

Office of News and Media Relations

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## Five Furman Students Attending APEC Conference in Vietnam; Read Daily Blog

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GREENVILLE, S.C.—A delegation of five Furman University students and one professor will travel to Hanoi, Vietnam Nov. 11-19 to represent the United States at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference.

The conference will bring many of the world's leaders to Vietnam, including U.S. President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Furman students will be the only college students in attendance representing the United States.

Established in 1989, APEC is a platform for economic cooperation that facilitates bilateral trade and investment. The organization's signature event is an annual summit hosted each year by an APEC member nation.



Dr. Brent Nelsen, chair of Furman's political science department chair, will lead the student group. The participating students are Kristen Capogrossi, a junior political science and economics major from Columbia; Daniella Fergusson, a senior political science major from Matthews, N.C.; Webb McArthur, a senior political science and philosophy major from McConnells; Ke Ji, a junior political science and Asian studies major from Madison, Miss.; and Cindy Youssef, a senior political science and Latin American studies major from Greenville.

The trip, sponsored by the Riley Institute at Furman, is conducted under the auspices of the Virtual Trade Mission (VTM) Foundation, a privately funded, Washington, D.C.-based organization dedicated to

educating students, educators and businesspeople about the emerging global economy. Furman students have also traveled to previous APEC conferences in South Korea and Chile.

APEC countries represent 2.5 billion people with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of \$19-trillion, which accounts for more than 50 percent of world trade. Students at the conference will live with other students from APEC member nations for one week. They will engage in conversations discussing policies, economics and culture. Throughout the week, students will be divided into groups to interview APEC leaders and participants. The interviews will be broadcast through the VTM website for access around the world.

At past APEC conferences, Furman students have met with former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, former President Alejandro Toledo (Peru) and Prime Minister Helen Clark (New Zealand).

For more information, contact Furman's Riley Institute at 864-294-3282.

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