

## **How Do ZSEIFS Faculty Prepare for Their Time In-Country?**

[Music plays]

TIMOTHY RICH, Ph.D., *Political Science*, 2016 ZSEIFS South Korea Faculty Leader: "You have a finite amount of time in-country, you know, roughly two weeks, and you can only cram in so much but if you're thinking about six months in advance, you might be able to use that time efficiently."

HELEN STERK, Ph.D., *Communication*: "When ZSEIFS kind of kicks you in the pants to make a plan, it's good, but you might not complete that actual plan. But you will complete more than if you just said hey I think I'll go and figure it out as I go. I think it's really important to have a purpose in advance."

JEFFREY SAMULES, Ph.D., *Philosophy and Religion*: "One of the preparations is to come up with a bibliography, so kind of looking at what resources, particularly in my area for religion in Korea, are out there, reading material on that and then contacting people at universities that do study Buddhism or teach Buddhism there, exploring Buddhist temples and kind of the history of Buddhism in Korea."

MICHAEL ANN WILLIAMS, Ph.D., *Folk Studies and Anthropology*: "It was part of the application process, was trying to make those connections sort of. I started out, I don't think I knew a single folklorist who worked in Korea. So, folklorists believe in sort of you know friend of a friend. So I heard it from a friend of a friend and so I kind of started with my national organization since I was at that time the president of American Folklore Society and called up our executive director and said okay who do we know that does Korea work and just really kind of started doing a lot of cold calling or emailing and trying to sort of get names and names you know or people who knew other people."

JEFFREY SAMULES: "One thing I think I would have done differently is I would have contacted friends that I know in the United States who have connections in South Korea as opposed to making that bridge directly or through ISA because I think that would carry out more weight so it's I would I would contact scholars in the United States that have either contacts in Korea or who have given talks in Korea or who know Korean scholars and work that way rather than go directly with contacting the scholars directly. Number two which I think the program did really well, is really get a good background on the target country through reading, looking at newspapers, and that was constantly like pressed on us to do which I think was a great thing so you aren't going in there cold. And the third I think was there's a social component to it. I think we got along well and I think part of that is you know we had chances to interact and you know if you can go out to lunch, this is before the program, right go out to lunch meet you know at DUC or DSU, I'm sorry, or do other kinds of things. Go out to dinner, and spend time with the people. I think that that's a great way of creating a bond that can just take off when you're there."

MICHAEL ANN WILLIAMS: "We had more flexibility and time than I even realized from the outset and so sort of knowing that coming out of it I think I would have been a little more intentional in what I needed to see. But some of that in dealing with people is you have to work with whatever their schedules are and sometimes that was a process and in some cases I got introduced to people, and that didn't happen until I was already in Korea. So you know something came up is like, oh you can go visit the you know one of the oldest most senior folklorist in the country at Starbucks at this given time."

JEFFREY SAMULES: The one main tip I would have would be even if you're sure that this sounds great and would work well with you to contact both the faculty leader and to contact Addie and talk to them about it because again you know I wouldn't have known about these other goals and even if someone is

familiar, I wasn't familiar with South Korea, but even if someone is familiar with the country does it mean that they're aware of all of the possibilities that can be accomplished at the ZSEIFS program? But talking with them [the Office of International Programs] where they can say oh well what about this and what about that would be extremely helpful."

[Music plays]