

International Times

News from the International Programs Office

Fall 2007
Issue 5

Korea, Land of Beauty, Kindness and Great Food

by Stan Steiner, Professor & Chair, Department of Literacy

Traveling from Seoul to Jeonju, South Korea was my first introduction to Asia. Gazing out the windows of the spotless and roomy bus were mountains in every direction. Quilt patches of agriculture plots covered the valley floors. The scenery was breathtaking. Green trees carpeted the mountainsides. White and blue herons silently stalking their prey dotted the flooded rice paddies and shores of

the rivers we crossed. Later I learned that rice, peppers, tomatoes, ginseng, strawberries, Asian pears, persimmon, apples, melons, and kiwi are some of the crops growing in the fields tucked in among the picturesque mountains.

I was trading Idaho landscape for Korea as part of my year long sabbatical.

I made a commitment to spend the second half of my sabbatical leave teaching at Chonbuk National University in Jeonju. For the past six years Boise State University has received a steady flow of professors on sabbatical from Chonbuk National as part of a partnership agreement between the two universities. I was the first professor from Boise State University going to Chonbuk

National University. My Korean hosts had arranged for me to teach three education courses with undergraduate and graduate level students.

The teaching experience was more than I had hoped for in my sabbatical. Initially the university students and myself were in for a pleasant shock. Word spread quickly about an English speaking professor in the Department of Education at Chonbuk National who was going to teach his classes in English. By the third class the anxiety levels had lowered and the students and I had come to some terms on how the communication in the classes would take place. My undergraduate class was totally in English and the graduate classes included several students who were bilingual that translated as needed. The other noticeable difference was my teaching style. The norm in Korea is mostly lecture with the instructor at the front of the room and students taking notes. Sitting in a culture circle took a little adjustment for the Korean students. Males were challenged the most with this new classroom arrangement because Korea has predominately been a male dominated society. Today that is all changing as women are gaining more voice. By midterm the students were beginning to realize the power associated with using a culture circle and expressed a desire to have more classes taught using a format where all participants



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Study Abroad Fair

September 4, 2007

Patio, Student Union Building

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Contact the International Programs Office for more information
studyabroad@boisestate.edu or 426-3652.

could freely contribute to the discussion.

News about the English speaking professor spread into the public schools via my graduate students. Within a short time I was also teaching English conversation in a kindergarten, elementary and high school. In addition, I taught two evening sessions at the university free to anybody interested in practicing English conversation. I was busy, but it kept my loneliness for my family at bay, immersed me into Korean culture and provided an opportunity to gain some new lifelong friends. Offering the conversation classes was also one way for me to give back to a community that was so welcoming and kind during my stay in Korea.

I was humbled by the kindness I experienced from Korean people. This genuine warmth went beyond my friends at the university. As I wandered throughout Jeonju city on my daily walks many people

wanted to practice their English or spoke to me in Korean assuming I knew the language and then patiently smiled while I attempted to communicate in broken Korean, sign language and English. Another common form of kindness among Koreans is sharing a meal. Many colleagues, students and new friends blessed me with some of the most savory foods I have ever eaten. I was told there are over 10,000 Korean food dishes. I am sure I had over 100 different ones and discovered even kimchi, a Korean staple, varies from family to family. The sabbatical was more than I could have ever imagined and revitalized my love for teaching. I am already thinking about the next opportunity to teach abroad. Anyone interested in more details about a sabbatical in Korea or studying in Korea can contact me at BSU or come to my International Connections presentation on Wednesday, September 19 at 12:30 in Jordan A. Student Union Building.



New International Partnership Agreements

Boise State University has recently signed or is in process of signing agreements with the following universities:

- Chonbuk National University**, Jeonju, Korea – General cooperation agreement renewal
An active faculty exchange has been in progress between the College of Education at Boise State and respective school/college at Chonbuk
- Jeonju National University of Education**, Jeonju, Korea – General cooperation agreement
Initiated by the College of Education at Boise State
- Konyang University, Nonsan**, Korea – General cooperation agreement
Initiated by the College of Education at Boise State
- University of Applied Sciences (NHL)**, Leeuwarden, Netherlands – general cooperation agreement
Initiated by the College of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, at Boise State
- University of Applied Sciences**, Groningen, Netherlands -- general cooperation agreement
Initiated by the College of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, at Boise State
- University Medical Center**, Groningen, Netherlands -- general cooperation agreement
Initiated by the College of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, at Boise State
- University of Guyana**, Georgetown, Guyana – general cooperation agreement
Initiated by the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Department of Anthropology, at Boise State

Regarding the development of new international partnership agreements, please contact Dr. Sabine C. Klahr, Director, International Programs, at 426-3652 or sklahr@boisestate.edu. For a complete list of Boise State's international linkages, please go to: http://www.boisestate.edu/international/Partner_Universities.html



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Passports, do you have yours?

Are you planning a trip abroad for fun, business, or research? Due to changes in US laws, all US citizens need a passport to enter Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. This law has created a large number of delays and headaches for travelers. The current processing time for new passports is a **minimum** of 12 weeks.

How to apply

Renewals

Be sure your passport is current and for valid for at least six months **after** your return date. This is a requirement for entry into many foreign countries. Renewing an old passport may take as long as 12 weeks. However, some individuals have told me their renewal was faster than they expected. Hope for the best, but plan for the worst. Renewals cost \$67. Check the State Department website's for information and the renewal form: <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>

New Passports

All new passports require must be validated by a Passport Acceptance facility. In Boise, there are two facilities:

Ada County Recorder's Office 200 W. Front St. 1st Floor, Boise, ID 83702 (208) 287 6840

US Post Office - Boise Main Office 770 South 13th Street, Boise, ID 83708-9611 (208) 433 4308

To apply for a new passport you will need:

An official (certified copy) of your birth certificate with the date of registration, or the US naturalization papers signifying US citizenship.

A photo identification card (i.e. driver's license, s)

Two recent 2x2 passport photos (front-facing, head and shoulders), capable of withstanding 200 degrees Fahrenheit. Snapshots and vending machine photos are not acceptable. Passport photos are available at Walgreens, the Main Post Office (\$12), Costco (\$5) and Kinko's, etc.

Two checks or money orders. One will be made out to *Passport Services* (the passport fee is \$67); the other will be made out to *Ada County* or *US Postal Service* (the execution fee is \$30).



In a rush?

The fee to expedite a passport is \$60, this will allow you to receive your passport in approximately four weeks.

In a bigger rush? Or still haven't received your passport?

If you can provide proof that your departure is within 14 days or need a visa, which requires you to receive your passport earlier, you can apply **in person** for your passport. Appointments are required. There are 14 Passport Agencies in the United States.

The nearest agency to Boise is:

SEATTLE Passport Agency
Henry Jackson Federal Building
915 Second Avenue Suite 992
Seattle, WA 98174-1091

Automated Appointment Number: 1-877-487-2778

Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., 1 M-F, excluding Federal holidays



Boise Businesses and Families Host Taiwan Interns

by Jarie Jackson Castelin, M.Ed., Intensive English Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator

A big thank you goes out to the following businesses for participating in this year's Taiwan International Trade Institute internship programs.

- Meeting Systems, Inc., Pete Smidt
- Boise Cascade, Qing Zho
- DJM Marketing, Deb Marlor
- Kandor/Laveder, Bruce Joseph
- Preco Electronics, Gary Lynde/David Howell
- PCS Edventures, Robert Grover/Joe Egusquiza
- COBE, Kent Neupert
- Idaho Candy Company, Dave Wagers
- Arthur Berry & Co, Art Berry
- Roaring Springs Water Park, Tiffany Quilici
- Boise Weekly, Nancy Spittle

This was a mutually beneficial experience coordinated by BSU's

Intensive English Program in the International Program Office. These graduate-level students with prior job experience brought an international perspective to Boise businesses. By participating in day-to-day activities, and being assigned various projects for two months they were able to act as

an international business resource person providing each company with information about possible international business opportunities.

We extend a sincere thank you to each of the following families who hosted these graduate students in their homes during this time:

- Dan and Becky Casey
- Ken and Mary Lou Suchy
- Eric and Bernadette Shoestrom
- Rita Sturiale, Blake and Jean Coones
- Chris and Gloria Costa
- Rick and Janey Schell
- Susie Fisher
- James and Kathy Wilder
- Jim and Letty Barnes
- Ron Moss and Cherie Jensen

If you would like to participate in this international business internship program, or be a host family, next spring (March-May 2008), please contact chalimarswain@boisestate.edu or call 208.426.4615 for further information.



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International Connections Brown Bag Luncheon Seminar Series

Join Boise State International Programs and Albertsons Library again this fall for International Connections, a casual brown bag luncheon seminar series on international topics.

All seminars will begin at 12:30 and end at 1:30 pm. Please invite your students to attend!

Open and free to the public. Feel free to bring your lunch and experience the world through lively presentations and discussion.

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Stan Steiner, Literacy. *"A Sabbatical of Kindness and Beauty: South Korea"*
Location: SUB, Jordan A Ballroom.

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Ed McLuskie, Communications. *"Rebuilding the University in former Soviet Georgia"*
Location: SUB, Jordan A Ballroom.

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Corrine Henke, International Programs. *"Tales from the Middle Seat: Tips for Novice Travelers"* Location: SUB, Look Out Room.



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Experiential Learning and Intensive English

Written by: Jarie Jackson Castelin, M.Ed., Instruction and Curriculum Coordinator, Intensive English Program

The background

I am always on the lookout for different ways for our Intensive English students to learn—ways that will help to increase English proficiency. Since I had previously had a positive experience with experiential education in a different content area, I wanted to see if this type of experiential education—a learn-by-doing process of actively engaging students outside the classroom to apply the skills that they learn in the classroom would work for our students.

The plan

I decided to pilot this learn-by-doing approach for our speaking and listening students during our summer sessions from May 21 - July 13. Students in all 4 levels from beginner to advanced would have the opportunity to develop new skills by direct experience much like a person who learns to drive a car does by getting behind the wheel instead of just sitting in the passenger’s seat and observing, or just reading the driver’s manual. I believed that this approach would be helpful to learning, especially in the summertime when motivation slows as the temperature rises!

The instructors

Choosing the right instructors is a “must” for this kind of experiential learning because they are the key ingredient for

success. You need instructors who are willing to think outside the box, to take risks, to assess what works and what doesn’t work, to make mistakes, and to learn from them. The following 3 instructors are to be highly commended for the outstanding job they each did to help ensure the success of this pilot project:

Kimberly DeWitt Detamore brought her experience in outdoor education and recreational work, and teaching as well as her international experience through the Peace Corps.

Stephanie Marlow successfully established a service-learning course at Boise State to benefit our Intensive English Program international students this past year. Here is the link to her complete article: <http://iteslj.org/Techniques/Marlow-ServiceLearning.html>

Samantha Reinhart worked for The Traveling School in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia leading American high school students. She brought this experience as well as community service projects.

The results

The students far exceeded all of our expectations! Not only did they get behind the wheel and drive, but the ride was a lot better than any of us imagined it would be—even as the temperature rose!

See the following E.S.L. Without Walls article for an instructor’s experience of this experiential learning component.



E.S.L. Without Walls: Learning Outside of the Classroom.

Written by: Stephanie Marlow, MA, Intensive English Instructor

This summer, the Intensive English Program successfully expanded its summer curriculum to incorporate an experiential learning component to its Grammar/Speaking/Listening classes. Experiential learning occurs when students actively participate in a concrete, hands-on experience; afterwards, students devote time to reflect on the experience and assimilate what they have learned by personalizing the experience. Curriculum is therefore not isolated and confined to the classroom, but the ideas and skills that are learned in class are tested and experienced in real life. Learning and knowledge greatly

increase by direct practical experience.

Led by instructors Kim Dewit-Detamor, Stephanie Marlow, and Samantha Reinhart, the international Intensive English students participated in various cultural and practical life activities. Some highlights of these activities include an art walk, a trip to the Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, a downtown Boise scavenger hunt, an afternoon at the Idaho Botanical Gardens, and a unit on comparative shopping. Prior to each experiential learning activity, the international students studied important lexical and functional English language skills in their language classes. They



then put these skills to use by completing a context-based linguistic activity at the site of the experiential learning event. Afterwards, the students met to debrief, discuss and reflect on their experience before completing a homework project assignment. Finally, students presented their projects to their peers and assessed each other's work.

Although this type of learning can be very intense and demanding, the international Intensive English students energetically embraced the opportunity to expand their knowledge with these hands-on experiences. Direct and continuous interaction in English remained the crux of each activity during which each student actively engaged and worked

cooperatively with peers. In order to appeal to a variety of learning styles and personal interests, the students were given different choices for each concluding assignment that accompanied every activity. From creating personalized picture dictionaries, to creating outstanding tourist documents for downtown Boise, the results of their projects were remarkable. Indeed, many of students far exceeded their instructors' expectations with their creativity, energy and devotion. With the real-world as their summertime classroom, they challenged themselves to gain both linguistic and cultural awareness through experiential learning, and succeeded!



Boise State Faculty! Europe! South America! Asia!

by Seth Masarik - Faculty-Led Program Advisor

Are you interested yet? The International Programs Office and Seth Masarik think you should be.

As we approach the beginning of the fall semester the International Programs Office and Education Abroad Advisor Seth Masarik are encouraging Boise State faculty to think about the wonderful opportunities available to lead a short term faculty-led education abroad program. These programs are taught by Boise State faculty members that are typically offered over summer, winter and spring break periods, and vary in location and length of time abroad from one week to one month.

Nationwide, short term faculty-led programs are increasing in number, a response to their popularity with nontraditional and working students unable to study abroad for a semester or a year. Faculty-led programs provide students with the chance to earn credit in their major or minor while gaining an international perspective on the topic.

While short-term faculty led-programs have become a more attractive alternative to traditional summer or semester study abroad, at

Boise State these programs also meet the needs of students with family or work responsibilities due to the shorter duration of the program. In order to do that International Programs will work closely with faculty to support them in program planning, marketing, promotion, and logistics.

So, if leading a short term program abroad sounds like an exciting and rewarding opportunity, then contact International Programs at 426-3652 or studyabroad@boisestate.edu and find out how you can start developing your program today.



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Prof. Jill Fitterer (2nd from left in center row), Art, with her printmaking class in Florence, Italy in summer 07

Interviews with International Students

Both Yali and Xiaolu are office assistants in the International Programs Office this year.

Yali Zhu

How did you decide to come to Boise State University? There are not a lot of Asian students at Boise State University, which allows me to immerse myself in American culture and improves my English fast. The campus is very pretty with many trees and a river running behind it surrounded by three parks.

What do you like most about Boise State and Boise? I like the atmosphere on campus in BSU, there are many activities for international students which can allow us to learn more about American culture. The scenery in the school is very beautiful especially in spring. I really enjoy myself when I walking on campus. Boise is a very peaceful and beautiful city with weather quite like that of Qingdao. People here are very friendly. I love the natural beauty and fresh air.



What surprised you the most about the US? Teenagers can drive cars and there are so many Christians.

What kind of goals do you have for the future? The short-term goal is to finish my Bachelor degree in Accounting and try to find a job. My long-term goal is to have a family and kids.

Tell us a little bit about your country. China has the largest population in the world with 56 minorities that speak their own dialect.

However, Mandarin is the main language spoken in China. In 1980, China passed the one child policy due to large population growth. Due to the policy, I am the only child in my family. Most of the population is Buddhist hence many Buddhist temples were built all over China. Recently, Beijing, the capital of China, was chosen to be the home for the 2008 summer Olympics. Also, my home town, Qingdao, was chosen to be the site for the Olympic sailing competition because it is located next to the ocean.

What is a major difference between your country and the US? The secondary education system is very different between the US and China. The structure in China is very rigid. For example, the school places the students that have the same majors in the same classes and have them graduate at the same time. As for the US, students pick and chose their class schedules to fit with their work and graduate when they have satisfied the graduating requirements. The US allows much more flexibility in higher education than China.

What do you miss most about your country? I miss my friends, my cuisine and the delicious local food.

Which languages do you speak? Mandarin
Where have you traveled? (In the US or abroad) Portland, Hood river, San Francisco, Las Vegas.

Xiaolu Cen

How did you decide to come to Boise State University? The main reason I selected Boise State University is that my parents once worked in Idaho as visiting scholars. They told me that Boise is a very beautiful place and a good one to study as well. From their stories, I became familiar with

this wonderful city since I was a little child.

What do you like most about BSU and Boise? Boise is totally different from Shanghai, where I came from. But I like Boise very much! I love Boise people. People here are wonderfully good. They



say hi to me; they smile at me in street; they are very friendly. Professors in Boise State are very kind and offer as much help as we need. Furthermore, they are quite fair.

What surprised you the most about the US?

Complete customer service. I'm amazed at the excellent customer service here. When returning an item in the US. I simply go to the store return the item without a word. But in China, I have to spend 5 minutes to tell the reason why I don't need the item.

What kind of goals do you have for the future?

After graduating from Boise State, I want to find a job in US first. I will try to get my CPA degree in one year or two and work for a large American accounting firm for a couple of years. And then I will go back to my hometown.

Tell us a little bit about your country.

Since China is a developing country with a large population, the Chinese living style and mind set are quite different from the Americans'. However, like American people, Chinese are very friendly, hard working and positive. On one hand, we are happy to see that great changes have taken place in all of China both economically and culturally. On the other hand, changes that happen too rapidly cause some social problems.



I hope we can still keep our traditions, for example, taking care of parents and grandparents when they're old.

What is a major difference between your country and the US? The US is a nation of religions while China is not. Almost all my friends here are Christian. They are very, very sincere in their belief. They go to church every weekend and pray before every meal. Moreover, they are extremely nice people, always ready to help others.

What do you miss most about your country?

I miss my parents and friends most, especially when I fall sick and during holidays. Besides that, I also miss my doctor back in Shanghai. She knows my history well and her effective treatments had to be interrupted after I came here.

Which languages do you speak? I speak Chinese (Mandarin) and Shanghai dialect.

Where have you traveled? (In the US

or abroad) I visited San Francisco this summer. It's much bigger than Boise and more like a Chinese city. I enjoyed traditional Chinese food there and spoke Chinese everywhere there. However, maybe because I expected too much or maybe because I've already get used to the quietness, I like Boise better, honestly.



¡Viva Puerto Rico!

by Seth Masarik – Faculty-Led Program Advisor

Cautiously stepping out of the San Juan, Puerto Rico Airport and feeling the sudden wave of humidity hit me, I realized I was no longer in Boise, Idaho. As I left the airport and the comfort of air conditioning I knew my trip to Puerto Rico was going to be one of fascination and awe.

As a past study abroad participant and International Programs staff member I have had many opportunities to explore what is beyond 43.37°N, 116.13°W (the latitude and longitude of Boise). As a junior at Boise State

University I attended the University of the Basque Country for two semesters, perfecting my Spanish and enjoying the beauty of a different culture. While I was in Spain I was able to travel to many different destinations throughout Europe making study abroad an amazing experience.

As a recent graduate of Boise State University and current Faculty-Led Program Advisor I have had the personal enjoyment of assisting prospective students in their future study abroad endeavors over the past year. I



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also promote and assist faculty with making short term faculty-led programs an essential component of our Boise State study abroad program. Study abroad was such an integral part of my Boise State experience, I remain committed to spreading the “good word” of studying abroad to as many students as I can.

And now back to the featured presentation... My recent trip to Puerto Rico as I had stated above was one of fascination and awe. It was my first visit to anywhere in the Caribbean and it will not be the last. San Juan, Puerto Rico a beautifully positioned city on the northern coast is where my story starts. With so much history and brightly colored houses to see, we spent most of the day exploring the cobbled streets of Old San Juan.

From there we loaded the car and headed west, where we hoped to encounter some of the prized surfing beaches of Puerto Rico known throughout the world. Our first unexpected destination was Isabela, where the locals keep a close eye on Playa Jobos. There we were introduced to a kind woman, Maria, who provided us with food, shelter and surf boards for an unreasonably low price. The next day we awakened to a glorious swell and headed out into the water for what would be the best two surfing days of my life.

The next few days were spent enjoying the sun and the clear aqua blue water at one of Puerto Rico’s many beaches along its 310 miles of coastline. Each beach had its own special characteristic from old colorfully painted fishing boats, mysterious steps placed in the water, to whitewashed lighthouses. Each

of the beaches we visited



provided us with postcard worthy snapshots. From there we continued along Highway 2 which runs parallel to the southern Coast. The city of Ponce, the second largest city in Puerto Rico, is a city of rich history and important entrepreneurs. The surrounding area of Ponce is most famous for the so called “Fountain of Youth”, which Ponce De Leon had claimed to discover. We however did not

find that fountain of youth, but we did come across mofongo, Puerto Rico’s most typical food dish. Mofongo is a popular dish, made from fried green plantains seasoned with garlic, olive oil and pork rinds, then mashed. We enjoyed mofongo so much, that it became customary to enjoy it at each location we visited from then on.

As we left Ponce, we headed for Farjado, which lies on the east coast, 50 minutes away from San Juan. Here we boarded a ferry and headed towards Vieques, an island 8 miles of the coast of Puerto Rico. Vieques is not only famous for an old U.S. Naval base, but it also claims to have one of the best bioluminescent bays in the world, which is something you must experience during your lifetime. Vieques is also proud to boast many other beautiful and isolated beaches, but according to locals it doesn’t compare to the neighboring beaches located on the island of Culebra.

Our last stop in Puerto Rico was to the only rainforest in the U.S. National Park System, El Yunque. Here in El Yunque, the green parrot, lush green foliage, and picturesque waterfalls are the many attractions that draw tourists here everyday of the year. This is a must stop for those who enjoy hiking and exploring the greenery of a rainforest.

Realizing that we would be returning home soon, we left the rainforest with sad faces. As we boarded the plane and began our journey back to Boise, I knew that some day I would return to discover more of the hidden Puerto Rican treasures.

