

4-1-2014

Wanderer: Spring 2014

Columbia College Chicago

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/wanderer>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Wanderer: Spring 2014" (2014). *Wanderer*. 3.
<https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/wanderer/3>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Publications at Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wanderer by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. For more information, please contact drossetti@colum.edu.

WANDERER

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION CREATED BY VISUAL JOURNALISM AND REPORTING & WRITING II STUDENTS

SPRING 2014

BRAZIL
CHINA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
EL SALVADOR
GREECE
GUATEMALA
JAPAN
KAZAKHSTAN
KOREA
SINGAPORE
SPAIN
VENEZUELA
VIETNAM

FROM THE
WORLD TO
THE UNITED
STATES

13

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS TELL
THEIR STORIES

Explore the world with us.

TRAVEL WRITING
HONDURAS

53-2545 | January 4-23, 2016 | 3 credits

COVERING EUROPE FROM
LONDON

53-2545 | January 4-23, 2016 | 3 credits

TRAVEL WRITING 53-2545
MEXICO

53-2545 | January 4-23, 2016 | 3 credits

COVERING EUROPE FROM
FLORENCE

53-2545 | July 3 - August 1, 2016

TRAVEL WRITING 53-2545
PERU

53-2545 | January 4-23, 2016 | 3 credits

COVERING EUROPE FROM
PARIS BRUSSELS & THE HAGUE

53-4620 | January 11-20, 2016

COVERING EUROPE FROM
PARIS

53-4620 | January 11-20, 2016 | 3 credits

For more information, contact the Journalism department,
 33 E. Congress, Chicago, Illinois 60605 or call 312.369.8900

letter from the editor

SPRING 2014



THE MAGAZINE YOU ARE HOLDING in your hands is the result of a very fruitful collaboration.

Our previous Wanderer edition featured 25 Columbia College Chicago international faculty from 21 different countries who shared with us part of their souls. It was time to present the stories from our own international students who wander our urban campus.

We teamed up with Gigi Posejpal, director of International Student Affairs, who contacted foreign students willing to tell us who they are. Adjunct journalism professor Nancy Traver included a reporting assignment in her Reporting & Writing II course, in which her pupils interviewed these students. My Visual Journalism practitioners were the ones who worked with those stories, photos, graphics and headlines to lay out those lives.

Being a Fulbright scholar and past president of the Chicago Chapter of the Fulbright Association, I have taken to heart the goal of revealing the positive effects of intercultural communication. We hope to show that a world that appreciates the contributions from different cultures in this country of immigrants is indeed a better world. But we also hope to prove the point that no matter where we come from, we chase similar goals of success and happiness. What better way to do this than through the voices of our own international students?

I remember being a new arrival to the United States over two decades ago when I came as a student. I remember the exhilaration I felt to be in the United States of America. Everything seemed so different, from the air to the food to human relationships to customs and manners. I remember the first time I had a Thanksgiving dinner and tried cranberry sauce and thought it was so exotic. Or getting lost in a supermarket with the abundance of choices I had never had before. The first crocus in spring that I had never seen or the torrential rain that made me use an umbrella.

I had seen an umbrella only in the movies, and using one made me feel like Gene Kelly, singing in the rain, only wearing jeans instead of a suit.

With the new adventures also came the challenges, such as the time I was asked what kind of dressing I wanted in my salad. I was so confused thinking why the waiter was asking me about clothing. Dressing sounded like clothes to me. Or the number of books, chapters that I had to read, in a foreign language! And the papers I had to write, also in a foreign language! Even though I had been raised drinking coffee it was here when I became a real *coffeeholic*, to be able to pull all-nighters on a regular basis.

And the fast-paced life! I was so in awe of people who moved so fast, with so much sense of purpose and decision, as if they were having a hot chile pepper up their rear ends.

Gigi, Nancy and I want to share this edition of Wanderer International Students with anyone who is curious to learn about the experiences of our own ambassadors at Columbia College Chicago—the place where students from 55 countries come to learn and study.

We also want to thank the Journalism Department for the support for the edition of this magazine, which allows our own students to have a portfolio piece, whether it is for their writing, design, photography, or all of these areas.

These are thirteen stories from all continents. Enjoy them, one at a time.

Elio Leturia, Associate Professor, Journalism



WRITERS

KATHERINE DAVIS
ERICA GARBER
MEILING JIN
EMMA KLUG*
SAMANTHA MACK
SEAN McENTEE*
RATISHA NASH
FEDAA ODEH
COLIN PETERSEN*
KYRA SENESE
TAMARAH WEBB
JENNIFER WOLAN
JENAY WRIGHT

DESIGN EDITORS

NATHAN ALLEN
JETESA ASANI
AMANDA CRAWFORD
IZABELLA GUT
EMMA KLUG*
MADISON LISLE
SEAN McENTEE*
MARTINIQUE PATES
COLIN PETERSEN*
ASHLY RICHARDSON
JESSIE SARDINA
KAYLA UNNERSTALL
JAZMINE WALKER

FACULTY ADVISERS

ELIO LETURIA
NANCY TRAVER

PHOTO COVER

CAROLINA SANCHEZ

This publication has been possible thanks to the sponsorship and support of the Journalism Department of Columbia College Chicago

SPECIAL THANKS

Nancy Day, Chairperson,
Chris Richert, Journalism
Department General Manager
Erik Rodriguez, Production
Manager
Gigi Posejpal, Director of
International Student Affairs,
Columbia College Chicago



Wanderer is a student-produced magazine. It does not necessarily represent, in whole or in part, the views of college administrators, faculty, the Journalism Department or the student body as a whole.

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO



International students mingle at the International Affairs Mixer on August 29, 2013

Wanderer magazine is a collaborative project produced by the Fall 2013 **Visual Journalism** students, and adjunct Prof. Nancy Traver's **Reporting & Writing II** class, Department of Journalism of Columbia College Chicago.

Visual Journalism students edited, designed and laid out each story as his or her final class project and the Reporting & Writing II students interviewed the subjects featured in this edition.

For this issue, the goal of the publication has been to highlight the lives of foreign-born students, share their experiences and show Columbia College's commitment in diversity and recruitment.





Maria Thereza Falcão
BRAZIL



Jeyi Ge
CHINA



Angel Rondón
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Andrea Rivera
EL SALVADOR



Alexandros Skouras
GREECE



Ligia Sandoval
GUATEMALA



Mitsuke Tatebe
JAPAN



Yana Tyan
KAZAKHSTAN



Penelope Kang
KOREA



Adel Rashid
SINGAPORE



Maxim Chubin
SPAIN



Camila Rivero
VENEZUELA



Quan Vu
VIETNAM

inside

SPRING 2014

6 THE TROPICAL FASHIONISTA

People who thrive in a beach culture and love to lounge in the sun don't usually move to Chicago. In this case, the aspiring designer couldn't wait to leave home. **Jennifer Wolan**

8 FROM SHANGHAI WITH LOVE

One girl's journey from East to West and her experiences along the way. **Meiling Jin**

10 SECOND CHANCE IN THE CITY

Dominican Republic native Angel Rondón found himself returning to Chicago after a trip home. The 25-year-old is full of passion and refuses to slow down. **Tamarah Webb**

12 DANCING TO CHICAGO

An insider from El Salvador to an insider of Chicago, dance student Andrea Rivera has become adept in the change of pace. **Kyra Senese**

14 THE FAMILY TRADITION

Alexandros Skouras, graphic design major at Columbia College Chicago, honors his roots by branching out to get an education in the U.S. **Sean McEntee**

16 A LIGIA OF HER OWN

A Guatemalan student reflects on her country and her art. **Colin Petersen**

18 GETTING THERE

Mitsuki Tatebe from Japan talks about leaving home, the "social gap" and where he plans to travel next. **Jenay Wright**

20 IT'S WORTH THE CULTURE SHOCK

Yana Tyan chose Columbia College to develop her creative expression in advertising art direction and plans to take what she learns back to her home in Kazakhstan. **Fedaa Odeh**

22 GOING BEYOND K-POP

Penelope Kang is out to prove there is more to Korean music than meets the eye. **Ratisha Nash**

24 THE TOUR MANAGER

Business music major Adel Rashid comes from Singapore and explores the Chicago music scene. **Emma Klug**

26 SPAIN MEETS CHICAGO

Spanish student Maxim Chubin came to Columbia to fulfill his dream of becoming a filmmaker. **Erica Garber**

28 FROM ONE MURDER CAPITAL TO THE NEXT

Going to school in America's murder capital is a breeze for a student who hails from Latin America's murder capital. **Katherine Davis**

30 BIG CITY, BIG OPPORTUNITY

Life in Chicago is hardly challenging for Vietnamese student Quan Vu. **Samantha Mack**

OPPOSITE PAGE PHOTO by CAROLINA SÁNCHEZ

People who thrive in a beach culture and love to lounge in the sun don't usually move to Chicago. In this case the aspiring designer couldn't wait to leave.

WELCOME TO TROPICAL BRAZIL

The hot climate of this country allows citizens to spend a great deal of time outdoors. Brazilians tend to view time more as a sequence of events rather than hours, minutes and seconds. For this reason they may appear to have an extremely casual attitude about time.



Source WORLD ATLAS, CIA.GOV

JETESA ASANI

BY JENNIFER WOLAN

Maria Thereza Falcão moved here from São Paulo, Brazil, to study fashion business at Columbia College.

Falcão began going to clubs and dancing when she was 15. But after graduation, she had no idea what she wanted to do.

"I was lost," she recalled. "But I always loved fashion."

Her brothers convinced her to major in fashion, telling her she had an amazing sense of style and could do it for a living while also working behind the scenes.

"I had no idea how to sew or draw," said Falcão. "But I met with my brother's friend, who majored in the fashion business, and I decided it was the right track for me."

Falcão was no foreigner to the United States. When she was 8, her family lived in California for a year while her dad studied to earn his MBA. Then they moved back to Brazil, settling in Rio de

"I was lost but I always loved fashion."

Janeiro. When she was 15, the family moved to São Paulo.

She sees many contrasts between life in the States and in Brazil. "Brazil is really fake. If you don't wear designer clothes, you will be looked down upon," said Falcão.

Falcão said she enjoys the fact that she doesn't need to

THE tropical fashion

FUN FACTS

- ~ Brazil is the largest country in South America. It is the world's fifth largest country, both by geographical area and population. It has the world's seventh largest economy.
- ~ Brazil was a colony of Portugal following the landing of Pedro Alvares Cabral in 1500 until 1808, when Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Portugal.
- ~ Independence was achieved in 1822 with the formation of the Empire of Brazil. Brazil is

the only nation in the Americas in which Portuguese is the official language.

- ~ The word "Brazil" comes from the word "brazilwood," which was a type of wood that grew along the coast and was highly prized by European traders because it could be used to create a valuable red dye.

- ~ Rio de Janeiro, the second largest city in Brazil, was selected to host the 2016 Summer Olympics games.

wear makeup and designer clothes on the streets of Chicago. She feels comfortable walking in leggings from Forever 21.

Falcão originally considered moving to Europe and going to schools like the London School of Fashion and American University in France, but her parents persuaded her that the job market would be better for her in the United States.

"Columbia was the only school in the United States that I applied to," said Falcão. "But I don't know if I will stay here."

Falcão's visa will expire six months after she graduates in 2017. She said she doesn't know where she will move then.

"Hopefully, after I graduate, I will receive a job and can apply for another visa," said Falcão.

She lives in University Center but plans to move to an apartment with her roommate soon. Her mother,



Courtesy MARIA THEREZA FALCAO

In a maxi dress, Maria enjoys long walks on the beach in her home town of São Paulo.

who majored in law, came with Falcão to help her move into her dorm. It was their first visit to Chicago. Falcão recalled, "She was just as lost as I was."

ista



Maria Thereza Falcão strikes a pose at the 33 E Congress building. Her fur vest shows off her fashionable side.

From

BY MEILING JIN

One thing that surprised Jieyi Ge during her first semester as a student at Columbia College is that professors here try to engage their students and make learning fun.

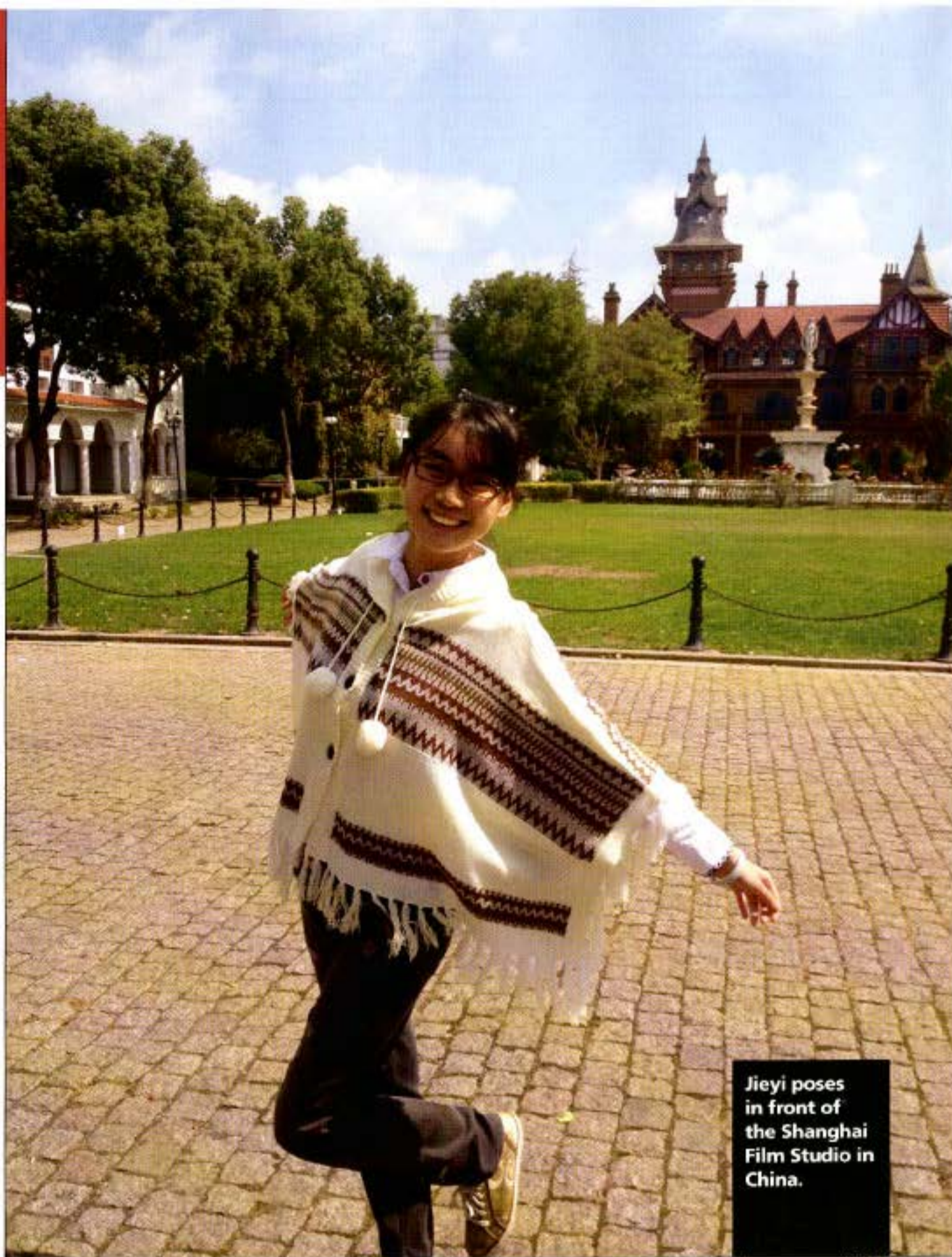
Ge, 21, (葛介艺 in Chinese) who is studying marketing and communication, said college classes back in her homeland, China, are boring. Many instructors rely on PowerPoint lectures, she said. Some simply read from textbooks.

Also, Chinese college students are extremely competitive —working diligently to earn the highest possible grade point average, Ge said. In America, she has noticed parties everywhere on campus. “Party in the USA is right,” she added.

Ge landed in Chicago at the end of August and said she came here to experience something new. “I have been staying in Shanghai for my whole life,” said Ge. “I want to experience new things independently and expand my knowledge.”

She said she signed up for the exchange program at Tongji University in Shanghai, which enabled her to come to Columbia. A senior, she will study at Columbia for only one semester before returning to China.

Ge grew up in Shanghai —one of the major financial centers of the world. She said it is a very crowded city compared to Chicago, but similar to Chicago in some ways. It is



Jieyi poses in front of the Shanghai Film Studio in China.

Photo courtesy JIEYI GE

famous for its architecture and railroads.

She lives in University Center and has three roommates: One is a Chinese woman, also from Tongji University, and the two others are American.

“We don’t really communicate a lot with the American roommates,” Ge said. One roommate spends most of her time with her boyfriend while the other American roommate spends her time outside of the

dorm because of her school schedule and meal plans.

While most of the students who live on campus stay on a meal plan system, Ge said she would rather cook her own food in her room, although she never learned to cook in China.

“At least I know how to cook spinach with meat and steak with butter now,” she said. She learned how to cook soon after she moved to Chicago.

“I am so surprised that

SHANGHAI AT A GLANCE:

Shanghai is the largest city in the People’s Republic of China, and also the largest city in the world. It is one of the four municipalities of China, with a total population of over 23 million as of 2010. It is considered a global city, with influence in commerce, culture, finance, media, fashion, technology and transport.

Shanghai with love

One girl's journey from East to West and her experiences along the way

Americans eat raw mushrooms and broccoli," Ge continued. "Also, too many foods here are cheesy and filling." Ge said she can eat "these creamy things" occasionally but not three meals a day.

Ge said she misses authentic Chinese food as well as her friends back in her hometown.

She said she still has difficulty communicating with American students at times, although she tries to participate in group conversations. "Sometimes it can be very hard to make American friends here because of my language barrier," she added.

She began learning English when she was 7 years old.

"If I were to use three words

to describe myself," she continued, "probably they would be kind, broad interests and shy." Ge said her shyness may interfere with making friends here.

Like most of the Chinese young women in America, Ge enjoys going shopping. She said the products here are cheap compared with items in China, which are taxed at a higher rate.

Besides shopping, Ge loves exploring tourist spots in Chicago and taking photographs of them. The most memorable events for her are the musicals she has seen in Chicago's theaters. She called them "high class spectacular," and speculated that the directors must



Photo courtesy MEILING JIN

Jieyi Ge and Meiling Jin, the writer of this story, at a Halloween party after the interview.

pay special attention to the choreography to make their complex and creative plots so perfect.

Ge says she admires American people.

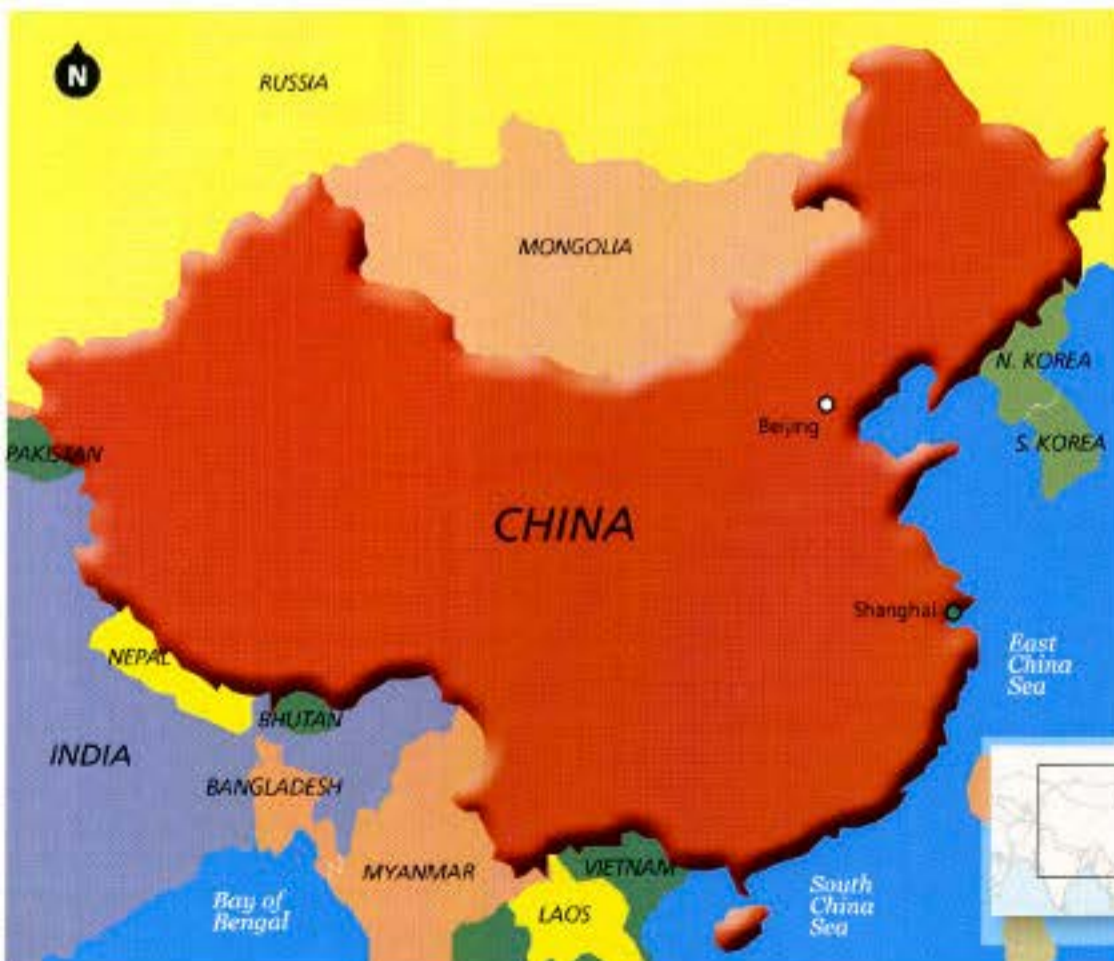
"Americans are just so funny and open-minded whereas most Chinese are always so direct in all discussions," she said. Many Americans make jokes and sprinkle humor throughout their conversations -- a habit unfamiliar to the Chinese.

In Chinese grammar schools, students spend most of their time memorizing their lessons and reciting them, she said. The learning style does not encourage the Chinese to think independently or inject humor into their everyday conversations, she said.

She said China offers a nine-year compulsory education, but not everything she learned in school was useful. According to Ge, Americans have self-discipline, but the Chinese are different.

"Americans take laws seriously," she said, referring to the ways people drive and walk in Chicago. "Chinese just cross the road randomly at any time they can, whereas most Americans wait for the traffic lights."

CHINA IS THE MOST HIGHLY POPULATED COUNTRY IN THE WORLD



Covering approximately 3.7 million square miles, China is the world's second-largest country by land area. It is the world's most populous country, with a population of over 1.35 billion.

Source WORLD ATLAS, CIA.GOV

MADISON LISLE

SECOND CHANCE IN THE CITY

Dominican Republic native Angel Rondón found himself returning to Chicago after a trip home and some travels. The 25-year-old is full of passions and refuses to slow down

BY TAMARAH WEBB

Born in the Dominican Republic, a country he says is "very macho and religious," Angel Rondón says he moved to Chicago because he thought he'd feel more comfortable here.

As an openly gay man, Rondón, 25, wanted to attend college in the United States. He says the Dominican Republic would never legalize gay marriage or give gays equal rights in housing or in the work place.

"Things have changed over the years, but the fact that American laws are changing to incorporate gay individuals, it is great," said Rondón.

He says many Dominicans travel to the U.S. after graduating from high school. "It has helped me a lot, being here, because it has given me a whole new perspective and allows me to know that I'm not doing anything wrong," he said.

Rondón in the South Loop of Chicago near his Columbia campus.

Photo by IZZY GUT

Rondón came to Columbia College as a freshman in 2009 when he was 20, but after becoming homesick, he left Chicago and spent a year in the Dominican Republic. He then traveled to Montreal, New York and Brazil before returning to Chicago.

He attended college classes in New York at Berkeley College, but found the experience "very overwhelming and demanding. You really have to balance school and social life, and it's really hard."

After spending a few years away from Chicago, Rondón felt he was ready for a second try at Columbia.

He said he didn't know what he wanted to pursue once he returned to college here. He started taking cinematography classes but realized this field wasn't going to be something he could continue after he moved back to Santo Domingo, the capital city where he was raised.

He later took some business classes. Rondón is now a junior majoring in marketing and communications. "I feel good here," he said. "The professors are really good, the community is very



Photo courtesy GIORDANO'S

Above: Rondón's self-proclaimed "weakness" is pizza, calling Giordano's his favorite place in Chicago. **Right:** Lady Gaga's newest album, ARTPOP, has received Rondón's stamp of approval.

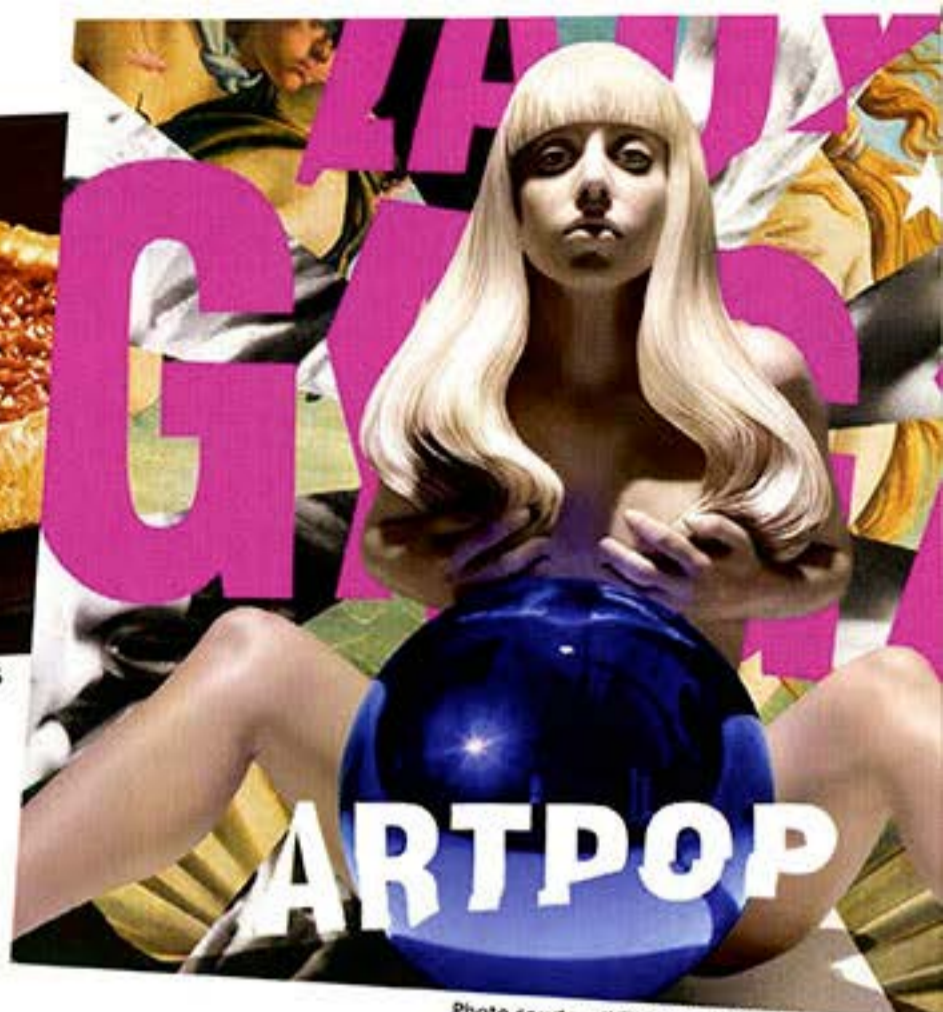


Photo courtesy INTERSCOPE RECORDS

nice, and I love it."

After graduating, he would like to work in public relations for about a year in an events firm such as Lenof & Associates Inc.

Rondón described himself as a "very diverse person." Sticking to just one genre or group is not his style. He loves Facebook and Instagram as well as meeting new people.

Comedies and dramas are

"I feel good here. I love it."

Rondón's ideal movie genres, and some of his favorite TV shows are "Scandal," "Revenge" and "Betrayal."

His hobbies include shopping and cooking Italian and Mexican dishes.

"Pizza is my weakness, but I love my Dominican food -- I cannot deny that."

When in Santo Domingo, he loves to go horseback riding or out to the beaches. He also likes taking road trips with friends. "We just love to go out and explore every corner of our country," said Rondón.

Rondón also listens to all genres of music, from Dominican Salsa to pop. "I am a big [Lady] Gaga fan!" he said. "I can't wait for her new album to come out."

Asked to list six things he couldn't do without, Rondón responded with: friends, family, shoes, phone, computer and journal.

"I was very dramatic as a kid, and I wanted to be an actor. I would re-enact scenes from movies," he recalls. He would still like to be an actor, but added that he is "undiscovered" at the moment.

—Designed by Izzy Gut

FUN FACTS

Rugged highlands and mountains cover most of the Dominican Republic. There are fertile valleys in this Caribbean country, which occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island once known as Hispaniola. The island lies in the middle of the hurricane belt and is subject to severe storms from June to October. It experiences occasional flooding and periodic droughts.

Dominican cuisines are made up of a combination of Spanish, indigenous Taino and African influences. Food there most closely resembles that found in Puerto Rico and Cuba.

The Dominican Republic has the second largest economy in the Caribbean, due to its population of over 10 million individuals. It is an upper middle-income developing nation primarily dependent on agriculture, trade and tourism.

Source WIKIPEDIA

HOME OF THE TRADITIONAL

With a population of over 10 million, the Dominican Republic is a powerhouse of Roman Catholics —95%, to be exact. Santo Domingo, the country's capital and Rondón's hometown, holds 2.25 million people.



Source WORLD ATLAS, EZILON.COM

IZZY GUT

DANCING TO CHICAGO

An insider from El Salvador to an insider of Chicago, Andrea Rivera has adapted to the change of pace while studying dance at Columbia College for the past two years.

BY KYRA SENESE



Photos by LAURA BAQUERO



Parents often push their children to study medicine, law or finance in the United States. But a degree in dance?

Andrea Rivera, 20, moved to Chicago two years ago from El Salvador to attend Columbia College Chicago in pursuit of a dance career. A junior, Rivera is working toward a double major in Arts Entertainment and Media Management as well as Dance.

"I feel like Columbia is the place to study dance," Rivera said. "At home, dance wasn't taken as seriously. People considered it a hobby but not a career."

Although there are dance academies in El Salvador, Rivera said, no schools of-

fer professional dance degrees, which contributes to the belief that dance is merely a hobby and not a profession there.

Rivera attended only French schools in El Salvador, which prompted her father to strongly encourage her to move to the United States to learn English fluently.

As in Chicago, El Salvador has a very high crime rate.

"One of the biggest changes for me when I moved to Chicago was that I had to get used to walking everywhere and taking public transportation," Rivera said. "In my country, we have a lot of violence, and I never walked in public. I always drove because it was unsafe to walk anywhere."

Rivera said she also noticed other differences here: much larger food portions in res-

"It's wrong to assume what someone's personality is just based on where they are from."



taurants and frigid winter winds, which she had never experienced in El Salvador.

The dance classes at Columbia have opened new doors for her. "At home I learned only jazz dance, but here at Columbia I have gotten the chance to learn modern dance, which is something I had never been exposed to before," Rivera said.

Rivera said she did not experience any major difficulties adapting to life in the United States.

"The culture was different to me at first when I got here, but now that it's been two years I am very used to it," Rivera said. "People here are nice, but not quite as friendly and outgoing as people in my country. In El Salvador, everyone is smiling and hugging,

and we always talk to strangers. Even if we don't know you, we will be friendly to you."

She said she has a student visa, which will expire when she graduates in 2016. Because her mother was born in the United States, she will become a resident after her student visa expires.

Rivera misses her family in El Salvador more than anything else. "I don't have them here, but you get used to it over time. My parents both live in El Salvador, but they come to visit me when they can."

She said the most confusing things she has had to adapt to while living in the United States are stereotypes and trying to understand American humor.

"People always think if you're Latina you're supposed to have this 'fire', but that's a stereotype," Rivera said. "It's wrong to assume what someone's personality is just based on where they are from."

She said it is also hard for her to understand American jokes, especially references to popular American television series.

"Aside from the public transportation system, the technology in El Salvador is exactly the same as it is here in Chicago," Rivera said.

Rivera said she loves the cultural diversity in Chicago as well as the relatively open expression of art in the city.

"In Chicago you can dance everywhere," Rivera said. "Art is everywhere—you can see shows everywhere. You can meet people from all countries. It's very diverse." ■

—Design by Nathan Allen



Source DS LANDS.COM

NATHAN ALLEN

5 FACTS ON EL SALVADOR

1. It's the smallest Central American country.
2. The only Central American country without an Atlantic coast line.
3. It has some of the most active volcanoes in the world.
4. It hosts the world surfing competitions
5. Coffee is an important pillar of the economy.

Source 10-FACTS-ABOUT.COM

Don't forget about the food!

Rivera said one of the things she misses most in El Salvador is the beverage called "Ensalada" (Spanish for 'salad') which is made with pineapple juice and finely chopped fruits. The tasty drink is reminiscent of a drinkable fruit salad.



Source 3 BPBLOGSPOT.COM

El Salvador's most notable dish is the *pupusa*, a thick homemade corn flour or rice flour tortilla-like stuffed with cheese. Also very popular is the *chicharrón*, a cooked pork meat ground to a paste consistency. The *loroco* is a vine flower bud native to Central America. The *ayote*, a type of squash, is often prepared with garlic. Some restaurants offer *pupusas* stuffed with shrimp or spinach, which are served with *salsa roja*, a simple yet flavorful Salvadoran cooked tomato sauce. *Pollo Encebollado* is another popular Salvadoran dish, which contains chicken simmered with onions.



Source ELOLOMEGA.COM

**STORY & DESIGN
BY SEAN MCENTEE**

When Alexandros Skouras returned to his hometown, Tripolis, Greece, for the first time in three years, he felt like a tourist. He hadn't been home to visit friends or family, including his parents, since moving to the Chicago area in January 2010.

It's one thing to study abroad for one semester, but not seeing family members other than through Skype for three years would seem odd to most Americans. But for Skouras, 22, moving to Chicago seemed like the right thing to do.

"My family was supportive," Skouras says. "Since my brother was in the States, they were all for it."

Skouras's brother is an American citizen. Both of his parents had come to the United States to get their master's degrees, and his brother was born on American soil. In 2007, Skouras's brother continued the family tradition of studying in the States; he attended Northern Illinois University to get his master's degree in political science.

Skouras moved to Illinois to complete his first two years of study at a community college in DeKalb. Most of his family members started college in the States as grad students.

He had a nearly identical upbringing to that of many American teenagers except that he went to bars with his friends at the age of 16. That's because Greece doesn't have the same age restrictions as the



THE FAMILY TRADITION

Photo courtesy by ALEXANDROS SKOURAS

Alexandros Skouras, graphic design major at Columbia College Chicago, honors his roots by branching out to get an education in the United States.

GREECE, A COUNTRY OF MYTHOLOGY

The city of Tripolis is the capital of the Arcadia region on the Peloponnese peninsula with a population of about 33,000 people. It is vastly different from a metropolitan city like Chicago, and the city is surrounded by mountains and wooded areas.



United States when it comes to drinking alcohol. He was also into skating around his neighborhood with his friends, playing guitar in a band and going to concerts and live shows.

"[We'd] talk about weird things and drink...had the crew, skate around, cause trouble," Skouras says.

Heavily influenced by his brother's taste in music, Skouras was into the New Wave music genre and '80s punk, which helped him through his angst-ridden teenage years. This contrasted with his hometown of Tripolis, which Skouras describes as being surrounded by open fields -- the opposite of Chicago's metropolitan vibe.

He attempted to study at a fine arts college and attended classes about sculpture, but it wasn't his area of interest. Hoping to find better facilities,

instructors and opportunity, Skouras decided to leave his small town, cross the Atlantic, and re-establish himself in the paved metropolis of Chicago.

Meanwhile, Greece slid into bankruptcy, layoffs, record joblessness and strikes during the Great Recession. Skouras says he's pretty lucky he moved when he did.

"When I left, we didn't have the crisis yet. It was just starting to show up," he says. "But now that I see all the things happening, it worked perfectly as far as avoiding trouble. All of my friends going to school there are behind because schools are closing, and people go on strike. I might get a [bachelor's] and a master's and they'll still be getting their first degree in that time."

Skouras wanted to study architecture, but after taking a few classes in a community



college he realized his portfolio wasn't sufficient for the program at the University of Illinois Chicago. After deciding to switch gears and major in graphic design, he enrolled at Columbia College Chicago.

"Graphic design is a big thing right now, and you can do multiple things," he says. "I thought it was a good idea...I've met professors here who also studied architecture and went into graphic design. There's much more opportunity."

His dream job would be to work at a design firm branding products, working with typography and web design. But like most international students, Skouras has to obtain a visa after he earns a bachelor's degree in 2014. He's currently on a student visa, but he's started the process of applying for a green card through his brother. If that doesn't work out, Skouras says he will have to find an employer to sponsor him and essentially pay for his green card so he can continue living and working in the United States.

Having to move back to Tripolis wouldn't be the worst thing in the world, but Skouras says he has made a home in Chicago, so much so that he'd consider taking more classes to buy himself more time here. He lives in the Jefferson Park neighborhood on the Northwest Side. Whether he's navi-

POST-PUNK AND POST-GREECE

Alexandros Skouras is a musician as well as a graphic designer. He plays the guitar and recently started playing the keyboard.

At a young age he found a home in the punk and post-punk genre. Skouras says:

"When I was a teenager it was hardcore punk, I was in that mood. I just wanted to, not be violent, but I wanted to 'run' and harness the intensity. Sometimes I still feel that, sometimes I'm angry, you know. So I just blast the music and it feels great, or I'll just play something really fast on the guitar and get it out over there. My family didn't listen to stuff like that, they were into Greek '60-'70s music, but my brother introduced me to that music, so that was the influence, but I kind of went even further, into the more hardcore punk."

The following are some of Skouras's favorite bands:

1. Joy Division
2. The Cure
3. Iggy Pop
4. The Clash
5. Black Flag

gating the streets of Wicker Park and Logan Square, or peering up at the skyscrapers in Chicago's Loop, Skouras knows this is where he belongs.

"I dream in English now, which is kind of weird. It means it's getting into me."

A LIGIA OF HER OWN

Guatemalan student reflects on her country and its art



BY COLIN PETERSEN

Guatemala has a troubled history. Once a Spanish colony, its independence since has been marred by military coups, American intervention and widespread poverty. The country's art scene remains underdeveloped. Ligia Sandoval's lofty goal is to change that.

"It's starting to exist. But it's mostly amateur stuff," Sandoval said. "People are very ignorant, and they don't appreciate it. There's no formal education. It's only viewed as a hobby."

**Ligia Sandoval
and her boyfriend
Carlos Ramirez**

Her ultimate goal is to be the "pioneer of performing arts in Guatemala," she said, in a study room at Columbia College's library, where she works part time. The 19-year-old is a Musical Theatre and Performing Arts Management double major and takes 18 credits every semester.

The abundance of art in Chicago is one of the reasons she loves living here.

"There's more stuff to do here, and people appreciate what I like. I'm around people I like and like what they're doing, too," she said.

Sandoval speaks English very well, with only a slight hint of an accent. "I went to an American school in Guatemala, so I did

learn English since I was little," she said. "But my first language is Spanish."

Along with her father and brother, she is a graduate of the American School of Guatemala. But Sandoval's family has been in Guatemala since her great-great-grandfather emigrated from Serbia.

"Columbia was the first school that accepted me, and I just wanted to go," Sandoval said. "And I'd been to the city before."

She first came to Chicago while on a trip to see her brother, who's an engineering student at Purdue University in Indiana.

Sandoval didn't have trouble adjusting to American culture but missing her family was difficult.



Lake Atitlán, a volcanic lake in the Guatemalan highlands.

THE FASTEST GROWING COUNTRY IN THE WEST



"I'm very close with the rest of my family: the stereotypical Latin American family. I know all of my second, my third cousins," she said. "Sunday is family day, so we go to my grandma's, or my other grandma's. So I miss that a lot."

Columbia is not the first college she attended. After telling her parents she planned to go to school to study musical theatre, her mother, an engineer, and her father, an economist, wanted her to try something else, so she studied political science for a semester.

"[It was] interesting. It's just not what I wanted to do with my life," Sandoval said. "When I was in political science, I was angry all the time. I need to do something that makes me happy."

"I think the biggest issue right now is violence and security issues. Because a lot of the drug war has been coming down from Mexico and we have a lot of drug violence going on right now. And there is a lot of corruption," she said.

Sandoval said she is disap-

pointed with the current situation in Guatemala.

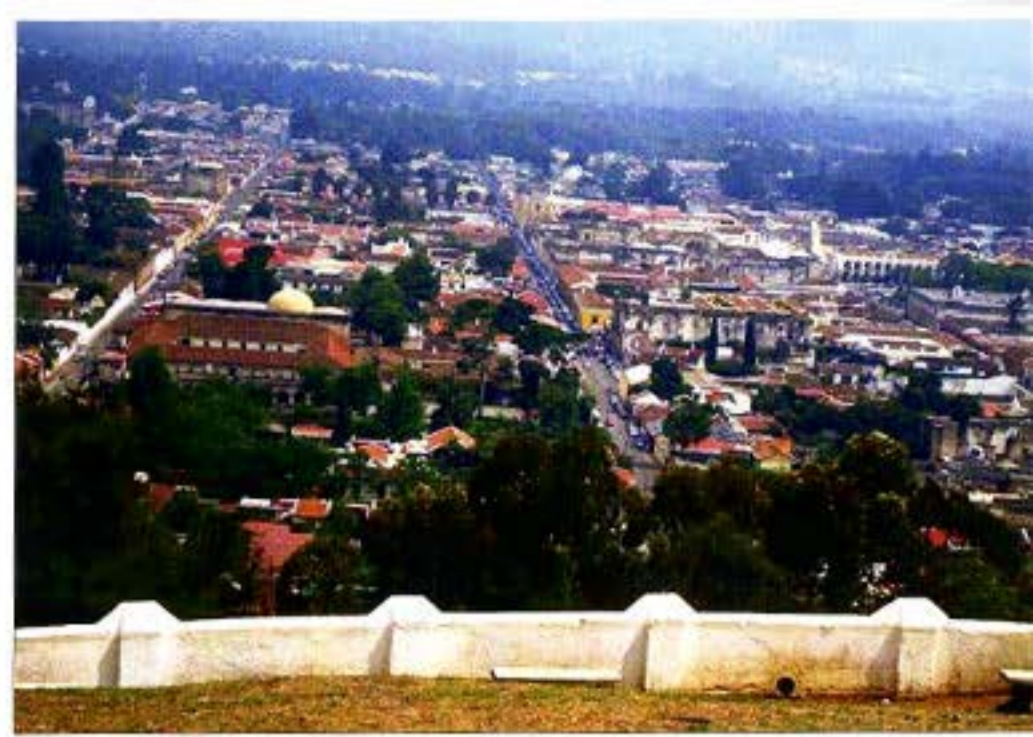
"If they don't change it, then it's going to go completely downhill. I don't know how it's going to be solved. A lot of people have lost hope in this country."

In ten years, if the situation is still stagnant, she plans to finish her dream.

"If I have the possibility to go out and learn and to bring back that knowledge, while doing what I like and what I want, then I should do it. I want to direct it to something greater."

But Sandoval said she finds lots to admire in Guatemala. "Another thing I really miss are the beautiful diversity of landscapes, from black sand beaches and white sand beaches, to rainforests, mountains, lakes, volcanoes, that my country has and how I miss having everything so close by. Also, we are characterized by being rich in culture and warm, welcoming people. I think that is why people keep coming back despite the countless number of problems the country has."

"I think the biggest issue is violence and security issues. Because a lot of the drug war has been coming down from Mexico and we have a lot of drug violence going on right now. And there is a lot of corruption"



GUATEMALAN FOOD: A PRIMER

Because of a common Spanish ancestry and similar ingredients, Guatemalan cuisine is similar to Latin America's most popular ethnic cuisine.

However, there are a few key differences. Because Guatemala is 40% indigenous, a higher percentage than the rest of the mostly *Mestizo* (mixed) Latin America, old Mayan recipes remain staples for most families.

The country's favorable climate allows it to grow everything from corn to sugarcane to bananas, all ingredients incorporated into popular dishes. They include tamales wrapped in plantain leaves (unlike Mexican tamales, which are mostly packaged in corn husks), fried plantains, and a variety of stews that include seafood and chicken as their main ingredients.

There are other dishes traditionally served on holidays. Those include *Fiambre*, a cold salad of assorted pickled vegetables and various squash dishes on All Saints Day and *Día de los Muertos*. Popular desserts originate from Spain, *Tres Leches Cake* the most popular dessert dish. The country's national drink is *limonada con soda*, lemonade with soda water and the most popular beer is *Gallo*, found across the country.

Restaurants serving Guatemalan food in Chicago include *El Tinajón* in Irving Park and *Restaurante Buen Sabor* in Lincoln Square.



Photos by LIGIA SANDOVAL

Clockwise, from top. Life in Antigua, Guatemala: a birds eye view of the city, incense burning, and a street procession.

GETTING THERE

Japanese international student **Mitsuki Tatebe** talks about leaving home, the 'social gap' and where he plans to travel next.

BY JENAY WRIGHT



Most Americans are used to sitting down to big meals when they go out to a restaurant. But Mitsuki Tatebe, who moved here from Japan, said he was stunned the first time he ate dinner with his college roommates.

Then a freshman at Columbia College, Tatebe joined his roommates in a meal at Bar Louie, across the street from his dormitory, Plymouth Court.

It was \$1 burger night and Tatebe ordered a hamburger, one of America's favorite foods. When the server brought the burger, Tatebe said he was shocked by its size.

He recalls that his first thought was, "How am I going to finish this thing?" Tatebe's roommates had to help him eat the monster burger.



"This continued whenever we went to eat out. My body needed some time to digest and adapt to the amount of food on the plate," Tatebe said.

Now 20, Tatebe came to America when he was 18 as a freshman majoring in Audio Arts & Acoustics. He was born in Kobe, Japan, where he attended the Marist Brothers International School. Having studied English in school, he decided he wanted to travel and attend college overseas, which led him to consider coming to Columbia College Chicago.

Tatebe's parents supported his decision to travel to the



HOMETOWN HISTORY: KOBE, JAPAN

Kobe is the capital of Hyogo Prefecture and one of Japan's ten largest cities. Kobe is located between the sea and the Rokko mountain range. It has been a port city for many centuries. Kobe's harbor was one of the first to be opened to foreign trade in the 19th century along with the ports of Yokohama, Nagasaki, Hakodate and Niigata. In 1995, Kobe was hit by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, which killed over 5,000 people and demolished tens of thousands of buildings. Kobe today is rebuilt and reconstructed.

U.S. because they wanted him to explore the world and learn different values and perspectives. They sent him to an international school so that he could learn about the world beyond Japan, he said.

He recalls that he did not experience culture shock when moving here because in his hometown people celebrated American traditions such as Christmas. He did encounter what he called a "social gap" when moving from his country to the United States.

"Bonding with Japanese people and then bonding with American people — there's a difference," said Tatebe.

Tatebe said his journey here has been "full of surprising things and events." Chicago's transit system was very unfamiliar to him, as well as the way people spoke English.

He is on an F1 visa, which will expire when he graduates in 2015.

JAPAN: "LAND OF THE RISING SUN"

Japan is a country of rich culture that upholds tradition. Despite being slightly bigger than Germany and smaller than California, Japan still stands as the world's tenth largest country.



Source FREEWORLDMAPS.NET, GLOBAL SHERPA.ORG

JESSIE SARDINA



Tatebe plays basketball for his high school team and the drums for his band back home in Kobe.

"My body needed time to digest and adapt to the amount of food on the plate"

—MITSUKI TATEBE, on American eating habits

While sipping on a beverage from Starbucks, Tatebe said he wants to work in Chicago in an area related to his major, in audio, recording or perhaps a film studio. He also plays the guitar.

Tatebe found his first two years of college fairly easy.

"But when you go deep down into the major, it gets complex

and complicated," he said.

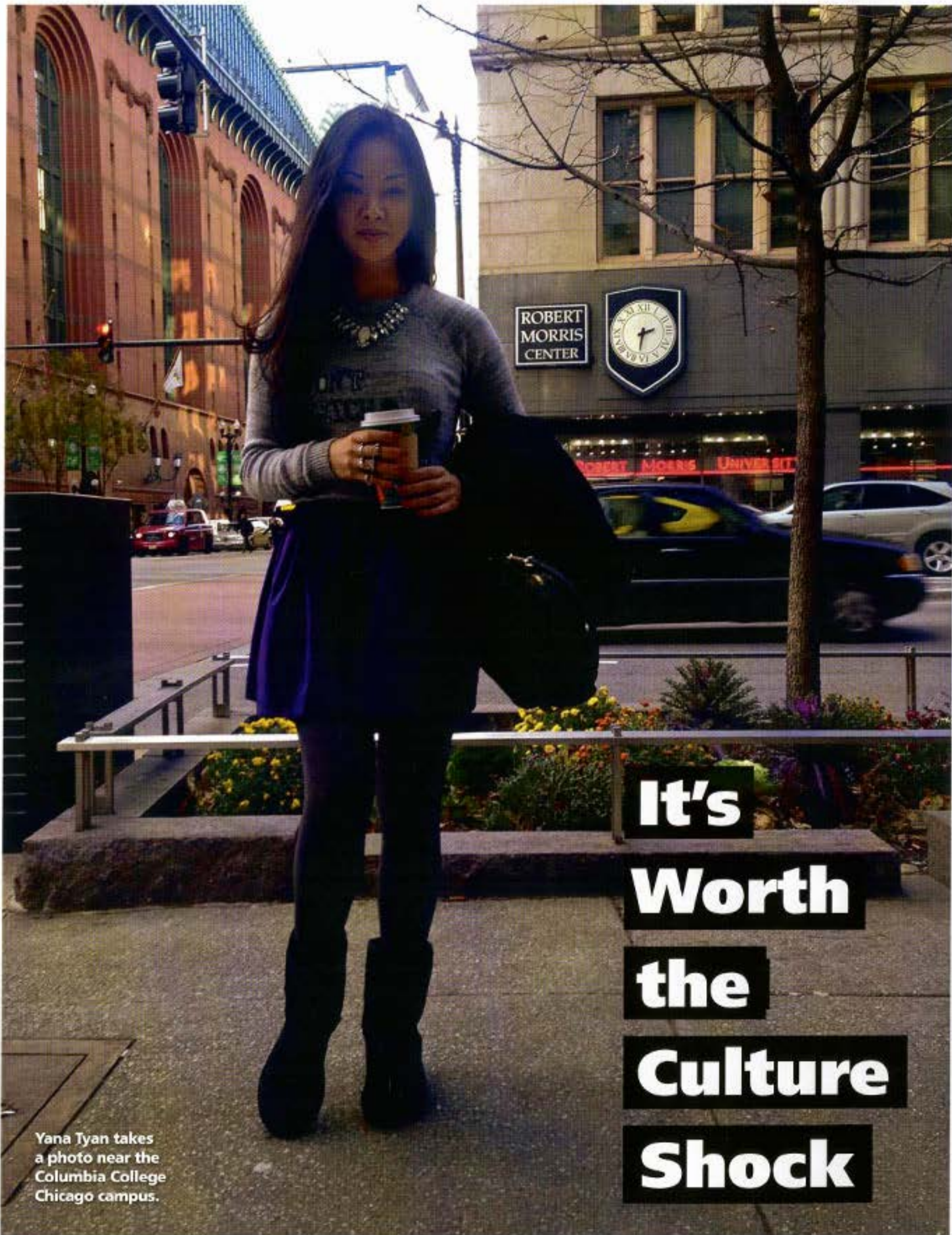
Whenever he has had difficulty adjusting to life here or has had questions, he has gotten help from Gigi Posejpal, director of International Student Affairs (ISA). "It's like a family environment," said Tatebe.

Tatebe says he misses the food back home, especially curry.

He uses social media to stay connected with his friends in Japan, and some have traveled here as well.

In the future Tatebe wants to visit other parts of the world, such as Europe, with his friends.

"If you just work your way through something, you will get there," said Tatebe.



**It's
Worth
the
Culture
Shock**

Yana Tyan takes a photo near the Columbia College Chicago campus.

Yana Tyan chose Columbia College to develop her creative expression in advertising art direction and plans to take what she learns back to her home in Kazakhstan.

BY FEDAA ODEH

New to the United States and finding herself confronted with confusion at every turn, Yana Tyan, 20, was roaming the halls of her college dormitory looking for the office manager.

A friendly young man offered to help her. He guided Tyan to the front office, made sure she received the information she needed and then was on his way.

Tyan says it's only one example of the friendliness she finds so characteristic among many Americans.

"Everyone is so kind and friendly here," she said. "They will go out of their way to help you."

Tyan made her way to the U.S. for the first time from her native country, Kazakhstan, in 2011.

Raised in Kazakhstan, she was originally from Korea. Before arriving in the States, she was quickly granted a two-year student visa.

After the Boston marathon bombing in 2013, however, she found it very difficult to re-

new it. Two of the young men charged in the bombing were from Kazakhstan.

"The majority of people [in Kazakhstan] prefer to leave the country for education after graduating from high school," Tyan said. "I really love the curriculum here; the credit system is more convenient."

She began attending college as an international business major at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va.

Seeking a program that would allow her to be more creative, Tyan transferred to Columbia College Chicago, where she is majoring in advertising art direction.

"It's what I've always loved to do," she said.

Although Tyan felt she was prepared for life in the U.S. by reading books and catching up on the latest American movies, she still faced serious "culture shock" upon moving here.

"Everything is so different," Tyan said. "For example, holidays: We don't really make Christmas that big of a deal. We just go to church on Christmas without a gift exchange or anything. New Year's Eve is what we really celebrate

in Kazakhstan."

When asked about food in the States, Tyan said she would

prefer to cook at home.

"I love to cook! I cook Kazakh, Russian and Korean dishes," Tyan said with pride.

She feels increasingly at home in Chicago but says she continues to long for her homeland. "After I graduate, I want to go back to Kazakhstan. I just want to develop this advertising system I'm learning here, but in Kazakhstan."

Meanwhile, she struggles to adjust to the American lifestyle without her family or friends. "Every weekend when students nearby go home, I get so jealous," Tyan said. "But I am getting used to it. I'm looking forward to going home in the winter."

DID YOU KNOW?

- Kazakhstan is the ninth biggest country in the world. More than 1 million square miles, it is larger than Western Europe in land area.

- It is the world's largest landlocked nation.

- It was once part of the Soviet Union, and that's why the official state language is Russian.

- In 1991, it became independent from the former Soviet Union.

NINTH LARGEST COUNTRY ON THE PLANET

Sandwiched at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, Kazakhstan is the 9th largest country on the planet, and (at one time) was the second largest republic in the former Soviet Union.



Source: WORLDATLAS.COM

Kpop, or Korean pop music, is growing in popularity, as more Americans follow it on YouTube and go to concerts by South Korean bands.

Penelope Kang, who is from South Korea, says she is studying music at Columbia College so she can launch a career in music and change the music scene in her home country. She also dreams of starting her very own record label and creating more opportunities for Korean musicians beyond K-pop.

"I want other people to know that there are other types of genres, such as jazz. I really love jazz music," said Kang. "I believe jazz is one of the most historic genres throughout the world."

Kang, 18, was born in Seoul, but she lived for two years in America and went to an elementary school here while her father attended college. Transitioning from Seoul to the United States has been easy for her.

Kang said she finds the United States very progressive compared to life in South Korea.

"Seoul is very conservative. Everything is basically black and white and old-fashioned," said Kang. "The fathers go to work and the mothers stay at home — very different from America."

Kang wanted a career in music; however, her parents have not been entirely supportive, she said. The music business in South Korea is very competitive, and it is often difficult to find a job there.

In Seoul, there are not many colleges to choose from, so people fight to get into the best university, said Kang.

"Because it is difficult to get

into [a university], once you're in, you don't hesitate," said Kang.

Kang said she enjoys meeting people and friends from different majors at Columbia College. The classes at Columbia help everyone get acquainted, said Kang.

"In Korea, people can't choose what college they want to go to," said Kang. "I was happy to know that here in America, I can choose what classes I want to take and not be forced."

The Korean education system is set up for students to take the same classes until they graduate from high school, preparing them for college, she said.

"My parents began to cut me down when I said I wanted

a career in music," Kang said. "They weren't aware of my talents and didn't really care to find out. When it comes to art, sports, music or basically any kind of artistic type of thing, Korean parents instantly say 'no.' That's how conservative Korea is, and it's really sad."

Kang's grandmother, a piano teacher, encouraged her to become a singer-songwriter.

"My grandmother loved playing the piano, but then she had my mother, so she had to take care of her children and make sure the household was OK," said Kang.

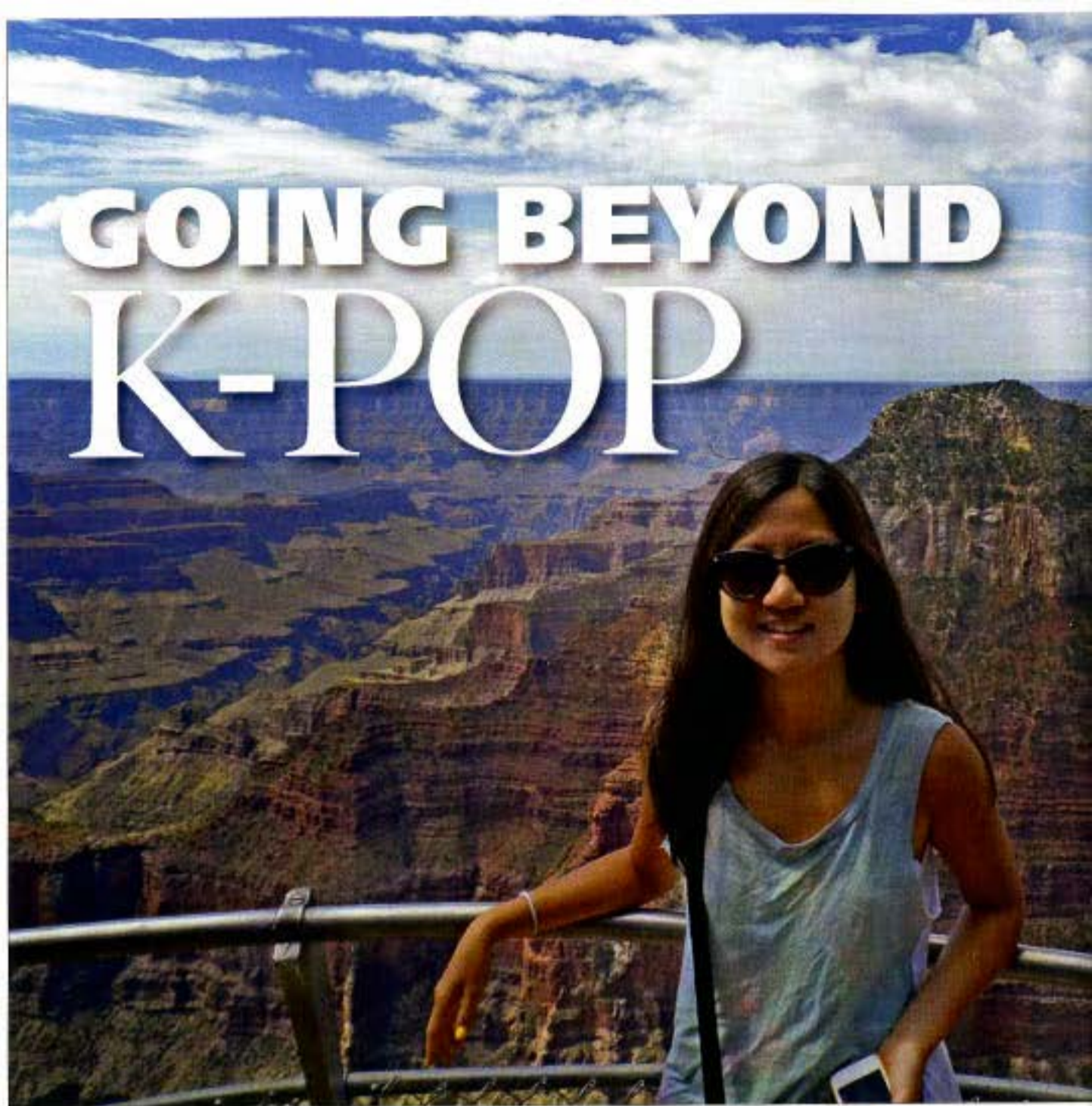
Many Korean women today still fight for their independence. In Korea, parents don't allow their children to date in high school because they be-

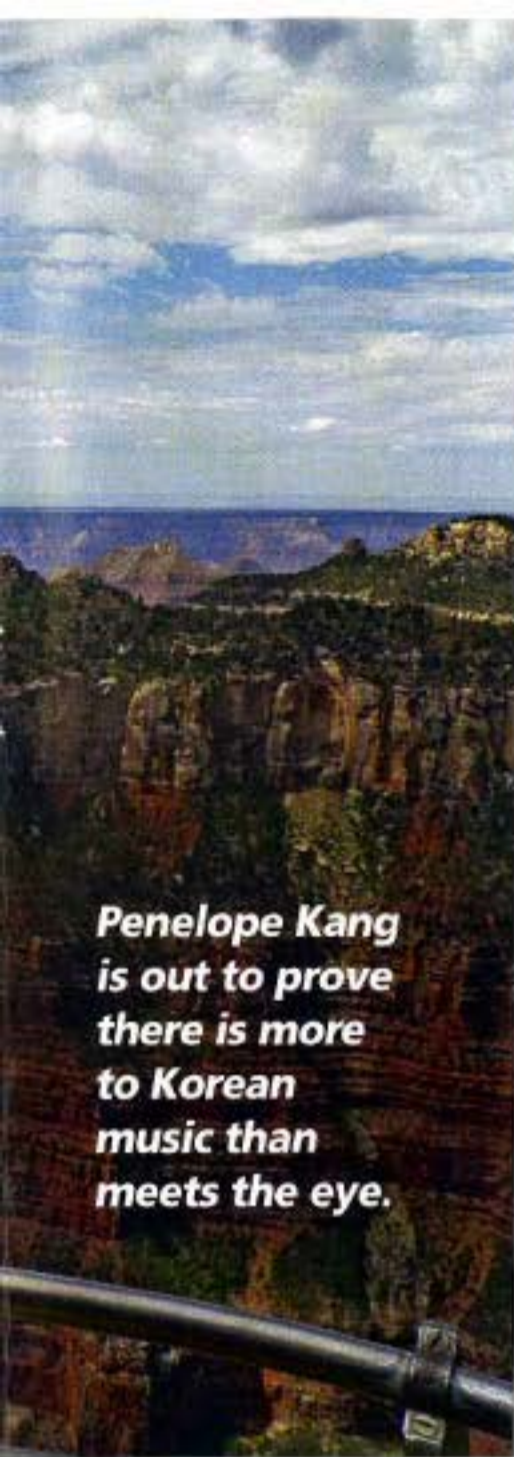
lieve they will spend too much time focusing on dating rather than studying. Parents want their children to get into college or university first before they start dating anyone.

"My mom sort of knew I had a boyfriend in high school. She would say, 'I know you have a boyfriend, I can tell.' I would say 'no I don't' and she would say, 'yes you do,'" said Kang.

Kang attended an all-girls high school for two years because her mother also went to a school for girls only.

"I would never regret attending an all-girls school because it was amazing, but the reason why my mother sent me there was wrong, now that I think about it," Kang said. "I had the girls-only moment and





Penelope Kang is out to prove there is more to Korean music than meets the eye.

mom, in fact, graduated from an all-girls high school, so she wanted me to have the same experience."

Kang finds American men to be respectful toward women. "American guys have a more ladies first approach, whereas in my country, my friends wouldn't even hold the door for me," said Kang.

Dating in America and in Korea is very similar, said Kang. The man always takes the woman out for dinner, a movie and perhaps a drink afterward.

Kang said she spends her spare time making some of her country's favorite dishes.

"Food is what I miss about my country," said Kang. "The food in America is very greasy, and it's not really healthy."



Source WORLD ATLAS

Seoul is the capital and largest metropolis of South Korea. Its population density is about 44,776 people per square mile.

KAYLA UNNERSTALL

SEOUL, THE BIRTHPLACE OF K-POP

Seoul is considered a mega city, with a population of more than 10 million. It has the largest area of any city in the world, covering 233.7 square miles.

Situated on the Han River, Seoul was established more than 2,000 years ago when it was founded in 18 B.C. It continued as the capital of Korea under Joseon Dynasty and the Korean Empire. Seoul is surrounded by mountains, the tallest being Mt. Bukhan, the world's most visited national park per square foot.

The birthplace of K-pop and the Korean Wave, Seoul was voted most desired travel destination by Chinese, Japanese and Thai tourists in 2009, 2010 and 2011. It drew over 10 million international visitors in 2012.



Kang (above) visits California for the first time. Her favorite stops were Disneyland (right) and the Golden Gate Bridge (below.)



Photos courtesy PENELOPE KANG



THE TOUR MANAGER

An international Columbia College student from Singapore, Adel Rashid takes on the Chicago music scene.

STORY & DESIGN BY EMMA KLUG

The sound of the guitar amplifies and a wave of harmonies crash in as the song "A Bad Corpse" begins.

This is "I Am David Sparkle," the five-piece melodic post-rock band from Singapore.

"I guess fate led me to Chicago somehow," said Adel Rashid, the new guitar player for "I Am David Sparkle," and student at Columbia College Chicago. Sun beamed in through the window as he sipped from the warm coffee creation in his hands and then laughed, "The weather has been kind to me so far."

Rashid is one of the many international students who goes to Columbia College Chicago. Coming all the way from Singapore, the 23-year-old music business major chose to move to Chicago after visiting a booth for Columbia at the Pitchfork music festival in 2010.

Due to the culture of Singapore, which is heavily influenced by the Western way of life, and having already visited the U.S. and Chicago, while on tour with his last band, "Amateur Takes Control," Rashid had an idea of what to expect when moving to the city. However, what he didn't anticipate were the struggles that come with being an international student.

"It was hard leaving

Singapore because I've been there pretty much my whole life," said Rashid. "I'm close to my family so that was a bit tough. It was tough leaving my friends and my bands. It's just a different way of life. It feels like you're starting from scratch."

After a grueling process that consisted of an intense questionnaire, in-person interview and weeks of pending paperwork, Rashid was finally able to enter the U.S. with a student visa. He moved to Chicago, having only a few connections in the city, but otherwise was completely alone and stayed on the couches of acquaintances until he found an apartment.

It wasn't until he began to immerse himself in his school

work and making friends in the local music scene that he began to feel connected to the city. He cites "My Dad," "Russian Circles," "Pelican" and "Tortoise," as some of his favorite local bands and has been to shows at The Bottom Lounge, Subterranean and Lincoln Hall.

"All the venues I've been to have been great," said Rashid. "The sound has been awesome, the bands I've watched have been awesome."

Despite finding a community to join in Chicago, Rashid still does miss home, specifically the warm weather and his mom's cooking.

"Oh man, I miss the food. I'm trying to survive cooking my own Asian food here," said



I AM DAVID SPARKLE

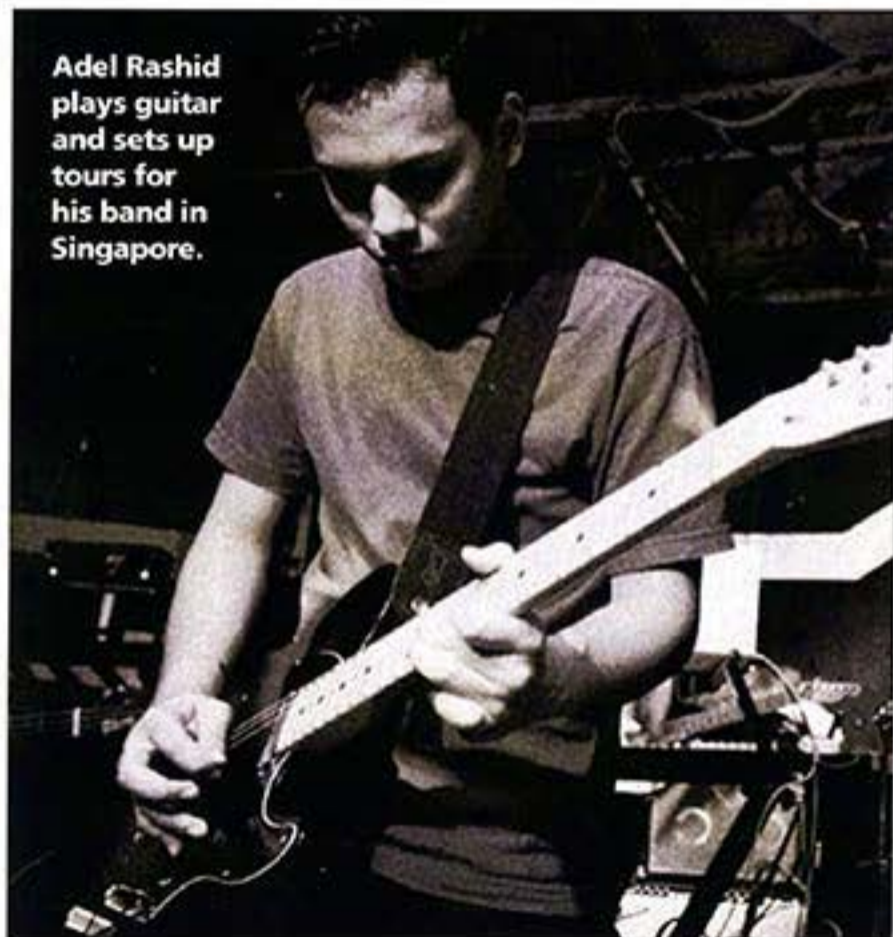
It is a five-piece instrumental post-rock band from Singapore. The band formed in 2001 and has since gained a large fan base locally as well as touring in different parts of the U.S. and Southeast Asia. The band is currently signed to KittyWu Records, a Singapore-based record label, and



released its second full length album entitled "Swords," in 2010. Members

recently welcomed Adel Rashid to the band as a guitarist and are working on recording new material.

Courtesy I AM DAVID SPARKLE BANDCAMP



Adel Rashid plays guitar and sets up tours for his band in Singapore.

"The reason why I'm here is I want bands from Singapore touring the U.S. because that's where every band should try out the U.S. to see if they can make it or not," said Rashid. "I know bands in Singapore that are really awesome but there aren't many opportunities for them to show that they're good. In a small country like Singapore there's only so many shows you can play plus there's a limit to how big you can get because

the market is very small."

However, until then, Rashid is open to whatever opportunities he may find. He plans to take the Optional Practical Training, which is offered with his student visa, and stay in the country for another year so long as he's working with a company.

"If a good opportunity comes, and it's worth it, I'll definitely take it," said Rashid. "I want to be wherever the music takes me."

SINGAPORE: THE CITY, THE STATE & THE COUNTRY

Comprised of 63 islands, Singapore is the only sovereign city-state island country in the world. With a population of about 5 million, Singapore is roughly 274 sq miles and only slightly smaller than New York City.



Source MAPSOPWORLD.COM

EMMA KLUG

Rashid. "I love spicy food and Singapore is very multicultural so there's a ton of food that you can eat."

However, while he does desire to eat authentic Singapore food, Rashid said he does enjoy Chicago food, specifically deep dish pizza.

"I could eat it everyday if I could afford it," said Rashid while laughing. "I guess Gino's

East is my favorite pizza place."

As for now, the long term goal for Rashid is to return home and apply the skills and network he's established while at Columbia College Chicago to the music scene in Singapore. He said he would like to have his own booth at Pitchfork music festival to promote Singapore bands, just as he learned about Columbia before he moved to Chicago.

BY ERICA GARBER

Maxim Chubin says he has always hated cities. Now he finds himself in a city of 3 million people.

When growing up in Spain, Chubin, 18, said he enjoyed the outdoors. But he found Columbia College when he did an online search for film schools in the United States.

In August he moved from Valencia, the third largest city in Spain, and says he is extremely happy he decided to live here. His career goal is to become a film director.

"I consider Chicago my new home," he said. "I used to hate cities, but I keep falling in love with Chicago."

Chubin said after his first month here, he realized Columbia College was a great fit for him because people are friendly and the city welcomes families.

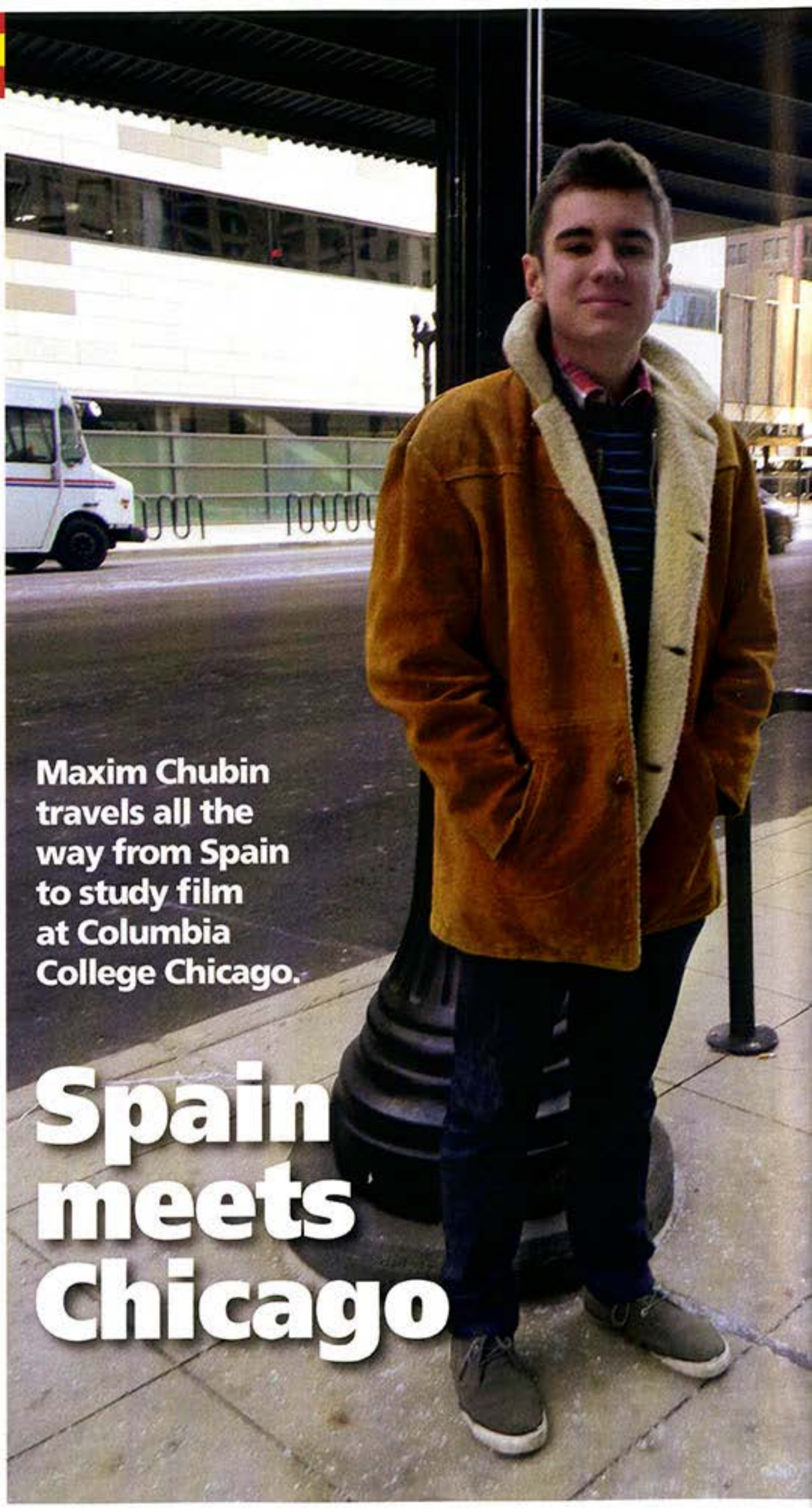
"I consider Chicago my new home... I used to hate cities, but I keep falling in love with Chicago."

But he found that Chicagoans think differently than Spaniards. His countrymen are patriotic, he said, but not like Americans.

And as much as he likes Chicago, there are things he misses back home. Chubin said he misses his dogs, especially because one of them is older and he is worried about returning home and not seeing her there.

Maxim Chubin travels all the way from Spain to study film at Columbia College Chicago.

Spain meets Chicago



He also misses Spanish food. "In Spain the food is healthy but delicious while in the United States I know it isn't the best for me," he said. Laughing, he added, "I eat pizza everyday!"

He's eaten in only two Spanish restaurants in Chicago. "I didn't actually meet anyone from Spain at them," he recalled. "There are a lot of ethnic communities here, but there isn't one for Spain since there wasn't a large immigration to the United States."

Chubin also said he misses the nightlife in Spain, where he was able to go to different nightclubs with ease or mingle outside with friends. The under-21 crowd here tends to socialize more in people's homes, Chubin said.

It was easy to leave his family back in Spain because he had attended a boarding school there.

During his first month at Columbia, he felt isolated -like living in a bubble -- because so many people advised him to avoid certain neighborhoods, not to walk outside at night and to be careful because of the crime in Chicago. But Chubin quickly adjusted.

Although he has been unable to find a piece of Spain in Chicago, Chubin says he is still following his dreams of becoming a director. He believes the film industry is strong here and offers a lot of opportunity. In Spain, by comparison, it is very hard to rise above all the other aspiring directors, and there are limited resources.

Chubin plans to gain experi-

ence shooting and directing films while at Columbia but after graduation, he doesn't

want to live in Chicago for long. He said he would like to stay here for a few years but then wants to travel the world and direct his own films.

"When I think of making films, I think of making films that not only entertain viewers but also make change and leave a mark on someone," Chubin said.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Valencia means "strength" or "valor" in English.
- It is the third largest city in Spain after Madrid and Barcelona.
- Valencia has the largest container port in the Mediterranean Sea and 5th busiest in Europe.
- The city was founded in 138 B.C. as a Roman colony.
- It is the birthplace of paella, a traditional Spanish dish.
- It has over 1,700 restaurants, 42 museums, 13 art galleries, 17 cinemas and 12 theaters.

SPAIN HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN RANGES IN EUROPE

Spain covers a total of 194,896 square miles (nationsencyclopedia.com) and has 3,084 miles of coastline. Spain has the highest mountain range in Europe after Switzerland. It is extremely diverse, ranging from the near-deserts of Almeria to the green countryside of the north and the white sandy beaches of the Mediterranean.



Source THINKSPAIN.COM

MARTINIQUE PATES

Maxim Chubin, 18, a film major at Columbia College, plans to follow his dreams of someday becoming a director.

PHOTO BY MARTINIQUE PATES

Going to school in America's murder capital is a breeze for one student who hails from Latin America's murder capital.

From one murder capit

BY KATHERINE DAVIS

Chicago has earned the unfortunate nickname "Murder Capital of the U.S.," but Camila Rivero says it's actually safer here than where she hails from — Caracas, Venezuela.

Rivero, 18, moved to Chicago in August 2013 to pursue a degree in marketing and communications at Columbia College Chicago. She said her favorite thing about living in the United States is something most Americans take for granted—walking safely down the street.

Rivero grew up in Caracas, which is the capital. It's a big city with more than 2 million people, but it is actually more

dangerous than Chicago.

"Caracas is the first, most dangerous city in the whole world," Rivero said. "In my country, they kill you. So I know how to take care of myself."

Although Rivero considers Venezuela her home, she was actually born in Lima, Peru, and moved to Caracas at the age of 5 when her father changed jobs.

"[Venezuela] is actually pretty awesome," Rivero said. "The people are very friendly because of the tropical weather."

Venezuela doesn't have seasons, and it's warm there throughout the year, which made it especially difficult for her to adapt to Chicago's cold climate, she said.

"I hate the wind," Rivero said. "I'm getting used to it, but at the

beginning it was kind of hard because I'm used to beaches and tropical weather."

Rivero said the school system in Venezuela is different than in the U.S. because the public schools there are only for people on the lower end of the socio-economic scale. She said she attended a private girls school, which included grades K-12; there were only 40 people in her grade.

"I spent 13 years of my life in the same school," Rivero said. "I liked it, but [going to school] with girls for 13 years, it's not easy. If you're mad at one, everybody knows."

She said learning English is a requirement in all private schools in Venezuela. Although she wasn't fluent, understanding some English helped a lot when she moved to the U.S. She added that she had visited the U.S. many times before she moved here, but didn't get an accurate sense of the country until she started living in Chicago.

"I was here just for vacations," Rivero said. "But my dad always wanted me to study abroad to practice my English and to speak two languages perfectly."

She thought she would encounter only overweight people here, since the U.S. is considered the most obese country in the world.

"I expected to see very fat people all around me and a lot of junk food," Rivero said. "But here in Chicago, I actually haven't seen that many fat people."

Rivero said the only thing she was afraid of when coming to the U.S. was not finding a close

group of friends. However, she has made many friends among international students who are also trying to adjust.

"We like trying to get to know the city all together," Rivero said. "If we get lost, we get lost together. It's fun."

She said her closest friends are from Colombia and Peru, and they all keep Latin culture alive by speaking Spanish with each other.

Rivero said she chose to study at Columbia because she likes the city vibe and she wanted to attend a liberal arts college.

"I wanted to live in the city. I didn't want to go to Iowa or something like that," Rivero said. "The city is kind of artistic, and I like that. I liked the program a lot and that is why I'm at [Columbia]."

Rivero said when she was traveling to Chicago from Venezuela, she had a layover in Miami and almost

missed her connecting flight because airport security officials were treating her like a suspect.

"They see that you're not American and ask you a

lot of questions," Rivero said. "I hate it because they think that because we're Latin, we deal drugs."

Rivero said this was the only incident in which she was treated unfairly and that everyone has been welcoming at Columbia. She said the only thing she misses about Venezuela is home-made food.

Although Rivero has gone through an immense amount of change and has had to adapt to a vastly different climate and culture, she said she has never been happier.

"I never thought that I would like it this much, but for the first time, I feel comfortable," she said.

"In my country, they kill you. So I know how to take care of myself."

HIGHEST MURDER RATE IN LATIN AMERICA

Venezuela has the highest murder rate in the world. Its capital, Caracas, ranks sixth highest in the world for murders. In 2013, 24,763 people were killed in the country. Chicago ranks highest in the United States for murder but doesn't rank worldwide for murders.



SOURCE <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/>

ASHLY RICHARDSON



al to the next

CHICAGO VS. VENEZUELA

- Chicago's population is 2.7 million people.
- Venezuela's population is nearly 30 million people.
- In 2013, 421 homicides were recorded in Chicago. It went down from 509 in 2012.
- Venezuela had 24,763 homicides in 2013 and 19,336 in 2012.
- As of May 7, 2014, Chicago has recorded 106 murders.
- Venezuela has about 73 murders per every 100,000 people.
- Chicago has 34 murders per every 100,000 people.

SOURCE Dnainfo.com,
Observatorio Venezolano de Violencia

BIG CITY BIG OPPORV

Life in the city is hardly challenging for Quan Vu

BY SAMANTHA MACK

Quan Vu had never before seen snow when he arrived in Chicago in 2009 to study game design at Columbia College.

Growing up in a middle class family in Vietnam, Vu came to the United States through a scholarship program. He started



studying interior design but soon realized he wasn't really interested in architecture, so he switched to gaming.

He enjoys exploring Chicago and says his favorite pastime is visiting the museums; the Museum of Science and Industry is his No. 1 choice. He also enjoys spending time with friends at the lakefront during the warmer months. Also, Chicago's nightlife has won him over, particularly Greek Town.

"Chicagoans are always on the run," said Vu.

Adjusting to life in Chicago was not hard for Vu, but he spent a lot of time trying to understand the American fascination with spectator sports such as basketball, football and hockey.

Winter here was tough for him at first. "The biggest difference for me was winter. Not anymore since I'm used to it. I survived, and it was my first snow experience," said Vu.

Vu is here on an F1 visa, which allows him to stay in the



Vu with his mother and father in San Francisco, Calif.

VIETNAMESE FOOD, A MIXTURE OF FLAVORS

Vietnamese cooking incorporates a mix of fresh, healthy ingredients, with spices and herbs. It also incorporates a lot of fresh vegetables and seafood. Com Tam or "broken rice" is a popular breakfast dish in Vietnam. It is usually served with grilled pork of some kind. It also has different vegetables, many pickled items, a prawn cake of somekind, and prawns or shrimp. Com Tam is a mixture of multiple food items and an array of different flavors. This type of cooking is popular in Vietnam.

UNITY

CAPITAL OF VIETNAM SMALLER THAN OTHER VIETNAMESE CITIES IN POPULATION

There are over 88 million people living in Vietnam. Hanoi is the capital but Ho Chi Minh City has the largest population of any of the cities in Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh City has almost 3.5 million people living there.



Source GLITTERNIGHT.COM

AMANDA CRAWFORD

United States as long as he goes to school. He cannot work off campus except on internships.

After finishing school, Vu can participate in one year of optional practical training, which is known as OPT. This will allow him to be hired by a company, or he can freelance.

He hopes to be sponsored by a company for a green card after he graduates. But he says the job market is competitive, and getting a company's sponsorship will be a challenge.

Asked about home and the things he misses, Vu responded like many other college students: He longs for the food at home and his parents.

"In Vietnam, our cuisine is a mix of French and Southeast Asian. Vietnamese pho (beef noodles) and banh mi (a type of baguette) are among the world's top food," said Vu.

Vu visits his parents every summer and talks to them

online while he is in school. He expressed sympathy for those who travel to the United States without documents.

"Personally, I understand why people do it, but it is very risky. No way I could do it," he said. "Everyone strives for happiness, and they will do anything to get it for their families. Lots of people are willing to risk their lives knowing that they might be making below minimum wage in the U.S. while working undocumented, but in most cases this is better than staying in their own countries."

Vu says he admires Americans' readiness to try new things.

"Americans are a diverse group of people, very friendly and very accepting," he said. "It is a melting pot here. It is kind of in the root of Americans to like different stuff around the world since they have been brought up with it."

—Design by Amanda Crawford

"Chicagoans are always on the run"




Com Tam is a popular Vietnamese breakfast dish

The Vietnamese fought French rule in the First Indochina War, expelling the French in 1954. Vietnam was then divided politically into two rival states, North and South Vietnam.

Conflict between the two sides intensified, with heavy U.S. intervention during the Vietnam War. As many as 3.1 million Vietnamese died during the conflict; more than 58,000 Americans were killed. The war ended with a North Vietnamese victory in 1975.

Vietnam was then unified under a Communist government but remained impoverished and politically isolated. In 1986, the government initiated a series of economic and political reforms, which began Vietnam's path toward integration into the world economy.

By 2000, it had established diplomatic relations with most nations. Since that year, Vietnam's economic growth rate has been among the highest in the world.



CREATE
YOUR
CAREER

Columbia College Chicago offers more than 100 programs taught by accomplished, award-winning faculty. At Columbia, students learn to transform their passions into successful careers as part of the world's next generation of artists and innovators.

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Live What You Love.
colum.edu