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Title:

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

About the Author(s):

09spAAS199:09spAAS199 is a freshman at the University of Illinois. She is majoring in Kinesiology and Nutrition and plans to start a career in Sports physical therapy. She is an outgoing individual that loves learning something new every day. She decided to take an Asian American studies class because in her building where she resides, she noticed that there were many international students, especially from Asia. She wanted to know a little bit more about their culture because she interacts with them almost everyday and wanted to grasp a better understanding of certain ways they go about certain aspects of daily life. After doing research and reading more about the life of young Asians and Asian Americans, she has learned a lot about not only the culture but a lot about herself.

Shaunette: I am a freshman at the University of Illinois. I took this Asian American Youth course because I have always been interested in the Asian American culture. I attended a grammar school in Chicago's Chinatown when I was a child and I currently live with two Asian American students, as well as an international student from Shanghai, China. I believe that the Asian culture is a beautiful and exotic culture and I enjoyed learning more about it in this class.

Minsoo: The most valuable advantage for author is abundant and diverse experience. Author has experience of schooling in Australia International School in Singapore for a year, and has experience of studying in American International School in Philippines for the high school. Living in those countries and interacting with people with different nationalities, author has achieved plenty of cultural experiences and language skills. Moreover, by learning Chinese and Japanese, author could understand the culture deeper and sometimes live as Chinese, Japanese, Pilipino and Korean. Therefore, during the research, author has full of confident in understanding international students in UIUC. Unfortunately, sometimes author miss the huge differences between one culture and the other culture since both cultures are accustomed to him. As a result, author finally figured out details about international students and following results based on his data collection and his own experiences.

Nancy: When I learned that one fifth of the girls I met from my residence hall are international students, I was very surprised and I was even more surprised as I know more about their backgrounds. Some of them are originated from different Asian countries such as Korea, India, Taiwan and China, but they moved to other countries -like Canada and Russia- in their young age. This makes me interest in finding their reasons to pursuit their college education at this particular institution in United States after they attended many various schools in different countries.

Minjung: As a 1.5 generation immigrant in the United States, I have encountered both international students and second generations during my high school year. When I came to University of Illinois, I noticed unusually large number of international students. Since then, I have always wondered why there are so many international students in this specific university. In my first year in UIUC, I got a chance in my Asian American Studies Class to investigate about reasons that affect international students to choose UIUC. Since I am a Korean, I was

able to interview a Korean international student. And I made ethnographical observations to find out why so many international students chose UIUC.

Keywords:

International student, Housing, Major, Reputation, Ranking, and UIUC

Abstract:

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign constitutes of 30,000 undergraduates and 11,000 graduate students. Among them, more than 5,000 students are international students from 116 countries. Interested in their distribution to the diversity on campus, we decide to research the reasons they choose UIUC and their plans after graduation. After conducting our interviews and observations to the international students, we found that reputation, major and housing were the main determinants for their attendance. However, while majority of them view UIUC as their best choice for their undergraduate degree, most of the interviewees consider another institution for their graduate study.

Question:

For what reasons do International Students choose UIUC? How do they become involved once on campus? What are their plans after graduation?

Plan:

Since our subject is International Students, we plan to do our research by:

1. Observing different events and social occasions

-Min Jung: went to Round Table discussion for Study Abroad

-Min Soo: observed ESL (English as a Second Language) class

-Nancy: observed students in dining hall--International students from Hong Kong

-Shaunette: observed social event at my residence

-09spAAS199: observed international student cooking

2. Interviewing International Students

Data (observation):

Min Jung: April 06, 2009 Doing an observation wasn't a hard task for me because I frequently go to gym. I live in P.A.R which is just a couple of blocks away from Circe Gym so I decided to do my observation there. I went to Circe gym on Monday around 5 P.M to do my observation. I was surprised to see so many Asians in the gym. The most people in the gym were whites but the second most noticeable group was Asians. It was very easy to recognize them to because they were really never by themselves. They were always with their friends whether they were playing basketball, lifting weights or playing tennis. I

started by doing my observation in the basketball courts. I just started taking shots in an open court by myself to get a look at number of Asians compared to other races. When I was in the gym there were two games going on the 2 of the 3 courts available at Circe Gym. In one of the games they were a total of 6 Asians, 3 white guys, and one African American. In the other game there were 5 Asians, 2 white guys, 1 Hispanic, and 2 African Americans. There were also two other Asians who were just shooting around on the open court with me. From my observation I witnessed them communicating a lot during the basketball games. They would say each other names meaning that they were probably friends already. Even as I saw more Asians come into the gym, they never came alone but with a companion.

After leaving the gym I went to continue my observation in the weight and exercise room. It was hard to get a count of the number of people because people were constantly moving from thing to the other and plus there were way more people here. I saw only a few Asians on the treadmills and bicycles or even running. But when I went to pick up some free weights, I felt as though I was in Asia. The majority of the people lifting weights were Asians and next to them were whites. That was weird because whites make up the majority of the percent at U of I. After my observation I wondered why there so many Asians at Circe Gym. The only conclusion I could come up with was that Circe Gym was very close to F.A.R and P.A.R which is home to many Asians. F.A.R is also home to another minority: African Americans. But I was shocked to see only a small number of African Americans in the gym. Min Soo Kim: Class observation: ESL115 Participants : 18 students, 1 teacher, 1 observer from other class. Total : 21 people in the class. Nationalities : 1 Pakistan (teacher), 9 Chinese, 2 Indian, 9 Korean, all international students , 1 American observer. Gender : 4 female (include teacher), 17 male (include myself and the observer from outside) Lecture topic : Writing an argumentative research paper on "Acculturation is a Must in the U . S ." It was a great opportunity to observe how international students communicate each other and what the main problems in their minds are. Exactly at 4 pm, I arrived in the class, and the lecture started right away. Today's topic was how to write an argumentative research paper on Acculturation in the U.S. and we had to discuss about what research question we are going to write. I was participating as one of the group members. There were 4 people in our group. All of them were Korean include myself. My group came up with following research question and the hypothesis.

Research Question:

Does the U.S. provide sufficient language education system for the first generation immigrants to assimilate into the existing American society? Hypothesis: Education gap between natives and immigrants in the U.S. created by insufficient education system for immigrants attributes to failure in assimilation. The reason that I mention this is because these topics are very similar to our lecture, and I can prove that my observation is somehow related to our group project and individual observations. At 4:20pm, there was one Korean guy came in, and he was marked as late. However, he seems does not care about it. Every single group members starts discussing about the project. They were very enthusiastic since teacher assistant was angry at us not doing so well. Around 4:50pm, there was a Chinese girl keep asking about the homework, and teacher assistant seems little bit mad, because she has to repeat the same thing again and again. Around 5:00pm, one guy from our group explained about differences between international student and immigrant. He said that international students came here to study abroad, but immigrants came here to live for better. He said that if there are no better colleges

than other areas, then he would never come to this place. Then, one girl answered that she came here for tuition, but nobody agreed on her. No one seems like believing her. 10 minutes before the class ends, one Indian guy came in, but he seems like he does not care. I hope he had already talked to teacher assistant. When I turned back to find the observer from outside, he was gone. Overall, it gave me much fresh information. I could found out some very interesting information about the different ideas of students from different countries. Chinese and Indian students mostly came directly from their country, while Koreans mostly don't. Therefore, their ideas of attending school were different.

I would like to add more on Thursday's meeting. 09spAAS199: On Monday, I went to my friend's suite that lives in the same building as me, Presby Hall. One of her suitemates happens to be Asian. She is an international student from Shēnzhèn, China. She is a freshman and studying international studies. At their suite, my friend and I sat in the living room, which is connected to the living room. She came into the kitchen about 5 minutes after we sat down. She nodded and said "Hello" in broken English. As she continued with what she was doing, I engaged in a small conversation with my friend. I noticed that her suitemate was unwrapping something out of the freezer. It came in a cardboard box and it had Chinese words all over it. She began to heat up a skillet on the stove. Whatever she was cooking smelled really good. I walked into the kitchen to get something to drink. I looked over to see what all was included in the dish she was preparing. I saw rice, a brownish black soy sauce looking mix, broccoli, chicken, and some water chestnuts. It was other things that was apart of the dish but I couldn't make out what they were. I then thought about an international student that might live in the regular dorms. They are not able to make dishes like these because they don't have stove tops and the freezer space to hold the products. She seemed to be very concentrated on the task of preparing this meal. She was very precise with her measures and continually stirred it to make sure the bottom didn't burn. She added the blackened sauce and she turned the stove off. She then put the lid over the food and let it sit for about a minute or two. Finally she got out a small sized bowl, filled it with the food she had just made, and went into her room and closed the door. 04-07-09 Shaunette Smith: 4/8/2009 As part of my observation, I spent Saturday evening (Apr. 4, 2009) with a group of international Asian students, as well as other students (non-International Asian) that live in my building. The night consisted of movies and social conversation. It took place in the lounge area of my building, Europa House from around 8 until about 12:30am. In total there were 6 people, 3 of which were Asian International students. We were all dressed casually, mostly in lounge clothes, such as sweat pants and t-shirts or hoodies. We spent the evening talking about schedules and the upcoming semester. We also talked about issues around the building that we all have noticed. It was interesting to see that the three international students were very fluent in English, though this was their first time in the US. We discussed concerns with this semester as it came to a close. We also talked about activities that we were interested in joining in the upcoming school year, one of the International students mentioned that the Eastern Tea Association was a group of interest for next semester. As the evening progressed, we watched Dark Knight and My Bloody Valentine. Most of us had the same interests in movies and discussed various movies that we planned on seeing in the future as well as movies we had already seen in the past. I had an interesting and very relaxed evening getting to know these three. We have more in common that I had expected and I learned quite a lot about them and their interests. They aren't very different from me and my American friends; they enjoy most of the same things as we do. Nancy Rong: When I was eating dinner

in my dining hall yesterday, there was a group of international students having a little social gathering at the next table of mine. From their conversation, I knew that all of them were from Hong Kong and they were in different years. Three of them were freshmen – girl A is majoring in journalism, girl B is majoring in engineering, and girl C is undecided. The rest were seniors whose majors are biology. During the chat, the older ones seemed to be passing on some survival skills to the freshmen such as what classes are good for gen ed and what professors they should choose to avoid heavy workload. As I observed, I learned that girl B actually went to the same high school as one of the senior back in HK. She was getting a lot of advises from the senior regarding to her college choice. After they exchanged some academically helpful tips, they started talking about their past trips in United States before they decided to come here for school. One of the girls actually went study abroad in France while she was exploring her options for college. They then began making comparisons among the cities they had visited and how it affected their choice of college location. The seniors in the group also mentioned their possibilities of becoming graduate students at university of Illinois. However, this topic did not seem to interest the freshmen. From my observation, I conclude that the international students have their own networking especially regarding to seeking education overseas. The main determinants of their final decisions are school ranking, major, location, currently enrolled student's advice, etc. I also noticed that the freshmen do not concern or have a clear plan after graduation which is the opposite of the seniors.

Data (interview):

Minjung Chwe On April 12th, 2009, I conducted an interview with a Korean international student of University of Illinois. Yun, an anonymity name for my interviewee, was a freshman who grew up in South Korea. His major was Chemical Engineering. Before coming to UIUC, he applied several other colleges and was accepted. However, he chose to come to the UIUC, because of the financial difficulties. "Money I am using is my parents' so I did not want to waste it, and compare to other universities, UIUC had the most reasonable tuition fee," said Yun. He pays about 45,000 dollars per year including the dorm. Other than the financial issues, he also said the reputation that UIUC has, "For chemical engineering, UIUC is one of the top five schools in the United States." However, when it came to the topic that what he did not like about the UIUC, he first commented on the dorm he was living in. Yun said, "I think the dorm food is overpriced, also, I do not like the transportation when the campus is this big, and I would not want to take my bike or any buses to go to the classes." As he was speaking, I could sum up that he was not affected that much by the campus size, location, and dorm to choose the university. The reasons that made him chose the UIUC were tuition price and the reputation that UIUC has. When I asked him about why other international students chose this school, he answered, "Most likely the reputation. Most engineer students are engineering students, I think, and when I was in Korea, many companies had employees who graduated from UIUC. The reputation of the Department of Engineering is high in South Korea." After the conversation, I asked questions about his after school plan. He wanted to go to a graduate school for further education. He wanted to be a professor in a University, "I won't go to the graduate school here in UIUC, why not go to a better school when you can?" Overall, he did not come to the UIUC because of its graduate school, dorm, family, campus view, or friends. The overpriced dorm food, campus size, or transportations would not matter for Yun; he thought the school's reputation and the tuition fee were the most important facts when choosing a university. "If I was not a chemical

engineering major, I would not come to this school..." Minsoo Kim Monday, April 13, 2009, I had two interviews at ISR dining hall. I promised both two subjects not to expose their identities and they both agreed and helped my project. I made several questions that might be helpful to my research topic. I tried to be really short since there are many exams on this week. Both interviews were finished in 20 minutes. In addition, those interviews were never audio taped for the natural interview. The subjects were chosen to be compared each other since they have totally different life backgrounds. Interviewing A Subject A is Korean second generation immigrant. (Twinkies in slang) (Removing all the greetings) After I introduced my research project, she was very surprised about the fact that she has been chosen as the interview subject. When I explained her about the plan that I was going to present, she finally started introducing herself before I requested. She said "My name is A, and I am currently an undergraduate sophomore at UIUC. I was born in Chicago, and raised in the north suburbs for most of my life." And I asked "So, do you have American passport?" She answered "Yes, I am", after then, I asked about her major. She said "I study Molecular and Cellular Biology as my major which is so called MCB, and I would like to go to medical school and become a doctor. I enjoy my major very much and find it extremely interesting." She had very clear answers. Therefore, I questioned her about how much is she familiar with American culture. She replied. "I am somewhat familiar with American culture in that I was born and raised here, and surrounded by the culture ever since I was young." I asked my next question. "Did you want to come and study in this campus?" and her answer was "yes". She kept saying "I did want to come and study in this campus, and it was my choice to come to this school, which is the one university for which I applied, and got accepted." She even answered my next question, because actually I asked her if I could ask about which other universities she applied for and if she has been accepted or not. So I asked her if she does receive any scholarships, but she said no. At last, I asked her if she is involved any ethnic groups or sororities, but she said "I am not involved with any sororities, nor do I plan to be involved in any." Our interview was done very quickly since she answered really fast, and even answered which was not in my questionnaire. In addition, after the official interview, I found out that she attended Glenbrook South High school in Glenview, a small area in the northern suburbs of Illinois. Again, I appreciate her honest answers. Interviewing B Subject B is Korean international student. (FOB, fresh off the boat, in slang) (Removing all the greetings) After I requested him for being my subject, he seems to be happy by being my research object. After I got his agreement paper, I started interview with same questions I've done with subject A. Although we could communicate each other in Korean, everything was done in English. At first, I asked him to introduce himself. His answer was really short and quick. He said "Hi, my name is B." and I asked, "What do you want to be in the future?" and he replied "Professor". When I asked why, he answered "I don't know, maybe because of my father?" which meant that his father is a professor. Then I asked, "Why did you come to this school, what are the other universities did you apply for?" he answered "because my major is computer engineering, and the department of ECE in our campus is one of top 5 in whole colleges in America." And said "I also applied for Wisconsin, Purdue, Georgia Technology, Carnegie Mellon and many others, I've got accepted everywhere but Carnegie Mellon." And I asked again, "Do you like your major?" and he said "Yes, but I might change my major in the future." Therefore, I asked if he got any scholarships from anywhere, then he said "No, I don't", again, I asked if he is familiar with American culture. He said "I was in America for 3 years, two years in Wisconsin, but I am still unfamiliar with American culture." I said "It's really cool to know that you have only stayed in America for 3 years." Then he laughed. Lastly, I asked him if he

attends any sororities or clubs. He said "I go to Jesus-love church every week, and I am also involved in Self-improvement club." The entire interviews were done and we went back to the normal. Again, I appreciate subject B for the time. 09spAAS199 Interview with Subject Q (4/14) My across the hall neighbor, Subject Q, is an Asian international student from South Korea. He is a sophomore in the engineering program here at the University of Illinois. I decided to interview him because he lived across the hall and also was one of the international students on my floor. I decided to have the interview in the lounge area on our floor. We started the interview by introducing ourselves to each other and sharing our majors and future career goals with each other. After the brief introduction, I asked him what was his major reason for choosing Presby over the other dorms available on campus. He replied "It gave me more private space. It was cheaper than I.T. [Illini Towers] too." I then asked him what was the biggest culture shock when he arrived at Presby and had to live with other students from America. He replied "They are dirty. Well two of my suitemates are. I am used to a clean home. Our refrigerator and our living room stay a mess. If I lived in the dorms I would have gone crazy. I couldn't share that little space with another person." I decided to shift gears and ask him about other international students that he knows that lives in dorms and have they visited him and what they think of private certified housing such as Presby. He said "I don't know that many students that live in the dorms but I did invite one of them over before. They were saying how they wished they lived here and how lucky I was." My last question that I asked him was if the living selections here on campus had anything to do with his decision on coming to the University of Illinois. He took a long pause and then answered. "Kind of sort of. I wanted to live on campus and be in class by taking a few steps. Some of the other colleges that I looked at had nice housing but was too far of a walk. But it wasn't my deciding factor in coming here. I thanked him for his time and we went our separate ways. Overall, I think the interview went very well. He seemed slightly nervous at first but, once he realized the easy questions that I was asking, he immediately loosened up and we had a fluent easy conversation.

Shaunette Smith On April 23, 2009, I conducted an interview with my roommate Sabrina (her name has been changed for confidentiality), a 19 year old International student from Shanghai, China. She is currently majoring in Architecture, though she mentions that she also wants to study accounting and International Affairs. Transitioning to a new school is one thing, but having to come to an entirely new country must have been frightening. "It was a little intimidating at first, especially since I was all by myself, but after a while I was ok with it." Her journey to college was a long one to say the least. She applied to seven colleges in the United States: Lehigh University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Arizona University, Boston University, Drexel, Purdue, and Northwestern. Of the seven, she was accepted to UIUC, Arizona University, Drexel and Northwestern. She was even offered a \$30,000 scholarship to Drexel. However, the money did not matter when it came to choosing the right school for her. "In China they don't care what you have your degree in, only where you got it from, and University of Illinois was ranked higher than the other schools I was accepted to." She mentions that the application process was extensive. She had to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) as well as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). She also, like many of us, needed letters of recommendation and had to write personal statements. "I had help with my personal statements, I [would] write them in Chinese, and someone translated them to English for me." She arrived on campus about two weeks before the official move-in date of August 19th. I asked her about her experiences with choosing a residence while here as well. "I wanted to live in Illini Tower at first, but when I came here I liked Europa House better." She is currently not involved in any activities

on campus, but says she would like to join something next year, now that she is used to the campus. After college, she wants to live in the United States for 1-2 years to gain some work experience and later return to China. "I want to be an accountant at a large company for about 2 years, then I want to go back to China and start my own business and I want to do International Trade." Nancy Rong I interviewed an international student from my floor in dorm yesterday. She is a first year college student who is majoring in art. For the purpose of confidentiality, I name her Joyce in my interview summary. During interviewing as our conversation developed, I became aware that Joyce was originated from Taiwan and moved to Shanghai, China for a high school that is designed for students who will seek post-secondary education overseas. She told me that the school provided all the information she needed to know from college research to application process. I was also informed that University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was her first choice among several U.S. colleges she had applied. The reason for that was UIUC does not just have a fairly high ranking for the major Joyce wants – which is Industrial Art, but also provides a large range of other courses that Joyce would like to explore. "I know I want to do art for my career, but I don't want to limit my choice. UIUC offers other classes that I might enjoy and they can be very beneficial as the classes can help me know more about my academic place." She also made a comparison about U.S. education and the Chinese education. "I am always under the impression that western education is better. Now that I am here, I can really tell the difference." She then explained that the interaction between teacher and student here is completely the opposite of the one in China. "The learning style in class is so passive in China. The teachers just teach and the students just absorbed. There's not much interaction in between." Now as Joyce adjusts to the new environment, she admits that she definitely finds the professors here more inspiring and can really challenge students to question. When I changed my questions to housing, she answered that she went to the introduction of all the dorms when she visited the school after she got accepted. However, she said the current dorm was not her first choice due to the fact that she turned in her application right by the deadline. Yet, she is pretty satisfied since LAR is similar to her first choice housing – Busey. She also told me that she is planning to learn cooking over summer since she is moving to private housing next year. "I know some friends who are living in Europa (one of the private housing). They told me is fun and I should try it out." Seemingly, Joyce's peers' opinion about private housing plays a quite important role in her housing choice. At the end of the interview, I asked for her plans after graduation. "I want to go to a graduate school of art and I will go back to work in China." She also commented that UIUC is not her choice for graduate school since she wants to attend one that is just focused on her field. "I do like the academic atmosphere here, but for my career, I think I would feel more comfortable to work at my own country."

Analysis:

There are many international students in the University of Illinois. The ethnicity of international students varies from South Asians to East Asians. Since there are many international students especially in this school, our group wanted to research the reasons why the international students choose this school to be their undergraduate schools. For this study, we focused on Korean and Chinese since this school has immense number of Korean and Chinese international students compare to other universities in the United States. Each of the observers in our group then focused on different topics such as housing, reputation, and major to find out what really affect international students' mind. For the housing, our

observer noticed that most international students chose to live in the private housing on campus, because they felt more comfortable. They were able to cook traditional foods since private housing comes with fully equipped kitchens and it is an easier living situation since you do not have to share your room with someone else. Subject Q, who is an international student, described that he is more comfortable now than before when he lived in a “concrete box,” the dorm that he lived in. In the current private housing, he can enjoy Korean food whenever he wants. He could also set up his room the way he likes. If he was in regular student housing on campus, these would not be possible. Also, in private housing, there is usually a close knit group of students that create cliques. These cliques consist of people who come from the same country. At Presby Hall, there are many cliques, and they are very noticeable. This relates with the reading, “Unraveling the “Model Minority” Stereotype: Listening to Asian American Youth.” In this excerpt of the book, it discusses how many of the Asian populations separate themselves from each other, Though they have the commonality of region where they are from or their parents come from, they define themselves by what they do academically and socially to separate themselves from one another. At Presby the Asian populations also separate themselves from the American population. Since Presby houses about 275 students. Over 140 are international and out of that number, about 120 of them are Asian. The Asian cliques are the most varied because they come from all over the continent. Private housing creates a small community with people that you can identify with. This is one of the main reasons why Private housing is preferred over Dormitory housing. Illinois is one school that has many different options for freshman housing. International students are in favor of that because they are able to live somewhere that will make them as comfortable as possible. Second reason was reputation and majors of University of Illinois. University of Illinois is a public school that has over 150 majors, and many of them have high ranking in the nation. According to Yun, one of the international students who majors in Chemical Engineering, for chemical engineering, UIUC is one of the top five schools in the nation. Yun basically saw the reputation of UIUC and chose to come here. Also, for other majors, most international students think that high reputation and ranking are based on better education environment, so they choose to come here. For example, one of the article, “The New Whiz Kids,” explained how “Asians feel there will be less discrimination in areas like math and science because they will be judged more objectively,” and they think the better education is investment for the “better future,” which means higher income for the most international students. Also, one of the articles from U.S. News & World reported, “Success Story of One Minority,” reported that how Chinese Americans have been recorded as successive in Science, business, and agriculture. It shows how Chinese and other Asians work hard for their future and have high expectation about better education. Overall, international students choose University of Illinois as their best investment. Most reasons that they decide to come here are housing, reputation, and majors.

Research Proposal:

Education is one of the most important facts that many parents concern for their children. Many parents hope that their children to be enrolled in a “good” educational environment, in to a “good” college. “Good” college could be meant high reputation that a college has, or it could be meant a suitable college for a students. For many Asians, “good” college means success. According to a journal, “College and Notions of ‘Asian American,’” “Between 1984 and 1995, the number of Asian Pacific Americans enrolled

in higher education institutions rose 104.5 percent. Asians work hard to get into a university that they want, most of the time, the university often has very high ranked reputation. Interestingly, the University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign has the largest international student population in U.S, and again Asians were a huge part of the populations, which grows fastest among the diverse students body. To find out the reasons for this fact, our group decided to research why international students choose UIUC for their post secondary education and their options after graduation. Is it just the reputation? Or is there other facts? Our plans for executing this research were observing international students in different events and social activities on campus and interviewing fellow students. The observation was made in various settings such as in classrooms, in an international student's dorm, and in extracurricular activities. From the observations, we found that, international students enjoy things that many typical Asian American teenagers enjoy, such as watching movies with friends; international students have similar tastes in popular culture that many American teenagers and Asian American teenagers have. Also, during the observation, we found that many international students consider university's reputation and majors most of the time. Since, engineering program in UIUC is ranked 4th in undergraduate program nationally, many international students from many Asian countries applied for the college of Engineering. Since many international students were in ESL (English as Second Language) program, it seemed there were more of math and science majors among the international students than other majors that require fluent English. We conducted interviews of five international students here on campus. From these interviews, we learned that most of the students chose UIUC, because it was ranked much higher than other universities. And if they got into the College of Engineering, they chose UIUC for sure. Again, our group was able to confirm that reputation and major were part of reasons of choosing UIUC. However, housing was also a big part of why international students chose UIUC. Many colleges do not offer a choice of housing for your freshman year. But, at Illinois, a freshman can choose either Private Certified Housing or regular Public Housing on campus. Many international students find it an easier transition from one world to another with private housing. They are able to adapt easier in a smaller environment, where they are allowed to have more freedom than they would have in dorms. Also, since many international students chose private housing, this continuous flows of international students in private housing influence next year's freshmen. According to an article, "Made in the U.S.A.: Second-Generation Korean American Campus Evangelicals," by Rebecca Y. Kim, "Korean Americans feel comfortable in ethnic campus ministries because they grew up worshipping only with co- ethnics." As this article showed, Asians feel comfortable with same ethnics, and because international students could associate with other international students in private housing, they decide to move into the private housing. For most of the interviewees, they plan on going back to their home country after graduation. Most of them think that they would have high wage jobs if they graduate from UIUC. Also, many of them plan to go to graduate schools, but not the UIUC graduate school. This research project ties into the Success Story of One Minority Group in U.S reading from the US News & World Report. The students that we interviewed did show characteristics of being a successful minority in that they were taking advantage of the educational opportunities that the university has to offer. Bibliography College and Notions of "Asian American": Second-Generation Chinese and Korean Americans Negotiate Race and Identity. Amerasia Journal 1999. Undergraduate Library Reserves. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 5 May 2009. <http://www.library.uiuc.edu.proxy2.library.uiuc.edu/ereserves/eres-20071219NeJx7/Kibria_College.pdf> Made in the U.S.A.: Second-Generation Korean American Campus

Evangelicals. 2004. Undergraduate Library Reserves. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 5 May 2009. <<http://www.library.uiuc.edu.proxy2.library.uiuc.edu/ereserves/item.asp?id=92582>> "Success Story of One Minority Group in U.S." U.S. News & World Report 26 Dec. 1966: 73-76. Undergraduate Library Reserves. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 6 Apr. 2009 <<http://www.library.uiuc.edu.proxy2.library.uiuc.edu/ereserves/item.asp?id=60844>>. Personal interview. 23 Apr. 2009. Europa House. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2009. Presby Hall. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Personal interview. 12 Apr. 2009. Personal interview. 13 Apr. 2009. Illinois Street Residence Hall. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Personal interview. 15 Apr. 2009. Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Recommendations:

There are few facts that we find out about international students in UIUC after our research. Most of them are Asians and they come to UIUC for its reputation – especially the engineering program. We suggest that UIUC can open some cultural classes and let the international students teach so we can learn more about their background. The school can also organize more events to help international students to get involved on campus. Since we only have eight weeks to do the research, there are time limits that prevent us from further research. EUI should be aware of this and recommend future students to research in more time and allow them to research in more opened up environments.