

Student Achievements

Lembo Earns First Fulbright ETA Grant

Emily Lembo earned a prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) grant to travel to South Korea for the 2014-15 academic year. The U.S. Department of State exchange program places recipients in schools overseas to supplement English language instruction and provide a native speaker in classrooms. Lembo earned her bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in May 2014 from Salisbury University.

"My goal after graduating was always to go abroad and teach, and South Korea is the perfect fit for me," she said. "The Fulbright is a great platform to gain teaching experience and make connections with other people. I really would like to stay there longer than just one year."

SU's first Fulbright ETA grant recipient, Lembo first traveled to South Korea for two months in summer 2013, working as a volunteer English instructor at a private school on Jeju Island. The school is run by the father of two other SU graduates, Leo Choi '10 and Wona Choi '12.

Lembo first went abroad before her senior year of high school, traveling with a group to China to teach English at a summer camp in a small town about two hours from Beijing. She credits these experiences and her work with SU's Center for International Education (CIE) with helping her form a successful Fulbright application. Some of Lembo's other activities included working as a resident assistant, which she said taught her leadership and responsibility, and being a Writing Center consultant, which gave her more practice in helping others improve their rhetorical skills. She also was a member of SU's Thomas E. Bellavance Honors Program.

In the CIE's Office of International Student and Scholar Services, Lembo helped provide social and co-curricular support to over 100 Korean and Chinese students, leading group trips to Washington, D.C. and the National Aquarium at Baltimore. She also started group conversation gatherings for international students at the Writing Center, allowing them to practice speaking and talk about topics such as idioms and other nuances of the English language. She hopes to expand on this idea while in South Korea.

Relay Reaches \$1 Million

SU's Relay For Life has raised over \$1 million for the American Cancer Society (ACS) since 2002. Some 70 teams representing over 1,500 SU students, faculty, staff, families and community members took part in the 2014 Relay. Teams added over \$106,000 to the prior cumulative total of \$934,000, bringing SU's total donations to over \$1,040,000 since the event started. SU's Relay is consistently among the top collegiate Relays in the nation. All proceeds benefit cancer research, education, patient services and advocacy programs. SU has twice been named one of only 20 "Leaders of Hope" by Colleges Against Cancer (CAC), an ACS program that unites more than 300 campuses in the fight against cancer. SU also was named CAC's "Rookie of the Year" Relay chapter in 2007, and in 2008, the University's CAC chapter won an Outstanding Advocacy Award, one of only six honors given nationwide. In 2011, the ACS honored SU for "Outstanding Administration Support" of Relay.

Lembo (right)



A Mission for Clean Water

A student-led initiative that began with a rock concert at SU is providing clean drinking water for a village of about 250 in Ethiopia.

In 2012, James Townsend founded the SU Student Activism Club as a way to combat student apathy and raise awareness of global issues. The organization planned Gullstock, a campus music festival, to help raise funds to build a clean water well for the African community through the philanthropic organization Charity: Water.

The concert raised some \$800, starting the club on its way toward reaching the \$5,000 needed for the well. Shortly thereafter, fundraising efforts received a large boost when the club won the SU Student Government Association's "Be the Change" online video contest, netting a \$2,500 prize. Additional fundraisers, as well as private donations, helped the group exceed its goal.

"By building a clean water well in a village, we are giving those in need the chance to use the time normally spent collecting water to raise their families, get an education and even start their own businesses," said Townsend, whose initial visit to Africa as an undergraduate inspired the initiative.

Townsend hopes the well also will help the villagers' economic needs. The money once spent on health care due to waterborne illnesses could be used on food, shelter, schoolbooks and uniforms.

The Ethiopian community the well serves has noted its importance, building a fence around the structure to keep animals from polluting the water source. Each family using the well pays a small fee, which goes into a fund for future maintenance costs. A plaque at the structure reads, "Funded by Charity: Water, the Students of Salisbury University."

The Faith to Feed 40,000

On an average day, SU's Commons dining hall prepares about 6,000 meals. In just 90 minutes, SU's chapter of CRU (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) prepared over 40,000. In partnership with the Global Aid Network (GAIN), CRU leaders recruited some 260 students and community members to pack 40,896 individual meals of beans and rice for refugees in Syria. The 300 boxes packed will feed as many families for approximately one month. GAIN will deliver the boxes to relief areas that provide services for the refugees. CRU will pick up the \$10,000 tab for the food – approximately 25 cents per serving. "We, as people and the community, wanted to do something together," said Luke Sohl, SU CRU president. "It was exciting to bring members of the campus together, regardless of faith."

Gilman Scholar Goes to Ghana

Junior Erin Knuth earned the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad during fall 2013. A psychology major and art/West African studies double minor, Knuth took five courses at the University of Ghana. She and junior Theo Williams were the first SU students to attend the West African campus.

Knuth's Ghana experience did not begin as planned because the university's professors were striking and not attending their classes. Once the strike was over, she enjoyed her two psychology courses, two African studies courses and Swahili language class. She lived in an international student hostel on campus.

The Gilman application requires the creation of a follow-up service project to encourage recipients to promote international education and the scholarship program at their home institution. Knuth's proposal included presenting to three student organizations centered on mental health and volunteerism.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Institute of International Education, the award aims to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the places they travel. Knuth is the 15th SU student to earn a Gilman Scholarship since 2008.



Knuth