Kyle Longest completed his undergraduate degree in history and sociology at Indiana University and earned his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research centers on understanding how teens make the transition out of high school, focusing on substance use, religion and academic behaviors. Dr. Longest's work has appeared in journals such as Social Forces, Journal of Marriage and Family, Sociological Forum, Society and Mental Health, and Work and Occupations. He currently teaches courses on deviance, religion, research methods, quantitative analysis, the sociology of Harry Potter, youth and adolescence, sociology of sport, sports analytics, and discovering greatness. Longest received his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his B.A. from Indiana University.

Erik Ching is a professor of Latin American and African history. He graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. from Pacific Lutheran University in History and Biology in 1990. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the University of California Santa Barbara in 1997, where he conducted research on peasant uprisings and military regimes in 20th century El Salvador. His dissertation won an award from the Pacific Coast Council of Latin American Studies. Among his numerous achievements are two Fulbright grants to travel to El Salvador in 1994 and 2005. Dr. Ching also won the 2013 Alfred Thomas Award for the best book in Latin American Studies by a member the Southeastern Conference of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS) for Modernizing Minds in El Salvador (University of New Mexico Press, 2012). His most recent work is Authoritarian El Salvador: Politics and the Origins of the Military Regimes, 1880-1940 (Notre Dame University Press, 2013).

Weston Dripps has always been extremely passionate about studying Earth Systems and Sustainability. He grew up in suburban Philadelphia and went on to study geosciences at Amherst College (BA), Dartmouth College (MS), and the University of Wisconsin (PhD). In between degrees, he worked as an exploration geologist in the oil, gas, and water sector, an environmental consultant, a hydrogeologist, a high school teacher and outdoor educator in the Swiss Alps, and a night club disc jockey. Before coming to Furman in 2005, Dripps was a researcher at MIT in the Department of Environmental and Civil Engineering and an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts – Boston. At Furman, Dripps is known as a very engaging teacher, an active researcher, and an environmental activist and has been very involved with the university’s sustainability efforts and sustainability student living communities. He has won the university’s Meritorious Teaching Award (2008), Student Organization Advisor of the Year (2009), Engaged Living Award (2013 and 2015), and university’s Meritorious Advising Award (2015). He has given more than 60 presentations at professional meetings and published more than a dozen peer reviewed journal articles on his research.

Mike Winiski is Executive Director of Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) at Furman University. He has collaborated with local community partners and Furman faculty and students on a variety of initiatives. Most recently the CEL team collaborated with Furman faculty, students, and alumni to conduct a focused needs and assets assessment in 10 Greenville neighborhoods for the United Way of Greenville County, as well as a data landscape assessment for the Greenville Homeless Alliance. Mike specializes in spatial analysis and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and teaches courses in the Earth and Environmental Sciences department. He has an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Furman University and graduate degrees in science education and GIS from Wake Forest and Penn State University.
Richard W. Riley, for whom the Riley Institute at Furman is named, is the former U. S. Secretary of Education (1993–2001) and former Governor of South Carolina (1979–1987). Secretary Riley currently is a senior partner in the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough and its affiliate, EducationCounsel, with offices in South and North Carolina, Georgia, Boston, Chicago, Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. He has been appointed distinguished professor at Furman, and serves as Advisory Board chair of the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership. Riley earned his bachelor’s degree, cum laude, in political science from Furman in 1954 and received a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1959. In 2008, Riley was named one of the Top 10 Cabinet Members of the 20th Century by *Time* magazine.

Emilee O'Brien is the Post Baccalaureate Fellow for Social Justice and Community-Engaged Learning at Furman University. Emilee is a graduate of the class of 2017 with a major in Political Science and a minor in Poverty Studies. A native of Connecticut, she has planted roots in Greenville, SC where she knows the best places for coffee and ice cream. She plans to pursue education policy in the near future.

Deborah Allen is the Associate Director of Diversity Engagement and manager of the Center for Inclusive Communities at Furman University. In her role she is responsible for advising the Student Diversity Council which oversees Furman’s seven multicultural and identity-based student organizations and coordinates Diversity and Inclusion programming within the Division of Student Life. Additionally, Mrs. Allen serves as an academic advisor and Pathways instructor. She hails from the North, growing up in Dayton, Ohio but has always wanted to live in the South. She received her BA in Sociology from The Ohio State University, and her M.Ed. in Student Affairs and Higher Education from Wright State University. With 10 years of experience in Student Affairs, has experience in various functional areas including Student Conduct, Multicultural Services, Student Programming and First Year Experience. Deborah has a passion for serving students, and loves the opportunity to foster positive experiences both in and outside of the classroom.