

The Global DOMER

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Of New Friends, Lots of Love, and A Wonderful Orientation: Welcome to Academic Year 2011-2012!

by Nikita Taniparti, India

Welcome back! This year, the Jordan Hall of Science played host for International Student Orientation 2011. From the 15th until the 17th of August, nothing mattered but immigration registration, orientation meetings, socializing, and good food! The International Student Services & Activities (ISSA) staff, as well as the International Ambassadors (IAs) put together a fantastic three-day show to welcome nearly 300 new international students to campus. We welcomed students from China, India, El Salvador, South Korea, Brazil, France, Germany, and a host of other countries. As they snaked their way through initial registration, the hall was full of laughter, greetings, and too many languages to count. The resource and activity sign-up tables were crowded as both parents and students eagerly discovered what Notre Dame has to offer.

On Monday evening, the inaugural

welcome reception was a huge success, with our beloved Father John Jenkins welcoming everyone to campus and Carolyn Woo, dean of the Mendoza College of Business, giving the opening speech. With her blessings and encouraging words, everyone settled into a lovely dinner and headed back to their dorms for a fun-filled evening of activities. Instead of ice-breakers and introductions, everyone was ready to jump into some pretty serious fun. Pasquerilla West Hall and Duncan Hall played host to the new students before they were allowed to formally move into their permanent housing.

Tuesday the 16th started bright and early, with the students and their families attending sessions about immigration, health care in America, academic success, and safety on campus. For the first time, ISSA hosted a "Global Nomads" workshop, where "third culture kids"

discussed the unique challenges they faced as they spent most of their lives living outside of their parents' home cultures or passport countries. Optional sessions included the ever-informative "Adjusting to American Culture," "Catholicism 101," "Obtaining a Social Security Number," and useful trips to the I.D. card production office.

"I really enjoyed some of the sessions because they showed us that if we do ever have any concerns we'll know where to look, and we know that there are usually people to help us out if we are ever in doubt about the resources on campus," said one of the eager freshmen from China.

Also new this year was the "Undergraduate Essentials" workshop. With its unique undergraduate campus culture, Notre Dame is known for its extraordinary student involvement both in and out of the classroom. This



session was led by three undergraduate International Ambassadors (IAs) who answered questions pertaining to finding a job on campus, what to expect during the infamous “Frosh-O,” what to do in South Bend, and how best to develop a relationship with professors. The IAs also gave a personal account of their time at Notre Dame.

After attending the workshop, Patrick, a freshman from Canada, said, “It was the best part of orientation; it was a discussion without any limits, we felt free to talk about anything we were curious about, and we gained such an amazing amount of information from it. It really helped prepare us for the little things that matter at college.”

Undergraduate students ended Tuesday with small group trips to local eateries off campus with their IAs. The graduate students also had something to look forward to with a social activity in the

Fischer O’Hara-Grace Community Center. Good food and light-hearted laughter combined to provide a warm welcome for the graduate students.

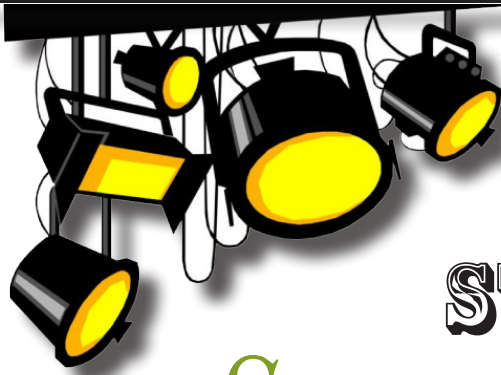
The last wonderful day of orientation was short and sweet, with a few sessions in the morning and a fun question and answer session with IA groups. The new students and their families were invited to the closing luncheon in the Joyce Concourse. It was a cheerful afternoon as everyone talked about their plans and expectations for the coming week. Freshmen anxiously predicted what “Frosh-O” would surprise them with and graduate students were already planning when to head back to their labs or libraries. Parents started saying their good-byes, but not before a lovely surprise from the Notre Dame leprechaun and cheerleading squad! Running in during the middle of lunch, they brought everyone to their

feet by teaching the Irish Jig, cheering the Notre Dame cheers, and sharing in the wonderful spirit that is Notre Dame. While some hurried to finish their last few bites of dessert, everyone was preparing to head home, full of warm feelings, anxious curiosity, and eager patience for the rest of their orientation to the University.

The staff at International Student Services & Activities and the International Ambassadors extend a huge welcome once again to all the new international students from around the world. The students may have left their families behind, but we hope to be their new family here during their successful academic endeavors. Love thee Notre Dame, and Go Irish!

If you would like to watch the new students dance the Irish Jig, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8c8N0gCjLc&feature=share>.





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Summer Adventures

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

by Hyewon Yun, Korea

“America, the Beautiful.” This is what is written on my National Parks Pass, which allowed my husband and me to access all the amazing National Parks and Seashores at only \$80. This summer, my husband and I drove 13,000 miles to explore America on our own. Our expedition could have been shorter and easier if we could spend more summers in the U.S., but we have to return to Korea next May right after my husband’s two-year MBA program is over. We wanted to make the most of our one and only summer break in America. Now, in retrospect, we did not know what we were getting into.

We mostly camped, because we had heard it is a great way to enjoy America’s West and our budget prohibited us from staying at motels every night. Some days out in nature were fun with a rest under the tree shade, a barbeque and star gazing at night; however, it was no longer fun when it became cold, rainy, windy and there was thunder and lightening. Oh, don’t forget the threatening warnings here and there about a bear’s potential visit! And our

tent was too small, the air mattress gave us backaches, washing dishes in the rain was horrible, and a 5-minute walk to use a bathroom at 3 a.m. was more horrible. We put our 12-year-old marriage to the test. I found that it took a lot to be a kind and sweet wife when life was tougher (though I am not sure whether I was one even before we took off).

America’s amazing nature came closer to me once I gave up being pretty and charming during camping. Grizzly bears, bison, coyotes and elks were freely roaming on the wide fields at Yellowstone National Park. The towering mountain ridge with snowcaps at Grand Teton National Park took my breath away. The out-of-this-world hoodoos, or tent rocks, at Bryce Canyon were bewitching. Arizona’s Antelope Canyon was the unbelievable product of time, wind and water, and a marvel only Mother Nature could create. The full moon rising over Utah’s Delicate Arch was more dazzling and blinding than any sun. Angel’s Landing at Zion Canyon

was the peak with dangerous ledges, which allows only an angel to land, but also has a view as imposing and enchanting as a real angel would be.

Yes, it is true: this country has the world’s biggest economy, spreads pop culture to the world, and has New York, Los Angeles and Disneyland – but, America’s nature is bigger than life. This is what no other place can offer. While fascinated by its grandeur and beauty, I often did not know that tears were rolling down my face and I was asking myself, “How can a person become evil in front of this beautiful nature?” America’s mountains were high, its canyons were deep, and its oceans were wide. How blessed America is to have such a huge and beautiful territory! And it dawned on me that this is it - this is what America shows me. I climbed up all the precipices, paddled the glacial lakes, trudged the dunes, and drove all the mileage day and night for the last three months to find – America the Beautiful.

ADVENTURES IN ASIA

by Christine Hsieh, U.S.A.



The love for the Fighting Irish goes far...as far as Seoul, South Korea! Aside from the fabulous food, the colorful culture, the humble (!) history, what sticks out most about my time in South Korea this summer was seeing the green 2010 Notre Dame “the Shirt” while visiting Gyeongbok Palace. After creepily following this person and staring for a minute or two, I finally found the courage and approached this Fighting Irish fan. We awkwardly talked for a minute and I learned he wasn’t a student; he grew up in South Bend and just loved the Fighting Irish.

When I wasn’t stalking Notre Dame fans (I also met up with fellow ND student, Jee Seun Choi), I was wandering Seoul for ten days, trying to hit every palace, every market, every tourist attraction. Thanks to Seoul’s impressive tourism organization, I was never short of information, in English and Chinese! Plus, to help promote tourism, they enticed foreigners with numerous coupons and free gifts. In fact Seoul has become such a tourist city that when visiting Myeongdong, a popular shopping street/area, I could communicate in one of four languages – Korean, Chinese, English, or Japanese.

Traveling to Korea to do research on the preparation for the 2012 Yeosu Expo, I spent five days in Yeosu with a host family (thanks to a connection through the Kellogg Institute on campus) and ten days in Seoul. My research in Korea was funded by the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (CUSE).

In addition to my two weeks in Korea, I interned for seven weeks at EF English First in Shanghai, China as a Product Development Intern. I found this internship by emailing a contact I found through the Going Global job post, available through Notre Dame’s Career Center website.

FAR EAST TO SOUTH OF THE BORDER

by Jee Seun Choi, Korea

I’m here, in the country of freedom fries - yes, back in South Bend after having been in one of the world’s more exciting metropolitan cities.

For my last summer as an undergrad, I got funding from the Glynn Family Honors Program to do research in my hometown, Seoul, South Korea, for two months. My original research topic was nationalism among the South Korean citizens who had relatives in North Korea. Well, as it often happens, I slightly adjusted my topic over the course to anti-Americanism in South Korea. I wasn’t as productive as I wanted to be, but I’ve been bragging about the fact that I interviewed personnel from the most influential labor union in South Korea. I discovered a new part of the amazing city each time I traveled: bars and restaurants near the Hongdae college town and Itaewon, theaters and narrow fashion streets by the Kyungbok Palace, and the Han River where people can see the sparkling night of Seoul.

I then flew to Guadalajara, Mexico, where my family moved a couple of years ago. I had some good quality time with my family, although they’re not the easiest group of people to hang out with when you’re 21. I also enrolled in a Spanish class at a local university. My classmates turned out to be super diverse: a Canadian school teacher whose life revolved around her dog, a physical therapist from California, an American who had served in the Navy for 10 years and is now on a Fulbright scholarship, a Japanese yoga teacher married to a Japanese Mexican, and a Kuwaiti engineer. We shared many stories and had a lot of fun together. Then I flew to South Bend.

I have to admit that I am glad to be back. Traveling is great, but at Notre Dame I have good friends who know even my smallest habits. So here I am, or we are, back at our sweet home at Notre Dame.

SHINING LIGHT ON INDIA

by Grace Meikle, U.S.A. & Canada

My name is Grace and I'm a sophomore physics major from the U.S. and Canada, but for the past five years my family has lived abroad in Japan and Taiwan. This summer I did a six-week internship at a small start-up company in Pune, India, that designs and installs solar power systems. I flew from my home in Taipei to Mumbai, and we drove from there to Pune. I stayed with an Indian family I had been friends with while living in the U.S.

India has a shortage of electricity, which means that every place you go is subject to scheduled power cuts called "load shedding." For this reason many businesses use backup power systems to provide power during load shedding hours, typically a diesel generator, but there is an emerging market for off-grid solar power systems as an alternative. The



company I worked for while in India specialized in the design and installation of such systems that ranged in size from large government buildings of 100 KW to small 75 panels that powered just a few lights and fans for homes in rural areas.

My work in Pune consisted mainly of testing equipment, conducting a few mini-experiments, visiting installation sites, and attending conferences given in languages I did not understand. I was also able to travel quite a bit around the Pune area. The best part of my trip was my visit to my host family's village—I had never experienced anything close to that in my life! Overall, I had an

amazing time, and I can't wait to find a good excuse to go back to India again!

MY SUMMER ON CAMPUS

by Ray Lu, China

This summer, I did psychology research on campus with the Cognition and Emotion Lab in Notre Dame's Haggar Hall, under the direction of Professor Gerald Haeffel. I had been a member of the lab for about a year, learned a lot about how to conduct research, and decided to undertake an independent research project. I began by reading research articles, working with Dr. Haeffel on designing the experiment, and recruiting participants. I wrote and submitted a grant proposal to the Career Center for which I received a stipend to use while I stayed on campus over the summer.

After completing the experimental procedure and collecting results, I spent the rest of the summer cleaning up and analyzing the data. I plan on preparing a poster and presenting my results at relevant conferences.

I found my summer to be very beneficial because I was able to go through the research process step-by-step

under the guidance of an advisor who is experienced and knowledgeable in his field. As an aspiring physician, this type of research experience is important because it will allow me to critique the literature and provide empirical treatments for patients throughout my career. Furthermore, because many of the best medical schools place a heavy emphasis on research, having this experience under my belt will better my chances of being admitted to these top programs.

"I was able to go through the research process step-by-step under the guidance of an advisor who is experienced and knowledgeable in his field."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Summer ADVENTURES



International Ambassador Retreat 2011

by Grace Meikle, U.S.A. & Canada

One of the most important parts of the extensive preparation for International Student Orientation is the International Ambassador (IA) Retreat in Bethel Park, Michigan, which prepares International Student Services & Activities' (ISSA's) student leadership team for the upcoming year.

The retreat this year took place from Friday, August 12 - Sunday, August 14 to be followed immediately by a hectic (but rewarding) three-day International Student Orientation. The retreat served two major purposes: 1) to give the IAs an opportunity to get to know one another and the ISSA staff, and 2) to prepare the IAs for their orientation duties through several interactive workshops.

There were three main workshops the IAs participated in this year. The first workshop focused on how to effectively support new international students and was presented by Dr. Megan Brown, a psychologist at the Notre Dame Counseling Center. The second workshop was a bit more lighthearted, and allowed the IAs to learn about their personality types. Each IA took a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, which is a test devised to divide people into 16 personality types based on how they perceive the world and make decisions. This helped the IA

team to learn how to work together as a group. The third workshop focused on FERPA, the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act," and how it's each person's responsibility to keep private any personal information about students (such as immigration statuses, etc.), which the IAs may deal with as part of their jobs. In addition to participating in workshops, we played



lots of name games, had a bonfire, and ate a ton of delicious food.

On a final note, the team participated in two "Cultural Awareness" sessions, and numerous informal conversations throughout the weekend on the same topic. For many of the IAs, these types of discussions touched on some deeply personal experiences. Let's face it - for many, it's not all that easy to be an international student here at Notre Dame, and that's not necessarily due to racism or any

kind of direct prejudice. At times, that happens too, and it can be extremely traumatic for those who experience it. But, as the title "Cultural Awareness" suggests, the core behind many cultural adjustment issues is ignorance.

This may mean that students feel excluded because they lack the same high school experiences as everyone else or they have nothing to contribute to a conversation. Or, it might boil down to the simple fact that students believe they look differently than everyone around them; however, students shouldn't fear these things. Notre Dame is ultimately a sincere, welcoming place and there are many students who have been in similar situations and emerged from them successfully. It may take some bravery, patience, and initiative, but speaking with the staff at

ISSA is a great place to start!

Several of the IAs at the retreat commented that they had never found a group of people with whom they felt so comfortable. In the end, amidst all the paperwork, the IA Retreat was a great way for the team to hear some stories and learn more about what they can do to improve the international student experience here at Notre Dame. Go Irish!



ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT REMINDERS

For both F-1 and J-1 students, on campus employment is limited to 20 hours per week while school is in session (fall and spring semesters). The 20 hour per week limit is applied cumulatively to all jobs held on campus, including research and teaching assistantships.

J-1 students MUST receive prior written permission before working on campus. Failure to receive prior written

permission is a serious violation of the J-1 status.

All off-campus employment must be recommended by the ISO and approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Please visit the ISO website for more information: <http://issa.nd.edu/immigration/working-in-the-us/>.

ALCOHOL USE AND POTENTIAL IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES

The Notre Dame campus and the surrounding community offer many opportunities to gather with friends and colleagues. When alcohol is served at these events, it is very important that all students exercise good judgment, including international students. The consequences of an arrest or conviction for public intoxication, underage consumption, or driving under the influence (DUI) may adversely affect an international student's immigration status or the ability to obtain a new visa if the student chooses to leave the U.S.

An incident involving alcohol may have indirect immigration consequences even if the student is not arrested,

or the incident does not result in legal consequences. If the University takes disciplinary action against a student that results in suspension or expulsion, that student will no longer be enrolled full-time and will be considered in violation of his or her immigration status.

Students who are involved in an alcohol-related incident are encouraged to consult with an advisor in the ISO to discuss options and possible immigration consequences. International students who are arrested for alcohol-related offenses are strongly encouraged to seek the advice of an attorney who is familiar with both criminal law and immigration law.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 1** Football 101
- 9** Optional Practical Training (OPT) Information Session
- 22** Family Friendship Program Kick-Off Party
- 25** Michigan City Outlet Mall Field Trip
- Oct. 1** Family Friendship Program Marshmallow Roast



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For more information regarding ISSA's programs and services, visit <http://issa.nd.edu> or email issa@nd.edu.