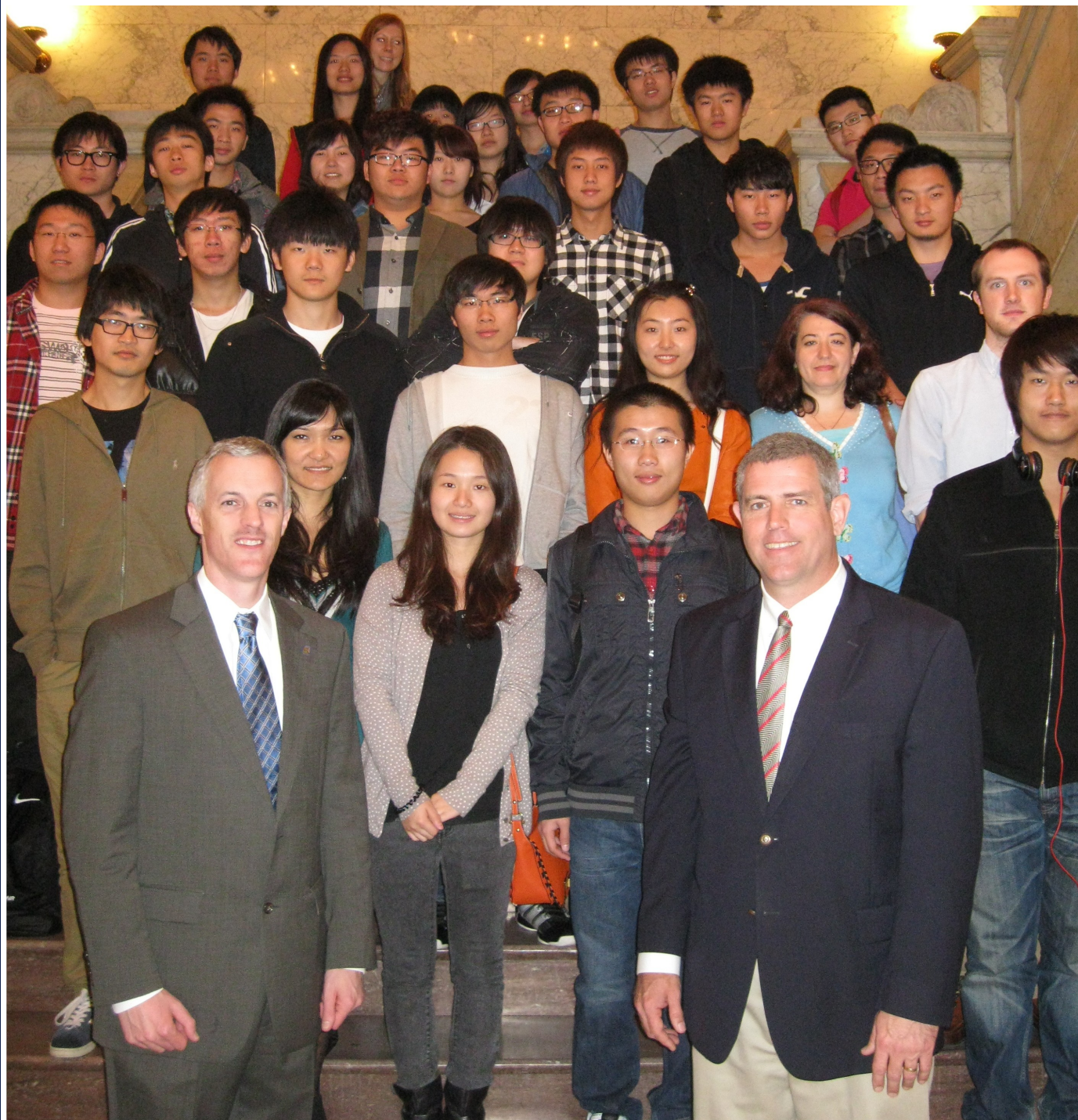


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MOSAIC

OFFICE OF GLOBAL EDUCATION
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
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TABLE TENNIS TEAM SWEEPS PENSACOLA OPEN TOURNAMENT

Huan Qiu

Coordinator, Student Svcs

On February 18 the Mississippi College Table Tennis Team participated in the Pensacola "Datangtt.com" Winter Open, a traditional USATT sanctioned 2-star open tournament. A total of 56 players from various states participated in the tournament, including student players from the University of West Florida, Florida State University, Auburn University, University of Alabama, and the University of New Orleans.

The MC players excelled in the tournament, boasting the top four finishers in the Championship Division and first place in the A Division. In the championship final, Yang (Micah) Yu defeated teammate Zhiqiao (Joe) Xie in four straight games, defending his championship title. Xie ranked second, followed by Yuliang (Bill) Cai and



The Table Tennis Team enjoys a first-place finish at the Dixie Division Tournament in February. Pictured left to right: Zhiqiao Xie (Joe), Huan Qiu (Ken), William Ben VanHorn, Yang Yu (Micah), Herb Bennett (Director of Dixie Division), Zhicheng Liang (Johnson), Yuliang Cai (Bill) and Zijun Yang (June).

Zhicheng (Johnson) Liang.

Liang's performance in the tournament took many by surprise. Liang, a number six seed, defeated number four seed, "Didi" Kwaovi De Souza. While Liang has always performed well during practice, he has recently started demonstrating those skills in a tournament setting.

Other participants from MC included: Huan (Ken) Qiu, who received first place in the A Division, and Zijun (June) Yang. In

the preliminary round, Yang defeated David Yu, a number two seed and owner of Datangtt.com, the key sponsor for the tournament.

In addition to the Pensacola tournament, the team participated in the NCTTA Dixie Division Tournament at the beginning of February where they went undefeated.

As evidenced by their performance in these two tournaments, the MC team has worked hard to prepare for the

regional and national NCTTA tournaments set to take place this spring semester.

On March 3 the team will head to Atlanta, GA, where they will compete in the NCTTA South Regional Tournament and meet the defending national champion, Texas Wesleyan. The National Tournament will take place Aprils 20 -22 in Plano, TX. We look forward to strong performances at both of these tournaments!

CULTURAL AWARENESS WEEK EXPANDS STUDENTS' HORIZONS

Xuan Song

Administrative Assistant

From March 2 – March 8, the Office of Global Education will launch its inaugural Cultural Awareness Week. A collaborative program among the Office of Global Education, the Department of Modern Languages and the Student Government Association, the week will be full of events that promote the diverse range of cultures at Mississippi College.

To begin, the fifth annual International Festival will be held on March 2 at Swor Auditorium. The International Festival gives students the chance to share artistic aspects of their

culture with the Mississippi College community. Although the Office of Global Education hosts different cultural activities every year, the International Festival is the only performance-oriented event. Students from different countries will dress in traditional cultural attire and perform unique songs, dances, and exhibitions.

On March 5 there will be an International Language Exchange in the Cafeteria from 11am to 1pm. This will provide an opportunity for students who are interested in different languages to learn common phrases in Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese, Hindi, French, German, and Spanish.

From 4pm-5:30pm on

March 6, International students and study-abroad students are invited to participate in an International Coffee hour in the Jennings Courtyard. During this coffee hour, students will select winners of the Global Perspectives Photo Contest. The Photo Contest is open to all international and study-abroad students. Students may submit up to three photos by February 29 for a chance to win one of two \$50 prizes.

On Thursday, March 7, all on campus students and staff/faculty will receive an Office of Global Education publication about international student life and international study opportunities at Mississippi College. Cultural Awareness Week will

conclude with an International Student Dance on March 8 at 8pm in Alumni Gym. There will be dance lessons at 8:30, and the event will have free food and a DJ. Students who bring a date from another culture will have their names entered into drawings for door prizes.

The Cultural Awareness Week will educate the Mississippi College community about international cultures, and it will give international students the opportunity to engage with the MC community.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Hayne at [601.925.7705](tel:601.925.7705) or ahaynes@mc.edu.

As we welcome spring to Mississippi, we also extend a warm welcome to all the new international students that have come to study and be a part of the Mississippi College family. Your presence on our campus broadens the horizons for all of us as we get to know you, your countries and cultures.

Our international programs continue to embrace and involve all students on campus and we hope that this issue of MOSAIC gives an insight into the expanding campus and community involvement of our international student population and gives you ideas about how you can personally become involved with the Mississippi College Office of Global Education. As spring brings new beginnings, we hope that this issue of MOSAIC will begin your international journey even if you never venture into foreign lands.

Jim Brackenridge

Cover Photo:

The cover photo pictures current IEP students with governmental officials from the state of Mississippi: (front left) David Blount—Mississippi Senator and (front right) Phillip Gunn, Mississippi House of Representatives.

STUDENTS LEARN TO LOVE DESPITE DIFFERENCES

Brittany Perrotta
Resident Director

Have you ever been part of a revolution? What about a revolution of Love? Monday February 13 began Mississippi College's first annual Love Revolution Week. Each day of the week highlighted a different type of love challenging students to love themselves, love others, and love their enemies.

As a part of MC's Love Revolution week, the Office of Global Education hosted a movie and conversation night to highlight the influences of religion and culture. Saudi Arabian student Shaima Albaqshi stated, "The video was good. I think the American people had a lot of information before the event, but we were able to question differences in culture at the event. And we were able to discuss the different parts of Islam."

International students from

different countries and faith backgrounds facilitated conversation, challenging the attendees to not only see differences but also to learn to love them without wavering in their own faith convictions.

"The Love Others program created a unique opportunity for domestic and international students to discuss various

faiths, cultures, and traditions. Through these conversations, students were able to learn from one another and walk away with tangible actions they could take to show love to their neighbors...neighbors who look differently than they do," said Andrea Haynes, Coordinator of International Programs.



Love Revolution participants and small group facilitators are pictured left to right, front to back: Mohammed Alramadhan, Joshua Kees, Shaima Albaqshi, Sarah Adams, Siyuan Chen, Vinod Goldsmith, Andrea Haynes, Zequn Liu, Brittany Perrotta, Melike Karaaslam, Wesley Wilson

CHINESE STUDENTS HELP DOMESTIC STUDENTS WITH CHINESE GRAMMAR AND CONVERSATION

Ran An
Chinese Professor

During the spring semester, MC students enrolled in Chinese 102, 202 and 440 received a new homework assignment: conversation partners.

Each enrolled student is required to meet with a Chinese MC student for 40 minutes each week. The students discuss the week's topic, which ranges from hobbies, food, and family to course assignments.

"I love my conversation partner so much!" said Kelley Beth Brashier, a senior English major. "It helped me so much to be able to practice one-on-one with a Chinese student,

and I also have loved learning about her interests and activities."

When asked if they wanted to participate, a surplus of Chinese students enthusiastically volunteered. Although the program began five weeks ago, students still contact Professor An and volunteer to help.

The Chinese conversation partners are all highly qualified and well-equipped. They are required to pass an oral interview on Chinese phonetics and pronunciation and attend two training sessions on Chinese-teaching pedagogy during the course of the semester.

"I am very glad I can be enrolled as a Chinese conversa-

tion partner," said Yang Bushang, a first-year graduate student. "To be a Chinese language teacher is my dream, and the Chinese conversation partner program helps me realize that there is still a long way ahead of me to realize my dream. But I can see my progress every day. I get a sense of achievement when I manage to help Crosby (her conversation partner) understand new grammar. Sometimes we also share interesting parts of our cultures: he introduces his favorite American singers, and I recommend to him my favorite Chinese songs. In short, this program benefits me a lot."

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Festival

Fri, March 2
Swor Auditorium

NCTTA Regionals

March 2—4
Atlanta, GA

Cultural Awareness Week

March 2—March 8
MC Campus

NCTTA Nationals

April 13—15
Plano, TX

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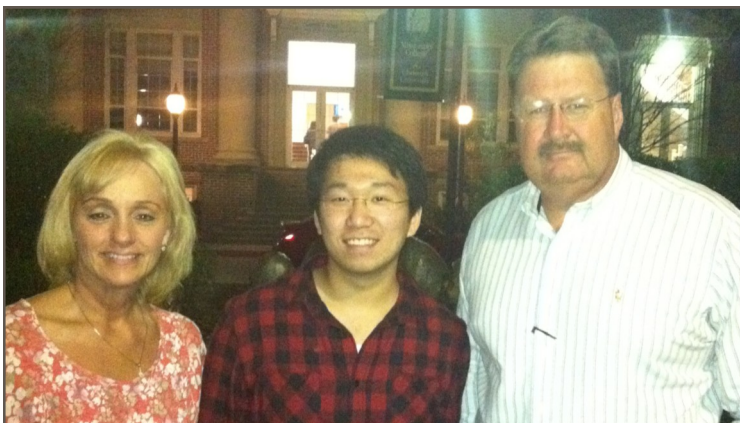


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HOST PROGRAM LAUNCHES 2012



International Hosts Barbie and Kennon take a picture in front of Nelson Hall with one of their international students, Ma Lingyan.

Chris Peace

International Student Liaison

January 2012 marked the inauguration of the International Host Program, which is sponsored by the Mississippi College Office of Global Education. This community-oriented pairing is geared toward helping MC's diverse international population experience the richness of American culture and customs on a personal level.

The program pairs international students with American host families. To become an international host, individuals undergo an application process and attend an educational session that orients them to the program. At this educational session international hosts learn basic guidelines of the program and their responsibilities as international hosts. These responsibilities include:

1. Attend a required orientation to receive important information about becoming a host family.
2. Try to arrange a time to meet with your student(s) every two weeks – family dinner, going to a park, shopping, etc.
3. Invite your student(s) to come to your home for at least one American holiday/year.

4. Attend an on-campus event at Mississippi College with your international student(s) once during the academic year.
5. Contact the Office of Global Education to update any information or if you have any concerns.

For the spring 2012 semester, the Office of Global Education paired a total of 34 international students from six different countries—China, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Nepal, and Kyrgyzstan—with 19 American host families. Students and international hosts alike both seem to thoroughly enjoy the relationships they have established with one another as a result of the International Host Program.

"We have really just gotten started, but so far we have enjoyed our students. They are just a joy to be around. We are looking forward to a great spring of activities as well," said Barbie Ferguson, an International Host.

Although the International Host Program just began, it seems to have a bright future, capable of touching the lives of both international students and domestic families. For more information, please contact Andrea Haynes at ahaynes@mc.edu.

SONG JOINS THE MC FAMILY

Andrea Haynes

Coordinator, Int'l Programs

The Office of Global Education warmly embraces a new staff member to its family: Xuan (Sabrina) Song.

Song came to MC in August 2007 from Jingzhou, Hubei, China, and she graduated with her undergraduate degree in Accounting in December 2011. The Office of Global Education hired Song on OPT for the 2012-2013 year, giving Song her first full-time job since 2007. After Song completes OPT, she will go back to school to earn her Master's degree.

"I believe this year's work experience will help me know more about the office culture in the United States," Song said. "Also, this will provide me the opportunity to really think about what I'm going to do in the future."

Since her arrival in the United States, Song has enjoyed living in Mississippi, traveling to other cities in the U.S., and meeting new people.

"American people are really friendly to others, especially in the South. To me, American culture is more like a melting pot - you can find all kinds of different cultures in it. It's very inclusive," said Song.

