

Magazine Luxury, February 2015

A Global Leader with love for Korean Heritage,

“You are a very special Empress.”

Chadwick International in Songdo, Incheon is the place where talents are fostered based on five Core Values of respect, responsibility, honesty, fairness, and compassion. Shelly Luke Wille, the Assistant Head of School and the Village School Principal, loves Korean people for inheriting and applying their traditional heritage with pride.

Strong cultural identity and warm-hearted people are the biggest assets of Korea

“I cannot describe where my attraction of traditional Korean culture comes from. This is because wherever you go, whatever you see or eat, the long-continued history and its meaning are all blended in variety of forms of Korean culture. It seems that all the people in Korea know how to protect and preserve the past well. I was impressed by the fact that Korea’s own tradition was widely spread in society at large, unlike the United States, where people from all over the world carry on their individual cultures rather than having one solid culture of the US” said Wille, a native of California, US.

During her free time she enjoys learning about the traditional Korean cuisine with her husband who is a chef. National Hangeul Museum in Yongsan is her favorite place to visit where she is constantly fascinated by the beautiful science and forms of Korean letters. She also expressed high admiration toward Koreans’ love of “Hangeul”, a language that was systematically created and crafted through wisdom of ancestors. Her love for Hangeul was also represented by the fact that the first thing she did when she visited Korea was going to Insa-dong and getting seals with the names of her two sons engraved in Hangeul. She also expressed the idea of teaching Korean culture and tradition to foreign students through Hangeul.

She further added, “Another valuable asset of Korea is its people. I have a lot of respect for people who create beautiful work of arts such as Gold Leaf Imprinting or a wedding veil that I saw at the photo shooting today. Particularly, Korean master craftsmen who integrate their deep understanding of tradition into modern culture and introducing it to the general public really draw admiration from me. They themselves are the medium which calls the past into the present and again connects it to the future.”

Wille, who teaches students who are to become the future leaders, says she wants to convey the value of the present to the future. The students and parents of the school deepened her love for Korea deeper through their warm-heartedness and thoughtfulness. Being open-minded to

various cultures and embracing differences in each other are also parallel to the true “respect,” a value which she emphasizes in her education.

Wille is currently the Assistant Head of School and the Village School principal. She is in line to be appointed as the Head of School this coming May. She travels around the world seeking for the best teachers and curriculums, but hopes to experience more traditional culture with her two sons whenever the time allows. She says, by integrating the curriculum of U.S. schools and Korean culture, she wants to foster talents with the five Core Values of Chadwick International to everyone.

Editor: Lee Seong-jin