

FINISH LINE

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Furman Undergraduate Evening Studies



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: TIFFINY MURPHY '16

A FURMAN DEGREE SKYROCKETS ALUMNA'S CAREER

By Matt Bowersox



From the start, Tiffany Murphy '16 knew she made the right decision by enrolling in Furman Undergraduate Evening Studies (UES). Tiffany enjoyed the business aspect of her job at a local photography studio, where she

had worked for more than six years. The studio's owners treated her well, and she was happy there. In the back of her mind, however, something told her she was destined for more. "I had always wanted to get my bachelor's degree," Tiffany explained "but was unsure what to major in."

Tiffany contemplated her return to the classroom for several years. Ultimately, she says, "It was

"Typically, I learn better in a smaller classroom setting because students are better able to engage with one another and directly with the professor."

the realization that I could not thrive without furthering my education," that propelled her to take action. In her search for a local university, it was essential to find one that not only made her feel welcome, but also fit her needs and goals. That is when her friend Anja Smith ('14) told her about UES at Furman. Tiffany learned UES offered the two majors she was drawn to most, accounting and business administration. Although she did not know where her career path might lead, she knew these majors would aim her in the right direction.

SURVEY GENERATES PROSPECTIVE STUDENT & ALUMNI FEEDBACK

Last fall, UES conducted a market research survey of which the results will be shared in a future *Finish Line* issue. As a participation incentive, UES entered alumni and prospects who completed the surveys into a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. The randomly drawn winners of the gift cards are:

Elizabeth Brooks
Rosalind Canty '12
Laura Hill '16

Natasha Hodge
Leta Klutz '90
Brandon McMahan '12

A Furman Degree Skyrockets Alumna's Career

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The cost of a private university was a big concern for Tiffany. "I was surprised to learn that Furman UES tuition was comparable to the other institutions in the Upstate, so right away I scheduled an admissions appointment to see if Furman would be a good fit for me. I liked that I met directly with the UES Director."

Tiffany cites several reasons for choosing Furman UES over other local options, such as Furman's reputation for excellence, UES's small class sizes, and its evening format, which enabled her to continue working full time during the day. "Typically, I learn better in a smaller classroom setting because students are better able to engage with one another and directly with the professor," she explained.

She credits her professors and UES staff for her positive Furman experience. "The real-world knowledge that UES professors bring to the classroom really connects with adult students. Through their own experiences, instructors share relevant examples of how the material we learn in class directly applies to our careers and everyday lives. The one-on-one advising by UES staff was especially valuable, supportive, and instrumental in keeping me on track to finish my degree." Two professors in particular greatly influenced Tiffany, Greg Haselden and Dr. Margaret Oakes. "I was lucky to have Greg Haselden for four of my accounting classes

and benefited from his vast knowledge, and Dr. Oakes' class, The History of Detective Fiction, was my favorite class outside my major." Tiffany's fellow students also made a lasting impact. "I made some really close friends here and still talk with them on a regular basis."

Tiffany attributes her continued professional growth to her time at Furman. "My experience at Furman enhanced my critical thinking and communication skills. I am more confident in my knowledge and my ability to perform in my career."

Since Tiffany graduated, her career has skyrocketed. Her current employer, GrandSouth Community Bank, promoted her to Assistant Vice President of the Accounting Department. In December 2018, she passed the certified public accounting exam and obtained her CPA license. According to Tiffany, "The outstanding UES accounting courses and instructors prepared me well for the CPA exam. Professor Haselden's auditing course alone helped me pass the audit section, which is one of four parts to the CPA exam." Now that Tiffany has achieved a bachelor's degree and CPA license, she is defining her next goals in life. For now, she is looking forward to growing and learning more within her organization as her responsibilities expand and change.

DORIS CHILDRESS EARNS 2019 UES STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

By Pamela Rastatter



"Doris exemplifies the model student for the award with her perseverance, dedication and excellence, not just in academics, but all aspects of her life."

Each year, Furman Undergraduate Evening Studies' instructors select a senior from a pool of qualified candidates for the Frances Selby "Gig" Meredith Outstanding Student Award. This year, faculty unanimously named UES student Doris Childress as worthy of this prestigious award. According to Professor Scott Murr, "Doris exemplifies the model student for the award with her perseverance, dedication and excellence, not just in academics, but all aspects of her life."

"Doris epitomizes the type of student the Gig Meredith award seeks to honor," said Dr. Bill Aarnes. According to another instructor, Doris consistently demonstrated discipline and diligence, and always stayed

ahead of the heavy reading and assignment loads, often making her the strongest student in the class. "Her participation in class discussions added alert and informed perspectives, and her presentations and written assignments demonstrated a thoughtful grasp of the material."

Not only is Doris' academic work excellent, "her attitude and spirit in class is equal to or better than that of any student with whom I have shared the classroom," explained Dr. Marian Osborne Berky. "She was consistently well prepared for class, contributed effectively to class conversations, and was able to relate the course materials to her own life."

In 2010, Doris enrolled in UES and will earn her bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration this May. Like most UES students, Doris balances her studies with work and raising a family. Employed full-time at Furman in Budget & Resource Management, Doris handles fixed assets and real property accounting. According to Doris' supervisor, Amy Blackwell, Associate Vice President of Finance, as Doris has progressed through her studies, she has gained knowledge and skills readily applicable to her career, benefiting her and the Finance and Administration Department.

As this year's Outstanding Student of the Year award recipient, Furman recognized Doris' accomplishments at its annual Academic Awards Banquet held on April 1. Established in 1999 by Furman UES alumna, Gig Meredith ('99), the award honors her mother Frances Selby. A plaque listing the names of all award recipients hangs in the reception area of the UES office in the Herring Center for Continuing Education.

UES IMPLEMENTS INNOVATIVE WEEKEND SCHEDULE THIS SUMMER

This summer, UES will pilot a weekend course format as well as two fully online courses. The weekend courses will each meet one weekend a month, on Friday evenings and a full day on Saturdays, May through August. Between class sessions, assignments and student-teacher interactions will be conducted utilizing the University’s online learning management system and video conferencing technology.

The new weekend and online formats allow students to take 2-3 courses in the summer, making it easier for undergraduates to qualify for financial aid while possibly reducing the time it takes to complete their bachelor’s. The innovative formats also expand the availability of UES courses to adult students who live outside the immediate Greenville area, since the class schedules mean infrequent or no commutes to campus.

Though inspired by Furman’s desire to provide flexibility and convenience for adult students, the new formats also allow for immersive learning experiences that include group projects, in-depth research and case study analysis.

“For 65 years, Furman UES has provided a rigorous and meaningful educational experience for working adults from Greenville and surrounding communities,” observes Beth Crews, UES Director. “Meeting our students’ evolving needs requires adaptation of our degrees and post-baccalaureate certificate offerings, as well as our course formats and student support services. This summer pilot, if successful in achieving the rigorous experience our students expect, will help UES to continue meeting the need for affordable, convenient and tailored learning experiences.”

Survey respondents of a 2018 UES marketing study revealed an openness to taking longer in-person classes that meet less frequently. Survey results also indicated class meetings from 6-9pm during the week and on Saturdays continues to be the most convenient time slot for in-person class sessions for working adults. The surveys of prospective students disclosed a preference for more flexible, fully online or hybrid course formats that combine in-class meeting with online components.

In 2015, UES piloted hybrid courses that condensed 15-week course content to 8-weeks. UES received mixed feedback on the hybrid format. While students appreciated the option of taking more courses per semester, afforded by the hybrid format, some students who took more than one 8-week course at a time expressed difficulty with absorbing and retaining the course content. The new summer 2019 formats address the need for content retention by offering all courses in a more manageable 13-week term, and address students’ desire to take more classes with fewer trips to campus.

When implementing format changes, UES takes great care to provide continuity in the course paths of its current students and to provide many resources to its faculty and students in order to ensure Furman’s rigorous academic standards are upheld. With this in mind, UES equips faculty with the necessary tools to design courses that maximize interactions with students and meet the desired learning outcomes. Following the summer pilot, UES will conduct a full assessment of the new formats to gauge their effectiveness and student and faculty satisfaction.

UES Summer 2019 Important Dates

Visit furman.edu/summerformat to see the full list of summer courses and additional summer schedule details.

Summer term registration opens	Mar 29
Summer admission application deadline	April 15
Summer registration deadline	Apr 29
Summer classes begin	May 13
Summer classes end	Aug 13

Summer Class Meeting Schedule

All UES summer courses begin	May 13 (Online assignments will be issued to students for all summer courses beginning May 13. Students are to check Moodle for assignment details.)
Set 1 courses meet	May 17-18, June 14-15, July 12-13, & Aug 2-3 (6-9pm Fri., 8:30am-3:30pm* Sat.)
Set 2 courses meet	May 31-Jun 1, June 28-29, July 26-27, & Aug 9-10 (6-9pm Fri., 8:30am-3:30pm Sat.)
Set 1 final exams	Aug. 3, 1:00-3:30pm
Set 2 final exams	Aug. 10, 1:00-3:30pm
Online (Set 3) final exam deadline	Aug. 13

*Lab courses will meet on Saturdays from 8:30am – 4pm.

UES ARTISTS EXPRESS RESISTANCE, PERSISTENCE, AND TENACITY

The Fifth Annual UES Juried Art Exhibition, *Resistance Persistence Tenacity*, conveyed the strengths nontraditional adult students at Furman must personify daily in order to juggle their many responsibilities and studies. Exhibition juror, Gerry Wubben, owner of Wubben Works and Furman University 2018 Artist in Residence, selected over 25 original works of art submitted by UES students, alumni, staff, faculty and friends. The artwork displayed various media, such as acrylic on canvas, encaustic, oil on wood and photography.

“It was an honor and a delight to help curate this body of work. I truly enjoyed all of the wonderful compositions and artistic statements,” Wubben shared. “The exhibition strongly showed artistic voices that wanted to be heard, and indeed needed to be heard, because of the clarity in the imagery.”

In keeping with tradition, a reception kicked off the exhibition with wine and hors d’oeuvres on the first night of Furman’s homecoming weekend. Describing the value of the UES art show, UES Director Beth Crews explained, “The exhibition and reception gives us in the UES community an opportunity to express ourselves creatively, to socialize in a relaxed setting outside the classroom and to be a part of the homecoming celebration.”



- A. Juror's Choice Awards – UES Art Exhibition – 1st Place “Orange Peel” by Brian Hiott, Faculty
- B. Juror's Choice Awards – UES Art Exhibition – 2nd Place “American Farm Grit” by Joe Hiltabidel ‘15
- C. Juror's Choice Awards – UES Art Exhibition – 3rd Place “Defiance” by Tiffany Murphy ‘16



CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE FALL 2018 DEAN'S LIST

Furman UES awards Dean's List honors to students who enroll in six or more credit hours and earn a grade point average of at least 3.4 during a semester.

FALL 2018

George G. Bobo II
 Doris M. Childress
 Katlyn A. Clark
 Diana K. Godwin
 Sherri R. Greene
 Christopher G. Haley
 Kwon Jang
 Ryan J. Knutson

Sofia E. Kuronya
 Anthony J. Malone III
 Frances L. Moore
 Destiny C. Page
 Helen Reynolds
 Joel W. Satterthwaite
 Sukthavy Sisamouthp
 Michelle E. Styles

Sydney Townsend
 Hannah E. Vinson
 Britton M. Walker
 Joshua S. White
 John C. Wood
 Fletcher G. Wulff

DECEMBER 2018 GRADUATES

Sheryl A. Higgins, BLA, Business Administration
 Bobby L. Jones, BLA, Business Administration
 Terri W. Owens, PBC, Accounting
 S. Machelle Simmons, BLA, Business Administration

UP TO \$5,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER FOR NEW STUDENTS

New students entering Furman UES this summer may be eligible for up to \$5,000 in Osher scholarships. The Osher Re-entry Scholarship removes financial barriers for adults, ages 25-60 years old, who are pursuing their first bachelor's degree and have experienced a cumulative gap in attendance between high school and college of at least 60 months.

Those interested should submit the UES admission application, including all required documents, by April 15 and submit the Osher Scholarship application by May 1. To be eligible, applicants must demonstrate the potential to succeed and have financial need. Need is established through the Federal Financial Aid Application (FAFSA completed at fafsa.gov). Official high school and/or college transcripts, a 500-700 word essay, and letter(s) of recommendation are required to establish an applicant's ability and drive to succeed.

"Many students are prevented from finishing their degree because of financial issues, an unexpected life event that resulted in poor grades, or they were simply unprepared for college after high school," observes UES Student Services Counselor Jennifer Grissop. "The essay and recommendation letter help UES better understand the challenges scholarship applicants have faced. It also gives applicants an opportunity to put past grades in context and share their current goals."

Interested in applying or know someone who would be? Visit furman.edu/osher for more information.



DON'T WAIT! APPLY TODAY.

The summer admission application deadline is April 15. To start your application, visit ContinuingEd.furman.edu/apply.

The Osher scholarship application deadline is May 1. To apply, visit ContinuingEd.furman.edu/portal/osher

FACULTY FOCUS: MARIAN OSBORNE BERKY INSPIRING OTHERS TO INSPIRE

Dr. Marian Osborne Berky's expertise and interests dovetail well with the liberal arts approach of Furman Undergraduate Evening Studies (UES). Having previously taught at Furman, Osborne Berky returned to the Upstate three years ago and contacted UES Director Beth Crews at the recommendation of Dr. Helen Lee Turner, former chair of the religion department at Furman.



A versatile and experienced teacher, Marian has taught five different courses for UES since returning to Furman, as well as four courses in Furman's day program. Her areas of interest and expertise include social reform and liberation theology, war and conflict resolution, the role of women in religion, and the environment.

Osborne Berky believes that, given the importance of religion in every culture, to be well-educated one must have some basic knowledge of religious traditions. Though she is not one to choose favorites — with the exception of ice cream (mint chocolate chip) — Religion in the Environment is a particularly important course to her. "We are in the midst of a profound environmental crisis," she observes, "and religious traditions have much to offer in motivating practitioners to work to make a difference." The course introduces students to many religious traditions and how they affect the world in which they live.

While Dr. Osborne Berky was completing her graduate degree, one of her professors influenced her greatly by modeling a deep concern for students and constantly affirming students' gifts and talents. The professor inspired Osborne Berky to strive to be the same kind of instructor. Today, it is students who inspire her. "Their gifts, thoughtfulness, and intellectual honesty keep me going. Just a few days ago, I got a Facebook message from a former student letting me know how profoundly the time we spent together in the classroom influenced her. For me, as a teacher, it really doesn't get any better than that."

Dr. Osborne Berky observes that students are often so motivated to finish their degree, their pace does not allow them to invest fully in the courses they take. She prefers a more reflective stance and advises students to make the most of their time by soaking up every bit from each course. She advocates for the practical knowledge and skills that liberal arts courses deliver to students. Often, courses in religion, philosophy, and literature cultivate the soft skills employers seek, such as communication, empathy, and the ability to work with diverse groups of people.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR*

Mar 29 – Apr 29.....	Summer 2019 course registration period	July 1	Fall 2019 admission applications deadline
April 14.....	Spring Block B withdrawal deadline	July 1 – Aug 1	Fall 2019 course registration open
April 15.....	Summer admission application deadline	Aug 13	Summer term ends
April 19-22.....	Easter break, Block C courses ONLY	Aug 15	New Student Orientation
April 26.....	Summer 2019 scholarship applications due	Aug 17.....	Commencement (Summer graduates)
April 29.....	Spring block C classes end	Aug 19.....	Fall 2019 UES term begins
April 30-May 6.....	Spring block C final exams	Oct 1.....	Spring 2020 term schedule released
May 2.....	Spring block B classes end	Nov 1.....	Spring 2020 admission application deadline
May 4 – May 8.....	Spring block B final exams		
May 9.....	UES Graduate & ASL Inductee Celebration		
May 11.....	Commencement (December & May graduates)		
May 13.....	Summer term begins		

*Dates subject to change. Current information available at calendar.furman.edu



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