

Around the world

Midland students travel the globe

Hidebito Hiramatu, Japanese transfer student, Nancy Jimenez-Gonzalez, freshman from Mexico, Yasuhiro Ito, junior from Japan, and Yuichi Shimizu, Japanese transfer student, eat dinner together in the basement of Beagle Hall. Hiramatu, Jimenez-Gonzalez, Ito, and Shimizu are a few of the international students staying on campus. They prepared dishes from different countries such as Italy, China and Japan.



Rika Kaniwa/Photographer

International students attend Midland for opportunities, cultural experiences

By Roxanne Jarboe
Midland Staff

International students contribute a great deal to the campus. They add culture, diversity, different ethics, styles and flavors.

Midland Lutheran College has about 10 international students living on campus. From Canada to Japan, and other countries, students come here to Midland to learn. Midland is set apart from other colleges for these students.

Yuichi Shimizu of Tokyo, Japan, came to Midland to study broadcast journalism.

"I wanted to go to a liberal arts college in the U.S., but it is hard to study broadcasting at a liberal arts college," Shimizu said. "MLC offers that, so that is why I came here."

Japan is quite different from America, Shimizu said. For example, language is most different because in English the subject is first, followed by the verb. It doesn't work like that in Japanese, Shimizu said.

"Where in English you would say 'I go to school,' in Japanese you would say 'I to school go,'" Shimizu said.

Rika Kanaiawa is also from Tokyo. She said she came to Midland to learn English and experience a different culture. She said she is taking business classes and likes living on campus.

"At first I liked this environment, but it's getting boring," Kanaiawa said.

Crystal Leslie and her family lived in the United States for her senior year in high school. They had moved from Canada.

Leslie said Canadian lifestyles are close to American lifestyles in most aspects. She added there was more diversity in Canada.

Timur Tillayev is originally from Uzbekistan. He said that as an exchange student from Huber, he thought that it would be nice to stay in the United States and be close to his host family.

"I wanted to come to a small college, but it's kind of boring," Tillayev said.

Being from Uzbekistan, the United States is quite different with a different religious atmosphere and being far less strict, Tillayev said.

Toni Murad is the sponsor of the International Student Organization (ISO). ISO is a social group for international students, and a few Americans participate, Murad said.

She said that international students find Midland from books of college listings, friends or relatives and exchange programs such as Dunsai.

Murad said that the college benefits from having international students.

"International students are the richest resources we have on thought, imagination, insight and they have a lot to teach us," Murad said.



Rika Kaniwa/Photographer

Yuichi Shimizu, Japanese transfer student, cooks Japanese food for the other international students. Shimizu asked his family to mail rice from Japan to him because the grocery stores in the area do not stock the rice from his home. He said that finding food from his country is difficult here. He enjoys cooking his own meals instead of eating at the dining hall because he longs for a home cooked meal.

Students study abroad

By Leslie Bochart
Midland Staff

Imagine a place where you can travel to Morocco for \$15. If you buy a beer in the evening, a meal automatically comes with it. Only the rich live in homes and everyone else lives apartment buildings. Many people don't own cars; most people walk and mopeds are very popular.

This is the world senior Monica Johnson lived in from September to June last year while she was studying abroad in Granada, Spain.

Each year, two to four Midland Lutheran College students take the opportunity to study in another country.

Johnson said she chose to study abroad because Midland does not offer a Spanish program.

"I decided that the best way to become fluent in Spanish would be by immersing myself in the language," Johnson said.

Johnson said she went to Spain not knowing any Spanish. Yet after she looked back at her notes at the end of the term, she noticed she was taking all the notes and writing papers in Spanish.

She continues to use Spanish by teaching English as a Second Language classes at the United Baptist Church.

Overall, Johnson said it was a rewarding experience.

"It was almost breathtaking to see my progress," Johnson said. "In classes here, you learn, but when you study abroad you can actually see your progress."

Pat Trautrimus, assistant professor of English, said it is a great experience for students.

"To study in the classroom is wonderful, but to understand another culture, you must be there," Trautrimus said.

Trautrimus said that it is important for students to realize that they are a part of the world, not just Nebraska or the United States.

"It also gives students a greater appreciation for their own country," Trautrimus said.

Johnson agreed. "You cannot learn more about your own country or appreciate it more unless you live outside of it for a while," Johnson said.

Trautrimus said it is also a great opportunity for students to discover how independent they can be.

"When students study abroad they realize how capable they really are," Trautrimus said. "Students learn to be completely independent because they cannot go home every weekend, they must stay there and

live without support from family members."

Johnson said it is a great learning experience, but students must take the time to do it.

"I had to see if my scholarships and credits transferred," Johnson said. "I also had to get my professors to sign a petition so I could enter classes two weeks late when I got back."

Midland is in conjunction with the study abroad program at Central College of Iowa. Trautrimus said Midland collaborated with Central College because a program is too expensive to establish here.

The program at Central College allows students to study in Austria, England, France, Wales, Spain, Mexico or the Netherlands. Trautrimus said Spain is the most common country that students choose.

Students wishing to apply need to have good academic standards, they must then fill out an application, get recommendations from an administrator and a faculty member and write a biography.

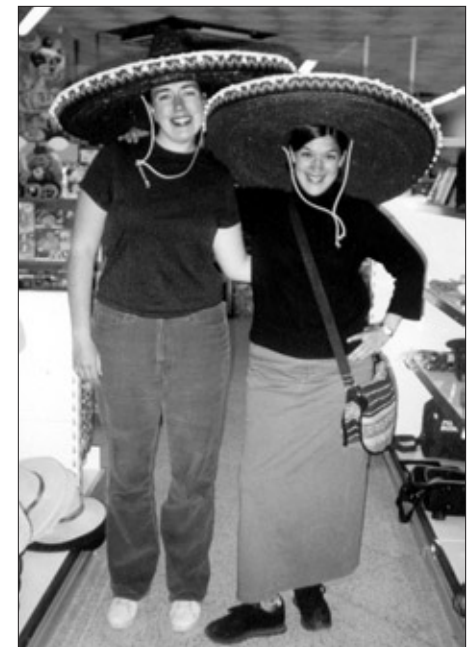
Johnson said that the benefits of studying abroad are well worth the effort it takes to get there.

"I really encourage anyone to go abroad," Johnson said. "Make it happen. It will be the most valuable experience in your life."



Courtesy Photo

Senior Monica Johnson looks down into the bull fighting arena in Granada. Six of the most renowned bullfighters were present at this event for a beneficio favor de la asociacion "Sindrome de down de Granada." The money that was collected from the event went to people with down syndrome.



Courtesy Photo

Midland student Monica Johnson, senior, and Kate Gardaner, friend of Monica's, pose in sombreros in Mojacas.