

UAFS graduate works in South Korea.



Picture of Corteney with her father and Takeo Suzuki

On January 20, 2015, the Office of International Relations got a surprise visitor, **Corteney Champion**, a graduate from the **University of Arkansas-Fort Smith**, who recently moved to Gimcheon, South Korea three years ago. Corteney has a degree in **Psychology** from UAFS, and participated in **UAFS exchange program to University of Ulsan** in her junior year. Currently, Corteney is living in **South Korea**, and teaching English to children in first through sixth grades. During a recent interview, Corteney shared about her experience in Korea.

1. What was the **hardest adjustment** you have had to make?
Corteney explained that it was a very easy transition to make, moving overseas. Corteney is in the EPIK Program, and they made the move very easy, and were helping her every step of the way. “The most difficult adjustment was that the **culture was very different**, and the **shopping was hard**. Most of the population is very petite, and to find clothes to fit my body was hard.”, she explained. Another difficult challenge she faced, was the language barrier. She told us in her interview that she was the most scared of insulting someone, but knew that as a foreigner, they would **understand**.
2. On a daily basis, **what do you do**?
“Well, in the morning I start school at 8:30a.m., and have about half an hour to prepare for students. At 9:00a.m., class starts, and we have six periods a day.” Corteney explained how in the school, there is approximately **900 students**, each period is forty minutes long, and the hardest part is only getting to see the students **once a week**.
3. What has been the **best/favorite** part of being abroad?
“The fact that you **learn so much**, and you even learn so much from other people. You learn so much about everything, and most importantly you learn about yourself. I am growing and I believe that I am growing in the right direction. I am glad for working abroad because it **brings me joy and happiness**.”
4. How **long** have you been overseas, and how long will you **continue** to be?
“I have been in Korea for **3 years**, my first year I was a student at Ulsan University and I took Korean courses. It is unknown how long I want to stay. Maybe one more year, and then go to another Asian country to teach. After teaching somewhere else, I want to come back to the States and get my Masters Degree.”

The Office of International Relations would like to wish Corteney **Good Luck** on her journey as an English teacher in South Korea, and always remember: **Have Fun!**

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