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SU President Advances Global Partnerships in Spain



Pictured above, from left, are Patricia Benavides, director of institutional relations; Dr. Gaspar Garrote, director of International Spanish Center; Dudley-Eshbach; Martín; Dr. Carlos de las Heras, vice-rector for institutional relations; and Dr. Brian Stiegler, assistant provost for international education.

SALISBURY, MD---Advancing collaboration and global partnerships, Salisbury University President Janet Dudley-Eshbach recently met with Dr. Adelaida de la Calle Martín, the Rector of the University of Málaga in southern Spain.

The two leaders discussed topics including faculty collaboration on teaching and research, study abroad opportunities for SU students in Spain, and English language offerings for University of Málaga students in Salisbury.

The meetings in Spain followed a visit by Martín and Dr. Carlos de las Heras, Málaga's vice rector for institutional relations, to Salisbury in spring 2014.

SU and the University of Málaga, located along the Mediterranean Sea, have collaborated on various initiatives since 2001. Nearly 200 SU students have studied abroad for summer sessions or during the academic year, making Málaga SU's most active study abroad partner in the world.

In 2012, the University of Málaga began sending graduates from its M.A. and Ph.D. programs in Spanish Philology and Teaching Spanish to Foreigners to Salisbury as visiting lecturers in the Department of Modern Languages. SU has hosted four of these scholars.

Dudley-Eshbach also visited with SU students who are currently studying abroad at Málaga, a large public university of just over 40,000. They also were joined by two SU alumnae, Emma Kobylenski '11 and Meredith Meads '12, who studied abroad in Málaga during their undergraduate careers. Kobylenski and Meads currently live and work in the surrounding Andalucía region.

This piece was written and edited by Dr. Brian Stiegler, Assistant Provost for International Education.

For more information visit the SU Center for International Education website at www.salisbury.edu/studyabroad.

Life Swap: SU and ANU

Salisbury University student Brenilyn Andal and Anqing Normal University student Li Liu talk about their exchange experience at each other's home universities. These essays reflect their personal experiences.

Brenilyn Andal



Brenilyn (pictured far right) with friends in Anqing, China.

So far, I've been having a great time here in China. I made a lot of friends and had many great experiences. In terms of culture shock I don't think I had a hard time adapting to the surroundings, but there are quite a few differences between China and the U.S.

When I came to China most people/students thought I was Chinese so they would come up to me and start speaking in Chinese, and I would just stand there completely in shock. Most of them did not know I was a foreigner, so I think that was one of the things I had difficulty with. Also, in China every province has their dialect. Here in Anqing they have their own unique dialect as well. It was quite difficult understanding when local people would speak their local language. Although, I studied Chinese back in Salisbury for two years, when first I came to China I had hard time understanding what the people are saying. However, since I've been living here for almost 3 months now, I felt that my Chinese language

skills have improved a lot. Also, most young people here can understand and speak English, which makes it easy to communicate with them.

College life here in China is very different from the college life in the US. Here in China they focus more on exams, studying what's in the book, and learning content in a very detailed manner. In contrast, in the U.S we focus more on life-long learning, being creative, and being ready for the real world. Furthermore, here at ANU students have a dorm curfew at 11pm. Unlike SU, ANU gives the students their class schedules. Students don't have the option to choose the classes they want to take. Also, students typically have the same classmates from freshman year until graduating.

So far, I haven't had much time to travel around China. The only places that I have visited are the Tianzhu Mountain and places around Anqing. The reason for that is because I have a part-time job here. Every Wednesday afternoon I teach the freshman students from Economics Department, Oral English. On Saturday and Sunday I also teach oral English to three college students, two middle school students, and one high school student. Although, I haven't had the time to travel, I have a great time teaching these groups of students. It's very interesting teaching them and learning from them at the same time.

Overall, life in China has been very interesting, and very different from the US. There's a lot of culture to learn, the food is great, and the people are very kind and friendly. I am very sad that I will be leaving this country soon, but I plan to come back in the future to travel some more and visit my friends and teachers.

Li Liu (Amy)

Studying abroad is a good experience that will broaden people's horizon and insights to a new culture and environment. I have been here at SU for almost 3 months as an exchange student. Although I have had many cultural shocks during my time in America, I also have so many awesome experiences that I would like to share with others.

The first major difference between life in American and life in China is the living style and environment. In China the construction of cities is the main trend in developing our country. There are high buildings and apartments everywhere, even in small cities. However, when I first came to Salisbury, I was so surprised and amazed by the beautiful single houses here. Although I already knew some background information about western lives, I loved seeing these houses in real life.

Another big difference I have noticed is the food culture. People here love to bake cookies and bread by themselves while Chinese people prefer to buy their baked goods in bakeries. It is convenient for Chinese people to go out and buy food supplies regularly because the stores and supermarkets are everywhere. There are even some shops in my dorm building on campus. Chinese people prefer to buy fresh vegetables every day in the food market rather than storing foods for long periods of time like many Americans seem to do. Is it hard for you to imagine?

I also think the cuisine culture is a vital part of the culture. Making Chinese cuisine requires focus on cooking methods. There are over 30 techniques in Chinese cuisine to cook food. Some examples are: stir fry, deep fry, roasting, braise, simmer and smoke. Meanwhile, there are several categorizes which the flavors tastes different. Compared to the Chinese food, I think Americans like the convenience of fast food more. They also really like cheese, and butter is always a necessity in a dish.

There are so many differences between different countries and cultures. I have great experiences here and have made some foreign friends. This time at SU has added more interesting and fascinating plots to the stories of my wonderful life. I love trying and experiencing new things. I am enjoying the life now in America. Hope you know more about me and my home country from my brief introduction.



SU Welcomes Chonbuk National University President



CBNU President, Geo-Suk Suh pictured (front row center) at welcome reception at SU.

As part of the initiative to strengthen ties with East Asian countries, Salisbury University held a welcome reception for Chonbuk National University's (CBNU) President, Geo-Suk Suh. In the past two years Salisbury University has created two partnerships with universities in South Korea, including the partnership with CBNU. CBNU's president was welcomed by members of SU's international community, including international students, faculty, and SU's very first Korean language students. CBNU's Vice President, Hang-Geun Jung, who was also in attendance, spoke about the relationship

between CBNU and SU. He stated that President Suh has been the leading force in CBNU's global initiatives. Their growing relationships with foreign institutions such as Salisbury University is an example of that. Likewise, as Salisbury University continues to grow and strengthen ties with abroad universities such as Chonbuk National University, we grow closer to becoming a Maryland University of National as well as, International Distinction.

International Faculty of the Month: KuanYin (Kelly) Chen



KuanYin (Kelly) Chen, is a TESOL graduate student and Chinese teacher from Taiwan. Kelly came to SU as a recipient of a competitive scholarship program for Taiwanese students through the ALLEX Foundation. The ALLEX Foundation, which stands for Alliance for Language Learning and Educational Ex-

change, provides Taiwanese students with undergraduate degrees the opportunity to pursue a graduate degree in the U.S while gaining experience as a foreign language teacher. Kelly is the first ALLEX scholar to come to Salisbury University. In her time here at SU, Kelly says she has learned so much in her MA program in TESOL. She enjoys being able to apply the material in her graduate studies to real life scenarios she faces in the Chinese 201 course she teaches. In addition, she credits much of her growth as a teacher of Chinese to Dr. Linda Dwyer, who has been a mentor to her over the course of her time at

SU. When asked about the benefits of SU continuing a relationship with the ALLEX program in the future, Chen stated that "many ALLEX scholars like myself are eager to learn and try new techniques. We are all young, energetic, and excited to interact with students. I think this kind of attitude is positive and encouraging for SU's Chinese learners." After completing her MA, Kelly plans to continue teaching Chinese either in the states or abroad. We are privileged to have hosted such an energetic learner and educator here at SU.

SALISBURY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Lead Staff Writer, Editor, and Layout
Payge Jennings

*A newsletter highlighting
Salisbury University's
international initiatives.*

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