

IN THIS ISSUE:

Conversation Part-
ner Program1

International Facul-
ty Member of the
Month: Silvia Garcia
Luque.....1

Life Swap: Emily
..... 2

Life Swap: Nahyun
.....3

Meet Deschaune
Bellamy.....4

Thoughts from the
Intern.....4

Conversation Partner Program Kicks Off



Salisbury University's Center for International Education has kicked off their Conversation Partner Program for the Fall 2014 semester. This program provides international students studying at SU the great opportunity to practice their English and experience American culture. Each international student studying at SU's English Language Institute is paired with a Salisbury student who

acts as their conversation partner. Program Coordinator Robin Karpovich says that the program is a great for both American students and international students to "bond and become more open minded about the international community." She hopes that through events such as barbeques, ice cream socials, and movie nights, that students will be able to become more acclimated to life at SU in a fun and carefree environment. She urges any students that have global interests to come out and participate in the events planned for the semester.

Anyone interested in joining the program's future events please contact Robin Karpovich by email at rkarповich1@gulls.salisbury.edu

International Faculty Member of the Month

Sharing culture through education is an invaluable experience. Visiting Spanish professor Silvia Garcia Luque believes that her experiences teaching Spanish at Salisbury this semester is an experience she will never forget. Luque first heard about the exchange program after inquiring about teaching abroad opportunities at her home university, University of Malaga. Although this is not her first time visiting the states, this is the first time Luque has stayed in the states for an extended period of time. She believes this program is an excellent way for her to not only teach her students about Spanish language and culture, but also a way for her to learn about

American culture and English language. While some visiting professors choose to focus on their area of academia, Luque has decided to sit in on English language classes to enhance her experience at SU. Luque's enthusiasm and passion to teach and learn at Salisbury University is refreshing and inspiring to those around her. We are honored to have her as a part of SU's international faculty this semester.



Life Swap: SU and CNU

Salisbury University student Emily Maderna and Chonnam National University student Nahyun Jeon talk about their exchange experience at each other's home universities. These essays reflect their personal experiences.

Emily

It's very hard for me to realize that I'm about three weeks into my study abroad experience already! Sitting in a coffee shop on campus I feel like I could easily still be at Salisbury University. I was totally expecting to feel culture shock when I first got here, however I have yet to have that feeling. I've met many people here from around the world, including China, Malaysia, Indonesia, and many all over Europe, however, who have told me about the extreme differences they felt their first week or two that they described as culture shock. Thankfully Chonnam University assigns you a buddy when you study abroad! My buddy, Heera, helped me so much and I am very grateful for her. She gave me a tour of campus, took me shopping for things I needed, and always helps when I have questions or translation issues. Not only are the buddies helpful but so are pretty much any Korean you meet! Even if they have limited knowledge of the English language, I have yet to meet a Korean who didn't want to help me in any way they could. Traveling around the city and Korea thus far has been easy. Taxis are quite cheap and the bus system is pretty excellent and will take you pretty

Dorm living was something to get used to. Making sure to take off my shoes at the door was different at first but now I would feel really strange if I didn't! One thing I heavily contemplated before leaving the states was when I would and wouldn't have to take off my shoes (fears of smelly feet, ah!). So far however I have only been required to remove my shoes in my dorm! Packing sheets and a towel so I didn't have to buy them was a good idea. My mattress is not so comfortable to sleep on, but I attribute that to traditional Korean mattresses to being harder, only slightly padded mats on the ground. I'm grateful for the ample storage space they gave. I think I packed more clothes than the average study abroad student, I definitely could have done with less.

Of course I must touch on one of the biggest aspects of life... food. I have had a bit of very good Korean food but there was also much I wasn't particularly thrilled about. A vegetarian at home, I have had to give up that lifestyle for now. If you come to Korea I hope you like spicy food. I would not suggest getting a meal plan at the cafeteria, it is nothing like Commons I can say that! But with a little research and exploration I am figuring out where to go for things I like. Overall I am enjoying my experience a ton and planning out places I want to visit on the weekends, I can't wait!



Nahyun

Have you ever been to South Korea? After coming to Salisbury, I have found many differences between life in the United States and South Korea.

When I came here, to Salisbury, I noticed the Salisbury University students are more carefree. I especially think they are more carefree about their appearance. In Korea, most students wear nice clothes to class and carry handbags. In America most students wear athletic clothes and carry a backpack. Also, Salisbury students have a lot of school pride. Korean students do not usually wear T-shirts with the school's logo on it. However, in Salisbury University, most students wear the school's T-shirts, when they are going to school. When I first came to Salisbury I did not wear the logoed T-shirts and I was more comfortable dressing up. However now I am becoming more comfortable with Salisbury's relaxing lifestyle. The relaxing environment of Salisbury has helped me make many memories. One of my favorite memories was having one of my classes outside in the nice weather. It was really refreshing and peaceful. I have never experienced this in Korea before, so I was happy to experience it at SU.

Another culture shock that I feel differently is the food. At first I had a hard time adjusting to the food because American food is salty compared to Korean food. Also, America does not have many spicy food. Korea's most popular foods like Kimchi, which is a kind of Korean traditional salad, and Topokki, which is made of rice cake and hot pepper powder, taste spicy. I think food is one of the things I miss the most about Korea.

There are many differences between American culture and Korean culture that I have felt since I have lived in the United States. Although there are many differences, I think that if people go to another country, they should try to adapt to the new culture. Coming to Salisbury has helped me adapt to being in a different culture. This university always has events open to students that I can attend to make my life here more fun. I really like that about Salisbury. I believe when people try to understand another culture first, people can learn language easily and people can make many foreign friends and good memories. I think that I have learned a lot about culture and I have improved my English during my time at Salisbury.



Meet Deschaune Bellamy



Meet Deschaune Bellamy. He is Salisbury University's first student to participate in SU Study Abroad: South Korea at Chonnam National University in Gwangju, South Korea. Below, Deschaune talks about his experiences abroad, and why he made the choice to go to Korea for a full academic year.

Q: Why did you choose to go to South Korea?

A: My goal was to learn Korean so I can have more job options in the future. We are living in a global world now so knowing a second language is a good skill to have.

Q: What kind of job do you want in the future?

A: My dream job is to be a treasurer at an international bank.

Q: Favorite thing about Korea?

A: Food, Scenery, and the people are so kind.

Q: Would you recommend others to participate in SU's South Korea program.

A: Absolutely. This has been one of the best experiences of my life. I would encourage others to take the chance and go for it!

From the Intern



The first-person column of lead writer/intern for Salisbury University Center for International Education Payge Jennings.

Prior to starting this internship, I had many experiences involving the international community at Salisbury University. Although I had plenty of exposure to the international community, this internship exposed me to new groups within the that community that I was unfamiliar with.

At first, finding inspiration for stories was a bit of a struggle. However, once I began opening my mind up to new things, and talking with various people from different backgrounds, I was able to find stories that I thought were interesting.

Through this internship I hope to provide stories of real people experiencing

life in different ways around the globe. I am looking forward to the different things I will learn about Salisbury University's growing global initiatives!

SALISBURY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Lead Staff Writer, Editor, and Layout
Payge Jennings

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

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