SEEKING ABRAHAM

The Task Force on Slavery and Justice looks back at a shared history to help Furman move forward. pgs. 22-27
The ULTIMATE travel experience

**SCOTLAND:** Fellow Paladins and friends will venture on an extraordinary 10-day travel experience to Scotland with special hosts **NATALIE THE ’03**, associate professor of health sciences, and **MATT DAVIDSON ’04**, head coach of men’s golf. The trip is a perfect combination of golf and active sightseeing that caters to both golfers and non-golfers seeking to experience Scotland’s Fife Coast, the Highlands and Edinburgh. Golfers looking to make the pilgrimage to the birthplace of golf will experience six-plus rounds on historic, world renowned courses. Non-golfers will experience the rich history, culture and landscapes of Scotland through day cruises, castle tours, whiskey tastings and much more!

**PRAGUE:** Join **MIKE SVEC**, professor of education, to explore one of the best-preserved capital cities in the very heart of Europe. Prague is rich in culture, music and history, and is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. In order to appreciate Czech culture, we will also explore the countryside. By spending ample time in one country (and several locations), alumni can better appreciate the history and culture of the Czech lands. Travelers will spend nine days and eight nights exploring Prague and the wilds of southern Bohemia. Discover why Kafka said, “Prague never lets go of you ... this dear little mother has sharp claws.”

*THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT FOR 2019. STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE DATES.*

If you are interested in learning more, contact alumni@furman.edu.
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COVER
History Professor Steve O’Neill ’82 and student researchers Laura Bloodworth ’18 and Andy Teye ’17 spent hours looking over historical documents and other items stored in Special Collections and Archives.
One of the longtime church members who will be turning 88 later this year, called me, almost in tears after reading your article (Steeple Savers, Spring 2018, written by Ron Wagner ‘93). She thought it was wonderful; she kept exclaiming it was the best thing she’d ever seen written about the church. Mama has received calls from people she hasn’t heard from in 30+ years, who have read your article and are now reconnecting.

As I am currently struggling with a long-term research project – that is threatening to expand itself from an article to a book – I was particularly taken by the creative structure of your piece. You captured the essence of all three of us while, at the same time, including so much detail. I would never have thought of starting with the redwood tree but the way you wove that into the story worked beautifully...

Ann Waigand ’76

“You captured the essence of all three of us while, at the same time, including so much detail.”

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We welcome letters on any subject covered in the magazine. Letters should be limited to 150 words, refer to a subject from the most recent issue and include the writer’s name and city/state. They may be sent to magazine@furman.edu. Although we make every effort to include as many submissions as we can, letters may be edited for length or clarity. Letters that address a topic before the most recent issue of Furman will be published at the editor’s discretion.
Furman University “maintains its commitment to freedom of inquiry and excellence in the quest for truth. The university is a community that encourages and nurtures individuals as they search for truth with passion, integrity, and rigorous intellectual discipline. Furthermore, the university understands its mission to be not only the transmission of knowledge, attitudes, and values, but also their examination and correction in the light of continuing discovery and integration of knowledge.”

– excerpt from Furman’s Statement on Character and Values

I opened our Convocation ceremony this past August by quoting from our Character and Values statement, and I repeated its imperative that we “search for truth with passion, integrity, and rigorous intellectual discipline.” It was with this principle in mind that Furman formed the Task Force on Slavery and Justice more than a year ago. We wanted to better understand our history and use this knowledge to inform how we deliver The Furman Advantage today.

Furman students, faculty, staff and alumni – including those who served on the task force – have a deep respect for our founders and their roles in establishing and sustaining our university. Our hope is that we can learn from their strengths and shortcomings and bridge such knowledge with our renewed commitment to diversity and inclusion and our promise to prepare Furman students for meaningful lives of purpose and even greater community impact.

While a number of alumni have lauded this examination, some have shared concerns and others have asked, “Why now?” Our response is, “Why not now?” We challenge our students daily to push beyond their comfort levels, academically and socially. That is how they grow. And as they grow, we support them in those challenges. Why shouldn’t the university do the same?

This study has revealed, in part, that we have a subset of students and alumni who don’t feel fully embraced in the life of the university. This breaks my heart, and I’m not willing to ignore such feelings. Our clear commitment to ensuring that all students who come to Furman receive the full benefit of our educational experience is more reason why we cannot be satisfied with this reality.

In this spirit, the task force researched the university’s ties to slavery [see story on page 23], held numerous related conversations, and consulted with descendants of Richard Furman’s family as well as a consortium of colleges and universities studying similar pasts. They produced a thoughtful and thorough report, which includes our history and a number of recommendations the university will consider as we acknowledge our past and seek to learn from it.

This process will allow us to become an even stronger institution. We can’t be afraid to develop a deeper understanding of our past and the circumstances that allowed us to be the institution we are today. As a university, we are committed to teaching our students to search for truth, to reflect on what they learn, and to make changes for the better, even when it is difficult.

And it’s important that we, as a Furman community, discuss and take this on together. We have made the report available online and shared it with students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, our Board of Trustees, and many others, and are holding several forums this fall to discuss it. We will continue the discussion into the spring as our board considers the report’s recommendations.

I’m looking forward to the conversations we will have in the coming months, however difficult they might be. This is our opportunity, as an institution, to practice, advocate for, and model courageous inquiry and civil discourse. The one thing I feel certain about and on which I believe we all can agree: Not everyone will agree about the right course of action. We should anticipate debate and disagreement. How we respond in light of those discussions will be a sure signal to the entire Furman community whether we are truly prepared to be an inclusive university.

BY ELIZABETH DAVIS

A Search for Truth and Correction in the Light

An examination of Furman’s history is an opportunity to include all.

BY ELIZABETH DAVIS

Elizabeth Davis
Around the Lake
A new anthology of South Carolina poetry edited by Furman University faculty members is now available. The anthology, “Archive: South Carolina Poetry Since 2005,” is edited by retired Furman English professors Gil Allen and Bill Rogers, and Jeffrey Makala, special collections librarian and university archivist at the James B. Duke Library. It is published by Ninety-Six Press and includes the writings of 46 contemporary South Carolina poets.

Ninety-Six Press, established at Furman University in 1991, has published over 20 volumes of poetry by South Carolina authors. It is now part of the South Carolina Poetry Archives in the Department of Special Collections and Archives in the James B. Duke Library. The South Carolina Poetry Archives contains the papers and manuscripts of over 20 South Carolina poets and a comprehensive collection of the published writings of all South Carolina poets.

To celebrate National Poetry Month and the publication of “Archive: South Carolina Poetry Since 2005,” the Friends of the Furman University Libraries and the Furman English department hosted a group poetry reading in the Trone Student Center April 11. Over 15 poets whose works appear in the anthology participated in the reading and discussion.

Copies of the book are available in the Furman bookstore, at Fiction Addiction and M. Judson Booksellers in Greenville, or directly through the James B. Duke Library. For more information, or to order copies, contact Julia Cowart at 864.294.2194 or julia.cowart@furman.edu.
Macy Whitener ’13 never dreamed of making a silver screen debut. And appearing in a role with acting legend Burt Reynolds was even further from her imagination. All that changed when “The Last Movie Star” writer and director Adam Rifkin suggested Whitener audition for a part. Whitener, who at the time worked for an advertising agency in Knoxville, Tennessee, took Rifkin up on the idea. A few days later, she got the call. “I was floored,” said Whitener, who secretly read for the part without telling her family.

It’s a fleeting 12-second exchange in the movie, and all told, the bit, including hair, makeup, costume and the speaking part itself, took four hours to wrap. But Whitener wouldn’t trade the experience for anything. “It was the most fun I had in 2016,” she says.

In the movie, which opened in theaters last March, Burt Reynolds plays Vic Edwards, a college football legend-turned stunt double-turned leading man. The film follows Edwards, who grudgingly accepts an invitation to receive a Life-time Achievement award at a small-time film festival in Nashville. On the way, he runs into an airline ticket agent played by Whitener. Ariel Winter from the Emmy-winning hit series “Modern Family” plays the tattooed and pierced costar Lil McDougal. Chevy Chase appears in the film as Vic’s friend Sonny.

Reynolds, who died in September, is probably best known for his rough-and-tumble role as Bandit in the ’70s and ’80s “Smokey and the Bandit” hit movies with Sally Field, Jackie Gleason and Jerry Reed. He is perhaps better remembered for his portrayal of Lewis in the...
I will never forget entering the front gates of Furman for the first time. It was in April 1998, and Furman was my first college visit. While I did not visit nearly as many colleges as students do today, I did visit enough to know that Furman was special. The way the sun hit the leaves on the trees lining the entrance created an enchanting scene. I felt as if I was entering a magical place. And I was right.

However, the magic of Furman is not just in the majesty of the campus (which still takes my breath away). You feel a difference when you enter “the Furman bubble.” And it’s a difference I have not experienced anywhere since.

While a student, I was exposed to more people and cultures than I could have ever imagined I would at this small school in Greenville, South Carolina. I learned about the history and politics of Southern Africa as I traveled South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland and Namibia with professors Don Gordon and Erik Ching. And I learned so much more within Furman’s gates. I learned the history of India and Pakistan from a Pakistani-American classmate who also introduced me to Ramadan and a deeper understanding of Islam, an understanding that I was particularly aware of as this classmate and I watched the collapse of the second tower in the political science department common area on the morning of September 11, 2001. A classmate of Palestinian descent with the most analytical mind I have ever met gave me my first perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And I, the descendent of slaves, would frequently sit in the student center to discuss life (and occasionally the history of the American South) with a friend and descendent of a proud Confederate family.

These interactions are how I remember Furman: a place where differing perspectives converge and where open and honest dialogue can result if you are receptive to it. At Furman, I gained a great appreciation for differing viewpoints. I learned how to separate people from their beliefs in this beautiful place where people from all backgrounds come together to live and learn from each other. That was the magic that Furman showed me.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Yendelela Neely Holston ’03 is partner and chief diversity & inclusion officer at Kilpatrick Townsend. A member of the Furman Board of Trustees, Holston received the Corporate Counsel Community Champion Award in May.

Whitener – wearing the coveted “Burt shirt” – and Reynolds at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival in New York City.

“IT WAS THE MOST FUN I HAD IN 2016.”

THEN

Reflection on the importance of Furman as it was

survival thriller “Deliverance” (1972), based on the same-titled novel by James Dickey.

And while Whitener will tell you she’s a rookie at the acting thing, truth be told, she dabbled in the craft at Furman. “I took one theater class – I think it was Theatre 101 – and loved it. It helped me connect with people who were like me and not like me. It gave me the confidence to do things I didn’t imagine I would do,” she says. Whitener also points to her work as a member of the Furman O-staff (orientation staff) where skits and general horsing around come with the territory.

On set, Whitener made fast friends with leading lady Ariel Winter. And Whitener had a special relationship with the leading man, whom she respectfully dubs “Mr. Reynolds.” “He was just as much a charmer as I’ve heard he was back then,” she says.

As for future roles, Whitener is happy with her day job as a marketing executive at The Whitener Group, the production company behind the movie, and where her father Gordon Whitener is chairman and CEO. But she’s ready for anything that may come her way now that she’s a card-carrying member of the Screen Actors Guild.
Gas-powered lawn mowers are notorious for their dirty emissions, with studies showing just one can spew as much pollution into the atmosphere in an hour as a 100-mile car trip. Sheep aren’t notorious for much of anything outside of being responsible for itchy sweaters, eating lots of grass and docilely following people around.

So when Steve Wood approached Furman with the idea of having his animals take over vegetation maintenance duties around its recently installed 743-kilowatt solar farm, it wasn’t long until there was a new, ahem, lambscaping company on the job. In late May, 12 sheep – four ewes and eight lambs – took up residence on the plot. Their only job is to do what they do best: Eat.

According to Wood, the arrangement is a perfect “environmentally friendly synthesis between high and low technology.” It also ends the disconnect between the weekly mowing – which accounts for up to 5 percent of the nation’s air impurities – and the six acres dedicated to reducing Furman’s greenhouse gas emissions. A couple of winters ago, Wood, who grazes St. Croix Hair Sheep and practices sustainable farming on his land 10 miles from Furman, noticed the university’s solar installation taking shape while on his way to campus for a swim. It dawned on him that his sheep would be the ideal animals to trim the grass because not only do they eat a wide variety of species they’re also, unlike goats, not prone to chewing everything in sight, such as solar panels.

Wood reached out to gauge the university’s interest and his proposal eventually found its way to the Shi Center for Sustainability. “I got excited about the potential partnership,” recalls Laura Bain, the center’s associate director of sustainability assessment, who steers the project on the university side. “We thought it was an innovative partnership and a cool way to foster community involvement – and who doesn’t want to hang out with sheep?”

It took almost a year to work out the legalities and logistics. At the solar farm, a water line and a high fence were already in place, so all that remained to ready the plot was to add signage and block the few gaps under the fence to protect the sheep from predators.
“It’s expensive to cut the grass beneath the angled panels because they are only two feet off the ground at the low end, so you have to go in with a weed-whacker,” Bain explains. She expects that using the sheep will prove less expensive while eliminating the need for gasoline and motors. An added bonus: The animals provide free fertilizer.

The sheep will remain on the solar farm until grass growth slows in winter, at which point Wood will bring them home until spring. Wood cares for the sheep, stopping by several times a week to check their health, make sure they have fresh water, and bring them mineral supplements. “Other than that, grass is all they need,” he says.

Bain plans to put up a webcam at the solar farm in the near future so folks can watch the sheep remotely. Next fall, she hopes to integrate the project into the university’s curriculum by working with faculty to develop research projects that can provide applied learning opportunities for students, while also offering applicable project assessment and guidance.

As far as anyone knows, Furman’s pilot program is the first solar grazing project in South Carolina. “Once we find out how it works for us,” Bain notes, “we can let others know how they can combine agriculture with sustainable energy production and find those partnerships in their own communities.” The project will also further Furman’s goal of being carbon neutral by 2026, with the solar farm expected to reduce Furman’s greenhouse gas emissions by about 3 percent annually.

“We’re not trying, like some suggest, to revert to the way things were centuries ago,” Wood adds. “We’re going forward to the 21st century and doing it in a sustainable way.” You could say it’s the sheep of things to come.●

Twelve St. Croix sheep, four ewes and their eight lambs, will be calling the solar farm home for the foreseeable future.
Greenville, South Carolina, is the fourth-fastest-growing city in the nation, according to a recent report by the U.S. Census Bureau. It is predicted that the Upstate will welcome more than 300,000 new residents, reaching a total population of almost 1.75 million people by 2040. Despite this fast-paced development and influx of jobs, families caught in the cycle of financial crises face even greater challenges as a result of Greenville's prosperity.

As director of United Ministries in Greenville, Tony McDade ’79 works daily to identify the underlying factors that contribute to poverty and to empower families on their journeys to self-sufficiency.

Things are changing quickly in Greenville. How is this growth being experienced by our homeless population?

TM: United Ministries’ home at 606 Pendleton Street is ground zero for gentrification right now. Our folks who have been chronically homeless already feel a sense of displacement and vulnerability. As gentrification has taken place, that sense has only been exaggerated for them.

Another group who has been profoundly impacted within the eyeweight of this office are people who had lived in some of the housing around here for many, many years. These mostly older people who had paid a couple hundred bucks a month rent for 30 years are having their homes sold out from under them. A lot of them didn’t have a lease, and without one you are extremely vulnerable. They’ve been physically and emotionally displaced.

Where do those folks go?

TM: We have hunches that they have moved to the periphery of the city limits and probably right over into the county. That means it’s up to the city and county together to focus on the dearth of affordable housing hereabouts. Studies have been done and the research shows that we have a 12,000-unit deficit of affordable housing in Greenville County.

We need to question what type of community we are really going to be. Greenville appears on most top five lists of American cities. I was in Albuquerque and people were saying, “Oh, you’re from Greenville! That’s a cool place!” But we have to continue to be aware of our friends and neighbors who are in poverty and have aspirations of self-sufficiency. The important thing is that they are our friends and neighbors. They are Greenville people too. Therefore, we need to be good neighbors.

What opportunities do you see for Furman and Community Engaged Learning in a changing Greenville?

TM: The saying right now in philanthropy is, “Data helps people know. Stories help people care.” Greenville’s philanthropy community is counting on Furman, with your aggregated wisdom and brain power, to give us accurate and thorough data.
Another way Furman can help is in counting homeless people. Sounds straightforward, right? However, we have people who are homeless today and pick up a job, make enough money to stay the night at a motel, and aren’t considered homeless for that night. Tomorrow, they’re in a shelter and homeless again. If they’re “couch-surfing” they’re homeless in the broadest definition of homelessness, but by Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards, they’re not homeless. It’s hard to wrap your brain around the issue when the definitions are inconsistent.

HUD does a census of homeless people once a year, and Furman students and faculty have always volunteered to help with this vital project. This year we’ve officially identified about 600 homeless people in Greenville. We know that’s an undercount, probably by another 600. With the school system, we know that 1,089 kids were coded “homeless” at one point last year. And some of them live in a motel. So by the school system’s definition, those kids are homeless. By HUD’s definition, they’re not. Those are the realities.

How can we best connect with the community?

**TM**: My priority is to create community among people. Especially people of all walks of life. Somehow, when you spend time with people who are different than you, traditional structures crack. A lot of times people show up at United Ministries thinking they’re the host and they turn out to be the guest. If you leave as the host, you missed an opportunity. Sharing hospitality is what it’s all about.

**Hannah Wheeler ’16**, a post-baccalaureate fellow in Furman’s Collaborative for Community-Engaged Learning, spoke with friend and mentor Tony McDade about how we can better partner with our neighbors in under-resourced communities.

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**NEXT**

Reflection on Furman going forward

The Furman Advantage promises every student a personalized four-year pathway to graduation. But what helps a student articulate what their path will be, and how do we ensure they thrive along the way? Far too often, I hear graduating seniors say the words, “I survived Furman” rather than “I thrived at Furman.” This failure-prevention versus success-promotion mentality means students view the college experience as demands and challenges rather than opportunities for growth.

To ensure students get off to the right start, Furman has been working to help them understand the importance of doing well during their first two years. New student orientation in the summer has been reenvisioned to emphasize that the first year of the pathway involves a lot of exploration and discovery, while the second year offers more focused examination and decision-making, with dedicated guidance by advisors and mentors to help students make meaning of their path. Students learn the importance of developing a thriving-versus-surviving mentality and how that mindset can help them be more resilient.

I am most proud to be part of a group of faculty and staff who are developing Pathways, an innovative model featuring intentional advising and mentoring at crucial points during a student’s first and second year in college. Pathways is designed to provide students with a seamless transition to college, while engaging in self-reflection that allows them to understand their development and make meaning of their college experience.

Students are assigned to small advising cohorts and meet once a week for 50 minutes during each of their first four semesters. During these sessions, they are guided by their advisor through targeted modules designed to address various college transition issues. These cohorts allow students to discuss their concerns in a community where struggles are shared and uncertainty is celebrated, while also helping them explore their interests and talents as they determine their path. Students are connected by advisors to high-impact experiences like internships, study away and undergraduate research.

Over 90 percent of all colleges and universities feature a first-year experience, and an increasing number are starting to develop intentional programming to support students during the second year of college. With Pathways offered to every student by fall 2020, Furman will be a national leader and the first university to feature an intentional, integrated two-year experience that uses advising and mentoring to provide guidance and support for all students. This is what’s next.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Brady Harmon ’97** is the assistant dean for the first-year and second-year experience.
Special Collections and Archives recently received a donation of this handsome paladin statue from Greenville resident Mark Smith. It is cast iron and single-sided, with one hole for bolting it onto a vertical surface as a decorative element. It has since been welded onto a textile mill weight and painted gold so it can stand upright for display. Smith told us his father, Wayne Floyd Smith ’70 (1938-2017), retrieved the paladin from the downtown Furman campus, where it may have been mounted on the grounds as a plaque. We looked carefully at historic photos of the campus housed in the University Archives but could not find an image that shows the statue was part of campus’s athletic facilities or decorations.

The paladin appeared as a nickname as early as 1927 for the Furman basketball team and was used officially as the team moniker in the mid-1940s, at the same time that the hornet was used for the baseball team and hurricane for the football team. All these names were merged, along with the campus, in 1961, into one unified mascot and symbol for all of our athletic teams. The Furman student newspaper The Hornet also changed its name to The Paladin in the fall of 1961.

So, please help us! Do you remember seeing paladin imagery on the downtown campus? If so, please let Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist Jeff Makala know (jeffrey.makala@furman.edu). In the meantime, you can have a look at this gold paladin, along with a host of other Furman imagery, in the Special Collections reading room on the second floor of the James B. Duke Library.

FUnmerala
Fun facts and figures about the Furman class of 2022

Seven hundred and twenty students joined the Furman family this fall. In addition to the writer of a children’s book series, five entrepreneurs and a United States Senate page, the group includes …

| 322 | National Honor Society members |
| 51  | Students who have lived outside the United States |
| 230 | Two-sport athletes |
| 49  | Theatre stars |
| 131 | Club presidents |
| 169 | Varsity captains |
| 1   | Minecraft designer |
“I’m just like my country, I’m young, scrappy and hungry, and I’m not throwing away my shot!” ‘Hamilton’ said it in the best way possible – the D.C. program was my shot to live, work, learn and experience professional life in Washington, D.C., and I am grateful every day.”

Furman has such a strong alumni presence in D.C., working not only as congressional staffers, but also as lawyers, consultants, recruiters and so much more. Whether I was working with them in the House of Representatives, going to a happy hour with sorority sisters, or sitting down for coffee with a mentor, a fellow Din was never too far away.

Interning for House Speaker Paul Ryan was one of the greatest honors of my life, a tangible learning experience in the world of politics and public policy, and a gust of momentum in my professional life. One of the most valuable things I learned in the Office of the Speaker was the importance of authenticity when living and working in the public eye.

One of my favorite things about the D.C. program was that, unlike other study away trips, my classmates and I were selected to be in D.C. based on a common interest – seeking the politics and international affairs major. We were able to spend time in meaningful discussions and lectures with Dr. David Fleming and each other about national and local politics and how we can be makers of change once we are launched into the “real world” after graduation.

Furman alumni Tommy Andrews ‘09 (left) and Will Miller ’12 (right), members of House Speaker Paul Ryan’s staff, show their Furman pride on Dins Day.

Sabrina Roof ’19, Shannon Short ’19, Becca Colehower ’20, Greg Boyes ’18, and Hannah Warren ’19, students in the D.C. Experience Program, visit the United States Capitol for a tour and exploration of the history and procedures of the United States Congress.

Becca Colehower ’20 (right) meeting with House Speaker Paul Ryan during an intern meeting on the day of the State of the Union Address.
Par for the Course
Matt Davidson comes home
BY VINCE MOORE

Matt Davidson ’04 knew the exact moment his professional golf career was over. It was July 2017, and he and his wife, Furman Health Sciences Professor Natalie The ’03, had just had their second child, Graham. “I left for a tournament when he was four days old and didn’t see him again for four weeks,” Davidson says. “I knew then it would be my last season playing professionally.”

What he didn’t know is that it would also be the first step to becoming the men’s head golf coach at Furman. Since graduating from Furman in 2004, Davidson had pursued his dream of playing professional golf, spending a full year on the PGA Tour in 2005 and another seven years on the Web.com Tour, professional golf’s version of AAA baseball. In the Sony Open, his very first tournament as a PGA Tour professional, Davidson was paired with 15-year-old female prodigy Michelle Wie. A few weeks later, he found himself hitting balls on the range beside Tiger Woods. Both involved huge galleries, bright media lights and revelatory introductions to life on the big tour. He failed to keep his PGA Tour card after that first year.

Davidson certainly had enough success over the years to keep the dream alive. He finished second in one Web.com tournament, placed among the top 10 in 16 others and, in 2016, shot a career-best round of 62 in the WinCo Foods Portland Open. He was among the tour’s most accurate drivers and earned more than $650,000 in prize money. Still, the grind of traveling 30-35 weeks a year from one highly competitive tournament to another had worn down Davidson long before the revelation that accompanied the birth of his second son. He had been thinking quite a while about the possibility of getting into college coaching, so when Furman head golf coach Todd Satterfield offered him a job as an assistant coach in January, he didn’t hesitate to take it.

“It was something I was ready to do, and I loved the job right away,” Davidson says. “I enjoyed working with the guys and helping them become better players. It just confirmed that it was what I wanted to do for a living.”

What Davidson didn’t expect was to become a head coach after just one season as an assistant, but that was exactly what happened after Satterfield resigned following the 2017-18 season. “I didn’t expect that to happen, but I was definitely interested in the position when it came open,” Davidson says. “I was fortunate enough to get the job.”

As a former player who had remained close to the golf program, Davidson knows he is inheriting a program that has seen the best and worst of times over the past 35 years. If the high point came in 1983, when Brad Faxon was named the nation’s top collegiate player, the nadir occurred in 2014 when the university announced it would eliminate the men’s program. “I was totally surprised and hadn’t heard anything that suggested something like that might happen,” Davidson says.

The program, of course, didn’t meet its end. It got a second life a short while later when an energetic group of alumni and friends, including...
After more than a decade of playing professional golf, Matt Davidson is looking forward to his first season as the men’s golf head coach.
Faxon, stepped in to make sure the program survived. And, oddly enough, that brush with near extinction has made the program stronger. Thanks to the financial generosity of those supporters, including a $1 million gift from Fred and Lyn Stubblefield of Charlotte, North Carolina, there is now a $2.7 million endowed scholarship fund to support the program.

“It was unbelievable how many people came forward with their time and money to help the program,” Davidson says. “We’ll be indebted to those people forever for what they did. They saved the program and put us on solid footing going forward.”

There’s even more good news for Davidson as he approaches his first season as a head coach: There are some very good golfers in the program. Junior Keller Harper, who came to Furman as a walk-on, was named the 2018 Southern Conference Men’s Golfer of the Year, the first Paladin to win that honor since Davidson in 2002.

Harper led the league with a stroke average of 72.24, while senior Connor Bruns joined Harper on the all-conference team and had the league’s seventh-best stroke average (73.33). The Paladins will also welcome three new recruits in the fall, all of whom have enjoyed strong amateur careers. That’s a solid foundation for a team that’s required to post the best four of its five scores each round.

“Both Connor and Keller are good, consistent players who work extremely hard and are just getting better,” Davidson says. “We have a lot of other good players returning, too. It’s just a matter of who steps up and rounds out the lineup.”

And then there is the addition of Davidson himself, who is looking forward to contributing in his own way. As a top player who has worked with some of the world’s best teachers and competed at the highest level, he wants to pass along what he has learned to his players.

“I enjoy teaching and helping the players with the technical side of the game,” he says. “But I also want to help them with things like course management and developing good practice habits. When you work hard and work on the right things, you’ll get better.”

**Notes from the Field**

Junior Keller Harper had the league’s best stroke average last season and was named the 2018 Southern Conference Men’s Golfer of the Year.

**WHEN YOU WORK HARD AND WORK ON THE RIGHT THINGS, YOU’LL GET BETTER.**
Notes from the Field

SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST

Even as glorious as her Furman running career was, Allie Buchalski ’18 never failed to surprise her coaches with her ability to constantly improve.

Lightly recruited out of high school and underappreciated on the national stage in college, she kept getting better every year and accomplishing things never before done by a Furman runner, becoming a seven-time All-American and leading the women’s cross-country team to a seventh-place finish in the 2018 NCAA tournament.

But after graduating with honors last May, Buchalski had one more surprise in store.

She finished second in the 5,000-meter run at the NCAA Women’s Outdoor Track & Field Championships, racing past four of the nation’s best college runners in the final 200 meters and making winner Karissa Schweizer of Missouri glad there weren’t another 50 meters left to run.

It was arguably the greatest individual performance by an athlete in Furman history, and it was a validation of what made Buchalski great. There was never a moment too big for her; the higher the stakes, the better she seemed to perform.

“It took us (Furman coaches) five years to learn not to short-change Allie, to realize there was nothing she couldn’t do if we prepared her well enough,” says Furman Head Track and Field and Cross-Country Coach Robert Gary. “She was in the best shape of her life at that meet and she had her greatest performance. I was watching in the stands and I could see how relaxed she was. With about 150 meters to go, I said, ‘She’s going to win this race.’ And she nearly did.”

Buchalski’s running career is far from over. Shortly after her finish in the NCAA 5,000-meter, she signed a professional contract to run for the Brooks Beasts Track Club in Seattle. Her next goals will be to qualify for the World Championships next year in Qatar, and earn a spot on the U.S. team for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

Buchalski’s performance at the NCAA championships capped a banner year for Furman athletics. The Paladins finished 73rd among 291 NCAA Division I qualifying schools in the Learfield Directors’ Cup competition, which measures the performance of all sports. That was not only the best finish among Southern Conference schools, it was third best in the state (behind Clemson and South Carolina) and ahead of Atlantic Coast Conference schools Boston College (95), Pittsburgh (111) and Georgia Tech (121). It was also Furman’s best finish ever in the competition, topping the previous high of 86th recorded during the 2001-02 school year.

ALL-AMERICANS AND CONFERENCE CROWNS

The Paladins captured a total of six SoCon team championships and advanced six teams into NCAA tournament competition, including the nationally ranked women’s golf team, which posted an 11th place finish in the NCAA Championships. Furman volleyball and women’s tennis teams won SoCon regular season championships, and men’s and women’s cross-country, women’s tennis, and women’s golf claimed league tournament crowns.

The Paladins produced five All-Americans, eight SoCon Players of the Year, seven conference Coaches of the Year, and 100 all-conference performers in 2017-18.
Dual paths in history, law prepared Tomiko Brown-Nagin to lead Harvard’s Radcliffe Institute

Judith Bainbridge has a vivid memory of the student who didn’t take her advice.

Tomiko Brown-Nagin ’92 loved history and envisioned herself pursuing a Ph.D. and then teaching. But she also was passionate about the law and its role in shaping history. She wanted a law degree, too.

Bainbridge, who was then Furman’s director of educational services, told her she’d have to choose between the two. But Brown-Nagin disagreed.

“I didn’t have it all figured out,” she says. “But I was adventurous and willing to take risks.”

After graduating from Furman, Brown-Nagin simultaneously pursued a Ph.D. in history from Duke University and a law degree from Yale.

“So much for my intelligence! She obviously did both brilliantly,” Bainbridge says.

Brown-Nagin practiced law in New York City for two years before returning to academia as a law professor, most recently at the Harvard Law School. In July, she became the dean of Harvard’s Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Radcliffe’s mission is to create new ideas by bringing scholars together from across disciplines, particularly in the study of gender and women’s issues.

It’s “profoundly interdisciplinary,” Brown-Nagin says, a natural progression from her beginning in a liberal arts environment.

Furman laid the groundwork for her academic career with interdisciplinary studies, travel opportunities and personal connections with teachers who had a significant influence on her love of history.
Brown-Nagin stands in front of Agassiz Hall in Radcliffe Yard. The building commemorates the efforts of Elizabeth Cary Agassiz, who led a group of women and men in 1879 to create the Society for the Collegiate Instruction of Women (nicknamed the Harvard Annex) for women’s instruction by Harvard faculty. The Annex later became Radcliffe College and is now home to the Radcliffe Institute.
Brown-Nagin remembers the conversations Bainbridge mentioned.

“She (Bainbridge) wasn’t one to hold back about her opinion,” Brown-Nagin says, a smile in her voice.

But she also remembers Bainbridge’s guidance and encouragement to pursue a prestigious Truman Scholarship, which Brown-Nagin won in 1991. “I’m very grateful that she had those high hopes for me and pushed me,” she says.

_ROOTED IN HISTORY_

Long before she began college, Brown-Nagin had a strong sense of the history that surrounded her as a black woman in the South.

She was born in Edgefield County, which is also the birthplace of former U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond and former U.S. Senator and former Governor Ben Tillman. These men are among a long list of “characters in South Carolina history who made a point of being resistant to racial change,” she says.

Her family’s experiences within that history ingrained in her an admiration for the law and the people who wielded it to effect change.

Brown-Nagin says anyone society labels “successful” undoubtedly has known the sting of some failures and the weight of uncertainty. She’s no exception.

“Within the first week, I knew this child was a keeper, and I was just hoping she would want to be a history major,” Strobel says. She soon became Brown-Nagin’s advisor.

Strobel’s passion fueled her student’s. Brown-Nagin studied American history, Russian history and early modern history. By the end of her junior year, she knew she wanted a career that would allow her to connect with students and to study history the way she was being taught to study it at Furman.

Brown-Nagin engaged in classroom work in a way that drew others in, too.

Her mother went to college when Brown-Nagin was in law school.

“It certainly wasn’t for lack of talent or interest; it was purely opportunity,” she says.

Her mother’s long-delayed college experience contributes to Brown-Nagin’s commitment to greater access within higher education.

“In some ways, it seems it was inevitable that I would become more and more interested in history as a profession,” she says.

Marian Strobel is the William Montgomery Burnett Professor of History and chair of the faculty at Furman. She remembers Brown-Nagin as a freshman, sitting center front in a western civilization class.

(Above) Shelley Waters Boots ’93, Kirby Mitchell ’90, Susanna Bainbridge Gatlin ’90 and Brown-Nagin at academic advisor Judy Bainbridge’s home.
(Below) Brown-Nagin was involved in many groups at Furman, including the Student League for Black Culture, the Senior Order and Students for Diversity (shown here with Amy Heidebrecht Woolwine ’93, Lhatoya Reed ’93, Marla Majett ’94, Diana Dimitrova ’94, Scott Purinton ’93, Terri Edmonds Heyns ’93, Brian Cromer ’92 and Erika Ross ’94).
“Her brilliance was not the type that would turn off other people,” Strobel says. “She often had the facility to say something, which then would get other people talking.”

But she didn’t stop at classroom work. She took opportunities to study abroad, work as an intern and do independent study.

**Kirby Mitchell ’90** is a senior litigation attorney with South Carolina Legal Services. He was responsible for supervising the first five Furman students who interned with legal aid; Brown-Nagin was one of them.

“She was personable with clients and funny with her classmates,” Mitchell says. “But you also couldn’t miss her drive. We all thought, ‘Tomiko will be whatever she wants – a college president, a judge.’”

**TWO FIELDS, ONE STORY**

After finishing at Furman, Brown-Nagin earned a master’s degree in history from Duke, then went to Yale for her first year of law school. With Yale’s approval, she became a joint degree candidate and returned to Duke to finish her Ph.D. coursework.

“I did shuttle back and forth, which is not something I can imagine doing today,” she says. “It sounds crazy.”

William Chafe, the Alice Mary Baldwin Professor Emeritus of history at Duke, was Strobel’s advisor when she was at Duke and then advised Brown-Nagin, a “superb student,” when she followed her Furman teacher there.

“She came to Duke with a clear intent of getting both degrees,” Chafe says. “It’s an amazing story of purposefulness.”


“She did exactly what she needed to do to write the book that she most cared about,” Chafe says.

Brown-Nagin is currently finishing her next book, a biography of Constance Baker Motley, the daughter of a Yale chef who became a civil rights lawyer and then the first black woman to serve as a federal judge. Studying Motley’s life has helped Brown-Nagin continue to shape her own ideas about public service and social commitment.

Her new role at Radcliffe provides a place for those ideas to grow and help shape others.

**RADCLIFFE**

Radcliffe College, the renowned women’s college affiliated with Harvard, merged formally with Harvard in 1999 to become the Radcliffe Institute.

The institute’s highly competitive fellowship program funds 50 scholars and artists annually, giving them quiet time to reflect, research and write. Brown-Nagin was a Radcliffe fellow in 2016.

“She knows first-hand how the Radcliffe fellowship program makes a difference in the lives of individual scholars and artists, and how its library and academic programs hold promise for pursuing truth and bridging disparate worlds,” says Martha Minow, Carter Professor of General Jurisprudence at Harvard and former dean of Harvard Law School. “I am one of so many who look forward to her leadership in this new and important role.”

Those who wondered about the course at its outset are celebrating with her today.

“It’s really, really a prestigious appointment and I’m so proud of her,” Bainbridge says.

And they have high expectations for her future – possibilities such as university president or judge come up in multiple conversations.

“I would not be surprised by any of those things in the next 10 years,” Mitchell says.

Following the formal announcement of her deanship, Brown-Nagin meets Radcliffe Institute faculty, staff and supporters.
THE TASK FORCE ON SLAVERY AND JUSTICE LOOKS BACK AT A SHARED HISTORY TO HELP FURMAN MOVE FORWARD.

When Furman History Professor Steve O’Neill ’82 started his research for the university’s newly commissioned Task Force on Slavery and Justice in the summer of 2017, he thought his experience as cochair of the 2015 committee commemorating the 50th anniversary of desegregation at Furman had opened his eyes “a little more” for the challenge that lay ahead. It took about five minutes to realize they still were barely open.
“My first day in Special Collections, I opened up the folders ... and I was shaking to the core because I couldn’t read it,” he says. “I didn’t know how I was going to do this.”

The written word has changed quite a bit since the 1800s, O’Neill discovered, making the primary sources of information about Furman in its early decades – extensive letters and diaries written by university founder Richard Furman and son James C. Furman, now housed in Special Collections and Archives above the James B. Duke Library – nearly unintelligible. Fortunately for O’Neill, who specializes in 20th century South and the Civil Rights movement, he wasn’t alone on his journey to examine Furman’s early years.

One of the members of his team of student researchers, Laura Bloodworth ‘18, had experience reading 19th-century handwriting, and she was able to translate the texts under the supervision of history professors Carolyn Day and Courtney Tollison Hartness ‘99. They revealed how dedicated Richard Furman was to saving souls and healing rifts among the Baptists while providing theological justification for slavery. They also showed how much more aggressively James Furman championed the institution of slavery and the major role he played in pushing South Carolina into the Civil War after moving the campus to what is now downtown Greenville in 1851.

James C. Furman brings with him a militant pro-slavery attitude that by 1860 has whipped up into a fervor for secession,” says task force chair and Communication Studies Associate Professor Brandon Inabinet ’04. “And with that comes a lot of the over-the-top racist arguments you suspect might be the worst of his time, because he’s trying to convince – by means of rhetoric – people who previously had been pro-Union. His words shock the modern conscience.”

Insights into the two men who founded and built Furman were part of the task force’s mission to make “a firm, scholarly understanding of the past” part of the university’s foundation. That’s a priority for current students like Chelsea McKelvey ’19.

“I’m very passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion, and reconciling with the past. Being an African-American female on a predominantly white campus, I recognize that there is a need for our campus to be more aware of the past of our university as well as current issues,” says McKelvey, who is one of three student representatives on the task force. “I think we do live in somewhat of a bubble at Furman, so I really wanted to be a part of something that would enlighten our community in that way.”
Another, perhaps bigger, part of the task force’s mission was to help restore dignity to people who’d had theirs taken by slavery. That turned out to be difficult, because, like many other slaveholders, Richard and James Furman did not write a lot about their slaves. O’Neill’s team could find almost no information about them outside of an occasional first name and census figures that tracked them as property.

“The idea was that we were going to recover the humanity of the former slaves of the Furman family by delving into this research and bringing out their lives and bringing out their voices,” O’Neill says. “But that really hasn’t been the case, because we’re having to work through sources that were recorded by James and Richard Furman. And they simply didn’t pay that much attention to their slaves.”

A glimmer of hope appeared in the form of a post-slavery picture of a man standing outside James Furman’s Cherrydale house in Greenville, taken in 1890. The image shows a figure partially obscured by bushes, a shadow across his face. On the back, he’s identified as “Abraham, an ex-slave, for many years a family servant.”

Though this may not seem like much to go on, O’Neill and his team, which also included students Andy Teye ’18, Yilan Luo ’18 and Marian Baker ’17, as well as Tollison and Associate Professor of Political Science Teresa Cosby, had enough to start reconstructing some of Abraham’s life. He appeared in Census Bureau records by 1900 as Abraham Syms, and land records indicated he was born in August of 1839. He married a woman named Madora, had six children and eventually learned to read and write.

Abraham Sims, as he was properly identified, was a cook who owned a home on Paris Mountain Road in Brutontown, and the task force was able to trace his walk up Poinsett Highway to work at “the Big House” of Cherrydale. He’s buried in the cemetery at Brutontown, with “Sims” engraved on a gravestone nearly invisible underneath vines and trees.

The quest to turn Abraham from nothing more than a grainy black-and-white photograph to a person evolved into the “Seeking Abraham Project.” Sims now exists in Furman’s historical record, as do the 56 enslaved people James Furman owned in 1850 who undoubtedly helped build the school’s first campus in Greenville along with the many others who were “hired out” to help with the construction. They’re no longer invisible, their contributions no longer ignored.

That’s a powerful answer to one question task force members heard more than any other: Why is it necessary to talk about such an unpleasant past?

“To say, ‘Oh, slavery was bad, and we shouldn’t talk about it because...”
it’s really negative,’ is to say all of those people who were slaves aren’t worth talking about.”

The task force came about partially in response to a 2016 editorial that Baker, a history and biology double major, wrote for The Paladin student newspaper expressing the surprise and disappointment she felt when she learned through her own research that Richard and James Furman were not only slave owners but two of South Carolina’s most influential pro-slavery figures. She also wondered whether these pasts were being downplayed and made a strong case for how she felt that history influences the university’s present culture.

Resulting conversations from the piece reached the office of Furman Provost George Shields, who commissioned the task force with the support of President Elizabeth Davis and the Furman Board of Trustees.

Slavery ended with the South’s defeat in the Civil War, and the current Furman campus broke ground in 1953, long after both Richard and James Furman were dead. But to ignore slavery in recounting Furman’s history, O’Neill says, is to ignore the high probability there would be no Furman without it.

If he’d rejected slavery, Richard Furman certainly wouldn’t have become the first president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, which gave him the social status and platform to become the university’s namesake. And James Furman relied heavily on the monetary advantage enslaved people provided to move the school to Greenville.

“Here’s the history … one of slowly integrating, working together, finding new ways forward.”

History … it is a little disheartening. Once we are able to really confront that and make the campus community ever more aware of what happened and where we plan to go, then we’ll be able to better move forward and maybe see some of that diversity that we should have on campus grow.”

And as The Furman Advantage articulates, diversity and inclusion are essential to preparing students for meaningful lives and for moving Furman forward as an institution of higher learning, which leads into the task force’s ultimate objective: helping Furman create a future with this new history.

“This is an opportunity to try to say, ‘Here’s the history, a shared history (that’s) often racial because it’s in the South, but one of slowly integrating, working together, finding new ways forward,’” Inabinet says. “That’s a good one to tell.”

What’s next? The campus community, alumni and Board of Trustees are discussing the Task Force on Slavery and Justice’s “Seeking Abraham” report in several forums this fall. The board will consider the report’s recommendations through the spring and work with the university to develop a plan and timeline for implementing approved steps. For more information, visit furman.edu/tfsj.
Faculty, staff and alumni collaborate to offer students exclusive internships in ocular oncology
IN THE MEDICAL FIELD

a good many decisions can be determined by number.

From fevers to blood cell count, blood pressure to cholesterol, numbers tell us what’s measuring high or low, what’s “good” or “bad,” and what’s worth worrying over or celebrating. We rely upon these numbers to steer us to vital decisions that many times can determine major lifestyle changes such as beginning a weight loss effort, using a new medication or changing a habit. For these reasons, medically speaking, numbers can hold a lot of power.

But numbers can also be deceiving.

When she was a senior, neuroscience major Madison Ritter ’17 applied for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital’s Pediatric Oncology Education program. The program denied her because of a GPA requirement that Ritter missed by a percentage of a point. To the admission committee at St. Jude, Ritter didn’t meet the requirements, so she couldn’t be considered for the program; end of story.

But Susan Ybarra, associate director for Furman’s Institute for the Advancement of Community Health, knew the facts behind that number: Not only was Ritter hardworking, determined and intelligent, but she was also a student at one of the more challenging liberal arts and sciences universities in the country.

Ybarra called Dr. Matthew Wilson ’86, professor of ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee and the St. Jude chair in pediatric ophthalmology, was instrumental in creating medical internships for three Furman students.
“Matt and I met when he visited Furman one time. During that visit, he made it very clear that he wanted to help and be connected with students in any way he could,” explains Ybarra. “So after learning that Maddie didn’t get into the program, I shot him a quick email. I just asked for his advice. I told him that she planned on reapplying for the program, but I wondered if he had any other suggestions for her path.

“Matt quickly wrote back, ‘Send Maddie to me this summer. I’ll pay her. I want her in my lab,’” says Ybarra.

In a matter of several hours, the two had a plan for Ritter.

THE FIRST TWO
Ritter went on to shadow Wilson in his adult uveal melanoma clinic at the Hamilton Eye Institute and during his examination of retinoblastoma children at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. She also conducted research for her senior thesis with Dr. Vanessa Morales-Tirado, Wilson’s collaborator and principal investigator in the ocular oncology translation research laboratory at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

“Maddie was a great student,” says Wilson. “Coming from Furman, I knew she would be,” he says. “That’s part of the disparity between some Furman students and other potential medical students. Some Furman students may not test the best, but they can think better than any top scorer.”

After that summer, Ritter was accepted into the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Greenville. And Wilson? He gave Ybarra a call.


So next was Ansley Ulmer ’18, another neuroscience major who conducted her thesis based on work she did with Wilson.

“I began to see a pattern in the students that we were sending to Matt,” explains Ybarra. “They were all neuroscience majors who had completed research in biology professor Victoria Turgeon’s lab. It was the perfect background to the professional experience with Matt and the other physicians.”

“They take what they have learned at Furman and expand on it here,” says Wilson. “Students learn to work in a professional lab setting while also shadowing me in my clinics, so they’re able to see the interplay between clinic and lab.”

AND THEN THERE WERE THREE

The second semester of her senior year, Michala Burges ’17 participated in a global health class with health sciences professor Meghan Slining, where she really discovered her passion for public health. Meanwhile, she had applied to medical school with the hopes of starting that

“These students’ ability to critically think, analyze and produce a meaningful product is astounding.”
fall. However, the schools answered that her GPA wasn’t high enough for fall entry. “At first, I was devastated,” says Burges. “It didn’t seem fair because I had worked so hard at Furman.”

But then Burges received an email from Ybarra about an internship opening with Wilson. “The email contained the description of the position, and it sounded like the perfect job for me,” says Burges. “It involved shadowing Dr. Wilson, as well as helping to build the retinoblastoma program in the Department of Global Pediatric Medicine at St. Jude.”

According to Wilson, St. Jude had just revamped its International Outreach Program into the Department of Global Pediatric Medicine. The mission of St. Jude Global was simple: build capacity for low- and middle-income countries to care for their pediatric cancer patients. Considering 80 percent of the world’s children live in these countries, the need to care for them is enormous. The success of the retinoblastoma program at St. Jude made it a priority project for Global.

Retinoblastoma, a cancer of the retina in the eye, is usually diagnosed before a child is three years old. Left untreated, retinoblastoma can spread throughout the eye, optic nerve, and brain, as well as to the bones and bone marrow. Caught early, the cancer is treatable, with greater than a 90 percent survival rate. However, according to Wilson, middle and lower income countries lack resources to diagnose retinoblastoma early when it is still contained to the eye. As a result, children present late with advanced disease that has spread elsewhere.

Metastatic retinoblastoma has a very poor survival rate even in developed countries. Of the 8,000 cases in the world, 80 percent occur in middle- or low-income countries. Wilson would task Burges with assessing the capacity for these countries to treat the retinoblastoma, as well as devising recommendations to better support these areas.

“After being accepted into the program, I had three months to move to Memphis and learn all I could about retinoblastoma,” says Burges. “I read countless articles and watched all of Dr. Wilson’s seminars. I studied everything I could find that he had published on the issue; I wanted to be prepared when I started.”

And prepared she was. Burges began by contributing to the education capacity for the disease, publishing educational pieces online. She then devised a survey that would be distributed to these lower-tier countries to assess their capability to diagnose and treat retinoblastoma.

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“Michala really took the Middle East by storm,” says Wilson. “After researching and writing the survey, she then gathered the results and came up with an itemized budget to help build the capacity in that area. The accomplishments we made in the Middle East would not have been possible without her. I didn’t have the time or bandwidth to handle it, and if she wasn’t here, we’d probably all still be spinning our wheels.

“What I appreciate about Michala – about all of the Furman students I’ve worked with – is that you give them a direction, you give them a little guidance, you come back to check in, and it’s done,” says Wilson. “These students’ ability to critically think, analyze and produce a meaningful product is astounding.”

Not just a number
After Burges presented her findings to Wilson, he suggested that she accompany him and some of his fellow physicians to Jordan to share her research with many of the physicians she’d been communicating with regarding the capacity project.

“I was blown away to have that opportunity,” says Burges. “It was very humbling. I stood in front of a room of people who embody exactly who I want to be one day, and I shared with them what I had learned over the past few months.

“After not getting into medical school, this experience helped to reaffirm that I could do this. I could still have a future here. I felt like I had made a meaningful contribution to the field before even getting a medical degree. How many students straight out of undergrad can say that?”

“When Susan first called me to help with internships, I didn’t know how it would all develop,” says Wilson. “But now, I couldn’t be happier. I took the gamble, and it has paid dividends. It’s exceedingly gratifying to see the results.”
A VOICE FOR UNDERSTANDING

China scholar helps bridge knowledge gap in the U.S.

By Kelley Bruss
As a China scholar, she understands both the depth of the problems and the extent of the promise held within the borders of the world’s second largest economy.

“Pointing a finger and trying to overly simplify the solutions is just disengaging us from having a voice,” she says. “The more you understand, the more strategic you can be in promoting your own values.”

Kaup is Furman’s James B. Duke Professor of Asian Studies and Politics and International Affairs. Those who’ve traveled with her call her “a force of nature” and “absolutely brilliant.”

In May, Kaup was elected to the board of directors of the National Committee on United States-China Relations, a role that will enhance both her own scholarly work and her voice in helping others understand the country she studies.

The committee’s work fosters constructive relationships between the U.S. and China, in part by connecting China scholars across disciplines and equipping them to be voices in their communities and on a national stage. It’s work Kaup was already doing.

“That’s just native to her,” says Jan Berris, vice president of the committee. “It’s part of her DNA.”

China scholars sometimes feel pressed to defend their interest in a system ripe for criticism. No one understands the gravity of the abuses better than those scholars, says Kaup, who has testified before Congress about human rights issues in China.

“The people who understand it really well actually are the most angry,” she says. “We have many friends who are suffering consequences of how the regime behaves.”

But she says it’s critical to study how far a government can go in shaping a culture. Her research focuses on the country’s responses to poverty and ethnic minority groups.

“You need to understand what the challenges are that they’re
confronting and how and why they’re making the choices,” she says.

**Building a passion**

Kaup’s first trip to China was booked for the summer after she finished her undergraduate degree at Princeton University. Two days before her graduation, Chinese soldiers fired on protestors in Tiananmen Square. There would be no traveling that summer.

Undeterred, Kaup went to graduate school, then took a year to teach English in China. She’s traveled there frequently ever since.

Kaup began teaching at Furman in 1997. Her work has included helping create the First Year China Experience, which funds trips for students who commit to studying Mandarin for at least a year. She’s helped build connections with partner institutions in China, including Minzu University and Soochow University. And she’s pursued and won major grants to enhance the China program.

The Asian Studies department has five China specialists in multi-disciplinary roles: philosophy, film, literature, history and political science (Kaup’s position). Each of the department’s three majors – Asian studies, Chinese studies and Japanese studies – has about 20 students, some of whom are Chinese nationals.

“We provide a very different understanding of China than they are presented with at home,” Kaup says.

The department is currently creating a China alumni association with two distinct groups: graduates who are Chinese nationals and live anywhere in the world, and graduates of any nationality who are living in China.

**Kennedi Alsop ’18** came to Furman with her heart set on studying Japan, where she had lived as a girl as part of her father’s military service. When she was selected for the China experience instead, she admits being disappointed. A few weeks with Kaup changed that.

“Her passion for China really allowed me to be passionate about it as well,” says Alsop, who majored in political science and Asian studies.

For each issue that Kaup covered in class or on a street in China, she had a personal story to go with it.

“You could really learn more about the country through her experiences,” Alsop says.
Alsop spent a semester of her junior year in China and then returned to the country after graduation for a two-month internship before beginning her master’s degree in international commerce and policy at George Mason University.

Opening eyes
Besides leading student groups, Kaup brings alumni, business and civic leaders, and even Congressional delegations to China.

Nick Hoffman of Atlanta, a member of Furman’s Parents Council, traveled to China with Kaup and about 15 others. She’s “absolutely brilliant in her scholarship and experience,” he says.

“Kate’s a force of nature,” says Dave Ellison ’72, a Furman trustee and wealth management advisor who’s also traveled with Kaup.

“Their economy is going to be the biggest economy in the world in short order,” Ellison says. “They’re critically important.”

As they traveled through both major cities and rural areas, Kaup pointed out details the group might otherwise miss and provided context to what they would see and hear.

“Kate was just wanting to open our eyes and educate us,” says Hoffman, who works for an investment management firm.

Berris, the committee’s vice president, says issues of great consequence – climate, global trading, cyber security, to name a few – require the world’s major powers to work together.

“China has just gotten too big and too powerful – too many people, too much of everything – to not be part of the solution,” she says. Those who care about the future “need to care about China and what makes it tick and why it’s acting the way it’s acting.”

Looking to the future
China scholars walk a narrowing line between access and academic freedom.

“It is tightening, without a doubt,” Kaup says.

While the risk is greatest for partner and sponsor institutions within China, visiting scholars regularly evaluate their own work in terms of safety. Kaup has chosen to stop visiting one area, in part to protect the people there.

But the work is too important to abandon altogether.

“It’s dangerous for the country (the U.S.) to have such limited understanding of such a key partner,” Kaup says.

Her new role with the national committee will expand her ability to foster that understanding.

The committee was formed in 1966 to assist with reestablishing diplomatic relations. Its current work focuses on bringing sides together for conversations and partnerships that will be mutually beneficial.

In 2008, Kaup was a fellow with the committee’s Public Intellectuals Program. Now, as a board member, she will sit alongside former U.S. ambassadors, business leaders and military leaders, offering a scholarly, and distinctly southern, perspective.

“I’m really delighted that she’s on the board,” Berris says.

Alsop, the recent graduate, says the existence of an authoritarian regime that has created massive economic growth is an enigma. Kaup can help students and the broader community grapple with that.

“China is not one of those countries that isn’t going to make a difference,” Alsop says. “It’s probably the country to really watch these days.”

Kate Kaup with participants in the LIASE Summer Science Exposure Program, which explores how higher education institutions, government and non-governmental organizations, businesses, and private citizens work to address environmental challenges in the U.S.
AWAKENING THE CLASSICS

BY MARY GOODWIN

PROFESSOR CHRIS BLACKWELL TRANSPORTS ANCIENT LITERATURE TO THE DIGITAL WORLD
WHAT DO “RAINBOW MAN” AND CHRISTOPHER W. BLACKWELL, THE LOUIS G. FORGIONE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR IN THE FURMAN CLASSICS DEPARTMENT, HAVE IN COMMON?

ACCORDING TO BLACKWELL, AN APPRECIATION FOR CITATION.

“He understood the true meaning of citation,” Blackwell says of Rollen Stewart, the controversial evangelist who traveled to sporting events wearing a rainbow wig and a shirt or sign reading John 3:16. “Often students think the citations they put at the bottom of their papers are there to prove they didn’t plagiarize. But really, they’re for getting you to where you need to be.”

For Stewart, that was a new testament Bible verse. His citation of John 3:16, or the book of John, chapter 3, verse 16, will take a reader to the same message in any of the Bible’s 5 billion copies.

This concept is called canonical citation – citing a work beyond a single version, edition or physical expression. And Blackwell has devoted 16 years of work to bringing it alive in the modern digital age.

“People were good at canonical citation before the printing press,” Blackwell explains. “But after around 1480, citations became page numbers. If you’re reading “Pride and Prejudice” in large print, and a citation references a page in standard print, it’s no longer getting you to the same place.”
In 2001, Blackwell began a partnership with Neel Smith, professor and chair of the Classics Department at Holy Cross College, to bring canonical citation to the 21st century — and more specifically, to teaching and research in the humanities.

They began working on the Homer Multitext project (HMT), a digital library that archives texts and images related to Homer’s ancient Greek poems “The Iliad” and “The Odyssey,” led by humanities professors Casey Due and Mary Ebbot.

Together, Blackwell and Smith developed a digital citation method called Collections, Indices, Texts, Extensions (CITE) architecture to provide a framework for referencing materials that could outlive rapidly changing technologies. Using the tool, scholars can search for something vague or specific, something Blackwell says no other system of identification is able to do.

“We with CITE we can identify Book 2 of “The Iliad” in any version or the third letter iota in the Greek text of Book 1, line 1, as it appears in the Venetus A manuscript,” he explains. “And this spans to all materials in the HMT project: texts, physical artifacts like manuscripts, and documentary objects like photographs.”

To expand this list, Blackwell and Smith are working to make CITE more accessible. They’re developing better documentation and creating tutorials for potential users. In the future, Blackwell sees this tool — or even the concept of it — impacting various other databases.

“I could see this as a building block for digitally tagging or sorting complex data like personal medical records,” says Patrick Rankowitz ’15, one of Blackwell’s students. “Especially when the data isn’t standardized or is always changing.”

And beyond referencing items, the system can capture the semantics of work in a format that translates to both humans and computers. For example, you could search for abstract citations, such as “future tense of Attica.” According to Blackwell, this helps scholars not only analyze texts, but also declare meanings.
In May 2018, HMT published a complete 21st-century edition of the Venetus A Manuscript of “The Iliad,” which was the work of 178 editors, the majority of whom were undergraduate students.

“People thought Neel and I were crazy having undergraduate students edit Greek manuscripts. They said it was too hard,” Blackwell recalls. “But the work of those students is the only reason we’ve been able to spend this much time on the nature of scholarly information.”

Patrick Rankowitz was one of those students. Even though he was a political science major taking introduction to ancient Greek, he says Blackwell encouraged and allowed all students to take part in the project by reading, transcribing and analyzing text.

The majority of Rankowitz’s work consisted of digitizing Greek manuscripts and labeling them as he put them in the system. This helped ensure that future users could apply a syntax tool to construct diagrams of how the sentences were structured, and even compare the work of authors like Aristotle and Grotius.

“Before, all of these things were strictly in books and could only be looked at one way,” Rankowitz says. “And now that it’s all digital and in a logical catalog, you can really look at it any way you want. It’s incredibly cool that this movement of digitizing and interacting digitally with classic Greek text is happening at Furman.”

In addition to the Venetus A Manuscript, HMT has digitized two other manuscripts of “The Iliad,” held by the Biblioteca Marciana in Venice; two manuscripts from the Real Biblioteca de El Escorial; and the “Bankes Papyrus” of “The Iliad” Book 24 from the British Library.

Blackwell and Smith also hope to create a CITE extension that would allow digital audio files to be identified, retrieved and played through canonical citation.

“As humanists, we must record each unique phenomenon that we study,” Blackwell says. “It’s not enough to know that all apples fall the same way; we’re interested in this fall of this apple.”

“It’s incredibly cool that this movement of digitizing and interacting digitally with classic Greek text is happening at Furman.”
The Comeback

A WINNING PITCH

In less than a year, soccer alum Marco Carrizales goes from player to franchise founder

By Ron Wagner '93
It’s more than a little ironic that Marco Carrizales ’16 moved to Greenville from his hometown of Dallas because he was tired of being known as “the soccer guy.” That’s because right now there may be no bigger soccer guy in Greenville than Carrizales, who has nobody to blame but himself for creating perhaps the hottest soccer ticket the city has ever seen with Greenville FC.

As a first-year member of the National Premier Soccer League, Greenville FC took a community hungry for some high-level soccer to call its own by storm last summer, averaging more than 1,500 fans over eight home matches played at Furman’s Eugene Stone Soccer Stadium. In other words, a best-case scenario when Carrizales came up with the idea to build his own franchise from scratch.

“Our fans are probably a lot of people who might not ever go to Furman’s campus,” Carrizales says. “It’s fun to bring new faces into a new stadium I once played in.”

Carrizales is president and CEO of the franchise, which competes in the Southeast Conference of the league’s Southern Division. Only a couple of years ago, he was a member of Furman’s Southern Conference Tournament Championship team and was drafted in the fourth round of the 2017 Major League Soccer draft by FC Dallas. But a life spent largely on the soccer pitch was upended when he failed to make the squad, leaving Carrizales, like so many athletes, unsure where to go when there aren’t any games left to play.

“I didn’t earn a contract. My knee was busted up, and I had to determine – do I continue chasing a dream in some random country for two years and see where it takes me, or do I face the music and see what else is out there?” Carrizales says. “My Furman degree helped me immediately after I made the decision not to continue playing soccer.”
A club star throughout his youth in Texas, Carrizales initially returned to Dallas after earning a bachelor’s in communication studies from Furman, but he soon wanted to escape the expectations many had of his playing career. “Everyone knew me as a soccer player who was drafted by a pro team,” he says. “I just figured Greenville was such a good place for somebody who just got out of college. There were so many job opportunities. It’s a young city. It’s a growing city.”

It’s also one where he had strong connections despite spending only two seasons playing for the Paladins as a transfer from Southern Methodist University. One of those connections was longtime Greenville businessman and Furman soccer supporter Rick Slagle, who met Carrizales as a player and later offered to let him stay with his family after Carrizales returned to South Carolina.

When he heard Carrizales’ idea for Greenville FC in April 2017, Slagle’s encouragement was based on more than blind allegiance. “I picked up pretty early that Marco was not your typical college kid. Pretty level-headed, pretty responsible,” Slagle says. “I said, ‘If you think you can raise the family-and-friends money, everything else, you can do. I’m a hundred percent confident you can pull this off.’”

Carrizales hadn’t given himself much time, however. He had about three months to prepare everything the league expansion board required in order to consider the franchise application, which meant Carrizales went from having no job to working almost constantly.

He enlisted the help of his older brother, Richard II, who was an economic analyst in Dallas, and father, Richard, a Dallas attorney, while introducing himself to as many people in Greenville and the league as he could. Carrizales found out quickly that playing on a team does little to prepare you to build one. But help with opening doors from Slagle and other friends of Furman soccer, like
A Greenville FC player celebrates a goal.
The Comeback

Steve Spinks and Rob Victor ’09, was invaluable.

“You have to have a built-out business model from your naming ideas to how you’re going to operate – business structure, venue, training site – just tons of boxes you’ve got to check off before you submit anything,” Carrizales says. “Once I did, they held it for two, two-and-a-half months and went through every single page I submitted.”

The league liked what it saw, and in November 2017, Greenville FC was officially invited to join. That was the good news. The bad was that now the work started over again, starting with finding a coach and followed by building a roster. Having Furman as a home stadium was a big bonus for recruiting players, one few other teams would have had the option to use.

“I would not have done it if it was not Marco. We’re really protective of the field, and I don’t want it to get overused for our varsity programs,” says Allison, who has led Furman to eight NCAA tournaments in 22 years. “I went to (Athletics Director) Mike Buddie and said, ‘I really do want to support this guy. He’s one of ours. He’ll respect the field. He’ll respect the program, and he’ll take care of the place.’”

More than 2,000 fans poured into the 3,000-seat Stone Stadium for the home opener, and virtually from the start the Milltown Operatives – Greenville FC’s “unofficial/official” supporters group – gave the matches an atmosphere that would make a European club team proud. The dedication to revelry included banging drums, flags, colorful costumes and loud marches into the stadium.

“In the Greenville community, people want to embrace
“IN THE GREENVILLE COMMUNITY, PEOPLE WANT TO EMBRACE AND HELP OTHER PEOPLE. AND SOCCER FOR GREENVILLE – IT WAS THE RIGHT TIME.”

and help other people,” Slagle says. “And soccer for Greenville – it was the right time.”

Part of the enthusiasm for Greenville FC certainly came from that pent-up desire for local soccer, but maybe the biggest part is the result of Carrizales’ tireless dedication to building a fan base. Social media is a big part of that, as is reaching out to the entire community.

A Mexican-American, Carrizales made it a point to connect with Hispanics living in the Greenville area, right down to social media pages written entirely in Spanish.

The result has been a large and enthusiastic presence at matches.

“We’ve been really intentional in marketing to all different communities,” Carrizales says. “I don’t speak Spanish, but my parents are both fluent in it. We’re seeing that it’s working. There was actually a Spanish TV outlet at a match.”

“This is a great way to bring people onto campus who have never been to campus before,” Allison says. “And he’s done an amazing job with that. The fan support is just amazing during games.”
Shelf Life

MIND GAMES
Fact, fiction, mystery and life stories

BY STAFF
“ACTIVATING THE MODERN CLASSROOM” by Julian A. Reed (Information Age Publishers)

“Activating the Modern Classroom” presents research and provides engaging, easy-to-implement classroom activities to help elementary-grade teachers address some of today’s most pressing challenges. The book provides teachers with strategies to activate language arts, literacy, math, social studies and science curriculum in ways that can improve student behavior, increase focus, and enhance academic engagement and performance.

The book also includes research-based strategies for helping kinesthetic learners and describes how moving while learning can help students with ADD and ADHD.

In addition to serving as a professor of health sciences at Furman University, Reed is an affiliate of the Prevention Research Center in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

“DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL” by Monte Dutton ’80 (Amazon Digital Services LLC)

A veteran sports columnist unexpectedly loses his job. A rebellious young writer takes a drugged-out joy ride trip to Southern California with a roguish hustler. An English teacher at a prep school toils in vain on a breakthrough novel, watching his teenaged pupils go dangerously astray.

All are related. All are drawn together as they gradually learn they are pawns in a vast, illegal conspiracy involving politics, law enforcement, big business and Russian operatives. They’re in over their heads with no apparent way to get out. Everything will be fine as long as they are obedient.

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is Furman alumnus Monte Dutton’s eighth novel. He has written about a stoned musician, a disgraced coach, a corrupt politician, a pair of Texans home from World War II, and, most recently, a brash young stock car racer. Dutton lives in Clinton, South Carolina.

“JAWS OF LIFE: STORIES” by Laura Morris (Vandalia Press)

In the hills of north central West Virginia, there lives a cast of characters who face all manner of problems. From the people who are incarcerated in West Virginia’s prisons, to a woman who is learning how to lose her sight with grace, to another who sorely regrets selling her land to a fracking company, “Jaws of Life” portrays the diverse concerns the people of this region face every day – poverty, mental illness, drug abuse, the loss of the coal mines, and the rise of new extractive industries that exert their own toll.

Morris, who joined the Furman faculty in 2015, teaches creative writing and literature. Before that, she spent three years as the National Endowment for the Arts/Bureau of Prisons Artist-in-Residence at Bryan Federal Prison Camp in Bryan, Texas. She has previously published short fiction in Appalachian Heritage, The Louisville Review, Notre Dame Review and other journals. She is originally from north central West Virginia.

“LADY BE GOOD” by Amber Brock ’02 (Crown Publishing Group)

Kitty Tessler is the winsome socialite daughter of a self-made hotel and nightclub tycoon. She spends her days perfecting her “look” and nights charming the boys who frequent her father’s clubs. It seems like the fun will never end until Kitty’s father issues an ultimatum: she may no longer date the idle rich. Instead, Kitty must marry Andre, her father’s second-in-command, and take her place as the First Lady of his hotel empire. Kitty is forced to come up with an elaborate plan to protect her future. Then Kitty meets Max, a member of a band visiting her father’s club, and her plans take a turn. When her efforts backfire, Kitty is forced to reconsider her future before she loses everyone she loves.

Amber Brock teaches British literature at an all-girls’ school in Atlanta. She holds an M.A. from the University of Georgia and lives in Smyrna with her husband, also an English teacher, and their three rescue dogs.
Give Until It Feels Good

What do North Dakota, Colorado, Indiana, Taiwan, Texas, Arizona, Missouri, Virginia, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Ohio have in common? These are all places I have called home. Growing up as an “Air Force brat,” home for me is everywhere. How happy and excited I am to add Greenville and Furman University to the list! Since my husband, Bill, and I arrived in the Upstate in June, we have felt warmly welcomed. We cannot wait to show off our new community to our two adult children, our daughter Kirin and her spouse Matthew, and our son Austin, both who enjoyed the enriching experience of attending small, liberal arts colleges.

What has crystallized for me since I arrived is how much everyone wants to be here. The excitement around and for Furman at this moment is palpable. Liberal arts and small private colleges are two of my passions. Chocolate, dogs, gardening, old houses, sports, reading and travel are just a few others. The opportunity to be part of Furman’s compelling mission and bright future brings me both a sense of inspired joy and one of tremendous responsibility. Small colleges and universities are special places, and a liberal arts and sciences education is more necessary and valuable than ever. The work of helping to strengthen our mission, expand The Furman Advantage and engage our students, faculty and staff in the life of the university and the broader Greenville community – all in service to enriching the world through education – is why I love my job!

When people say, “Give ’til it hurts,” a little piece of my soul dies. Making a charitable gift is the ultimate expression of optimism, a testament to our belief that a better tomorrow is possible and the critical role we each can play in making that more vibrant future a reality. As a member of this community, I hope you will join me in giving until it feels good ... until you know the satisfaction of a student’s life forever changed because of a Furman education and a scholarship ... until you are inspired by the work of a faculty member who is partnering with a student on research, discovering new questions to ask and new knowledge to share, thanks to a gift for summer research ... until you experience the pride of making the university more vital every day, in every way, thanks to an unrestricted annual operating gift.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know more of the Furman family as we build on our success of philanthropic and volunteer support. Being a development professional is an incredible privilege because I have the honor of interacting with donors at some of the best moments of their lives – when they are being generous and making a positive impact on the lives of our students, and through our students and alumni, the world. There is no better work than that. And no better place to do that work than here at Furman.

Hope to see you soon, on campus or at a Furman event near you. Look for me – I will be the one with the indistinguishable accent and the purple scarf!

Heidi Hansen McCrory
Vice President for Development

A Note from Cherrydale

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Heidi Hansen McCrory
Vice President for Development
CREATE YOUR LEGACY.

YOU HAVE BEEN WISE WITH YOUR INVESTMENTS. MAKE THE WISE CHOICE WITH YOUR PHILANTHROPIC PLAN.

If you are 70.5, you may be able to use your IRA distribution to make a charitable gift. With recent changes to tax law, you may find making an IRA charitable rollover a way to reduce taxable income.

Contact us to learn how you can secure your FURMAN LEGACY by making an IRA charitable rollover gift this year.

Phone: 864.294.3717
Email: PLANNEDGIVING@FURMAN.EDU
Website: PLANNEDGIVING.FURMAN.EDU
During the summer months, Furman offered a variety of opportunities for alumni, parents and friends to engage with the university and connect with each other in meaningful ways.

Whether participating in a panel discussion to guide parents through the orientation process or attending regional events to share the Furman experience with accepted students, Furman family members exemplified The Furman Advantage. Learn about upcoming opportunities to get involved on the Furman Alumni website (alumni.furman.edu) and by following Furman Alumni on social media.
In June, a group of Furman alumni and parents traveled to France’s wine country as a part of the Richard Furman Society Embark Travel Series. This photo was taken at Chateau Pichon Baron, one of the many exclusive winery tours the group had the opportunity to experience, thanks to our alumnus, David Trone ’77, owner and founder of Total Wine & More.

Featured is a cooking class that was one of the experiences on the fun-filled itinerary during the amazing Bordeaux, France, trip. Pictured: Rick and Ashley Wimmer, P’19; Elizabeth, Chad and Charles Davis, Ruth and Rick ’74 Wrenn; Chris Foy, and Les ’76 and Kay Knight.

Jennifer ’92 and Eddie ’89 Good enjoying an exclusive winery tour.

Eric Cain ’04 (far right) leads a pilgrimage hike in Paris Mountain State Park during the Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection’s Alumni Retreat in July. Pictured: Mark Tate ’96, Steve Ealy ’69, Kate Elkins ’00, Kitty Dombroski ’81, John Hough ’81, Mary Miller ’87, Shellie Hammock ’01, Susie Caffey ’81, and Cain.
1962
John R. Cassady ’62, MA ’72, a longtime member of the National Cartoonists Society, Graphic Artists Guild and designer of the first official academic banner for Furman, recently had his second book of gag cartoons published. “Animal Tales from Jack Cassady’s Monday Funnies” is based on his weekly internet humor feature and the amusing interactions of domestic and wild animals with people. The book is available from Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Xlibris or Cassady’s website www.ToonMaker.com.

1970
Kenneth Holland ’70 was announced on April 11 as the next president of the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF). Holland will succeed David Sedney, who has served as AUAF’s acting president since September, helping to lead AUAF’s recovery from terrorist attacks last August. Holland holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Chicago, a Master of Arts in government and international relations from the University of Virginia and a bachelor’s in political science from Furman.

1974
Delia “Betsy” Moseley ’74 retired in June as Furman’s Senior Planned Giving Officer in the development office after 22 years of distinguished service.

1976

1979
Mary Kathryn Brown ’79 was recently hired as librarian at Woodward Academy North in the Atlanta area.

1983
Charles Ambrose ’83 was named president and CEO of KnowledgeWorks, a national organization committed to providing every learner with meaningful personalized learning experiences that ensure success in college, career and civic life. Ambrose has gained national recognition for innovative programs that encourage student transition from high school to college to the workforce.

1984
Stephen Schoen ’84 recently expanded his company, Schoen Insulation Services, with the addition of a 60,000-square-foot facility in Canton, Georgia. His company, which will celebrate its 30th year in business in 2019, is the national leader in manufacturing of non-metallic parts for customers in the power generation, aerospace and military, oil and gas, medical, electrical OEM, and water markets. The new manufacturing facility will create an additional 35 jobs, increasing the company’s workforce by more than 25 percent.

Mary Hendley Thornburg ’76 retired from teaching this June. Thornburg taught band 1976-1985 in Charleston and Spartanburg counties in South Carolina. She just completed 23 years in Sanger Independent School District in Sanger, Texas, and was named Teacher of the Year on her campus.
1985
John B. Eberly Sr. ’85 recently published his book “Toys, Tears, and Shepherd’s Pie: A Father’s Thoughts on Parenting.” It is available at several bookstores in Greenville, South Carolina, including M. Judson Bookellers, which is home to Furman on Main.

Timothy Earl Smith, MD ’85 and Julie Jones ’84 live in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where he is a pediatric anesthesiologist at Brenner Children’s Hospital of Wake Forest Baptist, and she is the head of lower school at Summit School. They were recently joined in Winston-Salem by their daughter, Carolyn Julia Smith ’15 Sutton, and son-in-law, Cameron James Sutton, MD ’13. He is a resident in anesthesiology at Wake Forest Baptist, and she teaches high school English at Forsyth Country Day School while working on her master’s in human services at Wake Forest University.

1986
Joe Hallett ’86 was selected as the recipient for this year’s National Horton Smith Award, which recognizes individuals for their outstanding and continuing contributions in developing and improving education opportunities for their fellow PGA professionals. He will be recognized at the 102nd PGA Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, California.

Daniel S. Sanders Jr. ’86 joined the firm Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as a partner in the Greenville and Atlanta offices on March 15. Sanders returns to the firm after spending more than 20 years at Michelin.

1989

1993
Stacey Simpson Duke ’93 received her doctorate in ministry in gospel and culture from Columbia Theological Seminary in May 2017. She received the John Nelsen Award for the best Doctor of Ministry final project, focusing on the Bible and the missional church. Stacey and her husband, Paul, have served together as pastors of First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan, since January 2001.

1995
Ernest Abisellan ’95 started serving as the economic counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, Romania, in July 2017.

J. Aaron Simmons receives Chiles-Harrill Award

Aaron Simmons, associate professor of philosophy, is the 2018 recipient of the Chiles-Harrill Award. The award, endowed by Frank Keener ’64, is presented annually to a member of the faculty or staff chosen by graduating seniors as having the greatest influence on the class. Recipients of the award become honorary members of the class.

“Dr. Simmons is the model of university engagement – through his intentional advising, his extraordinarily engaging classroom teaching, and his passionate support of extracurricular activities, including sports and clubs. When he told me to do something that ‘really blows my hair back,’ he provided the encouragement I needed to pursue achievement that had real meaning for me, not just activities for resumes and job applications,” says Noah Zimmerman ’18, who graduated summa cum laude in philosophy and politics and international affairs.

Professor Simmons was seated with the class of 2018 at Furman’s 2018 commencement ceremony.
If Dani Buckhiester ’15 hadn’t been late for the first day of her American government class, she and her husband, Jackson Holt ’14, might have never met. After all, they were in the music department at Furman for two years (before both switched to a political science major) and never ran into each other. So perhaps it was kismet that there was only one seat left in the back right corner of the classroom when Dani blew in, and that seat was in front of Jackson.

His first encounter was with Dani’s hair. “I had very long hair at the time,” she recalls, “and I color-coded my notes, so every time I would lean over to get a different pen to change colors, I’d flip my hair around.” “It was distracting,” Jackson says. “I found myself thinking ‘who does this girl think she is, putting her hair all over my desk?’”

One day, however, he asked her to study with him and another student from the class. The third student exited early, leaving Dani and Jackson together in the library. “We got so caught up in conversation that we never actually studied,” Dani says. They dated for two-and-a-half years before Jackson popped the question. The proposal turned out to be a comedy of errors, with him trying to recreate their first kiss – which had been outside on campus at night during a meteor shower – on an early morning run and have a friend photograph it. Unwittingly, Dani sabotaged her future fiancé’s plans at every turn, until he finally managed to pull off his proposal at sunset that evening.

Two years later, on July 15, 2017, they were married outside on her parents’ property in Pickens, South Carolina, with her father, a minister, officiating. What Dani describes as “taking a big, glitzy ballroom celebration out into the middle of nowhere” was immortalized in Martha Stewart Weddings magazine.

They celebrated their first anniversary in July with all the bells and whistles. They had photographs done, recreated their wedding meal at Larkins, and had local artisan baker Tessa Pinner make a smaller version of their wedding cake.

Dani has found her calling in the nonprofit sector and just wound up her third term of service in the national AmeriCorps VISTA program, helping to bridge socioeconomic gaps in the Greenville community. At the same time, she is working on her master’s in nonprofit management through Northeastern University. Armed with an MBA, Jackson is a financial services manager at Synnex, where his passion for entrepreneurship dovetails with his love of technology.

Despite their busy careers, Dani and Jackson find plenty of time to do the things they love together. They are both avid and spontaneous travelers, who also enjoy playing music, cooking, and most recently, exercising their new Border Collie puppy, Draco (Dani is a self-proclaimed “Harry Potter fanatic”).

The key to a happy marriage, this duo believes, is to be yourself and allow the other person the opportunity to be themselves. “Growing together has been fantastic,” Jackson says. Dani’s eyes sparkle as she adds: “I really feel that we are partners and equals in everything that we face and do.”
2000

Justin Oates ’00, assistant vice president for financial planning, budgeting, and analysis at the Stevens Institute of Technology, is the new vice president for Winthrop University’s Division of Finance and Business.

Stephanie Gaston Poley ’00, an attorney with Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP (CSH Law) was listed among the Best Lawyers in America 2018 list. CSH Law attorneys serve clients statewide and beyond from offices in Raleigh, Charlotte and Wilmington.

2001

Hannah Blevins Harvey ’01 has published her second course with The Great Courses, “The Children’s Guide to Folklore and Wonder Tales.” The family-oriented course is designed for children and parents to hear different versions and discuss the larger themes and cultural history of classic folk- and fairytales together. Both this and her earlier course for adults, “The Art of Storytelling: From Parents to Professionals,” are available online from GreatCoursesPlus, or on DVD/audio from The Great Courses.

Mary Traylor Mathis ’01 was promoted from senior associate to vice president in the Atlanta office of Diversified Trust, an independent comprehensive wealth management firm. She assists in the preparation of client materials, supporting the client service managers in meeting daily client needs, as well as managing the fiduciary tax responsibility. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Furman University.

2003

Adrienne Neale Lowery ’03 completed her master’s in professional counseling from Liberty University in August 2017 and is an LPC-1 practicing at the Center for Counseling & Wellness in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Katie Norris ’06 has been selected as a 2018 Forty Under 40 winner by the Charleston Regional Business Journal, nominated by members of the Charleston community. Since 1998, this elite 40 has been comprised of people under 40 years of age who have excelled in the professional arena and in community involvement.

2005

Jim Eubanks ’05 graduated on May 5, 2018, with a doctorate in medicine and Distinction in Research from Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. He is now a first year intern in the Department of Medicine and resident physician in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

2006

Daniel H. Ennis ’06 was elected to partnership for Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP. Ennis is a member of the firm’s Commercial Finance practice group in the Atlanta office. He represents banks, finance companies and other lenders in a variety of secured lending transactions, including negotiation and documentation of both single lender and syndicated credit facilities.

The Rev. Kimberly S. Jackson ’06 received a resolution of commendation from the Georgia State House of Representatives on Feb. 14. The resolution commends Kim for her tireless effort on behalf of the disenfranchised, disenchanted and dispossessed.

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

T. Brian Cox ’91 and Kristin Kuehnert Cox ’05, Thomas James Maxwell Cox, March 5, 2018

Michelle Muro Heck ’02 and Andy Heck, a daughter, Virginia Juliana Heck, May 24, 2017

Christopher and Latoya Mitchell Hodges ’04, a son, Callen Mitchell Lee Hodges, Sept. 16, 2017

Jason Strand ’04 and Lindsey Hammond Strand ’08, a son, William Leo Strand, Sept. 6, 2017

Sami and Sarah Mardam-Bey ’08, a son, William Luke Mardam-Bey, May 4, 2018

Ryan Vincent Evans and Lauren Jane Evans ’09, a son, Michael Xavier Evans, Feb. 26, 2018

Taylor Hall ’09 and Sally McKinney Hall ’09, a son, Bo Hall, March 27, 2018

Tanner David Ivie ’08 and Caroline Cates Ivie ’09, a daughter, Annabelle Cates Ivie, Nov. 8, 2017

Tucker Hannah ’12 and Julie Rafferty Hannah ’12, a son, Camden James Hannah, Sept. 16, 2017

Ryan Loveless ’11 and Grace Herlong Loveless ’11, a daughter, Carson Loveless, May 2017 (a correction of graduate year from Alumni Spring ’18 edition)

MARRIAGES

Glen G. Theiling and Susan Bullock Bardin ’82, Aug. 5, 2017

Michael Viron and Heather Hatfield ’98, April 11, 2018

Brian Fisher ’05 and Jessica Moore ’05, Jan. 13, 2018

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**UP CLOSE**

**Challenge accepted**

From sociology to business development, Caroline Poole hasn’t shied away from her curiosity.

Caroline Poole ’14 is a long way from her native Monroe, Georgia. She’s at Salt Lake City International Airport, fielding phone calls – like this interview – as she waits by her gate. A boarding announcement blares above the murmur of hushed voices, shuffling feet and rolling luggage in the background. This Furman alumna now calls SLC her home, but she’s on her way to Los Angeles for work.

Poole is also a long way from her roots as a sociology student at Furman. She’s part of business development with Qualtrics, a company that provides an enterprise platform for collecting and analyzing research. But along her journey to this airport gate – both geographically and professionally – there’s been one constant: curiosity.

Growing up in the rural Deep South, Poole freely admits her circle was small, but if anything, that only magnified her desire to know more about the world she lived in. “I saw a lot of racial issues and a lot of stratification of communities, and I knew that the way my friends, friends’ parents, and teachers were describing our community missed the mark,” Poole says. “At the time, I didn’t have the tools to explain what I was seeing, but I knew the explanations I was given were insufficient.”

The moment that began to change was during Accepted Students Day at Furman, when Poole sat in on a mock sociology class conducted by Kyle Longest. “He used a lot of tools and terminology to describe what I saw in my community – redlining, segregation, integration – the long-term effects, and how they were measured,” says Poole. “It was wonderful. I knew that day I wanted to be a sociology student. I was hooked.”

Sociology offered more than mere intellectual satisfaction. It also bridged the gap between the theoretical and the practical, which allowed Poole to apply her natural affinity for mathematics. “Statistics always came naturally, so running math problems on research data was always easy to me. The hard part was learning the theory behind it and applying the specific definition to real-life examples. That was always where I struggled, but I loved the struggle.”

Poole’s experience developing and analyzing research served her well when a Furman friend forwarded a Qualtrics opportunity her way. “He described what Qualtrics was, and I thought, ‘Well, this is what I did in my sociology classes.’ Though I didn’t have experience specifically using Qualtrics, I could talk about my experience in my research methodology classes.”

Poole started out on Qualtrics’s support team, helping customers figure out what information they needed, the logic for asking the correct questions, and how to analyze the data once it was collected. But Poole quickly sought new avenues for growth. “I get bored pretty quickly, so over the past three or four years, my job’s changed a lot. I’ve always wanted to move my career in a direction that would lead me to a new challenge,” she says.

That challenge happened to be business development. Despite not having a traditional education in business, Poole drew upon her curiosity as a strength: “Instead of seeing all I lacked, I saw different creative ways I could apply my existing skills.” That included what she credits as the most important takeaway of her Furman experience: “My degree didn’t teach me only about sociology. It really taught me how to learn.”

With less than half a decade of professional experience, there’s still much for Poole to learn. And in my professional career, being able to learn quickly has been much more important than knowing every single thing about a given topic.”

**“MY DEGREE DIDN’T TEACH ME ONLY ABOUT SOCIOLOGY. IT REALLY TAUGHT ME HOW TO LEARN.”**

– Andrew Huang ’11
OBITUARIES

Maude Bradwell Flood ‘42, June 3, 2018, Bonneau, S.C.
Margaret D. Lutz ‘45, March 15, 2018, Sumter, S.C.
Sue Skelton Senn ‘45, Jan. 22, 2018, Seneca, S.C.
Alvilda Craft Dickerson ‘46, Jan. 31, 2018, Hilo, Hawaii
Burton E. Williams II ‘46, Jan. 31, 2018, Orangeburg, S.C.
John A. Roper Jr. ‘47, April 24, 2018, Seneca, S.C.
Gary M. Shipman Sr. ‘47, April 27, 2018, Matthews, N.C.
Ruth Garrett Wells ‘47, May 31, 2018, Pinetops, N.C.
Opal E. Godwin ‘48, March 30, 2018, Columbus, Ga.
Beth Evans Lindsay Jones ‘48, Jan. 26, 2018, Greenville, S.C.
Neely E. Turner ‘48, May 3, 2018, Smithfield, N.C.
Dean J. Abernathy Sr. ‘49, April 20, 2011, Jackson, Tenn.
Richard Lee Lusk ’49, March 16, 2018, Brownsville, Tenn.
Imogene “Jean” Osteen ‘49, Feb. 6, 2018, Georgetown, S.C.
Grady C. Poole ‘49, March 21, 2018, Atlanta, Ga.
Jimmie M. Abernathy ’50, Jan. 18, 2012, Black Mountain, N.C.
Jane G. Dasher ‘50, Feb. 15, 2018, Hardeeville, S.C.
Gene M. Gillespie ’50, May 3, 2018, Greenville, S.C.
Carlyle J. Kilpatrick Sr. ’50, April 22, 2018, Charleston, S.C.
Catherine C. Swygert ’50, March 21, 2018, Leesville, S.C.
Margaret E. Bell ’51, Dec. 15, 2017, Saint George, S.C.
Mary Anne White Chandler ’51, Jan. 23, 2018, Fountain Inn, S.C.
Marilyn Fausett Hawthorne ’51, Jan. 9, 2018, Columbus, N.C.
John W. Touchberry ’51, April 26, 2010, Brevard, N.C.
Thomas Coke Turner ’51, Feb. 21, 2018, Charlotte, N.C.
Doris Lane ’52, March 29, 2018, Lexington, S.C.
S. Sidney Ulmer ’52, Jan. 19, 2018, Lexington, Ky.
Too many “super-cool” research stories go untold or get too little attention, says psychology alumna Lisa Cantrell ’07. So she started a podcast. What began as a low-tech endeavor in 2014, “An InExact Science” has seen its audience grow to 2,000 subscribers and nearly 20,000 listeners on live radio broadcasts.

Since the start of the series, Cantrell has produced programs about supernatural beliefs, falling in love and Alzheimer’s disease. More recently, she has delved into aphantasia, a brain condition that prevents a person from visualizing objects, faces or scenes in their mind’s eye. Her latest work, “Social Pain and the OPRM1 Gene,” looks at why some people feel more emotional and physical pain than others, because they have fewer opioid receptors.

Cantrell, who grew up in the Upstate, got the idea for the podcast series during lunch with a friend. She described to her friend what she thought was a well-known study about how babies learn language. “It’s research that everyone in my field knows about,” says Cantrell. “But he had never heard of it. That stuck with me.”

Cantrell believes scientists are good at sharing research with each other in scholarly journals, where for the most part that research remains. “There’s still a lot of super-cool information the general population doesn’t even know about,” she says.

Her sense of responsibility to tell those stories is perhaps only eclipsed by the enthusiasm with which she brings the information to the world. “I like explaining things. When you find someone who has never heard about a crazy-interesting psych concept before, and you’re the person who can tell them about it, that’s amazing to me,” says Cantrell.

She says the impetus for the series may have had its beginnings at Furman, where even basic psychological findings were mind-blowing to her. Later, when she was immersed in research for her Ph.D. at Indiana University, she nearly forgot about the thrill of scientific discovery. She explains that the series is her way of reigniting those scientific passions by ferreting out the most interesting findings in human psychology, then delivering them in a riveting way.

Cantrell gives Furman credit for her unfettered approach to new ideas. The “top-notch faculty” at the university gave her the freedom to venture outside the lines, she says. Like many smaller liberal arts and sciences universities, Furman gives students room to be more creative, tackle problems in multiple ways and take risks – qualities, Cantrell says, that have carried into her Ph.D. and post-doctoral work, the classroom and eventually “An InExact Science.”

In August 2017, she was named assistant professor of child development at California State University, Sacramento. With support from the American Psychological Society Fund for Teaching and Public Understanding of Psychological Science, Cantrell will continue to tell her stories through the podcast, which was featured in the Sacramento Bee and Science magazine and was dubbed one of the best indie podcasts of 2016 by The Audit.

Asked about her favorite role, podcast producer or professor, she says, “I love it all. The same thing I love about being in the classroom is what I love about doing the podcasts and storytelling.”

For episodes of An InExact Science, visit aninexactscience.com.

– Tina Underwood
Douglas Newton ’53  
Feb. 6, 2018, Travelers Rest, S.C.

Robert Rogers ’53  
June 15, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Martha J. Godshall ’54  

Wendell G. Gross ’54  
May 1, 2018, Hagerstown, Md.

Carl E. Patterson ’54  

Herb L. Curry ’55  
May 9, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Charles Ashmore ’55  
Feb. 26, 2018, Mount Vernon, Ind.

Esther Rose Gamble Gardner ’55  
Jan. 30, 2018, Burlington, N.C.

Louie Gene Henson ’55  
Jan. 18, 2018, Easley, S.C.

Billy Franklin Taylor ’55  
March 2, 2018, Fort Smith, Ark.

Janet Arnold ’56  
May 2, 2018, Travelers Rest, S.C.

Jack E. Powers ’56  
April 30, 2018, Simpsonville, S.C.

Algie C. Brown ’57  
May 14, 2018, Roswell, Ga.

Charles Allen Carter Sr. ’57  
Jan. 26, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

John D. Gillespie ’57  
May 19, 2018, Greer, S.C.

Betty Dickson Long ’57  
Feb. 8, 2018, Clemson, S.C.

Bobbie O. Mraz ’57  
Dec. 21, 2017, Kings Mountain, N.C.

Peggy Outen Underwood ’57  
Feb. 17, 2018, Johns Island, S.C.

Algie Brown ’58  
May 14, 2018, Roswell, Ga.

Rochelle Hall McAbee ’58  
May 23, 2018, Lixzella, Ga.

James E. Moss ’58  
April 11, 2018, Gaffney, S.C.

Barbara Sammons Palmer ’58  
Dec. 10, 2017, Greer, S.C.

Melvin Weeks ’58  
May 11, 2018, Georgetown, Ky.

Peggy Sue Carson-Foster ’59  
Jan. 30, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Fred A. Cashion ’59  
May 12, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Nancy R. Collins ’59  

Eleanor P. Sturgis ’59  
Feb. 14, 2018, Annapolis, Md.

Asbury H. Williams Sr. ’59  

Jane Collins Mizell ’60  
July 21, 2017, Aiken, S.C.

Leonard Owens ’60  
May 11, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Milton “Mickey” C. Beckham ’61  

James B. Cureton ’61  
Dec. 21, 2017, Greenville, S.C.

Betty Sue Fleming-Jones ’61  
Jan. 27, 2018, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Stanley Waring Sheftall ’61  
Feb. 25, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Anthony Bruno Carmignani ’62  
April 19, 2018, Downers Grove, Ill.

Dennis D. Sides ’63  

Robert A. Dillon Sr. ’64  
Dec. 12, 2017, Greenwood, S.C.

Carmela B. Hudson ’65  
May 6, 2018, Boiling Springs, S.C.

Mary Monteith ’65  
May 23, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Lucky Hickman Thomas ’66  
April 3, 2018, Georgetown, Ky.

Yvonne Carson Greenwalt ’66  
May 23, 2018, Greenville, S.C.

Martha Herndon ’67  
May 21, 2018, Shelby, N.C.

Paul Bryan Black ’68  
Dec. 30, 2017, Duncan, S.C.

Dorothy B. Hawkins ’68  

Richard E. Moody Jr. ’69  
Jan. 30, 2018, Simpsonville, S.C.

Janet C. Tuttle ’84  
June 17, 2018, Cullowhee, N.C.

评价：

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.
The south-facing side of Stax’s Original Restaurant near the Furman campus has a new look. Furman students, working under the creative direction of Furman Art Department Chair Ross McClain and local artist Kate Furman, gave the once white-washed wall a makeover that will surely turn heads. As part of Furman’s May Experience mini-course, Art and Community Engagement, students painted a postcard-like scene dubbed “Life tastes better in Greenville.”

Each year, the mural project gives students in the May Experience class the opportunity to work with local artists to create lasting murals in town. Past murals include the ode to Russ Morin and Josh White at Horizon Records, a partnership with local artist Charlie Tyre, and a vibrant rural scene with bicycles, flowers and vegetables along a formerly gray wall in downtown Travelers Rest designed by local artist Emily Clanton.
Postings from the Interwebs

furmanuniversity The numbers are in and we can’t stop smiling. Dins Day ‘18 raised over $1.5 million for the university! Thank you to every Din that gave this #DinsDav.

furmanuniversity How do you make a class day during MayX noteworthy? Have Aaron Rodgers join. #BMWCharityProAm

furmanuniversity We’ll never get tired of views like these.

furmanuniversity Congratulations to the Furman University Class of 2018! You made an incredible impact on our campus and community. #FurmanGrad
Liss Lee Rust ’87 and husband Kenneth Rust admire the 9-foot Steinway and Sons concert grand now located in Daniel Recital Hall. The Rusts made the inaugural gift to the campaign spearheaded by Furman Music Professor Emerita Ruby Morgan in an effort to make Furman an All-Steinway School. This piano was one of three delivered to Furman by Spartanburg-based Case Brothers on July 17.