International Programs

Shippensburg University International Student Services and Study Abroad

Newsletter Sept/Oct 2013

Get Involved with the International Student Organization (ISO)

ISO President Karen Hoch invites all to attend meetings!

Traveling abroad or trying new things offers students a window into a new world, different cultures, a variety of viewpoints and the opportunity to reflect on oneself. However, with the associated expenses considered, it is not always feasible for a university student to travel abroad. That being said, there are plenty of ways that Shippensburg students may experience a rich cultural experience close by; dining at an authentic restaurant, conversing with people of differing backgrounds, enjoying international literature and cinema... and becoming involved with the International Student Organization at Shippensburg University. A variety of students, both international and local, come together to bring the world to Room 234 (also known as the ISO Lounge) in the Ceddia Union Building. Our ISO Lounge has seen students from Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Americas. It has heard a beautiful harmony of the many languages spoken there. It is the sincere hope of the International Student Organization to embrace and promote the numerous facets of the gem that we call our world, for our world can truly be smaller than we might realize.

Karen Hoch
ISO President

Staff Information

Mary Burnett

Director of International Programs

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Director of International Studies

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International Programs Secretary

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Tara Owens

International Programs Student Worker

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm

Mary's Walk in Office Hours

Monday – 12 pm – 2 pm

Thursday – 12 pm – 2 pm

Contact Information

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Faculty Spotlight
Chantana Charoenpanitkul

Chantana Charoenpanikul is an Associate Professor and Outreach Librarian in Lehman Library at Shippensburg University. Originally from Thailand, Chantana came to the United States as an exchange scholar in a Doctoral Art History program at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri.

After her graduate work, Chantana accepted a job here at Shippensburg University. She chose Shippensburg because of its centrality to many different places like New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington D.C., yet she can still concentrate living in a smaller, quieter town like Shippensburg.

Despite enjoying life in the United States, there are still cultural adjustments to be made as she continues life in the U.S. Some holidays also leave time to miss loved ones back in Thaliand. Chantana explained that family holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter can be difficult because she does not have her family surrounding her as everyone else does. Because of this, the 4th of July is her favorite U.S. holiday because it is more of a communal event rather than a familial one.

Besides being a beloved member of the Ship family, Chantana spends most of her free time (especially over the summer), traveling the world. Just this past summer, she traveled to a plethora of countries in Europe like Croatia, Bosnia, and Montenegro. She has gone back to Thailand to see family, but does not regularly travel there.

Chantana's advice to international students here in the U.S. is to not use your own standards of norms to adjust. Just because another culture is different, does not make it wrong. Once you realize this, go with the flow and comfort will come.

This is a photograph of Chantana in Bosnia!

International Student Spotlight
Takumi Otsuka

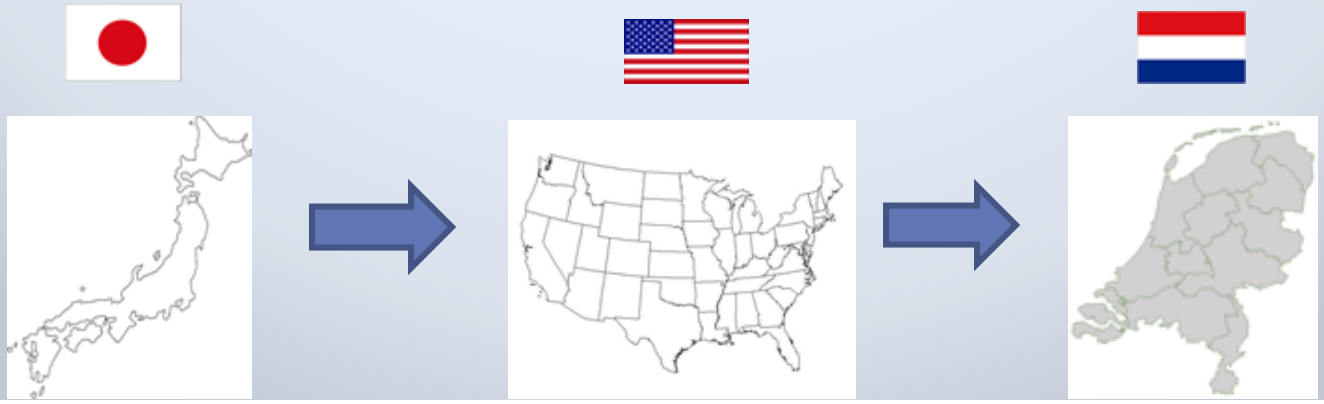
Takumi Otsuka is a current Shippensburg student who comes to us from Tokyo, Japan. After spending two and a half of his college years in Japan, he decided to come to the United States to finish his bachelor's degree. "It got boring there," explains Takumi.

First, Takumi planned to study in England, but after meeting friends from the United States in his American Studies program in Japan, he decided to find a college here instead. He found Shippensburg University due to chance, as many of the information packets that his home university had were, oddly enough, about schools in Pennsylvania! Coming from such an urban setting as Tokyo, Takumi though that the suburban town of Shippensburg would be a nice change.

Takumi, already being on a "study abroad" trip here in Shippensburg, decided to stretch his networks further and study in Denmark for a semester as well. Basically, Takumi studied abroad while already studying abroad! To say the least, Takumi is a big advocate for study abroad. He told of friends that he has met through studying in other places, as well as the transformations that he has seen in himself as well as transformations that he has seen in others simply from experiencing different places, cultures, and people.

Besides friends and family, Takumi misses "real" Japanese food more than anything else from his home country. His family is supportive of Takumi's world travels, as they know that it will help him land a good job. Takumi explained that having a degree from the United States is a big deal in Japan, and the ability to speak English also is quite a marketable trait.

Takumi's advice to students here at Shippensburg is to go abroad! He pointed out that Shippensburg helps you along the way, and as long as you have that kind of help in planning a trip, young people should take advantage of it. According to Takumi, study abroad changes you on many levels, and the sooner one goes through that change, the better.



Things to keep in mind…

- Come to a Study Abroad 101 information session!
  - Thursday, September 12 @ 4 p.m. CUB 232
  - Tuesday, September 24 @ 4 p.m. CUB 232
  - Thursday, October 24 @ 4 p.m. CUB 232
  - Thursday, November 7 @ 4 p.m. CUB 232

- Meet with program representatives and study abroad alumni at the Study Abroad Fair on Thursday, September 19 from 1-4 p.m. in CUB MPR A!

- Upcoming Study Abroad deadlines are as follows…
  - For study in Spring 2014→ October 11, 2013
  - For study in Summer 2014 → March 14, 2014
  - For study in Fall 2014 → March 21, 2014

- Please take note of the upcoming events for the Foreign Film Festival. All showings will be held in DHC 051 at 6:30pm. Each screening will feature a different country around the world. Below is the schedule of screenings
  - Monday, September 23rd – Yesterday (2004) South Africa
  - Monday, October 7th – Osama (2003) Afghanistan
  - Monday, October 21st – The Intouchables (2011) France
  - Monday, October 28th – The Orphanage (2007) Spain (Halloween theme)
  - Monday, November 18th – Grave of the Fireflies (1988) Japan
  - Monday, November 25th – The Seventh Seal (1957) Sweden
  - Monday, December 2nd – City of God (2002) Brazil
- Please Like our Facebook Pages!
  - Shippensburg University International Students
  - Shippensburg University Study Abroad
  - Shippensburg University International Studies