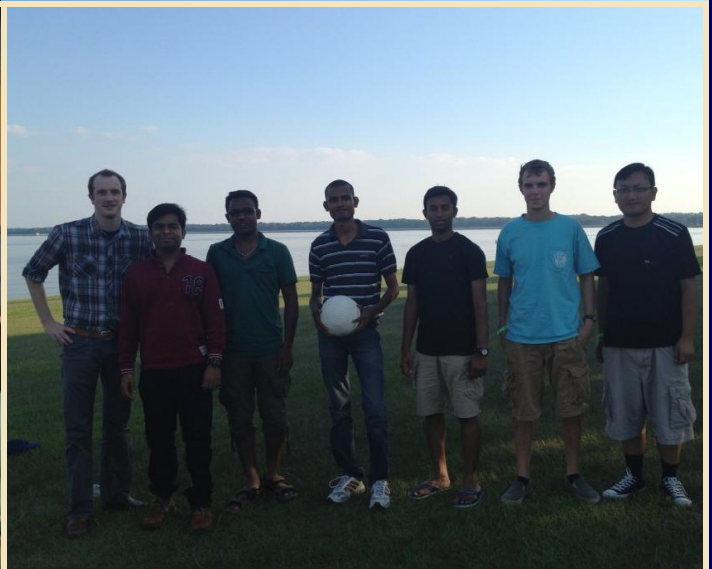


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INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM WELCOMES NEW COORDINATOR

Chaeli Chambers
IEP Instructor

The Office of Global Education (OGE) welcomed Clinton native Hope Vandersteen as the full-time coordinator of the Intensive English Program (IEP) beginning the summer of 2013. Vandersteen follows in the footsteps of Jenny Price, who led IEP for several years, but who has recently stepped into a new position with the OGE. In addition to her love for teaching and working with international students, Vandersteen brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and education to IEP.

During her undergraduate studies at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri, Vandersteen studied English education with a minor in writing. The

summer before her junior year of college, she was afforded an opportunity to spend a summer teaching English in Cambodia. It was during this first teaching



New IEP Coordinator, Mrs. Hope Vandersteen

experience, a pivotal moment in her life, that Vandersteen discovered her love and passion for teaching and particularly for working with international students. In this experience of teaching, Vandersteen stumbled upon something she wanted to keep doing for as

long as possible, something she was excited about: a sense of vocational calling and purpose. In 2008 Vandersteen finished her degree at Evangel, got married and moved back to Mississippi, where she immediately found a way to do what she loved doing—teaching English to international students. Vandersteen is proud to say that she has been in the shoes of the IEP teachers because her first job was as a reading and writing instructor in IEP at Mississippi College. During her time working as an IEP instructor at MC, Hope completed a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). It was only the birth of her first child in the spring of 2011 that took Hope out of the classroom and into a crash course in motherhood! When the IEP coordinator posi-

tion opened recently, Vandersteen interviewed and then took the lead as coordinator. She is a visionary leader and is excited to join the OGE and IEP teams, who together desire to create and implement innovative classes and programs that are relevant to the diverse needs of our growing international student body. It is with great excitement for the future of the Intensive English Program at Mississippi College that we welcome Hope Vandersteen to our staff and family.

FALL SEMESTER UPDATE

Jenny Price
International Student Advisor

Beginning around August 19, The Office of Global Education has welcomed 62 new international students from 14 different countries! Of those 62 new students, 40 were graduate students and 22 were undergraduate students. As usual, the majority of our new students have come from China, India, and Saudi Arabia. However, we have also welcomed new students from Spain, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Brazil, and Japan.

The majority of our new students are seeking degrees in subjects like Business, Health Services Administration,

Chemistry, Biology, and Computer Science. Of course, there are several of our new and old students who need to hone their English proficiency before they can start the rigors of their academic classes, so they are first enrolled in our long-standing Intensive English Program. Because more and more of our students are coming to Mississippi College with higher levels of English proficiency, this Fall semester we started our pilot bridge program – a program that allows our students to have one foot in the English language program while also having one foot in their academic programs. We believe this program will be really well-received and very beneficial for our international

students.

All new international students received new student orientation on August 26 in our Multicultural Center and began their classes, English or academic, on August 28. We are off to a great start, are looking forward to a successful semester, and have already begun working on applications for new students for Spring, 2014!



Sisters Bhanu and Deepika Pamba look through their new student information at the orientation on August 26.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Looking back over this past year since I took on the position of Executive Director of Office of Global Education (OGE), many new and exciting events have occurred in the OGE. In addition to our standing, big annual cultural events – such as the International Festival and Lunar New Year celebration in the spring and the Moon Festival and the Celebration of Culture in the fall – we started our monthly Global Cafes, first summer session of IEP, first summer English camp, etc. In addition to these new programs, there's still a lot more we need to do, such as student recruitment, program expansion, student retention, graduation rate, job placement, close communication with faculty and staff, expansion of international alumni base, etc. The academic year of 2013-2014 is poised to challenge our world of learning even more.

Mei-Chi Piletz
Executive Director
Office of Global Education

MOON FESTIVAL RELIEVES HOMESICK FEELINGS

Weina "Abbie" Li
Chinese International Student

On September 19 the Office of Global Education (OGE) hosted their annual Moon Festival, which is a traditional festival in Chinese culture. It is also the first major event hosted by the OGE since the start of the fall semester. Like Thanksgiving, the Moon Festival means family reunion. For the students who study overseas, one of the saddest things is that they cannot celebrate this traditional festival with their families - especially for the students who just entered the United States this semester.

The Moon Festival Celebration was held in Alumni Gym from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The festival was not only attended by Chinese students, but also students from other countries

such as the United States and India. Everyone enjoyed moon cakes, spring rolls, dumplings and Chinese traditional tea in the celebration. In addition to the good food, students also danced and played games together.

"It was fun!" said Hang Xue, an exchange student from Central China Normal University.



President Lee Royce and his wife, Mrs. Rhoda Royce, also attended the Moon Festival.

INTERNATIONAL HOST FAMILY PROGRAM

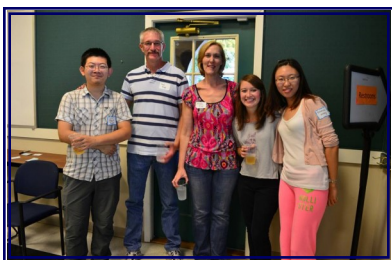
Brittany Perrotta,
Resident Director

On Thursday, September 12, the Office of Global Education hosted its American Host Family Kick-Off Event. The Kick-Off was a night for Mississippi College International students to meet their assigned American Host Families.

Representatives from 30 different American families across the Clinton / Jackson area volunteered to serve as a "home away from home" for interested International students. Each family that volunteered committed to planning a monthly activity with their student as well as hosting them for an American holiday. The program is designed to help International students better acclimate to American culture and to show students American

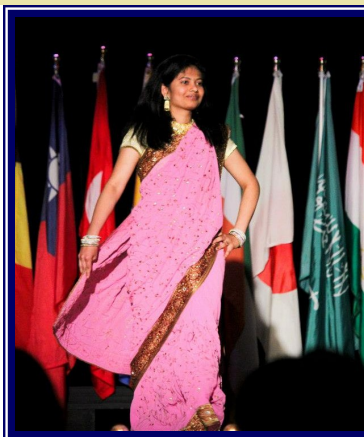
life outside of the collegiate setting.

After meeting her new family, German exchange student, Jenny



International Students, Xuan "Black" Gao and Ran "Rebecca" Wang with Host Family Participants and church co-coordinator, Kelley Beth Brashier

Schuller said, "I am so glad I was there yesterday. I had a great time and a very good first impression. They were very interested in me, and I could see that they really wanted to provide a home for me while I'm here."



Senior international students Suchita Panchal (left) and Vinicius Hiratuka (right, playing guitar) practice what they preach by being involved in the annual International Student Festival.

SENIOR STUDENT ADVICE FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Xu "Katrina" Cheng
Chinese International Student

"I still remember the feeling when I first came to MC. Everything was fresh and hopeful," Xiao Xian Ni said, a senior undergraduate communication major from China. She suggests the first thing that new international students should do is make a specific plan for themselves. The plan should include academic goals, hobbies they want to keep, and places they want to travel. Making a plan will help them to keep things in focus and attain their goals.

Vinicius Hiratuka, from Brazil, suggests that every new international student should try to get involved with some kind of activity on campus. "You can meet new people and make friends," Hiratuka says. In addition, "You can feel and learn the different cultures from them."

New international student, especially those who come from Asian countries, may feel shy when interacting with others. "Don't be afraid to ask questions. Everyone is kind and enthusiastic here," says Feng Zhou, a graduate communication major from China. He advises students that the only way

to improve language capability is to communicate with others, particularly with American friends. Also, he suggests that when students finish their assignments like papers or articles, they should go to the Writing Center located in the first floor of the library. The tutors there will help with grammar, word choice, and format to make assignments better so students can get better grades. Suchita Panchal, from India, is also an undergraduate student majoring in communication. Like Hiratuka, Panchal suggests that in order to make more friends or learn different cultures, "You should go to a lot of parties and join many activities." She warns, though, not to forget that the first purpose for coming here is to study: "Keep studying as your premise, then enjoy your life in MC."

Every international student has their own reasons for coming here. However, no matter what the reason, each international student should feel very lucky as this is a great opportunity to see the real America through his or her very own eyes and experiences. It will help change your view of the world!



Left: Guest
Writer Yue
Xian Guo
(Cassia)

KNOWING ABOUT THE WORLD, KNOWING ABOUT MYSELF

*Yue Xian Guo (Cassia) -
Summer Camp 2013; Student
from China Central Normal Uni-
versity*



CCNU Summer Campers shown here
with Director Piletz at the Welcome
Reception



CCNU Summer Campers shown here
at Time Square in New York City,
New York

It was both a long journey and a challenging one for me. Putting myself into a new and strange environment, I cannot completely express my feelings, but I liked it. After attending Mississippi College's summer camp, I know which taste is the best, what real life is, and who I want to be.

The best tasting food is the food you like, while the best tastes of life are those memories that cause you to smile whenever you think of them. I felt visiting America was one of the most wonderful experiences in my life. It was like a bird given a chance to fly in the boundless sky - full of excitement, freedom and curiosity. Traveling opened my horizons and studying increased my knowledge. If I had to choose a period as the perfect time, it

would be the time I spent at Mississippi College. It was a place where I got along with the locals, gained knowledge I never had before, experienced comfortable friendships with my teachers, and learned a different culture. This is the time I will cherish most from my visit to the USA.

I had never experienced life like this before. One completely realizes what real life is when he or she travels. Maybe life is like a journey, you never know what will happen next. All you can do is just make preparations for what may come. At the same time, one should be patient as he or she may capture great scenery while waiting. We should accept everything in our life and treat it with an optimistic attitude. We should try new things in life and take risks to challenge ourselves.

I know myself better now than ever before. While in the U.S., I tried lots of new things. I dis-

covered some things about myself I did not know before. I am braver than I thought before because I was able to share my opinions with others when given the chance. Also, I learned that I take full use of my time to catch the details of life: observing gas prices, various cars, and different fashion styles. I know I want to be a kind teacher who can be a friend to students. I know that there are so many things to learn in life. By improving myself all the time, I can be a stronger person. I met friendly people in the U.S. and made up my mind to be a person like them.

After this journey, I know the world is different on the other side of the earth, and I know more about myself. This journey was full of meaning and happiness, and I will return to the U.S. to see my friends and learn more new things as soon as I have the chance!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: FAHD ALJABER, SAUDI ARABIA

*Yaqing "Elring" Tan
Chinese International Student*

Fahd Aljaber is a graduate student from Saudi Arabia majoring in Health Services Administration. He got his bachelor's degree in Public Administration in 2005, then a diploma in Military Science in 2007. Fahd started to work in 2006 as an administrative coordinator at the Rehabilitation Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Before coming to the States, Fahd was chosen by the government to work as the Officer for the Training Department of Current Armed Forces Medical Services Directorate (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia). As part of this job, Fahd has sent out promising young men to universities

all over the world through Saudi Arabia Cultural Mission (SACM) contracts. The partner colleges and universities are found in multiple countries:



*Fahd Aljaber, Saudi Arabian
International Student*

Canada, China, Japan, Australia, the United States, etc. The first group of young men was sent in 2009 to the prestigious George Washington University,

where 13 men achieved their master's and/or doctorate degrees. This past January, after Fahd had accomplished many wonderful tasks with his job, the government thought it was time for Fahd to study.

Through SACM, Fahd will be sponsored to complete both his master and doctorate's degrees in the United States. After he finishes his master's degree here at MC, he will need to go back and obtain permission to continue his doctoral studies. He might have to work for the government for 2 years before starting his doctoral pursuit, but it may be negotiable since he has a family. Ultimately, when he finishes his final degree, Fahd is required to work for the government for 10

years.

This outstanding gentleman has two daughters, a 5-year-old daughter, Aseel, and a 1-year-old Adeem, cared for by his wife Abeer.

Abeer is currently enrolled part-time in the Intensive English Program here at MC. After she improves her English proficiency, Abeer wishes to study Computer Science.

Fahd told me that he loves his wife's Kabsa (meat or chicken with brown rice) and Sayadieh (fish with rice), which are typical Saudi Arabian dishes.

With the support of his family, it should be pretty smooth for Fahd to finish his "great mission" in such a "friendly" (as he described) Christian university.

MC HOSTS MUSICAL TALENT FROM MINZU UNIVERSITY IN CHINA

*Xueru Li**Minzu University of China student*

This past summer, I was honored to come to Mississippi College with my teacher and two other classmates to experience American college-life for fifteen days. During this time we broadened our horizons and expanded our minds. In addition, I grew to know many lovely friends and learn a lot about the local culture.

We had a very busy schedule for our fifteen-day visit! Not only did we take courses in English and music theory every day, but we also spent time preparing for our concert on campus. We really enjoyed the language learning and professional classes.

Kelley Beth Brashier, our English teacher,



Minzu University China Students (from bottom left): Wu, Qiong, Li, Xueru, and Zhao, Na with Kelley Beth Brashier, their English teacher. Not pictured: Yan, Yu

played an important role in the improvement of our English language learning. What differentiated her teaching from the previous English education we had received, was her practical method for teaching us language skills. For instance, she took us to

cafes and supermarkets to put us in real settings of language use. In this way, we were able to memorize many terms and expressions used on a daily basis.

Our music theory teachers also went a long way to help us with our understanding of music and introduced significant concepts and ideas of international music theories. Thanks to their patient and diligent work, we felt like we had really upgraded our profession.

Our vocal performance was a completely amazing experience. It consisted of eleven songs performed by our Chinese teacher and the three of us Chinese students from Minzu University of China. As the name “Minzu” (which carries the meaning of ethnic minorities, or in terms of music, folk styles) indicates, most of the songs were folk music songs concerning the life in Inner Mongolia and composed by Mongol artists. The audience was made up of college students and teachers, friends from churches, and other people interested in Chinese culture and folk music. We did a large amount of preparation and practice for the concert. A special thanks goes to Chien-yi “Jack” Li, our pianist and the director for the performance group. He helped us to create a good musical arrangement by contributing a great number of brilliant, original ideas for our performance, enriching the content of the concert.

Another person that would complete our stay in the U.S. with her kindness and hospitality was Carrie Kirk, our residence assistant. At the end of the fifteen-day stay, Carrie invited us to her apartment to have dinner with her and a lot of our new friends. She cooked a lot of delicious food for us. The most distinctive part of the meal was the dessert; it was a favorite for most of us. After the dinner we spent a memorable

for most of us. Following the dinner we spent a memorable night singing and talking with each other.



Above: Xueru Li and Yu Yan give a vocal performance accompanied by pianist and Chinese international graduate student Chien-Yi “Jack” Li.

Last but not least, a special thanks must also be given to Mrs. Mei-Chi Piletz, who invited us to visit Mississippi College, where we had this great opportunity to learn and share.

Our time at Mississippi College was wonderful and memorable. We appreciate all the people who helped and worked with us and hope to come visit here again in the near future.



Pictured: Teacher and Award-Winning Musical Performer, Zhao Na, accompanied MUC students to Mississippi College in Summer, 2013.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

CELEBRATION OF
CULTURE
NOVEMBER 14
ANDERSON HALL
7:00-9:00

GLOBAL CAFÉ
OCTOBER 3
NOVEMBER 7
CUPS
5:00-7:00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL
APRIL 4
SWOR AUDITORIUM
6:30-8:30

GLOBAL CAFÉ
FEBRUARY 6
MARCH 6
CUPS
5:00-7:00

NEW!

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Screen Name:
officeofglobaleducation

WE ARE SORRY WE HAVE BEEN GONE FOR THE PAST YEAR!
HERE IS A RECAP OF WHAT YOU MISSED!



We welcomed our new Executive Director, Mrs. Mei-Chi Piletz in October! Pictured above from left: Rafi Shaik (India), Mrs. Piletz, and Vinod Goldsmith (India).



We hosted our first International Tent at the Homecoming Tailgate in the Quad. Pictured above from front left: Xiaofan "Lucy" Lei (China), Kendra Williams (USA), Shaoqing "Candy" Liu (China), Rebecca Brill (USA), (back left) Vinod Goldsmith (India), Bethani Thomas (USA), Weina "Abbie" Li (China), and Yaqing "Elring" Tan (China)



We had a record breaking 300 attendees to our annual International Festival in April. Pictured above: Sanae Sanoura (Morocco), Chantal Muhimpundu (Rwanda), and Manzura Dautova (Kyrgyzstan).



This year's Celebration of Culture had over 21 countries represented and hosted over 150 attendees! Pictured above from left: Bo Liang (China) and Xiaofan Zhang (China)



We began hosting a monthly Global Café—a meeting ground for international students and American students to come together and talk. Pictured above: Xiaojing "Hannah" Liu (China), Kelley Beth Brashier (USA), and Ran "Rebecca" Wang (China)



Our Table Tennis team once again ranked second in North America! Pictured from Left: Cheng Li (China), Huan "Ken" Qiu (China), Yang Yu (China), Zhicheng "Johnson" Liang (China), Ying "Jeff" Huang (China), and Zhiqiao "Joe" Xie (China)