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A Letter from the Executive Director of Alumni and Parent Engagement

Mike Wilson '88
Furman University

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Leah Coakley went from Furman to the University of Puget Sound from which she graduated last May with a master's of education in counseling degree.

Daniel Hall (MA) is principal of York County (SC) Middle School.

Peter MacKenzie was featured in the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* list of "Top Financial Advisors Under 40."

Kate Malone (MA) has been named principal of Riverside High School in Greer, SC.

2007

Weston Belkot is U.S. marketing director for Pushpay Holdings Limited.

Kelly Coxe (MA) was selected as principal of Harold C. Johnson Elementary School in York County, SC.

The law firm of Owen & Owens in Midlothian, VA, has selected **Erica L. Giovanni** to be included in *Virginia Business Magazine's* "2014 Legal Elite."

Jessica Patterson (MA) is the new principal at Chastain Road Elementary School in Pickens County, SC.

Jessica Rahn (MA '10) has been named 2014–2015 Teacher of the Year at Monaview Elementary School in Greenville.

A UN Climate Summit was held last fall in New York City. **Kartikeya Singh** participated in the summit and appeared on NPR to talk about climate change. Singh is the founder of the Indian Youth Climate network, which has served as a forum for voices of the budding youth climate movement across South Asia.

Noah Woodiwiss is currently based in Chengdu, China, with the State Department. He

worked on the planning for the recent visit by the First Lady and First Daughter.

2008

Brittany Jean Carr is participating in a residency in canine sports medicine and rehabilitation at Veterinary Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Group in Annapolis Junction, MD.

Ke Ji is an international trade specialist at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

2009

Matthew Cesari was featured in the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* list of "Top Financial Advisors Under 40."

Jade Lawson Fountain recently accepted a position as the gift administrator in the Office of Gift Planning at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Nathan Guinn has become an attorney with Gibbes Burton LLC, located in Spartanburg, SC. He was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 2013.

Lisa Huffman has been named director of children and discipleship at Trinity United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, NC.

Kathryn Savarese Misenheimer has been named 2014–2015 Teacher of the Year at Dorman High School's freshman campus in Spartanburg, SC. She is a Spanish/ESOL teacher.

Miller Yoho has a new job as director of communications for the Charlotte (NC) Sports Foundation.

2010

Jonathan Cote has joined Wyche, a full-service law firm that has served the Greenville, SC, community for more than 90 years.

Will Gyauch won the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award for 2013–2014 at the University of Iowa Law School.

Tiffany Osborne (MA) works as an instructional coach at Glenview Middle School in Anderson.

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT

In the weeks before I first arrived at Furman University in August of 1984, I was full of anxiety. I was trying to understand what this college "thing" was going to hold for me. It wasn't just anxiety about college classes, but also the added pressure of college football and whether I would measure up. Excelling at a small country high school in its classrooms and on its gridiron is one thing, but achieving at Furman's level in both areas was another. I will not go so far to say I "excelled" in either, but I will say I survived and eventually thrived.

Thirty years later, I have arrived on campus once more as a student—an older and hopefully wiser student who is now also a member of the University's staff. This time, what I am learning has started the way all learning does: with dialogue. Namely, conversations with you, our alumni, faculty, staff, coaches, parents, and students. As these conversations begin, I am reminded of why my Furman experience was so special—it was the people. Indeed, some things never change. As I meet with many of you today, I am excited to reacquaint myself, from a new vantage, with the specialness that comes with encountering the great people at Furman.

While many of us will always appreciate the beauty of our campus or the excellence of our academic reputation, I know that like me, most of you were affected by the people you met here. Which is why I am excited to once more be part of a team that strives to serve and enrich our most enduring asset—the Furman family. And in doing so, ensure the enduring legacy of what brings that family together.

Mike Wilson '88

Mike Wilson
mike.wilson@furman.edu