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CAMPUS-WIDE EVENT CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL CULTURES



International student leaders from India, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan show off their traditional dress with MC's President, Dr. Lee Royce, at the Celebration of Culture.

Brittany Perrotta
Residence Life Assistant

On November 3, the Office of Global Education hosted its annual Celebration of Culture: an event that promotes the wide array of cultures that are represented here at Mississippi College.

The Celebration of Culture

was a night for the international students of Mississippi College to teach American students about their traditions and culture. Representatives from 14 different countries donned traditional attire and organized tables to represent their nations, with food, folk art, videos and photos, games, and souvenirs. Attendees were given an

"international passport" which showed pictures of the flags of each represented country. Students were challenged to speak to representatives from each country, and in turn the representative would put a sticker in their passport. In less than two hours, students were able to "travel the world" and learn about the cultural diversity represented in the student body at MC.

Lina Do, a student from Vietnam, said "A lot of people don't know that much about Vietnam. Since I'm just starting out here (at MC), I want to make people more aware of my culture."

Not only did students grow in their knowledge of different cultures from hearing descriptions and seeing artifacts, but they also were able to learn from tasting different foods. Each table had samples of traditional food items. Everything

from Chinese candy to a full Saudi Arabian meal was served to students who wanted to taste the authentic food prepared by their international peers.

Chris Peace, a senior at Mississippi College said, "I think it's a mind-opening experience for all international students to know that so many students are interested in their culture."

The event also served as an opportunity for the Mississippi College Table Tennis Team, ranked 5th in the nation, to showcase their athleticism and skill with an exhibition. Team captain Huan "Ken" Qiu described the different moves used as the game became more intense and fast paced. The table tennis exhibition along with the other cultural displays highlighted the uniqueness of all the nations represented at MC. The event truly embodied the celebration of culture.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE BUILDS ITS CHINESE PROGRAM

Ran An
Education Specialist

In the past five years MC students been fortunate to visit marvelous places such as the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, and they have gained once-in-a-lifetime experiences by visiting the Shanghai World Expo and cheering for American athletes at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Students received all of these opportunities because of the Chinese language program which began at MC in 2007. The program has achieved exceptional results, especially among its students. Five MC graduates, who minored in Chinese, received full scholarships to study for their master's degrees in China. These students are among 100

students from elite schools such as Harvard and Yale.

During the fall 2011 semester, MC's Chinese program has continued to improve. Mississippi College was honorably recognized as a new member of Asiannetwork (AN), which is a consortium of over 170 elite North American colleges that promote Asian Studies. With the AN's assistance and potential grant opportunities, MC can make substantial steps to found an Asian Studies Major in the future.

MC also established a partnership with its first sister university in mainland China, Central China Normal University (CCNU), and welcomed the first exchange student from China in MC's 180-year history. As an elite university directly under

the Chinese Ministry of Education, CCNU will host MC students in summer or semester study abroad programs. In addition, MC students who graduate with Chinese credit hours will be able to win full scholarships to pursue their master's degrees at CCNU.

Finally, the enrollment in Chinese classes on MC's campus continues to grow. "In Chinese class, you definitely learn more than just language and this opens up multiple opportunities," said Kendra Williams, a student from Intermediate Chinese. Ran An, Chinese professor, agreed. "When you combine Chinese language skill with your major, you will find your major immediately changed to something more interesting."

Merry Christmas from the Office of Global Education!

We recently finished an exciting and productive fall semester at Mississippi College. We sponsored quality events, graduated 30 students, and boasted our largest Intensive English Program class in the history of MC. Our international programs contribute greatly to MC's elite status.

Thank you for joining with us in making Mississippi College a place of cultural and academic excellence. We hope this current issue of MOSAIC gives you a glimpse of our wonderfully busy fall semester. Have a rich and wonderful Christmas season with your family and friends.

Jim Brackenridge

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE CHERISHES GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP WITH KOREA

Chris Peace
International Liaison

Mississippi College's Office of Global Education holds a strong partnership with Sookmyung Women's University in Seoul, South Korea. Each year Mississippi College offers a chance for Sookmyung students to expand their global perspective by attending a full academic year at MC. In return, Sookmyung offers free tuition for MC students during its summer school program in Seoul.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, Jungyeon Sun, Dayoung Hwang, Sori Kim and Youngeun Kwon were all selected to come to MC from Sookmyung. Kwon will only attend the fall semester, while the others will complete the

entire academic year. All four are upperclassmen who are highly fluent in English as their second language.

These women have found their time at Mississippi College enjoyable and life-changing, "an opportunity that will only be available for us now," says Sun, 22. They mostly enjoy how the classrooms are free for open discussion of ideas in a higher academic setting. "I can talk with my professors freely and talk to my classmates during class time. It is so cool," says Kim, 21.

A diverse range of classes, such as tennis, art and piano are hard to come by in Korean universities. "The swimming, the running...they are all enjoyable things that relieve stress," says Hwang, 21.



Current and former Sookmyung students enjoy a meal together in Seoul (left to right): Jungyeon Sun, Sori Kim, Youngeun Kwon, Hwang Da Young, Hye-Young Park, Andrea Haynes (MC), and Sooyeon Song

At times, they struggle with the study material and the speech of the professors. "I hate APA style," sighs Kim, explaining her unfamiliarity of this academic form of writing. In this extroverted society, they have to adjust to the environment and the culture. Kwon, 23, says that her studies here

allow her to "be more confident in studying English. Meeting a lot of people from diverse backgrounds is the best part." Kwon advises future MC Koreans to step out of their comfort zones and be more outgoing so they can gain the full exchange experience.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM BUILDS FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN STUDENTS

Andrea Haynes
Coordinator, Int'l Programs

In order to promote academic success, the Office of Global Education sponsors an international mentorship program. The Office launched the program in 2008, which helps students improve their grades, adjust to academic study, and understand course content.

The program pairs international students with academically successful students—either international or domestic—in similar majors. The mentorship pairs then meet weekly or bimonthly, according to the needs of the students. The Office of Global Education revised the mentorship program during the fall 2011 semester and re-launched it with fervor.

Zijun Yang (June) and Mary Kate Barthel comprised one of the new mentorship pairs that

resulted from the revamping of the mentorship program. Having recently finished IEP, Yang needed a little support in order to perform well in her first round of academic classes during the fall semester. The pair held their meetings in the library, and they met weekly or as needed in order to prepare Yang for upcoming tests and assignments.

Through their mentorship relationship, both Yang and Barthel learned about each other, different cultures, and themselves. Barthel discovered that Yang is very insightful and observant, which is reflected by her writing style, and Yang realized that Barthel has a plethora of English knowledge and skills.

Barthel laughed aloud as she talked about what she learned about Chinese culture: "I have learned that there is more to know! Having a mentee has reinforced that I love

learning about other cultures; it's just part of who I am." Barthel went on to discuss the differences between Chinese and American communication styles. Yang learned from Barthel that American students are confident, and professors expect them to speak up.

"I am shy, so I am afraid to speak up. I used to think I did not have anything to say that was of value, so I would sit in class and do nothing—just listen. But now, I feel more confident to speak to others in class. I feel like what I say has value. Mary Kate (Barthel) told me that learning is not only from our teachers, but also from our classmates."

Moreover, Barthel and Yang learned what it means to be true friends. Barthel said, "When you are friends with a Chinese person, you are really truly friends. It means a lot. Relationships are important."



Zijun Yang (left) and Mary Kate Barthel (right) enjoy a rich and full mentorship relationship.

Yang added, "Yes, specifically in America – we are away from home and family, so we see our friends as our family."

"Knowing this makes me feel privileged to be a friend of Chinese students," responded Barthel. "I admire the way they really do care about you."

Both Barthel and Yang hope to continue to support one another next semester and to strengthen their friendship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mississippi College Graduation

Fri, Dec 16
A.E. Wood Coliseum

Spring Semester Start

Mon, Jan 9
Mississippi College

Dixie Division Tournament

Feb 3—4
University of Alabama

Love Revolution

Feb 13—17
Mississippi College

International Festival

Fri, March 2
Swor Auditorium

NCTTA Nationals

April 13—15
Plano, TX

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TEAM PREPARES FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION

Huan Qiu

Student Services

The MC Table Tennis Team welcomed two new members this fall: Liting Ye (Rainbow) and Zhiqiao Xie (Joe), and it has boomed with the injection of this "new blood." The team participated in three NCTTA tournaments during the fall semester: New Orleans Open, Foothills XII Open, and Dixie Division Regional Tournament.

All three tournaments proved successful for MC. In the New Orleans Open, MC ranked first and second in the team competition; in the Foothills XII Open, Xie (Joe) and Yang Yu (Micah) won individual awards for champion and runner-up; finally, the MC team again went undefeated for the fifth consecutive year in the Dixie Division Regional Tournament.

The Dixie Division Tourna-



The MC table tennis team celebrates an excellent fall semester. The team is pictured left to right: Cai Yuliang, Yang Zijun, Qiu Huan, Ye Liting, Liang Zhicheng, Xie Zhiqiao, and Yu Yang

ment was held at the MC Healthplex on October 22. In addition to MC, four other teams participated in the tournament: University of Alabama, University of Alabama Huntsville, Mississippi State University, and University of West Florida. All MC players, especially the new ones, performed wonderfully in the tournament. The tournament was like a mid-term test for the team, and the players aced it!

The team plans to participate in more tournaments during the spring in order to prepare for the national tournament. In February, the team will compete in the Dixie Division at the University of Alabama, followed by the regional tournament in March and national tournament in April, both of which will be in Texas. The team's ultimate goal this year is to be ranked in the top three after the national competition.

IEP CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL FALL SEMESTER

Jenny Price

Intensive English Program

As we approach the beginning of a new year, we are closing another successful semester in the Intensive English Program. It has been a busy one with many firsts! This is the first semester we have hosted over 50 students in IEP, the first semester for our English for Academic Purposes class and service projects, and the first semester for our three IEP teachers: Chaeli Chambers (intermediate), Joshua Matlack (advanced I), and Kendrick Johnson (advanced II).

Not only has the semester offered many firsts in IEP, but the program has also been busy with its typical semester curriculum, educational activities, and cultural programs. Students twice visited academic

classes consistent with their majors. In these classes, students observed the academic culture of an American university classroom and assessed their own language skills in an academic setting.

In addition, students attended three cultural field trips this semester. First, in September, students traveled back in time to the era of the Civil War by visiting the National Military Park in Vicksburg. Following their visit to the Military Park, students visited the mighty Mississippi River in Vicksburg.

Second, students revisited their childhood and expanded their taste buds in October by attending the Mississippi State Fair. Finally, November introduced students to the Mississippi Museum of Art. At the museum, students viewed art from all over the world, paying

special attention to a separate section of the museum entitled *Mississippi Story*. The *Mississippi Story* exhibition told the cultural and historical story of the state of Mississippi through the varying media of local artists. After visiting the art museum, students enjoyed a lunch of true Southern fare in the heart of downtown Jackson.

After endless hours of hard work, a few fun-filled field trips, a couple of visits to academic classes, and a TOEFL-ITP exam, we say a congratulatory goodbye to 26 of our IEP students as they graduate and start their journeys into academic study. The IEP staff is now looking forward to our new incoming students, and we expect our spring semester to be just as successful as our fall one!