The Furman network in action

Tom Triplitt '76
Furman University
THE FURMAN NETWORK IN ACTION

Last November, Furman’s Young Alumni Council joined forces with the Alumni Association, career services and the internship office to sponsor a career networking event for students and alumni. The first-hour gave alumni a chance to get to know each other and exchange contact information.

During the second hour, students were invited in to talk with the alumni about their work.

At one point two graduates, Tom LeGrand ‘94 and Mandrallius Robinson ‘06, struck up a conversation. They quickly discovered they shared a love and alumni can use to help the university recruit outstanding students. One of Furman’s strategic goals is to increase connections you have as an alumnus/a of this university. And they were able to keep their webcams so they could in touch with their language partners in Suzhou. The camp was supported by a National Chinese-language and culture camp for high school students. During our two-week journey we spent time in Suzhou, Shanghai, Tibet, Xi’an and Beijing. Kate, who holds a dual appointment in Asian Studies and political science (and who was profiled in the fall 2009 issue of the magazine), is wonderfully well-connected in China, so we got to know the country much more intimately than the average tourist. She also met with eight young Furman alumni who were living and working in China.

To learn more about our experience, visit http://furmaninchina2010.blogspot.com.

The Alumni Office is working to develop more travel programs for alumni and friends. Watch for an announcement about future opportunities.

After we returned from China, we saw another example of Asian Studies in action. In July Furman sponsored an intensive two-week Chinese language and culture camp for high school students who have taken at least one year of Chinese. The Student Chinese Language Camp was designed to help the participants take their language skills to new levels. Students studied and lived with native Chinese teachers, interacted via webcam with high school partners in China, and worked with Chinese-speaking camp counselors. Students did everything from making documentaries to preparing authentic Chinese food. They quickly discovered they shared a love and enjoyed of the Maine Senate and the first woman in America to serve as both a state Senate president and state House speaker, won the Democratic nomination for governor in the June primary. She will face Republican Paul Lafere and three independent candidates in the November elections.

This Year is Reunion

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Charles W. Linder, a former member of the Furman Alumni Board, has received the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine’s 2010 Distinguished Alumnus Award for Loyalty. He is a retired associate dean and professor emeritus of pediatrics at the medical college, where he completed a fellowship in 1969. He then joined the faculty and went on to serve as assistant hospital administrator, chief of staff and medical director of MGSwift in addition to his academic duties. Since his retirement in 2001, he has served as a volunteer faculty member.

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