

Center for Global Engagement Special Academic Programs



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A Highly Successful Week at FSU!



Well, it happened again this year! Students from Meiji University and Florida State University came together for a highly successful intensive summer session at FSU in Intercultural Communication.

One person that helped make this program session so meaningful was a new Intercultural Communication

teacher whom we added to our group of instructors this year. Her name is Aleks Nesic and she works full time here in the Center for Global Engagement as the Intercultural Training and Assessment Specialist. Her class engaged the students right from the beginning in role plays and other hands-on learning activities geared to facilitate their adjustment to the cross-cultural challenges of working at the *Walt Disney World* Resort. Students ended the class week with excellent group presentations.

In our closing event, it was evident that the students were very pleased with what they had gotten out of the class, and that they had clearly developed some new vocabulary for talking about cultural difference and cultural interaction.

This program week also included a welcome luncheon attended by special visitors from the Walt Disney World International College Program. The Disney visitors were visibly impressed by the course the students were taking and even more so by the quality of the students from Meiji University selected to participate in the program this year.

Of course, for many of the students, the favorite moments in the weeks were spent getting to know the FSU Peer Mentors. The Peers accompanied the Meiji students on a tour of FSU's sports facilities, and a tour of downtown Tallahassee. They also held a games and study night at a local coffee shop called the Sweet Shop, a Karaoke night in the Center for Global Engagement a night out at the movies, and a bowling night. I would commend the Meiji students for courageously participating in whatever activity was proposed!



Division of
Student Affairs

The Peer Mentors Became our Best Friends!



One of the wonderful aspects of our FSU Special Academic Summer Programs is the relationship that develops between your students and our FSU Peer Mentors. We have carefully selected U.S. students who feel confident interacting with international students and who are particularly committed to sharpening their own cross-cultural skills as they seek to develop friendships with students from around the world.

As I sat in on some of our training, and cultural skills building sessions with the Peer Mentors, I was moved by the thoughtfulness the Peers give to doing their jobs well. During a pres-session on Japanese culture and Japanese student cultural adjustment issues, they asked some incredibly insightful questions. And, I think, they learned a lot.

This year, they have shown a genuine interest in delving a little deeper to share more about their own cultural backgrounds, and to learn more about your students backgrounds as well. Some of the discussions that the Peers reported having with the students suggest that the time they spend together really does contribute to mutual understanding between peoples of different cultures. In that way, both students and Peers support the stated mission of the U.S. State Department's J visa Exchange Visitor program and become skilled global citizens and wonderful ambassadors. The stated purpose of the Fulbright Hays Act, through which the J visa was created, is to enable the "U.S. to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries by means of ... cultural exchange."



What Your Students Did at FSU

Upon arrival to Tallahassee, they spent over a week with us on the lovely FSU campus before heading to Orlando to begin their Walt Disney World International College Program.

Arrival Day and the first weekend at FSU

- Arrived, checked in and were welcomed with a very large pizza dinner,
- Called or emailed home to let family know they had arrived safely
- Took an FSU campus tour
- Relaxed and enjoyed free time
- Learned, in Orientation, about what to expect
- Started Class!



Monday through Friday

- Enjoyed their Intercultural Communication Course
- Enjoyed a welcome luncheon hosted by the Director of the Center for Global Engagement
- Completed J-1 Orientation
- Shopped at the FSU Bookstore
- Took an tour of the FSU sports facilities

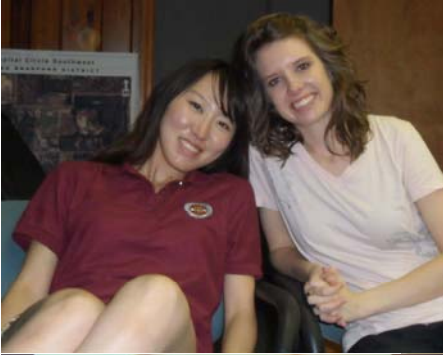


Saturday and Sunday

- Attended a Workshop on “Success at Disney”
- Attended a Closing Activity and Farewell Southern Lunch at the Rez, FSU’s lakeside recreational facility
- Ate a yummy sushi dinner and showed off talents in the CGE TALENT SHOW!!!
- Departed FSU for the *Walt Disney World* Resort, and arrived there safely in the company of Special Academic Programs staff, Andrew Donini and Christa Bosenberg.,
- Moved into their new homes at Vista Way.



The Week at FSU



The Week at FSU

