

4-27-2016

## TRIPtych: Three Glimpses of Where Furman Folk have Gone and Why

Furman University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine>

---

### Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2016) "TRIPtych: Three Glimpses of Where Furman Folk have Gone and Why," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 59: Iss. 1, Article 8.

Available at: <http://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol59/iss1/8>

This Regular Feature is made available online by part of the Furman University Scholar Exchange (FUSE). It has been accepted for inclusion in Furman Magazine by an authorized FUSE administrator. For terms of use, please refer to the [FUSE Institutional Repository Guidelines](#). For more information, please contact [scholarexchange@furman.edu](mailto:scholarexchange@furman.edu).

"If something big is happening in the marketplace—let's take oil prices tanking, for example—then the professor can take advantage of the lab's technological abilities and bring an energy expert into the classroom discussion," explains Mabry.

Joe Hurley, founder and chief investment officer of Chi-Rho Financial, which specializes in hedge funds, believes the professional connections made through the lab will ultimately lead to positions in the business field for Furman students. But he continues by saying the lab—and the business major in general—should have a much more holistic goal in mind.

"I majored in chemistry for three years while at Furman, and then I changed my major to history. I only took one econ class," he says, when discussing his path to his current career. "But being successful isn't just about learning the facts. Communications, writing, speaking—it all plays into business."

And that's what a Furman education is all about, these advocates say—drawing connections between multiple disciplines in order to become agile in an ever-changing world.

"This lab will help students gain perspective on the world," says Hurley. "It's my hope that lessons in this lab, paired with guidance from professors and alumni, will lead students to forming values and a sense of purpose about their presence in the world."

Adds Diana, "There's the assumption that once you figure out your path, you're done. But that's far from the truth. Your integrity and morality are constantly forming, especially in the business world if you become very successful, and Furman should be the guiding compass for these students." ●



## TRIPtych

*Three glimpses of where Furman folk have gone, and why*

**W**hen Kirby Funt '16 enrolled in Furman's Fall in China Study Away, she didn't realize she would also be given the opportunity to visit Tibet and Taiwan. "While each culture has unique differences, it is apparent that all three influence each other," she says. Here are three moments in her self-described "trip of a lifetime" that capture that uniqueness.

**1 Yakin' Around:** The landscape of Tibet will take your breath away (quite literally, as the altitude takes some getting used to). The rolling green pastures, snowcapped mountains, and clear blue lakes covered in Tibetan prayer flags make Tibet a very spiritual place. Yaks are a common sight throughout Tibet as the Tibetan people raise yaks for their livelihood.

**2 Pieces of the Past:** Taiwan is a culture that is still deeply influenced by mainland China, as one can see through the continued use of traditional Chinese characters throughout the country. This being said, Taiwanese culture also has a strong Western influence. The blending of these two cultures can be seen as you travel throughout the country. Within the modern and western-style buildings, beautiful, traditional temples can still be found.

**3 Life on the Canal:** Suzhou, China, also known as the "Venice of China," is home to Suzhou University, the school that 15 Furman students came to call home. One can take a boat ride through the winding canals or walk the cobblestone streets tasting local cuisine and buying crafts from vendors. With beautiful gardens and monuments around every corner, Suzhou was a wonderful place to learn about, and experience, Chinese culture.

