

MOSAIC

OFFICE OF GLOBAL EDUCATION



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MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

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MOSAIC

OFFICE OF
GLOBAL EDUCATION

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OUR STATEMENT

A mosaic is a singular picture or design that is composed of several diverse objects, like colored glass. While each separate object or piece of glass retains its own unique beauty, all the objects work together to create a beautiful masterpiece.

It is the same with our students at Mississippi College. Each student here contributes his or her own inherent beauty and cultural uniqueness to our campus, which we value greatly. But, it is together that we compose that which is more beautiful than ourselves: the majestic image of God.

So, the word Mosaic paints a beautiful picture of our international students and the role they play in student life at Mississippi College, doesn't it?

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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



“We want to take them by the hands the best we can, and equip them for greatness. That is why we are here.”

I have the honor of leading this office, and the joy in seeing it grow and flourish firsthand. Each year presents new challenges and experiences, and because of the surge of new students in the last few years we had to forgo this publication of Mosaic until now. So I am thrilled to have it resume, to be able to share with you what we are doing and will be doing in this new season in the Office of Global Education. I wanted to be able to recap the last few months and so in this issue you'll find news about our past Spring Events, Summer Camps, updates from our Intensive English Program, New Staff member highlights, the Adopt-A-Student program and more.

We hope all readers will enjoy this new format and design, and most importantly these pages that are full of the life here from the International Students. We speak often of the cultural experience students can expect here, and Mosaic is a direct reflection of how true that statement is.

Here at the Office of Global Education we believe that every student should be cared for, from the first steps of enrollment, through the rigours of their academic success, all the way to graduation. We want to take them by the hands the best we can, and equip them for future greatness. That is why we are here.

SPRING EVENTS RECAP

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL



International students bring unique cultural backgrounds to Mississippi College, and we want the chance to experience them all! The International Festival gives students the chance to share this specific aspect of themselves and their culture with the Mississippi College community.

As the largest international event of the year, many members of the MC, Jackson, and Clinton communities attend the festival, gaining appreciation for the abundance of multicultural talent and skill present at Mississippi College. And this Spring was no different as students awed the audience and made it a night to remember.

LUNAR NEW YEAR



One of the other large events in the Spring is the celebration of the Lunar New Year. Students and staff joined together to learn more about the celebration, the culture, and the traditions of the Lunar New Year.

With traditional garments, music, a fashion show, and some Chinese calligraphy, it was an event that reminded students of their home countries and made being far from home during this holiday fun and eventful.

GLOBAL CAFE

This Spring we held Global Cafes each month for the international students. Partnering with Clinton's neighbourhood coffee shop, Cups Espresso Bar to create an atmosphere of good food and good coffee. Global Cafes are designed to be a relaxed time of fellowship for our domestic and international students.

All are welcome to attend and enjoy free coffee and treats. This is where many students meet their matched family through the Adopt-A-Student program, and others sign up for various activities like conversation partners or tutoring.



INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM & SUMMER CAMP

The Intensive English Program (IEP) is home to a diverse group of bright and dedicated students from Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, China, Mexico, Colombia, India, and Taiwan. Our students work hard to strengthen their English language skills through our IEP classes: Reading and Vocabulary, Grammar and Writing, and Listening and Speaking.

In addition, our students work on several creative projects each year. For example, the “Humans of Mississippi College” project is our version of the popular photo blog “Humans of New York.” Our students conduct interviews with Mississippi College students and staff, and they create a website to showcase their work. Though the IEP students work and study hard, they also make time to get involved in various campus events and activities including Global Café, conversation partners, intramurals, and International Connection.

This summer, Chinese and Brazilian students will arrive for our third annual summer camp. Students spend four weeks taking courses in Western Civilization, Oral Communication, Service Learning, and Reading. Students spend their evenings participating in exciting cultural activities, and weekends are full of sightseeing in various southern cities. This combination of academic courses, cultural immersion has made our summer camp a popular success!



STUDENT

SPOTLIGHT: Djordje Krkobabic



“I came to
Mississippi College
because of their
excellent science
programs, I knew
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me for my career.”

When an international student excels in one of the most rigorous programs MC has to offer... people notice.

Meet Djordje Krkobabic, an international student from Serbia in his second year of MC's undergraduate Nursing program.

He's a self proclaimed History geek, and appreciates time to play soccer and watch Netflix, but his hobbies take the back burner while he rises at 6am every morning to get his studies in for the day. Djordje knows that having smart priorities are what make him the successful Nursing student that he is. As a junior he's found his niche here, but admits to

having a huge culture shock when he first moved to the US. "I spoke a little bit of English. I understood pretty well but when I had to speak it, that was harder for me," explains Djordje. He knows his English composition classes helped with grammar, but learning the expression came from just being around Americans.

In Serbia, students can make the decision to choose a career focused high school. So it was in 8th grade when Djordje chose to pursue Nursing. "It's a big decision deciding what you want to do with your life at 15, but I decided that I liked taking care of people," he says smiling.

His sister attended MC before him and encouraged him to apply, knowing he would excel here. "I came to

Mississippi College because of their excellent science programs, I knew it would prepare me for my career," he shares.

Djordje works in our Office of Global Education a few hours each week, on top of his studies, classes, intramural games, and involvement with the Phi-Theta-Cappa honor society. He's well rounded and smart, but his humble attitude is what stands out to his peers and professors.

Only seeing his parents about every 2 years, he looks forward to their first trip to Mississippi to see him when he graduates next year. He plans to stay after school as an RN to gain some work experience in the states, "I'm also thinking through getting a masters degree in Clinical Nursing or as a Nurse Practitioner."

ADOPT-A-STUDENT

PROGRAM: Lina & Roger Willis



ADOPT-A-STUDENT is a program to connect Americans and international students, as a platform for local families to invest in their matched student.

Lina and Roger Willis are stepping into their second year of hosting international students through the Adopt-A-Student program with huge hearts and the greatest hope of another memorable year. Spending five minutes with them is enough to recognize their genuine kindness, and the stories they shared confirm that this program really makes a difference; in the lives of the students, and in the lives of the host families.

They first learned about Adopt-A-Student from a couple in their Sunday school class who had hosted before, and with Roger's love for international travelling, particularly to Southeast Asia, they knew it would be something they wanted to incorporate into their lives. Fast forward a few months

and two students from Beijing are joined at their dinner table, Facetimeing home to China to introduce their "American Parents." Toward the end of the year, they found themselves spending more and more time together. Lina and Roger explored bits of Mississippi with them, teaching them about the history of the small towns here. More than anything though, they all just appreciated sharing meals together in the Willis home. One night the two students excitedly cooked a traditional Chinese meal, Hot Pot, for them to try, just as a way to show they loved them right back.

"WE STILL KEEP IN CONTACT WITH

THEM," says Lina, with emotions that show how close they became with their students. Roger even plans to visit them next summer on his way back from a missions trip to Laos. They don't have anything to say but wonderful things about the students

"I told Xi, our student from China, you call anytime day or night. Because I know how homesick I would be if I was on the other side of the world."

and the program, and they encourage their own friends to experience it for themselves, "There's no pressure. You spend time with your students at your own pace in a way that is natural, and genuine relationships just form."

This year they have been matched with two girls, one from China and one from India. "I told Xi, our student from China, you call anytime day or night. This is strange to them, and I know I may not be her mother, but I want to be as supportive as I can. Because I know how homesick I would be if I was on the other side of the world," Lina explained, with the nurturing empathy that all student's mother's back home would thank her for.

The Office of Global Education wants every student to have a place that feels like a "home away from home," and Adopt-A-Student has been one of those programs that encourages connections to help make that mission a reality.

NEW STAFF



Phala Echols

Staff position:
Program Coordinator

Where are you from?
Linden, Alabama

Where did you attend college?
The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, and then Auburn University for my masters.

What did you major in?
At USM my major was business administration with an emphasis in human resources. At Auburn, I received a M.Ed in Secondary English Education.

Career background:
I taught 8th grade Language Arts for three years in Birmingham, AL before serving for nineteen years in Asia with the International Mission Board as an Educational Consultant. I've lived in Bangkok, Thailand; Seoul, South Korea; and Chiang Mai, Thailand.



David Chip Clary

Staff position:
Student Services Coordinator

Where are you from?
Memphis, TN

Where did you attend college?
I went to the University of Memphis for a degree in Business Administration

Career background:
Before coming to MC, my family spent 27 years overseas in the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Taiwan. My work involved assisting non-profit organizations in the areas of administration, finance, logistics, technology and risk management (security).

Family life:
Married for 28 years, One son at Union University's Pharmacy Graduate School, One daughter at MC majoring in Nursing.



Camryn Glackin

Staff position:
Administrative Assistant

Where are you from?
Charlotte, NC

Where did you attend college?
I have a degree in Marketing & Public Relations from Liberty University

What brought you to MS?
I married my high school sweetheart in April, and we moved down here for him to attend MC's Bio-Medical Graduate program! I worked in marketing the last few years which provided transferable experience that has helped in all the recruiting I get to do here.

What do you love about OGE?
The people are so kind here, and there's no one more encouraging to work for than Ms. Piletz!

CALENDER OF EVENTS



AUGUST MONDAY 22 Orientation Self Hall 210 9:00am-12:00pm	SEPTEMBER THURSDAY 08 Global Cafe Cups Espresso 4:30-6:30pm	SEPTEMBER FRIDAY 09 Academic Info Session Self Hall 210 2:00-4:00pm
SEPTEMBER FRIDAY 16 Moon Festival Alumni Hall 6:30-8:30pm	SEPTEMBER FRIDAY 30 Saudi National Day Quad & Swor Auditorium 4:30-7:30pm	OCTOBER FRIDAY 07 Indian Cultural Event Alumni Hall 4:30-6:30pm
OCTOBER SATURDAY 15 Homecoming MC Campus All Day Events	OCTOBER THURSDAY 20 Global Cafe Home of MC President 4:30pm-6:30pm	NOVEMBER THURSDAY 03 Celebration of Culture Anderson Hall West 4:30pm-6:30pm
NOVEMBER THURSDAY 10 Global Cafe Cups Espresso 4:30pm-6:30pm	DECEMBER FRIDAY 02 International Christmas Party Anderson Hall 7pm-9pm	DECEMBER FRIDAY 16 Graduation Coliseum TBD

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