

Spring 2010

Newsletter Spring 2010

Grant Center for International Education
Ouachita Baptist University

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DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2010



Making the world your classroom...

I am unreservedly committed to international education, probably due to the fact that I made my first international trip when I was age 7 and understood even as a child that the world was a fascinating and wonder-filled place. My family sailed by ship from Southampton, England, on HMS Carnarvon Castle to Cape Town, South Africa, followed by a train journey through the heart of South Africa to Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. As a child, I was transformed by the rich encounters that such change brought as I faced a new culture and fresh challenges to change and grow.

All five of my daughters are Ouachita graduates and each one participated in our study abroad program. As a grandfather, I am committed to introducing my grandchildren to the international community as early in their lives as possible. Thomas Friedman talks about living in a world that is hot, flat and crowded; our children and grandchildren will be faced with such realities and a world that is even more tightly connected. Interactions with others will not be constrained by the social, economic or geographic boundaries of our day.

Each Ouachita student is encouraged to participate in at least one international educational experience before graduation. Promoting peace and goodwill in our world will require the next generation of leaders to know how to navigate other cultures with aplomb.

Parents and donors should consider making a firm commitment to the idea that a liberal arts education is enhanced immeasurably by providing an international experience. Students need to be encouraged by parents, grandparents, advisors and mentors to launch out on one of the most transforming opportunities available at Ouachita. Consider providing a scholarship that will help a student acquire the skills and motivation necessary to be a global citizen and an ambassador of peace and goodwill in our needy world. Christian men and women affirm that God himself loves this world and delights when we make the effort to understand the wonder of the world and people he died to redeem.



Ian Cosh
Director of the Grant Center for
International Education

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Student's adventures in Austria



Each semester we offer a class titled International Seminar whose purpose is to systematically guide students to reflect on their study abroad experience. Students bring fresh insights into how their international experience provides intellectual, emotional, interpersonal and spiritual growth. Liz Richardson, a junior English and Spanish double major from Sheridan, Arkansas, had this to say about her study abroad semester at Salzburg College, Austria, when asked to list five important things she learned during her study abroad experience:



1. *Austrians are globally conscious, and better for it. Becoming more aware of the world around me has made me a stronger, more understanding person.*
2. *Austrians love their land, and take every chance to be outside together. I couldn't help bringing their spirit of adventure and community back home.*

3. *Being abroad made me realize how much I had taken home for granted. I learned to take every day, no matter where I am, as I took every day in Austria—as an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.*
4. *Monuments, museums and churches inspire awe for a moment, but a conversation over coffee with a new friend in a new place is the kind of memory that lasts.*
5. *I really can make it on my own, and I don't need a lot of "stuff" to do it. There was such a freedom in realizing how little I needed, and how very much I had been blessed with.*

Korean pastor to promote overseas teaching



Captain Lee, pastor of the Korean Baptist Church in Little Rock and a Ouachita alumnus, recently visited campus to promote semester and year-long opportunities for Ouachita students to teach in private Christian schools in South Korea after graduation.



Ouachita Baptist University
410 Ouachita Street, OBU Box 3777
Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001

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Dear Friends of the Daniel & Betty Jo Grant Center for International Education,

The first year for this organization has been exceptionally good. The response to our membership drive was outstanding, and many of you have not only paid membership dues, but have made a contribution to the programs of the Center. Thank you so much for everything you have done to strengthen the International Programs of Ouachita.

Although I am not on campus all that much, I know that the International Club has been very active in planning several significant events for its members. Many international students and those who have studied abroad have taken part in service activities such as Tiger Serve Day sponsored by the Elrod Center. This Saturday is designed for students to go into the community to assist elderly or other local people who have special needs.

There was a terrific response by students who desire to broaden their education through the Study Abroad programs. The Center is hoping to establish several partial scholarships so that more students will have an opportunity to get some education and experience living in another country for a semester. It is increasingly important for graduates to have some global exposure as a part of their resume.

Many worthy organizations are sending out appeals for assistance because of current economic conditions. I think it is important to support the International Center at Ouachita for two major reasons: 1. Through scholarships (even partial ones), more students get an opportunity to broaden their OBU education by living and studying in another culture; 2. Some of the best "missionary service" that can be rendered is when an American Christian student develops a one-on-one relationship with students in another country.

I want to personally thank you for electing me as the first president of FGCIE. As you consider supporting international education at Ouachita, I hope that you will not only join our Friends group, but you will also consider a tax-deductible contribution to FGCIE. If you have a special international interest or if you wish to honor someone who has played a major role in your career or life, Ian Cosh, the OBU Development staff or I will be happy to discuss the matter with you.

Please mark your calendar for the FGCIE meeting and International Food Festival on February 16th.



Sincerely,

Bill Dixon
President, FGCIE



Ouachita International Travel offers affordable group travel opportunities with a personal touch for Ouachita alumni and friends. All trips are personally escorted by Bill Dixon, retired dean and vice president at Ouachita.

Trips planned include:

May 15-26, 2010	The Holy Land (Israel & Jordan)
April 22 - May 1, 2010	Tulip Time (Holland, Belgium & Germany)
Early September 2010	The Western Coast of Norway (cruise) & Iceland

For information about any of these trips, contact Bill Dixon (dixonb@obu.edu) at 870-246-7271 or 870-245-8804.

Study Abroad Exchange Still Strong After 34 Years

For the 34th year, OBU has been honored to host three young students from Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan.

Fumika Nishiyama (a senior business major), Yui Tagawa and Ayaka Shigata (both junior English majors) have participated in the English as a Second Language Program this fall. Yui received a full scholarship, and the other two received half scholarships, a generous offer which has been in existence since the inception of this program on March 1, 1975.

All three selected OBU from about 20 options of study abroad schools for its small size, relative safety and milder southern weather. OBU's longstanding reputation of friendliness and good educational standards made their decision easier, especially after meeting some of OBU's study abroad students on their campus.

When asked what their experience at OBU had taught them about being global citizens, they all agreed that they had been able to broaden their knowledge of other countries through meeting international students on campus and participating in the International Club. Their confidence has developed through conversing with people from other cultures and religions – people of "all different flavors," said Yui, with a smile!

These students arrived well-prepared for the onslaught of cultural adjustments. However, the intensity of the Christian faith of students at OBU truly surprised them. "I never thought about religion before coming here – at least not so seriously," admitted Yui. Ayaka agreed that people here are "very Christian"; she finds their faith to be "interesting." Fumika stated that at OBU, "It is impossible to ignore religion." They acknowledge that their understanding of Christianity is growing through the weekly student-led Japanese Bible Study. They are all beginning to understand more about Christian ideas and realize that it is Christianity that makes their friends so kind.

These students have shown diligence at every level of their studies, and have eagerly participated in campus activities. They have endeared themselves to all who have known them.

When asked what they will tell prospective study abroad students on their return to Seinan, Yui said that there are many good international students at OBU, and that it is easy to make friends. Comically, Ayaka commented, "It was easy to gain weight." And Fumika, with her wide smile, said, "It is easy to learn about Christianity" and, with a firm nod, added, "and it's a good thing!"



Three international exchange students from Seinan - *Ayaka Shigata, Yui Tagawa and Fumika Nishiyama*

IC Trip to Branson over Fall Break

This year over Fall Break, the students of the International Club traveled to Branson, Missouri. There were 26 students and five sponsors who departed for Branson on Thursday, Oct. 15. They arrived just in time to head to the Dixie Stampede where they were entertained by a Civil War-themed show which included singing, dancing and even performances by horses, cows and pigs. Everyone enjoyed dinner despite the fact that everything had to be eaten without utensils!

Friday morning the IC headed to Silver Dollar City. It was a very chilly day, but everyone bundled up, and they did not let the cold temperatures keep them from having a great time and experiencing all that Silver Dollar City had to offer. Students enjoyed the rides, the exhibits and the food. After spending all day there, the IC returned to McFarlain's Family Restaurant in Branson where everyone was able to warm up and have dinner.

On Saturday, it was almost time to head back to Arkadelphia, but first everyone headed to Branson Landing for some shopping. Students and sponsors enjoyed shopping all morning, but by noon it was time to head back to OBU.

International Food Festival



- Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010, 6-8 p.m.
- Walker Conference Center
- Expect 500 people
- A great opportunity to build awareness of our current OBU international students!
- Experience international foods!
- This year's entertainment theme is percussion from around the world.

