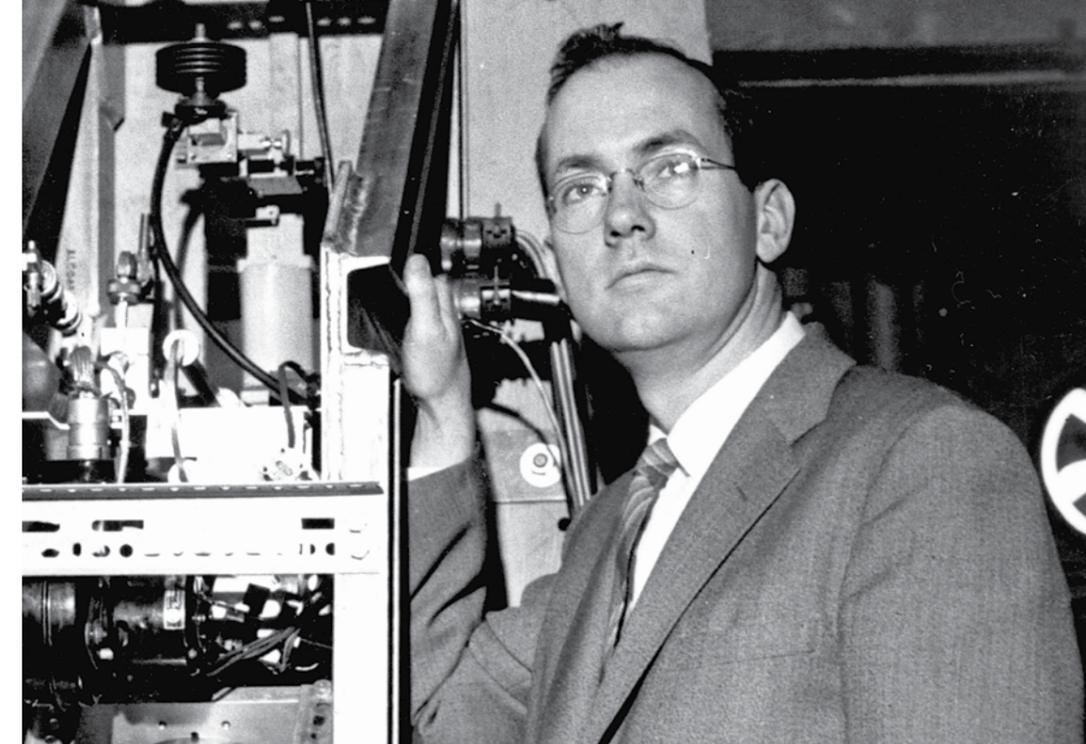
"They're ubiquitous," says George Shields, a chemistry professor and former provost at Furman.

Cash registers, CDs/DVDs, eye surgery, tattoo removal, MRIs, satellites, phones – in fact, the entire field of communications.

"It had a niche use when it was invented, and now the technology upholds our whole economy," Shields says. "It's a testimony to how investment in basic research is so, so important."

Townes, a Greenville native, earned bachelor's degrees in physics and modern languages from Furman, graduating summa cum laude at 19. After graduate school, he spent the years leading up to and through World War II working on radar systems for Bell Labs.

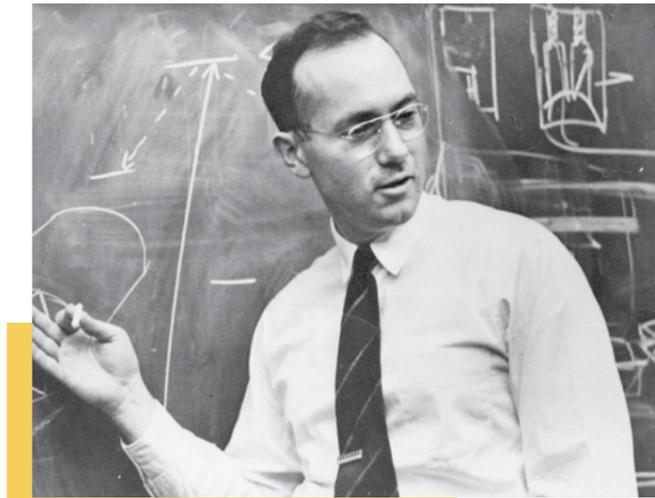
After the war, as a professor at Columbia University, Townes began work on the idea that became the maser, Microwave Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. The maser led to the laser, using the same principle but in a broader application.



Townes and two Russian scientists shared the 1964 Nobel Prize in physics for the maser-laser principle.

Townes, who died in 2015 at 99, stayed connected to Furman throughout his life, including as a trustee and donor. Students today walk through the halls of the Charles H. Townes Science Center, which houses the university's science departments.

"Some inventions turn out never to have great impact – and some do," says Shields. "And you just never know." ♦



Townes (above) posing in 1957 with the ruby maser amplifier for radio astronomy that he invented, and (below) teaching in the physics department at Columbia University in the mid-1950s.



JEREMY LEWIS



*"Homemaker" by Corrine Helman '19 draws on images of traditional beauty from magazines.*

# Beautiful *as is*

By Sarita Chourey

*Escalating beauty standards come with costs.  
What happens when we confront them?*

**F**or some women, relaxing their thighs while seated – from timber to dough – can be an act of courage. For others, it's wearing a sleeveless shirt or walking out the front door makeup-free, blemishes and all.

They're little acts. At least they might seem that way.

But these small changes can help lessen the costs of our appearance-centric culture. The benefits of discussing those costs in a group is a topic that Kerstin Blomquist, an associate professor of psychology at Furman, is exploring with her students: Can workshops focusing on what women give up in order to meet pop culture's standard of beauty improve women's satisfaction with their appearance? And can they decrease their disordered eating behaviors?

In her Reclaiming Beauty pilot, Blomquist created a modified version of the original Body Project, a program that helps adolescent girls

and college-aged women improve how they feel about their bodies and critically assess society's punishing beauty ideals. In addition to mother-daughter discussions, Blomquist's research took on some of the notable gaps: faith communities and older women. Both groups have been largely overlooked by programs that promote a positive body image and seek to prevent disordered eating. In Blomquist's pilot, the median age for the adult women was 51.

The original Body Project was developed by researchers at the Oregon Research Institute and Trinity University.

Blomquist and her students conducted all of the groups – nine for adult women and four for mother-daughter pairs – in churches in the greater Greenville, South Carolina, area.

"Doing it in the church setting was cool to see because that was already a place where people were coming to gather to share ideas and find support," says **Kate Baule '18** of the 90-minute sessions.

ABBY McELMURRAY

“From a psychological perspective,” says Blomquist, “it’s important to be culturally competent when doing any sort of intervention, so including faith-based components is vital. In addition, the faith communities’ shared values – including the notion that human value does not lie in one’s physical or cognitive attributes – provide an outside framework from which the women involved can more critically reflect upon society’s notions of what makes someone beautiful.”

Blomquist says the shared values in a faith community also provide a broader context for resisting societal pressures to look a certain way and “for adopting an attitude of gratitude and care for one’s body.”

As for the mother-daughter component, Blomquist says the goal was to increase the impact on mothers and daughters by increasing accountability for change in the home.

**Elizabeth Lomas ’20**, a research assistant since January of 2019, watched the exercises give way to moments of discovery within the mother-daughter pairs and noticed that pairs often expressed similar body concerns.



*Furman Associate Professor of Psychology Kerstin Blomquist.*

### ‘The thin, young ideal’

The workshops don’t tell women to abandon all beauty rituals. They look at the toll. What does it cost – physically, emotionally, financially, socially, intellectually and spiritually – to chase the thin, young ideal?

Smoking to stay thin, for example, often exacts a lethal price. But other sacrifices are commonplace and insidious: Stepping out of the frame of a camera shot (thus losing the memories from the moment); wearing high heels for their leg-defining effects but not being able to walk; judging fellow churchgoers on their appearance, rather than relating to them genuinely.

What happens when we stop accepting some of the costs? As part of a behavioral challenge, participants picked one of their habits – avoiding shorts, perhaps, or routinely straightening their hair to accentuate their bone structure. They then broke their chosen habit twice a week and reported back to the group on what it was like.



*“Baby Girl” by Helman.*

### What stuck, what didn’t

What Blomquist and her research team found is encouraging.

Preliminary findings show participants significantly decreased key habits: thin-ideal internalization – thinking that one must be thin to be beautiful; body surveillance – taking

an outside observer’s perspective on your own body; and eating psychopathology – including preoccupation with food, eating or calories, the desire for a completely flat or empty stomach, discomfort with one’s weight or shape, and habits such as skipping meals and following a strict diet.

The changes stuck: Compared to those who did not complete the program, participants reported decreases in the key habits immediately after the sessions and when they were asked again six months later.

One boost from the sessions, however, was fleeting. Right afterward, the participants reported feeling significantly better about their bodies. Six months later, those effects had faded.

## “I had no idea how often I looked in the mirror,” says Prosterman.

There was one other finding: Adult women’s satisfaction with their abdominal area improved significantly after the meetings and stayed that way six months later.

“Perhaps the things younger women struggle with – arms and chest and those kinds of things – are things that these (older) women have kind of accepted about themselves as adults,” says Lomas. “But the stomach is something that maybe is more difficult for women to accept, and we saw sustained improvement with stomach satisfaction. So that was really encouraging.”

### Resetting the conversation

For Lomas and others who worked on Blomquist’s study, the experience left a deep impression.

It has been nearly two years since **Elle Prosterman ’18** worked on Reclaiming Beauty, but she thinks about what she learned almost every day. And her actions follow. Prosterman now wears less makeup than she used to and catches herself when she’s checking her appearance in the mirror too frequently – a habit that took her by surprise when she first noticed it during her work with Blomquist.

“I had no idea how often I looked in the mirror,” says Prosterman, now a graduate student in counseling at Vanderbilt University. Blomquist’s study showed her how to redirect her energy.

“When I do start to notice certain behaviors – that I’m conforming to the thin, young ideal – I can stop myself,” says Prosterman. “I don’t believe that that is

worth my energy, my time, my emotions.”

The experience encouraged **Amanda Hock ’16** to pursue her master’s in counseling at Wake Forest University and ultimately

practice as a counselor in Greenville, South Carolina. But it also led her to make different decisions about how she spends her time.

“I’ll wake up and be like, ‘You know what? I don’t feel like at the end of the day having to take off mascara, so I’m not going to wear mascara,’” says Hock, adding that in high school and early college, “I would never have dreamed of that.”

For Baule, it’s a new sensitivity to “fat talk,” self-deprecating words about someone’s own physique or criticism of someone else’s.

“It’s such an automatic instinct to not like your body,” says Baule, who works at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

“I’m more cognizant of when it’s happening around me or when I’m going along with it or saying it myself,” she says. “I’ll catch myself doing it and saying things I wish I hadn’t said ... or I’ll try to respond in the moment. It can be hard.”

Hock, too, is changing the conversation around her. When she’s not working as a counselor, she’s leading barre classes. Hock is able to share her insights with her clients in both places.

“A lot of people do (barre) to look a certain way,” she says of the ballet-inspired fitness class. “It’s been really good in my counseling to kind of help my clients with their own body-image concerns but also in Pure Barre to say to women who come to my class, ‘Man, you are so strong.’” ♦



*Amanda Hock ’16 (right) teaches a barre class.*

JEREMY FLEMING | ABBY McELMURRAY

COURTESY PHOTO

# Where Hardship Turns to Hope

BY KELLEY BRUSS

*Furman students and alumni find their ‘something bigger’ at United Ministries.*

**D**evlin Jackson spent 14 years in prison. Within a year of his release, he’d earned a commercial driver’s license and was trucking over the roadways. His next job was local, allowing him to be home more. Less than two years after leaving prison, Jackson moved into a third position, better than either of the first two. “My overall goal is to become a business owner,” says the Greenville, South Carolina, native. United Ministries provided for his education and prepared him for reentering the world. Among other things, he needed a budget, a crash course in the 14 years of technology he’d missed, and help breaking his goals into realistic steps. “I appreciate my small wins just as much as my big wins,” Jackson says.



*Opposite: The picture gallery in the Adult Education and Employment Readiness halls displays the images of those who completed their GED or obtained employment, showing others that they, too, can achieve their goals.*

*Above: **Morgen Smith '22** and **Julia Lewis '20** confer with Nick Bush, program manager for United Ministries' Place of Hope, before working with participants.*

*The outside of United Ministries in Greenville, South Carolina.*

COURTESYPHOTO

JEREMYFLEMING



(Top) Smith, Lewis, Lee Moore, a United Ministries volunteer, and Bush gather at United Ministries.

Lewis speaks with a participant at United Ministries.

*“For me, it’s very eye-opening to see what goes on but then say, ‘How can we tackle that?’”*

— JULIA LEWIS '20

He and Warren aren’t the only ones. From the executive director to volunteer tutors to board members, United Ministries is thick with Furman connections.

“I don’t think it should come as a surprise that there are individuals throughout Furman who choose to do something bigger,” says **Jade Fountain '09**, director of mission advancement.

#### A shared background

The growing intersection between Furman and United Ministries has only made it easier for the next generation of students to find their way to United Ministries. **Julia Lewis '20** and **Morgen Smith '22** interned there

last fall. Both got connected through Furman’s Exploration of Vocation and Ministry.

Lewis, a Greenville native, has seen the city grow through her lifetime. But her work with United Ministries – assisting caseworkers, helping with adult education, engaging with families in the shelter – gave her a new perspective on it.

“From that growth, there’s also things that happen that people don’t realize,” she says. “For me, it’s very eye-opening to see what goes on but then say, ‘How can we tackle that?’”

At United Ministries, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, part of the answer is found in relationships. Staff and volunteers use the word “participants” instead of “clients” when referring to the people they are working to help. That feels natural to Lewis.

“Furman does a great job of building community, welcoming everyone, which United Ministries does, too,” she says.

The Furman presence at the organization creates a shared culture, too. Fountain, who came to United Ministries about four years ago, says it’s reassuring to walk into a situation “knowing that there are people here who share, on some level, where you’ve come from and the way that you’ve learned.”

Smith stands in front of a wall inside the day shelter for community members who are homeless. The wall was painted by youth from a supporting congregation and is intended to depict the winding nature of the path that many must navigate in pursuit of permanent housing. Lewis appears in front of lockers that are used by participants who do not have a place to live.



JEREMY FLEMING

JEREMY FLEMING



**Ethan Friddle '00 and Tony McDade '79** (facing front) explain the organization's work outside United Ministries to a group of Furman students participating in the Nonprofit Career Trek, sponsored by the Malone Center for Career Engagement.

### Challenging the familiar

**E**xecutive Director **Tony McDade '79** says Furman has always been invested in the community, but the level of engagement today is “both broader and deeper – definitely deeper.”

Warren left Furman with a degree in music education and began to teach middle school chorus at a Title I school. It was her first significant exposure to people living in poverty.

“I became very interested in the lives that my children were going home to,” she says. She ultimately decided she wanted to work “upstream” of the problems.

For **Amelia Miles '19**, the opportunity came earlier. Miles, an AmeriCorps member and benefits counselor at United Ministries, did a poverty studies internship with an organization in Lyman, South Carolina, while at Furman.

“Without that, I don't think I would have been interested in this kind of work,” she says.

Warren is excited that students now have more of these kinds of opportunities.

“Learning about poverty in a classroom on Furman's campus is quite different from interacting with people living in poverty in a setting like United Ministries,” she says.

While an intern himself, Friddle remembers driving around with an Episcopal priest, meeting drug dealers and prostitutes and discovering unexpected commonalities despite vastly different life experiences.

*“I became very interested in the lives that my children were going home to.”*

—AMANDA WARREN '03

He couldn't look at the city the same way after that.

It's crucial to help people “have personal experiences that help them understand there's a world beyond what they know,” Friddle says.

### Careers take shape

**S**ometimes students, like community members, view nonprofits simply as potential volunteer opportunities. At United Ministries, exposure isn't only about developing understanding and compassion. It can also reveal a vocational view of nonprofit work.

Friddle has seen the light come on for interns, at times expressed with wonderment: “This is the thing I want to do!” he recalls.

Meanwhile, others may never apply for a job at a nonprofit organization but instead transfer what they've seen and learned to positions where they have voices on a much broader platform.

“And then they use that voice and that knowledge they've gained to advocate for people who come through our doors,” Fountain says.

It's part of the Furman culture, Lewis says. Students are trained to look for solutions, “and not just sit back and say, ‘Oh, this is happening.’”

United Ministries is in the middle of a two-year partnership with The Riley Institute, which is facilitating planning workshops and gathering evidence-based research to develop the organization's capacity to evaluate the impact of its work.

Friddle and McDade address a group of Furman alumni who also work for United Ministries.



Friddle wants United Ministries to be seen as a professional, specialized organization, which he knows may fly in the face of some nonprofit stereotypes.

While there's always room to grow, that professional impression is already established. Smith, one of the current interns, says the reputation and stability of United Ministries is what first drew her.

“I knew that there was structure and support built in,” she says.

And that means Furman graduates and volunteers who want to make a difference don't have to look far for their opportunity.

“You've got a shot at that right here,” McDade says. +

### New executive director

In April, United Ministries announced that it had hired Lizzie Bebbler as its new executive director, following an extensive national search. Bebbler will lead United Ministries when Tony McDade retires later this year. Bebbler and McDade will work side-by-side until then to assist with the transition. Please see [united-ministries.org](http://united-ministries.org) for more information.



Clockwise from top: Customers dine at Oak Hill Café and Farm. Bobby Daugherty '90 pictured at Old Europe Desserts. Tommy Stevenson '65 greets a patron at Tommy's Country Ham House.

## THE COMEBACK

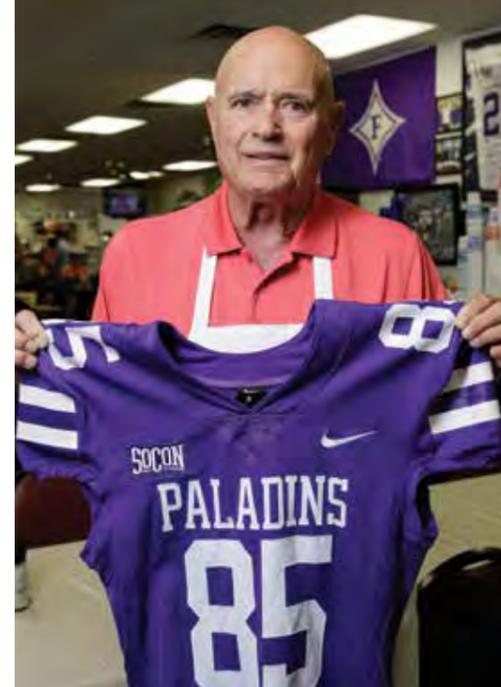
## ICONIC EATS



## NEWFOUND TREATS

Three restauranteurs savor their special connection to Furman.

THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF TEMPTING FARE IN GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, BUT FOR A UNIQUELY FURMAN FLAVOR, THESE THREE SPOTS OFFER SOMETHING FOR EVERY PALATE.



Tommy Stevenson '65 holds up a Furman jersey bearing the year his restaurant opened and (right) chats with customers.

### 'THEY BECOME MY CHILDREN' TOMMY'S COUNTRY HAM HOUSE

By Ron Wagner '93

Every day, Tommy Stevenson '65 gets up at 2:30 a.m. He has to if he's going to make it to work on time, which is 3:30 a.m. And every day means every day. His restaurant, Tommy's Country Ham House, is open Sunday to Sunday.

"I cut all the meat," he says. "The meat that you eat today, I cut this morning."

By Stevenson's calculations, he works about 75 hours a week and has done so since he bought the place in 1985. That doesn't leave a lot of free time, but as any Furman football player over the past three decades will tell you, he's somehow always had time for them.

"When we play football on Saturday," Stevenson says, "I usually feed the team on Friday night. I get to know all the kids, and they become my children. I look after them any time I can."

He started out by giving free meals to the men's golf program before taking on the mighty appetite of 75 college football players in around 1987. His support for Furman isn't limited to those who wear helmets on Saturday. To this day, all Furman students get a 20% discount at Tommy's Country Ham House.

"When I went to school out there, I needed all the help I could get," Stevenson says.

Tommy's Country Ham House is one of the most iconic restaurants not only in Greenville but South Carolina, thanks largely to Stevenson's tireless dedication. Known for authentic and delicious Southern breakfasts with a friendly price tag, Tommy's has

achieved fame despite – or perhaps because of – its humble appearance. It also serves as a regular stop for presidential candidates on the campaign trail.

That fame happened by accident, however. Stevenson's relationship with Furman is intentional and stemmed from the desire to give back to his alma mater when he bought the old Country Ham House. ("Tommy's" was added when the restaurant moved to its current location on Rutherford Street in 1997.)

"I see all the home (football) games and go to a good many away games," he says. Asked to name the best Furman player he's seen, he doesn't hesitate.

"Probably Ingle Martin '06," Stevenson says, referring to the University of Florida transfer whose record-setting play at quarterback led the Paladins to their last FCS playoff semifinal appearance in 2005. "He was a great athlete and a great person on top of that. He could do it all."

November will mark 35 years that Stevenson has been operating Tommy's Country Ham House. Despite a health scare in 2018 that required heart and brain surgery, he has no plans to quit his restaurant or his special relationship with Furman.

"I've met some wonderful people through the years," he says. "It's good to see when the young men come back after they've graduated how they've matured and gotten jobs. That's rewarding."

[tommyscountryhamhouse.com](http://tommyscountryhamhouse.com)



JEREMY FLEWING



## THE RUNNING BACK & THE RUGELACH OLD EUROPE DESSERTS

By Ron Wagner '93

The first time **Bobby Daugherty '90** decided to make a go of it in Greenville, he left with a national championship. Success will be defined a little differently this time around, but the football-star-turned-entrepreneur expects it nonetheless with Old Europe Desserts, a European coffee and pastry shop he opened downtown in the summer of 2019.

“Being able to determine your own destiny is something that has always resonated with me. I was in financial sales, so if you did well you did very well. And if you didn’t do well, you sometimes had to eat peanut butter for three or four days in a row,” Daugherty says with a laugh. “So, I didn’t mind betting on myself.”

An outstanding running back at Owen High School, east of Asheville, North Carolina, Daugherty hadn’t heard of Furman when then-coach Dick Sheridan offered him a scholarship, but his mother had and insisted he become a Paladin. Turned out, she knew best.

Though a pair of major knee injuries cost Daugherty part of one year and all of another, he still rushed for 1,348 yards and 16 touchdowns in his career. The highlight was a team-leading 655 yards on 130 carries in 1988 – a season that culminated with the

Paladins beating Georgia Southern 17-12 to capture the national football title. “I should have scored that game, by the way,” Daugherty says.

Off the field, Daugherty went from an indifferent student to a motivated one aided in no small part by professors like David Roe, who mentored him and encouraged him to major in economics. That degree served as a springboard to a career with Smith Barney before Daugherty moved back to the Asheville area to take over his grandfather’s garbage-collection business, which netted a nice profit when he sold it. The experience also whetted his appetite to be a business owner.

Old Europe Desserts features an array of European-inspired treats, which have about half the sugar of their American counterparts, in addition to often being gluten-free. Daugherty himself isn’t big on sweets but saw a business opportunity in Old Europe Desserts.

“It’s an incredible challenge to run a business, and one that I really, truly cherish,” he says. “Furman was the best experience I could have had. Made me grow up, made me be accountable.”

[oldeuropedesserts.com](http://oldeuropedesserts.com)



Clockwise from left: Ruth Stoltzfus, head pastry chef at Old Europe Desserts, prepares chocolate espresso roulade. An almond croissant from Old Europe Desserts. Owner **Bobby Daugherty '90** from behind the dessert counter. An espresso maker and tiramisu.

JEREMY FLEMING



## A FARM OUT BACK, A 'SPACE LAB' UPSTAIRS OAK HILL CAFÉ & FARM

By Cindy Landrum

**T**o Lori Nelsen, there's a lot of similarity between a science lab and a kitchen.

"It's pretty easy to translate chemistry into the kitchen, especially if you're a baker, because there's so much precision in baking," says Nelsen, an analytical chemist.

Nelsen managed the biogeochemistry lab in Furman's earth and environmental science department for about a dozen years before exploring the restaurant venture. Her husband, Brent Nelsen, is a professor of politics and international affairs at Furman.

Eventually, Lori Nelsen, who cooked most evenings and baked when she could, decided to open a sustainable restaurant.

"At that time, there weren't any farm-to-table restaurants with a farm close by," she says.

She found an old house on a 2.4-acre plot on Poinsett Highway, just 3 miles south of the Furman campus.

"The Realtor thought I was crazy," she recalls.

But she needed a chef. And she found one at a most unexpected place – a 2016 party to welcome new Furman faculty members. Costa Rican chef David Porras, who had studied at the renowned Basque Culinary School in San Sebastian, Spain,

was there. Porras's wife, Karen Allen, had taken a one-year position in the earth and environmental science department.

"We talked for two hours," Nelsen says. "We had similar ideas about food. A lot of chefs don't care about sustainability, but David did. And we were both chemistry geeks about food."

But Porras wasn't sure he was ready to enter a new venture on the heels of a restaurant project in Costa Rica that had soured. But after he saw the property, he changed his mind and became a partner in Oak Hill Café and Farm.

Oak Hill Café opened in June of 2019, five years after Nelsen conceived the idea, and a year and a half after Porras agreed to come aboard. It serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, with most of the ingredients coming from the organic garden behind the restaurant. Furman employees and students receive a 10% discount for breakfast and lunch.

The restaurant's second floor contains a "space lab" with a freeze-dryer, a pressure cooker and a rotary evaporator. There, Nelsen, Porras and the rest of Oak Hill's kitchen staff experiment with different ingredients and what they can do with them.

[oakhillcafe.com](http://oakhillcafe.com)

*Editor's note: At press time, all three restaurants had closed their dining spaces after South Carolina restaurants were ordered to halt in-house service during the COVID-19 pandemic. They were all offering pick-up orders, and Old Europe Desserts was also delivering orders and shipping them as far away as Washington, D.C., Orlando, Florida, and Charlotte, North Carolina. ♦*



Clockwise from top: Lori Nelsen at work at Oak Hill Café, which she and chef David Porras opened in 2019. Spices and seasoning are carefully organized. Legumes and pork pastor.

Opposite page: A veggie burger with side garden salad. Andrew Olin makes a huckleberry tartlet with Porras pictured in the background.

# SCENE AND BE SEEN

More than 20 Furman Advantage Network (FAN) Clubs offer programming and opportunities around the country for alumni, parents and friends of the university.

1 Members of the NYC FAN Club spent an evening of service at the Bowery Mission. The Bowery Mission provides food and shelter for the homeless in New York City.

2 Eleanor Palmer '15, Tori Irvin '15, Alex Brink Dickson '15 at the Charlotte Business Breakfast.

3 President Elizabeth Davis joins alumni and parents for the launch of the Denver, Colorado, FAN Club.

4 Mary Alice Kirkpatrick, Tobi Olaiya '16, Daniel Zhang '17, Emilee O'Brien '17, Buket Oztas in Washington, D.C.

5 Traci Rinker Miller '89 and Mett Miller (parents of Michael '23) and Jason Hill and Roseanna Baber-Hill '03 at an event featuring Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Ken Peterson in Washington, D.C.



In February, more than 700 people gathered for the annual Bell Tower Ball, a celebration of generosity, leadership and service.

6 President Davis with award winners and honorees **Deborah Malac '77, Derek Snook '08**, Meghan Barp, **Dick Riley '54**, Cindy and Jim Mabry (parents of **Philip '11 and George '13**) and **Tony McDade '79**.

7 **Parthenia Luke Robinson '07, Johnna Allen Frierson '05** and **Nalisha Henry '06**.

8 **Ken '87** and Mary Clemens (parents of **Chase '22**).

9 **Andrew Trull '10, Alissa Ricci '10** and **Patrick Kerley '04**.

COURTESY PHOTOS | PAINTER DESIGNS PHOTOGRAPHY

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

**T**o everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." Perhaps this sentence has you humming that famous Pete Seeger tune made popular by The Byrds in the 1960s, or maybe you're transported to Sunday school when you first read this biblical passage as a child.

The spring of 2020 is definitely proving to be an unprecedented season. A global pandemic has disrupted our lives, and with it, our traditional model of higher education. Though the tulips are blooming and trees greening, there is no bustle on campus from students and faculty. Teaching and learning are happening remotely. Employees are working from home offices. Events canceled or postponed, including the Commencement ceremony. Seeger's song goes on to say, "a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing." As we practice social distancing, we're instructed to refrain from the physical embrace of our friends and neighbors.

Fundamentally, Furman University is an organization that brings people together and nurtures relationships. Our mission is to educate the next generation of leaders, which is a monumental contribution to society. Now more than ever, the world needs Furman-educated thinkers and leaders, and even a pandemic can't stifle our commitment toward that core mission.

May we all recognize that times of crisis and uncertainty can be reframed



### THE FURMAN COMMUNITY UNITES



as opportunities. We can choose to find comfort and community in others and allow ourselves to feel a figurative embrace. And when our Furman alumni network joins together, that embrace has the potential to be a giant bear hug, one that envelops us in friendship, solidarity and hope.

As we broaden our perspective beyond the confines of our own home and family, I am confident that we will find great inspiration. Alumni who once conducted scientific experiments in the labs of Plyler Hall are now

the nurses, doctors and other medical professionals saving lives. Alumni blessed with the gift of communication are using their written and spoken word to tell stories, ask questions and foster dialogue. The many educators in the Furman alumni community are teaching and shaping the lives of school-age children in new and different ways. Countless Furman alumni are servant leaders, models of goodwill and shared humanity. This list could go on. It not only brings me peace and comfort, but also

great pride, to recognize the leadership and contributions of Furman alumni, regardless of the season.

In the coming weeks and months, let us unite as a Furman community. Lean on your Furman connections and extend a hand for others who are seeking one. Find rest in those Furman friendships that are deep and life-giving. Plug in to one of our 20-plus FAN Clubs around the country. Follow our social media channels and join in virtual conversations. We may need to grieve together, but I hope we can also laugh and learn together. Continue to serve Furman philanthropically. Your generosity, combined with gifts from other alumni and parents, could offer critical support to students who need it more than ever.

We will weather this storm and emerge a stronger and more resilient community. The Furman spirit is mighty, and it will carry us through the challenges of this season. ♦



**Allison McCann Foy '05**  
Executive Director of Alumni and Parent Engagement

*For possible inclusion in the next magazine, we'd like to hear from you. Please share examples of how you or fellow alumni have made an impact – whether in the medical profession, supply chain, educational realm or some other way – through your response to the pandemic. Email [magazine@furman.edu](mailto:magazine@furman.edu).*

JEREMY FLEMING



## WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FURMAN MEMORY?  
DID A MENTOR INSPIRE OR CHALLENGE YOU IN MEANINGFUL WAYS? WHAT STUDENT EXPERIENCES INFLUENCED YOU?

Bring your memories to life through *Furman Reflections*, a publication from the Office of Alumni Engagement that will offer all alumni the opportunity to share their stories.

Reflect on your favorite professors, friendships, study away trips, internships, athletic teams, clubs and anything else that shaped your Furman experience.

Preserve your story for future generations by calling **866-546-4801**. To purchase your copy of *Furman Reflections*, call **800-982-1590**.



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# CLASS NOTES



REV. LEDAYNE MCLEESE POLASKI '89  
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PROFESSOR BOB CHANCE  
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WHITNEY BECKER '14, M'16  
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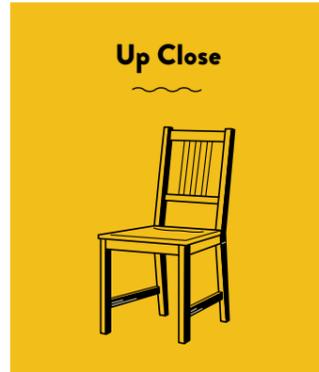
PORCHE WARREN ADAMS '11  
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FOOTBALL, CHANGING SEASONS  
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LATISHA MITCHELL-JOHNSON '12 &  
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MARK CABANA '02  
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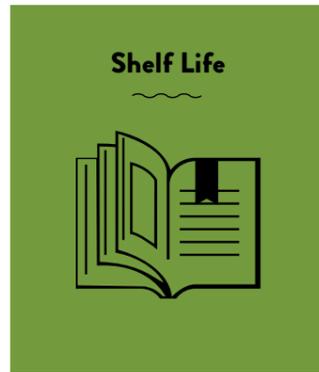
BRAD CASANOVA '03  
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MATTHEW CRITTELL '13  
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KEN ROPER '91  
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SHelf LIFE  
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MCKINSEY PAYNE SMITH '15  
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COURTESY PHOTOS

COURTESY PHOTO

1972  
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**FRAN SMITH LIGLER** was recognized in The Analytical Scientist's "Top 100 Power List for Analytical Chemistry." A panel of judges chose 100 top scientists in the field from a pool of nominations. Ligler, who patented and commercialized 11 biosensor systems, is a professor in the Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University. *Read more about her on pg. 27.*

1973  
\*\*\*

**KENNETH L. SHIGLEY** received the Traditions of Excellence Award for lifetime achievement at the State Bar of Georgia's annual meeting on June 7, 2019.

1979  
\*\*\*

**TONY MCDADE** received The Community Spirit Award, part of the 2019 Charitable Giving Awards co-sponsored by TOWN magazine. *Read more about his work on pages 36-41 and in Scene and Be Seen on page 49.*

1989  
\*\*\*

**THE REV. LEDAYNE MCLEESE POLASKI** was named the executive director of MeckMIN, the Metropolitan Interfaith Network of Mecklenburg (N.C.) County.

1991  
\*\*\*

**KEN ROPER** was named acting administrator for Pickens County (S.C.) after serving as the county attorney.

1997  
\*\*\*

**AARON WHEELER** was listed in The Analytical Scientist's "Top 100 Power List for Analytical Chemistry." A panel of judges chose 100 top scientists in the field from a pool of nominations. Since 2005, he has been the Canada Research Chair of Bioanalytical Chemistry at the University of Toronto.

2000  
\*\*\*

**STEPHANIE GASTON POLEY**, a partner at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP, was elected to the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel. The organization is "dedicated to promoting knowledge, fellowship, and professionalism of its members as they pursue the course of a balanced justice system and represent those in need of a defense in civil lawsuits," according to its website.

2001  
\*\*\*

**DAVID KIMBALL**, a business litigator, made Benchmark's 40 & Under Hot List. He represents clients in matters concerning

construction defects and payment claims, breach of contract claims, commercial leasing disputes and creditors' rights. He also has experience in a general counsel role, advising colleges and universities on compliance with Title IX and other federal laws.

2003  
\*\*\*

**BRAD CASANOVA'S** brewery, Archetype Brewing, in Asheville, N.C., was invited by Beer Connoisseur to submit beers for a tasting competition.

2010  
\*\*\*

Archetype made the cover of a special edition about the best beers and breweries of the year and was named #1 in the Saison category and #2 in the Strong Belgian Ales category for 2019.

**STEWART KOCH**, president of the Furman Advantage Network (FAN) in Nashville, Tenn., was promoted from senior associate to vice president at Diversified Trust, a wealth management firm with more than \$6.5 billion of assets under management.

HOW I GIVE BACK



WALTER GODFREY '16

"I give to enable the continued tradition of academic excellence at Furman, with a vision of the university consistently at the forefront among other liberal arts colleges. Furman provided me with an all-encompassing education, which has given me the tools to succeed in the dynamic business world. I know that music, the academic experiences, social encounters and the depth of a Furman education helped me get to where I am today."



**SPECIAL EDITION**

**EDUCATION LEADERS**

*As the Department of Education celebrates its centennial, these alumni are excelling and getting noticed in their field.*

**1972**  
\*\*\*

**SANDY TAYLOR** became assistant principal of Blue Ridge Middle School in Greer, S.C.

**1999**  
\*\*\*

**JILLIAN (LINGERFELT) RATTI**, who teaches at McMinn County High School in Athens, Tenn., received the 2019 Yale Educator Award. The Yale Educator Recognition Program recognizes outstanding educators from around the world who have supported and inspired their students to achieve at high levels. She was also published in "Teaching Language Variation in the Classroom" by Routledge, an academic publisher in the humanities and social sciences.

**2000**  
\*\*\*

**CHARM EADDY** was 2019-2020 Florence (S.C.) District Three Teacher of the Year.

**HEATHER RAMSEY** was 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Fairforest Elementary School in Spartanburg (S.C.) School District Six.

**2001**  
\*\*\*

**AMY BAGWELL** became principal of West Pelzer Elementary School in Anderson (S.C.) School District One.

**DAVID COYNE** was hired as a new assistant principal at Westside High School in Anderson, S.C.

**2002**  
\*\*\*

**NERISSA LEWIS** was hired to serve as an assistant superintendent of school leadership for Greenville County (S.C.) Schools.

**2003**  
\*\*\*

**KELLY NALLEY** became an academic specialist for World Language and Innovative Initiatives in the Greenville County (S.C.) Schools.

**2004**  
\*\*\*

**KAREN GREENE** was named principal of Mauldin Middle School in Mauldin, S.C.

**CLIFF ROBERTS** was chosen to be principal of Crescent High School in Anderson District Three in Iva, S.C.

**JASON STAGGS** became assistant principal of Mountain View Elementary School in Taylors, S.C.

**2005**  
\*\*\*

**PAM VARNER** was 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Riverside Middle School in Greer, S.C.

**2006**  
\*\*\*

**AMY GASPARICH** was 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Paris Elementary School in Taylors, S.C.

**AMY VERGA** was 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Blue Ridge Middle School in Greer, S.C.

**2007**  
\*\*\*

**CINDY YOUSSEF RIYAD** graduated with a Ph.D. in education leadership from Clemson University in August of 2019. Her research addressed the presence of core competencies in medical school admissions.

**2008**  
\*\*\*

**TINA BISHOP** was named principal of Eastside High School in Taylors, S.C.

**DELANEY SUTTON** was named principal at West Pelzer Elementary School in Anderson (S.C.) School District One.

**MELODY WEATHERFORD** was named 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Wren High School in Anderson (S.C.) School District One.

**2009**  
\*\*\*

**ADAM COMSTOCK** became principal of Central Columbia High School in Bloomsburg, Pa.

**LEONARD GALLOWAY** was hired as principal of Glenview Middle School in Anderson, S.C.

**2010**  
\*\*\*

**MARY LASHBROOK MATTHEWS PATTERSON** was 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Northwood Middle School in Taylors, S.C.

**TIFFANY OSBORNE** became associate principal of Glenview Middle School in Anderson, S.C.

**2012**  
\*\*\*

**CASSIE HEINZ** was the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Buena Vista Elementary School in Greer, S.C.

**JESSICA RICHARDSON MOSES**, a Spanish teacher at Travelers Rest (S.C.) High School, was the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year.

**CHELSEA FORD STEWART** was the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Bethel Elementary School in Simpsonville, S.C.

**BEN LUDWICK** was appointed assistant principal at Blue Ridge High School in Greer, S.C.

**2013**  
\*\*\*

**MATTHEW CRITELL** became principal of Bethel Elementary School in Greenville, S.C.

**2014**  
\*\*\*

**BRANDDON BENSON** became the assistant principal of Partee Elementary School in Gwinnett County, Ga.

**MARY BOARTS** was named the principal of Belton Honea Path High School in Anderson (S.C.) School District Two.

**ANNA HANOR** was the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at J.L. Mann High Academy in Greenville County (S.C.) Schools.

**CURTIS SMITH** became the principal at Robert Anderson Middle School in Anderson, S.C.

**2015**  
\*\*\*

**AUDREY NEUMANN** was named 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Roebuck Elementary School in Spartanburg (S.C.) District Six.

**MCKINSEY PAYNE SMITH** was selected as the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Centerville Elementary School in Anderson (S.C.) School District Five.

**2016**  
\*\*\*

**MARQUICE CLARK** was named principal of Cleveland Academy of Leadership in Spartanburg, S.C.

**2017**  
\*\*\*

**SAMANTHA LUNSFORD** was named 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Sterling School in Greenville, S.C.

**CANDACE STRICKLAND** became the assistant director of J. Harley Bonds Career Center in Greer, S.C.

**ERIN WILSON** was chosen as the 2019-2020 Greenville County (S.C.) Schools Emerging Teacher of the Year at Bell's Crossing Elementary School.

**2018**  
\*\*\*

**BOB ANDERSON AND MARGARET CLARK**, both teachers in the Greenville County (S.C.) Schools, received the 2018-2019 Childers Education Foundation Teaching Excellence Award from Furman University.

**BREE BURNETTE**, a teacher at Mary H. Wright Elementary School, was Crystal Apple Induction Teacher of the Year in Spartanburg (S.C.) District Seven.

**EDGAR HENSON** was named assistant principal of Mauldin (S.C.) Middle School.

**ROSS PRUITT** was hired as an administrative assistant at Blue Ridge Middle School in Greer, S.C.

**2019**  
\*\*\*

**KEVIN BRADY** became an instructional coach at Riverside Middle School in Anderson (S.C.) School District Four.

**ADAM DEVLIN** was hired as an administrative assistant at Northwood Middle School in Taylors, S.C. He was also chosen as the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year for his work as a teacher at Berea Middle School in Greenville, S.C.

**ALANDA POSEY** was named assistant principal at Cleveland Academy of Leadership in Spartanburg, S.C.

**F**or Ginger Rothrock '00, science and technology offer many reasons to be hopeful.

The news can be a depressing place when it comes to headlines about the health of the planet, but Rothrock gushes with positive energy when asked if technology can actually save a world under assault from human consumption.

"The data all say we are (destroying the planet), but I think there's a lot of hope in new technology, new science and hopefully new policies that will turn the tide," she says.

You couldn't be a "serial entrepreneur," as Rothrock is described in her company bio, without a bedrock of forward-thinking positivity, but being around cutting-edge ideas literally every day takes the pie-in-the-sky out of her optimism. Rothrock is a principal at HG Ventures, where she works to identify companies with innovations promising enough to warrant corporate investment and partnership.

Rothrock is bullish on the private sector playing a huge role in solving some of our biggest problems, because the new technology earning investment from the company wouldn't get that investment if there wasn't something to it. HG Ventures is an arm of The Heritage Group, which is a conglomerate of companies involved in highway construction and materials, environmental services, energy sales and marketing, and chemical refining. At first glance, that may seem like a sellout for someone whose first job after graduating from Furman with a chemistry degree was



## 'A DIFFERENT SCALE OF IMPACT'

*Scientist-turned-venture-capitalist  
Ginger Rothrock '00 explores life on the other side.*

BY RON WAGNER '93

at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

But, in fact, it's just the opposite.

"Heritage Environmental is the largest private hazardous-waste collection and disposal environmental services firm in the country," she says. "Our portfolio and The Heritage Group company have just an incredible legacy of both innovation and entrepreneurship but also sustainability and really strong core values about improving the planet while being a profitable, sustainable business."

Rothrock had established herself as a successful scientist and entrepreneur in Cary,

North Carolina, when a colleague asked if she'd be interested in trying life on the other side as a venture capitalist. Realizing the potential, she couldn't say no – even if that meant leaving her role as vice president for technology and commercialization at RTI International, where she oversaw the commercialization of a \$1 billion portfolio of research and development at one of the world's largest contract research organizations.

"I just loved the entrepreneurial, new-tech side of things. I saw myself staying there and being the builder and doer of companies and products," Rothrock says. "It

never even occurred to me that I could be on the other side and be an enabler. It's just a different scale of impact."

Rothrock grew up in an entrepreneurial family and knew from a young age she wanted to get into science and be involved in change. A job in research with the EPA resulted in change, but not the way she expected.

"I started working in the government because I was into environmental issues and I thought that was the best way to make change," Rothrock says. "It was both a frustrating and enlightening experience because it was bureaucratic, hierarchical – kind of the opposite of the agile, innovative role that I wanted."

She made it a year before quitting to earn a Ph.D. in polymer and analytical chemistry from the University of North Carolina. After graduation she launched her first company, Liquidia Technologies, in collaboration with a professor. Taking a position as director of emerging technologies with RTI further scratched her innovation itch.

But even then, Rothrock was so focused on her tree she never considered the forest. Now that she has an aerial view at HG Ventures, however, where they partner with companies exploring everything from better electric car batteries to biodegradable lubricants and clothing to cleaning up persistent water micropollutants, there's no going back.

"The opportunity to work with scientific innovators at a scale much greater than I was is incredibly appealing," she says. ♦

COURTESY/PHOTO

### 2011

♦ ♦ ♦

#### PORCHE WARREN ADAMS

was awarded the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Suwanee, Ga. She earned a master's degree in public health from Mercer University in 2015 and is continuing her medical training in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine-Chattanooga in Chattanooga, Tenn.

### 2012

♦ ♦ ♦

#### LATISHA MITCHELL-JOHNSON

became the assistant director of external relations at Georgia State University, Honors College, and will begin doctoral studies in student affairs leadership at the University of Georgia this May.



## BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

♦ ♦ ♦

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

**COURTNEY '04** and John Cashman, Lucy Eva, Oct. 25, 2018

**KEVIN '06 AND KELLY JENKO '06**, Audrey, Sept. 10, 2019

**IAN '07 AND CAROLYN DUGGAN '09**, Margot, July 8, 2019

**JENNIFER '07** and Pat McIntyre, Coleman Dobbs, June 11, 2019

**AMBER SIMON ROWE '08 AND STEVEN ROWE '08**, Palmer Leanne Rowe, July 10, 2019

**LAUREN '08 AND GARRETT SCHNEIDER '09**, Sarah, Aug. 26, 2019

**AMANDA '09** and James Boron, Gregory, July 28, 2019

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

**SARA BETH '13** and Coty Schneider, Jackson Henry, May 3, 2019



## MARRIAGES

♦ ♦ ♦

**KATHLEEN PATTERSON EVANS '77** and William Dalton Bilbow Jr., Nov. 3, 2018

**BETSY BUTLER '07** and John Capers, June 29, 2019

**LAURA WILLIAMS '08** and **COREY SANDERS '14**, Aug. 31, 2019

**EMILY WILSON '10** and Steven Schwark, May 11, 2019

**AMBER LOCKLEAR '13** and **MARY CATHERINE WILDER '14**, Oct. 20, 2018

**ALISON BRESSLER '14** and James Mullen, June 22, 2019

**LAUREN CARROZZA '15** and Sam Huffines, Jan. 26, 2019

**EVAN HAIGHT '15** and **CHRISTINA BELLINO '15**, June 22, 2019

**EMILY STOKES '17** and **2ND LT. CASEY WOOD '18**, April 20, 2019

**TYLER KNAUSS '17** and **EMILY BRUMLOW '18**, June 29, 2019

**JACK HORTON '18** and **CAROLINE REED '18**, June 8, 2019

**TYLER KING '19** and **LAURA BRICKLE '19**, May 25, 2019



## AMERICAN HISTORY BOOK CLUB AWARD WINNERS

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Several Furman University education alumnae are this year's recipients of the American History Book Club Kate Huff History Scholars Award. The award was presented to a team of teachers from Sara Collins Elementary School in Greenville, S.C., comprised of **SARAH SHADE '11**, **M'17**, **CAROLINE BARRINGTON '12**, **M'14** and **CARRIE JOHNSON '01**, **M'03**. They plan to use their award for an educational history-related field trip to Washington, D.C., for fifth-grade students at the school.

**WHITNEY BECKER '14**, **M'16** received the American History Book Club Kate Huff History Scholars Award. Whitney teaches at West View Elementary in Spartanburg, S.C., and plans to use the award to give students the opportunity to travel back in time using Google Cardboard and iPods for Google Expeditions, which will allow them to experience via virtual reality what it was like for people living during the Industrial Revolution.

**L**aTisha Mitchell '12 was lugging her belongings into Judson Hall before the start of her first year just as Sterling Johnson '11 and his friends were leaving. When the men didn't stop to assist, LaTisha's mother, who was helping her daughter move in, was quick to voice her displeasure.

"My mom is very outspoken. She saw these big guys walking out of the dorm. She expected them to stop and help," LaTisha says. "When she said something, I was really embarrassed."

When LaTisha and Sterling saw each other again later that day, Sterling explained why they had not stopped to help the women. They were members of the Paladins football team on their way to practice. And they couldn't be late.

"Although we're gentlemen and wanted to stop, we knew we couldn't. We would have been late, and football coaches don't appreciate that," says Sterling, who majored in sociology.

That move-in day encounter was their first meeting as Furman students. But their very first meeting had occurred during a Furman Diversity Connection event LaTisha had attended as a prospective student. Sterling was there as a Furman student to speak about what it was like to be a Paladin.

After his move-in day apology, Sterling and LaTisha, who created her own major in youth development, continued to say hello.

"She was really shy," he says. "I thought she didn't like me."

The pair spent more time with each other and began dating. But the relationship was off and on. Both moved



## A WINDING LOVE STORY

*LaTisha Mitchell-Johnson '12 and Sterling Johnson '11*

BY CINDY LANDRUM

to Atlanta after graduation. Sterling earned a master's in public administration with a concentration in planning and economic development from Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. LaTisha earned a master's in higher education leadership from Mercer University and then worked in Atlanta before moving to

take a job at the University of San Francisco.

They would see each other again at Sterling's sister's wedding.

"My sister and LaTisha were close, and my sister wanted to invite LaTisha to her wedding," Sterling says. "LaTisha and I had been off and on, and I felt like that time had come and gone. I was trying to be accom-

modating to my sister. It was her day, and I told her whoever she wanted to invite, I was OK with that."

At the wedding, LaTisha and Sterling rekindled the relationship.

They were engaged on the day after his birthday in November 2017. LaTisha had planned a birthday gathering, and Sterling's friends and former teammates were coming into town to celebrate.

Sterling, however, was secretly coordinating the proposal with her family. He hired a photographer to capture it, telling her they would take couples photos.

Three days after they got engaged, LaTisha got a job offer in Atlanta. They married in December of 2018.

Sterling is the Just Opportunity Program Manager for the Partnership for Southern Equity; LaTisha serves as the assistant director of external relations at Georgia State University, Honors College.

Working as a Saturday college tutor and a summer counselor for Furman's Bridges to a Brighter Future influenced her career choice. Bridges is an educational outreach program designed to help students overcome barriers, graduate from high school and enroll in college.

"Working for the Bridges program allowed me to discover where I wanted to be in life," she says.

Sterling says Furman also played a crucial role in his life. "For me, Furman was the place where I experienced a lot of growth. It was a place of challenge. But ultimately, those challenges helped create a better me." ♦



## OBITUARIES

**OLIVE MERRITT '38.**  
Aug. 29, 2019, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

**TEAGUE HARRIS '40,**  
Aug. 4, 2019, Austin, Texas

**HELEN SCARBOROUGH '42,**  
July 1, 2019, Charlotte, N.C.

**FLORENCE JONES '42,**  
July 3, 2019, Decatur, Ga.

**JOHN REED '43,** Aug. 10, 2019,  
Columbia, S.C.

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

**MARY FRANCES JONES '44,**  
July 30, 2019, Asheville, N.C.

**ANSELYN MARSHALL '46,**  
Sept. 26, 2019, San Antonio, Texas

**LOUISE DENNIS '47,**  
July 16, 2019, Henderson, N.C.

**T.R. (TED) MACHEN '47,**  
Aug. 11, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

**JULIUS BAGGETT '48,**  
Sept. 18, 2019, McCormick, S.C.

**DAVID HIOTT '48,** June 1, 2019,  
Wilmington, N.C.

**MARIAN WEINBERGER '48,**  
July 27, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

**LEWIS PEARSON '49,**  
Aug. 27, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

**MARY NODINE '50,** June 24, 2019,  
Spartanburg, S.C.

**EMMETT WRIGHT '50,**  
Aug. 26, 2019, Charlottesville, Va.

**MARILYN MERRITT '51,**  
June 6, 2019, Easley, S.C.

**RUTH SHULL '51,** July 3, 2019,  
Charleston, S.C.

**WILDA KATE LOOMIS '51,**  
Aug. 12, 2019, Marion, N.C.

**CEBELLE THOMPSON '51,**  
Aug. 23, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

**MARGARET HOWELL '51,**  
Aug. 25, 2019, Clearwater, Fla.

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

**ROBERT THOMPSON '52,**  
July 10, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

**JEAN LAWRIKORE '52,**  
July 18, 2019, Clemson, S.C.

**KATHERINE DEVENNY '53,**  
June 21, 2019, Piedmont, S.C.

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

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

**JOAN ALBY '54,** July 26, 2019,  
Madison, Ga.

**HARRY WALDROP '55,**  
Sept. 17, 2019, Lynchburg, Va.

**MARION FOGLE '56,**  
Sept. 22, 2019, Cordova, S.C.

**ROBERT FULBRIGHT '56,**  
June 25, 2019, Waynesville, N.C.

**CHARLES MILLER '56,**  
July 28, 2019, Chapin, S.C.

## FAREWELL TO A CHAMPION



**SAM WYCHE '66,**  
*1945-2020*

**SAM WYCHE '66,** former head coach of the Cincinnati Bengals and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, died January 2, 2020, of complications from melanoma, in Pickens, South Carolina. Early in his life he joined the Paladin program as a walk-on but ended up serving as Furman's starting quarterback in 1964 and '65, earning All-Southern Conference honors as a senior. Wyche was a member of both Furman and South Carolina Athletic Halls of Fame, as well as the South Carolina Football Hall of Fame. In 2016, Wyche suffered from congestive heart failure, underwent a successful heart transplant and made a full recovery, an experience that inspired him to champion the cause of organ donation.

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

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

**CHARLES CLANTON '57,**  
July 8, 2019, Sumter, S.C.

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

**HIRAM MORGAN '57,**  
Aug. 2, 2019, Fresno, Calif.

**LYNWOOD WILLIAMS '58,**  
May 31, 2019, Simpsonville, S.C.

**JOYCE LAWRIKORE '58,**  
June 14, 2019, Florence, S.C.

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

**THEODORE PUSSEY '58,**  
Aug. 8, 2019, Charlotte, N.C.

**DONALD CRESSWELL '59,**  
June 15, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

**JOYLYN LYNCH '59,**  
July 22, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

**DAINEE CHAMBLESS GIBSON '59,**  
Oct., 6, 2019, Orange, Va.

**DAVID MCMANAWAY '60,**  
Aug. 14, 2019, Greenville, S.C.

**LARRY HOWARD '61,**  
June 15, 2019, Irmo, S.C.



## THE ECONOMIC PULSE-TAKER

*Mark Cabana '02 helps global investors analyze interest rates.*

BY ANDY PETERS '92

**T**he U.S. economy is at a pivotal point. Are we about to enter another recession, or is the economy more likely to continue its current path of steady, albeit slow, growth? These are the thoughts that occupy Mark Cabana '02 seemingly at all hours, even as he commutes to and from work on the New York City subway. Interest rates – the price paid to borrow money – give essential clues to the direction of the economy and

live at the center of Cabana's professional expertise. As the head of U.S. interest rates strategy at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, it's his job to collect data and insights from all corners of the global economy, synthesize that information and form opinions on the direction interest rates may move. Institutional investors pay a handsome sum to get inside Cabana's head and know what he's thinking. It's a place where the 40-year-old Manhattan

resident never thought he would be. "I've had a very windy road to Wall Street," Cabana says. "I never would have imagined when I was a student at Furman that I would be working on Wall Street. I didn't understand it and I didn't have an interest in it." After majoring in political science and Asian studies at Furman, Cabana taught English in China for a year while serving in the Peace Corps. Katherine Kaup, the James B. Duke Professor of Asian Studies, helped steer Cabana toward the cultures and politics of Asia. It was Cabana's time in China that helped trigger his interest in global finance. "I learned there how much economics matter to people and cultures," he says. He earned a graduate degree in international economics at Johns Hopkins University. After a nine-year stint at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Cabana joined Bank of America Merrill Lynch in 2015. Cabana writes dozens of reports a year, which are distributed to the bank's clients: mutual funds, insurance companies, pension funds, any organization with billions of dollars to invest. He also travels the world – Europe, Asia and throughout North America – to meet with bank clients to offer his views and glean new findings. "You're talking to a whole host of people around the world, trying to figure out what their thoughts are," he says. As for his own views on the economy, Cabana admits it's tricky to analyze the current

situation. Uncertainty over the trade war between the U.S. and China has led to an increase in uncertainty among investors. While he expects the economy to slow to a below-average pace, Cabana says he does expect the U.S. economy to avoid a recession. Cabana acknowledges that the ideas and terms used in the world of business and economic news can often seem like inside baseball to the layperson. He offers concepts that everyone should know to help improve their financial literacy:

- Financial markets are all about supply and demand. It really is that simple.
- Financial markets are only a reflection of how economics, politics and culture come together at a single point in time.

"I had always assumed, prior to becoming an economist, that financial markets were greedy and evil and contained things that were not of the utmost integrity. But that's not true," Cabana says. "Financial markets are only where supply and demand meet and where everything is intertwined."

- Finally, read the financial press.

"I find that in a world of extraordinarily biased media on both sides," he says, "the financial press can be one of the most independent and nonbiased sources of information." ♦

*Editor's note: This story was completed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic fallout that followed.*

COURTESY PHOTO

COURTESY PHOTOS

- REGINALD CHRISTOPHER '61.**  
July 21, 2019, Greer, S.C.
- EDITH COX '74.**  
July 18, 2019, Greenville, S.C.
- PAUL BALLOU '79.**  
Aug. 15, 2019, Columbia, S.C.
- ERIC L. ROBERTS '81.**  
Oct. 16, 2019, Silver Spring, Md.
- JEFFREY CRESWELL '84.**  
July 26, 2019, Greenville, S.C.
- CHRISTINE FERGUSON '84.**  
Sept. 1, 2019, Belton, S.C.
- WALTER RICE '86.**  
July 11, 2019, Columbus, Ga.
- SHEILA BOOKOUT '86.**  
July 29, 2019, Lavonia, Ga.
- RYAN ESSEX '98.**  
Aug. 2, 2019, Greer, S.C.
- KRISTIN FOSTER '00.**  
July 18, 2019, Clarksville, Tenn.
- JUSTIN CASH '05.**  
June 14, 2019, Gaffney, S.C.
- SAMUEL SPEAR '09.**  
July 23, 2019, Greenville, S.C.
- NENA THOMPSON '62.**  
June 14, 2019, Pendleton, S.C.
- MARY MASSENGALE '62.**  
June 30, 2019, Greenville, S.C.
- ALFRED MCGINNIS '63.**  
Sept. 18, 2019, Duncan, S.C.
- ROBERT TAYLOR '63.**  
Aug. 13, 2019, Mauldin, S.C.
- FRANCES TURNER WILSON '64.**  
July 22, 2019, Seneca, S.C.
- NANCY GOODWIN '71.**  
June 13, 2019, Greenville, S.C.
- CHARLES SELVEY '71.**  
June 13, 2019, Corbin, Ky.
- WILLIAM MOSER '71.**  
Aug. 18, 2019, Columbia, S.C.
- RUFUS BETHEA '72.**  
Sept. 1, 2019, Mobile, Ala.
- JOHN FRICKS '73.**  
Aug. 16, 2019, Jacksonville, Fla.



**RAMÓN FERNANDEZ-RUBIO**  
1926-2019

**RAMÓN FERNANDEZ-RUBIO**, a professor of modern languages and literatures at Furman from 1970 to 1996, died on November 25, 2019, in Greenville, South Carolina. In 1988, the Cuban-born professor emeritus was awarded the Cervantes Award, given annually to South Carolina's outstanding university professor of Spanish.



**DAVID REDBURN**, professor of sociology emeritus, died September 24, 2019, in Cape Coral, Fla. Redburn joined the Department of Sociology at Furman in 1990, where he served as department chair twice and was known for teaching interdisciplinary courses that helped connect departments that might not have collaborated otherwise. When he retired in 2013, the David Redburn Award was established in sociology. The yearly acknowledgment goes to a sociology major who has demonstrated outstanding academic promise, leadership and service.



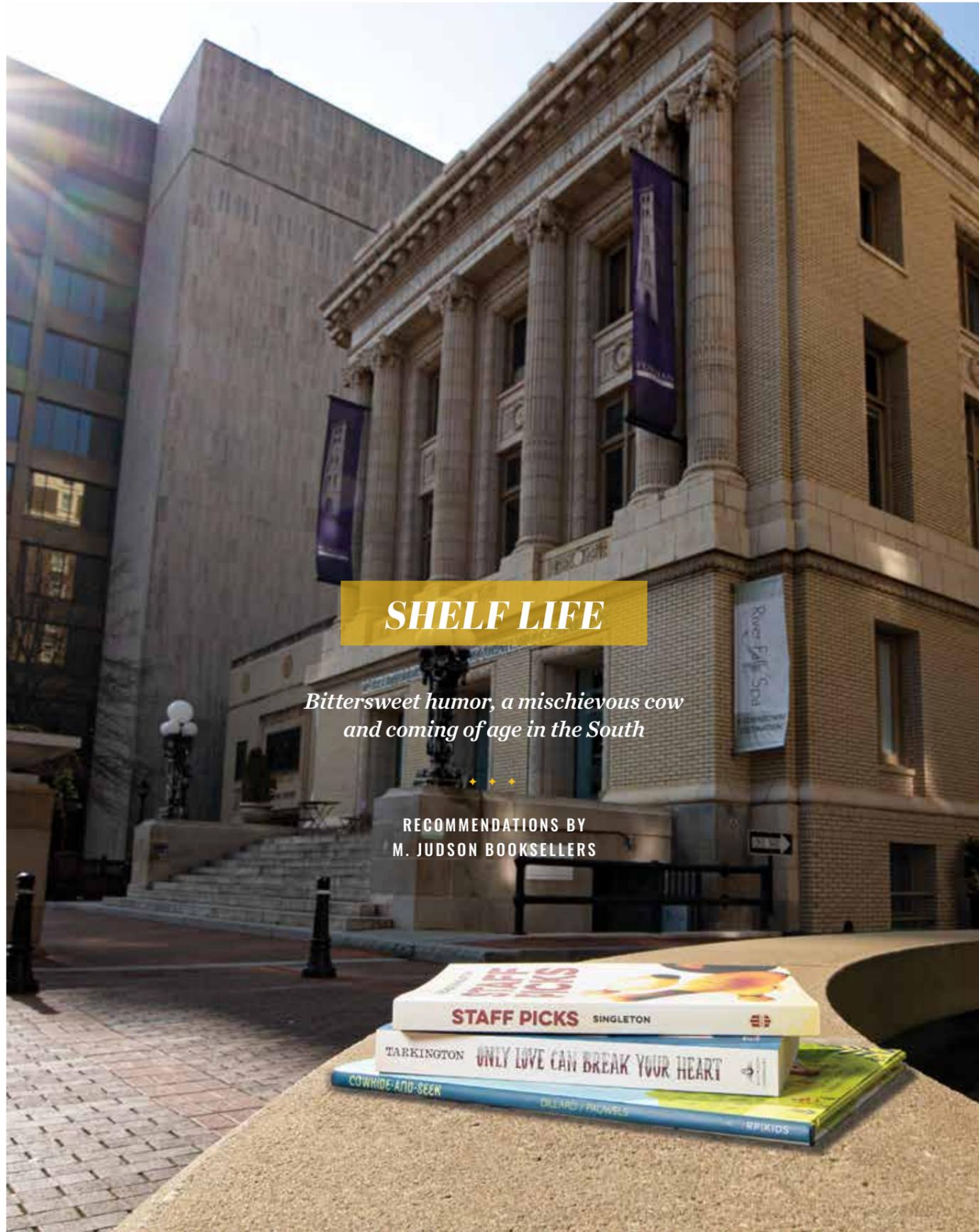
**GILBERT WAYNE FAIRBANKS**, professor of biology emeritus, died October 30, 2019, in Greenville, S.C. He taught in the Department of Biology at Furman from 1964 to 2000, during which time he was best known for his long tenure as Furman's pre-health adviser. Fairbanks also helped build the Furman chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta, the national preprofessional honor society, into one of the most active in the country. In 1986, then-governor Dick Riley awarded him the Order of the Palmetto, and in 2000, he received the Alester G. Furman Jr. and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Advising.



**THOMAS RAY NANNEY**, professor of computer science emeritus, died November 12, 2019, in Greenville, S.C. He joined Furman's chemistry department in 1960 and became the founding chair of the computer science department. He continued to chair the department until 1986. Nanney also served as director of the Computer Center from 1967 to 1973 and was Furman's first Herman N. Hipp Endowed Professor. He received the Alester G. Furman Jr. and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching in 1981. In 2011, **George '71** and **Fran Smith Ligler '72** honored him through The Furman Standard program.

### ABOUT CLASS NOTES

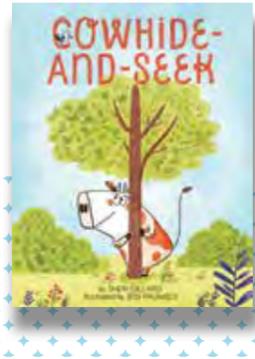
We welcome your submissions to Class Notes. Due to the amount of material Furman receives for this section – and the time needed to edit that material – items are often not published until six months after they are submitted. However, please be advised that we rarely publish items more than 18 months 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.



**SHELF LIFE**

*Bittersweet humor, a mischievous cow and coming of age in the South*

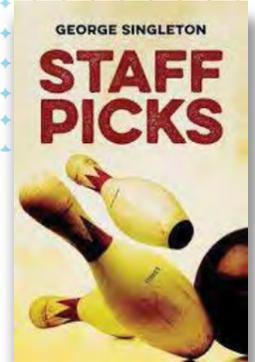
RECOMMENDATIONS BY  
M. JUDSON BOOKSELLERS



**COWHIDE-AND-SEEK**  
BY SHERI DILLARD '88  
ILLUSTRATED BY JESS PAUWELS  
(Running Press Kids)

Where is Bessie? “Cowhide-and-Seek” is a delightful picture book for the youngest readers. Bessie the cow mistakes Farmer Ted’s head count for a game of hide-and-seek and runs off to find the very best hiding places. Where would a cow hide? Bessie finds so many good spots. Behind a cat! Through the soccer field! Into a pack of runners!

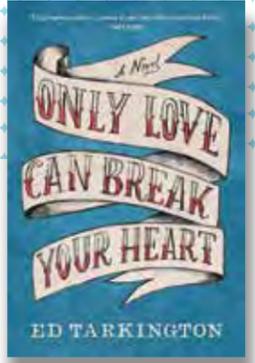
Bessie tries to communicate with friends along the way with her often-misunderstood, single-word vocabulary: “Moo.” Bright, fun illustrations by Jess Pauwels perfectly complement the story. With Farmer Ted forever on the chase, Bessie’s silly adventure roams far and wide, delighting readers with charming pictures and clever wordplay. The kids who attended Dillard’s story time at M. Judson all agree, “Cowhide-and-Seek” is a perfect read-aloud book. Dillard, a preschool librarian in Atlanta, Georgia, graduated from Furman in 1988 with a bachelor’s degree in business.



**STAFF PICKS**  
BY GEORGE SINGLETON '80  
(Louisiana State University Press)

Singleton’s latest collection, “Staff Picks,” showcases his abiding sense of the absurd, bizarre and hilarious that might be living right next door. But we also find a fresh perspective in these stories, an undercurrent of serious empathy that balances and deepens the funny. In “Four-Way Stop,” an endless night of trick-or-treaters at G.R. and Tina’s rural house ends with two men on crosses, Jesus and the Penitent Thief – which, after a string of

Batmans and Yodas, is played for a joke. But later that night, when sightings of Jesus are being called the Halloween Miracle on the 11 o’clock news, G.R. goes out to find the men, offer them shelter, and, in a sense, confess his sins: He feels responsible for the death of his own son in a car accident years before. The story is at once completely familiar and singularly heartbreaking, leading to the idea that we all have such stories to tell. What more do you want from a half hour’s read but the next one? Singleton is the John C. Cobb Professor of Humanities at Wofford College. He majored in philosophy at Furman.



**ONLY LOVE CAN BREAK YOUR HEART**  
BY ED TARKINGTON '95  
(Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill)

Set in rural Virginia in the 1970s, Tarkington’s debut novel is the story of two brothers and the small-town events that shaped their lives. Rocky idolizes his older brother, Paul, and as he recounts the secrets, betrayals, lies and darkness that brought them to adulthood, you can feel the warm-hearted nostalgia and love. As you can guess from

the Neil Young reference in the title, the novel is full of pitch-perfect references to time and place; as Rocky says, “the sweaty, nauseous, split-headed peak of the hangover between Watergate and ‘Morning in America.’” We think this is one of the best Southern coming-of-age stories out there, equal parts gorgeous and suspenseful, with such carefully drawn characters they seem to live and breathe and leave you wanting just as badly as they do. We’re eagerly awaiting Tarkington’s next book. He majored in English and philosophy at Furman.

Our partners at M. Judson Booksellers reviewed these selections, which can be found in their Furman on Main section. Visit them in downtown Greenville for Furman tees, gifts and books by Furman authors. [mjudsonbooks.com](http://mjudsonbooks.com) ♦

*from the Interwebs*



**furmanuniversity** Dick Riley Appreciation Post: Former Secretary of Education and two-term governor Dick Riley regaled hundreds of friends, colleagues and admirers last Thursday night with stories from his two terms as South Carolina's governor, his cabinet position in the Clinton Administration and as a life-long advocate for education reform. The event marked the 20th anniversary of The Riley Institute at Furman University.

**furmanuniversity**



**furmanuniversity** A few special moments from yesterday's commemorative Joseph Vaughn Day events. Link in bio to read more about the special day in Furman's history.



**furmanuniversity** #VeteransDay #SalutetoService



**furmanuniversity** Last one, for good measure 🍷 #HomeAtFurman



**furmanuniversity** Just a reminder that it snowed on Saturday ❄️



**furmanuniversity** What better way to kick off Family Weekend than a 1 p.m. Dins kick-off against Mercer? We'll see you in the stands. #FurmanFamily



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**STILL**

An exhibit called "Passages" at the Thompson Gallery of the Roe Art Building featured the work of Furman Art Professor Bob Chance and his current and former students. ❶ "Bird Vase" by Chance, ❷ "If I Had a Boat" by Chance, ❸ "3 Forms (What I am, What I could be, What I want to be)" by Brent Roberts '95, ❹ "An Unfortunate Incident" by Jackson Shaner '21.

TO SUPPORT ART AT FURMAN,  
GO TO [FURMAN.EDU/GIVE](http://FURMAN.EDU/GIVE).

JEREMY FLEMING



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As part of the Men Who Read initiative, **Shaun-Chris Joash '23** reads with a student at Monaview Elementary School in Greenville, South Carolina. **Rocky Guerra '20** demonstrates how to put on a necktie.