

Sh = Shelby Holtz

Si = Sinta Febrina

Sh – Can you tell me your name?

Si – Sinta Febrina

Sh – And where are you from?

Si – Indonesia.

Sh – Is this your first time in the US?

Si – No, I was in the US from 2006-2011, and I came back again in 2017.

Sh – You are not a Fulbright scholar, you are a student, what are you getting your degree in?

Si – I have my Master's degree in Anthropology and I am working on my Master's degree in Criminology.

Sh – Wow, that is amazing! Not to switch gears so swiftly, but because you are so familiar with the US already, I'm going to move over to some of the food questions. Also, since you are not a student living in the dorms but you do live in DeKalb, I am going to gear these questions toward your experiences within the city of DeKalb.

Si – Okay.

Sh – Where are some of your favorite restaurants that you like to go and eat?

Si – I like Thai Pavilion, China House, and Pho and Grill.

Sh – What is your opinion on the quality and variety of foods here in DeKalb?

Si – I feel like it is all just the same foods. There is such a lack of variety.

Sh – What have you found to be most lacking?

Si – There is a lack of vegetable options in grocery stores. We have a lot of vegetables in Indonesia. There is not a lot here.

Sh – What types of food do you cook at home? Is it mostly Indonesian?

Si – It depends. When I cook Indonesian I make a lot of mild curries, and I use my wok for almost everything.

Sh – Have you ever gotten sick from anything you've eaten here?

Si – No, I've never gotten sick, but I have noticed that the food is mostly bland.

Sh – How could DeKalb improve on the quality and variety of foods available for international students?

Si – I think DeKalb should have more Asian options. More rice dishes. Or, an Asian grocery store here in DeKalb. Some of the closest ones are either in Naperville or Chicago. The Asian grocery stores that we have around here have a very limited supply of things and they are much more expensive.

Sh – Do you have any other suggestions, this time maybe for NIU?

Si – Food trucks! (laughter) It would be cool to see more food truck vendors on campus. But mostly there just needs to be improvement in terms of having more stores that cater to Asian and Southeast Asian communities.

Sh – Thank you so much for your help and suggestions!