

Slater International Student Newsletter Winter 2022



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Note from the Slater Center Director

Welcoming students back to campus and back into Slater has really been a highlight of this semester. After almost a year and a half of remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the campus finally came back to life with students, faculty, and staff returning in fall 2021.



I can't believe this is already the 4th iteration of the newsletter! The first went to press and was distributed right before the College moved to a remote learning environment in March 2020. Through all of the challenges over the last couple of years, this newsletter still stands as a space where the international community can share their voice, highlight their culture, and be seen. Thank you to those of you who work on and who contribute to these newsletters. They will be archived at the library in order for future generations to view a snapshot of the current international community at Wellesley, to better understand the lived experiences of those students who grace our campus from around the world. We stand with the Slater community and wish each of you a healthy and happy spring semester.

Kind regards,
Tana Ruegamer

Note from Slater E-board President and VP

Dear Slater Community,

Happy Winter! We hope this message finds you safe and well. For those of you who have not met us, we are the President and Vice-President of the Slater International Student Organization - we collaborate with the Slater Center to organize events that celebrate the wonderfully diverse cultures represented on campus for both domestic and international students. Our goals are to make international students at Wellesley feel seen and heard, offer our voice and resources as a student-led organization, and ultimately support YOU!

We realize how difficult it is to transition back after a hiatus of in-person events, which is why we are focusing on community-building and advocacy this year. Our year began with fostering connection through International Student Orientation for the Class of 2025, where we hosted events like karaoke, a dance party, and an honest international student panel with other student leaders (special shoutout to Utt!). The Slater E-board put together an amazing Culture Show on October 22nd (shoutout to Co-Cultural Chairs Manasvi and Rhea!), where we showcased performances by other student-orgs and raised money for the Geitaoui Hospital in Beirut.

We understand that being an international student on campus has its ups and downs. Whether it's immigration-related concerns, culture shock, homesickness, or emergency events at home... we hope that Slater provides you with valuable opportunities for connection and healing. The Slater Center has amazing resources and events like Global Tea lectures, 21 days of Immigration, and plenty of professional support and office hours. As the Slater Eboard, we encourage you to reach out to your regional representative or co-advocacy chairs, talk to us through our instagram (@wellesley.slater) or personal emails (swilson4 & zqian), or join our weekly open meetings on Thursdays at 7pm at the Slater House. We are here for you!

Slater love,

Sophie & Angela
President & Vice-President

Slater International Student Organization
Executive Board 2021-2022



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Hello everyone! My name is Rin Tsavalyuk (she/her) from Russia, class of 2024 and I am a Slater Visibility Coordinator (shout out to Marcela who is joining me this semester as another Visibility Coordinator). Thank you for picking up the Winter Issue of Slater International Student Newsletter. I hope it will provide an insight into what international students, alums, and the Slater Center have been up to this past semester.

It was my first experience working on a student newsletter and I had a great time connecting with all the wonderful people in our community. Being part of Slater Student org and Slater Center have been one of the best experiences at Wellesley and it made Wellesley feel like home for me. Anytime I feel lost about where to go and what to do, I come to the Slater House to make some coffee (shoutout to Jen for the coffee supply) and see some friendly faces. I hope you too can find ways to create a space and a community that you love on this campus.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter and to the Slater Center team for all of your support. I also want to thank everyone for your patience and bearing with me as I had to push this issue for Winter.

I hope you'll enjoy this newsletter with a cup of hot chocolate or with your friends, so make yourself cozy and read on.

Warmly,
Rin

FIRST-YEAR HIGHLIGHT:

ARZY ABLIADZHYIEVA

We're introducing some of our wonderful first-years for you to get to know them
First-year highlight:

1. Your name, pronouns, class year, potential major(s)/minor (undecided included)/ where are you from

My name is Arzy Abliadzhyieva, I use she/her pronouns, and I am Class of 2025. My perspective major is Environmental Studies.

2. What is home for you?

I am from Crimea, Ukraine.

3. Is it your first time in the US? What are your impressions from the first semester at W?

It's not my first time in the US. I participated in a sponsored year-long cultural exchange program when I was in the 11th grade.

I was hosted in Michigan.

However, I have never been to New England, and when I arrived at Wellesley, I immediately fell in love with its nature and Collegiate Gothic architecture.

The campus turned out to be bigger than I imagined, a metaphor for my exceeded expectations in all aspects of student life. I had no idea there were so many resources and support waiting for me!

4. Why did you decide to come to Wellesley?

Wellesley was my top choice, because I felt that this was a school that truly matched my values. I was eager to become part of the communing of daring women and be inspired by them to make a difference in the world. The proximity of Boston, location, and the beautiful campus were among the most critical factors as well.



5. What are you involved in or interested in on campus?

I'm interested in joining environmental initiatives at Wellesley and working hand in hand with people who share my passions for sustainability. Currently, I am part of EnAct, an environmental action club. As a first-year liaison, I plan a campus event to bring first-years together and foster an eco-conscious community.

6. Tell us about your other hobbies and your blog! Why did you decide to start an eco-blog?

Outside of school, I try to improve the sustainability of Ukraine. I created a blog on Instagram to target youth and promote environmental education in my home community. As a small influencer, I apply my critical thinking skills to research complicated environmental topics and create content that is digestible for the general post-Soviet public, thus raising awareness about various global issues.

7. How is school going and how is it different from what you're used to?

Wellesley is an academically rigorous environment, and students spend a lot of time studying for their classes. I found the workload to be rather intense yet very enjoyable. Contrary to the Ukrainian college curriculum, there is more freedom in what courses you can take at Wellesley. The liberal arts system encourages exploration and interdisciplinarity. Back home, I had to choose one field to specialize in at college. Here, I can combine my passions for different subjects without knowing where exactly I am going except that I enjoy the journey. However, with more freedom comes more responsibility. I am in charge of choosing the right classes for myself, and my academic success depends on my planning and time management.

8. What is something that you like about Wellesley?

I absolutely love how accepting the community is here, both students and faculty. I don't feel ashamed to ask for help if I struggle with something. It seems like people here want me to succeed.

9. What is something that you miss from home?

I miss my family and Ukrainian friends for sure! It's my first semester at Wellesley, and I am still new to this place, so I feel a strong attachment to my home country.

10. Bonus question: your favorite place on campus:)

I love going on picnics with my friends on Green Beach!

Crimean Tatars

By Arzy Abliadzhyieva

I bet very few of you have heard about Crimean Tatars. Well, I'm not surprised - Russian Imperialism has done everything to wipe out hundreds of ethnic minorities. My community is just one of the few that has survived so far. However, it is now under the risk of being erased.

Crimean Tatars are the indigenous people of Crimea - a peninsula located in the south of Ukraine and surrounded by the Black Sea. For centuries, the favorable geopolitical location has been the target of the neighboring nations, hence endless military campaigns and expeditions. The native peoples had to fight back to live in their land and celebrate their culture. In the nineteenth century, Crimean Tatars made up most of the peninsula's population. As a result of bloody wars and genocide, today the ethnic group represents as low as 12% of the Crimea's residents.

I was lucky to be born in my native land. My parents weren't. In 1944, when the Soviet dictatorship mistakenly accused our fighting men of betrayal and collaboration with Nazis, they sent the entire Crimean Tatar people into exile to Siberia and Central Asia. Like thousands of my people, my 5-year-old grandmother was placed on a cattle train and deported to Uzbekistan. Unlike half of them, she survived. That's where the victims of the genocide stayed till the Dissolution of the Soviet Union. In the 90s, many Crimea Tatars peacefully acquired the right to resettle in their stolen homeland. My dad left everything in Uzbekistan to start a family in Crimea.

My parents taught me to take pride in my cultural heritage. I often joined them at memorial services dedicated to deportation victims. I went to elementary school with classes taught in my native language. I volunteered to perform at cultural shows in my school. However, I could no more engage in these activities after Russia illegally annexed Crimea in 2014. In addition to the economic and social hardships due to the annexation, the Crimean Tatar people lost the ability to celebrate their culture. The classes with Crimean Tatar as the language of instruction were closed. Our community leaders were recognized as extremists. Those who protested the occupation became political prisoners. Local authorities took control over the cultural events and local media. In the Freedom House's list of counties and territories with the highest press censorship, Crimea ranked 4rth, ahead of Iran and Syria.

During my visit to the US Congress, I happened to attend a hearing on the “frozen conflict” in Crimea. Not so frozen to me and thousands of Crimean Tatars. It's frustrating to realize that while world leaders do nothing, oppressions towards ethnic minorities continue and my culture is gradually being erased. I am sorry that someone other than my people can decide on their future. As a person who lived under the occupational regime for 7 years, I know that ruthless water and power outages, passive sanction, and empty promises of the world leaders do little to address the violations of human rights in Crimea.

Whenever someone asks me where I am from, I try to reply “Crimea, Ukraine” even though I expect to see their questioning look. Not a lot of Americans know what Crimea is, and it is my pleasure to give a long explanation to them. I could escape that awkward moment by simply saying that I am from Ukraine. Yet, I am eager to educate my peers and introduce them to my culture. I don't want the Crimean conflict to become “frozen”. If it is not safe to celebrate our ethnicity in our own land, we are going to engage in activism elsewhere, and encourage you to join!



In the journal of international students

Journey of the Beginning

Throughout this issue you will find reflections of an international student from Peru, Marce Silvera Tafur '25. With sharing such deep and personal thoughts, Marce opens up a space for international students to reflect on their identity and journey to where they are now. We hope you can find yourself in these extracts.

During my first-year writing course, I was assigned to read several essays. All of the essays have their beauty, but I fell for one, as I deeply relate to it. This paragraph of *The Danger of a Single Story* marked me, “The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem is not that they are untrue, but they are incomplete. They make one story become one story” (Adichie, 38).

There is this danger of a single story about international students, internationals like me. I have found a community of peers whose backgrounds are different from the ones here in the United States, and whose languages are completely different too. Despite the differences we all share, I always find myself different within those differences.

I usually introduce myself as “I’m an international student from Peru,” and that sentence always sets me apart from everyone.

How do I tell my peers that I’ve never visited places out of the borders of my country? How do I explain that I feel incompetent as I get lost translating everything from English to Spanish? How can I share that I burst into tears after classes as I can’t keep up because this language is unknown to my education?

There is this danger of a single story about international students; this danger that prevents many talented people from the most remote corners around the world to have access to an education; this danger is what crushes dreams and takes away hopes from students and their families who can’t afford an education.

I know that danger well, as I’ve experienced it first hand.

This danger of a single story stops us, but I want to share my journey of how I got here. Maybe, just maybe, the single story of an international doesn’t become a danger, but the stories of us became a source of strength and inspiration.

Padya Paramita

United World Colleges (UWC) is a network of schools all over the world with a purpose of "making education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future"

In this issue we're highlighting some of our beautiful UWCxWellesley Alums. UWC is a 2-year experience in an international environment and rigorous academics. UWC and Wellesley has a long history of partnership and sharing similar values and ideals.

Introduction from Padya:

I am originally from Bangladesh. I graduated from UWC Mahindra College in 2014 and was an English with Creative Writing and Women's and Gender Studies at Wellesley. At Wellesley, I was a part of various orgs, including the Sustainability Co-Operative, Upstage Theater, and Slater International. I worked on campus at the Clapp Library and Punch's Alley as well.

Q: What is something that you miss about Wellesley?

A: I really miss the community. I feel like nowhere else am I able to have access to such an intelligent group of people just by stepping out of the room. I miss late night kitchen discussions and Pub Nites with friends. I miss cooking and eating together with my housemates at Scoop. I also really miss Clapp Library because I was a student worker there—I don't really know anything about the library at my grad school!

Q: What is some advice you would give yourself if you could go back to Wellesley?

A: I definitely would advise myself to arrive without any preconceived notions about what I wanted to study and my goals for the future. At Wellesley, thanks to the distribution requirements and conversations with students from different years, I was able to take a lot of classes that I wouldn't have otherwise. I ended up majoring in something completely different (Women's and Gender Studies and Creative Writing) instead of my original intention of Economics!



Q: How was your transition after graduation?

It was definitely rough in a lot of ways because Wellesley provided a comfort zone and an environment full of people I love and a support system in the form of professors. However, Wellesley also prepared me with skills to perform well at my post-graduation jobs and provided me with the confidence to succeed as a writer which is a role I am currently pursuing.

Q: Have you experienced Wellesley's network after graduation? Alternatively, do you stay connected with Wellesley/your friends from Wellesley?

I found my first post-college temporary job as a stage manager through the Wellesley network. My best friends are also mainly Wellesley alums—I'm still in touch with many people I met at Wellesley. My roommates are 3 Wellesley alums and we get along superbly! My professors also wrote my recommendation for grad school, which was extremely helpful.

Q: What are some ways that Wellesley allowed you to share your culture and what were some challenges?

It was definitely challenging being 8,000 miles away from my home in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The cold weather was extremely hard to adjust to, I still don't think I'mused to it! But, there were other Bangladeshi Wellesley students I could talk to and share memories from home. My home at the Sustainability Co-op also allowed me opportunities to share my love for Bangladeshi food by cooking for my housemates.

And some fun facts:

Favorite spot at Wellesley - SCoop/Homestead

Favorite class at Wellesley - Trailblazing Women of Comedy, Writing for Television, Calderwood Seminar on The New York Review of Books at Fifty, Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary American Society

Favorite dining hall - Stone D although I still miss the crepes from brunch at Bates



Wellesley Language Assistants

We are highlighting language assistants for the winter issue. With the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been exceptionally difficult for them to join Wellesley community and foster foreign language and culture learning.

So we are very lucky to have them with us this year! Say hello when you see them around campus.

Célia Petit, French Language Assistant

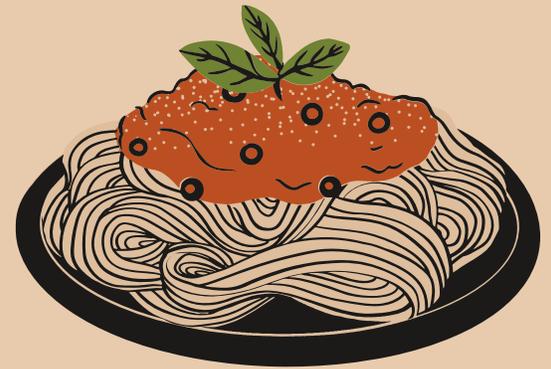
I'm Celia, I'm 25 years old and I'm French. I live in the South of France, on the French Riviera, not far from St Tropez. I work in the French Department as a teaching assistant and I also live with 14 beautiful students in the French House. It's the first time I have to share a house with so many housemates and in a country I've never been to before! It's a very new experience for me to live 3728 miles away from my family, but I feel so lucky and grateful to be here on this amazing campus. I know that I live the dream of thousands of French teenagers to study and work on an American campus since we don't have all these facilities Wellesley has, except the food I guess! As a French woman, I obviously miss French cuisine and I will definitely not regret this orange cheddar you eat in every meal! However, French culture is not only about cheese, baguette et croissants! My country has a rich and diverse cultural heritage and although we can't do "la bise" because of Covid-19, we still keep our French way!



Anna Cencherle, Italian Language Assistant

I am Anna and I use she/her pronouns. I am from Schio, a little town in the Northeast of Italy, but I have been living in Bologna for 6 years now. I first moved to Bologna to attend university, but then I fell in love with the city and I decided to stay for my master's degree as well. Here at Wellesley, I work at the Italian department as a language assistant, as part of the ECCO exchange program. It is my first time in the US, and I am very excited to be here. It still feels unreal to be part of a country that until three months ago I had only known through movies, books, and music!

Something that really struck me about college life here at Wellesley is the closeness between professors and students. I am not used to it, since in Italy most of the time the professor remains detached, but I am learning to appreciate it. In fact, what I am liking the most about my job is the bond that I get to create with my students. It is so interesting to talk to them and hear their impressions and experiences, whether linked to the study of Italian or not. They give me fantastic food for thought and help me improve as a teacher-to-be.



However, I must confess that there is something that I am really missing from Italy: Food! I know, I perfectly fulfill the stereotype of the Italian abroad, but I cannot help feeling my heart sinking every time I see breakfast pizza...

Apart from questionable pizza flavours, this is being a great experience, and for that I have to thank the amazing professors of the Italian department. They are welcoming and caring, and it is a pleasure to learn with them as guides. As we say in Italy: *provare per credere!* (meaning try it and you'll see).

Sandra Castro Carmona,

Spanish Language Assistant

Hi! My name is Sandra, I use she/her pronouns, and I work as a Language Assistant with the Spanish Department here in Wellesley. I love this job, because it gives me the opportunity of helping and talking with students that are interested in Spanish as a language, and also as a culture. I also get to live in Casa Cervantes (the Spanish House), which I love because it's a nice little house with views of Waban Lake.

I once was an exchange student myself and did a year abroad in California, so coming here I knew what it was like to live in the US. However, I have to admit that California is nothing like Massachusetts.

Something that really surprised me (and that I love) is how nice and welcoming people on campus are. It doesn't matter if they know you or not, everyone is always willing to help you. Also, walking around campus is amazing, there's so much nature everywhere and it's absolutely gorgeous, I'm still really amazed by the landscape of campus.

Living this experience is amazing, but I miss home sometimes. I'm from Córdoba, a small city in the south of Spain. So it's nice and warm all year round and I really miss that. People keep telling me that winter hasn't even started yet, so I really don't know how am I going to survive it. And obviously, I also miss my family, (my mum's meals) and my dog.

The Spanish Department has a program with the University of Córdoba called PRESHCO (that's how I ended up coming here) that gives students in Wellesley the opportunity to study in Cordoba. I really recommend this experience because it's such a beautiful city full of history, traditions, and culture. And for those who want to get better at their Spanish without leaving campus, we have the Spanish Table which I love, because I get to have lunch with students and talk about everything without the pressure of being in an office or having a professor checking how they're doing. It's really informal and fun! And last, but not least, we have Casa Cervantes. As I said before is a great place where students get to practice Spanish every day. Also, we have weekly meetings that help build a community and special events where we have loads of fun. So if you're thinking of living here I absolutely recommend it!

March 20, 2021 - Hope for the First Time in a While

Almost a year ago, the lockdown in Peru started. It began with new challenges that people are still facing. A year ago my interest in applying abroad began. It was a long journey that has taken away many things, but allowed me to connect with people who supported me. But I'm scared to tell those people that I'm a fraud, so far I was rejected by 16 out of the 22 schools I applied to. How can I have hope for the remaining colleges?

Last year, I felt too ashamed to apply abroad that I almost didn't tell anyone about it. Now I feel so lonely, as I don't have a lot of people to rely on. Luckily, I trust my mom and she has supported me during my journey.

My flower, my mom, hugged me so tight that I could not breathe anymore. While my high-pitch voice full of fear says that I was not going to make it, my flower of lighted hope, the hope I lacked. Thousands of questions crossed my mind, and countless scenarios were created in my mind. My heartbeat was pounding harder than when I dared to leave these four borders. I was excited, hesitant, afraid, eager, and terrified. I felt everything, but nothing at the same time.

When we could not breathe anymore and we felt our heart trying to escape out of our chest, those borders that contain us and took away many things, gave us hope. We saw colors in the shape of confetti. We were not able to contain our screams.

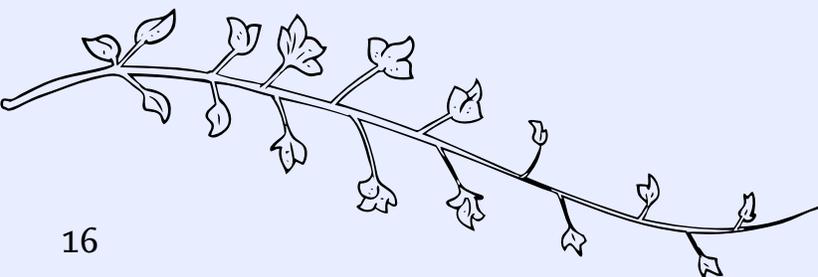
I want to think that our screams were screams of war, a war that we've won, a war that many family members could have never won.

I was accepted to college, but not any college. I was accepted to Wellesley College.

I just felt relief when that anxiety, in the shape of weights on my shoulder fell. But the best joy I had was telling my flower, my biggest supporter in life, that she won't need to worry anymore about affording my education.

I lost hope after I reached the number 16, but Wellesley gave back the hope I missed, and it was my first time giving back to my family, the hope we lacked for a long time.

- Marce



Alums highlight

Wellesley Alums stay connected after their graduation and are there for their community! We are highlighting some alums in this issue. They volunteered to share their information and if you want to get in contact with them, reach out to their emails!

Name: Pamela Boulet '87

Major: Political Science

Email: boulet.pamela@gmail.com

I am an educational consultant based in Paris working with international students and families. My company is called Alma Mater. I have been advising students in all facets of the admissions process for over a decade. I am on the board of the University of Pennsylvania Parents Council and Outreach Committee and President of the Wellesley College Alumnae Association in France, having recently been awarded Wellesley's Sed Ministrare Alumnae Volunteer. I have a unique perspective of schools from the inside out, a vantage point that has proven her success with students. I have personally visited countless campuses across the United States, in order to provide families with the insight and understanding needed to assure their future academic success.

I'd be happy to hear from any students looking to get into the educational consulting field or work internationally!





Sally Katz '78
Paris, France
sallyjkatz@gmail.com

Since graduation, I have reinvented myself several times. I was an attorney in the U.S. before moving with my family to Paris, France, in 1998. After obtaining my right to work in France, I managed a web-based HR initiative for multinational companies and taught English as a Second Language. I currently work at the U.S. Embassy and will retire next month.

In 2019, I was honored to be elected to the Wellesley College Alumnae Association Board, with the idea that, as an alumna living abroad, I could be a voice for international alums. I would love to be in touch with international students -- our future alums! -- and connect them with alumnae clubs and key contacts around the world.



Sarah Cramton '86
Major: Biological Chemistry
Resident in Germany
scramton@wellesley.edu

Following a PhD in Molecular Biology, I moved to Germany in 1996, first doing research as a postdoctoral scholar at the university in Tuebingen and later making a career change into Medical Communications, where I now lead a small company in Mannheim that offers medical writing and medical & scientific communications services. I would be happy to serve as a contact for students interested in my career path, my current field of work and/or more generally life or living in Germany.

Wellesley alumnae living all over Germany maintain a loose network, and I would also be happy to connect students or recent alumnae with other alumnae living in Germany, who may have followed more relevant career paths or live in a region of interest. At present I have some fresh insight into life today at Wellesley, because my daughter is part of the class of 2025 and the Slater community.



August 23rd, 2021 DELTA 1587 Lima - Atlanta

My ears are trying to adjust slowly to the change of pressure. I quickly adjust the seat and put on my seatbelt as I see the sign in front of me. And I caught the guy next to me glaring at my hot cup of tea like I was a weirdo, while he drinks a full cup of cold soda with more ice.

"Why do Americans put too much ice in their cups?" I asked myself.

I arrived on a Monday to the States, to fulfill the long-awaited dream.

While getting my passport with my visa checked, I reminded myself "I can't raise my voice too high. I can't say more than I'm asked. I can't make a mistake or I'll be deported after such a long fight to get here" I was terrified of being alone, of getting out from my country and leaving everything behind, of making a single mistake that will cost me everything that I sacrificed. The year 2020 flashed in front of my eyes, as it was such a challenging year for everyone and for me too.

Luckily I made it, I got a stamp. That stamp reminded, relieved me, and took away the weights on my shoulder, just like that acceptance letter did to me on March 20.

I was allowed to enter the United States for the first time.

- Marce

ABROAD WHILE ABROAD

Meet Noella Ingabire, an international student from Rwanda and Burundi, who shares her story of studying abroad during the pandemic.

Q: Hi Noella! Could you tell us a little bit about yourself?

A: I am a senior majoring in Economics and East Asian Languages and Cultures on the Korean track. I am originally from Burundi, but grew up in Rwanda.

Q: As a senior, what are your plans after Wellesley?

A: I have lots of options, honestly. As I am interested in business, I would like to go home and start a company.

Q: Tell us more about it!

A: I plan to work with people to develop an app that is related to marketing. I want to develop the idea here and find a team to work on it together. I already have an idea written down and I have a vision of how it would operate. All I need right now is to find funding and investors, and a team who would be as interested in this as me.





Q: Tell us about your study abroad, when did you go and how did you choose your destination?

A: When the pandemic hit, I stayed at Wellesley in March 2020 which was a very turbulent time, I wasn't sure I would be able to go abroad. But I went to Seoul, Korea for the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021. When I came to Wellesley I knew some Korean watching kdramas and listening to kpop, as it always happens. I had this initial interest in Korean culture before coming to Wellesley and as a Korean major I thought that studying abroad in Korean would be a great opportunity for me.

Q: Tell us more about your EALC Korean major!

A: When I got to Wellesley and found out about the language requirement, I decided to take a new language, even though I already knew French and could have placed out of the language requirement. And given my interest in Korea, I decided to take Korean to fulfill the requirement. I took introductory courses and had a great experience in them and when a professor asked me if I was considering majoring in Korean, I decided to take more classes and see. And that's how I ended up being a Korean major.

Q: Let's switch gears and talk about your study abroad experience. Tell us how was the journey of getting to Korea during the pandemic and your first impressions of it?

A: At some point I was considering not going, I didn't know what to expect, especially during the pandemic. But I decided to just go for it. I remember how much I wanted to go to Seoul, since my first time taking Korean at Wellesley. I tried going for a semester and ended up extending my study abroad for a year.

When we first arrived we had to quarantine, but it wasn't a big problem for me, I'm good at keeping myself busy. It wasn't that bad. After the quarantine school started, but all my classes were online and in English. My first semester in Seoul I decided not to take a class in Korean. I wanted to learn Korean by speaking to people here, rather than learning it in a course, an academic setting. I wanted to have more time to explore the country, I think it was a very good decision.

Q: How did you make friends in another country?

A: Most of the students I made friends with were students from other countries. Because of the pandemic there weren't that many Korean students on campus. But it wasn't bad, I lived in a dorm for foreigners and we created our small community. Of course, with the pandemic making friends was much harder than it would have been otherwise.

Q: How different were the classes from Wellesley?

A: First of all, being online was very different, there were a lot of lectures. We had 3 hour lectures for each course. I feel like we could interact with professors, but the interaction was limited compared to Wellesley. The good part was that we didn't have many assignments. We had a midterm and a final and that's it.

Q: What was the most surprising thing about Korea for you?

A: The food. I'm not a picky eater, but in Korea they have so much spicy food that it was a hard adjustment for me. I had to get used to Korean food, but now Wellesley Fresh feels flavorless compared to what I was eating in Korea. I don't miss spicy food though, I have to say, but I miss other foods like kimbap and glass noodles japchae. I also miss Korean desserts and all the little coffee shops that are at each corner. Koreans really like iced coffee all year round.

Q: Are you planning to come back to Korea?

A: Korea definitely has a special place in my heart, if I go to grad school I will try to do it in Korea.

Q: Any advice for underclassmen from an international Wellesley senior?

A: Wellesley bubble is real, so please get out of campus, be it Boston or studying abroad. There is a whole world for you to see.



Introducing Slater Center Staff

Slater Center provides support for international students, but how well do you know the staff?

With this rubrick we are trying to introduce Slater Center team and the students. First up, Jill Ostrowski!

Q: Your name, pronouns, position, where are you from

A: Jill Ostrowski, she/her, International Student Advisor, I am originally from Hadley in Western Massachusetts.

Q: Fun fact about you

A: Whenever I travel to a new country I can always see myself living there!

Q: When and why did you join Slater?

A: I joined Slater a little over 2 years ago because Tana needed help with International Student advising and at the time I was looking to "get back in the field" after taking some time off to be home with my children. I really missed the student interaction.

Q: What did you do before joining Slater?

A: I worked for Wheaton College advising International Students on immigration and also working with students who wanted to study abroad. I had the best of both worlds advising on the two things I really enjoy talking about. I then took some time off after I had my youngest son.

Q: What does your day to day job at Slater look like?

A: I only work part-time at Slater but I spend most of my time meeting with students to advise them on their immigration status, OPT, CPT, travel, and sometimes students just want to talk.

Q: Why do you like working at Slater?

A: I love the students! I love being able to connect and help them.

Q: What else are you involved in besides working for Slater?

A: When I'm not working at Slater I am taking care of my very busy household. I have a blended family of 6 kids. I am currently coaching my youngest son's basketball. It is quite the challenge getting 11 nine years olds to listen.

Q: A place that you would want to visit/dream destination :)

A: That's a hard one. If I had the time and money I would like to visit every country in the world. I would like to take my children to Poland where my grandparents are from, so they can learn about their heritage.



Jill and her daughters!

September 8th, 2021 - The Didn't and First's

The bright light on the window wakes me up. It feels strange, the bed is more comfortable than usual and the humidity of the room is higher.

Scared of the changes, my eyes open quicker and I gain back my consciousness, this is not my bedroom. I don't recognize the second bed on my right, nor the trees out of my window, or the comfort of that bed.

Honesty, I was confused.

I reminded myself that I already leave behind Ate Vitarte, my district. That is why I see tall trees outside of my windows instead of dogs eating the remains of trash, and that isn't the decayed bed I had since I was two years old, so I don't sleep in constant danger of falling.

I looked across the room and I noticed that the four beige walls seem like they are lacking something.

I didn't have time to decorate the walls with colorful posters, as I was supposed to do.

I didn't cry when my parents were dropping me off at college, as I was supposed to do.

I didn't hug my friend from my same high school as we made it together to Wellesley, as I was supposed to do.

There are so many "didn'ts" in my story, as my story isn't shared by many. But my story is a reflection of others, of others who faced different challenges and whose stories are the face an unknown reality.

These new changes are scaring me little, but also embrace. Besides, the didn't in my story I also have a first in it. It's my first time here. I'm the first in my family to be here. And it's my first day of classes.

- Marce



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A big thank you to everyone involved with the newsletter, whether contributing a piece or your moral support. Special thank you to Tana Ruegamer and Leanne Dolat for all of your support and ideas. Thank you to all of the Slater team for being the best team one could wish to work with. Thank you to the wonderful international community we created on campus, and the wonderful alums who create Wellesley space outside of Wellesley.

Marce is joining me for the next issue of the newsletter that is coming soon! If you are interested in contributing a piece or getting involved with the newsletter please email at et103 or ms120.

Love,
Rin

