TRIPtych: Three glimpses of where Furman folk have gone, and why

Furman University
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Every fall, Furman leads about 20 of its students to Brussels, Belgium, for an interdisciplinary study-away experience. Julia Roberts ’16, who participated in the program during the fall of 2014, presents her three most meaningful moments here.

Cinque Terre: For fall break, eight of us traveled across Italy before concluding the trip along the breathtaking coastline of the Cinque Terre in Italy. Pictured here is one of the five villages terraced snugly against the cliff side with nighttime lights beginning to twinkle.

Freiburg Market: Markets bring life and energy to many of Europe’s old and cobbled streets. In Freiburg, Germany, my senses were overwhelmed by the fragrances of fresh flowers and wreaths, the sounds of street performers, the vibrant colors of fall leaves and vendor wares, and the fantastic flavors of German sweets and apfelwein.

Auschwitz: For our course on World War II, our class traveled to Auschwitz-Birkenau for a day more grave and emotional than words can express. A child imprisoned within Auschwitz once drew this carefree picture of a songbird. The sketch is movingly juxtaposed here with a shadow cage, the old Nazi watchtower, and the viewer’s knowledge that the bird is in fact trapped behind the windowpane.

Postings from the Inter-webs

SJH0754:
I would have listened more intentionally to everyone around me.

JEFF WADLEY:
I would have spent more time building relationships with faculty and understanding the value of mentoring.

PEGGY HAYMES:
Looking back, I wish I had accepted my trumpet teacher’s invitation to play in the orchestra. I didn’t have the confidence to think I could do it.

RYAN MCAULEY:
I wish I had taken full advantage of the liberal arts by majoring in a spoken language while still pursuing pre-med work.

MULRAE DEMERSE KENNEY:
I would have finished my degree. My family went through hard financial issues near the end of my junior year, and I chose to work instead of coming back for senior year, despite the amazing package of financial aid Furman cobbled together for me.

BILL SHELLEY:
These four years were among the best of my life, so I wouldn’t change much, but maybe try to be more understanding of folks who were different.

ZACH DUSKIN:
I would have joined a fraternity freshman year instead of sophomore. That group of men made my Furman experience worth every day in the classroom.