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TABLE TENNIS TEAM EARNS SECOND PLACE IN NORTH AMERICA



The 2nd Place Table Tennis Team, left to right: Zhiqiao Xie (Joe), Zhicheng Liang (Johnson), Xuan Song (Sabrina), Huan Qiu (Ken), Zijun Yang (June), Ben VanHorn, Yuliang Cai (Bill), and Yang Yu (Micah).

Sabrina Song **Admissions Officer**

The Mississippi College Table Tennis Team finished in second place at the 2012 College Table Tennis National Championship, which was held

April 13-15 in Plano, TX. The National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) hosted the tournament. The NCTTA is a governmentally recognized not-for-profit organization established in 1992 that promotes table ten-

nis at the collegiate level in North America (US, Canada and Puerto Rico).

The national event attracted 24 Men's/Co-ed Teams, 12 Women's Teams, and individual players in both single and double competitions. A

total of 250 players participated in this competition.

Mississippi College defeated larger institutions like Western Ontario, Wichita State, UC Berkeley, and the University of Toronto. Most importantly, in the semi-final, the Choctaws met and defeated one of the strongest competitors, Lindenwood University. This defeat marked a new record; it was the first time in NCTTA history that a non-scholarship university defeated a scholarship university.

"The average competing level increased a lot this year," said Coach Huan Qiu. "The key success of our team is that all team members are fully committed, and we are the most united team."

President of MC, Dr. Lee Royce, celebrated the team's accomplishments on May 3 with an official dinner.

We congratulate the entire team on this marked achievement; we are so proud of you!

LIU REPRESENTS MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE IN CHINA AND KOREA

Brittany Perrotta **Resident Director**

Liu Xiaojing (Hannah) came to Mississippi College from China to work on her Master's degree in marriage and family counseling and currently boasts a 3.87 Grade Point Average. Liu chose Mississippi College because of its Christian faith, quality counseling program and affordable prices. After Liu graduates in December, she plans on working for a year and then enrolling in a doctorate degree program.

Since beginning her studies at Mississippi College, Liu has committed to help educate other prospective Chinese students. Liu recently received an

internship with Zinch China. Zinch China uses social networking to connect high school and college students with educational and scholarship opportunities. Zinch recently launched a comprehensive Chinese-language website which helps Chinese students choose American undergraduate and graduate programs; in addition, Zinch helps American Admissions Officers find the best-fit Chinese candidates.

Zinch recently awarded Liu a four-week internship where she will be working with the marketing department at Zinch's headquarters in Beijing. Through this internship Liu hopes to use her first-hand experiences as an international

student to assist prospective students in choosing the best universities and programs that will meet their needs.

After her Zinch internship, Liu will travel to Seoul, Korea, where she will chaperone the Mississippi College Korean exchange program. MC is sending eight students to Sookmyung International Summer School, June 25—July 20. The students will take six hours of undergraduate credit at Sookmyung, and they will participate in cultural excursions in and around Seoul. Liu hopes she can help the students "broaden their horizons as they learn a new culture."

Personally Liu is excited to learn the similarities and differ-

ences between Chinese and Korean culture. "My prayer for the summer is that I will be humble enough to not be judgmental, but to have my eyes open to see the beauty of a different culture," said Liu.



Liu (left) is highly involved in MC's international programs.

WEEK OF EVENTS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LIFE

Andrea Haynes
Int'l Programs Coordinator

The Office of Global Education launched the inaugural Cultural Awareness Week March 2—8, 2012. Through partnerships with the Department of Modern Languages and the Student Government Association, the week of events celebrated the diverse range of cultures we have at Mississippi College.

The week-long celebration began with the 5th annual International Festival on Friday, March 2. The Festival showcased a variety of cultural performances, including Indian and Nepalese dances, instrumental musical solos, vocal duets, and a traditional Chinese tea ceremony. Following the performances, the audience enjoyed an international fashion show which displayed beautiful fashion from all around the world. Audience members and participants concluded the evening with a large reception of various international food dishes.

On Monday, March 5, students from the Department of Modern Languages, the International Center, and IEP taught their fellow MC students common phrases in various languages: Chinese, Russian, Spanish, French, and Japanese. The "Language Swap" provided an opportunity for international and domestic students to interact and learn from one another.

The International Coffee Hour was the third event of the week. During the coffee hour, international and domestic students enjoyed getting to know one another in a relaxed setting over coffee and dessert.

The Coffee Hour also gave students the opportunity to select winners in each of the two categories of the Global

Perspectives Photo Contest. A collaborative effort between the Department of Modern Languages and the Office of Global Education, the Photo contest recognized our students' international experiences and cross-cultural growth. The contest had two categories: Student Immersion and Cultural Authenticity. The winner of each category was awarded a \$50 cash prize.

The final event of Cultural Awareness Week was an international student dance on Thursday, March 8. The event began with three different dance lessons—Bollywood, Hip-Hop, and Merengue—all taught by a Salsa Mississippi representative. The dance featured a DJ, a "photo booth," and of course, free food. In addition, students who came with a person from another country were entered into a drawing to receive a gift card.

Chris Peace, the International Student Liaison, thought the dance brought together various cultures: "The dance was able to unite students from around the world. It didn't matter where we each came from, we were all able to have fun sharing this experience together."

Cultural Awareness Week showed tremendous success during its inaugural implementation. Not only were the week's events well-attended, but the high-caliber events showed Mississippi College the diverse range of student cultures represented on campus. In addition, students broadened their horizons by learning about international culture, dress, activities, and food. We look forward to our next Cultural Awareness Week, which will take place Fall 2012.



A group of Nepali students performed a traditional co-ed dance during the International Festival.



Shi Ying (Lydia) performs a short-ened version of a traditional Chinese Tea Ceremony during the International Festival while Sabrina Song plays classical Chinese music on the Erhu.



International and domestic students enjoy themselves at the International Student Dance on Thursday, March 8, 2012

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IEP UNDERGOES PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Jenny Price

IEP Coordinator

The Intensive English Program is constantly on the move to improve the program for its current and future students. In the recent past, such improvements included new technology in all the classrooms, a new language lab, a revised cohesive curriculum, new selection of textbooks, and additional classes designed to educate students on specific educational objectives needed to succeed in the American University. Now that the educational aspects of IEP have been updated and improved, it is now time to start work on improving the physical aspects of IEP. Renovations will be taking place both inside and outside of the buildings over the summer break.

The inside of the IEP classroom building will be painted. Each of the classrooms and the

student work room is getting a fresh coat of paint while all the trim work in the building will be getting a fresh coat of white paint. In addition, there will be new space provided for teachers to work on copies and projects in preparation for class, and in order to better service the students who are struggling to achieve English proficiency, there will also be a new space designated for tutoring and testing.

Outside of the buildings, the space is also being improved to better serve the students during break and lunch times. To begin, the classroom building will be getting new paint on the porch and along the base of the house. In addition, the doors will receive a fresh coat of paint in order to improve the overall appearance of the building.

Also to enhance the curb appeal, new flower beds and planters have been filled with

colorful flowers and bushes. With all of the outside im-



provements, it was decided that students needed a comfortable place to sit and enjoy everything, so a swing will be added to the front porch of the classroom building and picnic tables to the patio at the Multicultural Center.

We are excited about the physical enhancements to the IEP facilities, for they will provide a nicer physical environment in which our international students can study.

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM WINS NATIONAL HONOR

Ran An

Chinese Professor

Mississippi College student Kendra Williams will realize her long-time dream to study in China during the summer of 2012. Williams is the recipient of an award from the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program.

A congressionally funded program, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. The scholarship covers tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance and international airfare.

A Tupelo resident, Williams begins her journey to China on

June 2, 2012. Joined by two fellow MC students, Williams will visit the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Terracotta Warrior Museum, and many other tourist sites. She will also visit some famous Chinese enterprises in Beijing, Xi'an and Wuhan. After visiting Beijing and Xi'an, the MC group will spend three weeks at MC's sister university, Central China Normal University, to learn Chinese language and culture.

"Kendra (Williams) is the first MC student to win this award and she will experience marvelous things as a result of it," said Dr. Stapleton, Dean of the Department of Modern Languages.

Ran An, Williams' Chinese professor, praised his student:

"Kendra is a very deserving student for the award. She works very hard in her classes and meets with a Chinese conversation partner each week on her own time."

Williams' achievement is not only a benefit to herself, but it is also a great benefit to Mississippi College. It marks the first time that MC's study abroad programs have earned national recognition.

The Office of Global Education and the Department of Modern Languages started the Chinese study abroad program in 2009, and MC students can earn six academic credits through this program, as well as have an unforgettable international experience.