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Bivens Treasures APEC Conference Participation

Winthrop University

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Bivens Treasures APEC Conference Participation

Quick Facts

- Bivens joined other students selected from Harvard University, Brown University, Cornell University and Furman University to learn more about the 21-member countries' economies and trade talks.
- The conference featured keynote addresses by President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other world leaders.



Dejon Bivens, left, with other students in Hawaii

ROCK HILL, S.C. – **Ansel Dejon Bivens III**, a senior pre-law/political science major at Winthrop University, was one of only eight students selected nationally to attend the 2011 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference held Nov. 8-13 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Bivens joined other students selected from Harvard University, Brown University, Cornell University and Furman University to learn more about the 21-member countries' economies and trade talks.

"It truly was an honor to be selected to participate in such an outstanding conference," said **Bivens** of Charlotte, N.C. "We were able to see how politics works, sit in on trade talk meetings and understand many cultures from around the world."

The conference featured keynote addresses by **President Barack Obama**, **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton** and other world leaders. **APEC** is the premier economic organization in the Asia-Pacific region. Established in 1989 by 12 economies, including the United States, APEC fosters growth and prosperity by facilitating economic cooperation and expanding trade and investment throughout the region.

APEC's 21 member economies account for 60 percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product; 47 percent of world trade volume; 33 percent of the world's population; and four-out-of-five of America's largest export markets.

In addition to learning about **economies** and **trade processes**, Bivens expressed an appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about Hawaiian culture and the various cultures that represent the member countries. He also enjoyed the networking experience that the conference provided.

In his free time, Bivens, **a standout member of Winthrop's tennis team**, kept his skills sharp by practicing at the University of Hawaii in addition to taking in the island's sights.

"It was quite humbling to be among the best and brightest students selected for this experience," said Bivens. "I'm proud to have represented Winthrop at such a notable and historic event."

Bivens also recently made Winthrop history by becoming the university's **first Rhodes Scholar finalist**. Bivens was one of the 200 candidates, from a nationwide pool of 1,500, who earned an interview. He traveled to St. Louis, Mo., in late November to vie for one of the two District 12 scholarships.

Bivens plans to attend law school following his May 2012 graduation.

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