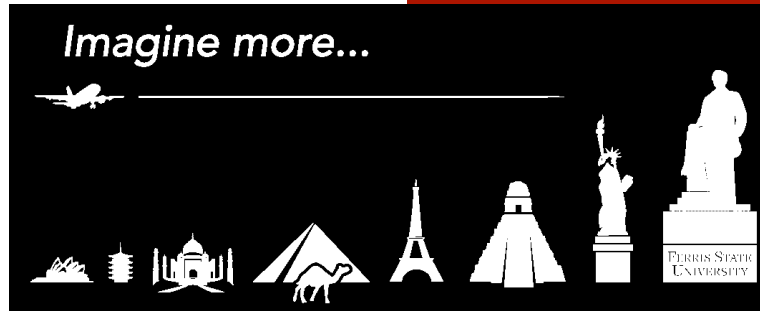


Office of International Education



Spring 2016



Our Mission and Values of the International Office

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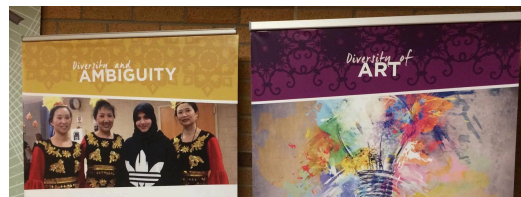
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(Statistic about International students at Ferris State University)



“What I love about America is the diversity”



America, the Foreign Frontier

By Beau Jensen

When Mohammed Alheji escaped the heat of the hot Riyadh, Saudi Arabia summer sun and came to Big Rapids, MI, he did not yet know a single soul in America.

Saudi Arabia is a country in Asia that consists mostly of desert terrain. Alheji is from Riyadh, the capital of the country, consisting of just over 4 million people. Things were a little different when he arrived at Ferris State, a campus of over 13,000 students.

“Ferris State was very hospitable when I first arrived here,” Alheji said. “I did not know anybody, I knew almost nobody, literally. Thankfully, the first people to greet me were those at the International Office, and the people who worked with me in the office at the time were very friendly and made it way easier.”

Alheji has been in Big Rapids since 2012 and said that he enjoys the variety to be found in America.

“What I love about America is the diversity,” Alheji said. “There are so many different kinds of people in many multicultural cities around the United States.”

Unsurprisingly, Alheji said that his favorite part about living in America has to be the weather.

“I am really liking the weather here, very very much,” Alheji said as he laughed. “The sun is not as nice as you would expect in Saudi Arabia, it is hot 24/7! Sometimes it can rain, but during the summer, it gets up to 125 to 130 Fahrenheit.”

Mohammed and the other students at the International Office are open to sharing their stories, so pop by the international office and say hello today!



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Food for the Seoul

By Katie Nimitz

There in the beating sun sits a large brown-glazed pottery jar taking its place in line with 50 others just like it. Inside, heated charcoal, dried red chillies, salt water and the main ingredient a dry hard block-shaped lump of fully cooked soybeans. It has been charged to stay in its place for two months. It will be drained off then stay put for another three months to develop the full flavor. What is this strange recipe used for? It is the foundation of a good soy sauce; made like many other fermented dishes in South Korea that Marlaina will get to try this summer.

Marlaina or Marty Scarbrough, a Cadillac native, will be experiencing the South Korean culture this summer through an opportunity with the Office of International Studies. The Applied Speech

Communication major decided to head for an adventure after a close friend told her about the affordable trip.

"I never imagined traveling to an Asian country. I am looking forward to learning about a new culture and seeing new things. Also the food, I am excited to try all the food in South Korea," Scarbrough said.

This will not be Scarbrough's first trip out of the United States. Last summer she went to Costa Rica to hone her foreign language skills; Spanish. With a semester away from a degree in communication the 2016 summer trip will really push her out of her comfort zone.

"I am nervous about being in a country where their language is symbols. I hope I will be able to find my way around the cities and that people are going to be helpful," Scarbrough chuckled. "I recommend studying abroad whenever you can. It really opens you to new opportunities and you get a lot of worldly experience."

"I am looking forward to learning about a new culture and seeing new things."

Sartore's First Time Abroad Leaves Him Running Back For More

By Taylor Bilski

As William Sartore makes his way to the baggage claim he is thinking about all the experiences he will have while studying abroad overseas for the first time. Once Sartore grabs his luggage off the conveyer belt, he places it on the ground and grabs the handle to head towards the door of the airport. As the double doors open, he walks outside ready to embrace the South African breeze and the adventures ahead of him. What he doesn't know is that his experience will be completely different than what he had studied prior to going abroad.

"Find something about the world that interests you, and carry it out in an international experience," said Sartore. He came to Ferris State University in January 2015 to start his career as the study abroad coordinator. Prior to his position at Ferris, he spent his six years living in various parts of the world including South Africa, Vietnam, and Poland.

Although Sartore's South

African trip in 2007 turned out to be nothing of what he expected, he made the best of it and got to spend the six months there learning all about the South African culture from a hands on perspective.

"By studying abroad you gain the opportunity to learn about how a new culture and society functions. You also get to make connections with individuals that will last a lifetime," said Sartore.

One of Sartore's memorable moments in South Africa was when he was able to watch Nelson Mendel give his last speech before he passed away. He was even able to get a selfie with Mendel that he has displayed on his desk at work in the International Office of Education.

Sartore makes it a habit continuing to get abroad experience every year to gain new perspectives of the world in all different countries. He urges students to study abroad to give them the ability to see the world in many different aspects and shape themselves into a well-rounded individual.

"By studying abroad you gain the opportunity to learn about how a new culture and society functions."





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Office of International Education

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