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Handong International Alumni Association



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
PG. 2

HANDONG NEWS
PG. 6

FALL FESTIVAL
PG. 7

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS
PG. 8

Welcome, Dear Alumni!

From the Handong International Alumni Office (HIAO)

The Handong International Alumni Office are eager to reconnect with our international alumni and forge lasting bonds that extend beyond your time at Handong.

As you read this newsletter, perhaps relaxing in your favorite chair with a warm cup of coffee, we hope it brings back fond memories of your time at Handong.

Each edition will also spotlight one of our alumni, allowing us to celebrate both the joys and challenges we face together as one community!

Alumni Spotlight: Naomi Lee

- **Name:** Naomi Lee
- **Year of Graduation:** 2023
- **Majors:** Education Administration (GCS) and Counseling Psychology



Introduction:

Naomi Lee's story is anything but typical. Born in California to Korean parents, she moved to Mexico when she was three years old. For nearly 20 years, Naomi has been part of a mission family serving in the U.S.

In 2017, Naomi came to Handong Global University as an exchange student and quickly realized that she had found a wonderful, Christian community. In the fall of 2018, Naomi had officially transferred to Handong Global University, pursuing degrees in Education Administration (GCS) and Counseling Psychology. After years of dedication, she graduated in 2023.

What made Handong Global University different from Naomi's point of view:

"Everyone knew each other in i-House", said by Naomi. She mentioned that the international community that Handong Global University has is extremely active and lively. Following that, the sense of community and belonging made Handong feel like home, and the people like family. HGU fosters a deep connection among its students, creating an environment where everyone feels they truly belong. This strong sense of belonging is what makes HGU more than just a place to study – it's a place to grow personally and spiritually and connect with others in meaningful ways. This is mainly the reason why she decided to transfer to Handong Global University.

Her next step in life:

After graduating from HGU, Naomi moved back to Texas, reuniting with her family and trying to figure out what God had next in store for her. However, in August 2023, she received an unexpected invitation to join a mission program in the Middle East. Initially hesitant, she spent time in prayers, asking God whether this was according to His will or not. Then God gave her a clear sign through Isaiah 6:8-9, "Then I Heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" and I said "Here am I. Send me!" He said, "Go and tell this people: 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'" With this confirmation, she made up her mind and heart to go. She has been serving in the Middle East since September, marking a year and a half of her mission journey and planning to continue for more.



Egypt



Jordan

What mission is she doing?

From September to June, Naomi had been going on visiting different countries and places in the Middle East. The works that she had done were related to helping refugees whether it was in a general care center or educational center. On one of her trips, Naomi taught the kids English and alphabet, helping them to achieve a better future.



Egypt

It is mentioned by her that the kids learned how to sing " I have got joy in my heart" and the room quickly filled with joy when they all sang together. Following that, she also shared with us about this one ministry where she taught music and taekwondo to the kids. Naomi's heart was delighted by seeing how the kids were so excited about learning how to do the kicks from taekwondo. Through her stories of her mission work, she definitely blesses the people in need and also us, the readers.

Naomi hopes that through her mission work and trips, she can deepen her relationship with God by focusing more on loving Him and fully committing her life to His service. This desire of her for spiritual growth and dedication has inspired her decision to return to the Middle East for another six months. For Naomi, this is not just about continuing her mission trips, but it is something more than that. It is about embracing her calling and living out her faith with greater devotion, trusting that each step brings her closer to God's purpose for her life.



Jordan

How does Handong play an impact on her mission trip or life right now?

As HGU holds leadership value very closely, Naomi learned and enhanced her leadership skills through the experiences that HGU offered. Throughout her academic years at HGU, she joined many organizations and volunteer work, such as Student Government and iHanST. Therefore, those experiences taught Naomi how to become a leader who holds Christian values and Christlike character. With her honed leadership skills, Naomi was capable of working with her new team in the Middle East with more patience, understanding, open-mindedness, and communication as the team consisted of diverse individuals with different characters and cultural backgrounds.

Following that, Naomi found her passion for administrative work through her roles in Student Government and as a TA for the Office of International Affairs. Serving in these positions not only allowed her to develop valuable skills but also confirmed that she is on the right path. She hoped that she would be able to pursue a career in administrative work, where she could combine her love for organization and leadership with her desire to serve others.



Armenia



Egypt

Wish for HIAA:

Naomi hopes that every alumni feels that they are always a part of this community, no matter where they are or when they graduate. HGU is the one place that unites every single one of us. Therefore, HGU alumni will always be able to find a community here, at Handong Global University.

Handong News

Handong's Journey:
Integrating Innovation, Globalization, and Local Impact



Handong Global University is taking significant steps towards becoming a global leader in education by introducing the innovative 4C based model that emphasizes Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity, in collaboration with Minerva University. In addition to that, inspired by Arizona State University (ASU), Handong Global University has adopted AI-based personalized learning systems. These initiatives reflect Handong's dedication to educating students not just on "what they know" but "what they can do", showing its commitment to fostering practical and innovative learning on a global level.

In pursuing Handong's goal to prepare its students to become true global leaders, HGU provides opportunities for students to practice solving various real-life problems by expanding its reach through the Global Rotation Program. With 30 Global Extension Campuses, students will gain hands-on experience, preparing them for global careers and transforming them into true "glocal" talents.



Beyond aiming for academic excellence, Handong Global University is also committed to regional development. One of its major projects is the construction of Global Corporate Innovation Park in Pohang, which aims to turn Pohang into a global city by fostering collaboration between government, industry, and academia, creating a sustainable environment where companies, professionals, and students can live and work together. Following that, other projects would include the establishment of the East Sea Innovation Institute and a new Handong campus on Ulleung Island, both aiming to address local issues and drive growth.

President Do-Seong Choi expresses Handong Global University's commitment to using its 30 years of educational innovation to create a model that encourages collaboration between universities and local governments in Korea. This approach strengthens higher education while promoting regional development, positioning Handong as a leader in both academic and community growth. Through these, Handong Global University is a step closer to its goal which is to be an example for other universities in improving higher education across the country.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival at Handong Global University is a cherished event that brings together diverse communities to showcase their culinary delights. This festival, there are nine different communities participating: Thai and Laos in collaboration, Nepali, Chinese, African, Latin, Indonesia, Mongolian, and Japan. What made this year's festival particularly special was its spirit of giving and support. Alongside introducing their delicious dishes, the participating communities contributed to supporting the upcoming mission trip to Nepal through monetary support. This special and vibrant festival not only celebrated cultural diversity but also highlighted the shared commitment among the communities to making a positive impact.



Festival of Nations

The most awaited event of the international community took place just recently on November 9th, 2024. The Festival of Nations, with the theme “Where World Meets”, this year’s event radiated a spirit of connection and unity. Nine different communities took part in the performances, introducing their traditions through mesmerizing songs and dances.



Hanpoong



Nepali



Latin



Mongolian

These anticipated performances represented South Korea (Hanpoong), Nepali, Latin, Mongolian, Central Asian, Indonesian, African, Japanese, and U.S. cultures. This year's Festival of Nation offered a glimpse into the richness of diversity. Following that, right before the Festival of Nations began, some of the communities did exhibitions of their home country snacks. The Chinese, Mongolian, Central Asian, Laos and Thai, Malaysian, Indian, Pakistani, and US communities prepared delightful treats for people to enjoy. Both Handong students and professors were spotted excitedly trying and exploring the diverse flavors from around the globe. For the Handong Global University community from students, professors, and faculty members, it was a night to remember. A beautiful exchange of cultural heritage that inspired understanding and appreciation among all.



Central Asian



Indonesian



African



Japanese



United States

Others:

For any inquiries, contact us at:

- **Email:** ialumni@handong.edu
- **Instagram:** @hgu_ialumni
- **LinkedIn:** Handong International Alumni Association
- **Facebook:** Handong International Alumni Association

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Handong International Alumni Association®