

S = Shelby Holtz

C = Chaw Su Su Tin ("Su Su")

S – Can you please tell me your name?

C – Chaw Su Su Tin.

S – Okay, and where are you from Su Su?

C – I am from Myanmar.

S – Okay, and what made you choose to come to NIU as a Fulbright scholar?

C – I heard from other FLTA's that NIU was Burmese-friendly so I thought it would be a good fit for me.

S – Is this your first time in the US?

C – Yes.

S – What do you do as an FLTA?

C – I TA for the beginner levels of Burmese, Burmese 104.

S – Oh, okay, I see. Well, now that we've established a little bit about you, let's transition into food now. What are your opinions on food here in DeKalb and at NIU?

C – Well, I think that there is a lack of choices. There are a lot of differences in the foods here. Like, in the dorms, there are salad bars and the salad is raw. In Myanmar we eat cooked salad. So that has been harder for me to get cooked vegetables. I have also noticed that there is a lot of cheese in foods, and we don't eat cheese.

S – Oh yes, that makes sense. This is very different then. Are there any restaurants in town that you like to go to?

C – Yes, I like Thai Pavilion a lot. It really helps to curb my cravings for good Asian food. Although it is a bit expensive. Oh, and I also like Pho and Grill, too, and that is less expensive which is nice.

S – Are there any foods that you miss from Myanmar?

C – Yes. Definitely the cooked salad and spicy veggie curry.

S – Do any of the dining halls serve foods that you like? What are they?

C – I really like all of the fruit options in the dining halls. Apples, bananas, and oranges. And they're always available and they are really easy to grab and go. Neptune sometimes has fried rice which is okay, and the chicken noodle soup is good.

C – There is also a spaghetti station that I like to go to in the dining hall. I just get a mix of veggies and add garlic paste and have them fry it. I do not get the noodles.

S – No noodles?

C – I don't really like the noodles. They just have a different taste. I'd rather have the cooked veggies and garlic.

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

C – Yes, I ate a brown egg and was sick for a while after (referring to the brown-shelled eggs). I don't know what it was about it, I think they are organic or something, and I don't know if that made a difference but it was the only thing to make me sick.

S – Hmm. Yes, that is very weird. Well, hopefully you are able to avoid them.

C – Yes.

S – What do you think NIU and DeKalb could do in order to improve the quality and variety of foods available for international students?

C – Overall I think that the quality of food is good. It is the variety of foods that needs improvement. I think that they should serve rice every day. A lot of the time, especially first semester, I would get to the dining hall late and they would run out of rice. I have noticed that they run out of rice very fast when they serve it. I think that they should make more rice and have it more widely available for students.

S – Yes, I've gotten that a lot from the FLTA's, so far (laughter). I think that is a pretty doable suggestion. Well thank you, Su Su, I really appreciate your help with this.

C – Yes, no problem.