

OUR TIME AT AJOU GSIS

Arief Wibisono (Indonesia) / Major: International Trade



1. The Start of Ajou GSIS Life



2. Studying Hard



3. Enjoying Campus Life



4. Missing Home



5. Struggling with Exams



6. Extra-curricular Activities



7. Building Confidence Step by Step



8. Graduation: Time to Celebrate



9. Career Success:
Proud to be known as Ajou GSIS student

GSIS Gazette

The office of the Graduate School of International Studies functions within the Ajou University as a center for international education and cross-cultural activities.

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GSIS has four departments, offering Master's degrees in International Business (MBA), International Trade, NGO Studies and Korean Studies. All the classes of the GSIS are offered in English. It currently has 62 enrolled students from 23 different countries. All GSIS students enjoy at least one type of scholarship. It also has extra-curricular programs and events such as field trips, special seminars, cultural activities, etc.

Gazette

Spring, 2007 Vol. 11

AJOU Graduate School of International Studies

In this issue:

GSIS News
Alumni Corner
Internship Experience
Dormitory Life
And more



“AJOU GSIS : A LIGHTHOUSE SHEDDING LIGHT FOR CONVENIENT SAILING AND SAFE ANCHOR”

Today's world, characterized by dynamic changes and a highly competitive nature, requires constant upgrading of our skills. It is essential that we do continuous Re-thinking, Re-visioning and Re-shaping of the path that we are currently taking. Flexibility is the rule of the day.

Graduate learning is about specialized learning for career enhancement and for further deepening of knowledge in a particular area. It is important for graduate students to get the chance to explore and have a taste of a wide range of subjects so that they can make the right choice of subject that they have real passion to learn and to excel in. Ajou GSIS is one such school which provides students with ample opportunities to choose among a variety of subjects for different specializations. Ajou GSIS offers 4 different majors: International Business, International Trade, NGO Studies and Korean Studies. One may wonder how Ajou GSIS is different from other graduate schools.

Ajou GSIS makes a difference by offering helping hands to students in two important aspects of their personal lives:

- (1) By providing financial assistance. Different types of scholarship programs provided by GSIS intend to lessen the financial burdens of the students. If students with financial burdens were like ships sailing through the dark night, Ajou GSIS serves as a lighthouse to guide them for convenient sailing.
- (2) By helping to shape a student's career path. Opportunities arise to shape the career while you engage in your studies at Ajou GSIS, where you can assess how passionate you are for a particular subject. Different activities organized by Ajou GSIS, such as field trips and intern programs, will definitely serve as a gate opener to a career. A very diverse Ajou student community itself will open your eyes to career options available out there. Therefore, if students were like vessels seeking to anchor at a good harbour, Ajou GSIS will be a lighthouse to direct them to safe and satisfying anchor.



“We care for our students by understanding their needs and provide not only academic knowledge but also support through financial assistance.”

Dr. Jin Ho Choi

Dean of the Graduate School of International Studies, Ajou University

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SHAPING YOUR CAREER AT AJOU GSIS

We are living in the age of knowledge. Everything is knowledge-based. It is the age in which the knowledge component of wealth and the requisite skills to create are approaching dominance in our increasingly interdependent world. In order to keep abreast with the fast changing world, you need to be equipped with adequate knowledge in both academic and practical fields. Therefore, we try to find "a host" that provides necessary competence and expertise for our career success in this competitive world.

Ajou GSIS is one of the places where you can build strong foundations for your future. Providing plenty of opportunities, it is only up to your thirst for knowledge and ability to take advantage of them.

Not only can you get academic knowledge, you can add more flavor with Korean past and current experiences. Your academic requirement such as writing research papers and presenting your in-depth analysis on the subject are building blocks for your future. Language proficiency, networking, tackling cultural shocks and surviving in multi-cultural environment are some of the advantages you can gain while enjoying campus life at Ajou GSIS apart from academic studies.

Various extra-curricular programmes such as symposiums, workshops, and cultural programmes from local government and organizations are testing grounds for students to practice their skills and gain confidence. Furthermore, you can get a glimpse of the real world by taking an internship.

For the benefit of GSIS and its students, the Gazette also proposes (i) offering a variety of courses based on student's need with improved curriculum; (ii) seminars and workshops and participation of students as main actors; (iii) networking and joint-activities with other GSIS schools; (iv) arranging various internship opportunities; (v) providing more scholarships.

Last but not least, keeping you updated with all the available options is the first step for your quest for opportunities. The Gazette urges GSIS students to search and exploit effectively what is available at Ajou GSIS as well as during your stay in Korea. In this regard, The Gazette strongly recommends networking and information-sharing among students.

Good luck with your studies at Ajou GSIS!

POEM

Pandey, Chandra Lal.
(Nepal)
Major: NGO Studies



KOREA AND ME: HEART AND MIND

In the garden when absorbing the book,
Heard the chirping and muttering then saw the rook,
Shortly afterwards I fell asleep,
Dreamed the beautiful flowers red, blue and deep.
Thud!!! the noise that woke me up,
Noticed a fairy smiling at the tree top,
Drawing the tension inviting me,
Nothing was yonder but enchantress, Key.
Wonderful, beautiful, fantastic, life, wow! life in dorm,
Never understood ouch!!! the values of university's norms,
Enchanting slogan! global and dynamic tomorrow,
Exchange, um! great! GSIS down! OIA narrow.
The heart moved but the mind held,
Aghast! the duty and responsibility appeared ahead,
Sorry! the world is deep, dark and light,
Really? the Heart and the Mind tug-of-fight.



▲ Commencement (Jan'07)

Ajou GSIS had its 14th Conferment where eight students from six countries graduated.

Gazette _ Congratulations and best of luck for your career!



▲ Welcoming Party (Mar'07)

Spring Semester 2007 began with ten new students from five countries. Thirteen students including all new students were granted various scholarships from GSIS.

Gazette _ Welcome to GSIS family and we hope you can build strong foundations for your career.



▲ Visit to Korean Stock Exchange (Mar'07)

GSIS first field trip in this semester started with a field trip to the Korean stock exchange. GSIS students also experienced a Han river cruise as well as a visit to Seoul Tower.

Gazette _ We had a good lunch at Lexington Hotel.



▲ Briefings at KOTRA & KITA (Apr'07)

GSIS students had a visit to KOTRA and KITA and were briefed on Korea's export promotion strategies and nurturing of trade experts.

Gazette _ We had a wonderful time at the Seoul Olympic park too.



▲ Field Trip to Daejeon (May'07)

After the mid-term exam, GSIS students headed to Daejeon, to visit Daedeok Innopolis, a science park that has been playing a vital role in Korean science and technology development. They spent their night at Asan city and surrounding areas such as Hyeonchungsa shrine of the famous admiral Yi Sunshin and Independence Hall of Korea.

Gazette _ We had an unusual lunch by having flowers and an exotic dinner of octopus. We all enjoyed our self-performance / karaoke at night.

*** Obituary**

The father of Saravjeet Singh (Sabby), (Fifth Semester, NGO Studies) passed away in March 2007.

Gazette _ Our deepest condolences to Sabby!



▲ Visit to Blue House (May'07)

A visit to the Blue House (Korea's White House) was led by the Chairman of our NGO Department, Professor Hyoung Wook Jeong. Prior to that, GSIS students stopped by at World Vision (NGO) to understand more about its mission.

Gazette _ We weren't able to shake hands with the President!

Meeting with the Mentor of AACSB (May'07)

GSIS students had a chance to meet with Prof. Unni of Bryant University in Rhode Island, USA, a visiting mentor of AACSB (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business). They had a discussion on matters related to MBA programmes. The mentor was on a trip to review Ajou's preparation to get accreditation from AACSB. It was an important process for Graduate School of International Studies, Graduate School of Business Administration as well as Ajou School of Business.

Gazette _ We hope that our MBA programme will be recognized by AACSB in the near future.



▲ Child Birth

Arief Wibisono (Fourth Semester, Int'l Trade) has become "Father", on 7 Feb 2007, after his wife delivered a son, Muhammad Abrisam Wibisono.

Gazette _ Congratulations! Work harder!



▲ Spring Get Together Party (May'07)

Ajou University celebrated its spring festival and it influenced our GSIS students as well. Thanks to our student advisor Mr. Scott Scattergood, a beer party was organized on the lawn in front of Ajou Library.

Gazette _ Thank you Scott for your arrangement.



▲ Ajou GSIS 2007 International Symposium (Jun'07)

GSIS had a symposium where five students presented their country cases as well as Korean case on issues and prospects of the free trade agreements. It was honored by the presence the Director-General for FTA policy from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Korea, who delivered the keynote speech. The presenters competently responded to the comments and questions from discussants and audience.

Gazette _ Thank you GSIS for arranging the symposium. We had a chance to practice our skills and gain confidence.

*** Wrap-Up and Looking Forward**

Gazette _ All of our GSIS students are busy with their final exams in June 2007 as well as their thesis defenses for the seniors. Anyway, we are all looking forward to our graduation trip that would take us to Jeju Island. We wish GSIS students good luck with your studies!

INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR HYOUNGWOOK JEONG OF NGO STUDIES



Professor Hyoung Wook Jeong joined Ajou GSIS as Chairman of the Department of NGO studies at the beginning of this semester. He is only in his thirties but proves to be competent and excellent in teaching GSIS students from different parts of the world with various backgrounds. The Gazette had the privilege of interviewing him to learn his perception on GSIS students, as well as his guidance and experiences so as to help our students in shaping their careers.

Gazette Professor, could you share some of your feelings when you joined GSIS, chairing one of its departments?

Professor When I joined the GSIS in early March of this semester (Spring 2007), I was very pleased and looking forward to taking on new responsibilities and doing my best for the development of our GSIS departments and its students.

“Have an early start to your day with diligence. The early bird catches the worm!”

Gazette Can you comment on the academic performance and your impression of the current GSIS students? What kind of advantages do they have? What about their weaknesses?

Professor I am sure that the academic quality of our GSIS students is on a high level compared with postgraduates of other domestic universities. In particular, their international outlook and bilingual ability is the most advantageous point

which they have. On the other hand, what they have to improve is their ability to assimilate themselves into Korean society with learning local language actively. It could give them more opportunities in their everyday life and in finding a good job while they stay in Korea.

Gazette Kindly suggest how we could study using our time and energy efficiently, and study effectively?

Professor Well, do not sleep too late unnecessarily! The lack of sleep is the origin of unhealthy condition in studying abroad. It could badly influence your study effectiveness.

Gazette Do you think group discussions are important for students or they may make other students lazy? How can the students benefit from the group discussions?

Professor In my opinion, I prefer individual student presentations to group discussion. The presentation is able to make all the students participate in an enthusiastic dog fighting-like academic discussion and avoid a class discussion environment which can make students lazy.

Gazette Kindly share with us your experiences in managing time while you were a graduate student.

Professor I used to listen to the experience of my successful senior graduates in order to reduce trial and error in academic life. One thing that I was impressed about was their early morning routine. An early start to your day with diligence can provide you with a great possibility in realizing many socio-academic opportunities that you would accomplish in your life. The early bird catches the worm!



Gazette Exams are part and parcel of any students. But getting good grades on the exams is a little trickier than studying for your understanding. What would you like to comment on that? Any advice?

Professor I think the best way to ensure that you reach your highest potential mark when sitting an exam is to prepare thoroughly. There is no substitute for hard work. A good idea is to sit mock exam prior to your final exam. This will help you feel more confident and improve your essay writing skills whilst working within strict exam timelines.

Gazette What advice would you give to students who are under pressure during examination period?

Professor Do not cram! Preparing for exams in earnest is the only way to reduce your stress.

Gazette Any last words of advice to our GSIS students?

Professor I would like to tell all the students that “Life is what you make it!”

(The Gazette would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to Prof. Hyoung Wook Jeong for taking time to answer our questions.)

Extra-curricular activities _

Ajou GSIS Students participated in a Cross-Cultural Awareness Programme (CCAP) sponsored by UNESCO and organized by Suwon Youth Cultural Centre. They had a number of classes at Korean elementary, middle and high schools presenting about their countries to Korean students.

For more information _

- (CCAP-UNESCO) <http://ccap.unesco.co.kr>

- (Suwon Youth Cultural Centre) <http://sycc.or.kr>

Mr. Hyunwoo Choi (Coordinator) / e-mail: ccapsuwon@hanmail.net



Ajou GSIS at Seoul Olympic Park



Discussions can become heated but we enjoyed them a lot



GENERIC EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS – A CRUCIAL ASSET

Sintayehu Almw Yene (Ethiopia) / Major: International Business



In social development, the agricultural revolution was followed by the industrial revolution, which was followed by the information revolution. Each succeeding wave created a surge of social and personal progress. More to that, globalization is another development which became a business phenomena in the 17th century when the first Multinational was founded in the Netherlands. Through the use of information technology, globalization is increasingly binding people and the biosphere more tightly into one global system.

For the last two hundred years, neo-classical economics has recognized only two factors of production: labor and capital. This is now changing. Information and knowledge are the primary wealth-creating assets. In addition, amazing technological developments in the 21st century have transformed the majority of wealth-creating work from physically-based to “knowledge-based.”

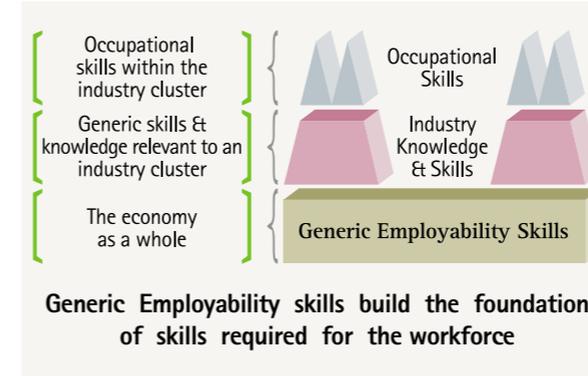
All developed economies and most economies in the middle of development are increasingly based on knowledge and information. Knowledge is now recognized as the driver of productivity and economic growth, leading to a new focus on the role of information, technology and learning in economic performance. Thus, the term “*knowledge-based economy*” stems from this fuller recognition of the place of knowledge and technology in present day modern economies.

Knowledge-based economy suggests that the only comparative advantage companies will enjoy will be their process of innovation--combining market and technology know-how with the creative talents of knowledgeable workers to solve a constant stream of competitive problems--and its ability to derive value from information. So to speak, companies come to rely on managerial and professional talents.

Take a pause and have a close look at any company or any country that has landed a track record of accomplishments against considerable odds. Raise the question, “What factors contribute to the said achievement?” Your answer is most likely confined to investment in human skills development in general. One of the main active players in the generation of return on human skills development investment is the education system.

“Higher education is of paramount importance for economic and social development. Inculcating relevant knowledge and advanced skills, higher education provides the human resources required for leadership, management, business and professional positions.... By giving people access to knowledge and the tools for increasing and diversifying their knowledge, higher education expands people's productivity, as well as national capacity and competitiveness.”

It has been indicated that many countries including Korea have attained remarkable achievements in education over the past three decades. However, it is argued that the rapid growth of higher education brought several problems. A major drawback of the rapid growth is that a quantitative expansion was not accompanied by a qualitative advance in higher education.



The expansion of undergraduate students in particular will result in an increased supply of educated youth in the domestic labor market. However, it should be clear that a balance should exist between education and the labor market. A mismatch between education and training and the need of the labor market could hamper performance of companies, which are performing in a more dynamic business environment than ever, in particular and economic growth in general. This contention would therefore lead us to the employability concept: this being skills learned from schools and those that are required by the industry.

Generic employability skills comprise a suite of ‘transferable’ skills independent of the occupational sectors and organizations in which individuals work, and which contribute to an individual's overall employability by enhancing their capacity to adapt, learn and work independently. Put simply, generic employability skills are those that apply across a variety of jobs, organizations and sectors. They are also known by several other names, including key skills, core skills, essential skills, key competencies, transferable skills and employability skills. These skills are required not only to gain employment but also to progress within an organization.

These employability skills are foundation skills to help workers become effective at work. They are transferable skills that can be applied in different industries, thereby increasing the workers' mobility. Employability skills also form the critical skills which the workers would further build on to acquire broad based and specific skills in their respective industries. While there is general agreement that generic employability skills are important, there is no one definitive list of such skills; instead a wide range of lists have been developed in recent years in the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia and North America. These lists include:

- Fundamental skills - such as literacy, using numbers, technology skills.

- People-related skills - such as communication skills, interpersonal skills, influencing skills, negotiation skills, team working skills, customer service skills, and leadership skills.
- Conceptualizing/thinking skills - such as managing information, problem solving, planning and organizing skills, learning skills, thinking innovatively and creatively, reflective skills.
- Personal skills and attributes - such as being enthusiastic, adaptable, motivated, reliable, responsible, honest, resourceful, committed, loyal, flexible, well presented, sensible, able to manage own time and deal with pressure.
- Skills related to the business world - such as innovation skills, enterprise skills, commercial awareness, business awareness.
- Skills related to the community - such as citizenship skills.

Generic employability skills and attributes are context sensitive, which is to say they may vary in detail between different work contexts. As a recent report by Department for Education and Skills on Employability notes: “(the) demands for what might at first be assumed to be a generic skill (can) differ between sectors to an extent that matters. Think about the communication skills required of health workers compared to those retail employers expect - some common areas, some very different (*Employability: Reporting Progress. 2006. P.14*)”

Why are generic employability skills important? Generic employability skills are important because jobs today require flexibility, initiative and the ability to undertake many different tasks. They are service oriented, making information and social skills increasingly important. Thus, for example: the increase in jobs in business, finance and retail sectors all require more staff with interpersonal skills - able to explain things and solve problems related to client needs; manufacturing workers are increasingly working in cells or teams and require more internal communication; decentralized supply chain management and systems integration require greater communication, team leadership, business and commercial awareness from all staff.

Employers seek to recruit and retain employees with these skills. Thus, education providers should design education programs that emphasize such skills to offer learners a comparative advantage in the labor market. Otherwise, efforts of stakeholders in the society will be ineffectual. Having those skills is very vital in the sense that today we have to run faster to remain even in the same place.

So, what about our employability skills? What about our AjoU University?



THE JOURNEY TO THE 21ST CENTURY CEO _ HOW PREPARED ARE WE?

Tahiru Issahaku Moomin (Ghana)
Major: International Business

Ladies and Gentlemen! As we approach the end of our programs, there is no doubt of the fact that we anticipate to have happy moments of joy after all.

But let me be quick to remind us that the successful end of what we have at hand now leads us to a rather hectic beginning of a challenging carrier path. Thus, this is the journey of the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to the twenty first century. And how prepared are we? In Plato's world every thing is perfect.

But we don't live in a ideal world;

therefore, we must devise the best possible means if any to excel through the hurdles.

This journey requires some kind of qualities which are already known to most of us.

However, I wish to share what I have with friends.

What are the qualities and characteristics that help create a successful leader; a CEO for that matter?

Before we proceed lets consider the following points.

Inspire a Shared Vision

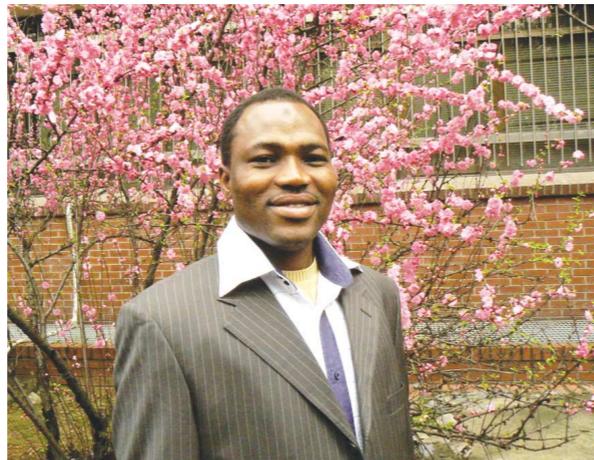
An effective CEO is often described as one having a vision of where to go and the ability to articulate it. Visionaries thrive on change and being able to draw new boundaries. It was once said that a leader is someone who "lifts us up, gives us a reason for being and gives the vision and spirit to change." Visionary leaders enable people to feel they have a real stake in the project. They empower people to experience the vision on their own and here I quote "They offer people opportunities to create their own vision, to explore what the vision will mean to their jobs and lives, and to envision their future as part of the vision for the organization." (Bennis, 1997)

Good Communicator

As a CEO you must have the ability to effectively negotiate and use persuasion when necessary to ensure the success of your team and company as whole. Through effective communication, you can support individual and team achievements by creating explicit guidelines for accomplishments and for the career advancement of team members.

Integrity

One of the most important things a project leader must remember is that his or her actions, and not words, set the



modus operandi for the team. Good leadership demands commitment to, and demonstration of, ethical practices. Creating standards for ethical behavior for oneself and living by these standards, as well as rewarding those who exemplify these practices, are responsibilities of a good CEO. Leadership motivated by self-interest does not serve the well-being of the team. Leadership based on integrity represents nothing less than a set of values others share, behavior consistent with values and dedication to honesty with self and team members.

Enthusiasm

Enthusiastic leaders are committed to their goals and express this commitment through optimism. Plain and simple, we don't like leaders who are negative - they bring us down. We want leaders with enthusiasm, with a bounce in their step, with a can-do attitude. We want to believe that we are part of an invigorating journey - we want to feel alive. But not with those who give us 200 reasons why something can't be done.

Empathy

You have to draw a line between empathy and sympathy. Although the words are similar, they are, in fact, mutually exclusive. Just understand that every employee has a life outside of work and try to share their feelings.

Ability to Delegate Tasks

Individuals who are unable to trust other people often fail as leaders and forever remain little more than micro-managers, or end up doing all of the work themselves. Trust is an essential element in the relationship of a CEO and his or her team. You demonstrate your trust in others through your actions - how much you check and control their work, how much you delegate and how much you allow people to participate.

Team-Building Skills

A team builder can best be defined as a strong person who provides the substance that holds the team together for the common purpose towards the right objective. In order for a team to progress from a group of strangers to a single cohesive unit, the leader must understand the process and dynamics required for this transformation. He or she must also know the appropriate leadership style to use during each stage of team development. The leader must also have an understanding of the different team players styles and how to capitalize on each at the proper time, for the problem at hand.

Problem Solving Skills

Although an effective CEO should share problem-solving responsibilities with his management team, you are still expected to have excellent problem-solving skills. Have a "fresh, creative response to here-and-now opportunities," and

not much concern with how others have performed them. The guiding principle here is to be you, yourself.

As CEO, you need to combine these factors to be able to deliver. Then you can see what would happen to your leadership effectiveness if you became more like the people from whom others actively seek acceptance and support. How productive your employees and peers would become if they all felt that having you as a leader represented the rare opportunity to work with someone that people inside and outside the company admire! How much harder they would work if they were inspired and motivated by the privilege of your faith in their skills.

On the contrary, any kind of despotism that might lead you to attack, blame, demean, and embarrass your employees and yourself could spell doom for your company. Perhaps they'd work hard in the short run because of fear or even resentment. Your organization might squeeze a winning quarter out of intimidation, but without inspiration you will never build a winning company.

These are the qualities that as a CEO should aspire to in order to earn, deserve, and command respect.

In conclusion, while you try to assimilate with the above points enumerated, do adhere to the following four-point plan to give your best shot in your professional and personal life.

- The judgment to know the right thing to do.
- The integrity to do it.
- The character to stand up to those who don't.
- The courage to stop those who won't.

If you consistently practice and develop these qualities in your professional and personal life, you will accrue an additional benefit beyond getting the best out of your peers and colleagues, as well as your employees. You will develop wisdom. With that you will be able to distinguish what's important in life, what's worth fighting for -- even dying for -- and what makes up a life that's worth living.

WRITING MASTER'S THESIS AT AJOU GSIS _ STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Chit Win (Myanmar) / Major: Int'l Trade



“Writing a thesis requires systematic planning, well-organized structuring, an open-mind, creativity and flexibility.”

Writing a Master's thesis is a strenuous and lengthy task. It is not an attractive option since we can choose either thesis track or non thesis track for our graduation. But I can guarantee you that it is worth doing and you will never forget the feeling of deep satisfaction when you have completed your thesis.

This article is based on my personal experiences during my thesis preparation at Ajou GSIS in this spring semester 2007. It includes my impressions as well as some tips and useful information which can be of assistance to my fellow students.

Choosing Thesis Title

To me, choosing a title is like choosing a life-time partner. Once you marry, you can not easily change your partner, and getting a divorce is costly and stressful, too. As time goes by, you may have no other choice but to stick with your partner whether it is good or bad.

Therefore, it is sensible to choose your title carefully and not to change it again and again. In fact, modifying the title (e.g. from broader scope to specific one, changing the wordings, adding a sub-title & etc) can significantly improve the image of the thesis.

Focus your research on the subject that you have thorough knowledge of with accessible data and information. You can also choose your area of research that helps your future career or that could lead to an alternative career.

You and Your Thesis Advisors

Professors are human beings and, therefore, they have different types of personality apart from their specializations. Choose your thesis advisor based on compatibility with you and your research.

Most of us choose professors who used to teach us or someone whom we know. Without adequate information, we are quite reluctant to request other professors.

It is requested that GSIS help us by providing more details on thesis advisors such as office hours, list of GSIS theses they have supervised, etc.

Guidance from your thesis advisor(s) may change from time to time depending upon your work done, but it also depends on their moods when you are meeting them. You may also find it difficult in seeking appointments with your thesis advisor(s) especially with your co-advisors. A careful and clever approach is recommended.

Shaping Your Thesis

To me, writing a thesis is like writing a story. You should build up your main characters as the story develops gradually. A well-structured thesis has some linkage with theoretical models which makes them look appealing.

The abstract, introduction and conclusion are the most important parts of your thesis. Your abstract is your advertisement. Most academicians read the abstract to convince themselves it is worth reading. And after reading the introduction, they immediately jump to the conclusion. They care to read the main body only if they find it interesting.

You can add flavor to your thesis by citing some examples, case studies and excerpts from interviews or newspapers that are related to your research.

An unexpected ending makes the readers excited. The same applies to your thesis. Your unpredicted research findings will instigate your thesis committee as well as your colleagues.

Collecting Data and Information

Gather ideas for your thesis by exposing your initial thoughts to your professors and classmates. They can give you valuable suggestions. Different people have different backgrounds and therefore can offer innovative ideas.

You can also get more ideas by skimming through others' dissertations.

International organizations, such as UN, WTO, OECD, UNCTAD, IMF, WB and ADB, are excellent surfing grounds for researchers.

The Ajou library is also a resource centre for your research. It can be visited on line and is linked to other on line database systems as well.

The internet, of course, is an indispensable source of information for your research. But “smart googling” is advisable for your efficiency. When searching for related literature, the following web sites can shorten your time on internet search:

- <http://www.jstor.org>
(A compilation of academic journals of various disciplines in pdf format. You can get citations and references on existing literature of your research. It is not free but you can browse at no cost on Ajou campus since Ajou library has subscribed to it.)
- <http://econpapers.repec.org>
(It has about 370,000 freely downloadable working papers, journal articles and software items in electronic format. You can get up-to-date status on the field of your research.)
- <http://www.informaworld.com>
(Concentrates on academic journals published by Taylor &

Francis, Routledge and Psychology Press, well known institutions for academic researches, though not always free.)

Don't hesitate to request data and information from any public or private institutions. Most of them welcome your intentions and are willing to provide what they have.

According to my personal experience, if you are doing a survey through e-mail, it is advisable to send your mail through blank carbon copy (BCC) instead of sending all of them directly at one time. They are more responsive and feel liable if they don't see the address of other recipients. Don't get upset if you get only few responses. Many of them do respond on your second and third attempts.

Thesis Defense

It can be the toughest time in your Ajou GSIS life.

Professors will squeeze you hard until you give up testing how deep you can go into your research.

One needs to be clever with the approach when making thesis defense and be confident with your work.

My Last Words

You may have to spend a lot of time and energy before your thesis gets into shape. Therefore, it is important that you manage your time efficiently.

Don't be secretive with your work. Share it with other thesis writing students. We are all in the same boat.

Don't make yourself trapped with your own methodologies. Open your mind and be flexible.

Be prepared for unforeseen interruptions which could delay your thesis progress.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR THESIS!



GSIS OFFICE _ NEW DIRECTOR

During the Spring Semester 2007, GSIS office got a new director. As part of the routine shuffle and promotions at Ajou University, Acting Director Mr. Jae Hong Park was transferred and he was succeeded by Ms. Jae-Eun Kim, Associate Director.

She used to be a Senior Coordinator from Office of International Affairs and recently got promoted. Only still in her thirties, Gazette found that she has good experience on international student affairs and is keen to help GSIS students with their academic matters.

The Gazette would like to congratulate and welcome Ms. Kim and extend its best wishes to Mr. Park.

AT THE GATEWAY TO KOREA _ LESSONS FROM INCHEON

Anatoli Tsoy (Uzbekistan) / Major: International Business

Internships play a significant role in preparing students for success. Not only do internships help you develop your management competencies, they give you real-world experience and allow you to apply what you've learned in the classroom.

In a word, internships are very important, especially for students like me, who have been studying for as long as they can remember.

This winter, I got a chance not only to undertake an internship, but to undertake it with one of the most efficient and successful companies in the world – the Incheon International Airport Corporation (IIAC). I knew that IIAC was going to provide me with a lot of challenges and excitement that I had been yearning for, and my expectations were justified from the very first day I went to the company.



It was an early winter morning when I went to the airport for the interview. I was really excited about being interviewed in such a huge company, yet very confident. My previous university prepared me really well for interviews, so I thought what else could there be that I am not prepared for? I stopped thinking I knew everything the very moment the interviewer asked three interviewees to come in. It was somewhat awkward as three of us, at some point, started “fighting” for the spot in the company, throwing into the conversation every good quality about ourselves that we could come up with. In this situation, modesty is exactly what you want to leave at home before leaving for the interview. That was a very new experience for me. Only later I found out that it is a common thing in Korea.

I was assigned to the retail commerce marketing team. As a student without much working experience, my perception of the business world in such a big Korean company was a combination of the coldness and big “distance” between workers and interns, and the stereotypes of extremely busy, stressed out Korean businessmen you see in Korean dramas. It was true; the workers were very hard working and extremely busy, but I never expected them to be so friendly and nice to me and willing to assist me in every possible way. In fact, whenever I had questions, I was allowed to disturb even the top manager of the department himself.



The working environment was as professional as it was fun. To my surprise, some workers wore jeans; in fact, every week we had a “casual Friday” when you could wear whatever you wanted. Together we had lots of laughter, food delivered in the office, trips to the cinema and eating out, where I tried so many different types of sea food I would never want to see alive. At IIAC, our ability to mix work and fun made working a pleasure; co-workers became an extended family.

One of the best things was a trip around the airport. We visited all of the important sites in the company, were enlightened about the operations of each department, their future plans and visions, and given a picture of how each department contributed to the success of this organization. Together with numerous conversations about my team worker's duties, I realized that there are so many different interesting positions in companies: before I thought that only marketing, international relations, and finances were respectable and worthy working positions. This internship gave me an opportunity to re-evaluate everything and gave me a reason to think deeply about what area I really want to be involved in the future.



The part of the internship I valued most was that unlike most companies, where interns have to do some basic systematic work, in IIAC I was often challenged to come up with fresh and creative ideas for the whole commercial side of the airport. On one hand, working on those projects was a lot of fun. On the other hand, the fact that people often liked my suggestions was not just a big motivator to work even harder, but it made my time in the company meaningful, having created a sense that I was actually contributing to this huge organization.

The highlight of the internship was the team presentation contest. All interns were divided into teams and presented their work to the CEO himself. We were told that the CEO loved interns and valued their energy and fresh look on things, so most of the teams went wild in their imagination coming up with the most extraordinary suggestions and directions for different departments or even the whole company. In the post-presentation discussion, I was again impressed with the sense that we were contributing directly into the company.



The internship passed very quickly. At the end I was very satisfied with the internship as I gained everything one could hope to gain from an internship. However, I had more surprises waiting for me ahead. On the last day we had a closing ceremony, and I was pleasantly surprised to find that I had been chosen to receive the Best Intern Award (not to mention that our team presentation got first place). That was officially one of the best days of my life, and it taught me that passion in the job puts perfection in the work.

My winter internship experience definitely exceeded my expectations. I received some important lessons, not only in the marketing sector but also in non-academic issues. This internship was an opportunity for me to improve my strengths, identify my weaknesses, acquire knowledge and get a taste of the real world. In addition it was full of excitement and fun. Looking out the window as airplanes descended everyday, having lunch with the CEO, listening to the pilots in the security tower, riding a security car on the runway right under flying airplanes – if this is not the best internship, what is?

NEWS AND MESSAGES FROM THE ALUMNUS

Nguyen Manh Coung, Vietnam _ Spring'06

- I came back to Ajou in January and found out that I did not know anyone anymore.
- Hien got married and is now enjoying very good life. Linh, Quyen, and me are still singles.
- Hopefully, an e-page for Ajou GSIS alumni can be made soon.

Gazette We will recommend a forum for GSIS-Alumni.

Rahul D. Kalkar (Raka), India _ Fall'05

- I am now working at Accenture Services in Mumbai.
- I am happy that GSIS is taking interest in linking all the alumni whose experience and knowledge can help the GSIS students to make their life more beautiful and successful.
- Korea and specifically Ajou University is a sweet experience which will never vanish.
- I am hoping that all GSIS alumni help each other?and share our business expertise in a common forum.

Gazette We will never forget our GSIS alumni.

Mr. Otgonbayar Togtuun (Oko), Mongolia _ Spring'99

- I was a GSIS student during the tenure of Dean Dr. Young Il Mok.
- I became Finance Director of Projects Abroad Group in 2005.
- Recently, I was promoted to General Manager of Chono Corporation, one of the biggest corporations in Mongolia.
- I am married to a Korean with three children.

Gazette Congratulations for your success in career and fruitful marriage.



Yevgeniya Kim (Zhenya, Jane, Ginnie, Sweet mother), Kazakhstan _ Spring'06

- I have been working in a commercial bank "Kazinvestbank" since a year ago as customer service representative.
- Recently, I was promoted to a junior manager in the corporate bank department dealing with corporate clients, mainly credit-related issues.
- I am having hard times to recall and apply what I learned during our International Finance, International Trade, Marketing, International Business, Macro- and Micro-economics classes.
- I am still single and attending driving course!

Gazette You are still well-known up to now at GSIS.

We all have hard times with Economic Analysis-1 & 2 (Micro & Macro-economics)!

Ghairat Khamidov, Uzbekistan _ Spring'99

- This is his younger brother Khasan.
- After graduating from GSIS, he opened his own firm "Sevinch" manufacturing T-shirts and baby clothes.
- Bad luck on April 29, 2002 when he had a car accident that took his life.

Gazette Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. May he rest in peace!

TRANSFORMED INTO A TECHNOCRAT

BY AJOU- GSIS

Robert O. Okoth (Kenya) / (GSIS-Alumni _ Spring'06 & Former Editor of GSIS Gazette)



Yes, let me first and foremost convey my hearty greetings from Nairobi, Kenya to all the readers of Ajou Gazette and Ajou alumnae at large! Together with my family, we are doing pretty well! To any "Doubting Thomases", I hereby wish to express my candid and very frank confession that my two year sojourn (2004 -2006) in Ajou Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS) transformed my whole system into a technocracy that has baffled many of my colleagues, friends and now even my own self. (Let readers of this message dig deeper from Biblical Scholars why Thomas doubted that Jesus arose from the dead!) Yes it is true my thinking and ways of analysis have been transformed a lot! And any way what is your expectation after rubbing shoulders with a diverse group of fellow students from over 25 countries for a whole two year and being mentored by Professors of such vast wealth of knowledge and a sea of experiences?

Simply, I am one of the Ajou GSIS alumni who wish to summarize that it is worth pursuing the GSIS programs. Armed with my MBA in International Trade and with that coveted award of Excellence by the Dean, I landed on a promotion to a Senior Trade Development Officer from the previous grade on arrival from my studies in South Korea. I was nominated by the Head of the Ministry of Trade and Industry to join a Task Force charged with a Trade and Industrial Policy for our beloved country. What an honor! You can imagine all this happening to an officer who for the last two years has not been in the system, and as always expected one may face daunting challenges when returning from a broad as expatriates normally do! Not with me, as I was properly prepared.

Having been freshly trained in these fields by the Ajou GSIS, I

have found myself cornered with the daunting challenges of technocracy. In fact all over sudden I have found myself being tasked with country position papers, construction of technical speeches and continuing with research work all the times in my office and in the field. Negotiations are currently at their peaks and without facts and evidence; you are as good as done in the negotiation tables. Let me confess that I am indeed measuring to the tasks with challenges faced squarely.

Well I do not personally like the term "blue eyed" boy of the Ministry which I have found myself and a few others holding in the recent past due to the skilled assignments being delegated, as it connotes some favoritisms but in this my situation it is purely because of the special skills in international trade related issues from Ajou GSIS that were imparted by the dedicated, diligent, senior and experienced academicians and technocrats such as Professor Lee Ryang of International Organization (we used to call him "Veto Power"); both Professor Uck and Professor Jhung, my thesis mentors; Professor Mok of Business Statistics; visiting and quite committed Professor Deok Park of Trade Dispute and Settlement; ever smiling Professor Song of International Finance, Professor Soo Keun Kim of Economics, Professor Wi - Sup Song of Korean Economic Development, Professor Seongbong Lee of International Business, Professor Chul-Hwan Kim of International Economic Relation, Professor Soo of Economic Law, Professor Nam Sang of International Communications Skills, Professor Kim Byun-Kwan of Business Research Methods, and my Korean Language Professor Kongju Bae (Princess), *anyong haseyo* madam.

I wish at this juncture to salute and register my fond memories to all Ajou Professors under the able leadership of Dean Professor Choi for the good work they did to ensure that our various course programs successfully transformed us into technocrats that I believe we are now. Those named above transformed my life into technocracy in one way or the other. Accept my tributes to you all. May the good spirit be kept up! This write up would however be indeed incomplete without saluting the **mother and the father, our sponsor KOICA** for ably providing all the financial resources for our upkeep in Ajou, GSIS, Suwon City, in the land of morning calm, Republic of Korea. Thank you all for shaping my future and in essence the future of my family!

AJOU GLOBAL CAMPUS, OUR FANTASY

Tairo Priscus Andrea (Tanzania) / Major: International Trade

There always must be something that inspires people from different places to come together in one place, live together and share diverse cultures. "Studenthood!!!" is one of the reasons bringing people together. The *AJOU Global Campus* has such a fundamental characteristic of gathering student from almost all over the world with the intent of furnishing them with outstanding knowledge by providing quality education. Due to marvelous educational services accessible at AJOU, the number of students has been increasing year after year for they sought to improve their skills and to brighten their future. Quality education is the foremost objective for each and every student, and therefore articulates reasons why related institutions are directing themselves to improve the quality of the service they offer. Stakeholders admire quality education so that they can better furnish their present and future ways of life while strengthening the ability to face challenges in the whole process of seminal prospects.



In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe." Through his expression, it can be easily recognized that he was emphasizing the importance of education, a hope of our life in a very dynamic way. This is what is designated with AJOU's motto **Dynamic Tomorrow**, conveying a very specific message that learning today will sharpen the future of its graduates. Fulfillment of graduates is to be able to transform their lives in such a way that they can attain prosperous future outcomes. The ability to alter life is within one's reach that encompass acquisition of skills and being ready to utilize them for his/her betterment.

The **Ajou Dynamic Tomorrow** slogan depicts the same message to its beneficiaries, that the present time is preparation for what the person is dreaming of. Elaine Maxwell proclaimed that "My will shall shape the future. Whether I fail or succeed shall be no man's doing but my own. I am the force; I can clear my obstacle before me or I can be lost in the maze. My choice; my responsibility; win or lose, only I hold the key to my destiny"; this proposition, however, edifies that what determines the future is within individuals aptitude. This is fantasy approximately to everyone who has well recognized Ajou, or has heard the spectacular story about dynamic AJOU global campus which accentuates a better life in future. The **Ajou Dynamic**

Tomorrow is not the prediction of how the future would be but it is the scenario planning trying to accomplish the future outcomes. Scenario planning stipulates a process of strategic planning method used by associations to make supply long-term plans.

Ajou Dynamic Tomorrow means a flexible environment for attaining desired goals by the recipients of the educational services it offers. It is an admirable place where students from various corners of the world have chosen to spend time and make their future. This is a place where we can learn and ultimately apply scenario planning strategies so as to overcome the presumed future uncertainties. It should be noted that learning it is not an end by itself but the process to get done the expected endings. Actually, learning by itself does not mean achievement, rather the way of realizing better results. **Ajou Dynamic Tomorrow** reminds students that hard work itself does not mean success by itself, but hard work should associate with the plans through which can direct realization of the upshots. Propositions regarding the importance of plans in a human's life were put forward by Thomas Alva Edison, who said, "Being busy does not always mean real work. The object of all work is production or accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose, as well as perspiration. Seeming to do is not doing." For this reason, **Dynamic Tomorrow** will be attained only by the recognizing the significance of plans to our everyday life at the time when pursuing our studies at Ajou. Join Ajou global campus and enjoy a commendable life while changing your future in advance. Plan your future with Ajou so that you can make your brilliant and dynamic future. It is not possible to know where you are going if you do not know where you have been. Notion of where you are heading can be achieved only by having a plan. This is your time; plan now and let your future be dynamic.

A GLANCE AT DORM LIFE

Rai, Yub Raj (Nepal) / Major: NGO Studies

I am shocked to hear the new rule for the students living in the dormitory. In my dorm, the kitchen is usually the main target of new rules from time to time. I wonder why that kitchen has to be laden with new rules every now and then when it was established for the student's facilities and their needs. I wonder why the boys and girls are not allowed to visit each others room when they can stay in the same dorm.



When dorm life is mentioned it means the independent life free from any rules and regulations far away from home, but the new laws imposed on us as if we were in an army school. Privacy is taken away by the CCTV at every corner of the dorm.



Anyway, ignoring the above facts, dormitory life in Ajou is sort of fun and I am enjoying it to my fill. Ajou GSIS students are allocated in the 'English Zone' dorm and I have no idea as why it is called so as 99% of the students staying there are from non English speaking countries. Maybe it should have been named as international students' dorm as we can see many foreign students living in this particular dorm. We mostly communicate with each other in English but I despise the fact that we are in an 'English Zone'.

Sharing a room with others maybe a new experience but the fun of it is also very different as sleeping peacefully might be considered a distant dream as timing of individuals sleeping time may fall at different hours. Besides you can imagine the condition when one of your dorm roommate snores as if some engines has started and does not take the name of stopping.

Dissatisfaction with my studies may have some lists but negativity of academic field of GSIS has melted down with the positivism of my un-academic satisfaction in the name of dormitory. I can find some sort of mixed up environment in dorm where some are playing and running in the gym hall while some are studying very hard in the annexed study room for the coming up exam. At the same time some are seen singing at the top of their voices in their own languages in some alley of the dorm and others cooking their own dishes in kitchen spreading the international aromas throughout the dormitory. Even though eating is essential and I enjoy doing so, I have to bear the fact that cooking makes me sick and my cooking makes other sick after eating food prepared by me. So fast foods as noodles and breads are eventually necessary. Noodles used to be my worst fear back in my country, but here it is my favorite food. Ordering pizza in the language that you don't understand is really funny and a sort of exciting form of killing time.

Dorm life here in Korea is 24 hours life as sometimes it annoys me with a heavy sound of a delivery boy's motorbike at 2 or 3 AM going up and down the dorm roads taking away my sleep full of sweet dreams, and that too regularly from night to night and time to time.

When living in dorm I have the opportunity to meet as many unique yet diverse individuals and appreciate those differences. For once in this country I have felt like something good and exciting is touching me. Learning about different cultures and languages even though only few words has given me immense satisfaction. I have built so many friendships that continue to grow day by day and I would not change them for the world.

Even though it is not my first dorm experience it definitely is the different experience here and I hope I could use this experience wisely to use it in the future time to come. Dorm maybe will not help me to shape my career but it definitely will remain in my heart for a long time to come in my future life ... maybe or maybe not nostalgically.

I would like to end by sharing the following dormitory joke: **On the first day of college, dormitory students were warned: "The female dormitory will be out-of-bounds for all male students, and the male dormitory to the female students. Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined W 20,000 the first time. Anybody caught second time will be fined W 60,000. Being caught a third time will incur a hefty fine of W180,000. Are there any questions?"**

At this, a male student in the crowd inquired, **"How much for a season pass?"**