

Undergraduate Spotlight

• **Chie (Chee-ay) Wach** (Kindergarten and Children's School Library)

As a Freshman last year, I was continually charmed and intrigued by the students of the Children's School each time I saw them on the playground, in front of Margaret Morrison, or holding hands in a long, cheery line around campus. Their innocent, sometimes rambunctious presence was a breath of relief in an otherwise stressful campus. While working directly with them this semester, I have been even more delighted with their energy, vivacious personalities, and remarkable abilities that impress me every day. During the few hours that I spend with them each week, I have been privy to charged debates on how to spell 'kangaroo', daring innovation in contemporary animal portraits, and the most enthusiastic dance parties I've ever witnessed, on or off campus.



As a Creative Writing and Physics double major, I enjoy balancing very different interests, but my experience at the Children's School is one of my most important experiences here. Upon entering this job, I expected a fun opportunity to play with a bunch of cute kids; I was met with an advanced environment that vastly exceeded my expectations. The teachers take advantage of every situation to make each the best possible experience for the children, and the result is a remarkably intelligent, affectionate, fun-filled classroom. It is an essential faction of my experience as a Carnegie Mellon student, and I look forward to many more semesters learning with and from these friends.

Early Childhood Practicum Students

From January 23rd through February 3rd, we will host two early childhood practicum students from Duksung Women's University (Seoul, South Korea) for an International Practicum Program. The Campus School at Carlow University, the Falk School at the University of Pittsburgh, and the University Child Development Center will each also host students also, with the total group including 7 undergraduates. We look forward to learning more about the initiatives our South Korean colleagues are leading in early childhood and in reflecting with them about the cross-cultural similarities and differences in our values and approaches related to educating young children.



Undergraduate Na Hyun Lee (left) will work with the Preschool 4's Team, and Undergraduate Ree A (Leah) Ju (right) will work with the Kindergarten. Na Hyun was last year's President of the Student Council and has volunteer experience as a tutor for children of North Korean defectors in Seoul. Leah went to school in the US during 8 years before college, and she is now the Student Body President for the Early Childhood Department at Duksung. We look forward to our children learning from these pre-service teachers from South Korea!

Thanks to the Mingo family (Atticus, K) for offering housing to these visiting students. If you are interested in helping with other aspects of hosting (e.g., welcome bags, meals, etc.), please contact Dr. Carver at sc0e@andrew.cmu.edu to discuss options.