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TRIPtych: Reflections from Study Away, interning in Washington D. C.

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TRIPtych

Reflections from studying away, interning in Washington, D.C.

BY BECCA COLEHOWER '20

"I'm just like my country, I'm young, scrappy and hungry, and I'm not throwing away my shot!" 'Hamilton' said it in the best way possible – the D.C. program was my shot to live, work, learn and experience professional life in Washington, D.C., and I am grateful every day."

Furman has such a strong alumni presence in D.C., working not only as congressional staffers, but also as lawyers, consultants, recruiters and so much more. Whether I was working with them in the House of Representatives, going to a happy hour with sorority sisters, or sitting down for coffee with a mentor, a fellow Din was never too far away.

Interning for House Speaker Paul Ryan was one of the greatest honors of my life, a tangible learning experience in the world of politics and public policy, and a gust of momentum in my professional life. One of the most valuable things I learned in the Office of the Speaker was the importance of authenticity when living and working in the public eye.

One of my favorite things about the D.C. program was that, unlike other study away trips, my classmates and I were selected to be in D.C. based on a common interest – seeking the politics and international affairs major. We were able to spend time in meaningful discussions and lectures with Dr. David Fleming and each other about national and local politics and how we can be makers of change once we are launched into the "real world" after graduation. ●



1 Becca Colehower '20 (right) meeting with House Speaker Paul Ryan during an intern meeting on the day of the State of the Union Address.



2 Furman alumni Tommy Andrews '09 (left) and Will Miller '12 (right), members of House Speaker Paul Ryan's staff, show their Furman pride on Dins Day.



3 Sabrina Roof '19, Shannon Short '19, Becca Colehower '20, Greg Boyes '18, and Hannah Warren '19, students in the D.C. Experience Program, visit the United States Capitol for a tour and exploration of the history and procedures of the United States Congress.