Journal of the Worldfest Week Video Project

What the project entails:

November 2015- This idea was first conceived by members of a student organization that I am involved in called Young Americans for Liberty. This idea was in response to several international students coming to our club and detailing their experiences with international restrictions, such as visas and I-20 forms.

December 2015 into January 2016- I have been talking to several international students about this project and they seem very enthusiastic. However, no one in the club has stepped up to help me with the project as of yet.

January 23, 2016- I sent out the first email imploring many of the international students I know here at UC, as well as people who have expressed interest in helping with this project.

--Update: A few people have responded to this email, some saying that they, as permanent residents or being citizens in different ways from American birth, don’t want to or don’t think that they can participate. Others, however, have expressed interest in helping with the project any way that they can, and

January 2016- I contacted UC International, and got a listing for my event in the email newsletter for the International students.

January 2016- I became a member of the UC 2016 Worldfest Week Planning Board, and decide to make this video into a luncheon event as part of Worldfest Week.

February 6 2016- I sent out the 2nd email to participants, who had confirmed with helping me with my project either by email or in person. I confirm that they still want to do it, and start to set up doodle polls with availability of each participant

February 9th, 12th, 16th, and 19th 2016- I sent several follow-up emails to participants, both as updates with the project and asking for several of them to speak at the luncheon, and as reminders for their filming times.

February 12th through 27th: I filmed the international students’ responses in various picturesque areas around campus according to the preferences of each student. I also polled random American students about their knowledge of these problems in order to compile data about what percentage of American students aren’t informed.

Febuary 15th- My event is officially on the Worldfest Week 2016 calendar!!

2/28/16- Video editing commences. There are lots of repeats of the same information, so it isn’t too hard. I am also starting to put the first personal touches on the video, including the title, and captions with the names, majors, and years of each participant.

March 2016- I received $150 (in reimbursements) from UC International and $150 from Student Government for the luncheon part of the event. I initially requested $300 from UC International, but after receiving only $150, I approached student government’s Campus Life Committee by presenting my event to them.

I placed the orders for 2 Bearcat pizzas and Dibella’s subs and cookies through Student Government. Meanwhile, for the money I will get reimbursed for, I placed orders for Pad Thai and eggrolls from Thai Express and get soda and chips from Kroger.

After the event on March 12, 2016—The event was a success, with the discussion going both ways. Both international students and American students were asking and answering questions.

There were some minor technical difficulties with the video buffering, but overall, the audience thought it was a great video with a coherent progression and good editing.

Now What: I will try to get more involved with initiatives on campus to connect international and American students, such as IPALS (student volunteers for UC International to welcome international students) or Bearchats (a student organization that pairs an American student with an international student). I will also continue informing American students of these issues through these portals, as well as continued work with Worldfest Week.

So What: I believe that I did learn a lot from this experience, as I discovered a lot that I was unaware that international students faced, such as the small nuances of adjusting to a new culture that someone who grew up in America takes for granted, the difficulty of making American friends rather than just seeking out someone from their own culture who also attends UC, and further developed my leadership and cross-cultural skills. I also met more international students and helped introduce them to different resources and perspectives. This was definitely needed for the UC community, as a large majority of the American students that I interviewed were unaware of these problems. As a new IPAL, a volunteer for UC International to help welcome international students to UC, I will further develop this knowledge and skills with further interactions with international students and connecting them more and more to America.  My video is even being used for the IPAL retreat in September to help inform the student volunteers of these issues and help them be better prepared to aid the international students.