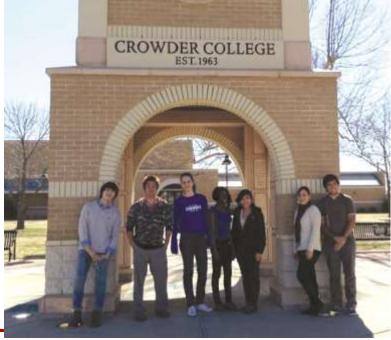


elcome to the sixth edition of the ELI Melting Pot, a newsletter where advanced ELI students share their culture. Students chose "home sweet home" as the theme for the newsletter this semester. The concept of "home" means different things to different people. For some the idea of home is seeing beautiful pink cherry blossoms in bloom in Korea, while for others, "home" is a relaxing trip with friends to a water park in Brazil, or a weekend away with Mom in Nha Trang, Vietnam. Home is where the heart is, and so, whether near or far, ELI students carry the memory of home in their hearts, even as they are away from their family and friends. This semester, students wanted to

share what home means to them, so I hope that you will enjoy reading their articles and getting a glimpse of their home life outside of the States.

Rose-Marie Speck ELI Coordinator



ELI 35 students at Crowder College: their home away from home.

## Cherry Blossom Festival



By Jae Kwang Kim

**The Kovea** we have many festivals. The most popular festival is the cherry blossom festival. Nowadays, people in Korea are

always busy and work hard; however, during the cherry blossom festival they enjoy time with families. It used to be that the cherry blossom festival was mostly a time to spend with families, but now even couples and friends go to the festival to spend time with each other. Just looking at one cherry blossom tree is not very impressive, but seeing hundreds of cherry blossom trees all together in bloom is beautiful and amazing. In spring, the cherry blossoms become pink and have a really sweet smell. Some blossoms are big, and some are small. When you look at them individually, you can tell the blossoms are all different, but when all the cherry blossom trees are together, they look like one big cherry blossom. The most important thing about the festival is that it makes people aware that spring weather is here. The cherry blossoms do not last very long. Once summer approaches, the cherry blossoms fall off the trees. The festival only lasts a month or two while the blossoms are in bloom. People enjoy the special festival because it happens only once a year. When I think about my home in Korea, I think about the sweet smell of the cherry blossoms and their beautiful colors because I have cherry blossom trees outside of my apartment window in Korea.

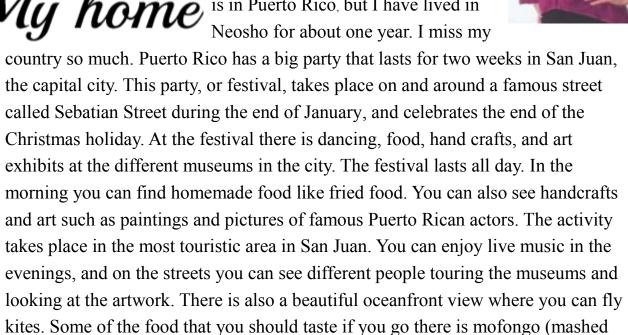


Cherry blossom trees in bloom.

### Sebatian Street Festival

By Mayra Vazquez

My home is in Puerto Rico, but I have lived in Neosho for about one year. I miss my



fried green plantains) with your choice of meat, or the rich and famous piña colada

(pineapple mixed with coconut). I miss going to this party because it is an activity



that I often did with my family and friends.

This is a picture of the Sebatian Street festival.



### Encarnacion

By Nicolas Escobar

One of my favorite places in my country, Paraguay, is located in the city of Encarnacion where I was born. Encarnacion is

located five hours from the capital city. The Parana River is in Encarnacion, and the coast is a beautiful place to go and spend the day with family. At the coast, there are many activities like sand soccer, volley ball, and swimming. There are also many things to eat and drink. When I go to the coast, I can see the sun reflecting on the refreshing water, I can smell the delicious barbecues at midday, and I can have a great day with my family or friends because this is a place with few technological distractions. This is a great place to enjoy nature and to see the sunset. At night time, there are places to dance on the sand where many important DJ's come to play, and there are also big concerts. Near the coast you can find many places to go and have dinner, and the cost is cheap. Many new hotels were built to accommodate the amount of people that continue to visit there.

I really like to go to Encarnacion to get away from technology and the routine of

life, and instead, play some sports, get in the water, and have fun with people. It is a great place to go and rest. It is a beautiful place where I can find many things that I identify as my home, sweet home.



The Encarnacion coast, Paraguay

## Nha Trang

By Chau Nguyen

## Waynest to a

with my mom. We went to a

lot of places, but the most memorable trip was Nha Trang. It is located in the Khanh Hoa Province. It is a wonderful place for traveling and relaxing, and it is also a common choice for foreigners who want to tour my country. I love Nha Trang so



much because it is a busy, but not very noisy, city. It has fresh air, sunshine, a clean, blue beach, and very nice weather. In Nha Trang, there are coconut trees and willow trees along the coast line that make the air smell really good and make you feel relaxed. The beaches also have lounge chairs so that people can take a break during the time they spend on the beach. Nha Trang also links to a lot of other small islands and beautiful places like Bamboo Island and Swiftlet Island. We can get to those places by canoes, ships, and boats. Traveling services in Nha Trang provide some water activities like scuba-diving, boating along the coast line through the coral reef, and yachting. There is a big market with fresh seafood and the most famous food for Nha Trang: bird's nest. Bird's nests are collected by people who live near the beaches. The nests are made from the swiflet bird who make the nests with their saliva. After the nests are cooked, they turn into a thick liquid, and people eat it with a bit of sugar to make it taste better. At the market in Nha Trang there are a lot of souvenirs to buy like shirts, necklaces and wristlets made from seashells, and beautiful pictures of Nha Trang at sunset. Vinpearl Land is a famous park in Nha Trang. It has many games that you can enjoy after a long



day of playing on the beach. Vinpearl Land has a lot of lights at night that make it beautiful, attractive, and romantic. Nha Trang is a wonderful part of my home country, and I would love to visit it again.

Caption: Nha Trang and the coast.



## Karaoke in Japan

By Hirotaka Aida

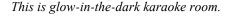
## While there are many leisure activities in Japan,

the one I like best is karaoke. There are so many karaoke places in Japan that I cannot count them all. Big cities in Japan have many karaoke places downtown, but even small towns have karaoke places. People of all ages, from children to adults, go to karaoke places in Japan. There are many reasons people practice

karaoke. Some people go alone when they want to sing to get in a better mood. Some people go just to practice a song. Some go just to listen to their friends sing because they hate to sing. So anyone can enjoy karoke, even if they hate to sing. I usually go to karaoke with my girlfriend, friends, and sometimes family. Karaoke in Japan is often different than karaoke in America. In Japan, karaoke rooms are private rooms, and I choose the room size by the number of people who are with me. There are many room sizes. There are small rooms, and there are big rooms that hold more than fifteen people. In some rooms, if you turn off the light, a special glow-in-the-dark design emerges on the walls. There is a scoring function where the score of the song is displayed on the screen when you finish singing. I like this scoring function because it shows me how well I sang my song, and I can see that I get better and better at singing. It is not uncommon for people to stay a long time in the karaoke rooms because you can drink and eat food there if you want to.

Also, each karaoke room has a fee that you must pay. Fees vary by each karaoke room, but it is roughly \$10.00 for 30 minutes per person. Nighttime fees are usually

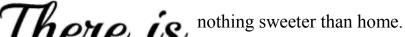
more expensive than daytime fees. Fees in the nighttime are double or more daytime fees. Nighttime is considered to be after 7:00 p.m. Accordingly, you should not do karaoke at nighttime because the fees are so high. Because I sing karaoke a lot when I am in Japan, when I think about my home sweet home, I think about going to karaoke rooms with my family or friends and having a good time.





# My House, My Home

By Nsimba Nsemi



There is nothing sweeter than home.

Everybody has a place where they feel more comfortable than anywhere else. I miss a lot of things being away from home, but the thing I miss the most is my house. My house in the Democratic Republic of Congo is one of the biggest houses on my street. The first thing I see when I enter in the plot of land that goes to my house are the flowers, lawn, a path that takes me to the entrance of the house, and then a welcoming veranda. After the veranda, the second things I see are the living room, dining room, and the kitchen on the first floor. Then to the right of the living room, there is an entry way for the stairs that go to the second level of the house. My entire house has seven bedrooms, three bathrooms, two kitchens, two living rooms, and a dining room. Even though we have a lot people in my house, it is quiet and peaceful. It always smells of delicious food. My parents, sisters, one of my nephews, and my cousin are there. People go to my house because it is a welcoming and loving place. My house is the only place where I truly feel safe, and where I can be myself and be with people I love. I was born and grew up there, so I always want to be there.



I like the unity, love, joy and togetherness that come from being in my house. My house is my home sweet home.

This is a picture of my house in the DRC.



### Caldas Novas

By Thays Barbosa

## **70hen 7 hear** people talk about my country, Brazil, they often

talk about soccer, beaches, parties, and beautiful people. But not many people know about my city, and the capital city of Brazil, Goiania. My city doesn't have a beach, but it's a very big city, and it's my home.

My favorite place is a water park near Goiania called Caldas Novas. This water park is a beautiful place to go with your family or friends. At this water park, there are many heated pools, regular pools, and a waterslide. The park is in a natural setting so you can see birds, monkeys and different types of trees at the park. The park also has a zip line. There are many fun things to do there, so it's good for kids to play and for adults to relax. When the warm wind blows, and you are sitting under a tree at the water park, the feeling is very good and very relaxing. I like to go to this place to hang out with my friends and relax. This is a perfect place to relax and enjoy yourself. Even if I visit other beautiful countries, I will always think, "There is no better place than my home!"



Caldas Novas in Brazil.

## Things we like about our home in Neosho:

#### Thays Barbosa



I like the basketball team because it is like a family.

#### Nicolas Escobar



I really like the cold weather and the peace I have to study.

#### Jaekwang Kim



I like that there are not many distractions in Neosho so that I focus on my studies. At Crowder, people are really pretty kind, and if I need help

with something, they just help me without compensation.

#### Mayra Vazquez



I like Neosho because it is very quiet and calm. The people here are very polite and there are family activities. One activity is in the spring when there is an

event to show children safety rules, like if there is a fire. I also like that here you can play in the snow, and when the snow falls, it is very beautiful.

#### Hirotaka Aida



I like my baseball teammates and playing baseball. Playing baseball here is fun and exciting.

#### Nsimba Nsemi



Neosho is a good place to study without being distracted, and there are good colleges like Crowder that help and prepare

students for their future career.

#### Chau Nguyen



I like that Crowder is a quiet place to study so that I can stay focused on my work. People are also very nice to each other here, and I feel

Crowder is a good environment for learning because teachers seem to appreciate and help students as much as they can for the students' success.



#### COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT CROWDER COLLEGE (2014)

#### Argentina

Population- 41.3 Million Capital- Buenos Aires Language- Spanish Currency- Austral



#### Haïti

Population- 9.7 Million Capital- Port-au-Prince Language- French and Creole Currency- Gourde



#### Senegal

Population- 13.5 Million Capital- Dakar



Language- French, Wolof, Soninke, Jola, Fula, Serer, and Maninka Currency- CFA Franc

#### Brazil

Population- 193 Million Capital- Brasilia Language- Portuguese and Tribal Languages Currency- Real



#### Ireland



#### South Korea

Population- 50 Million Capital- Seoul Language- Korean Currency- South Korean won



#### Burundi

Population- 9.8 Million Capital- Bujumbura Language-French, Kirundi, and Swahili Currency- Burundi Franc



#### Japan

Population-12.7 Million Capital- Tokyo Language- Japanese Currency- Yen



#### **Swaziland**

Population- 1.1 Million Capital- Lobamba Language- English and Swati Currency- Lilangeni



#### Canada

Population-33.7 Million Capital- Ottawa Language-English and French Currency- Canadian Dollar



#### Kenya

Population- 40 Million Capital- Nairobi Language- English, Swahili and tribal languages Currency-Kenya Shilling



#### Sweden

Population- 9.6 Million Capital- Stockholm Language- Swedish Currency- Swedish Krona



#### China

Population- 1,388 Million Capital- Peking Language- Mandarin and numerous Currency- Renminbi Yuan



#### Mongolia

Population- 3 Million Capital- Ulan Bator Language- Mongolian Currency- Turgrik



#### The Gambia

Population- 17 Million Capital- Banjul Language- English and tribal languages Currency- Dalasi



#### DR Congo

Population- 70 Million Capital- Kinshasa Language- French Currency- Congolese Franc



#### Nigeria

Population- 158 Million Capital- Lagos Language- English, Hausa, Igbo and tribal languages Currency- Naira



#### Uzbekistan

Population- 30.1 Million Capital- Tashkent Language- Uzbek and Karakalpak Currency- Uzbekistan Som



#### England

Population- 51 Mil Capital- London Language- English Currency- Euro



#### Paraguay

Population- 6.8 Million Capital- Language- Spanish and Guarani Currency- Paraguayian Guarani



#### Vietnam

Population- 89.6 Million Capital- Hanoi Language- Vietnamese Currency- dòng



#### Gabon

Population- 1.4 Million
Capital- Libreville
Language- French, Fang
and Myene
Currency- Central African CFA franc



Spanish, English and tribal languages Currency- Philippine Peso



Population-13.4 Million Capital- Lusaka Language- English and tribal languages Currency- Kwacha



#### Guatemala

Population- 13.5 Million Capital- Guatemala City Language- Spanish and Mayan Currency- Quetzal



#### Saudi Arabia

Population- 29.9 Million Capital- Riyadh Language- Arabic Currency- Saudi Riyal



