Tamra W. Ogletree

Summary of Japan Studies Institute 2013 project:

I have been charged by the College of Education Dean to redesign our cultural exchange program. I will develop a short term study abroad field placement practicum experience that will incorporate the Japanese culture and educational system. I will do this by collaborating with a University in Japan that has a similar interest. Consistent with my university’s mission to increase students’ cross-cultural competence and promote global learning, this practicum experience will involve curricular and co-curricular infusion of content on Japan and its cultural and education system to achieve the following three goals: ( 1) increase students’ global awareness of Japanese society and culture, including an understanding of Japan’s educational system and Japan’s importance in both a regional and global context; (2) increase students’ understanding of the Japanese educational system through a comparative study; and (3) international the field placement practicum for education majors, by immersion into a Japanese community.

To introduce students to the language and culture of Japan, I plan to incorporate the art of Kamishibai (literal meaning is Paper Drama) into an undergraduate Language and Literacy Class. Through Kamishibai I will be able to integrate the Japanese language along with information and understanding about many cultural elements of Japan. I will also compare and contrast the educational systems of Japan and the United States.

I sincerely thank-you for the opportunity to participate in such a valuable professional development experience. Through the JSI experience I met colleagues from diverse content areas and expanded my knowledge with the Japanese culture beyond my area of interest.