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TRIPtych: A Peek at APEC

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TRIPtych

A Peek at APEC

BY MARY BRADLEY PAZDAN '19

When I applied to be a student delegate for the 2018 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Voices of the Future Program in Papua New Guinea, I had no idea what kind of impact it would have on my life. Having studied away several times and participated in student-run organizations on campus, I thought I had done everything Furman had to offer me. I was wrong.

Through the conference, I connected with four other student leaders at Furman, who inspired me with their leadership skills and genuine passion to serve others. I also made friends with student leaders from across the world and got to appreciate the similarities between our countries. I was constantly inspired by the stories I heard from my new friends and have maintained the friendships since returning to the United States.

What was most memorable to me was how all of my fellow delegates came together to discuss our countries' common challenges and seek solutions. Although we were considered the future leaders at APEC, I left knowing that our voices are important and will make a difference in our world. That, I realized, is truly The Furman Advantage.

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1 Katherine West, '19, Davis Cousar '20, Jackson Robinson '20, Mary Bradley Pazdan '19 and Rob Cain '19 represent the United States at APEC Voices of the Future, where they discuss foreign policy, listen to speeches and experience new cultures.

2 Davis Cousar '20 and Mary Bradley Pazdan '19 learn alongside students from around the world in Papua New Guinea for the 20th anniversary of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation 2018 Voices of the Future program.



3 Politics and International Affairs Professor Cleve Fraser, Katherine West '19, Mary Bradley Pazdan '19, Rob Cain '19, Davis Cousar '20, Jackson Robinson '20 and Jessica Hennessey, associate professor of economics, attend events on ships like the Pacific Jewel and the Pacific Explorer.