

Office of News and Media Relations

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Three Furman Students Have Active Roles In APEC 2002 CEO Summit In Mexico

GREENVILLE, S.C. - Three Furman University students took the school's concept of "engaged learning" to a new level last month when they attended the annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Mexico and helped produce the news that came out of the five-day conference.

The three Furman students - Ayesha Ahmad of Greenville, Steven Buckingham of Gray Tenn., and Shunta Harmon of Riverdale, Ga. - were among a group of 60 student delegates from around the world who attended the APEC 2002 CEO Summit in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

The students produced a series of video programs that were broadcast live to audiences in the 21 APEC member countries. Notable



Ayesha Ahmad



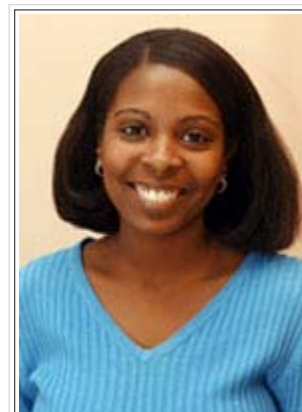
Steven Buckingham

guests on the programs included U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castaneda and Marta Sahagun Fox, the first lady of Mexico.

The Furman students attended the summit as John I. Smith Scholars under the sponsorship of the university's Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership.

APEC was established in 1989 to promote economic integration around the Pacific Rim and to sustain economic growth. The 2002 CEO Summit provided an opportunity for the top Asia-Pacific business leaders to learn more about the major economic, political, social and technological developments affecting the APEC region.

The organization's 21 members are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua



Shunta Harmon

New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States, and Vietnam.

Organized under the banner of "Voices of the Future of APEC" and conducted under the auspices of the Virtual Trade Mission (VTM) Foundation, the 60 students represented Mexico, Brunei, China, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Thailand and the United States. In addition to conducting on-site, on-camera interviews with APEC officials and business leaders, the students were asked to produce three-minute movies of their experiences.

Each of the students was provided with an Apple iBook laptop computer and a Cannon digital video camera to chronicle the events. The news pieces were televised throughout the region by Monterrey Tech Virtual University.

"It was an incredible experience," Buckingham said. "I had always thought that I would go to law school after graduation, but I'm not so sure anymore. I think my real interest lies in being a participant in the sort of events that were taking place [at the Summit]. I loved it. I think it has a lot of potential to do a lot of good for people."

This was the first year Furman students had participated in the APEC meeting, and school officials said they hope to take even more students to next year's conference in Thailand.

For more information, contact Furman's Office of News and Media Relations at 864-294-3107.

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