

Educational Development Program

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From The Director

We are in the homestretch and the semester's end is upon us. This can be a very hectic and stressful time for students, so please do not hesitate to come to our offices for assistance whether you need immediate academic help or you just need to chill and talk. We are here for you and will do everything in our power to provide you with the assistance you need.

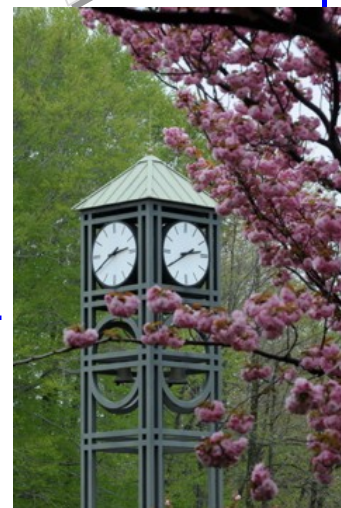
The staff and I are looking forward to the future for both our continuing students and our incoming freshmen. Good things are happening: there are 16 possible EDP students who could be inducted into the opportunity program honor society Chi Alpha Epsilon (our largest group ever!) in March 2011; and, as things stand now, EDP at Fredonia will very likely "close" freshman admissions at the earliest date in our history (beating the early milestone of last year).

Many of you will have summer jobs, which are great experiences and resume builders. Some students will take summer classes to either make-up or build-up course work. But, please take part of your summer to work on three new "Rs"—Reflecting, Rejuvenating, and Relaxing. Pay attention to what is happening around you and keep in mind that you are the future. Even though the daily news can be unsettling, you can prevail and be successful.

Have a great summer.

*Janet Knapp,
EDP Interim Director*

☒ ☒ [If you haven't already done so, click here to join EDP's Facebook Fan page.](#) ☒ ☒



28th ANNUAL EDP AWARDS CEREMONY HELD MARCH 25

The Educational Development Program hosted its 28th Annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday, March 25, in the Horizon Room of the Williams Center at 4 p.m. Nearly 100 faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and students shared in the annual event. The ceremony is a way for EDP to recognize EDP students' academic achievements.

Welcome remarks were given by SUNY Fredonia's President, Dr. Dennis Hefner, and by Mr. Daniel Tramura, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services and EDP's supervisor. Student entertainment included a song by **Lorenzo Parnell** (SO/Mus.Perf.) and one by **Alaysia Jordan** (FR/Mus.Applied) with Olugbenga Obafemi. Pictures are on Page 3.

Special awards presented included:

◆ *Outstanding Tutor of the Year*

Mary Gorman, Hallie Johns, and Michael Raisch

◆ *Community Service Award*

Jeremiah Blundon
Jenny Brown
Sean Brown III
Cynthia Chan
Keli Cochran
Georgia Dillard
Yafim Dorfman
Kofi Genfi
Elisa Kay Girdlestone
Toni Goins-Singletary
Siobhan Hunter
Alaysia Jordan
Jessica Karan
Gabrielle Kelly

Nicole King
Jose Matos
LaSheri Mayes
Thani McBride
Justin Moore
Pilar Nelson
Hector Perez
Andrea Polowy
Aaron Quinitchett
Kurtisha Scipio
Amanda Tobin
Christian Torres
Lauren Williams

◆ *Arthur O. Eve Scholarship*

James Adesida, Keli Cochran, and Serene Lazaro

◆ *Director's Award*

Andrew Ruffin

◆ *Gregory Antonio Memorial Award*

Theopolis Thomas-Newkirk

◆ *Exemplary Service Award*
LoGrasso Health Center

◆ *Distinguished Alumni Award*
Audrey Pitts (See Pg 5)

◆ *Academic Certificates*

Those EDP students who earned a 2.70 and above grade point average while completing 12 credits or more for the spring 2009 and/or fall 2009 semesters received certificates. Silver certificates went to students with a 2.70-3.29 GPA and gold certificates went to students with a 3.30-4.00 GPA.

James Adesida
Oluwabumi Ajayi
Marcus Anderson
Chelsea Annis
Steven Artymowycz
Mandela Avril
Kendra Barney
Jonathan Barreto
Andrea Barriffe
Nicholas Bernard
Tyanna Berry
Jeremiah Blundon
Justin Bouchard
Erika Brooks
Derrick Brown
Keah Brown
Sean Brown III
Julius Bryant
Lindsay Buscemi
Brian Carroll
Amanda Carswell
Benjamin Casper
David Chatterton
Sarah Chichester
Keli Cochran
Dana Collier
Annmarie Coppola
Tara Courtney
Alexander Davis
Julia Davis
Carmelito Deleon

Lavie Donnell
Yafim Dorfman
Rebecca Eisenman
Ashley Ellis
Derwin English
Justin Moore
Pilar Nelson
Heather Newton
Alicia Nicolas
Lucy Nunez
Terrill Ocona
Adebusayo Oyeleye
Beatrice Peralta
Aiden Perrilloux
Brittany Perry
Justin Ramsey
Joseph Raville
Terrence Raymond
Artrese Reid
Amanda Richards
Alexander Ridgell
Jose Rojas
Andrew Ruffin
Kurtisha Scipio
Stephanie Shenk
Louis Solomon
Mercedes Sornoza
Stephanie Southwell
Theopolis Thomas-Newkirk
Jacob Valla
Diana Vasquez
Amber Wilcox
Lauren Williams
Christopher Wright

The EDP staff and students thank all those who make a donation to the EDP Scholarship Fund.

Appreciation goes to FSA, ITS, Campus Life, Sociology/Anthropology department, and Public Relations for assisting with the program.

**EDP 1st Fall 2010 General Student Body Meeting
Monday, August 23, 2010 - 4 pm - S-104 Williams Center**

Memories from EDP's 2010 Awards Ceremony.



EDP Distinguished Service Recipient—LoGrasso Health Center
Some of the Health Center staff.

Entertainment was provided by **Lorenzo Parnell** (left) and **Alaysia Jordan** (below/far right—pictured with EDP counselors Rachel Skemer and Dinecia Pierre-Louis).



A FEW OF THE EDP STUDENT ACADEMIC AWARD RECIPIENTS.



SOME OF THE CHI ALPHA EPSILON INDUCTEES—Seated: Laquia Johnson, Cassandra Carlson, and Serene Lazaro. **Standing:** Kim Mead-Colegrove/FOP Director, Justin Bouchard, Mercedes Sornoza, and Janet Knapp.



TUTOR OF THE YEAR—Michael Raisch, pictured with EDP Interim Director Janet Knapp, was named Tutor of the Year along with Mary Gorman and Hallie Johns.



EDP STAFF — Janet Knapp, Interim Director; Dinecia Pierre-Louis, Counselor; Rachel Skemer, Counselor; and Barbara Yochym, Secretary



More pictures may be found on [EDP's website.](#)

EDP Distinguished Alumni Audrey Pitts (center) shops at the FSA bookstore with her sister Muriel (left), son Tyree (right) and mother (back).





RALPH WILSON BOOK AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recipients of the spring 2010 Ralph Wilson Book Award are pictured with EDP Interim Director Janet Knapp. LEFT—**Pilar Nelson** (FR/PY); RIGHT—**Kurtisha Scipio** (JR/Soc.Work). The initial endowment was created in spring of 2000 by the Ralph Wilson, Jr., Foundation to help EDP students with book and over-all college expenses. Students' accomplishments,



community service activities, academic merit, and economic need were reviewed by the EDP counseling staff. This award is offered each semester.



RACHEL HOFF— EDP INTERN

Rachel Hoff is completing one of her master's degree internships in the EDP office this spring. She meets with students, assists in day-to-day work projects, makes re-

ruitment calls to applicants and accepted students, observes the freshmen orientation class, and advises liberal arts students. Rachel graduated from SUNY Fredonia in 2008 with a BA in English. She started working at SUNY Fredonia in January 2009 as a Residence Hall Director in Hendrix Hall. She will complete her Master's Degree in May 2010 for English Literature from SUNY Fredonia.

EIGHT INDUCTED INTO HONOR SOCIETY

Chi Alpha Epsilon national honor society was formed to recognize the academic achievement of students admitted to colleges and universities through non-traditional criteria/opportunity programs. Dr. Elbert M. Saddler, Ph.D., founded Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE) in 1990 at West Chester University of Pennsylvania and there are now over 120 chapters in the United States. Eligible students must be full-time and hold a 3.0 cumulative GPA for two consecutive semesters. Fredonia's Alpha Mu chapter started in October 1999 and as of today has 144 inductees. Students from the Full Opportunity Program (FOP) were invited to join in the spring of 2003. A private initiation, which included ritual materials for each inductee, preceded EDP's awards ceremony. Inductees for 2010 include:



| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Justin Bouchard | Laquia Johnson |
| Cassandra Carleton | Serene Lazaro |
| David Chatterton | Mercedes Sornoza |
| Alexander Davis | Rhea Williams |

CURRENT STUDENT HAPPENINGS

★**Christian Torres** (SR/BA) finished sixth in men's 3-meter springboard diving at the NCAA Division III swimming and diving championships in Minneapolis, MN. ★**James Adesida** (SR/PY) will be traveling to Japan for the summer to complete his course work in Psychology. He will be studying the Japanese language and the culture. ★**Mandela Averl** (JR/TA) will be studying abroad for his junior year in Germany. While there, he hopes to visit family and experience new cultures.



★**Sean L. Brown III** (JR/ECON) is president of *Brother 2 Brother (B2B)*. B2B is a SUNY Fredonia chartered group open to all students that provides services to the campus and surrounding communities and focuses on issues that affect students of color.

★**David Chatterton**/cello (SO/Mus.Ed.), **Alexander Davis**/bassoon (SO/Mus.Ed.), and **Alaysia Jordan**/chorus (FR/Mus.Applied) took part in the School of Music's Scholarship Benefit Concert which featured Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Op. 125, "Choral."

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPRING/SUMMER EDP GRADS

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| James Adesida | Alicia Nicolas |
| Benjamin Blair | Angela Ortiz |
| Chase Brown | Justin Ramsey |
| Julia Davis | Terrence |
| Jessica Karan | Raymond |
| Xiaomin Li | Artrese Reid |
| Jamie Luttrell | Amanda Richards |
| Benjamin Martin | Alexander Ridgell |
| Chris McAllister | Jose Rojas |
| Heather Newton | Stephanie Shenk |



Christian Torres
Diana Vasquez

AUDREY PITTS NAMED EDP 2010 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Ms. Pitts quoted Maya Angelou during her address at the EDP awards ceremony: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Ms. Audrey Pitts was named EDP's Distinguished Alumni on March 25. Originally from Brooklyn, Audrey was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology in 1982.

After graduating from Fredonia, Audrey resided in Buffalo where she was a substitute teacher and literacy volunteer for foster children with Child and Family Services. Audrey returned to New York City and immediately began to build a solid foundation in the health care profession as a social work coordinator with People Care, Inc., in New York City. With her proven ability to attract, nourish and maintain new business, in 1986 she joined Progressive Home Health Services, Inc., in New York as a home care coordinator. Audrey's demonstrated business acumen, relationship building, and leadership skills led to her promotion as administrator in 1989, advancing on in 1997 to her present position as administrator/vice president, and shareholder in 2004. She has been a member of the Governing Board since 2004, Finance Committee, and Performance Improvement Committee, as well as a member of the New York State Home Care Association and New York State Association of Health Care Providers. Audrey is responsible for overall management of the operational areas of the organization to maintain a high level of quality home care services, including oversight of the home health aide, home attendant, and family services homemaker programs. During her 24 years at Progressive, Audrey has developed systems and operational structures that have encouraged growth of Progressive's capacity to serve over 2,000 clients in a variety of programs.

Audrey has a fondness for kids, languages, food, theatre, and travel. She is halfway to her goal of visiting all fifty states. Audrey is a strong believer in the saying, "each one, teach one." She has been a mentor—leading by example; encouraging and supporting others in the pursuit of education and advancement in work; and being available to listen, learn, coach, and develop staff and students. She has a special place in her heart for young people and was instrumental in helping to establish a relationship between Progressive Home Health Services and Norman Thomas High School to provide after-school employment at Progressive to juniors and seniors selected by the school. Several of the high school graduates presently in college continue to work at the company. Progressive also works with the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) by allocating slots for 4-5 students during the summer and pairing them with teams to enhance and develop their skills and work etiquette. Audrey contributes to various organizations and foundations through charitable donations, memberships, and matching donations from her company, friends, and colleagues in support of their efforts to enrich the lives of our youth. When unable to attend some the programs and events of the organizations she supports, she has become known for gifting her ticket to others. Audrey has traveled to China and Italy with a special group of ladies who raise funds for and donate all proceeds from the trip to Madonna Heights, a charity which provides residential, community, mental health, and outreach services to needy adolescent girls, women and families in Long Island, NY.

Audrey is the proud mother of two sons, Jarrell and Tyree Stewart. Jarrell is a junior at Newberry College in South Carolina majoring in Sports Management with a minor in Coaching. Tyree attended American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts, and will be attending culinary school in the fall.



At Fredonia, Audrey was treasurer of the Gospel Choir, secretary of the Black Student Union, EDP peer advisor for incoming freshmen, and a member of the Spanish Club.

—Continued on page 7—

Two of Audrey's friends/co-workers (far left) traveled all the way from New York City to share in Audrey's award. Also present was one of Audrey's sons, Tyree, sister Muriel (far right), and mother (not pictured).



2009 Freshman Class

The United Way of Northern Chautauqua County held their 2010 Annual Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on April 21. Barbara Yochym, EDP Secretary, was recognized by Literacy Volunteers of Chautauqua County (LVCC) for her volunteer work as LVCC's treasurer!!

2010 EDP FRESHMAN AUGUST WORKSHOP

The EDP Freshman August Workshop will take place August 19-21, occurring right before the start of the fall semester. Approximately 35 new EDP students will arrive on campus to become better acquainted with the EDP staff and participate in some additional activities to prepare them for their college experience. The fee, meal, and lodging costs during the orientation are covered for each student by contributions from Fredonia State and a grant from the Office of Opportunity Programs (OOP) in Albany. OOP is the supervising department over all Educational Opportunity Programs.

New freshmen will also participate in the College's Summer Orientation and Advising Program (SOAP). They will choose from one of five two-day sessions where they will have a chance to select their fall classes and attend presentations on topics such as financial aid, the billing process, and on-campus services.

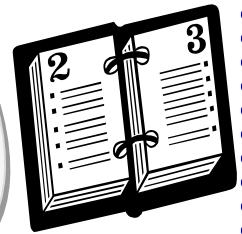


Field trip during EDP's Freshmen August Workshop—Niagara Falls, USA

It is **mandatory** that new EDP freshmen attend both a SOAP session and the three-day EDP August Workshop.

DATES

- **May 10-14** – Final Exams
- **May 15** – Commencement
- **May 17-August 20** – Summer Office Hrs
8 am to 4 pm
- **May 17-28** – May Term
- **May 24-June 25** – Summer Session I
- **June 28-July 30** – Summer Session II
- **August 19-21** – **EDP FRESHMEN AUGUST WORKSHOP**
- **August 23** – Academic Year Office Hrs
8:30 am to 5 pm
- **August 23** – F'10 First Day of Classes
- **August 23** – **First EDP General Meeting**
– 4 pm, S104 Williams Center
- **September 6** – Labor Day/NO CLASSES
- **October 7-8** – Fall Break
- **October TBA** – Mid-semester
- **TBA** – **Second EDP General Meeting** –
4 pm, S104 Williams Center
- **November 22-26** – Thanksgiving Break
- **December 13-17** – Final Examinations
- **January 24, 2011** – S'11 First Day of Classes
- **January 24** – **First EDP General Meeting**
– 4 pm, S104 Williams Center
- **March 14-18** – Spring Break
- **TBA** – **EDP 29th Annual Awards Ceremony and Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society Induction**
- **May 9-13** – Final Exams



OFFICE OF OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS RECOGNIZES ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

EDP students who have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better are recognized by the Office of Opportunity Programs for their scholastic excellence and extraordinary dedication to self-improvement. This year's recipients are:

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Chelsea Annis | Alexander Davis | Chris McAllister |
| Jonathan Barreto | Carmelito Deleon | Pilar Nelson |
| Nicholas Bernard | Lavie Donnell | Alicia Nicolas |
| Justin Bouchard | Rebecca Eisenman | Lucy Nunez |
| Erika Brooks | Ashley Ellis | Justin Ramsey |
| Derrick Brown | Shawn Farrell | Terrence Raymond |
| Keah Brown | Alexis Fores | Artrese Reid |
| Lindsay Buscemi | Julia Gangi | Amanda Richards |
| Benjamin Casper | Corinna Kester | Alexander Ridgell |
| David Chatterton | Serene Lazaro | Mercedes Sornoza |
| Keli Cochran | Fredrick Lee | Christian Torres |
| Dana Collier | Xiaomin Li | Christopher Wright |
| Tara Courtney | | |

—Continued from page 5—

Audrey returned to the campus in April 2008 for EDP's alumni reunion. Audrey said "I was eager to come back to Fredonia because some of the best years of my life were spent at Fredonia. The EDP program and staff, many of my professors, and one very special dorm director were all supportive in many ways. They willingly shared their knowledge and experience to help make me a well-rounded individual, thereby enhancing my confidence to compete 'with those who had more education, more money, etc.' They helped me to thrive in a wonderfully new environment, believing in me and my abilities, emphasizing teamwork, and helping me set goals and remain focused to attain those goals. EDP opened the door and SUNY Fredonia helped me begin to build the foundation for success." One of Audrey's favorite quotes is, "If you want to go fast, walk alone; if you want to go far, walk with others," author unknown. The EDP staff is proud that she is fulfilling the program motto of "Going Above and Beyond."

F'09 DEAN'S LIST

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Steven Artymowycz | Carmelito Deleon | Alicia Nicolas |
| Tyanna Berry | Lavie Donnell | Lucy Nunez |
| Justin Bouchard | Rebecca Eisenman | Terrence Raymond |
| Derrick Brown | Shawn Farrell | Alexander Ridgell |
| Lindsay Buscemi | Corinna Kester | Diana Vasquez |
| Keli Cochran | Shakira Mayne | Christopher Wright |
| Dana Collier | Chris McAllister | |

ALUMNI UPDATE

★**Carmen McCray Green** ('85/EN) earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Fairleigh Dickinson University in August 2009. Her 28th book, *The Perfect Seduction*, has been released by Harlequin Books.

★**Jerome Moss** ('81/Spec.Studies) was named the boys' basketball coach at Dunkirk (NY) High School. ★**Darren Martin** ('82/CM) has been in Virginia nine years and is Senior Marketing Consultant with Entercom Communications. Via FaceBook he said "Some of the class of '82 are making plans to crash Homecoming October 1-3." —*GREAT! We hope to see other alumni during Homecoming, too.*

★**Dinecia Pierre-Louis** ('05/French Adol Edu) organized an all-campus relief effort to assist victims of the earthquake that struck her homeland of Haiti earlier this year. She enlisted the support of the entire SUNY Fredonia community to raise money through a fund established with the Fredonia College Foundation. She coordinated a talent showcase held in the Williams Center and it raised over \$1,000. See her poem on page 8. ★**Martine Jerome** ('08/Comm Disorders) spoke about Haiti at a prayer vigil held in February. Martine lived in Haiti until she was 14. ★**Hamlet Javier** ('03/Comp/Info.Sci.) is working as a Web Application Developer for ICC The Compliance Center out of Syracuse, New York.

★*Starting with the 2011 EDP Awards Ceremony, the EDP staff will be taking nominations from other EDP alumni for the Distinguished Alumni award. Self-nominations will also be accepted. Please submit a supporting statement and current resume of the nominee by November 30 to Barbara.Yochym@fredonia.edu. The EDP staff will make the final decision.*

Since the April 2008 EDP alumni reunion was such a success, conversations have been going on about holding another one. No details are available yet, but we will have a date chosen by the Fall 2010 issue of Accent.

The Cry of a Queen

Dinecia Pierre-Louis ('05/French Adol Edu)

The hurtful cry of a desperate queen pierces my heart
as I powerlessly watch her health collapse before my eyes
Her beauty had been fading for some time
She is no longer the exquisite queen I used to know

Can she ever be restored?

She cries out from the depths of her womb
“Gade yon doule non Bon Dye” – what a pain oh God

Her bones – demolished Her body – weak
Her strength resumes to nothing
Her morale – desperate without hope

Her pain is wired through my bones
I feel her misery
Her desire to fulfill her duty as royalty

The hope of nations are surrounded around this queen
With a longing desire to restore her health
Her suffering is too great to show signs of emotions
But her smile within convey her gratitude
Thinking all to herself “men anpil, chay pa lou” – many
hands make light work

EDP STUDENTS REFLECT ON THEIR STUDY ABROAD

⇒ ⇒ *Justin Ramsey is a senior History major from Medford, NY, who studied in Russia for the summer of 2009.*

Over the past century the American public’s perception of the nation of Russia is that it is our “nemesis.” I had the opportunity to go to Russia and have first hand interaction with Russian people to help shatter this terrible stereotype. During the summer of 2009, I studied abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia, for three weeks. St. Petersburg is most often described as resembling cities of Western Europe. This city was founded and built by Czar Peter the Great and was once the capital of the Russian Empire. This would remain true until the October Revolution of 1917 led by the Bolsheviks which would lead to the foundation of the Soviet Union. After the Bolshevik victory, the capital was moved to Moscow.

There is a tremendous amount of

history represented in the city. The majority of the buildings were no more than four stories tall because that was the limit established by Peter the Great. One of the tallest buildings in the city is St. Isaac’s Cathedral which can be seen from every corner of the city. I had the pleasure of going to the top of it and I was able to see a 360 degree view of the city. The city also holds the world’s largest art museum called The Hermitage which I had the chance to visit and see art from different regions and time periods. The most fascinating aspect of living in the city was seeing the quantity of Soviet influence left throughout it. As I traveled through the different sections, I was surprised to see plaques of Lenin on certain buildings and the amount of Soviet symbols still present 18 years after the fall of the Soviet Union.

During my trip to Russia I also had the chance to spend a day and a night in Moscow, the capital. In Moscow, I visited the Kremlin, which is where the President of the Russian government lives, as well as the infamous Red Square. While walking around Red Square, I had the opportunity to see St. Basil’s Cathedral, which is one of the most recognizable buildings in Russia. One of the most fascinating parts of being in Moscow was having the chance to visit Lenin’s Mausoleum (pictured below). This is where Vladimir Lenin, the leader and founder of the USSR, is embalmed and where he is on public display.

The trip was not only helpful in being able to see the great amount of Russian/Soviet history, but also in having the opportunity to spend time with Russian students my age and go and enjoy the city at all hours of the day and night. One of the most distinct cultural differences I witnessed was being allowed to have alcohol on the streets in the city. In St. Petersburg one could walk around with an open beer or even a champagne bottle and, as long as you were not belligerently drunk and disorderly, then it was

OK. I was there during the season known as the White Nights—when the sunset is extremely late and darkness is never complete and is a time of celebration. During this period of celebration for the people of the city, I was able to travel around at night with my friends and enjoy this great atmosphere with thousands of people relaxing and enjoying themselves.

My three week trip of Russia has forever changed me. I have a much

Picture of Lenin's mausoleum.



better understanding of not only Russian history but also of the Russian people and I do not see them as our “nemesis.” I was able to witness in the young students the same hope and optimism of a greater relationship and friendship between the United States and Russia that I have. I would strongly recommend visiting Russia to anyone who is interested.

Whether it is the history, culture, or just a fascination anyone might have with a nation, I highly encourage every person to try and experience the study abroad program because not only is it a great time of your life, but it makes you more aware of the rest of the world and their feelings and attitudes towards the United States.

⇒ ⇒ *Terica Evans is a sophomore Communication major from Bronx, NY, who studied in Japan for the fall of 2009.*

I always had a dream to go to Japan. I never knew how I was going to accomplish it, but I knew I wanted to go there someday. When choosing to study abroad, I had a lot of concerns. I did not know where I was going to get the money for it, whether or not I had high enough grades, and I didn't know any Japanese. My friend decided to apply with me and that really gave me the confidence to go through with the process. I later found out that I didn't have to worry about any of this. For most of the study abroad programs, you only need at least a 2.0 GPA. There are also very few programs that require you to know the language before you go abroad. The money was actually the easiest step. I did not have to take out any extra loans. The only fear I had left to overcome was the prospect of traveling overseas and halfway across the world.

My friend and I went to the same program in Akita, Japan. Akita is a smaller, rural area. In fact, when I first saw Akita, it reminded me of Fredonia. One of my teachers at Akita International University said, “the more you travel, the more everything looks the same!” Turns out, he was correct. Many things looked the same as in America, but with Japanese writing. Even though the sights were similar, everything was different. The first thing you notice is that there are vending machines everywhere, even in rural places. Unlike ours, Japanese vending machines are mostly filled with tea and coffee. There are not as many soda brands in Japan. They just have Pepsi or Coke. They also have a unique flavor of milk, one that has banana, apple, pineapple, and orange in it. You may want to go with something safe such as grape juice. I did once and found that the juice contained little grape chunks. Things in Japan are often full of sur-

prises. After trying all those drinks, I found that I have a love for caramel milk and Muscat tea. Sadly, I cannot get either one in the States.

There was more to my study abroad program than crazy drinks. I was able to take interesting classes that Fredonia does not offer. I took Japanese 101, Korean 101, Introduction to Japanese Society, and Manga Mania, which was a course on Japanese comics. Since all my “こんにちは。” (hello) classes were intro classes that had nothing to do with my major, the workload was pretty light. This gave me time to focus on the culture and my surroundings. We visited temples and saw all the famous places around Akita. It was amazing to see all these old temples which have been maintained throughout the centuries. There were beautiful waterfalls and rivers everywhere, which gave me such a sense of happiness. However, I was not a fan of seafood, which I quickly had to get used to. At first, it took me awhile, but eventually I found foods which I liked such as onigiri (rice balls) and gyozo (fried dumplings). I also fell in love with this strange crab pizza. Sometimes I found American food I preferred in Japan. The Japanese corndogs were better than any corndogs I tasted here. The way KFC made their chicken there is completely different than ours and less greasy. The McDonalds there also has a better menu with things such as tamago (sweet egg omelet) burgers and strawberry shortcake McFlurries.

Out of all the things I loved about Japan, the main one was shopping. There were so many different styles that we do not have in America. Often in Japan, there were free gifts with your purchase. You could buy a magazine and get a free Marc Jacobs bag or buy a juice and get a free key chain. I noticed that people also tended to be friendlier than in America. I learned a lot about cultural differences just with shopping alone. However, I also learned that, strangely, you are not supposed to say thank you to the cashier when they give you your things.

There are too many things to talk about when describing my trip to Japan. It helped me learn a lot about the things I take for granted in my own country and things I have yet to experience in others. I loved the time I spent in Japan and hope to go back someday. Right now, I hope to visit other countries and see what things I have been missing. I am currently trying to convince my friends to go to France. College is the prime time to take advantage of study abroad programs.

Terica in Japan.



Educational Development Program

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✕ Please notify EDP of any address corrections

✕ Comments and suggestions about ACCENT are welcome. Send to: edp@fredonia.edu

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