Paula’s Visit to Taiwan and Reunion of MSU/ELI Alumni

As many of you know, I recently spent ten wonderful days in Taiwan. During that time, I visited 4 different universities (Chihlee Technical College, China University of Technology, National Taiwan Normal University, and National Cheng Chi University) and one elementary school (Guangren Catholic Elementary School) to talk about Missouri State University and the English Language Institute. If all goes well, the ELI should be welcoming a small group of students for the summer program this year, and we will also begin working on building more partnerships with Taiwanese universities and other educational institutions in the near future.

One of the highlights of my trip was a lovely reunion dinner I hosted for about 12 MSU / ELI alumni who are now living in Taiwan. The students I met all completed their bachelor’s or master’s degrees at MSU and have returned to Taiwan. Among the students at the reunion, one works for a bio-tech / food science company, one is an engineer, one works for the Taiwan High Speed Rail, two in sales and marketing, one is studying for a master’s degree in family and child development, one is managing her family’s textile company, one works for the duty free shops at the international airport outside Taipei, one is a registered nurse working for a new start-up medical administration company, and one is the head of a multi-media company. This is the third reunion I have had with former MSU students from Taiwan, and each time we get together, they all talk about how much they enjoyed living in Springfield and studying at MSU. One of them even has an MSU app on his iPhone that lets him see where the Bear Shuttle is at any time of day!

I had such a wonderful time in Taiwan and met several people who taught me what a small world we live in. Surprisingly, one of the people I met at Chihlee Technical College informed me that she is an alumni of MSU and misses Springfield very much. Another day, I learned that the dean of political science at National Cheng Chi University was a classmate of MSU’s political science professor, Dr. Hickey. And even stranger is that I discovered a high school classmate of mine living in Taipei! While I was there, we met each other for the first time in 20 years!

What I came home realizing is first, how much love there is for Springfield and MSU among our international alumni, and second, how interconnected our world has become. The people in your classes today, as well as your teachers, may very well appear in your life in a completely different place years from now when you don’t expect it! Life is full of wonderful surprises!

- Paula Moore, ELI Academic Special-
**Art and Music**

University Symphonic Band & Concert Band Concert  
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM, March 30, 2010  
Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts, Juanita K.

Art of Mesoamerica exhibit in Meyer Library  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Every weekday except on April 2, 2010  
Meyer Library, Duane G. Room 306

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**Interesting facts about Saudi Arabia**

- Saudi Arabia is the largest country in Middle East, in terms of area.
- In Saudi Arabia, oil accounts for more than 90 percent of exports and nearly 75 percent of government revenues. Saudi Arabia has twenty-six percent of the world's share of present oil production.
- Saudi Arabia was a founding member of OPEC.
- Saudi Arabia is one of the driest countries in the world, with rain only in the extreme north and south.
- The first university in Saudi Arabia was founded in 1957.
- Many of the words we use today originate from Arabic, such as alcohol, alkali, admiral.

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**English Expression: Hit the sack!**

**A:** What's the matter with you? You look so worn out (tired).

**B:** Indeed I am. I've just returned from a camp. I can't wait to hit the sack.

**A:** Yes, you do look exhausted (tired). Well, I'd better be getting along then. Get some rest.

**B:** Thanks. See you.

**Explanation:** Hit the sack - go to bed  
**Example:** I usually hit the sack after the eleven o'clock news.

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**Weather Condition Forecast**

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